

# Louisiana

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$215 million to protect Louisiana's outdoor places, protect water resources, increase sportsmen's access, and to build close to home parks. From national wildlife refuges and historic sites to soccer fields and city parks, LWCF has protected Red River National Wildlife Refuge, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Kisatchie National Forest, Audubon Park in New Orleans, Lake D'Arbonne State Park, and Chicot State Park.

Louisiana's \$12.2 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 103,000 jobs which generate \$3.4 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$893 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve

Created in 1978, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve showcases nationally significant examples of historical and natural resources in Louisiana's Mississippi River Delta. The Park interprets six distinct sites, including the War of 1812's Battle of New Orleans at Chalmette Battlefield and adjacent Chalmette National Cemetery, which was established during the Civil War. The Park also includes the French Quarter Visitor Center in New Orleans and sites interpreting Acadian (Cajun) culture in Lafayette, on the prairie, and in bayou country. The rich and diverse culture of southern Louisiana is reflected throughout the Park thanks to LWCF. More than \$23 million from LWCF has allowed the Park to protect approximately 14,500 acres since its creation—roughly 80 percent of the 17,600-acre Park.



Bayou Tour Jean Lafitte NHP&P Credit: NPS

**“A preserve, the historic French Quarter, a national cemetery, wetlands and prairies - are the diverse entities that comprise Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve. The Land and Water Conservation Fund provided critical funding to protect these key Louisiana landmarks. According to the National Park Service, in 2016, visitors to the New Orleans Jazz Park and Jean Lafitte spent \$27.7 million in nearby communities. The visitorship to these parks are critical to these areas. LWCF support adds to the positive impact of our parks - economic growth, jobs, and our sense of place.” -Fairleigh Cook Jackson, Executive Director, Preserve Louisiana**

## Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge

Established in 1984, Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 15,000 acres of bottomland hardwood swamp habitat in the vast floodplain of the Atchafalaya River, a tributary of the Mississippi that flows into the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to being one of the most productive wildlife areas, with highly diverse habitat which allows for many species of plants and animals to thrive here, the refuge supports a very productive sport and commercial fishery, as well as recreational activities such as paddling, hiking, and wildlife viewing. There has been \$14 million in LWCF investments at Atchafalaya NWR, increasing sportsmen access and habitat conservation in the refuge.



Paddling the Atchafalaya NWR Credit: USFWS

**#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Louisiana!**

[www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/)