

## Recreational Opportunities



### Hunting

Some of the South's best bottomland forest hunting is found on Indian Bayou. The area's small game includes squirrel, rabbit, woodcock and snipe. White-tailed deer and wild turkey are the only big game species.

The area's location in the center of the Mississippi Flyway, an important route for migratory birds can produce superb waterfowl hunting. The area is also the first public land in the state to feature a 350-acre tract specifically for wheelchair-bound hunters. Hunting seasons vary from year to year. For information on specific hunting seasons, please see the Hunting Guide to Indian Bayou brochure which is updated annually and is available at the project website. (See Contact Information)

### Fishing

The area's lakes, sloughs and bayous are home to abundant commercial and recreational fisheries.

**Popular sport-fish include:**

- Bluegill (bream)
- Warmouth
- Red Ear Sunfish
- White and black Crappie (Sac-a-Lait)
- Striped, Yellow and Largemouth Bass,
- Catfish, Buffalo Fish and Freshwater Drum are fished recreationally and commercially in the area, as are Crawfish. A permit is needed for crawfishing, which can be obtained at the project office (See Contact Information).



### Birding and Nature Watching

Indian Bayou provides excellent opportunities to observe birds and other wildlife. The area's wetlands and shallow

lakes are prime habitat for several species of shorebirds. Over 125 wood duck boxes have been installed throughout the property to provide nesting shelter for more than 700 birds annually. Part of the America's Wetland Birding Trail, Indian Bayou features a myriad of songbird, raptor and water-bird species.



Indian Bayou is also home to several endangered, threatened, and special-concern species such as: the Louisiana Black Bear, Bald Eagle, American Alligator, Bachman's Warbler, and Pallid Sturgeon.



### Boating and Paddling

Touring Indian Bayou by canoe, kayak or boat offers a close-up perspective on one of the nation's last great river swamps and its' wildlife. A 24-mile network of paddling trails allows visitors to

navigate the area's streams and bayous without a guide. Mapped by the Corps in partnership with Atchafalaya Paddling Trails, the State of Louisiana and volunteers, these trails feature reflective blue and white directional signs at major turning points. The map in this brochure shows these paddling trails and provides GPS coordinates taken at approximately one-mile intervals.

### Hiking, biking and horseback riding

Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders can access Indian Bayou through 35 miles of trails, 13 of which are designated specifically for hiking. A general map of Indian Bayou trails is provided in this brochure and on the project web site.



### ATV

Riders can access Indian Bayou along 8 miles of ATV all-weather trails. Additionally, for individuals with a LDWF-issued mobility impaired card or those over 60 may access an additional 4 miles of Physically Challenged ATV Trails. Off-road operation is strictly forbidden. These ATV trails are open from 4:00 a.m. until two hours after sunset.

### Events in Indian Bayou

Each September, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts a **National Public Lands Day (NPLD)** event in the Atchafalaya Basin. As part of this nationwide event, volunteers enhance their public lands by planting trees, building trails, and removing trash and invasive plants. Learn more at [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org), or contact our project office for information on volunteering.



**STEP OUTSIDE® Day** provides a free, fun, hands-on introduction to the outdoors for children, families and people with disabilities. Some of the activities include fishing, target shooting, skeet shooting, archery,

bird-watching, dog training, crafts, duck calling, trapping techniques, and boat rides. The event is held each May, on the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend, at the neighboring Sherburne Wildlife Management Area; for more information contact the project office at (337) 585-0853.

In addition, communities of the Atchafalaya Basin host a variety of cultural and outdoor events throughout the year. Visit [www.louisianatravel.com](http://www.louisianatravel.com) for information about planned events in the basin.



### What licenses are required to hunt and fish Indian Bayou?

State licenses are required to hunt and fish in Indian Bayou. Information about hunting and fishing licenses is available at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov).

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit is required to hunt and to crawfish in Indian Bayou. These permits are free of charge and are available at the ABFS Project Office. For more information please visit or call the project office at:

112 Speck Lane, Port Barre, LA 70577  
(337) 585-0853  
Office hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday.

