



News Release

Department of Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges
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For Immediate Release
March 19, 2020

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Southeast LA -

Temporary closure of the Bayou Lacombe Visitor Center to begin March 19, 2020

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges Complex (Refuge) is suspending operations at Bayou Lacombe Visitor Center effective March 19, 2020. The Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges, Inc. and our other local and state partners support this suspension of operations. The Refuge is committed to doing its part to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, planned Refuge events and programs may not take place as scheduled. Refuge lands, including nature trails and outdoor recreational facilities remain open to provide opportunities for recreation and relaxation.

The health and safety of our visitors and employees are our number one priority. Refuge staff is working with federal, state and local authorities to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. We will notify the public when we resume operations and will provide updates on our website and Facebook account @SoutheastLouisiana.

We urge our visitors to do their part when visiting Refuge trails and to follow [CDC guidance](#). Please maintain a safe distance between yourself and other groups; this will assist in the prevention and spread of infectious diseases. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and most importantly, stay home if you feel sick.

Updates about Service's response to coronavirus will be posted at <https://www.fws.gov/home/public-health-update.html>. Please check each individual refuge website in regards to the change of status to operations or postponement of events and programs. All of the nine Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges website links can be found here https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Big_Branch_Marsh/About_the_Complex.html. Updates will also be communicated on the Refuge's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SoutheastLouisiana/>

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov/southeast. Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>, and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.