

State of Louisiana

Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp

The Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp project's objective is to restore and enhance the health and sustainability of the Maurepas Swamp through the reintroduction of seasonal Mississippi River inflow. The Maurepas Swamp is one of the largest areas of forested wetlands along the Gulf Coast, and encompasses approximately 57,000 hectares of bald cypress-tupelo swamp southwest of Lake Maurepas. Historically, the swamp received sediment and nutrient inputs from the Mississippi River during seasonal overbank flooding. However, this process has been interrupted by flood control levees, and consequently elevation has decreased to the point where the swamp is almost constantly flooded. In addition to restoring and enhancing a total of 18,300 hectares of forested wetland, this project should provide a number of other benefits including increased habitat productivity, water quality, and community resilience as the Maurepas Swamp represents a significant storm buffer to nearby communities. The Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp Project consists of the following major components: 1) a gated river intake structure, 2) box culverts through the levee, 3) a sedimentation basin, 4) a conveyance channel, and 5) a drainage pump station. The maximum design flow is 2,000 cubic feet per second. The project will be located near Garyville, LA in St. John the Baptist Parish. Requested funding amount: \$14,190,000.