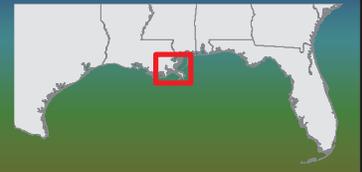




Gulf Coast  
Ecosystem  
Restoration  
Council

## Mississippi River Delta Watershed

Jean Lafitte Canal Backfilling  
(DOI\_RESTORE\_003\_048\_Cat1)



**Project Name:** Jean Lafitte Canal Backfilling - Implementation

**Cost:** Category 1: \$8,731,000

**Responsible Council Member:** Department of the Interior

**Project Details:** The proposed project involves reclamation of 16.5 miles of canals and the spoil deposits associated with them in the Barataria Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Louisiana.

These canals were constructed prior to establishment of the Barataria Unit in the national park, and before stricter regulatory requirements under the wetland provisions of the Clean Water Act were imposed. As the canals were dredged, the soil, rock and other materials were removed and placed along the sides of the canals, which created spoil banks.

**Activities:** Spoil banks would be graded to meet the elevation of surrounding wetlands. The open water of the canals would be partially filled with graded soil and vegetative material in order to reclaim canals. Leveling of spoil banks and dikes would be accomplished through the use of a marsh buggy, barge-mounted excavator, or similar earthmoving equipment and by accessing each site from existing canals or spoil banks. Specific mitigation techniques would be implemented to minimize potential impacts to navigation and recreation, as well as, help meet habitat restoration/preservation objectives.

**Environmental Benefits:** The proposed canal backfilling and spoil bank restoration at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park would improve hydrology and restore wetland functions. The canals would revert to marsh, swamp and shallow water habitat through natural processes, thereby re-creating freshwater wetlands. The project would enhance the resiliency of a significant wetland complex adjacent to more than 20 miles of the Federal levee system protecting Greater New Orleans. These wetlands are within an estuary that continues to experience one of the highest rates of land loss in the U.S. due to many environmental factors including subsidence and climate change.

**Duration:** If approved, the Jean Lafitte canal restoration project would take approximately six months to complete.

**More information on this activity can be found in Appendix D. Mississippi River Delta;  
Unique Identifier: DOI\_RESTORE\_003\_048\_Cat1.**



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## Mississippi River Delta

### Jean Lafitte Canal Backfilling

— Canal Backfilling

**Cost:** Category 1: \$8,731,000  
**Sponsor:** Department of Interior  
**Project Status:** Implementation  
**Purpose:** The National Park Service will reclaim 1.5 miles of canals and their associated spoil deposits within the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Reclamation will revert canals to marsh, swamp, and shallow water habitat, thereby restoring wetland functions and values.



Map Date: August 08, 2015