



LIVING SHORELINES

Helen Wood Park

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Helen Wood Park, located just north of the Dog River on Mobile Bay, is a local subsistence fishing spot, one of the only public locations to access Mobile Bay, and has seen significant coastal erosion due to an adjacent armored shoreline, channelization and ship wakes. The Nature Conservancy, working with its partners, placed 1,100 ft of reef segments about 100 ft from the shoreline to protect the natural shoreline.

In 2011, The Nature Conservancy pooled public and private resources to fund an expansion of the restoration site at Helen Wood Park. Nine local fishermen were contracted to bag 23,000 bags of oyster shell. The bags, along with 343 reef balls, were placed to build 1,100 ft of oyster reef breakwater and protect critical marsh

HELEN WOOD PARK FACTS

CONSTRUCTED IN
2011



43%
IMPROVED
SHORELINE PROTECTION

343
REEFBALLS

23,000
BAGS OF SHELL

1
OSPREY
PLATFORM

512


VOLUNTEERS; 2,391 HOURS

12
REEFS

1,286
LINEAR FEET



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Volunteers pass bagged shells to build reefs.

habitat. This work limited erosion on the coastline and restored approximately .23 acres of reef breakwater and living shoreline habitat.

Ongoing site monitoring has revealed that bagged shell reefs are prone to breakdown over time affecting wave attenuation. Bagged oyster shells have broken down and spread out, losing their ability to provide relief to wave energy. The Nature Conservancy’s adaptive management strategy allows for location specific and technique specific restoration strategies. In this instance, Oyster Castles™ were used to restore the vertical relief by constructing reef segments on the front edge of the of the bagged shell reefs to further protect the shoreline.

The Future of Helen Wood Park

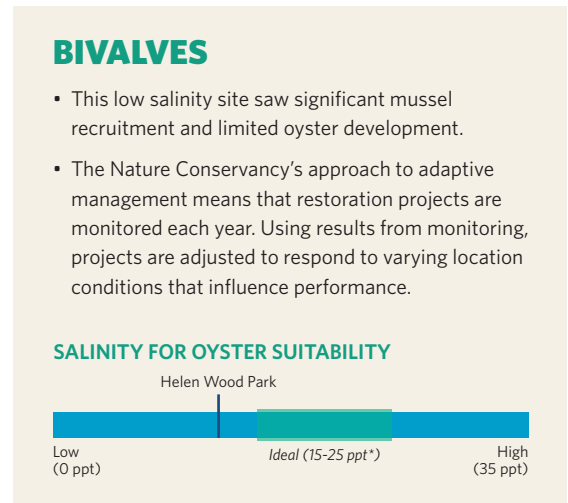
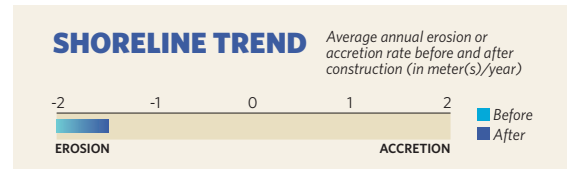
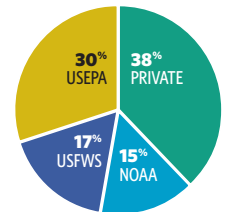
The second tier of reefs, in the form of Oyster Castles™, were placed in front of existing bagged shell reefs to further protect the shoreline in 2018 and will be monitored to measure the effectiveness of the adaptive management strategy implemented.



LOCATION Mobile County, AL

PARTNERS 100-1000: Restore Coastal Alabama, BoatPeople SOS, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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*ppt = parts per thousand