



Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

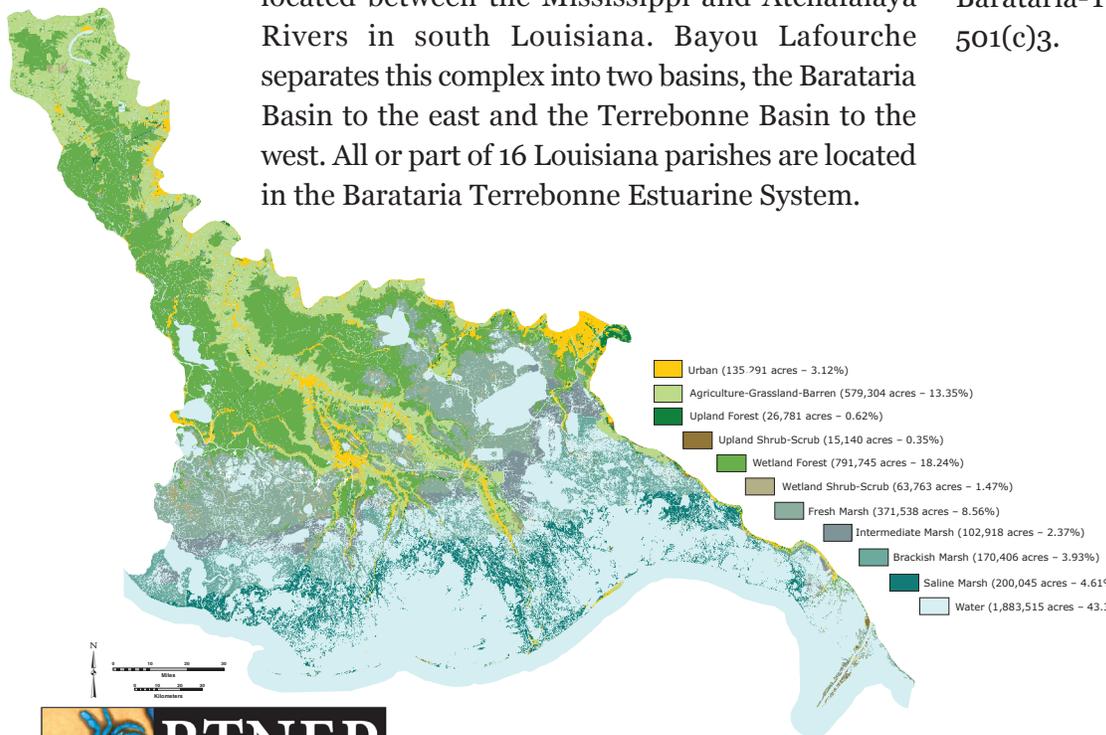
FAST FACTS

WHAT IS AN ESTUARY?

An estuary is a coastal area where salt water from the ocean mixes with fresh water from rivers, rainfall, and upland runoff. Within an estuary, salt water and fresh water proportions differ daily depending on the season, weather, and tides. Vital coastal ecosystems exist in these constantly changing conditions. Examples of these dynamic habitats include: swamps, marshes, beaches, oyster reefs, mangrove forests, river deltas, and sea grasses. Estuarine environments are among the most biologically productive on Earth.

WHERE IS THE BARATARIA-TERREBONNE NATIONAL ESTUARY LOCATED?

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary is located between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in south Louisiana. Bayou Lafourche separates this complex into two basins, the Barataria Basin to the east and the Terrebonne Basin to the west. All or part of 16 Louisiana parishes are located in the Barataria Terrebonne Estuarine System.



WHAT IS BTNEP?

The mission of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is the preservation and restoration of Louisiana's most productive estuarine system. BTNEP strives to rebuild and protect the estuary for future generations through the implementation of a science-based, consensus-driven comprehensive conservation management plan that utilizes partnerships focused on the estuary's cultural, economic, and natural resources. BTNEP is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's 320 Clean Water Act, the State of Louisiana, and the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, a 501(c)3.

DID YOU KNOW?

The BTES consists of all or part of 16 Louisiana parishes.



WHAT DOES BTNEP DO?

- Scientific Research
- Habitat Enhancement
- Water Quality Projects
- Land Restoration
- Species Assessments
- K-12 Public Education and Outreach
- Volunteer Activities

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE ESTUARY?

- Hydrologic Modification
- Habitat Loss
- Pathogens
- Eutrophication
- Change in Living Resources
- Toxic Substances
- Reduction in Sediment Availability



WHAT IS THE BTNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE?



Upon inclusion in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program, a diverse group of stakeholders was assembled including representatives from industry and business, fisheries, agriculture, oil and gas, government agencies, individual citizens, landowners, civic organizations, hunters, scientists, engineers, environmentalists, economists, and urban planners.

The BTMC, which originally convened in 1990 to develop the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), has been the catalyst for producing open and frank discussions about some of the most critical coastal management issues of the nation for over 25 years. The BTMC's primary function is to encourage and oversee the implementation of the CCMP by coordinating and integrating the CCMP actions among agencies and stakeholders. In addition, the BTMC maintains an interchange with other similar federal, state and local planning efforts, and reviews and modifies the implementation of the CCMP as conditions change over time. Finally, the BTMC fosters and expands the use of participatory, voluntary and incentive-based approaches to decision-making in the estuary.

HOW DOES BTNEP ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY?

As part of its mission, BTNEP strives to connect with and engage various stakeholders in the community. This outreach is established through several regular community-focused events, such as marsh plantings, Paddle Bayou Lafourche and Bayou Lafourche Cleanup, as well as through an active social media program. As a result, BTNEP engaged community members through 36 different events and grew its Facebook following to more than 4,000 in 2018.

