



# FACT SHEET: WBV HSDRRS Mitigation

Updated: June 2013

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Project purpose

The Corps is making a concerted effort to avoid and minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent practical while developing the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). When habitat losses occur, the Corps will offset such losses through compensatory environmental mitigation. Compensatory environmental mitigation is an important part of HSDRRS construction and could include habitat restoration or enhancement.

## Project location

Generally, impacts generated from the West Bank & Vicinity (WBV) hurricane project will be mitigated in the Barataria Basin, between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River. **See map on reverse.**

## Project features

The HSDRRS mitigation project team has evaluated more than 400 potential mitigation features in cooperation with the environmental resource agencies and the non-federal sponsor and has identified a tentatively selected mitigation plan. Currently, the plan will compensate for four habitat categories impacted during development of the risk reduction system: wet and dry bottomland hardwood forests, swamps and marshlands.

## \*Current estimated habitat impacts from constructing WBV HSDRRS projects

<b>Habitat Type</b>	<b>Quantity (Acres)</b>	<b>Quality (AAHUs**)</b>
<i>Bottomland Hardwood Wet</i>	236	137
<i>Bottomland Hardwood Dry</i>	479	253
<i>Swamp</i>	253	139
<i>Fresh Marsh</i>	147	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>598</b>

\*To compensate for these impacts, the mitigation acreage may be larger than the impact acreage. Impacts last updated in January 2013.

\*\* AAHU (Average Annual Habitat Unit) is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

## Project status

The Corps' ongoing mitigation efforts include periodic Individual Environmental Report (IER) status meetings. There have been five meetings thus far, three in May 2010, one in December 2010 and one in July 2012. The New Orleans District is currently working to complete the NEPA compliance on the mitigation plan.

Upcoming major milestones include: Release Programmatic IER for Public Review (December 2013).

*For more information, please visit [nolaenvironmental.gov](http://nolaenvironmental.gov).*

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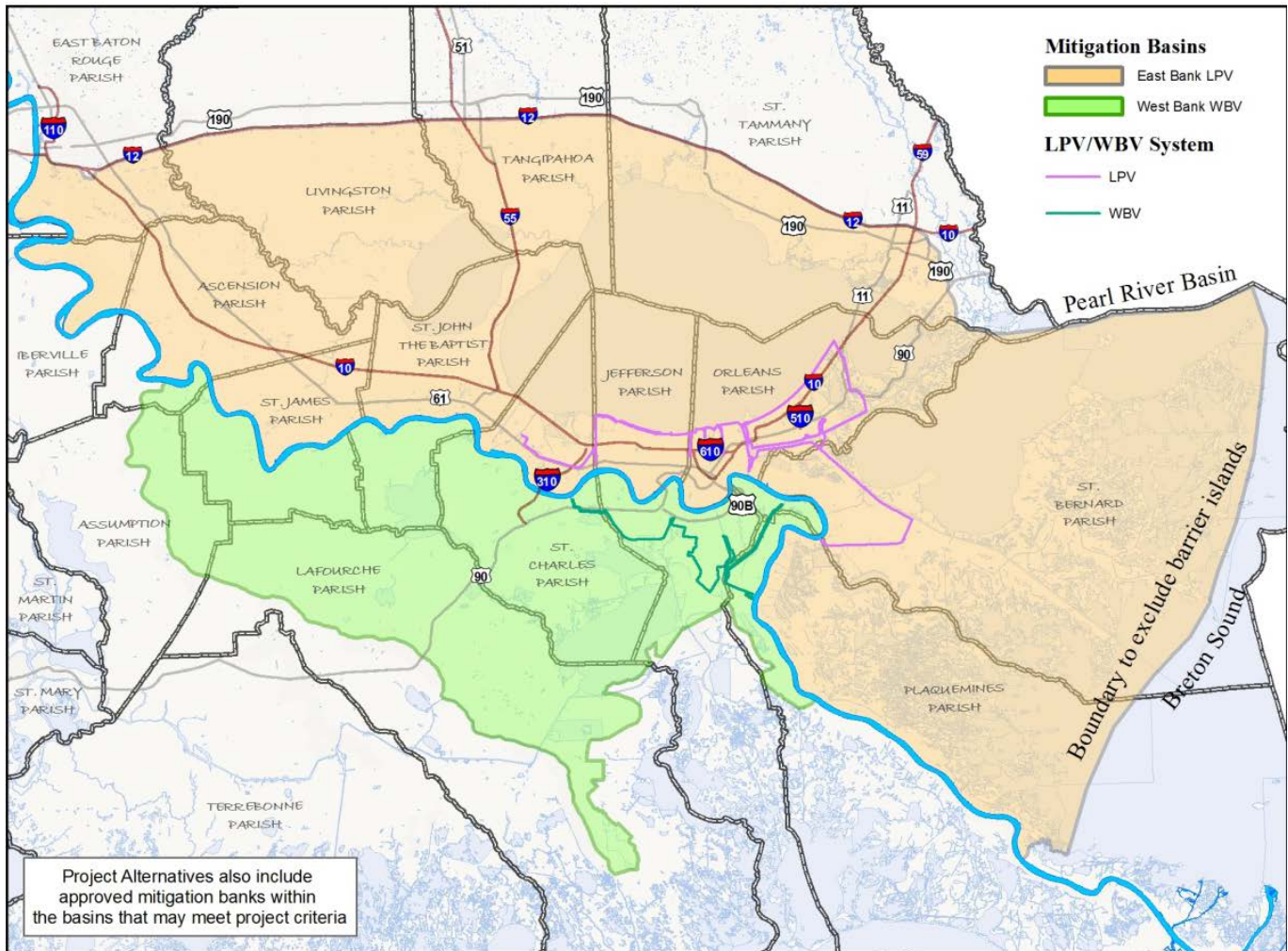
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## Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity and West Bank & Vicinity Project Map



