



Owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Indian Bayou is part of The Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System (ABFS). The ABFS is designed to protect southern Louisiana from Mississippi River floods by diverting, if necessary, up to one half of the combined flows of the Red and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico via the Atchafalaya River.

The overall system, called the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project, is designed to do this while at the same time retaining and restoring the long term natural productivity of the Atchafalaya Basin.

The project was authorized by Congress to provide public access, recreational opportunities, environmental protection, flood and developmental control.

Emergency Contact Numbers

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

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

All Other Emergencies 911

Driving Directions

The most popular hiking trails on Indian Bayou can be accessed from the Indian Bayou Parking Area. Please follow the driving directions below.

From Interstate 10 take the Butte la Rose exit (Exit 121) and follow the levee road north approximately 5.5 miles to the parking area which will be on your left.

From US Highway 190 exit at Krotz Springs and take LA Highway 105 south approximately 11.5 miles to the parking area which will be on your right.

The Oxbow Parking Area is approximately one-half mile south of the Indian Bayou Parking Area.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Hiking on Indian Bayou



Photo by Lane Lefort

Remember, common sense goes a long way in keeping you and your family safe. All of our trails are without running water, so please plan ahead.

Additionally, please remember that Indian Bayou is a very popular hunting area. For your safety take a moment to familiarize yourself with our hunting season dates. This information may be found on our web page as well as on bulletin boards throughout the area.

Hikers are encouraged to wear hunters safety orange during all hunting seasons.

Your safety is our top priority.

All U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property is subject to Title 36—Parks and Public Property:

Chapter III—U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PART 327.

