# Sankofa Wetland Park Monitoring Report

October - December 2023



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# Sankofa Wetland Park Monitoring Report Summary of Activities: October-December 2023

# Monitoring Sampling Design

A monitoring sampling design was developed, shown below, consisting of five monitoring sites (\$1 through \$5) set approximately equidistant and in the planned path of the linear pond of the Sankofa Wetland Park. The \$t. Bernard drainage ditch at the bridge to the Viola wastewater treatment plant is also being monitored (site \$B), as well as a site in the Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle (site \$11).



Location of sampling sites at the Sankofa Wetland Park (\$1-\$5), the \$t. Bernard drainage ditch (\$B), and the Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle (site T1).

# Site visits

October 25, 2023: Comite Resources field technicians visited the Sankofa Wetland Park to carry out monthly monitoring. Dissolved oxygen and temperature, were measured at monitoring sites \$1 through \$5 and \$B using a handheld probe. Other parameters could not be taken due to probe failure. An avian census was carried out by sight and sound. The staff gauge was at 37.0 cm at 12:30 pm. Several wood ducks were observed in the park, which have not been seen before. Generally, the presence of wood ducks is suggestive of good ecological conditions.



An image of a wood duck (Aix sponsa; downloaded from the internet).

Dissolved oxygen was at or below 0.61 mg/L at the bridge site (SB) and sites S1 and S2, whereas it was at or above 7.65 mg/L at site S3, S4 and S5. We believe this discrepancy was due to the large algae mat on sites S1 and S2 and the lack of the algae mat at sites S3, S4 and S5. Those later sites had broad expanses of open water that had wind induced fetch that most likely increased DO concentrations. The impact of the algae mat was also evident in temperature, which was at or below 22°C where the mat was present, and above 26°C where it was not.

Discrete water quality data from October 25, 2023.

Site	Date	DO (mg/l)	Cond. (mS)	Salinity (ppt)	Temp. (°C)	рН	TDS (mg/L)
SB	10/25/23	0.61			25.4		
S1	10/25/23	0.21			21.8		
S2	10/25/23	0.19			22.0		
S3	10/25/23	7.65		•	26.7		•
S4	10/25/23	10.2		•	26.2		•
S5	10/25/23	8.3			27.0		



Probe measurements taken at site S3 on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 202<mark>3. Notice</mark> wind fetch on the water.

**November 9, 2023:** Jason Day carried out monthly monitoring at the wetland park. Dissolved oxygen, conductivity, temperature, salinity and pH were measured at monitoring sites \$1 through \$5, \$B and T1 using a handheld probe. An avian census was carried out by sight and sound. Water samples for nutrient (NOx, NH<sub>3</sub>, TN, PO4, TP), BOD<sub>5</sub> and sediment analysis were collected at sites \$1 through \$5, \$B, and T1, and put on ice for transport to Pace Analytical in Baton Rouge for analysis. The staff gauge was 33.0 cm at noon. The wetland pond was completely dry near site \$4. Monitoring was carried out where there was pooling water (i.e., ponds) as close as possible to site locations.

Discrete	water	auality	/ data	from N	lovember	9.	2023.

		DO	Cond.	Salinity	Temp.		TDS
Site	Date	(mg/l)	(mS)	(ppt)	(°C)	pН	(mg/L)
SB	11/09/23	2.2	1087.6	0.59	21.6	7.5	0.94
S1	11/09/23	1.5	1369.5	0.76	20.5	7.3	0.98
S2	11/09/23	2.0	1692.7	0.98	19.2	7.5	1.24
S3	11/09/23	17.3	1862.1	0.99	24.4	8.8	1.25
S4	11/09/23	7.8	24.99	1.30	24.5	8.2	1.60
S5	11/09/23	10.3	1079.4	0.54	24.6	8.5	0.70
T2	11/10/23	2.4	5610.1	3.20	22.2	7.2	3.80

Dissolved oxygen was at or below 2.2 mg/L at the bridge (SB) and sites S1 and S2, but like last month was very high at the other sites, ranging from 7.8 to 17.3 mg/L. DO was 2.4 mg/L at the wetland triangle site (T1). Conductivity was ~1090 mS at the SB site, and ranged from ~1080 mS to ~1860 mS in the wetland park, except for site S4 which had a reading of ~25 mS (that site was nearly dry). The wetland triangle site (T1) had a conductivity reading of ~5610 mS. Salinity was <1.0 ppt at all sites except S4 where it was 1.30 ppt and T1 where it was 3.20 ppt. Water temperature ranged from 19.2°C to 24.6°C, and pH ranged from 7.2 to 8.8. Total dissolved solids (TDS) was 0.94 mg/L at the bridge (SB), ranged from 0.70 to 1.60 mg/L, in the wetland park, and was 3.80 mg/L at site T1.



Dry conditions in the wetland park near site \$4 on November 9, 2023.

Water quality	results	from	November	9.	2023.
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'		NO <sub>x</sub>	NH₃	TN	PO <sub>4</sub>	TP	TSS	BOD <sub>5</sub>
Site	Date	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)
SB	11/09/23	0.091	10.6	10.7	1.6	2.0	37.0	5.7
S1	11/09/23	<0.050	2.8	4.0	0.81	0.82	36.0	4.3
S2	11/09/23	< 0.050	0.46	3.5	0.33	0.66	24.5	10.5
S3	11/09/23	<0.050	0.11	3.7	< 0.050	0.21	60.0	5.5
S4	11/09/23	< 0.050	0.16	4.1	<0.050	0.22	105	5.6
S5	11/09/23	<0.050	< 0.50	6.3	<0.050	0.78	288	18.0
T1	11/10/23	<0.050	1.1	2.8	0.38	0.48	20.0	2.8

