



Photo by Alita Films.

LIGHTNING POINT SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lightning Point Shoreline Restoration Project is designed to provide a wide-range of environmental and economic benefits for the city of Bayou La Batre, Alabama and its coastline. Through a combination of salt marsh and tidal creek restoration, breakwaters, and the beneficial use of dredged material, the project has helped make the community more resilient to hurricanes, created habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife, and has helped support the community's tourism and fishing industries.

OBJECTIVES

- Through a combination of gray and green infrastructure, improve Bayou La Batre's resilience to storms.
- Revitalize the city's coastline to restore its status as a hub for economic and recreational activity.
- Restore salt marshes to provide habitat for wildlife, and undertake strategies to ensure the long-term success of the restoration.

PATHWAYS FOR SCALING



Up to \$5 billion in funding for coastal restoration and resilience in the Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and initiatives like the America the Beautiful Challenge can support future projects like this.



The Lightning Point project can serve as a successful example for other communities – already hosting delegations from Gulf Coast communities, as well as other coastal states across the nation.

LOCATION

Bayou La Batre, Alabama

FUNDING AMOUNT

\$21 million

PROGRAM PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

City of Bayou La Batre (AL), Mobile County (AL), The Nature Conservancy, Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

SUCCESSES TO DATE



The completed project has helped protect Bayou La Batre from storm surge generated by 5 named hurricane systems since its completion in 2020.



An economic analysis of habitat value alone has calculated that the Lightning Point project will provide \$67 million in benefits on an initial investment of \$21 million.



The project's jetties and breakwaters capture naturally moving sediments from the east, minimizing the need for frequent channel dredging and protecting access to the working waterfront.

For more information about this and other innovative and scalable projects implementing Natural Climate Solutions in the U.S., please visit www.usnature4climate.org/building-ambition/.