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## Mitigation Bank Alternative

### Overview

Purchase of mitigation bank credits is one proposed alternative that will be considered to compensate for unavoidable impacts to some habitat types due to the construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). Habitat types eligible to be mitigated through the purchase of mitigation bank credits are: bottomland hardwood wet, bottomland hardwood dry and swamp. Mitigation banking is designed to satisfy the national policy of “no net loss” of wetlands through the three main types of compensatory mitigation: restoration or enhancement of existing wetlands, or creation of new wetlands.

### Criteria for Use of Mitigation Banks

When impacts are located within the Westbank and Vicinity (WBV) HSDRRS Mitigation Basin and are within the service area of an approved mitigation bank, and the bank has the appropriate number and resource type of credits available, compensatory mitigation requirements potentially may be satisfied by securing those credits from the bank sponsor. Only active banks that are in compliance with their own instruments and the standards of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regulatory Mitigation Banking Program, found at 33 CFR Part 332, including periodic monitoring and reporting by the owner/operator, may be considered. As per 33 CFR Part 332.3(c), at the discretion of the District Engineer, there may be additional criteria that a mitigation bank would need to meet for the bank to be considered to mitigate for HSDRRS impacts.

### Summary

To be considered as an alternative to satisfy the HSDRRS compensatory mitigation requirements for any particular habitat impacts, the mitigation bank would need to:

- be authorized and in full compliance with its Mitigation Banking Instrument, its other legal instruments (such as its conservation servitude and its financial assurances) and the standards set forth in 33 CFR Part 332;
- have a service area that encompasses the impact(s) being mitigated;
- provide habitat type(s) that match the habitat type(s) being mitigated (except that bottomland hardwood wet habitat may compensate for bottomland hardwood dry habitat impacts); and
- have sufficient mitigation credits available to fully compensate for the impact(s) to the particular habitat to be mitigated.

*For more information, please visit [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov).*