Nitrate+nitrite (NO<sub>x</sub>) concentrations were below detection (<0.05 mg/L) at all of the sites except at the bridge site (SB), which had a concentration of 0.091 mg/L (very low). Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) concentrations were 10.6 mg/L at site SB, 2.8 mg/L at site S1, 0.46 mg/L at site S2, 0.11 mg/L at site S3, 0.16 mg/L at site S4, below detection (<0.10 mg/L) at site S5, and 1.1 mg/L at site T1. These data indicate that the St. Bernard drainage canal is a source of ammonia pollution entering the park. Total nitrogen (TN) concentrations were 10.7 mg/L at the bridge site (SB), and ranged from 3.5 to 6.3 mg/L at the wetland park sites, and 2.8 mg/L at site T1. Phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>) concentrations were 1.6 mg/L at the bridge site (SB), 0.81 mg/L at site S1, 0.33 mg/L at site S2, below detection (<0.05 mg/L) at sites S3-S5, and 0.38 mg/L at site T1. These data indicate that the St. Bernard drainage canal is a source of phosphate pollution entering the park. This is collaborated by Total phosphorus (TP), which was 2.0 mg/L at the bridge site (SB), 0.82 mg/L at site \$1, 0.66 mg/L at site \$2, 0.21 mg/L at site \$3, 0.22 mg/L at site S4, 0.78 mg/L at site S5, and 0.48 mg/L at site T1. Total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations were 37.0 mg/L at site SB, 36.0 mg/L at site S1, 24.5 mg/L at site S2, and then very high concentrations ranging from 60 to 288 mg/L at sites S3-5, presumably due to construction in the area. TSS concentration was 20.0 mg/L at site T1. Five-day biological oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) was 5.7 mg/L at the bridge site (SB), ranged from 4.3 to 18.0 mg/L at the wetland park sites, and was 2.8 mg/L at the T1 site.



Water quality samples on November 9th, 2023.

**December 13, 2023:** Dr. Robert Lane and Comite field technician Jason Day visited the Sankofa Wetland Park to carry out monthly monitoring. Dissolved oxygen, conductivity, temperature, salinity and pH were measured at monitoring sites \$1 through \$5, \$B, as well as at the boardwalk on the wetland triangle (T2) using a handheld probe. Water has returned to the western sites of the park. The staff gauge was 41.5 cm at 9:16 am.

Discrete water quality data from December 13, 2023.

		DO	Cond.	Salinity	Temp.		TDS
Site	Date	(mg/l)	(mS)	(ppt)	(°C)	pН	(mg/L)
SB	12/13/23	4.9	895.7	0.57	13.2	7.1	0.74
S1	12/13/23	7.5	836.4	0.57	11.1	7.7	0.74
S2	12/13/23	4.7	957.8	0.64	11.9	7.4	0.83
S3	12/13/23	11.0	1027.4	0.69	11.6	8.3	0.89
S4	12/13/23	8.9	1098.8	0.72	13.0	7.4	0.92
S5	12/13/23	11.1	649.5	0.41	14.0	7.7	0.54
T2	12/13/23	5.0	1691.2	1.2	11.6	7.2	1.4

Dissolved oxygen was 4.9 mg/L at the bridge site (SB), ranged from 4.7 to 11.1 mg/L at the wetland park sites, and 5.0 mg/L at site T2. Conductivity was 895.7 mS at the bridge, ranged from 649.5 mS to 1098.8 mS at the wetland park sites, and 1691.2 mS at site T2. Salinity was 0.57 ppt at the bridge (SB), ranged from 0.41 to 0.69 ppt at the wetland park sites, and 1.2 ppt at site T2. Water temperature was 13.2°C at site SB, ranged from 11.1 to 14.0°C at the wetland park sites, and was 11.6°C at site T2. pH was 7.1 at the bridge (SB), ranged from 7.4 to 8.3 at the wetland park sites, and was 7.2 at site T2. Total dissolved solids (TDS) was 0.74 mg/L at the bridge (SB), ranged from 0.54 to 0.92 mg/L at the wetland park sites, and was 1.4 mg/L at site T2.



Site S5 on December 13, 2023.

# **Avian Survey**

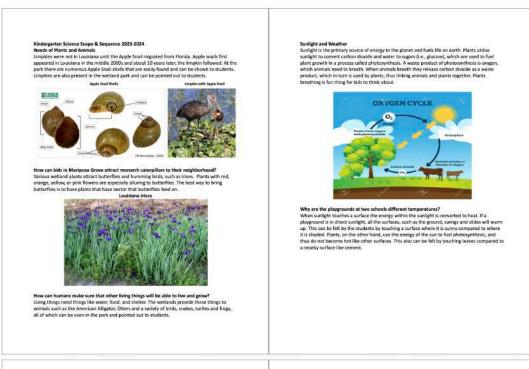
A total of 24 bird species were observed in October, 27 species in November, and 36 species in December. A total of 47 species were sited this quarter.

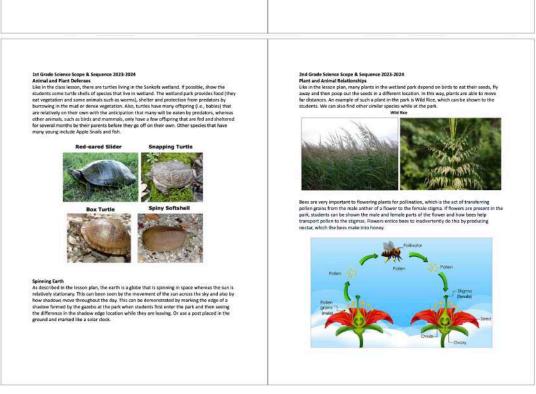
Bird species observed at the Sankofa Wetland Park for Q4 2023.

