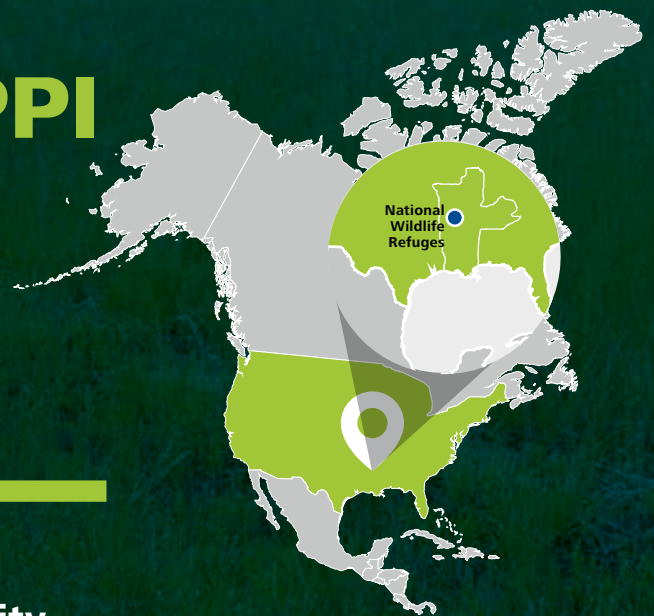




LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REFORESTATION UNITED STATES



**Regenerating the United States' rich
bottomland forests to enhance biodiversity**

This project is part of the grouped Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Reforestation Initiative, which aims to reforest one million acres throughout the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois. Considered North America's rainforest, this region is a vital habitat for migratory birds and numerous plant and animal species.

The Context

The Lower Mississippi Valley stretches across the former floodplains of the Mississippi River, from Cairo in southern Illinois to the river mouth in Louisiana. Historically, the Valley supported one of the world's largest contiguous tracts of floodplain forest. Now, due to massive deforestation for agriculture over the last century, just 26 percent of these diverse forests remains.

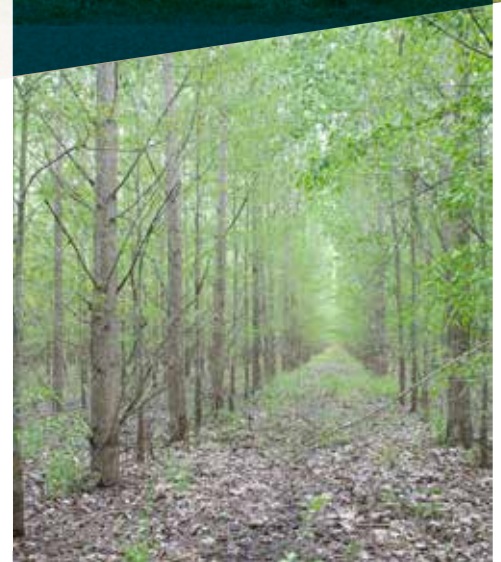
The Project

This project area of 89 cleared hectares is the initial land enrolled in the grouped Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Reforestation Initiative, to which additional projects will be progressively added. By reforesting the area with seedlings from native bottomland hardwood species including bottomland oaks (*Quercus* spp.), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) at a density of 1,074 trees per hectare, the project will act as a carbon sink, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

The Benefits

On top of sequestering carbon, this reforestation project generates further environmental benefits including reduced soil erosion and better water quality. Reforested land also provides protected habitat for local native wildlife such as waterfowl, neotropical migratory songbirds and species like the Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*). The project further enhances species biodiversity by improving ecosystem interconnectivity through unifying previously fragmented forested areas. This effect will enhance with time as the bottomland hardwood forests mature, improving species richness.

The remaining bottomland forests of the Lower Mississippi Valley, which historically featured over 60 tree species, continue to be some of the most productive in the United States today



**926
tCO₂e**

mitigated on average each year



**89.4
ha**

reforested so far, with a mixture of native bottomland hardwood trees



**96,015
trees**

planted in this initial project area

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Lower Mississippi Valley Grouped Afforestation Project | **Markit link:** https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/project.jsp?project_id=100000000001301 | **UNFCCC/markit/VCS ID:** 100000000001301