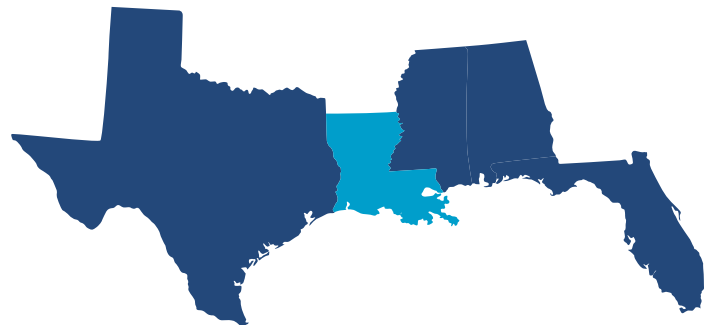




© Alan Teller

In 2018, GulfCorps launched in Louisiana with a crew from Limitless Vistas, Inc., based in New Orleans. American Youthworks added the Louisiana Conservation Corps (LaCC) based in Baton Rouge in Year 2. The RESTORE Council approved a new award in April 2021 and GulfCorps 2.0 launched in the fall of 2021. These crews partner with federal, state, county and municipal agencies as well as local nonprofits to implement restoration and conservation projects throughout the Louisiana Gulf Coast. This work includes mapping and treating invasive plant species; planting native vegetation; participating in prescribed burns; and building and maintaining trails and boardwalks. Since the GulfCorps Program started, LVI and LaCC crews have impacted over 2,389 acres of coastal habitats on 11 project sites.