Common Name	Scientific Name	10/25/23	11/10/23	12/13/23
American Coot	Fulica americana			X
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	X	Χ	X
Anhinga	Anhinga anhinga		Χ	X
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus			X
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle alcyon		Χ	
Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	X	Х	X
Black-Bellied Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna autumnalis	- (	X	
Black-Winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	LOI	X	
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	X	X	X
Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	X		X
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis			X
Carolina Chicadee	Poecile carolinensis	X	X	X
Carolina Wren	Thryothorus Iudovicianus	X	X	X
Common Grackel	Quiscalus quiscula			X
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus		X	X
Coopers Hawk	Accipiter cooperii			X
Downy Woodpecker	Dryobates pubescens	X	X	
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe	X	X	X
European Starling	Sturnus Vulgaris		X	X
Fish Crow	Corvus ossifragus			X
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	X	X	X
Great Erget	Ardea alba		X	X
Green Heron	Butorides virescens	X		X
House Finch	Haemorhous mexicanus	X		
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	X	X	X
Laughing Gull	Larus atricilla			X
Limpkin	Aramus guarauna		X	X
Mockingbird —	Mimus polyglottos	X	X	X
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura		X	X
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis	X	X	X
Palm Warbler	Setophaga palmarum	X	Χ	
Red Shouldered Hawk	Buteo lineatus	X	X	X
Red Tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis			X
Red Winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	X	X	X
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	Corthylio calendula			X
Semipalmated Plover	Charadrius semipalmatus			X
Song Sparrow	Melospi <mark>z</mark> a m <mark>elodia 💮 💮 💮 💮 💮</mark>			X
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgia <mark>n</mark> a	X	X	
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor		X	
Tricolor Egret	Egretta tricolor	X		
Tuffted Titmouse	Baeolophus bicolor	X		
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	Χ		Χ
White Ibis	Eudocimus albus	Χ	Х	Χ
White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos			Χ
White-Eyed Vireo	Vireo griseus	Χ		
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	Χ		Χ
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata		X	X

# Miscellaneous Activities

**October 11-13, 2023:** Dr. Rob Lane and Jason Day were tasked with developing a companion curriculum for teachers of K-2 students for their visits to the wetland park. Below is what was delivered.





Changing Landforms
The earth is constantly changing due to the processes of erosion (i.e., soil loss) and accretion (i.e., soil gain). Estamples of both can be found in the wetland park to show the students. Erosion can be found along the edges of the pond where there are areas that have sloughed off into the water. This is occurring when water levels itse and fall in the pond during storms, and when there are winds that cause small waves to stifle the edge. Accretion can be found in the drainage ditches near Florida Avenue that have been filling in with sediment during rain storms. The sediment is pickup by running water as it passes over the ground and is deposited in the drainage ditches when the water becomes still. Accretion is also occurring in the wetdand pond through the same process as well as from the sinking of the algal mat that can be seen in the wetdand pond. Could also show led litter on the ground in different stages of decomposition, demonstrating how soil is formed.

October 24, 2023: Dr. Lane was tasked with determining the carbon sequestered by 3000 trees planted at the park. Below is what he submitted.

The Sankofa Wetland Park will have planted 3000 cypress and tupelo trees in the park by the time it is complete. In order to calculate the carbon sequestered, aboveground tree carbon sequestration was derived from FVS modeling (https://www.fs.usda.gov/fvs/). Results indicate that in the first ten years, 51.0 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO2e) will be sequestered. A carbon dioxide equivalent, abbreviated as CO2e, is a metric measure used to convert the amount of carbon to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide. In 50 years, 967 tCO2e will be sequestered, and in 100 years a total of 1922 tCO2e will be sequestered. To put this into perspective, an average size car burns a half a ton of CO2e per year. Thus, in the first ten years of growth, the trees in the Sankofa wetland park will sequester the equivalent of what 10 cars burn during that time. Over 50 years, this will increase to 38 cars due to increased sequestration capacity of larger trees.

Aboveground (AGB) biomass, and belowground (BGB) of trees over 100 years as modeled in FVS.

	Tree AGB C	3000 trees AGB	3000 trees BGB	3000 trees Total
Year	(tCO2e)	(tCO2e)	(tCO2e)	(tCO2e)
0	0.0000	0.0	0.0	0.0
10	0.0137	41.1	9.9	51.0
20	0.0793	237.9	57.1	295.0
30	0.1351	405.2	97.3	502.5
40	0.1836	550.9	132.2	683.1
50	0.2600	780.0	187.2	967.2
60	0.2830	849.0	203.8	1052.7
70	0.3135	940.5	225.7	1166.2
80	0.4888	1466.3	351.9	1818.2
90	0.5012	1503.6	360.9	1864.4
100	0.5169	1550.6	372.1	1922.7

November 7, 2023: Rob Lane met virtually with Nikolaus Richard of the Corps of Engineers, Rashida F., Tom Willis and others for a kickoff meeting of Phase II of the Silver Jackets program. Dr. Lane requested the final report from Phase I, which Mr. Willis said he would send.

**November 9, 2023:** Jason Day traveled to the Sankofa Wetland Park to oversee stocking of the pond with 70 triploid grass carp. The grass carp will help keep the pond from covering with algae, which occurred during the summer but now seems to have dissipated. The carp should live up to ten years, but are sterile and thus will not reproduce. Jason had to purchase a license for \$50 from LW&F to carry out this endeavor.



Triploid grass carp being released into the Sankofa Wetland Park.

**November 9, 2023:** Rob Lane and Jason Day traveled to the Sankofa Wetland Park to assist with a visit by sixty or so 1st grade students. They brought several turtle shells for the students to observe. Dr. Lane gave a brief talk about the marsh fire near New Orleans East.

