

PROJECT PROFILE



Project Name:
Lafreniere Park Habitat
Restoration

Project Customer:
Jefferson Parish

Project Location:
Metairie, Louisiana

Martin EcoSystems Product:
BioHaven® Floating Islands

Application:
Habitat Restoration

Application Summary

Floating Islands will provide a natural habitat for birds such as ducks and geese that now choose to linger at the pond's shore. But more significantly, the island matrix along with the plants and their roots that grow below the Floating Islands will help to reduce levels of chemicals such as phosphorous and nitrogen.

Those chemicals might have seeped into the lagoon from rain runoff or decades of waterfowl fecal matter, said Katherine Costanza, assistant director of Environmental Affairs. "Our goal is to improve water quality right there in that lagoon and to restore the habitat, that Marsh Island habitat," she said.

Solution

Coleen Perilloux Landry, the Lafreniere Park Advisory Board's environmental consultant, grew concerned for erosion's effect on the lagoon's wildlife. Waters had become so shallow that it was no longer pleasant swimming for the birds that called the lagoon home. "I'm a bird person, and I have watched that since we started the park to make sure the ducks had a place to lay their eggs and (were) protected from predators," Landry said. "I've always kept an eye on them and looking out for them." "I noticed yesterday ducks were already trying to get in there on the islands," Landry said. "They were already very curious as to what it was."