



Port Fourchon Marsh Creation (TE-171)

Cost figures as of: April 2025

Project Status

Approved Date: 2022 **Project Area:** 543 acres
Approved Funds: \$3 M **Total Est. Cost:** \$37 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 412 acres
Status: Construction
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 31

Location

Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, Lafourche Parish

Problems

Historic wetland loss in the project area stems from subsidence, sediment deprivation, and construction of pipeline canals. According to USGS data, nearly 324,000 ac of land were lost between 1932 and 2010 within the basin, which had the highest land loss rate in the state, -1.56% per year from 1985 to 2004. Wetlands have been replaced by open water where canals are dug, while spoil banks convert them to upland habitat. Bounded by Bayou Lafourche to the east and Timbalier Bay to the west the project area is also subject to shoreline erosion. Using a hypertemporal analysis (1984-2024) for the extended boundary, USGS estimated the landloss rate to be -0.97% per year.

Restoration Strategy

The primary goals of this project are to restore degraded wetland habitat and provide increased protection from storm surge and flooding. Specific goals of the project are to create approximately 445 acres and nourish approximately 98 acres of marsh with dredged material from Belle Pass. The project would also evaluate the use of Belle Pass sediment for coastal Restoration and demonstrate cost sharing opportunities with local stakeholders. This project helps to further EPA CWPPRA Team goals by improving local community resilience, restoring wetland habitats and protecting critical infrastructure, and supporting stakeholder priorities in synergy with EPA's mission.



Site of Port Fourchon Marsh Creation (TE-171) taken during the Wetland Value Assessment in Summer of 2021.

The project will create/nourish 543 acres of wetlands by converting open water into marsh and nourishing existing marsh remnants with sediment hydraulically dredged from the sustainable borrow source, Belle Pass channel. Temporary containment dikes will be constructed. Using an adaptive management approach, gapping and other measures will be used within three years of construction to foster a functional intertidal habitat and maintain the hydrologic functionality of the adjacent TE-0052 project. These actions allow greater tidal exchange and estuarine organism access. Restoration in this area would build the area's defenses against hurricanes and flooding.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2022. This project was approved for Phase II Construction in January 2025.

This project is on Priority Project List 31.

For more information, please contact:



Federal Sponsor:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Dallas, TX
 (214) 665-6722



Local Sponsor:

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
 Baton Rouge, LA
 (225) 342-4736



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-  Marsh Creation
-  Project Boundary

Note: All features are proposed.



Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Lafayette, La.

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