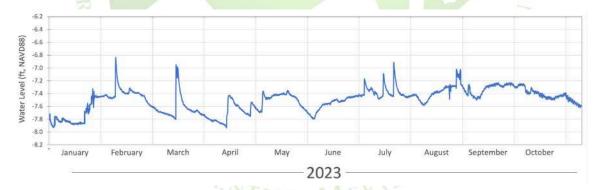


First grade students at the Sankofa Wetland Park.

After the class, Rob Lane and Jason Day went to the Sankofa office for a virtual meeting with Kiarra Keith to discuss signage. After the meeting, Rob and Jason returned to the park and downloaded the water level recorder, then went to the Veolia WTP and installed a new water level recorder in the wetland triangle. The T1 staff gauge was 51 cm at 1:15 pm.



Water level recorder in the wetland triangle.



Water level in the Sankofa Wetland Park.

**December 13, 2023:** Dr. Rob Lane gave a lecture on wetlands and water quality monitoring to students from Delgado Community College. He prepared a new curriculum, which was given as handouts to the class. Below is what was provided.

### Class Outline: Sankofa/Delgado Workforce Development Program Topic: Wetland Habitats

### Overview of wetland habitats

ds in Louisiana?

Can anyone name me types or warms.

Swamps:

Cypress-Tupelo Swamps: Characterized by the presence of bald cypress and water tupelo trees, these swamps are common in the lower reaches of bayous and estuaries.

Bottomland Hardwood Swamps: These swamps are dominated by hardwood trees and are often found along rivers and streams.

Marshes: Freshwater Marshes: Found in areas with freshwater input, these marshes support diverse Freshwater Marshes: Found in areas with freshwater input, these marshes support diverse vegetation and wildlife.

Brackish Marshes: Found in areas where saltwater and freshwater mix, these marshes are home to species adapted to variable salimity.

Saltwater Marshes: Dominated by salt-tolerant plants, these marshes are typically found in coastal areas with exposure to tidal influences.

Bogs:

Cypress-Tupelo Bogs: Similar to swamps, these wetlands are characterized by the presence of cypress and tupelo trees without direct connection to rivers, usually in depressions.

Sphagnum Moss Bogs: These acidic bogs are characterized by the growth of sphagnum moss and are typically found in northern parts of the state.

What is causing these different types of wetlands?

An interaction of hydrological, geological and ecological factors.

An interaction of hydroogicia, georogicas and solutions of hydrology:

Salinity: Tidal fluctuations bring a mix of saltwater and freshwater, influencing the types of plants and animals that can survive in these environments.

Geography and Topography:

The elevation of the land influences hydrology and flooding.

Proximity to Coastline: Interactions between freshwater and saltwater.

Veetation:

Vegetation:

The presence of specific plant species, such as cypress and tupelo trees in swamps or marsh grass in saltmarshes, contributes to the classification of wetland types.

### Has anybody been down to Grand Isle?

s anyhody been down to Grand Iske? Used to be saltmarsh, but now has mangroves through much of the area. South of Louisiana, coastal wetlands are mostly mangroves (Florida, Mexico), north of LA they are all mostly saltmarsh.

### What is causing saltmarshes to form to the north and mangroves to the south?

### rature Gradient

mperature Gradient:

Cold Tolerance Salt marsh plants are generally more cold-tolerant than mangroves and are found in areas where winter temperatures may drop below freezing.

Warmer Temperatures to the South Mangroves are adapted to tropical and subtropical climates with consistently warmer temperatures.

Estuaries
Has anyone heard of an estuary?
An estuary is a partially enclosed coastal body of water where freshwater from rivers and streams meets and mixes with saltwater from the ocean. Estuaries are unique and dynamic environments that serve as transition zones between terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Mixing of Waters:
Estuaries are areas where freshwater flowing from the land mixes with saltwater from the ocean. This mixing creates brackish water, which has a salinity intermediate between freshwater and seawater.

Idal Influence:
Estuaries are strongly influenced by tides. The rise and fall of tides bring in seawater, and the ebb and flow of tides contribute to the flushing of estuarine waters.

Biodiversity:
Estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. The mixing of nutrients from both freshwater and marine sources creates a nutrient-rich environment that supports diverse and abundant life, including various species of fish, shelffish, birds, and plant life.

Nursery Habitats:
Estuaries serve as important nursery habitats for many marine and bird species and provide abundant food and protection from predators.

Buffer Against Storms:
Estuarine ecosystems provide a natural buffer against storm surges and flooding by absorbing wave energy and decreasing surge height.

Almost all human civilizations began near estuaries due to the abundance of food. Indians used to thrive throughout the Mississippi Delta.

Can anyone name some Indian tribes that live in the delta?
Choctaw, Chitimacha, Houma tribes Others: Apalachee, Caddo, Tunica-Biloxi, Coushatta

The Mississippi River delta is made up of six estuaries, from east to west:
Biloxi estuary (Hopedale, Shell Beach) to the east
Broton Sound estuary (Chalmette, Delacroix) to the southeast
Barataria estuary (Grund Isle, Laffite) to the southwest
Mississippi River rans between those two – to the Birt-foot Delta (Venice)
Further west Terrebonne estuary (Houna, Chuavin, Dulac)
Atchafalaya delta estuary (Morgan City) – Atchafalaya River



Has anyone heard of the Atchafalaya River?

If not for human intervention, the Mississippil River would have started flowing down the Atch.

Beginning of the century (1920 or so), increasing flows to Atch. measured

Old river control structure completed in 1963

Now 1/3\* of Miss. R. discharge goes down Atchafalaya

Atchafalaya only growing estuary in Louisiana, all others are eroding.

75 square miles of wetlands lost annually

Louisiana's wetlands are facing significant loss due to a combination of natural and human-induced factors. Some of the key reasons for the ongoing loss of wetlands in Louisiana include:

Subsidence:
Subsidence is the settling and sinking of the wetland surface. Natural wetland subsidence is exacerbated by factors such as the withdrawal of groundwater and oil and gas.

