



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alligators and Oxbows, nature hikes

INDIAN BAYOU AREA (between Butte La Rose and Krotz Springs) – Alligators and Oxbows are nature hikes to see 'gators and the oxbow lakes they love, scheduled in June in Louisiana's beautiful Atchafalaya Basin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites everyone to hike in the Indian Bayou area and watch for the lazy alligators swimming in an oxbow lake while learning about the life history and habits of this ancient reptile and also how oxbow lakes are formed.

Indian Bayou encompasses 28,500 acres of which most is bottomland hardwood forest and swamp. The bottomland hardwood forest is mostly lowland hardwoods which may or may not be flooded depending upon the local rainfall and the stages of the Mississippi, Red and Atchafalaya rivers. The swamp area normally has water except in extreme droughts or lake drawdowns. This is excellent habitat for the American alligator. The oxbow lake always has water and flood waters from the Atchafalaya River during the winter help to replenish the lake each year with fresh water.

We will have two walks on **Saturday, June 9**, and two more on **Friday, June 15**, the first at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 11:00 a.m. Hikers should meet 15 minutes beforehand in the Oxbow Parking Area on Indian Bayou. The hike to the oxbow lake is about 1/3 of a mile and is fairly easy walking. The hike will last 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Items you may want to bring: mosquito spray, water, hiking boots, binoculars, camera, sunscreen, and possibly a birding field guide (expect to see and hear numerous birds).

Driving directions to the parking area:

- From Interstate 10 take the Butte La Rose exit (exit 121) and follow the levee road about five miles north to the only parking area on the right side of the levee.
- From the U.S. 190 exit at Krotz Springs and take La. 105 south about 13 miles to the only parking area on the left side of the levee.

A sign will be posted on the levee for this event. Natural Resources Specialist (Ranger) Steve Stone will guide the group. For more information call the Corps of Engineers Project Office at 337-585-0853.

[Corps recreation in Louisiana](#)