



SOUTH LOUISIANA  
**WETLANDS**  
*Discovery Center*





**Revolutionizing how we think, teach and learn  
about Louisiana's disappearing coast...**

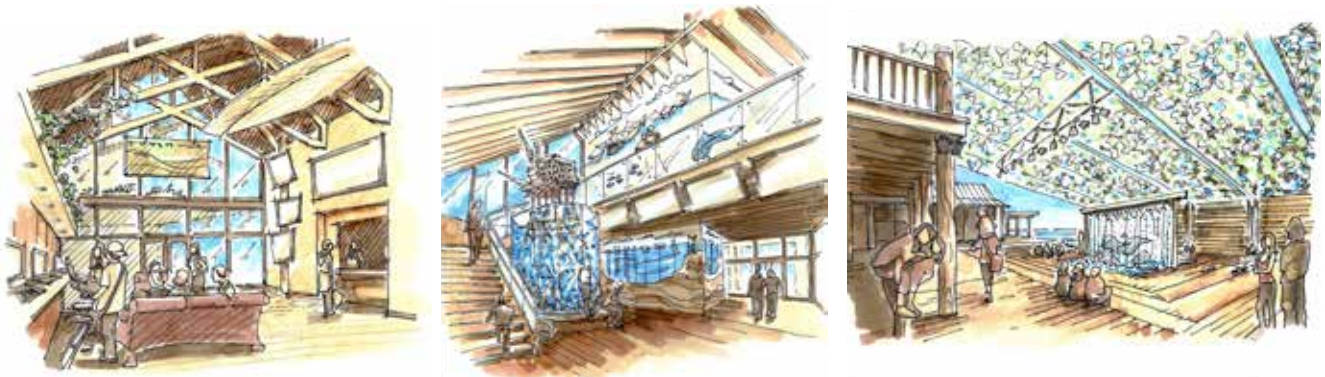


**REDEFINE**

## Understanding Coastal Land Loss Starts Here

Whether you live along Bayou Terrebonne, work along Bayou Lafourche, or celebrate in the city of New Orleans, we're all in this together. Everyone across the globe faces challenges in the place they choose to live, but the residents of coastal Louisiana face complicated issues. Our land is washing away, but that doesn't mean our next generation has to be lost too.

**The Wetlands Discovery Center** is poised to become a national attraction capable of interpreting the experiences of communities at the forefront of coastal land loss and sea level rise. This innovative project located in the heart of the Barataria-Terrebone National Estuary will enable students and tourists to connect with our natural surroundings in a more meaningful way than traditional schools or museums. Most importantly, it will provide students with the skill set necessary to adapt to a changing environment, enabling them to remain living in coastal Louisiana and preserving their culture for generations to come.



**REDEFINE** the future of coastal Louisiana by empowering our students with the knowledge they need to *adapt* to a changing environment.





## Our Story

The Wetlands Discovery Center started as a grassroots effort in the late 1990's. What began with a group of citizens concerned with the fate of our wetlands was formalized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2003.

Since its inception, the Wetlands Discovery Center has worked with over 8,000 students through its various educational and outreach programs. Our ability to reach more students is only hindered by a lack of a permanent campus to house our programs.

**RECONNECT** our region's youth to the land and water that *sustains* and *protects* us.





## Making a Difference

The students of South Louisiana are ready to fight to preserve their way of life, but it is our responsibility to arm them with the tools necessary to win this battle. The Wetlands Discovery Center helps to satisfy this need by producing innovative programs that inspire students to become active problem solvers.

Our programs currently include Coastal Classroom, Swamp Camp, Wetlands Youth Summit, World Wetlands Day, the “iRestore” Media Literacy program and the Vanishing Points Website. More information about these programs and others can be found on our website at [www.slwdc.org](http://www.slwdc.org).

**REPLACE** old ideas with new ways of thinking in order to *prepare* our students for careers of the future.





**RENEW**



## Building for the Future

The **Wetlands Discovery Center** will be built on 2.4 acres of land in Houma, Louisiana. This site represents an area of community gathering and learning. The Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center acts as the anchor for this group of facilities while the Main Branch Library is an award-winning facility that provides a range of programming and services to the community. The Wetlands Discovery Center will be a welcomed addition to this collection of community focused facilities while also offering visitors a venue to learn more about Louisiana's wetlands.