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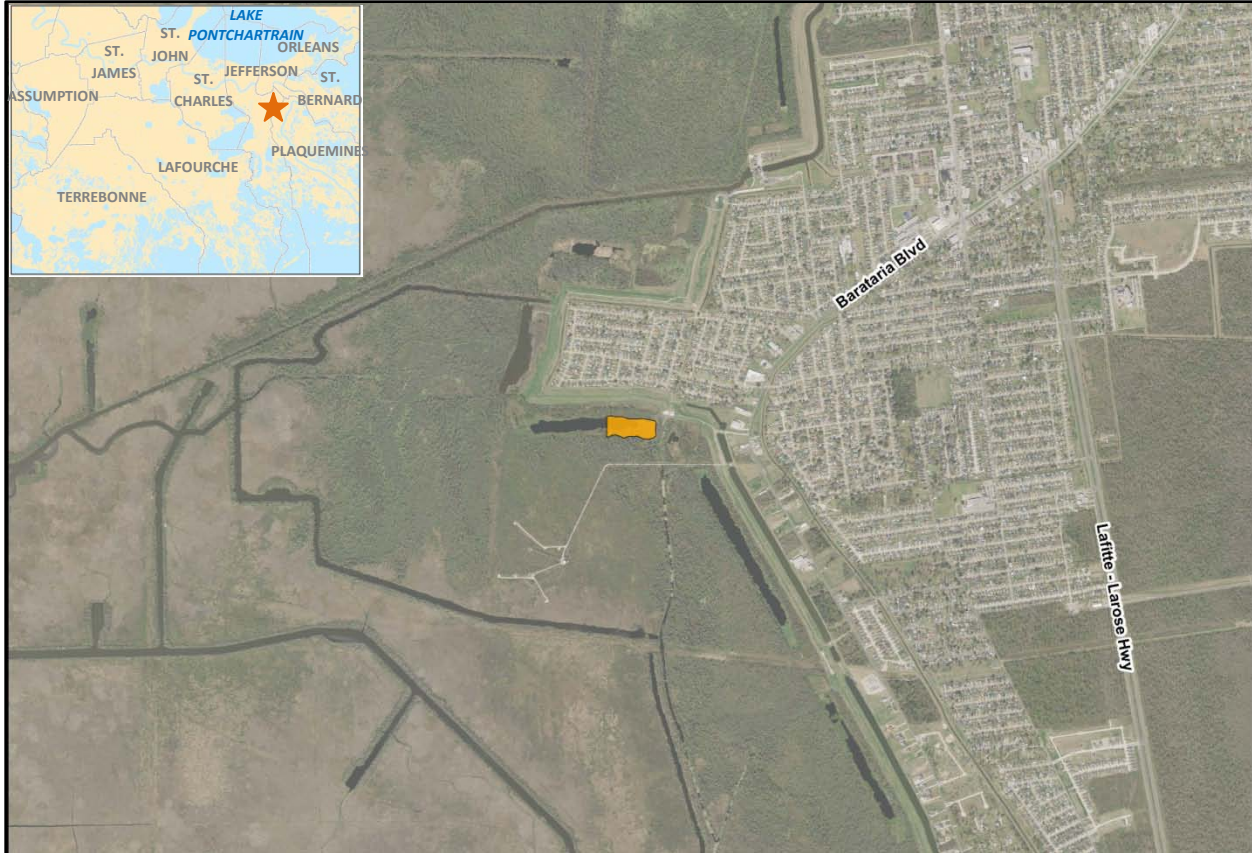
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14 AUGUST 2012

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## Park/404(c) Impacts – Jean Lafitte Bottomland Hardwood Wet



### Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to mitigate for the unavoidable impacts incurred to bottomland hardwood wet (BLH-Wet) habitat at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve during construction of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

### Project Location

This project is located within the Jean Lafitte National Park on the west bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

### Features

Approximately 6 acres of BLH-Wet would be restored by filling a portion of a borrow pit in the northern part of Jean Lafitte National Park. The pit would be filled with clay and sand material trucked in from an offsite source, and native BLH-Wet species would be planted.