### exacerbate Sea Level Rise:

evel Rise: sing sea levels associated with global climate change contribute to the loss of wetlands. Higher sea levels increase saltwater intrusion into freshwater areas, leading to changes in vegetation and habitat loss.

### Hurricane Impact:

rrreame impact: Hurricanes and tropical storms can cause storm surges that inundate wetlands and erode shorelines. The frequency and intensity of storms in the Gulf of Mexico is increasing and are exacerbating wetland loss. an Activities:

Canal Construction: The construction of navigation canals for oil and gas exploration ha altered water flow patterns, allowing saltwater intrusion and accelerating land loss.

Oil and Gas Extraction: The extraction of oil and gas has contributed to subsidence and

activation of geologic faults.

Leves Construction: Leves built along the Mississippi River for flood control prevents the natural replicishment of sediment in wetdand areas during annual flooding. Without sediment, wetlands cannot build and maintain elevation, making them more vulnerable to

# Ecology of wetland habitats

Does anyone know what ecology means?

Ecology is the study of the interactions among organisms and their environment. It is a branch of biology that focuses on understanding the relationships, distribution, abundance, and dynamics of living organisms in their natural environ

Represents the complex network of feeding relationships within an ecosystem. Different species are interconnected through the transfer of energy and nutrients as they consume and are consumed by one another. Unlike a food chain, a food web is more realistic, reflecting the multiple and often overlapping interactions that occur in natural ecosyster

Predator-Prev Relationships: Predators hunt and consume prev, and this dynamic is crucial for regulating population sizes within an ecosystem

Interconnectedness: The loss or introduction of one species can have cateading effects on the entire ecosystem. Human activities, such as exotic species introductions, can disrupt food webs, leading to ecological imbalances.

Trophic Levels:

Primary Producers: Typically, plants and algae that produce their own food through
photosynthesis. They form the base of the food web by converting sanlight into energy.

Consumers: Organisms that consume other organisms for energy. Consumers are further
classified into different trophic levels:

Herbivores: Eat primary producers.

Carnivores: Eat the herbivores or other carnivores.

Energy Transfer: Energy flows though the food web as organisms are consumed. However, most energy (90%) is not transferred and is lost at each trophic level.

An interesting characteristic of estuarine food webs is the importance of the bottom

Can anyone tell me why the bottom of the estuary is important?

The bottom of an estuary, often referred to as the benthic zone, is of critical importance for various ecological processes and the overall health of the estuarine ecosystem.

The estuarine bottom provides a habitat for a diverse community of benthic organisms, such

as worms, clams, crustaceans, and various larva

Decomposition:

Decomposition of organic matter, including dead plants and animals, occurs at the estuarine bottom. This decomposition process releases nutrients back into the water, supporting the nutrient cycling essential for the overall productivity of the estuary.

nutrient cycling essential for the overall productivity of the essuary.

Filter-Feeding:

Many benthic organisms are filter feeders, actively filtering organic particles and detritus from the water column. This process helps maintain water clarity and nutrient cycling.

Carbon Sequestration:

The essuarine bottom can sequester and store significant amounts of carbon. Organic material that accumulates and is buried in sediments contributes to long-term carbon storage, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Indicator of Environmental Health:

The condition and diversity of benthic communities at the estuarine bottom can serve as indicators of the overall environmental health of the estuary.

### Benefits of wetland habitats (humans and wildlife)

Wetland habitats play crucial roles in supporting biodiversity, maintaining water quality, and providing valuable ecosystem services, such as flood control, to surrounding communities.

### Wetland Benefits for Wildlife

Habitat and Biodiversity:
Wetlands support a diverse array of plant and animal species, many of which are specially adapted to the unique conditions of wetlands.

Birds:

Many bird species, including waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds, use wetlands as nesting and breeding grounds. The sheltered and nutrient-rich conditions of wetlands provide essential resources for raising young.

Wetlands play a crucial role in the migration routes of many bird species. They provide important stopover points where migratory birds can rest and refuel during their long immune.

### Juvenile fish use wetland areas as nurseries, finding abundant food and shelter

### Wetland Benefits for Humans

Wetlands act as natural buffers against flooding by absorbing and storing excess water during heavy rainfall or storm events. They help reduce the risk of downstream flooding and ct nearby communities.

### Filtering & Purification:

lellands act as natural filters, trapping sediments and filtering pollutants from water. They help improve water quality by removing excess nutrients and sediments before water enters rivers, lakes, or oceans.

### Carbon Sequestration:

Wetlands store large amounts of carbon in their soils and vegetation. Subsidence makes this

# storage per Erosion Control:

Vegetation in wetlands helps stabilize shorelines and prevent erosion. The root systems of wetland plants bind soil together, reducing the impact of waves and currents.

Conserving welland habitats is critical for maintaining these benefits and ensuring the health of both ecosystems and human communities. Welland preservation and restoration efforts are important for sustaining blodiversity, ecosystem services, and the well-being of people around the world.

### **Topic: Water Quality Testing**

Can anybody tell me what inorganic nutrients are?

Inorganic nutrients are chemical elements that are essential for the growth and development of living organisms. They are the building blocks of life.

Unlike organic nutrients, which are derived from living or once-living organisms, inorganic nutrients come from non-living sources such as rocks, minerals, water, and gases in the atmosphere.

autospierce.

Macronutrients: These are required by organisms in relatively large quantities.

Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), & Sulfur (S)

Micronutrients: These are needed in smaller amounts but are equally essential.

Iron (Fe), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn), Boron (B), Chlorine (CI), Nickel (Ni)

Nitrogen and phosphorus - known as growth limiting nutrients - control algae & plant growth

When there is an excess of nitrogen and phosphorus in water, it can lead to a phenomenon known as nutrient pollution. This type of pollution can have detrimental effects on aquatic ecosystems, water quality, and overall environmental health.

