



# Bay Raccourci Marsh Creation, Increment II (TE-166)

## Project Status

**Approved Date:** 2021

**Approved Funds:** \$3 M

**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 237 acres

**Status:** Engineering and Design

**Project Type:** Marsh Creation

**PPL #:** 30

**Project Area:** 290 acres

**Total Est. Cost:** \$29 M

## Location

This project is located in Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, Terrebonne Parish.

## Problems

High saline waters from Lake Mechant have directly contributed to the loss and/or conversion of much of the historically intermediate marshes to low salinity brackish marshes north of Lake Mechant. Subsidence, canal dredging and storm damage have also contributed significantly to the loss of marsh in the area. The zone of intermediate marsh (transition zone between fresh and brackish marshes) is located just north of Lake Mechant. High salinity water entering Bay Raccourci via Bayou Raccourci/Lake Mechant effectively short circuits the TE-44 project and flows unimpeded into lower salinity marshes surrounding Bay Raccourci and eventually entering Bayou Decade. The project area loss rate was calculated by USGS to be -0.21% / yr. between years 1984 to 2019.

## Restoration Strategy

The primary goals of this project are to slow the movement of saline water north from Lake Mechant through Bay Raccourci into Bayou Decade. Specific objectives are to 1) create 241 acres of emergent marsh, 2) nourish 49 acres of emergent marsh, and 3) plant Bay Raccourci shoreline with appropriate intermediate marsh species.

Service goals include restoration/protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species and other at-risk species. This project would restore habitat potentially utilized by the black rail, which is listed as a threatened species. The project could also benefit other species of concern including the saltmarsh toad and seaside sparrow.

This project would create/nourish 290 acres of marsh along the eastern shoreline of Bay Raccourci with material hydraulically dredged from Lake Mechant. The initial target fill elevation is +1.17 feet (NAVD88). Constructed containment dikes would be gapped as needed by year 3 to provide tidal exchange after fill materials settle and consolidate. Vegetative plantings along Bay Raccourci shoreline will be included. The proposed project features will help maintain marshes adjacent to Bay Raccourci, Bayou Decade, and Small Bayou LaPoint. The proposed project would be synergistic with the following projects: TE-44, TE-34, TE-39, TE-72, and the recently funded Bayou Raccourci Marsh Creation and Ridge Restoration Project (TE-156).

## Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2021.

This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 30.

*For more information, please contact:*



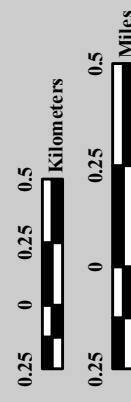
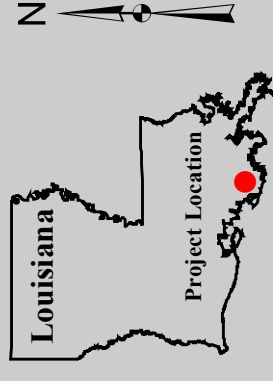
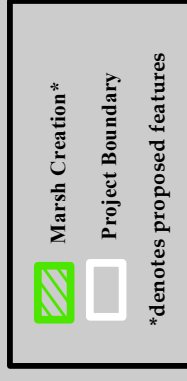
**Federal Sponsor:**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lafayette, LA  
(337) 291-3100



**Local Sponsor:**  
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(225) 342-4733



# Bay Raccourci Marsh Creation, Increment II (TE-166)



Map Produced by:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center  
Coastal Restoration and Assessment Branch  
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:  
2018 NAIP

Map Date: February 17, 2021  
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2021-11-0007  
Data accurate as of: January 15, 2021