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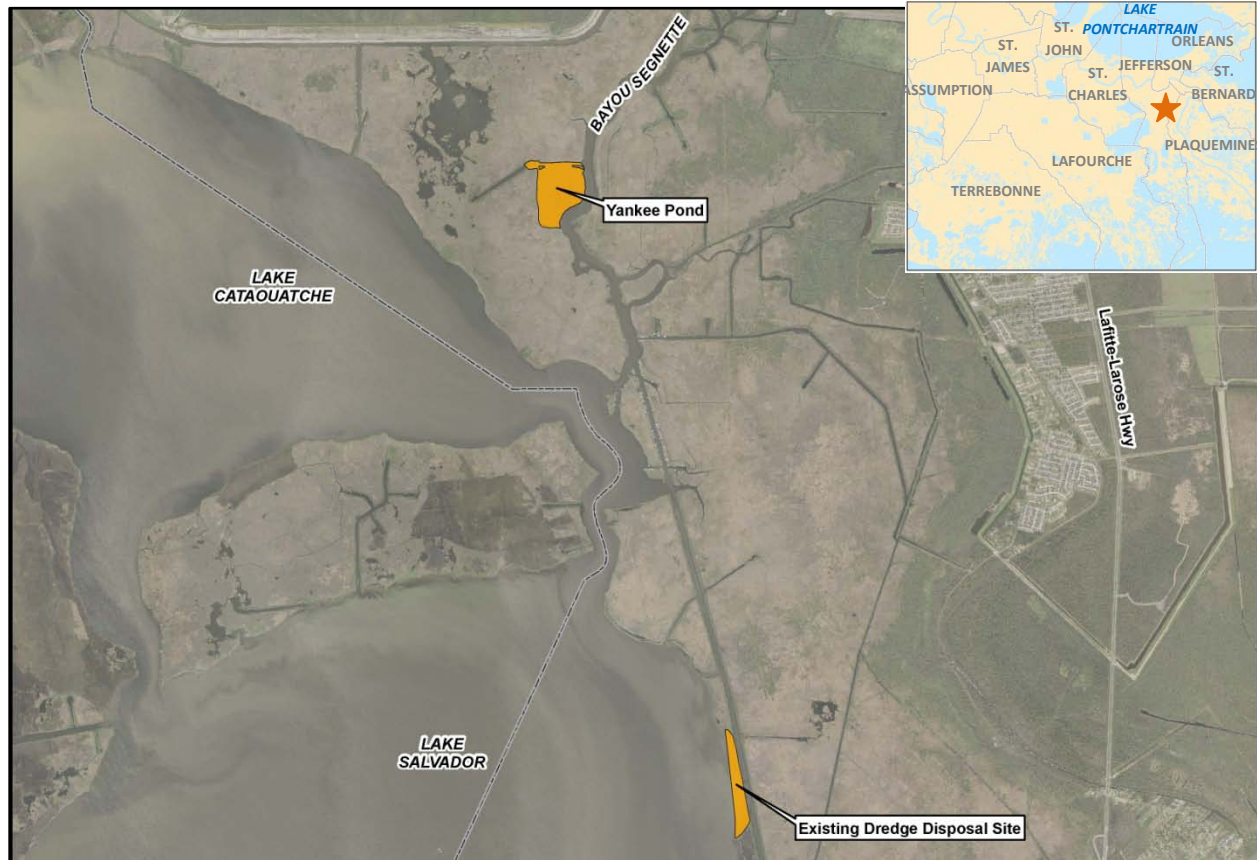
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## General Impacts – Jean Lafitte Marsh



### Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to mitigate for the unavoidable impacts incurred to fresh marsh habitat during construction of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

### Project Location

This project is located within the Jean Lafitte National Park on the west bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

### Project Features

Approximately 115 acres of fresh marsh would be restored by filling Yankee Pond with material dredged from Lake Cataouatche. A rock dike with fish dips would be built on the eastern perimeter to separate the marsh from Bayou Segnette. Additionally, 50 acres of marsh would be restored by grading an existing dredge material disposal site to achieve target marsh elevations and completing a rock dike with fish dips adjacent to Lake Salvador. This project assumes natural recruitment and no planting would be required at either site to establish marsh vegetation. Supplemental planting would only occur if the initial vegetation success criteria are not achieved.

For more information, please visit [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov).