### Contact Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Office  
112 Speck Lane, Port Barre, LA 70577  
(337) 585-0853

Ranger Station (manned during gun hunts for deer and turkey only) (337) 228-1313  
Project Website: [www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil), click "Missions" then "Recreation" then "Atchafalaya Basin"

St. Landry Parish Sheriff (337) 948-6516

St. Martin Parish Sheriff (337) 394-3071

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Operation Game Thief (800) 442-2511

All Other Emergencies 911

# Indian Bayou



US Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District

## Welcome to Indian Bayou

Indian Bayou is a 28,500 acre public access area located in the heart of the Atchafalaya Basin. The bottomland hardwood forests, cypress swamps and lazy bayous offers stunning views of unspoiled Louisiana wilderness. Recreational opportunities abound, complemented by minimal development that facilitates public access without harming the basin's habitat.

Owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Indian Bayou is part of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System (ABFS) project. The ABFS encompasses more than half a million acres of forested wetlands and swamplands in south Louisiana and was developed as part of the federal government's response to the historic 1927 Mississippi River flood. This project protects South East Louisiana from Mississippi River floods by diverting up to half of the Mississippi river's flood flow down the Atchafalaya River to the Gulf of Mexico, at a flow rate of up to 1.5 million cubic feet per second.



### Natural Resource Management

Throughout the ABFS, the Corps allows continued development of agricultural, mineral and timber resources so long as it does not interfere with the area's flood control purposes or harm the ecosystem.

Recreational areas like Indian Bayou are developed by the Corps, working in partnership with state, local and other federal agencies, to provide public access to the basin's natural resources.

### Reforestation of Former Agricultural Fields

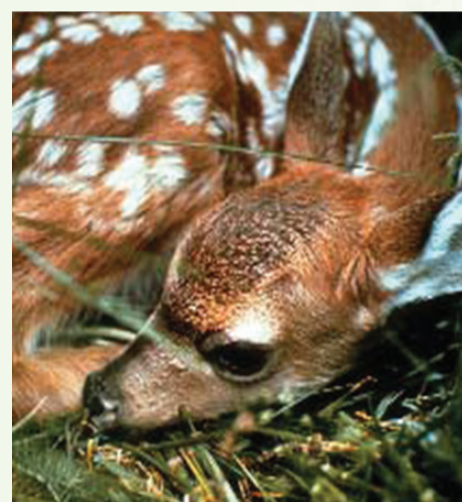
The Corps has reforested nearly 2,500 acres of cleared agricultural land with bald cypress, persimmon, green ash, bitter pecan and several species of oak. The reforested fields also provide food, cover, breeding and brooding habitat, for a wide range of wildlife, including songbirds, raptors, turkeys, woodcock, deer, raccoons, rabbits, opossums, armadillos, squirrels, snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs and toads.

### Controlling Nuisance Vegetation

Invasive aquatic species such as: water hyacinth, hydrilla and salvinia, interfere with the natural flow of water and sediment. These plants can quickly choke off waterways. Where this occurs, the Corps and LDWF sprays with herbicides to aid in control.

### Quality Deer Management Program

To maintain a healthy population of white-tailed deer and to provide better hunting opportunities, the Corps established a Quality Deer Management Program on Indian Bayou. Indian Bayou was the first public land in Louisiana to enforce antler restrictions on buck harvests.



### Safety Tips

Indian Bayou is a multi-use area. The Corps of Engineers encourages visitors to exercise caution. Prior to your trip, visit our web page at: [www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil), click "Missions" then "Recreation" then "Atchafalaya Basin". Hunting safety guidelines are available through this site, as are maps for public access to the floodway.

While in the basin, **observe all posted rules, regulations and safety guidelines**, and read notices posted on bulletin boards throughout the Corps public access areas.

Be alert to dangers posed by insects, snakes, alligators and poisonous plants. If you see a snake, remain a safe distance—at least the length of the snake's body. Alligators fear humans and seldom attack, but may if protecting their offspring. If you see an alligator, stay at least 30 feet away, keeping in mind that alligators can cross short distances very quickly. Do not feed an alligator as this may cause the animal to lose its fear of people and become dangerous.

**Pay attention to your surroundings.** Whether hiking, biking, canoeing or riding an ATV, to avoid possible injury, keep an eye out for stumps, rocks, fallen logs, and other obstacles.

**Be sure someone knows where you're going and when you expect to return in case you need help.**

Regardless of your activities, be aware that Indian Bayou is a popular hunting area.



Wear appropriate gear while in the area. During open gun and primitive weapon seasons, all hunters (excluding waterfowl hunters) are required to wear a hunter orange hat and vest while in the field. All other users (hiking, birding, fishing, etc.) during these times are required to wear a hunter orange hat and vest while in the field. To properly prepare for your trip, please see our website or hunting guide for these dates (See Contact Information). Federal law requires a life jacket for every boater engaged in any water activity. It is recommended that they are worn at all times while on the water.



