



LOUISIANA

ONE FUTURE Together, We Find a Way



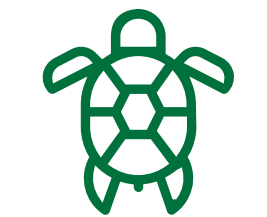
Our Vision for Louisiana

Louisiana is a place where nature and people are deeply entwined. Thousands of residents work in jobs supported by the state's diverse ecosystems, and spending time outdoors is a passion that connects our economy, culture, and history across generations.

The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. In Louisiana, TNC is advancing a statewide plan that will serve as a cornerstone for landscape-scale conservation.

COVER: Roseate Spoonbill flapping its wings after a bath. © Steven Blandin;
THIS SPREAD: A boat docked on Bayou Castine after a fishing trip.
©Chris Granger

Help us protect, preserve and restore the water, air and lands that provide for our way of life.



Nearly **700 species** of native Louisiana plants and animals are **designated threatened or endangered** and many more rely on imperiled habitats.



The Nature Conservancy manages almost **45,000 acres** across Louisiana and has worked with partner organizations to put **more than 300,000 acres into conservation** statewide.



Outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, boating and bird watching, contributes an estimated **\$9.4 billion** to Louisiana’s economy annually and generates **approximately \$580 million** in state and local taxes.



Longleaf pine woodlands, one of the most diverse habitats in the world, **once occupied as many as 8 million acres** across Louisiana. Today, the habitat occupies **less than 5%** of its original range.



For many years, Louisiana has faced the reality of **rapidly intensifying hurricanes, flash floods, storm surges and periods of prolonged drought**. The economic impact of these extreme weather events is shared statewide, with skyrocketing insurance premiums and the loss of land and habitats that support fisheries, agriculture and other industries.



What if we could tackle these challenges with **nature-based solutions**?

Our actions today will determine how much land we lose, what species disappear forever, and whether we have healthy ecosystems to support coastal and fisheries industries.

FACING PAGE: Georgia Tickseed growing at a preserve in Louisiana. © Will deGravelles
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Caddo Lake. © ChongQing Wu/TNC Photo Contest 2023; Grand Isle. © TNC; Flooding in St. Francisville. © David Y. Lee;
Commercial vessels damaged by Hurricane Katrina. © Wayne and Nancy Weikel/FEMA; Drought. © Erika Nortemann/TNC; Flooding in St. Francisville. © David Y. Lee

GOAL

Reconnect Kisatchie to the Coast



The Nature Conservancy’s innovative Kisatchie to the Coast initiative is reestablishing natural connectivity from the Kisatchie National Forest to the coast, protecting a region that is one of the largest migratory corridors on the planet and a vital landscape that is often overlooked by conservation efforts. We envision a Southwest Louisiana with a robust network of protected natural lands, including significant portions of upland longleaf pine woodlands, hardwood floodplain forests, coastal prairies, estuarine marshes and cheniers.