### Algal Blooms:

The rapid growth of algae, which are primary producers that use nutrients for photosynthesis. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs):

rmful Algai Biooms (ILAS):

Some algal species, particularly certain types of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), can
produce toxins during blooms. These harmful algal blooms (HABs) can pose serious
risks to aquatic life, animals and humans through the contamination of drinking water and recreational waters

### Oxygen Depletion:

The decomposition of algae by benthic organisms consumes dissolved oxygen in the water.

This can lead to oxygen depletion, creating "dead zones" where oxygen levels are too low to support most aquatic life.

NIII-

### Fish Kills

Fish and other aquatic organisms may die due to the lack of oxygen or exposure to algal

### Changes in Water Chemistry:

evated nutrient levels can alter the chemical composition of water, leading to changes in pH, nutrient ratios, and the availability of other essential compounds and heavy meatals Loss of Biodiversity:

ss of Biodiversity: Changes in water quality and oxygen levels can adversely affect the diversity of aquatic plants and animals. Species adapted to lower nutrient conditions may decline, while species that thrive in nutrient-rich environments may dominate, leading to shifts in

Water quality monitoring and testing
Water quality monitoring is crucial for identifying potential contaminants, tracking changes over
time, and making informed decisions about water management and protection.

Nitrogen is of particular importance because humans have doubled the amount of biological available nitrogen on planet earth, mostly by the use of artificial fertilizers, but also through the combustion of fossil fuels.

This has caused rainfall worldwide to have high levels of biological available nitrogen, impacting plant distributions and species diversity worldwide.

Can anyone tell me how increased nitrogen can change plant distributions?

Some plants use nitrogen better than other – out competing (overgrowing) other plants

Nitrogen – nitrate, ammonia, organic nitrogen and total nitrogen
Nitrogen is an essential element for living organisms. It is a key component of amino acids,
which are the building blocks of proteins. Nitrogen is also present in nucleic acids (DNA
and RNA), chlorophyll, and many other biological molecules.

nosphorus – orthophosphate, organic phosphorus, total phosphorus

Phosphorus is a key component of DNA, RNA, and ATP (adenosite triphosphate), which are fundamental molecules for the storage and transfer of genetic information and energy within cells.

Like nitrate and ammonia, phosphate availability has greatly increased on the planet, mostly through the mining of ancient deposits.

In most lakes and ponos, phosphorus is the limiting nutrient, which means that any additional phosphorus added to them will cause algae blocens.

Chlorophyll a - measure of phytoplankton standing stock in the water column.

Total suspended sediments - Sand and silt - affect light penetration into water column.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) refers to the amount of molecular oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) that is dissolved in water.

water.

If dissolved oxygen levels drop, some animals may move away, decline in health or die.

However, most animals living in wetland environments have become adapted to low
dissolved oxygen conditions naturally present in wetlands.

Salinity/conductivity

Salinity/conductivity are two related but distinct measures that are often used to characterize aquatic ocosystems. Salinity refers to the concentration of dissolved salts in water, typically expressed as a percentage or part per thousand.

Conductivity is a measure of how well a solution conducts an electric current and is often used as an indirect measure of salinity.

pH is a measure of the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution. The more hydrogen ions, the lower the pH (more acidic), and the fewer hydrogen ions, the higher the pH (more

pH may make certain minerals and heavy metals more or less water soluble.

Water temperature
A fundamental parameter that has mediating effects on most biological processes that impact
water quality, such as phytoplankton growth, dentirification, ammonification, and
decomposition.

### logical Oxygen Demand (BOD,)

Josepical Ovygen Demand (80D).
Biological Ovygen Demand (80D).
Is a key indicator used to measure the amount of oxygen that microorganisms require to decompose organic matter in a water sample over a specific period, usually five days. BOD; as an important parameter in assessing the level of organic pollution in water bodies, particularly in terms of the amount of biodegradable organic mattrial present.



Delgado students observing Jason Day take probe measurements on December 13, 2023



Project: SANKOFA
Pace Project No.: 20296416

Date: 11/30/2023 06:59 PM

Sample: BRIDGE	Lab ID: 2029	6416001	Collected: 11/09	/23 09:30	Received: 1	1/09/23 14:45	Matrix: Water	
Parameters	Results	Units	Report Limit	DF	Prepared	Analyzed	CAS No.	Qual
BR SM4500P E2011 OrthoP in WT	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical							
Orthophosphate as P	1.6	mg/L	0.25	5		11/13/23 12:0	5	H3
BR SM2540D TSS	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical							
Total Suspended Solids	37.0	mg/L	8.3	1		11/16/23 16:1	5	
BR 5210B 2016 BOD, 5 day	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		10B-2016 Prepara Baton Rouge	ion Meth	od: SM 5210B-2	016		
BOD, 5 day	5.7	mg/L	1.7	1.5	11/10/23 14:00	0 11/15/23 09:40	)	
351.2 Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		51.2 Preparation M New Orleans	ethod: El	PA 351.2			
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	10.4	mg/L	0.40	4	11/15/23 11:43	3 11/17/23 16:29	9 7727-37-9	D4
365.4 Total Phosphorus	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		65.4 Preparation M New Orleans	ethod: El	PA 365.4			
Phosphorus	2.0	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:45	5 11/17/23 14:54	4 7723-14-0	
4500 Ammonia Water	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical							
Nitrogen, Ammonia	10.6	mg/L	0.50	5		11/22/23 14:48	3 7664-41-7	D4
4500NO3-F, NO3-NO2	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical							
Nitrogen, NO2 plus NO3	0.091	mg/L	0.050	1		11/21/23 15:20	)	