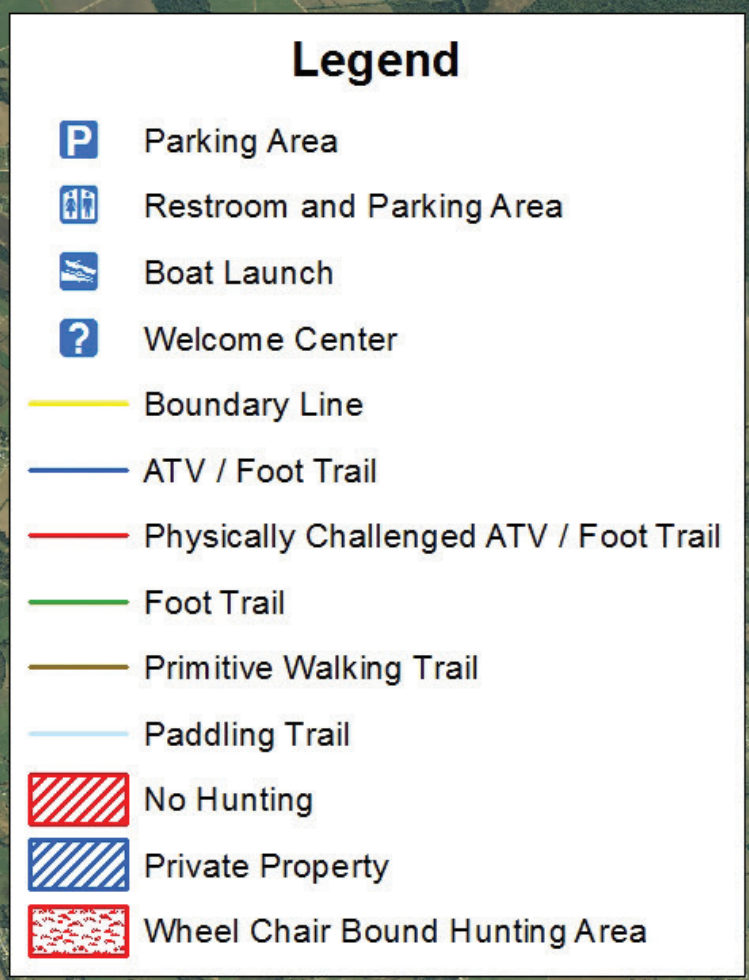
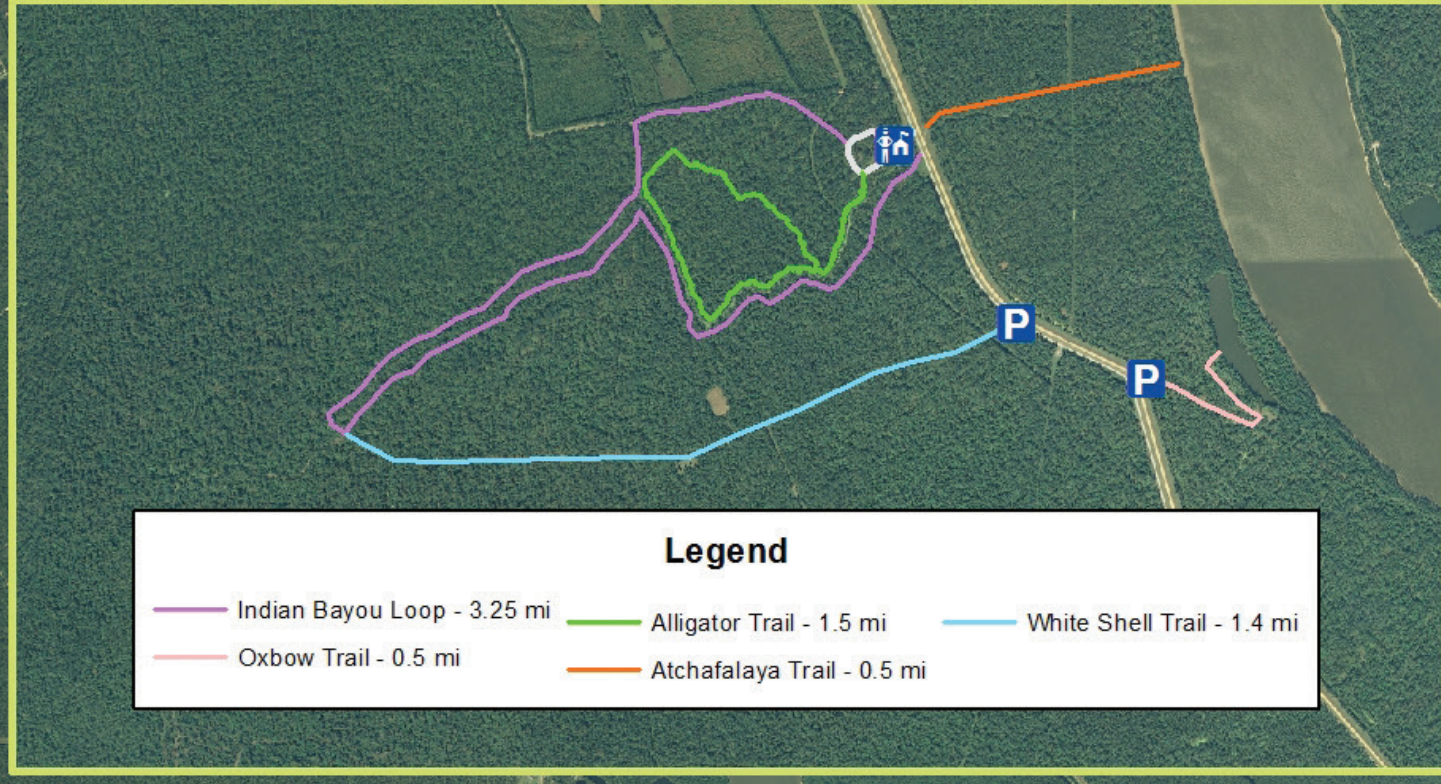
### Protection of Cultural and Archaeological Resources