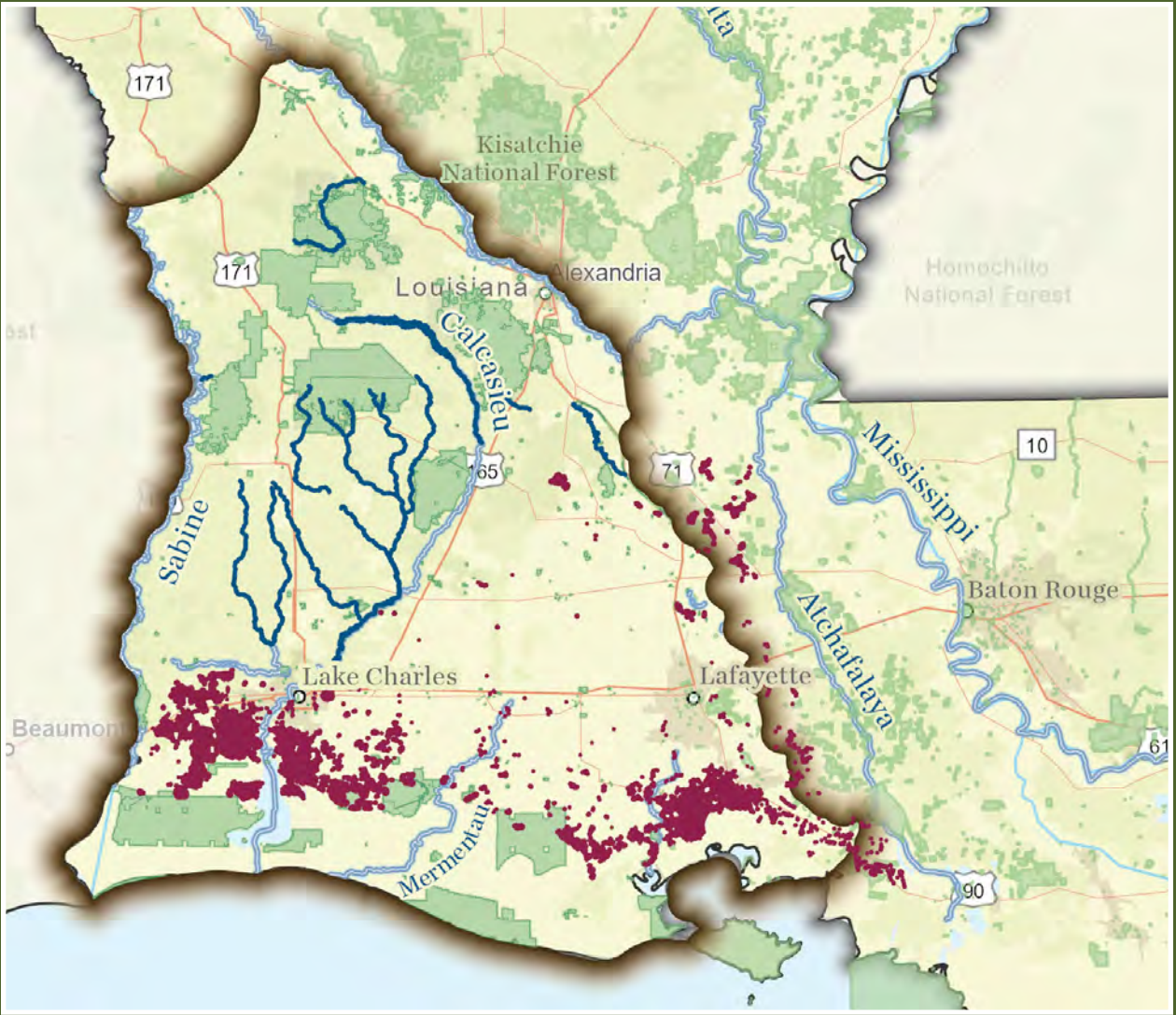


Coastal prairies

More than 2 million acres of coastal prairies once existed throughout Louisiana. Today, less than 5,500 acres remain. TNC is working to reclaim this lost pillar of Louisiana’s natural heritage and ensure the legal protection and proper management of the most crucial 25% of unprotected coastal prairie in the region.

Longleaf pine

Longleaf pine woodlands, which once dominated Louisiana’s landscape, possess as much biodiversity as the Amazon rainforest. TNC is working to expand the largest longleaf pine forest conservation efforts west of the Mississippi River through protection and restoration of these natural areas. TNC also is developing plans for the use of silvopasture, a practice that integrates grazing livestock with forest conservation to enhance soil health, increase carbon sequestration and improve animal wellbeing.



Kisatchie to the Coast Initiative

Southwest Louisiana Initiative Area

Scenic Rivers

Major Rivers

Coastal Prairie Focal Areas

Protected Areas

FACING PAGE: A rainbow appears over coastal marsh in Cameron Parish. © Tareesa Sevilla; Long leaf pines. © Will deGravelles; Wildflowers bloom in coastal prairie. © Sean Fitzgerald



GOAL

Steward lands across Louisiana

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy has managed and improved almost 45,000 acres of critical habitat across the state for rare and endangered species. Today, that work is more important than ever. TNC is actively building additional partnerships to restore wetlands, prairies and forests while retaining these lands’ economic and recreational value.

Establish a tri-state prescribed fire program

Fire plays a crucial role in the health of ecosystems, reducing fuel for extreme wildfires and improving the biodiversity of forests. Without it, many plant and animal species would disappear. To maximize these benefits, TNC’s Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama chapters are building partnerships to support a collective prescribed fire program that will restore thousands of acres in Louisiana.

Reintroduce endangered species into restored habitat

On TNC’s Talisheek Pine Wetlands Preserve in St. Tammany Parish, we are restoring the habitat needed to reintroduce the endangered dusky gopher frog. The frog is native to this region, but now only survives in a few locations in Mississippi. In other areas of Louisiana, TNC is working to restore habitat that would support other rare and endangered species, such as swallow-tailed kites, whooping cranes, Louisiana pine snakes, and the eastern spotted skunk.



