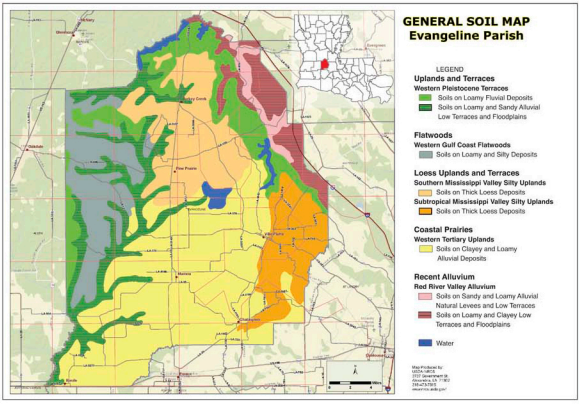
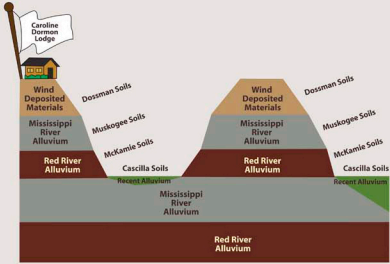
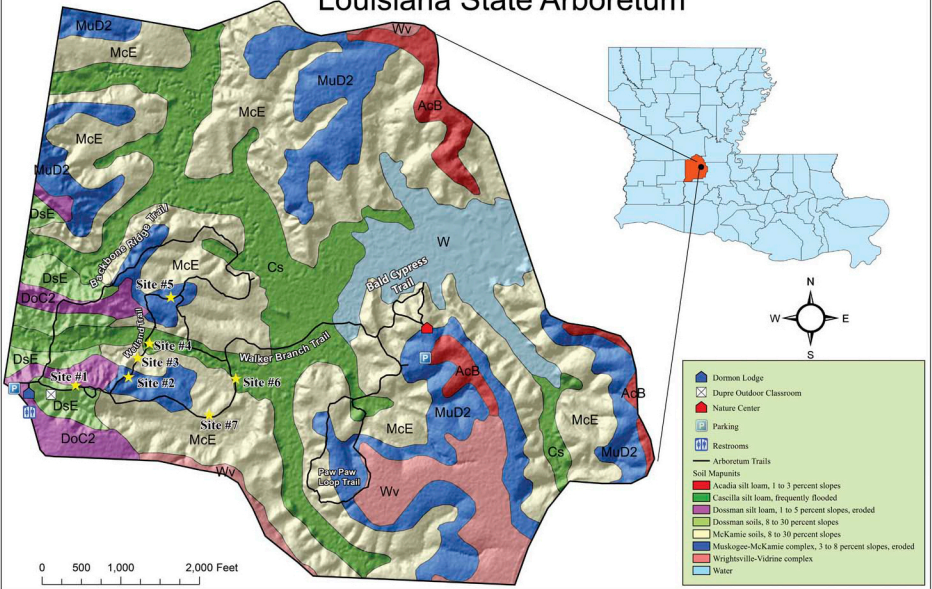


Evangeline Parish is a diverse physiographic area. The Coastal Prairie is in the southern part of the parish. The soils typically have a clayey subsoil which is ideal for rice production. Loess deposits (windblown) cover the eastern edge of the Coastal Prairie. The Western Pleistocene terraces are located in the north central part of the parish and the majority are covered by loess. Most of this land is in woodland. The Western Gulf Coast flatwoods are located in the western part of the parish, also in woodland. The Red River Valley alluvium, located in the northeastern part of the parish, is primarily used as cropland.

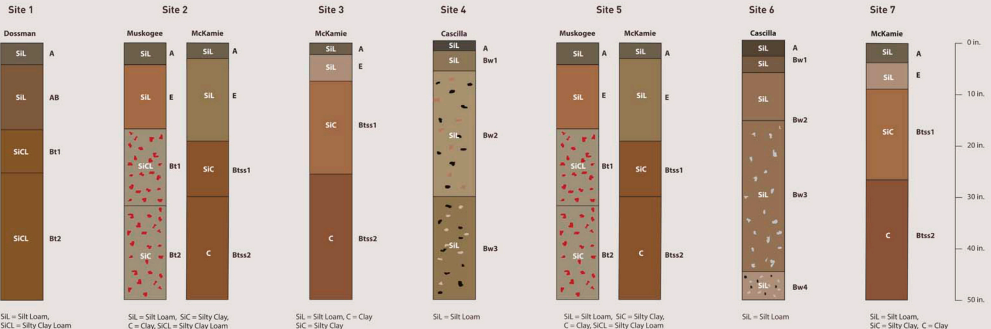


Over the past 500,000 years, alternate layers of sediment were deposited in the vicinity of Chicot State Park and the Louisiana State Arboretum. A thin layer of soil on top of some of the hills was deposited as wind-blown dust out of the local river valleys. The soils in the Arboretum were deposited by the ancient Mississippi and Red Rivers—with the Mississippi depositing generally gray soils and the Red River depositing red soils. Soils from both sources were deposited in alternate time periods, resulting in a banding of colors. If you dig a hole deep enough where you are standing, you could see these different colors.

Louisiana State Arboretum



Seven sites were sampled by the staff of the USDA National Resource Conservation Service along the Walker Branch and Wetland trails. Their locations are indicated on the map of the Arboretum above. The soil profiles from each site are illustrated below.



The Friends of the Arboretum thank the USDA National Resource Conservation Service and their soil scientist, Mitchell Mouton, for providing the background information and illustrations for this soil interpretive book. Additional thanks to BRADY, NYLE C., WEIL, RAY R., The NATURE AND PROPERTIES OF SOILS, 13TH EDITION, 2002, P. 77, Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ for permission the reprint the Landscape/pedon drawing.