OUR COASTLINE is in danger....

YOU can help.

How Can I Get Involved?

Volunteering

Wetlands plantings are dirty jobs, but fun ones. Our planting projects are all different, but often involve riding in canoes, motor boats, or fan boats to access vulnerable areas where our plants are needed. Once we get into the water or on the shore we work in teams to dig into mud and plant. By the end of the day it is a great sense of accomplishment to see how much of a difference we made.

Volunteering at our nursery is the backbone of our operations. Our nursery is located two blocks from our headquarters at 1800 Deslonde Street in the Lower 9th Ward. Our nursery is not only a functional space, but also a beautiful space and a resource for local residents.

Visit our website www.commongroundrelief.org to learn more and to fill out an individual or group volunteer application. We are able to house groups of up to 40, and provide three meals a day for volunteers that choose to stay with us.

Education

Teaching people, especially locals, about the environmental emergency we are facing is very important to us. We would be happy to come speak at your school, church, civic organization or garden club.

Building Partnerships

We are always looking for new places to make an impact. We often work with private land owners, the Army Corps, NRCS, US FWS, LDWF, and other government agencies to find the best spots to do our work. If you have an idea for a planting project we want to hear from you.

DONATE

We are only able to continue or work because of the generous donations from people like you.
Visit our website and click *Donate Now*, or mail us a check.
It's all tax deductible.

To contact Common Ground Relief or to learn more:
Visit our website www.commongroundrelief.org
Call 504-442-2314
Email wetlands@commongroundrelief.org
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or come on by to
1800 Deslonde Street, New Orleans, LA 70117

WETLANDS RESTORATION

A Project of Common Ground Relief

WETLANDS RESTORATION

504-442-2314
wetlands@commongroundrelief.org

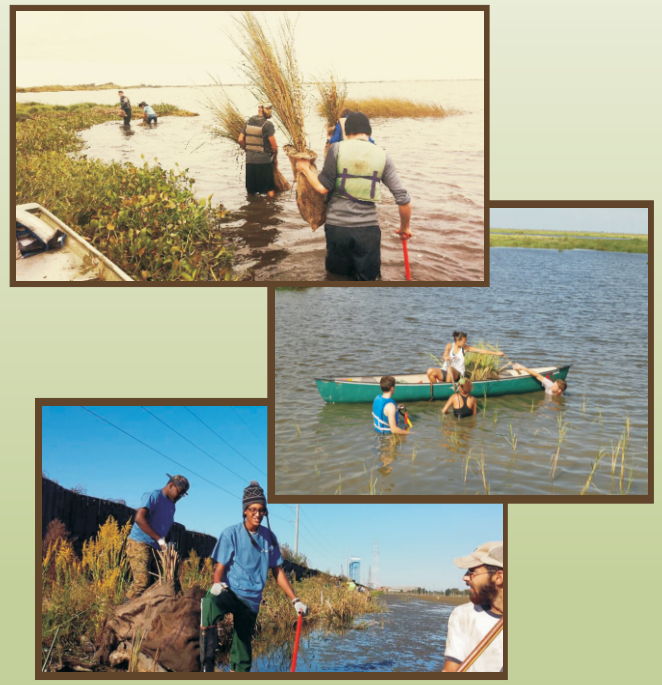
Who We Are

We are a non-profit organization started in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina committed to the long term sustainabililty of New Orleans.

What We Do

Louisiana is losing wetlands at an incredible rate; roughly one football field size area every 30 minutes. Healthy swamps, marshes, bayous are essential for storm protection, economic well-being, and are critical habitats for fish and other seafood species as well as migratory bird species.

To help stop this environmental emergency we partner with various organizations and private land owners to participate in large-scale planting projects with our volunteers from around the country. At our wetlands restoration nursery we grow native trees and grasses to use in our wetlands planting projects and for urban tree re-planting.



What Causes Wetlands Loss?

Wetlands are lost when natural and unnatural causes of erosion cause the land to wash away and become open water.

- Our river levee system that protects us from the spring snow melt and rain, also cuts off the surrounding wetlands from the input of fresh water and sediments that are needed for sustaining and expanding wetlands.

- The construction of about 15,000 linear miles of canals, used for oil and gas exploration, shipping, and navigation have rapidly increased the rates of land loss by allowing salt water to come into fresh water ecosystems and by changing the hydrology of the land. These canals also make our communities more vulnerable to flooding from hurricanes.

- Sea level rise due to global warming threatens much of our low lying marshes.

- Natural forces like the compaction of new land, and hurricanes also cause wetlands loss.

YOU can help.

How Do We Stop Wetlands Loss?

Wetlands restoration involves creating new land and protecting existing land.

- Fresh water diversion projects open up sections of the river levee to allow inputs of sediment into the wetlands.

- Constructing terraces or other land masses with dredges builds new land that can stop incoming waves and protect the surrounding land.

- Advocacy is an important component of wetlands restoration. It is important that those parties that are responsible for wetlands loss, are also held responsible for their restoration.

- At Common Ground Relief we focus on protecting our existing land, and newly created land by planting native trees and grasses in the water and on the shore to prevent erosion.

Why Do We Need Wetlands

Our Safety

Healthy wetlands act as a buffer between an incoming storm surge off the Gulf and our communities. Every four to eight square miles of healthy wetlands reduces an incoming storm surge by a foot.

Our Economy

Sport fishing and commercial fishing are major components of the economy of southern Louisiana. 70% of the commercial seafood harvested comes from species who rely on the wetlands for survival.

Our Culture

Living in and around wetlands is what defines the unique culture of Southern Louisiana. If you have not experienced it you will have to come down and see for yourself.

Bayou Bienvenue

Bayou Bienvenue is a 12 mile long bayou that lies east of Orleans and St. Bernard parishes. Saltwater intrusion from the construction of a cargo ship channel (MR-GO) damaged this natural resource. If properly restored, Bayou Bienvenue can help protect Orleans and St. Bernard parishes from flooding and storm surges.

Along the northern edge of the Lower Ninth Ward, just beyond the levee, one can see the remains of a once thriving Cypress and Water Tupelo swamp. This area is locally known as the "Cypress Triangle" and is an important resource for residents of the Lower Ninth Ward. For the past several years, Common Ground Relief Wetlands has made this a priority in our coastal restoration efforts. With the help of hundreds of volunteers and partner organizations, we have planted grasses all along the perimeter of the area. We are now experimenting with different methods of planting Bald Cypress in the shallow open water.