Project: SANKOFA
Pace Project No.: 20296416

Date: 11/30/2023 06:59 PM

Sample: S1	Lab ID: 2029	6416002	Collected: 11/09	/23 10:50	Received: 1	1/09/23 14:45	Matrix: Water	
Parameters	Results	Units	Report Limit	DF	Prepared	Analyzed	CAS No.	Qual
BR SM4500P E2011 OrthoP in WT	Analytical Meth	od: SM 450	00P-E 2011					
	Pace Analytical	Services -	Baton Rouge					
Orthophosphate as P	0.81	mg/L	0.25	5		11/13/23 12:07	7	НЗ
BR SM2540D TSS	Analytical Meth	od: SM 254	40D 2011					
	Pace Analytical	Services -	Baton Rouge					
Total Suspended Solids	36.0	mg/L	25.0	1		11/16/23 16:1	5	
BR 5210B 2016 BOD, 5 day	Analytical Meth	od: SM 52	10B-2016 Prepara	ion Meth	od: SM 5210B-2	016		
	Pace Analytical	Services -	Baton Rouge					
BOD, 5 day	4.3	mg/L	1.7	1.5	11/10/23 14:00	11/15/23 09:50	)	
351.2 Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Analytical Meth	od: EPA 35	1.2 Preparation M	ethod: El	PA 351.2			
	Pace Analytical	Services -	New Orleans					
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	4.0	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:43	3 11/17/23 15:5	5 7727-37-9	
365.4 Total Phosphorus	Analytical Meth	od: EPA 36	5.4 Preparation M	ethod: El	PA 365.4			
	Pace Analytical	Services -	New Orleans					
Phosphorus	0.82	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:45	5 11/17/23 14:54	4 7723-14-0	
4500 Ammonia Water	Analytical Meth	od: SM 450	00-NH3 G					
	Pace Analytical	Services -	New Orleans					
Nitrogen, Ammonia	2.8	mg/L	0.10	1		11/22/23 14:37	7 7664-41-7	
4500NO3-F, NO3-NO2	Analytical Meth	od: SM 450	00-NO3 F					
	Pace Analytical	Services -	New Orleans					
Nitrogen, NO2 plus NO3	ND	mg/L	0.050	1		11/21/23 15:2	1	



Project: SANKOFA
Pace Project No.: 20296416

Date: 11/30/2023 06:59 PM

Sample: S2	Lab ID: 2029	6416003	Collected: 1	11/09/2	3 11:00	Received:	11/09/23 14:45	Matrix: Water			
Parameters	Results	Units	Report L	_imit	DF	Prepared	Analyzed	CAS No.	Qua		
BR SM4500P E2011 OrthoP in WT	Analytical Meth	od: SM 450	00P-E 2011								
	Pace Analytical	Services -	Baton Rouge								
Orthophosphate as P	0.33	mg/L	(	0.050	1		11/13/23 12:08	3	НЗ		
BR SM2540D TSS	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical										
Total Suspended Solids	24.5	mg/L		12.5	1		11/16/23 16:1	5			
BR 5210B 2016 BOD, 5 day	•	lytical Method: SM 5210B-2016 Preparation Method: SM 5210B-2016 e Analytical Services - Baton Rouge									
BOD, 5 day	10.5	mg/L		4.6	4	11/10/23 14:0	0 11/15/23 09:5	3			
351.2 Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		•	on Met	hod: EP	A 351.2					
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	3.5	mg/L		0.10	1	11/15/23 11:4	3 11/17/23 15:5	7 7727-37-9			
365.4 Total Phosphorus	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		•	on Met	hod: EP	A 365.4					
Phosphorus	0.66	mg/L		0.10	1	11/15/23 11:4	5 11/17/23 14:5	5 7723-14-0			
4500 Ammonia Water	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical										
Nitrogen, Ammonia	0.46	mg/L		0.10	1		11/22/23 14:38	8 7664-41-7			
4500NO3-F, NO3-NO2	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical										
Nitrogen, NO2 plus NO3	ND	mg/L	(	0.050	1		11/21/23 15:23	3			



Project: SANKOFA
Pace Project No.: 20296416

Date: 11/30/2023 06:59 PM

Sample: S3	Lab ID: 2029	96416004	Collected: 11/09/	23 11:12	Received:	11/09/23 14:45	Matrix: Water	
Parameters	Results	Units	Report Limit	DF	Prepared	Analyzed	CAS No.	Qual
BR SM4500P E2011 OrthoP in WT	Analytical Meth							
Orthophosphate as P	ND	mg/L	0.050	1		11/13/23 12:0	8	НЗ
BR SM2540D TSS	Analytical Meth Pace Analytica							
Total Suspended Solids	60.0	mg/L	16.7	1		11/16/23 16:1	5	
BR 5210B 2016 BOD, 5 day	Analytical Meth Pace Analytica		10B-2016 Preparat Baton Rouge	on Meth	od: SM 5210B-2	2016		
BOD, 5 day	5.5	mg/L	1.7	1.5	11/10/23 14:0	0 11/15/23 10:0	4	
351.2 Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Analytical Meth Pace Analytica		51.2 Preparation Mo	ethod: El	PA 351.2			
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	3.7	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:4	3 11/17/23 15:5	7 7727-37-9	
365.4 Total Phosphorus	Analytical Meth Pace Analytica		65.4 Preparation Mo	ethod: El	PA 365.4			
Phosphorus	0.21	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:4	5 11/17/23 14:5	6 7723-14-0	
4500 Ammonia Water	Analytical Meth Pace Analytica							
Nitrogen, Ammonia	0.11	mg/L	0.10	1		11/22/23 14:4	0 7664-41-7	
4500NO3-F, NO3-NO2	Analytical Meth Pace Analytica							
Nitrogen, NO2 plus NO3	ND	mg/L	0.050	1		11/21/23 15:2	4	