*Houma is approximately 55 miles southwest of New Orleans*



*Conceptual rendering of completed campus*

**RENEW** faith in the future of coastal Louisiana by *raising* our *expectations* of students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).



## Phase 1

### The Wetlands Nature Exhibit

The Wetlands Nature Exhibit will be developed as the first phase of this project. This phase represents over 17,000 square feet of man-made wetlands that will be used for hands-on learning. Other components of this phase include landscape buffering at Civic Center Drive, the service yard that includes a maintenance shed and pump room, parking and the educational pavilion used for outdoor lessons located at the south end of the boardwalk. Not only will this serve as an educational resource for our students and visitors, but it will also serve as a beautification project for our community.



\$1.3 million



\$3.4 million

## Phase 2

### The Bayou Country Institute

The first building that will be developed is the Bayou Country Institute, a STEM education center where K-12 students will learn more about science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on activities focused on the Louisiana wetlands. This facility will serve as a safe and exciting place for students to gather while also encouraging them to independently explore some of the concepts explained through interactive exhibits located in the two main galleries of the facility. There will also be a fully-equipped, state-of-the-art laboratory in this facility that will be used for instructor-led experiments. This phase also represents the completion of the parking area.

**RESPOND** to the threat facing our next generation by providing them the tools necessary to *survive* in a changing environment.

## Phase 3

### The Working Coast Amphitheater & Exhibits

The third phase is dedicated to Louisiana's working coast and explains the relationship between our major industries while inspiring students and visitors to explore the engineering principles that shape our lives. This phase includes the construction of an exhibits building and amphitheater, which will provide a tremendous opportunity for events. This phase is considered the anchor for the entire development. The two story exhibit building and terraced amphitheater allow for a theatrical setting outdoors for lectures, film screenings, performances or gatherings. A portable stage can be assembled when desired over the reflection pool and a water screen will provide a backdrop upon which films can be shown.



\$2.7 million

\$840,000

Total Estimated Cost: \$8.2 million



## Phase 4

### The Traveling Exhibits & Research Hall

As the final phase of the project, The Traveling Exhibits Building and Research Hall will allow the Wetlands Discovery Center to bring relevant exhibits to the Houma area so that students, community members and visitors can have a deeper experience of the wetlands. This phase completes the outdoor room that is the amphitheater and has a tower that is the tallest element of the campus allowing students and visitors to gaze upon the Wetlands Nature Exhibit from a different perspective. This building will also allow for the expansion of certain programs and research capabilities.

**RETHINK** ways of communicating coastal land loss through *innovative* programming and *hands-on* learning.



A photograph of two men standing waist-deep in a river. The man on the left has dark, wavy hair and a goatee, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and brown suspenders. The man on the right has a long white beard, wears a brown flat cap and sunglasses, and is dressed in a dark shirt. They are both holding a large, dark blue rectangular sign with the word "REINVEST" written in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. The background shows a wide river with a dense line of green trees on the far bank under a bright sky.

**REINVEST**

## We're All in This Together

The United States is losing its competitive edge in math and science while the rest of the world soars ahead. Students in the United States recently finished 25th in math and 17th in science compared to 31 other countries. Louisiana high school students ranked 44th in math and 42nd in science out of the 50 states in the country.

In order for our students to be competitive in tomorrow's workforce, they must possess the skills necessary to become innovative problem solvers. It is imperative they be well educated in science, technology, engineering and math. Help us prepare our next generation for the challenges and opportunities in front of them. It's time to invest in the future of our Nation, of our State and of our children.

### Phase 1 Budget

Live Wetlands Exhibit = \$564,160  
Pavilion/Restrooms = \$112,420  
Parking = \$152,700  
Site Lighting and Signage = \$50,000  
Perimeter Fence = \$72,000  
Utilities and Infrastructure = \$8,500  
Benches = \$8,000  
10% Planning = \$96,778  
10% Contingency = \$96,778  
Equipment: Pump Room = \$125,000

**Total Needed for Phase 1 = \$1,286,336**

### Naming Opportunities

Live Wetlands Exhibit = \$500,000  
Education Pavilion = \$100,000 (Sold)  
Wetlands Boardwalk = \$100,000 (Sold)  
Memorial Cypress Tree (9 available) = \$50,000  
Memorial Bench (8 available) = \$10,000

*Please contact Jonathan Foret for more information or to discuss options for making your donation or pledge.*

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# Making It Possible

## Foundation

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## Staff

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