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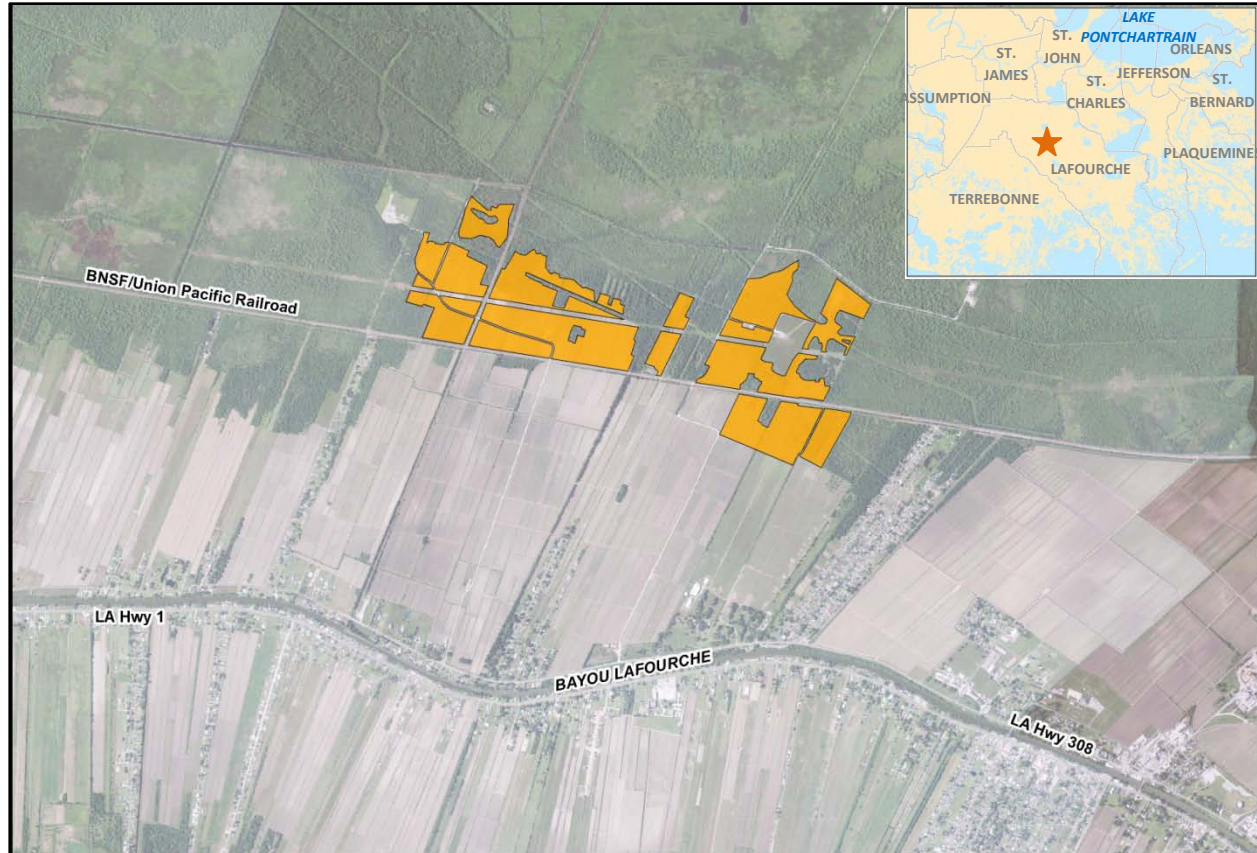
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## General Impacts – Lake Boeuf Swamp



### Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to mitigate for the unavoidable impacts incurred to swamp habitat during construction of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

### Project Location

This project is located on existing agricultural fields between the Lake Boeuf Wildlife Management Area and Bayou Lafourche near the town of Raceland in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

### Features

Approximately 298 acres of swamp would be restored through clearing, excavation and grading to achieve target swamp elevation. Spoil dikes along existing drainage in the area could be degraded to aid in distribution of surface water flow, and the site would be planted with native canopy and midstory species.

For more information, please visit [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov).

