The Scenic Galveston Preserve Complex is centered around the John M. O’Quinn I-45 Estuarial Corridor in the salt marshes flanking the highway approach to Galveston Island, Texas. The Preserve is expanding to include a number of adjacent bayshore areas with additional habitat types; the adjoining Virginia Point Peninsula Preserve was added to the complex in early 2004, almost tripling its size.

This preserve complex not only offers a stunning natural entrance to the island of Galveston, but also helps link up the other preserved conservation areas around West Galveston Bay.

**LOCATION:** The Scenic Galveston Preserve Complex extends from the community of Bayou Vista and Texas City Hwy 146/Loop 197 southward to the Santa Fe railroad bridge at I-45 and to the tip of Virginia Point east of the bridge. It extends across the peninsula from Jones Bay (Highland Bayou) eastward to Galveston Bay (relict Campbell Bayou/Swan Lake).

**SIZE:** 972 ha (2,400 acres)

**HABITAT:** The combined Scenic Galveston Preserves contains intertidal marshes along I-45, and a full complement of coastal habitat types, grading from low to higher salt marsh to marsh hay meadow and undisturbed coastal prairie and freshwater wetlands. The Preserve complex also includes the undisturbed portions of the historic Virginia Point Peninsula, ensuring a permanent habitat corridor between Galveston and West Galveston Bays.

**BIRDS:** This area is an important stopover for migrating shorebirds, and wintering habitat for several threatened/endangered species and high priority waterfowl. The Preserve also hosts vital wintering habitat for grassland birds.

**CONSERVATION:** In addition to saving this beautiful area from further development, the all-volunteer SCENIC GALVESTON organization is planning and executing extensive habitat restoration and improvement in degraded sections of the preserve. Approximately 80 acres of replacement wetlands have been constructed in the O’Quinn Corridor since 1999. Ongoing efforts of volunteers are directed toward returning the area to its pristine original state, to permanent management to protect and sustain these restored and enhanced habitats and to continuing land acquisition work.

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