



Bayou Saint John Wetland Creation Project

Restore the Earth Foundation, Inc., partnering with the **Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation**, with funding from the **Harrah's Foundation** and **Orleans Levee District** and volunteers from **Harrah's HEROS**, **Timberland** and **Entergy Corporation** created a wetland at Bayou St. John, a historic bayou on Lake Pontchartrain.

The Project: Bayou St. John was the original route taken by French explorers in 1718, who camped on its banks before settling in what is now the French Quarter. Though it has lost its original wild beauty, it is a vital part of the urban landscape and an official 'scenic waterway' next to City Park. There is an ongoing movement to restore the bayou's ecology, and several recent projects have re-established some water flow and fish migration from Lake Pontchartrain.

Most of the bayou is within the levee system around New Orleans, with a flood gate where it meets Lake Pontchartrain. In the spring of 2013, the Orleans Levee District will dredge a channel from the flood gate to the lake to improve water flow. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation beneficially used some of the dredged sediment to create a half acre of wetland along the banks.

Sheltered from waves and accessible to the public, the mouth of Bayou St. John is an ideal place to create wetlands. Half an acre of native vegetation in the 10-mile concrete seawall improves habitat and water quality while beautifying the urban lakeshore. A pocket of marsh where the bayou meets the lake will have big benefits for the fish, crabs and birds it attracts. Creating an urban wetland is a positive step on the road to saving Lake Pontchartrain.



PROJECT DETAILS

Location:

Bayou Saint John, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Date:

April 2014

Project Attributes:

- Urban Planting
- Active flood way
- Habitat creation
- Sediment stabilization
- Multiple partners



Looking toward Lake Pontchartrain from the flood gate. Wetland area in green.



April 2014

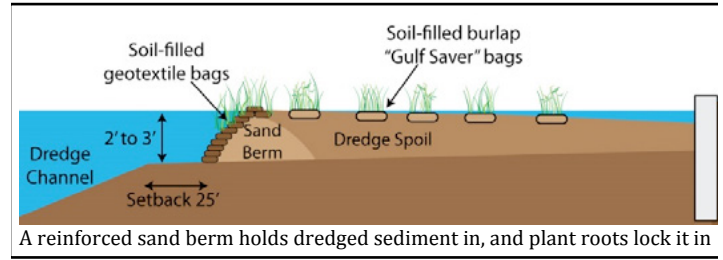


October 2014

PROJECT PLAN

The wetland creation concept started with sand from the lake side of the Lakeshore Drive Bridge moved into the bayou. The sand was piled into berms adjacent to the channel. Muddier sediment from inside the bridge was placed behind the berms to a final elevation near mean water level.

REF's Gulf Saver bags were placed by volunteers on the constructed mudflats and planted with marsh vegetation. The Gulf Saver bags accelerated the plant growth and establishment of marsh vegetation that stabilized the new wetland. The result is a successful constructed wetland abundant with fish and native wildlife.



April 2014



October 2014

GULF SAVER™ BAGS

Gulf Saver™ bags are biodegradable, self-contained packages of native plants with their own site specific custom mixed composted humus with natural nutrients to support, feed and protect the plants. The bag is a stability kit that jump starts survivability and growth. (GS bags are 14"x22" and weigh 22lbs.)