LOCATION Louisiana

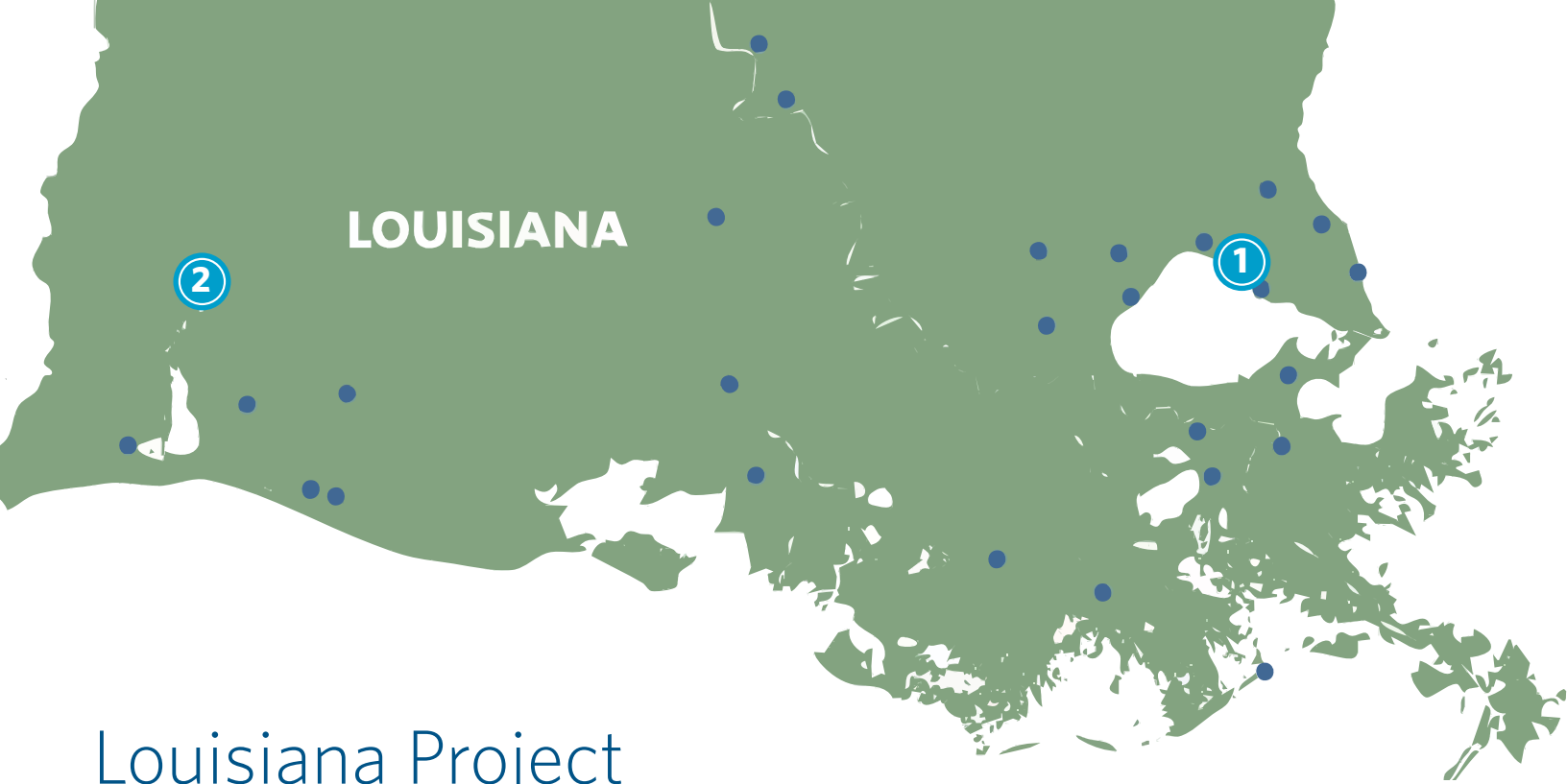
INVESTMENT \$2.022 million over 8 years

PROGRAM PARTNERS The Nature Conservancy, The Corps Network, Student Conservation Association, The Ember Alliance

FUNDING AGENCIES Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (sponsor)

PROJECT DATES 2017 - 2025

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Louisiana Project Highlights

① LVI - LA1-1b: Big Branch Marsh Stewardship Project

In January 2018, the LVI crew began working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Over the last four years, the crew has restored an acre of pitcher plant bog, maintained six acres of trails and boardwalks, and installed 12,900 plants. The crew also annually clears around 60 trees across the refuge where endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers live to protect the species from prescribed fire burns. In 2019, the crew assisted in the area's annual Christmas Tree Drop. The crew tied 98 bundles of Christmas trees and assisted USFWS, the Louisiana Army National Guard, and the Cities of Slidell and New Orleans with placement of nearly 200 tree bundles across a 753-acre unit of Refuge marsh. The tree bundles help to slow wave action and catch sediment.



