

“Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world.” - John Muir

The Gifted Tree welcomes you to the virtual world of finding your tree planting location. As you know, someone has planted a gift tree in honor of you or someone you love. Your tree has been or will be planted in the area around Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana which is a natural treasure on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain north of New Orleans. The refuge has over 18,000 acres of freshwater and brackish marsh, bald cypress-tupelo forest, bayous, hardwood forest hammocks, and pine savannah. The refuge's marshes provide habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl, are critical spawning and nursery habitat for a number of fresh and saltwater species of fish and help buffer local communities from storm surge.

The overall goal of the project is to restore the longleaf pine ecosystem that was prevalent in this area and the dominant tree species in the southeastern United States. Over the last hundreds of years, the longleaf pine's abundance decreased due to non-sustainable timber harvest, clearing of the land for agriculture and development, and fire. Your project will help promote restorative management practices that can help the forest thrive in the years to come.

The longleaf pine ecosystem is well-known for the incredible diversity of plant and animal species that it supports, many which are endemic only to this habitat such as rare species like the red-cockaded woodpecker and the gopher tortoise. In addition to wildlife, the ecological benefits include protecting the water sources that feed nearby cities.



You can view the general area of your planting by clicking on the following link:

<https://binged.it/3CEc03T>

Once connected to the map, feel free to zoom in and out to get a feel of the general planting area as well as its location in Louisiana, the United States, and the world. The link is best viewed on a personal computer. Please understand that this is the general area of your tree planting. Your tree is planted among thousands of other gift trees and there is no plaque designating your gift tree and visiting the tree is unfortunately not possible.

Enjoy your gifted tree and know that it is making a monumental difference for the earth and opening a new doorway to the world for future generations. If you have any questions, please view our contact information at: www.thegiftedtree.com/contact-us/. If you would like to plant a tree for someone else, please visit our website at www.TheGiftedTree.com.

