

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS PROGRAM



One of the primary goals of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative is to leverage the state's vast network of natural ecosystems to protect our communities and enhance our resilience to floods and other natural hazards.

In addition to the economic and recreational benefits of our natural landscape, we also benefit from the significant role our natural resources play in absorbing and detaining floodwaters, enhancing water quality, recharging aquifers and buffering the impact of storms and wind events. These types of strategies, which use nature to enhance the community, restore water quality and slow the movement of stormwater, are called nature-based solutions.

THE LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

LWI will weave nature-based solutions into every facet of the program by:

- Funding projects that harness natural features to reduce flood risk and improve water quality
- Providing training and technical resources to advance understanding and adoption of nature-based solutions
- Prioritizing nature-based solutions across state programs and projects
- Measuring the impact of these actions on our natural environment and flood resilience





Restoring or preserving floodplains can help slow water movement and store accumulated rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding.

*The \$4.5 million **Mollicy Farms** restoration project reconnected 25 square miles of former floodplain forest to Louisiana's Ouachita River, alleviating downstream flooding, improving water quality and restoring valuable fish and wildlife habitat.*



Rain gardens and other forms of green infrastructure can store stormwater in urban settings, providing recreational and economic benefits.

*The **Wally Pontiff Jr. Playground** in Jefferson Parish is a 42-acre playground, featuring multiple baseball and football fields, a jogging track, tennis courts, a gymnasium and more. It was designed to hold stormwater during heavy rain events that would previously flood surrounding neighborhoods.*



The restoration of coastal wetlands provides a protective barrier against storm surge and offers a critical wildlife habitat and recreational amenities.

*The **Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge** provides critical storm protection and serves as a test site for marsh management strategies that limit saline encroachment, reverse marsh deterioration and provide productive wildlife habitat.*

Nature-based solutions make use of natural processes to reduce flood risk and improve water quality. These solutions provide social, environmental and economic benefits, which decrease vulnerability to climate change, sustain livelihoods, improve food security and provide carbon sequestration.