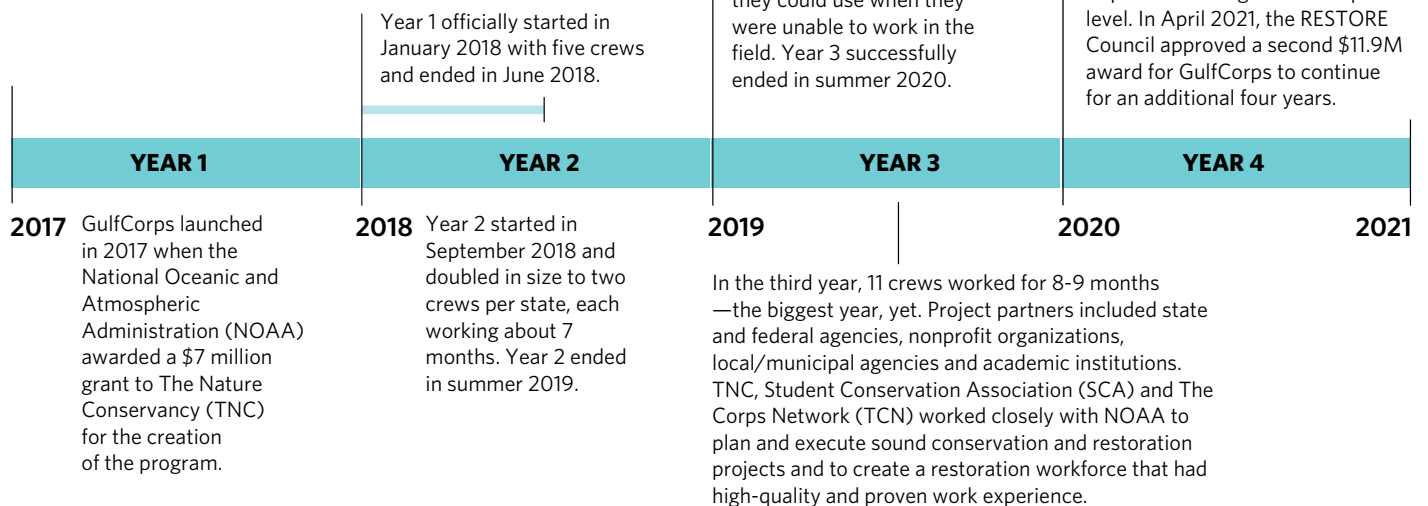
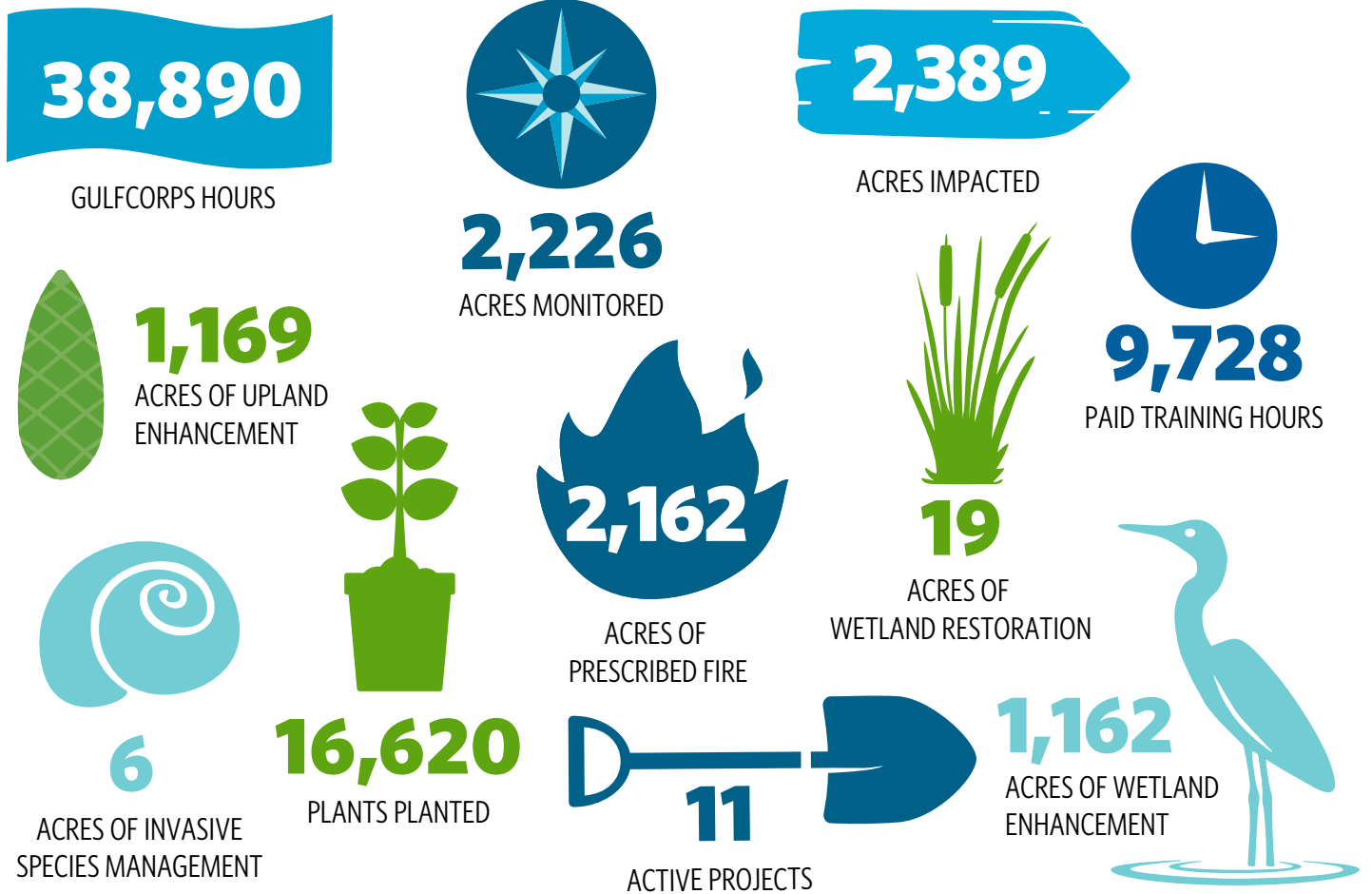
© Libby Cornell

② LACC - LA2-2a: Sam Houston Jones State Park

In September 2019, the LaCC crew began working with Louisiana State Parks. During 2019, the crew removed an acre of debris from the park and maintained 10 picnic tables. In August 2020, Hurricane Laura directly impacted Sam Houston Jones State Park. Hundreds of thousands of trees were uprooted or snapped in half due to the storm. In January 2021, the crew assisted The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana staff in planting 3,500 long leaf pine saplings across 18 acres of the park. This planting serves to not only replace lost trees but to also restore the overall ecosystem in the area.

