March 2021
Cost figures as of: February 2023

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

Project Status

Approved Date: 2021 **Project Area:** 290 acres
Approved Funds: $2.96 M **Total Est. Cost:** $29.4 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 237 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 30

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 thought 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 topminnow 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

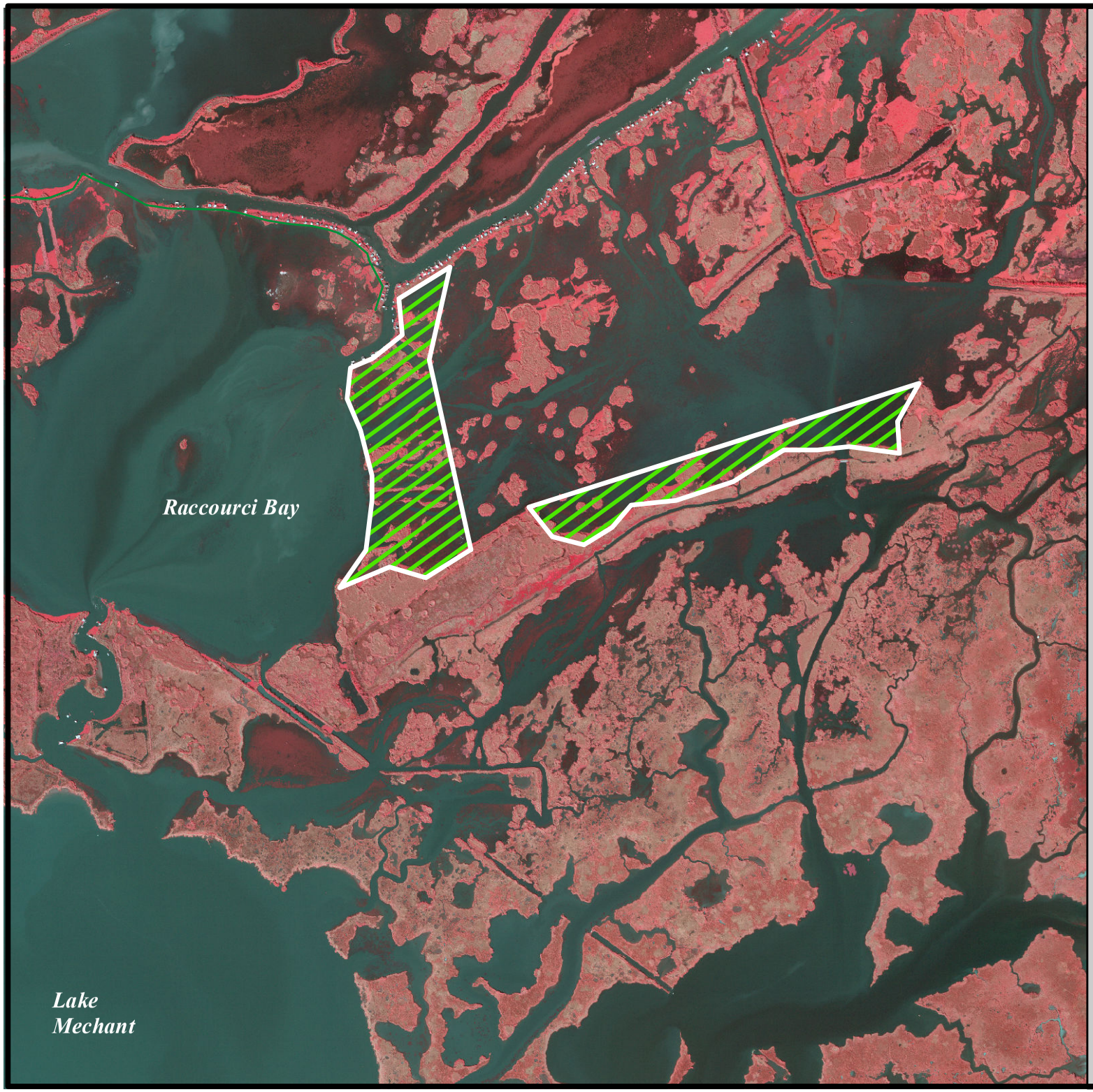
This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2021.

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



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Marsh Creation*

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

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

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