FROM LEFT: A winter’s day at Talisheek Preserve. © Will deGravelles; Prescribed burn at Talisheek Preserve. © TNC; Dusky Gopher Frog. © TNC



GOAL

Improve our shared spaces

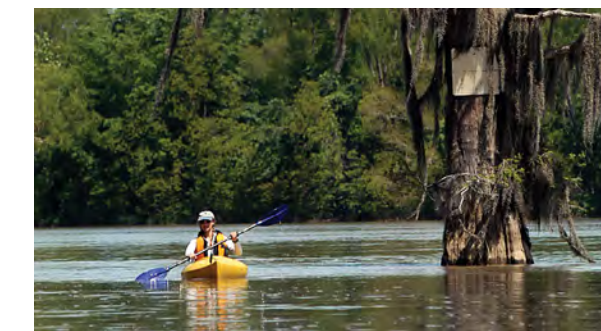
Louisiana’s publicly owned lands mitigate floods and storm surge, provide vital habitat to rare species of plants and animals and store carbon. They also improve our lives by connecting us to nature. Of the 3.4 million acres of protected land in Louisiana, nearly 90 percent is publicly owned. Through a diverse network of partnerships, TNC will expand the restoration and preservation of public lands.

Louisiana Outdoors Forever

Louisiana is the only southern state without a dedicated fund for conservation projects, and TNC is actively advocating to change that. In 2022, the Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Program with \$10 million in one-time conservation funding. Since then, the program has leveraged that funding with an additional \$28 million to support 13 restoration projects that protect drinking water, conserve wildlife habitat and improve recreational opportunities. TNC is working to ensure that work continues by advocating to make state-appropriated conservation funding permanent.

Treesilience

Louisiana Treesilience is building more storm-ready communities by planting large native trees in a 22-parish region that was hit hard by hurricanes in 2020 and 2021. Now, the goal is to expand the program statewide. Treesilience’s projects are designed to mitigate the effects of severe weather by removing hazardous trees and strategically planting native species to reduce urban temperatures, buffer storms, improve air quality, manage storm water and increase quality of life in urban areas.



FROM LEFT: Cypress Island Preserve. © JCW Creative; A paddler explores the Atchafalaya Basin. © Bob Marshall; A Louisiana Treesilience tree planting in DeRidder. © Susan Langenhennig



GOAL

Accelerate floodplain restoration

TNC uses cutting-edge science to restore floodplains and improve water quality, protect communities, minimize flooding and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Floodplain Reforestation Program

An innovative solution to the crisis of repetitive flooding in the Lower Mississippi River Basin, TNC's Floodplain Restoration Program pays farmers to plant native hardwood trees on lands that are no longer sustainable for agriculture and were historically floodplain forests. The farmers receive payment for the use of their land for 30 years, while the restored floodplain creates carbon-credit opportunities, provides flood protection, improves water quality and restores habitat for wildlife. The pilot program will restore 3,600 floodplain acres in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi, with the hopes of expanding throughout the Mississippi River Basin.

Sustainable Rivers

The Sustainable Rivers Program, a one-of-a-kind partnership between TNC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, finds sustainable ways to manage river infrastructure — dams, water control structures, etc. — to optimize benefits for people and nature. This collaboration has grown nationally from eight rivers in 2002 to 46 rivers in 2024. TNC is modeling flow regimes in the Atchafalaya River Basin to determine how shifts in water management can sustain critical ecological functions and habitats while maintaining floodplain protection for communities. These science-backed flow regimes will be utilized by the Army Corps to improve river management to the benefit of more than 60,000 acres in Louisiana.



FROM LEFT: The Mississippi River Old River Control Structure. © CC Lockwood; Morganza Spillway. © David Y. Lee; A house on the Atchafalaya Basin. © TNC



GOAL

Advocate for wildlife-friendly renewable energy

Renewable energy projects are essential to meeting our energy demands, but the location of wind and solar farms must account for habitat alteration and impediment for migratory species.

TNC will work with renewable energy developers to limit the infrastructure impacts on migratory species in the air, land and water. TNC is developing a site-renewables mapping platform to maximize benefits from solar and wind energy while reducing environmental stress.






FROM LEFT: Solar panels in a field of wildflowers. © Jason Whalen/Fauna Creative; Pelicans gather on the coast. © TNC
BACK COVER: An airboat rides through the Atchafalaya Basin. © Will deGravelles



**Achieving these ambitious goals for
Louisiana requires sustained investment.
We need your help to make The Nature
Conservancy's Vision for Louisiana a reality.**



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