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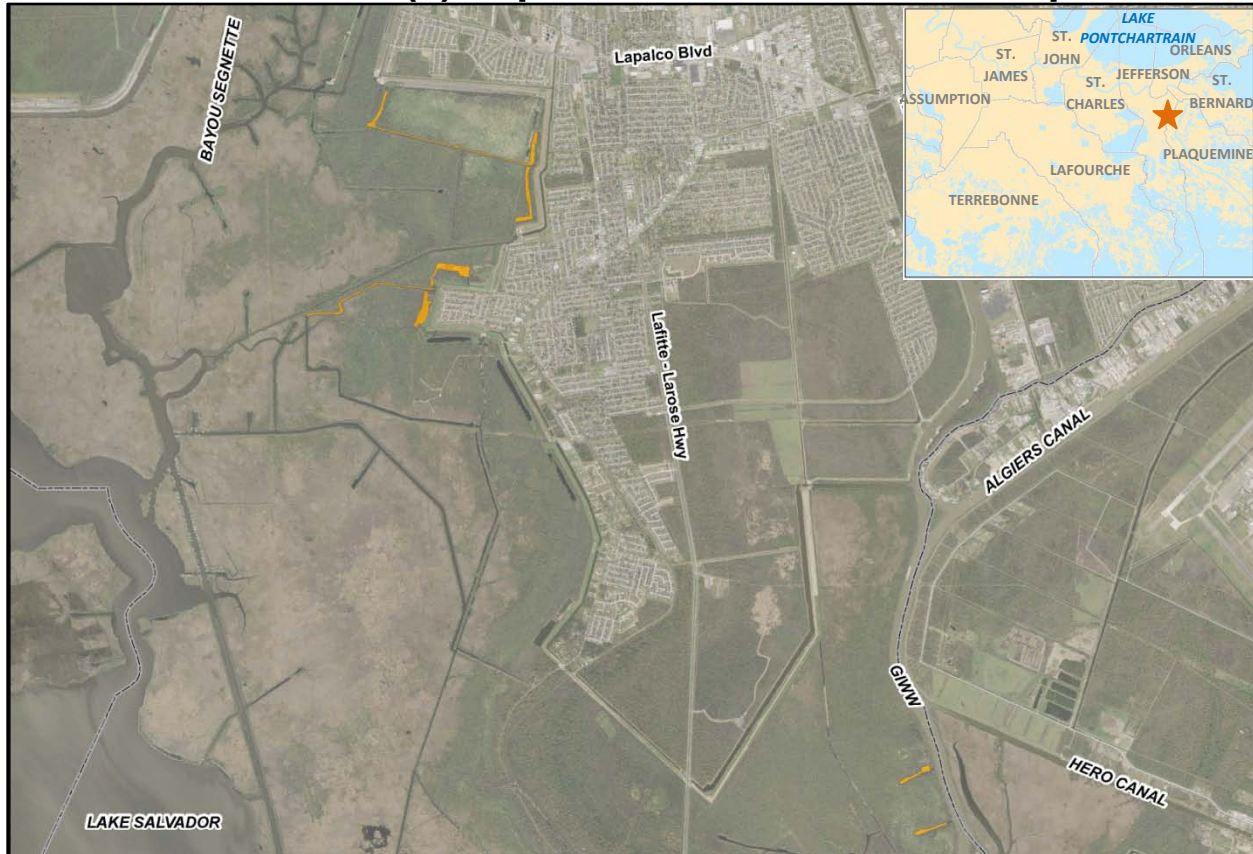
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## Park/404(c) Impacts – Jean Lafitte Swamp



### Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to mitigate for the unavoidable impacts incurred to swamp habitat at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve and in the Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area during construction of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

### Project Location

This project is located within the Jean Lafitte National Park on the west bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

### Project Features

This project features approximately 77 acres of swamp restoration – approximately 67 acres of swamp would be restored by filling in canals and borrow pits in the northern part of Jean Lafitte National Park. The canals would be filled in with clay and sand material trucked in from offsite sources. Adjacent canal berms would be gapped to encourage surface water flow. An additional 10 acres of swamp would be restored by filling in two small keyhole canals in the 404(c) area using material dredged from the adjacent Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

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### \*Current estimated habitat impacts from constructing WBV HSDRRS projects

Habitat Type	Quantity (Acres)	Quality (AAHUs**)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	321	204
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	471	243
Swamp	279	152
Fresh Marsh	147	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>668</b>

\*To compensate for these impacts, the mitigation acreage may be larger than the impact acreage. Impacts last updated in July 2012.

\*\* AAHU (Average Annual Habitat Unit) is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

## Project status

The Corps' ongoing mitigation efforts include periodic Individual Environmental Report (IER) status meetings. There have been four meetings thus far, three in May 2010 and one in December 2010. The next public meeting is on July 31, 2012. The New Orleans District is currently working to complete the NEPA compliance on the mitigation plan.

