

# LWI OVERVIEW



LOUISIANA  
WATERSHED  
INITIATIVE

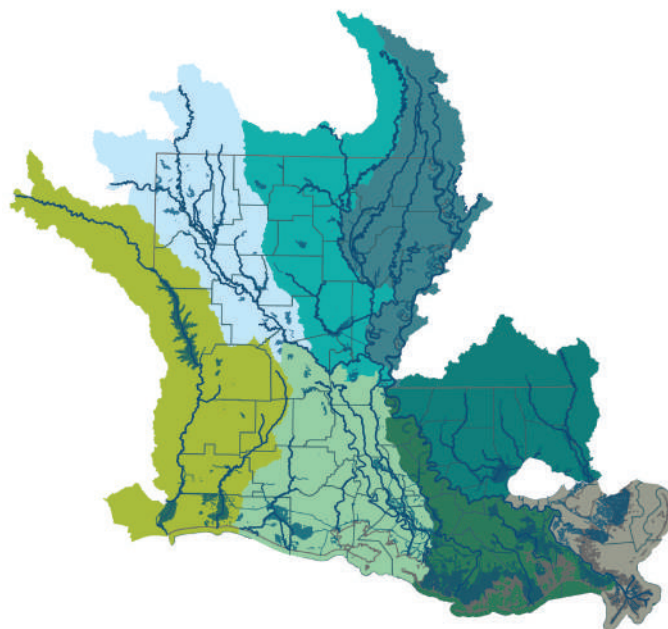
## Proactive Flood Defense

### THE CHALLENGE

#### *Louisiana's flood risk is changing.*

Flash flooding is on the rise, resulting in rivers spilling over their banks and into our communities more frequently. The widespread disaster of the Great Floods of 2016 demonstrated how susceptible our landscape is to severe flooding. In fact, over the past two decades, Louisiana has experienced 28 declared flood and hurricane related disasters. Every parish in the state has been impacted by one or more of these events, costing more than \$16 billion in public assistance.

To proactively defend Louisiana against future flood risk, we must build better tools to help us understand how water flows over the land and through our communities. When it rains, gravity carries storm water to the lowest point in the landscape, which is called a watershed. Since flooding doesn't follow political boundaries, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative uses data and science to make better decisions about floodplain management.



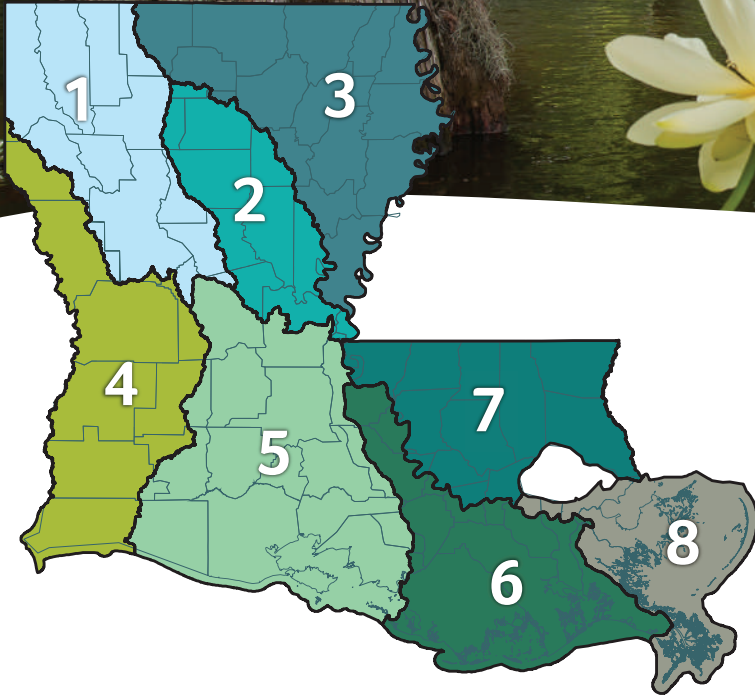
*Louisiana's major watersheds, defined by USGS,  
cross parish and state boundaries.*



PROVIDE TOOLS • EMPOWER COMMUNITIES • MANAGE FLOOD RISK

## SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE





*In August 2019, the Council of Watershed Management agreed to use these eight watershed regions as a starting point to coordinate efforts among parishes and distribute project funds. The boundaries are subject to change based on regional input.*

The Louisiana Watershed Initiative is developing computer models to better understand flood risk and help with the selection of projects best suited for investment in each watershed region. The state will make investments in a nonpolitical and transparent way to comprehensively reduce flood vulnerability.

By investing in projects that build statewide flood defense, Louisiana will better protect and safeguard our communities and culture for generations to come, as well as provide an example for other states facing similar flood risk challenges.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

## THE INSPIRATION



**The Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, AL**  
The site is designed to mimic the natural contours of the landscape and planted with native vegetation to manage storm water.



**The Nature Conservancy's Mollicy Farms Floodplain Reconnection Project in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana**  
Mollicy Farms was restored and reconnected to the natural floodplain along the Ouachita River.



**Woodmen Park in Davenport, Iowa**  
The park's design allows for the Mississippi River to flood its banks leaving the baseball field dry and usable.

Stay up to date on our progress: