



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ to demonstrate value of treated wastewater to wetland growth

BATON ROUGE – Many coastal communities have turned to wetlands assimilation projects as a way to handle treated wastewater, revive wetland areas and improve water quality.

On Friday, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be taking those interested in the projects on a field trip of a wetland assimilation project in Thibodeaux. Registration for the field trip begins at 9:30 a.m. at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve, Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center, Jean Lafitte Acadian Cultural Center at 314 St. Mary St.

The wetlands assimilation projects take treated wastewater and distribute it in wetlands areas. The nutrients from the treated wastewater help plants and trees grow, improve water quality and enhance the wetland ecosystem.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there has been new-found interested in wetlands projects. Because of the importance of wetlands as a buffer from storms and the important role they play in the ecosystem, the federal government has offered some funding option for these projects.

The field trip will include discussion on funding options for coastal communities interested in starting a project, as well as the many benefits such a project would bring to the communities.

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