Project: SANKOFA
Pace Project No.: 20296416

Date: 11/30/2023 06:59 PM

Sample: S4	Lab ID: 2029	6416005	Collected: 11/09/	23 11:30	Received: 1	1/09/23 14:45	Matrix: Water			
Parameters	Results	Units	Report Limit	DF	Prepared	Analyzed	CAS No.	Qual		
BR SM4500P E2011 OrthoP in WT	Analytical Method: SM 4500P-E 2011									
	Pace Analytical Services - Baton Rouge									
Orthophosphate as P	ND	mg/L	0.050	1		11/13/23 12:10	)	НЗ		
BR SM2540D TSS	Analytical Method: SM 2540D 2011									
	Pace Analytical Services - Baton Rouge									
Total Suspended Solids	105	mg/L	16.7	1		11/16/23 16:15	5			
BR 5210B 2016 BOD, 5 day	Analytical Method: SM 5210B-2016 Preparation Method: SM 5210B-2016									
	Pace Analytical	Pace Analytical Services - Baton Rouge								
BOD, 5 day	5.6	mg/L	1.7	1.5	11/10/23 14:00	) 11/15/23 10:11				
351.2 Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Analytical Method: EPA 351.2 Preparation Method: EPA 351.2									
	Pace Analytical Services - New Orleans									
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	4.1	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:43	3 11/17/23 16:02	2 7727-37-9			
365.4 Total Phosphorus	Analytical Method: EPA 365.4 Preparation Method: EPA 365.4									
	Pace Analytical	Services -	New Orleans							
Phosphorus	0.22	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:45	5 11/17/23 14:56	7723-14-0			
4500 Ammonia Water	Analytical Method: SM 4500-NH3 G									
	Pace Analytical Services - New Orleans									
Nitrogen, Ammonia	0.16	mg/L	0.10	1		11/22/23 14:41	7664-41-7			
4500NO3-F, NO3-NO2	Analytical Method: SM 4500-NO3 F									
	Pace Analytical Services - New Orleans									
Nitrogen, NO2 plus NO3	ND	mg/L	0.050	1		11/21/23 15:25	:			



Project: SANKOFA
Pace Project No.: 20296416

Date: 11/30/2023 06:59 PM

Sample: S5	Lab ID: 2029	6416006	Collected: 11/09/	23 11:45	Received: 1	1/09/23 14:45	Matrix: Water			
Parameters	Results	Units	Report Limit	DF	Prepared	Analyzed	CAS No.	Qual		
BR SM4500P E2011 OrthoP in WT	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical									
Orthophosphate as P	ND	mg/L	0.050	1		11/13/23 12:11	I	H3		
BR SM2540D TSS	Analytical Method: SM 2540D 2011 Pace Analytical Services - Baton Rouge									
Total Suspended Solids	288	mg/L	50.0	1		11/16/23 16:15	5			
BR 5210B 2016 BOD, 5 day	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		10B-2016 Preparati Baton Rouge	on Meth	od: SM 5210B-2	016				
BOD, 5 day	18.0	mg/L	3.4	3	11/10/23 14:00	11/15/23 10:14	4			
351.2 Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		51.2 Preparation Me New Orleans	thod: El	PA 351.2					
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	6.3	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:43	11/17/23 16:02	2 7727-37-9			
365.4 Total Phosphorus	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		65.4 Preparation Me New Orleans	thod: El	PA 365.4					
Phosphorus	0.78	mg/L	0.10	1	11/15/23 11:45	11/17/23 14:58	3 7723-14-0			
4500 Ammonia Water	Analytical Method: SM 4500-NH3 G Pace Analytical Services - New Orleans									
Nitrogen, Ammonia	ND	mg/L	0.50	5		11/22/23 14:4	5 7664-41-7	D3		
4500NO3-F, NO3-NO2	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical									
Nitrogen, NO2 plus NO3	ND	mg/L	0.050	1		11/21/23 15:29	9			



Project: SANKOFA
Pace Project No.: 20296416

Date: 11/30/2023 06:59 PM

Sample: TRIANGLE	Lab ID: 2029	96416007	Collected: '	11/09/2	3 11:22	Received: 11	1/09/23 14:45 N	Matrix: Water		
Parameters	Results	Units	Report I	Limit	DF	Prepared	Analyzed	CAS No.	Qua	
BR SM4500P E2011 OrthoP in WT	Analytical Method: SM 4500P-E 2011									
	Pace Analytical Services - Baton Rouge									
Orthophosphate as P	0.38	mg/L	(	0.050	1		11/13/23 12:09		НЗ	
BR SM2540D TSS	Analytical Method: SM 2540D 2011 Pace Analytical Services - Baton Rouge									
Total Suspended Solids	20.0	mg/L		5.0	1		11/16/23 16:16			
BR 5210B 2016 BOD, 5 day	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical			•	n Metho	od: SM 5210B-20	016			
BOD, 5 day	2.8	mg/L		1.7	1.5	11/10/23 14:00	11/15/23 10:08			
351.2 Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical		•		hod: EP	A 351.2				
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	2.8	mg/L		0.10	1	11/15/23 11:43	11/17/23 16:04	7727-37-9		
365.4 Total Phosphorus	Analytical Method: EPA 365.4 Preparation Method: EPA 365.4 Pace Analytical Services - New Orleans									
Phosphorus	0.48	mg/L		0.10	1	11/15/23 11:45	11/17/23 14:58	7723-14-0		
4500 Ammonia Water	Analytical Method: SM 4500-NH3 G Pace Analytical Services - New Orleans									
Nitrogen, Ammonia	1.1	mg/L		0.10	1		11/22/23 14:47	7664-41-7		
4500NO3-F, NO3-NO2	Analytical Meth Pace Analytical									
Nitrogen, NO2 plus NO3	ND	mg/L	(	0.050	1		11/21/23 15:30			