

## *Bottomland Hardwood Forest*

Also known as riverine wetlands, bottomland hardwood forests are found along the rivers that drain into the north shores of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas, as well as in the Pearl River Basin. In addition to cypress and tupelo trees, there are several types of pines, oaks, and other hardwood trees in the bottomland habitat, due to the presence of higher, better-drained ground. Animals in the bottomland hardwood forest include alligators, copperheads, white-tailed deer, Louisiana black bear, opossum, and prothonotary warbler.

The conversion of land from forest to cropland for farming poses a significant threat to bottomland hardwood forests. In fact, only 40% of the bottomland hardwood forest that existed 200 years ago is still around today.