Upcoming major milestones include: Release IER for Public Review (May 2013), Submit Project Decision Document (PDD) to Division Office (July 2013).

For more information, please visit [nolaenvironmental.gov](http://nolaenvironmental.gov).

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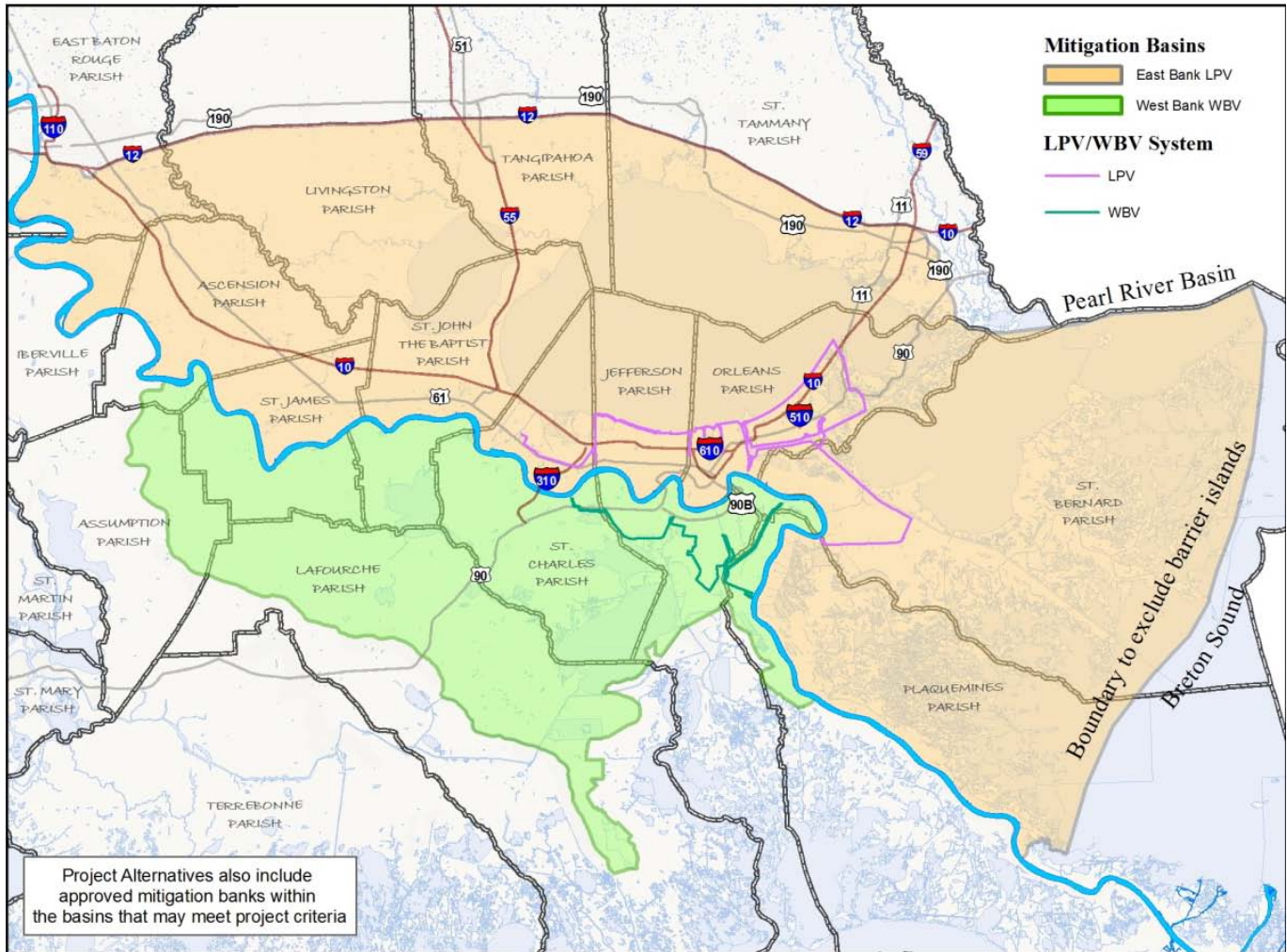
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