

Alabama Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS)

The GEMS Program was established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program and five gulf states to advance conservation efforts of coastal areas that represent unique habitats for fish, wildlife and other natural resources of particular significance.

Mobile Tensaw River Delta

Description

- The Mobile-Tensaw River Delta is Alabama's largest wetland ecosystem and the nation's second largest river delta.
- It is approximately 45 miles long, averages eight miles wide and contains over 400 square miles of wetland and associated upland ecosystems.
- The Delta is characterized by a large number of tributary rivers, streams, bayous and creeks which form a maze of waterways, including the waters of the Tensaw, Mobile, Tombigbee and Alabama rivers.

Protected and Managed Lands

Mobile-Tensaw Delta Wildlife Management Area (22,455 acres) is located in both Mobile and Baldwin counties north of the Causeway and south of I-65.

W.L. Holland Wildlife Management Area (32,693 acres) is located in both Mobile and Baldwin counties, just north of the Causeway and surrounding the Mobile-Tensaw Delta Wildlife Management Area.

➤ Forever Wild Land Trust Tracts:

- **Bayou Sara Tract Addition (241 acres)** is located in Mobile County along the Bayou Sara.
- **The Mobile Tensaw Delta-Bayou Sara CLT Addition (318 acres)** is located in Mobile County north of the Bayou Sara Tract Addition.
- **The Mobile-Tensaw Delta Coastal Land Trust Addition Tract (1,533 acres)** is located in Mobile and Baldwin counties near Grand Bay.
- **The Bayou Canot Tract (1,933 acres)** is located in Mobile County east of Creola, AL.
- **The Jacinto Port-Upland and Wetland Tract (3,372 acres)** is located in Mobile County east of Saraland, AL.

➤ Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Tracts:

- **Bayou Sara SLD Tract (424 acres)** is located in Mobile County along Bayou Sara.
- **Unnamed Tract (634 acres)** is located in Baldwin County, east of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta Wildlife Management Area.
- **Jacinto Port SLD Tract (671 acres)** is located in Mobile County, east of Saraland, AL.

Upper Delta Wildlife Management Area (41,923 acres) is located in both Mobile and Baldwin counties, north of I-65.

➤ Forever Wild Land Trust Tracts:

- **The Mobile-Tensaw Delta-McMillan 1 Tract (181 acres)** is located in Baldwin County near Tensaw Lake.

- **The Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Bayou Jessamine Tract (184 acres)** is located in Baldwin County along the Tensaw River and Bayou Jessamine.
- **The Mobile-Tensaw Delta-McMillan 2 & 3 Tracts (459 acres)** is located in Baldwin County along Bottle Creek and Mifflin Lake.
- **The N.Q. Adams Tract Addition (479 acres)** is located in Baldwin County near Clearwater Lake.
- **The Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Mifflin Lake Tract Addition (561 acres)** is located in Baldwin County along the Tensaw River and Mifflin Lake.
- **The Middle River-West Tract (1,423 acres)** is located in Mobile County north of Creola, AL.
- **The Salco and Middle River Tract (1,764 acres)** is located in Mobile County just north of the Middle River-West Tract.
- **The Mobile-Tensaw Delta Tract (35,795 acres)** is located in Mobile and Baldwin counties just north of I-65.

➤ Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Tracts:

- **N.Q. Adams SLD Tract (1,077 acres)** is located in Baldwin County at the north western tip of the Upper Delta WMA.

Other Forever Wild Land Trust Tracts:

- **The Blakeley Addition Tract (420 acres)** is located in Baldwin County near Spanish Fort, AL.

Other Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Tracts:

- **Five Rivers Delta Resource Center (92 acres)** is located in Spanish Fort, Baldwin County just north of the Causeway.
- **Unnamed Tract (167 acres)** is located in Mobile County, south of the The Jacinto Port-Upland and Wetland Tract.

Meaher State Park (1,327 acres)

is located in Spanish Fort, Baldwin County at the most southern tip of the Delta.

Mobile Tensaw River Delta

Location

Alabama;
Mobile,
Baldwin, Clarke,
Monroe and
Washington
counties

Relative Size

The GEM site is
approximately
313,360 acres.



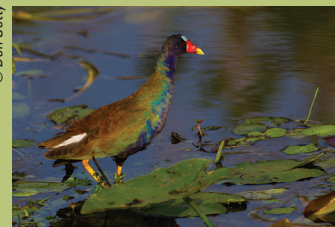
Mobile Tensaw
Protected and
Managed Lands

- Bon Secour NWR
- Lillian Swamp
- Lower Perdido Bay
- North Mississippi Sound
- Mobile Tensaw
- OB Maritime Forest-GSP
- Perdido River Corridor
- Weeks Bay NERR



Bottomland Hardwoods

© Don Getty



Purple Gallinule

Mobile Tensaw River Delta Facts:

- Habitats include: Bogs, bottomland hardwoods, freshwater and hardwood swamps, freshwater wetlands, maritime forests, mesic flood plains, pine savanna, riparian buffers, submerged aquatic vegetation and tidal brackish water marshes.
- It contains one of the most extensive and significant wetlands in the United States and represents one of Alabama's most intact preserved areas.
- It is one of the few breeding localities in the state for the Mottled Duck and Purple Gallinule.
- The Delta plays a vital role in maintaining the area's ecological balance by filtering impurities from up to approximately 15% of the nation's fresh water.
- The Tensaw and Mobile rivers are named after local tribes that once inhabited the area, the Taensas and the Mauvillas. The Delta was also the site of the initial settlement of the town of Mobile, established in 1702 by a French expedition led by Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville.

