

Conserving Your Habitat?



Certify It!



Why restore habitat?

- Habitat loss from development and agriculture makes conservation on private property more critical than ever.
- Louisiana is a first stop on a major migratory bird flyway. Huge declines in birds are the result of habitat loss and pesticide use.
- Louisiana prairies, forests and wetlands are part of our natural heritage and are dwindling reservoirs of environmental resilience.
- Native plants are the foundation of the natural food web and support insects which in turn feed other animals. Conventional landscaping primarily uses non-native plants from other continents that do not fulfill this crucial role.

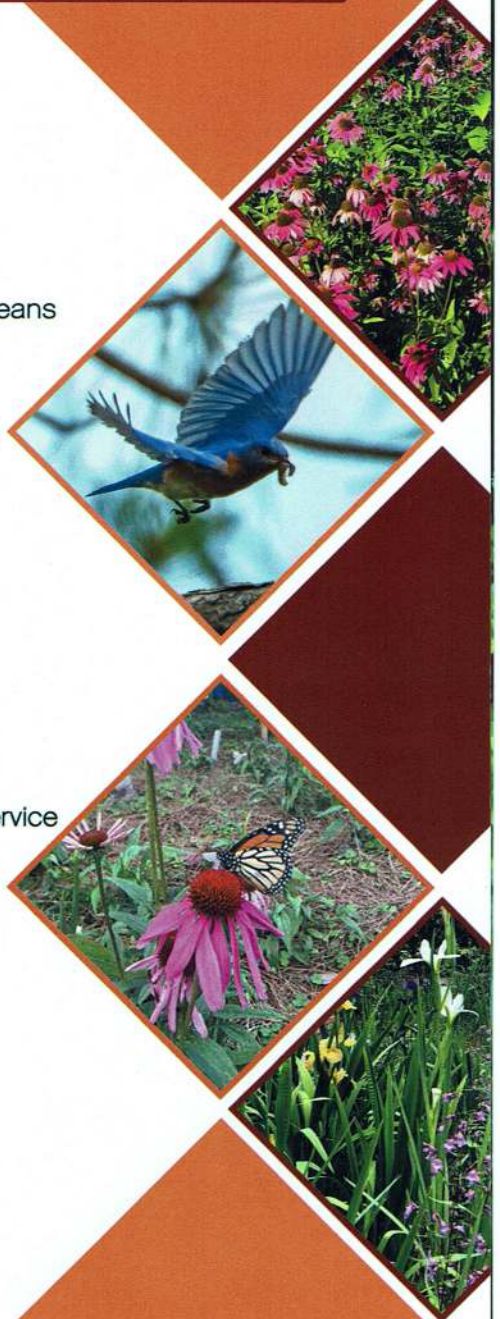
How to restore habitat:

- Plant more Louisiana native plants, which have evolved in our climate and soil along with insects and birds that depend on them. They resist pathogens and pests and have deep roots that stabilize soil and soak up rainwater. Native plants help limit the spread of invasives.
- Reduce impervious surfaces like concrete where possible, or create a low space on your property to hold water for a short time. Rapid runoff overwhelms drainage systems in low-lying parts of our state, which worsens flooding.
- Reduce dependence on chemicals. Fertilizers and pesticides mostly end up in the watershed and disrupt aquatic ecosystems and harm non-target species. Even repellents repel beneficial insects.
- Reduce mowing area and frequency and raise your blade height. Use your oak leaves and pine needles as mulch.
- Seek advice from your local, state or federal agencies or nonprofits. There may be an incentive program that is right for you!

Local conservation advocates can help.

- Louisiana Native Plant Society
lnps.org
- Acadiana Native Plant Project
greauxnative.org
- Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans
npi-gno.org
- Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society
cajunprairie.org
- Audubon Louisiana
la.audubon.org
- Louisiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries
wlf.louisiana.gov/page/wildlife-diversity
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
nrcs.usda.gov
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
fws.gov

*What you do on
your property*
MATTERS!



Louisiana Certified Habitat Program

Your yard sign will set an example and inspire others.

How to apply:

- 1** Visit Inps.org for the application and instructions.
- 2** Fill out the application and use the Plant Checklist or attach your separate list of the native plants on your property to determine whether your habitat qualifies for the bronze, silver or gold level.
- 3** Submit your application and one time fee of \$45.
- 4** Proudly install your sign.



SCAN ME

A project of the Louisiana Native Plant Society
LNPS.org