

## MEET THE DESIGNER

THE SANKOFA NATURE TRAIL AND WETLAND PARK IS DESIGNED BY THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT **DIANE JONES** AND HER FIRM, DESIGNJONES LLC, IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.



## DIVERSE PLANT COMMUNITIES

The plant and animal populations of a wetland can change every few feet, depending on how low or high the ground is. The Sankofa wetland will have pond areas as deep as four feet, deep and shallow marsh areas, mature wet forest areas, and “upland” areas that sit up on slopes and are drier. These variations create a great diversity of plants and the animals they attract.

## NATURE UP CLOSE

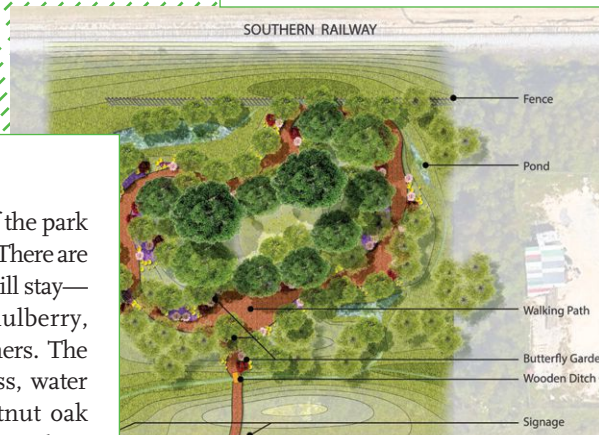
The Sankofa Wetland Park will have a nature trail to let people explore the site. It will also serve as a place to educate people about the benefits of wetlands. Birds, for instance, depend on wetlands as places to stop and find food.

## WATER FLOWS

The Sankofa wetland will help handle large amounts of water that fall during heavy rains, which are frequent in New Orleans. The landscape architect has studied how water moves across the site, according to the height of the land and drainage patterns. When the park is completed, about 48 percent of the site will hold water—up to four feet deep.

## LUSH WITH PLANTS

More than three-fourths of the park will be teeming with plants. There are a lot of existing trees that will stay—elm, hickory, willow, mulberry, and rain trees, among others. The park will have bald cypress, water tupelo, and swamp chestnut oak trees. There will be shrubs such as holly, palmetto, and butterfly bush, loads of perennial plants like black-eyed Susan, cardinal flower, and joe-pye weed, and water plants, too: lizard’s tail, fanwort, and coontail. This abundance of plants will help soak up water, prevent erosion, and manage flooding in the park.



## LESSONS FOR THE CITY

Besides welcoming people to enjoy nature up close, a major goal of the Sankofa wetland is to help manage excess water in times of heavy rain and potential flooding. New Orleans hopes to manage flooding across the city by relying on landscape designs like this that hold water and let it soak into the ground rather than run off and damage streets and homes.