The Corps has completed some archaeological surveys and has plans to further investigate the area. If any artifacts are found please contact the Project Office, so that the artifacts or remains can be properly protected and preserved.

### What if I find Native American Artifacts?

Visitors may not disturb or take Native American artifacts or remains found in the Indian Bayou area; removal, destruction or disturbance of archeological properties found on federal lands violates the Archeological Resources Protection Act and is subject to criminal charges and civil penalties. Indian Bayou visitors are urged to report all acts of artifact theft or vandalism.

# Indian Bayou



## Prohibited Activities

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on ATV's
- Camping/overnight parking
- Overnight mooring of any boats including houseboats, staying overnight in any boat to hold hunting area
- Leaving any personal property on the area overnight
- Possession of firearms during non-hunting seasons
- Target practice and skeet shooting
- Fireworks
- Use of airboats
- Use or possession of any type of trail markers (paint, flagging, bright eyes)
- Feeding / harassing wildlife, including alligators
- Dumping of household trash, appliances, or other litter on government property
- Parking in undesignated areas
- ATV operation off authorized trails
- Mud riding
- Open camp fires
- Cutting trees, limbs, brush without a special use permit
- Destruction or defacement of public property
- All commercial activities

## Paddle Trail GPS Points

1	N 30° 31.2361	W 91° 51.1097
2	N 30° 30.3713	W 91° 51.0022
3	N 30° 29.5229	W 91° 50.7871
4	N 30° 28.6919	W 91° 50.4828
5	N 30° 27.9909	W 91° 50.0587
6	N 30° 27.3684	W 91° 49.6360
7	N 30° 26.8155	W 91° 49.0936
8	N 30° 26.3172	W 91° 48.4741
9	N 30° 25.6558	W 91° 48.1487
10	N 30° 25.1038	W 91° 47.6457
11	N 30° 24.3466	W 91° 47.2928
12	N 30° 24.1153	W 91° 46.6283
13	N 30° 23.7410	W 91° 45.9901
14	N 30° 23.0488	W 91° 45.9698
15	N 30° 22.4162	W 91° 44.6040
16	N 30° 21.8200	W 91° 45.0140
17	N 30° 20.9875	W 91° 44.7160
18	N 30° 20.2441	W 91° 44.4900
A	N 30° 23.6336	W 91° 47.5034
B	N 30° 23.3497	W 91° 47.0140
C	N 30° 23.1062	W 91° 46.4367

Wear It Atchafalaya! Life Jackets Save Lives!