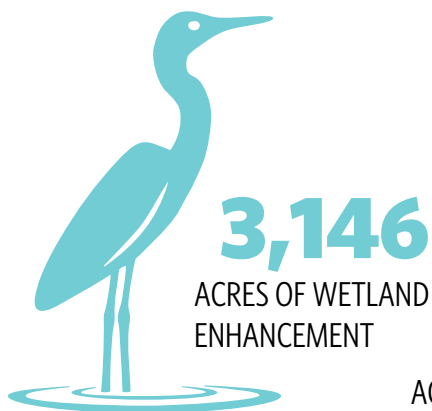
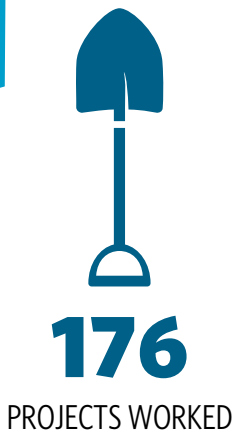


Louisiana By the Numbers





GC 1.0 By The Numbers





Louisiana Project Partners

During Years 1 – 4, LVI and LaCC crews worked on meaningful coastal restoration projects under the direction of a range of federal, state, and community partners:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Louisiana Office of State Parks
- The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana
- US Forest Service

Local Crews, Local Communities

At its heart, GulfCorps is about rebuilding the environment and local communities. This means working with and relying on organizations that know and are deeply rooted in the local communities GulfCorps is helping.

GulfCorps works with Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI), a program established in 2006 with a mission to help young adults obtain the skills and knowledge to become gainfully employed, build a hopeful future, develop civic pride, and establish life-long skills and attitudes.

GulfCorps also works with the Louisiana Conservation Corps (LaCC), part of Austin-based American Youthworks (AYW). Established in 1975, AYW was founded with a mission to provide young people with opportunities to build careers, strengthen communities, and improve the environment through education, on-the-job training, and service to others. LaCC was established in Baton Rouge in 2018 and focuses on state and national disaster response, public land improvements, and habitat restoration.

Member Highlights



Aaron Hunter

Aaron Hunter was a crew member with LVI in Year 4 when he received training in safe chainsaw operation, construction safety, and wetlands restoration. He also obtained his Wildland Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) qualification. The summer following his LVI term he completed an internship with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in New Orleans. His experience and qualifications enabled him to garner a crew leader position with LaCC when the next GulfCorps term started.



Matthew Britz

Matthew Britz served with LaCC during Year 4 when he obtained his Wildland Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) certification and gained some restoration and prescribed burn experience. He combined these skills with his workforce development training in teamwork, resume building and interviewing to land a position with Intertek PSI as a Geotechnical Engineering Technician.



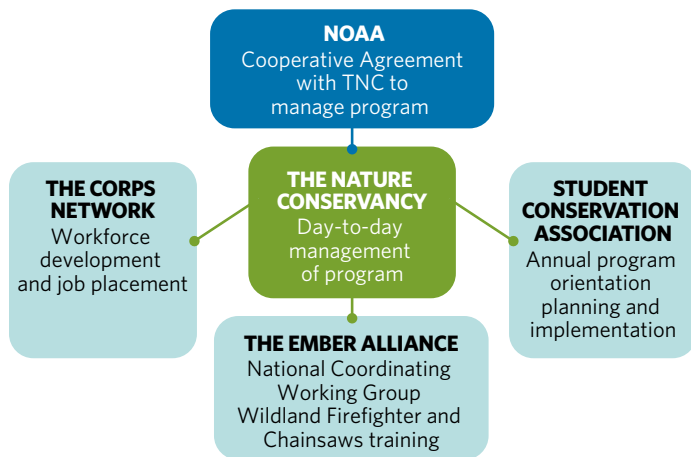
The GulfCorps Program Team

- NOAA Fisheries – Fiscal sponsor, environmental compliance, program advisor
- The Nature Conservancy – Program day-to-day operations, conservation and project planning, monitoring, implementation
- The Corps Network – Professional / Workforce development, member preparation to pursue careers in conservation and restoration, job placement, post-program tracking
- Student Conservation Association – Orientation planning and implementation

Through this project, NOAA, TNC and partners are

- Providing support to local conservation corps that recruit young adults from their communities. These young adults want to better their communities through restoration and conservation work. GulfCorps aims to recruit 75% of each crew from Gulf Coast communities.
- Providing young adults with the highest quality training, including project-related training, industry-recognized certifications, and workforce development opportunities. This combination of training, work experience and professional development fuels placements in environmental jobs, internships, externships and post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Working with stakeholders to select restoration projects that address ecological impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and that are consistent with the RESTORE Act's Comprehensive Plan.
- Monitoring progress over the course of the entire program to make certain the work is producing the desired environmental results.

Partner Roles



Sample Project Partners

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FL, AL, LA, TX) US Forest Service (MS), National Park Service (FL, MS, LA, TX), National Estuarine Research Reserves (FL, AL, TX)

Florida – St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Forest Service

Alabama – South Alabama Land Trust, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Dog River Clearwater Revival, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary

Mississippi – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

Louisiana – Louisiana Office of State Parks, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, North Lake Nature Center

Texas – Armand Bayou Nature Center, Artist Boat, City of Port Aransas, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Galveston Bay Foundation



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