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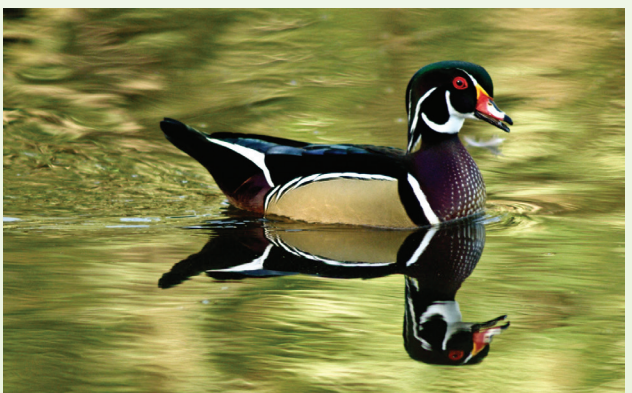
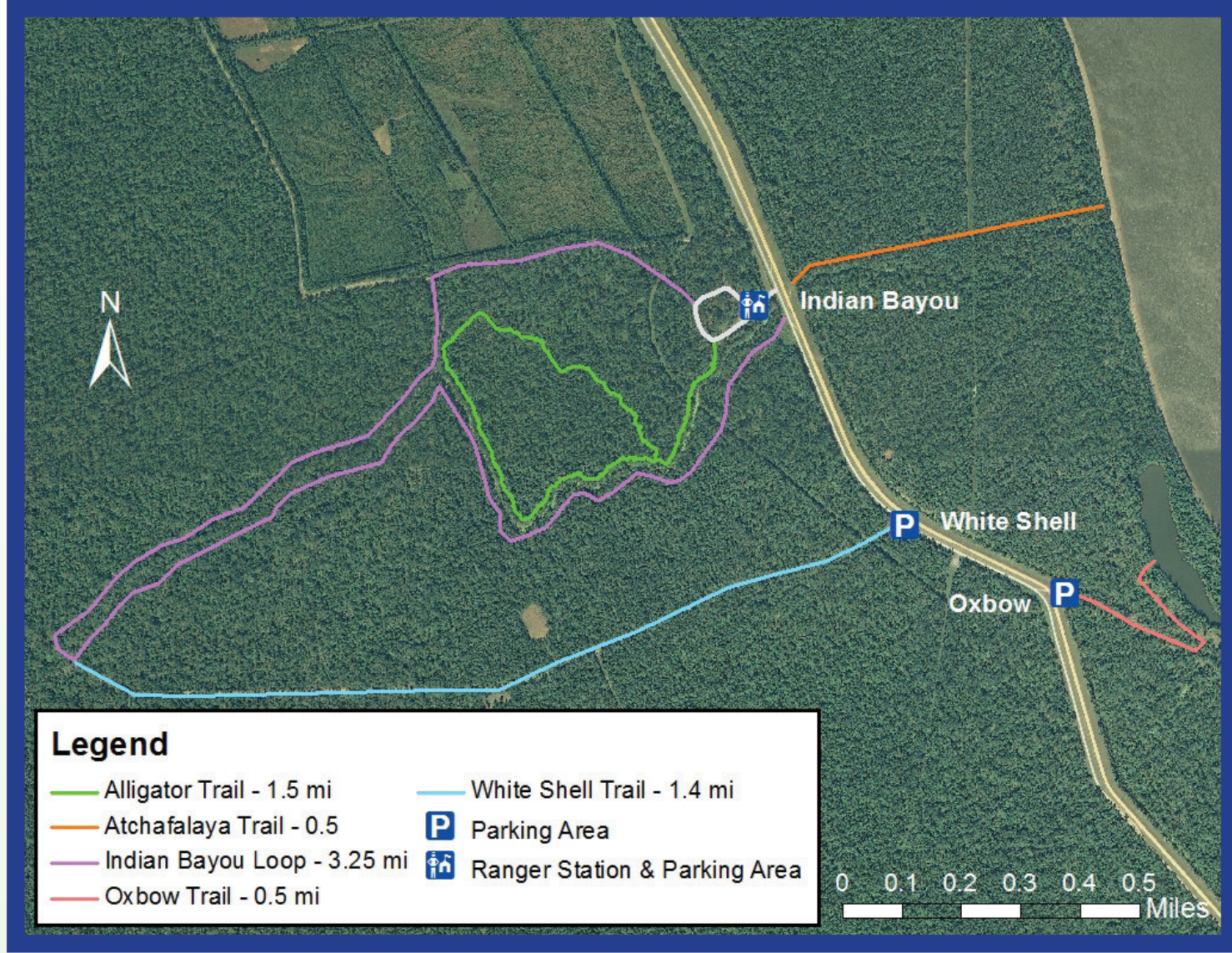


Indian Bayou contains some of the country's most productive wildlife habitat. It has been a paradise for hunters, fishermen, boaters, nature photographers and outdoor enthusiasts. Now Indian Bayou is a place where hiking enthusiasts can enjoy part of the world's largest freshwater swamp wilderness.



As managers of these public lands and waters, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans

District, invites you to experience Indian Bayou firsthand. So grab your hiking gear and visit our Indian Bayou Hiking Trails.



The Corps of Engineers has mapped a trail network of approximately 35 miles throughout Indian Bayou with 13 miles designated specifically for hiking. These trails are marked in green on the photographic map available at the project web page:

www.mvn.usace.army.mil
 (select "Missions" then "Recreation" and "Atchafalaya Basin")

Indian Bayou offers a great opportunity to view scenic areas of hardwood forests, cypress

swamps and bayous. The area's forested wetlands and shallow lakes provide excellent feeding and resting areas for wading birds like herons, egrets, and waterfowl, such as mallards and wood ducks. Numerous species of reptiles and amphibians can also be found in abundance but be cautious, you may run into an American alligator!

To ensure your enjoyment and safety, please observe posted rules and regulations when using our trails. Visitors should take safety

precautions, stay alert to other activities in the area, and keep an eye out for natural hazards along the trails, such as wildlife, logs, stumps, and rocks. Don't forget, this is South Louisiana.

Always make sure that someone knows where you are in case you need assistance.

