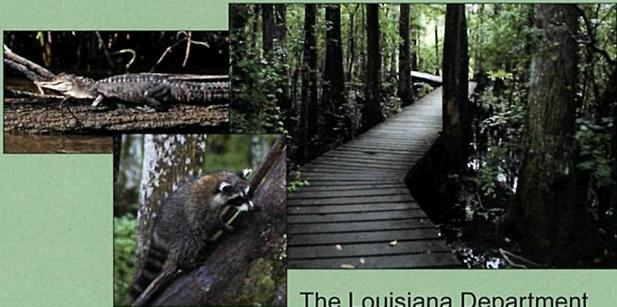


Bonnet Carre Spillway Recreation Area



Located just ten miles west of New Orleans, the St. Charles Parish-maintained recreational area near the west side boat launch offers a raised boardwalk through a cypress/tupelo gum forest. The setting is the home of the tall blue *I. giganticaerulea*.

Joyce Wildlife Management Area



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries manages the Joyce Wildlife Management Area, which is located south of Ponchatoula and 50 miles north of New Orleans. In 2018, volunteers reintroduced *I. giganticaerulea* into the swamp, years after they were killed by hurricane salt water. The raised boardwalk has a viewing platform at its end that overlooks miles of open marsh.



Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

Part of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the 18,000-acre Big Branch Refuge is located a few miles east of Mandeville and fifty miles north of New Orleans.

There are scattered *I. giganticaeruleas* growing in areas where fresh water mixes with the brackish water of the refuge's Lake Pontchartrain shoreline marshes. The long, raised boardwalk offers sweeping views of the marsh.



www.fws.gov/refuge/big_branch_marsh/



This brochure was written and produced by GNOIS

Greater New Orleans Iris Society

A group of everyday gardeners interested in learning more about Louisiana irises and preserving the five species of this native plant.

www.louisianairisgnois.com

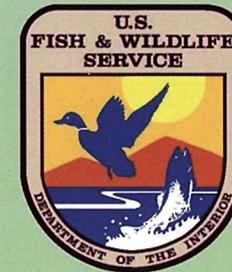


See irises in the swamp!



The places to see wild Louisiana irises blooming are the swamps and wetlands where they live. The locations featured here

offer adults and children places to safely enjoy the beauty of the irises and their unique habitat from boardwalks above the swamp.



This brochure was made possible by the generous support of the Baton Rouge Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

www.fws.gov/BatonRouge

Six Locations to see Louisiana irises blooming in their native habitat



Jean Lafitte Historical Park and Preserve



Only 20 miles south of New Orleans, the preserve is a prime locale to see irises in the wild. The Louisiana iris species *I. giganticaerulea* and *I. fulva* inhabit the plentiful swamps and wetlands. There are extensive boardwalks and trails from which to view the native plants and wildlife.



It is a tradition for New Orleanians to make an annual trek to the preserve to see the irises in bloom.



Northlake Nature Center



I. hexagona



I. fulva



I. brevicaulis



I. giganticaerulea



I. nelsonii

Located 45 miles north of New Orleans, Mandeville's Northlake Nature Center is the home to

all five Louisiana iris species, which can be found in the beaver pond cypress swamp. The kiosks along the raised boardwalk hold display boards with detailed information on the irises.



Preserving Louisiana Irises

The Society for Louisiana Irises has partnered with the Greater New Orleans Iris Society to create the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project. Over one hundred rare or unusual forms of Louisiana irises that have been collected from the wild are being propagated to preserve the diversity of the species.



Bayou Sauvage Wildlife Refuge



The Bayou Sauvage Wildlife Refuge, part of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is within

the city limits of New Orleans. In 2018, volunteers planted Louisiana irises in the refuge to reestablish the species *Iris giganticaerulea* after they were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina flood waters.



The extensive raised boardwalk allows visitors to walk safely above the fresh water marsh.



http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bayou_Sauvage/