Plan View

The level of water in Bayou La Cache is raised by a weir to a higher elevation, discharging into an existing borrow pit. A collection of new weirs between the existing borrow pits control their water level. Using gravity, water cascades downwards and returns to the bayou allowing still water to move. Concurrently and during drought spells, modern wind mills, connected to Archimedes screw-pumps, elevate drainage water to the level-controlled borrow pits.

Key Info

- Project Area: 100 acres
- Estimated Project Cost: $5.4 million
- Partners: Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District; Terrebonne Parish; Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries

Location: Bayou La Cache

Proposed project transforms an existing borrow pit site into a park that slows down the flow of stormwater and provides multiple ecosystem benefits, including stormwater management, water cleansing, recovery of native habitats, as well as creating a public space for education and recreation.

Community Benefits

- Diverts water from the bayou into detention ponds, allows for groundwater recharge, and alleviates loads on the drainage system.
- Potential to reduce flooding for development down the bayou.
- Provides green space, walking paths and habitat.

Aerial View of Wetland Park & Walking Trails

Areas subject to moderate and high future flood risk must consider stormwater management features in addition to current and planned structural protection systems. The Bayou La Cache Wetland Park in the Smith Ridge forced drainage system diverts and temporarily stores water during heavy rain events while providing access from Aragon Road to amenities such as bird and wildlife viewing and walking paths. Increasing the bayou’s capacity by using weirs and shut off valves to divert water into existing ponds reduces flood risk down the bayou. The proposed project transforms an existing borrow pit site into a park that slows down the flow of stormwater and provides multiple ecosystem benefits, including stormwater management, water cleansing, recovery of native habitats, as well as creating a public space for education and recreation.

Precedent Image of Wetlands, Boardwalks, and Plantings

Precedent Image of Seating Area overlooking Wetlands

Precedent Image of Archimedes Screw Pump and Cascading Water

Precedent Image of Wind-driven Archimedes Screw-pumps in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana