



Bayou Folsé Watershed Restoration Project

Project Status

Project Year: 2016-present

Status: Ongoing

Category: Water Quality

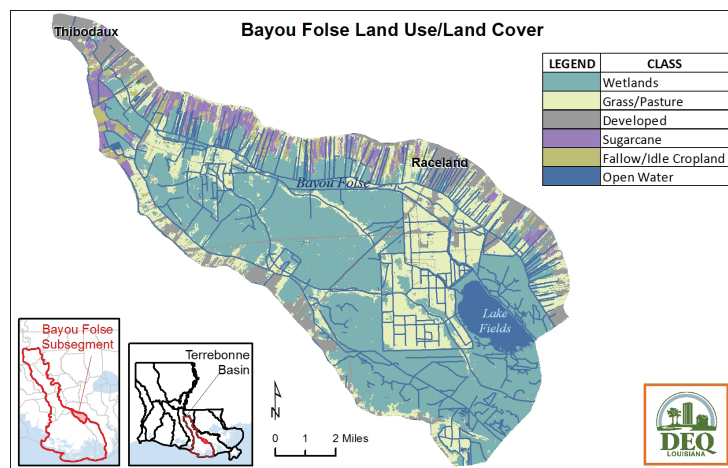
Location: Bayou Folsé & Lake Fields, Lafourche Parish

Project Partners: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)

Background and Problem Addressed:

According to Louisiana's 2012 Integrated Report, Bayou Folsé (subsegment 120302) is fully meeting Secondary Contact Recreation but is **not** meeting Primary Contact Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Propagation due to high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria, nitrate/nitrite, total phosphorus, and low dissolved oxygen. Suspected sources of impairment include forced drainage pumping and failure of on-site waste water treatment systems.

So what does this mean? There are two main standards on this waterbody: 1) Primary Contact Recreation is designed to protect people who swim in the water. Fecal coliform bacteria are used as an indicator of the presence of disease causing organisms. 2) Fish and Wildlife Propagation is designed to protect fish that live in the water. Temperature, excess nutrients, and excess organic matter can lower dissolved oxygen in the water, which affects the ability for fish to survive and thrive.



Bayou Folse Watershed Restoration Project

Project Description:

The main goal and focus of this project is to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, or pollution carried by rainfall runoff. The main objective is improving surface water quality, restoring support for Clean Water Act (CWA) designated uses, and maintaining healthy waters.

There are two planned phases to this project. In the first phase BTNEP staff will monitor the Bayou Folse watershed for field parameters (pH, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and salinity) and collect grab samples for laboratory analysis (fecal coliform, phosphorus, and nitrogen) on a twice-monthly basis at 10 sites for the duration of the project. This will provide a baseline of values at each site and for the watershed as a whole. During the second phase, best management practices (BMPs) will be established and implemented in the watershed. Then the monitoring data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the BMPs in reducing NPS pollution.

The Bayou Folse watershed includes the headwaters of Bayou Cutoff to the Bayou Folse confluence with Company Canal. Bayou Cut Off originates in eastern Thibodaux and follows the route of the old 40 Arpent Canal, which runs parallel to Bayou Lafourche between Lafourche ridge and Bayou Blue ridge. Bayou Folse receives flow from Bayou Cut Off and originates in an area just west of Theriot Canal and runs down along the northeast side of Lake Fields to Company Canal. Much of the flow from the watershed is shunted into Commercial Canal, Bayou DuMar, and into the northern part of Lake Fields. The watershed includes a diffuse network of pumps, managed by the North Lafourche Levee District.

Flow from the Bayou Folse watershed was redirected into and through Lake Fields when the Commercial Canal was dug in the 1960s. Lake Fields is a very popular recreational area managed by the Lafourche Fish and Game Commission. Nutrient and sediment loads from Bayou Folse has caused increased levels of turbidity in Lake Fields affecting the habitat for sight-feeding fish and submerged aquatic vegetation for waterfowl.

Restoration of the watershed is paramount to providing safe water for all activities including fishing and swimming.



CCMP Action Items Addressed:

Nutrient, Bacteria and Toxic Contaminant Load Evaluation (Ecological Management # 8)

Reduction of Sewage Pollution (Ecological Management # 10)

Reduction of Agricultural Pollutions (Ecological Management # 11)

Stormwater Management (Ecological Management # 12)