

Ecosystem Services of the Northshore Wetlands Reference

Wetland restoration under the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) program ranges from \$15,000 to \$90,000 per acre.

Wetlands [provide protection from storm surge](#) to inland communities by dampening and slowing the surge wave through water storage and friction. Wetlands also [provide water storage during floods](#) so that much of the water does not make it into inland or upland communities. Louisiana wetlands have been valued at \$688.25/acre/year (2004 dollar) in hurricane protection alone.

The wetlands around Lake Pontchartrain [sustain many of the fisheries in the estuary](#) by acting as nurseries for commercially important species.

The north shore of Lake Pontchartrain is currently one of the fastest growing areas of Louisiana. Populations in St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes have risen by 36,300 (≈19%) and 16,200 (≈16%) people, respectively, between 2000 and 2008 (US Census Bureau). Population growth increased after Hurricane Katrina with 11,000 people moving to each St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes. Between 1982 and 2000 urbanization was responsible for the loss of approximately 5,400 acres of marsh, 6,700 acres of wetland forest, 30,630 acres of upland forest and 5,000 acres of scrub/shrub habitat in St. Tammany Parish.

One study found that while the benefits provided to Louisianans by the [water quality improvement](#) aspects of wetlands alone were valued at \$2.85/acre/year to \$5,673.80/acre/year with a mean of \$975.01/acre/year, the public's willingness to pay for these services is only \$66.59 (2000 US dollar; Kazmierczak 2001).

Wetlands provide humans with many goods and services and are [important habitat for wildlife and plants including rare and endangered species](#).

..the storm protection value of the 54,364 acres of marsh lost during hurricane Katrina is calculated to be \$1.1 billion (Costanza *et al.* 2008). The same study also found that the loss of 2.47 acres of wetland corresponded to a \$33,000 increase in storm damage to local communities (Costanza *et al.* 2008).

Source:

Lake Pontchartrain's Northshore: Recommendations for Restoration and Conservation
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