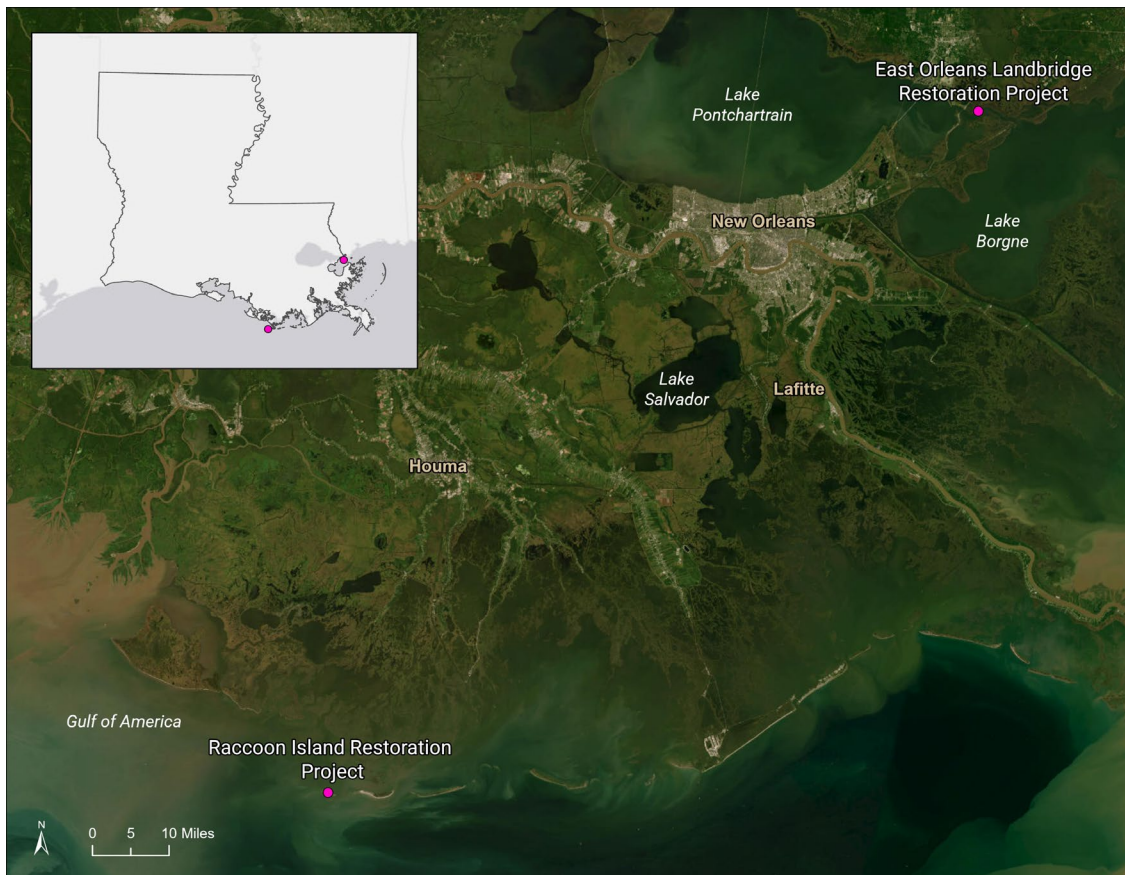




## Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Draft Phase 2 Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment #8.1: East Orleans Landbridge Restoration Project and Raccoon Island Restoration Project



The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Draft Phase 2 Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment #8.1: East Orleans Landbridge Restoration and Raccoon Island Restoration (Phase 2 RP/EA #8.1) builds upon the previously approved Restoration Plan/Environmental #8: Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats and Birds (RP/EA #8). RP/EA #8 selected the East Orleans Landbridge Restoration project and the Raccoon Island Restoration project for engineering and design funding under the Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats (WCNH) Restoration type. This Phase 2 RP/EA #8.1 evaluates a range of design alternatives for each project. The East Orleans Landbridge restoration project is intended to create and restore essential marsh habitats. The Raccoon Island restoration project is intended to create and restore beach, dune, and tidal habitats through sand fill placement and shoreline protection.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The **East Orleans Landbridge** is located in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne. This narrow marsh corridor serves as an important protective and hydrologic feature and provides habitat for coastal fish, invertebrates, wildlife, and both resident and migratory birds. The landbridge also supports existing recreational and managed habitat uses and helps diminish storm surge and waves; its restoration is intended to improve marsh sustainability and maintain its ecological and protective functions, particularly within the Pontchartrain Basin.



The East Orleans Landbridge Project addresses the programmatic restoration goal of Restore and Conserve Habitat and would meet the goal of restoring and conserving WCNH by creating approximately 1,320 acres of marsh habitat and constructing approximately 14,867 linear feet of shoreline protection along the northwestern edge of the project that runs along the Rigolets. Habitat restoration would be accomplished by dredging and utilization of sediment from a borrow area in Lake St. Catherine.

The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group proposes to allocate \$101.2 million to fully implement the East Orleans Landbridge Restoration Project under the Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitat restoration type.



**Raccoon Island** is part of the Isles Dernières barrier island chain along the south-central Louisiana coast in Terrebonne Parish. The island provides important nesting, foraging, and refuge habitat for coastal bird species, supports a variety of estuarine fish and shellfish species at various life stages, and contributes to the region's barrier shoreline system that helps diminish wave energy and storm impacts. Raccoon Island is actively managed for wildlife habitat by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and restoration efforts are intended to stabilize the island's footprint and sustain its ecological and protective functions over time.

The project addresses the programmatic restoration goal of Restore and Conserve Habitat and would meet the goal of restoring and conserving WCNH by restoring approximately 410 acres of beach, dune, marsh, and marsh mound habitat, raising the crests of the existing Gulfside breakwaters, and constructing 13 bayside shoreline protection structures each approximately 400 feet long. Habitat restoration would be accomplished by dredging and utilization of sand resources from a borrow area in Ship Shoal.

The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group proposes to allocate approximately \$145.5 million to fully implement the Raccoon Island Restoration Project under the Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitat restoration type.