

**Description of Map Units**

QUATERNARY SYSTEM

**Ha**  
**Holocene**  
**Alluvium**—Undifferentiated deposits of small upland streams: unconsolidated alluvial deposits of minor streams and creeks filling valleys incised into older deposits, with textures varying from gravelly sand to sandy mud.

PLEISTOCENE

**Ppl**  
**Prairie Allogroup**  
**Prairie Allogroup, Late Sangamon**—Younger of the Prairie Allogroup temporal phases. Alluvial deposits of ancestral late Pleistocene streams, blanketed by Peoria Loess near the Mississippi River flood plain.

INTERMEDIATE ALLOGROUP

**Pib**  
**Bentley alloformation**—dissected alluvial deposits of early Pleistocene streams of primarily the Red River in central Louisiana. The unit is blanketed by yellow loam and incises Tertiary formations; it is incised by younger subunits of the Intermediate allogroup, and by the Prairie Allogroup and younger strata. Equivalent to the Natchez Formation of Mississippi.

TERTIARY SYSTEM

Eocene

**Ecs**  
**Sparta Formation**—Lightish colored massive to bedded sand, cross bedded in places, with interbedded clays, glauconitic sands that weather to concretionary ledges, and some thin interbeds of lignite or lignitic sands and shales. Though no detailed depositional characterization is available, the unit overall shows aspects broadly suggestive of deposition in environments transitional between continental and marine.

**Ecr**  
**Cane River Formation**—Brown silty clay with basal glauconitic, fossiliferous silts, which may weather to ironstone locally. Fine-grained overall texture and the presence of glauconite are suggestive of deposition on a shallow, muddy shelf.

**Ewc**  
**Carizzo Formation**—Well rounded, very fine to medium, glauconitic quartzose sand, commonly cross bedded, in places feldspathic and/or containing petrified wood (Andersen, 1993, p. 73; Andersen, 1960, p. 84). Where exposed in the area northwest of Shreveport in northwestern Louisiana, it contains abundant quartz granules and consists of sandy granule conglomerate in places. Ranges in color from reddish orange to, in more-weathered outcrops, a deep-maroon limonitic sand containing abundant ironstone.

PALEOCENE-EOCENE

Wilcox Group

**PEw**  
**Wilcox Group, undifferentiated**—Heterogeneous suite of strata comprising gray to brown lignitic sands and silty to sandy lignitic clays, many seams of lignite, and some glauconite and limestone. May include small outcrops of overlying Carizzo Sand of the basal Claiborne Group in some places.

**Pwcb + Pwd**  
**Cow Bayou Formation**—dark brown lignitic silt and clay, with interbedded gray to brown clay, silt, and fine sand.

**Pm**  
**Dolet Hills Formation**—fine to medium, gray to reddish brown massive sand, with silt and clay lenses and thin lignite interbeds.

PALEOCENE

**Pm**  
**Midway Group, undifferentiated**—laminated, fissile silty clay and clayey silt, of dark gray to black coloration weathering to brown. Exposed at surface only in northwestern Caddo Parish and on Prothro and Rayburns salt domes in Bienville Parish. A whitish, reworked leached kaolinitic clay is localized along its upper contact with the overlying Wilcox Group in places, such as in an area in Caddo Parish southeast of Mooringsport and directly east of Walnut Bayou where clay of the Midway is mined for brick production.

CRETACEOUS

**Ku**  
**Upper Cretaceous, undifferentiated**—fossiliferous limestone and marl. Surface exposures comprise only small outcrops on Prothro and Rayburns salt domes in Bienville Parish. On the Prothro dome the lithology of exposures consists of lime mudstone; fragmentary vein calcite in float indicates the mudstone is transected by calcite-filled veins. Fossils on this dome include the oysters *Exogyra costata* and *Pycnodonte convexa*, and the shark *Squalicorax* sp.

- Open Water, Inundated Area, Wetland**
- Contact**—includes inferred contacts.
- Normal fault**—identity and existence certain, location accurate. Ball and bar on downthrown block.
- Concealed fault**—identity and existence certain, location concealed. Ball and bar on downthrown block.
- Streams**
- Topographic Contours**

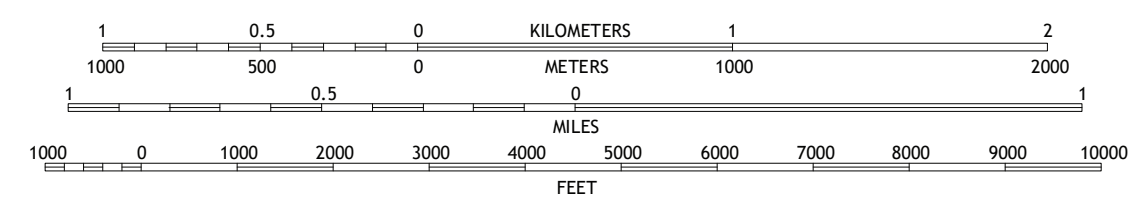
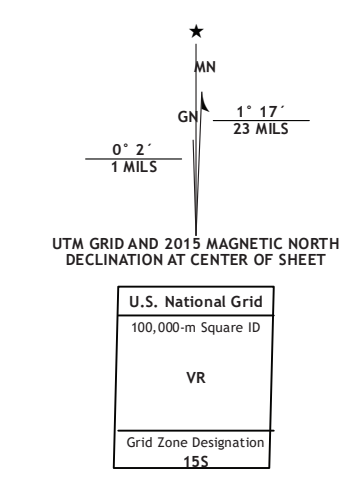
**References:**  
Andersen, H. V., 1960, Geology of Sabine Parish: Louisiana Department of Conservation, Louisiana Geological Survey, Geological bulletin no. 34, 164 p. plus plates (includes one 1:62,500-scale geologic map).  
Andersen, H. V., 1993, Geology of Natchitoches Parish: Louisiana Geological Survey, Geological bulletin no. 44, 227 p. plus plates (includes one 1:62,500-scale geologic map).

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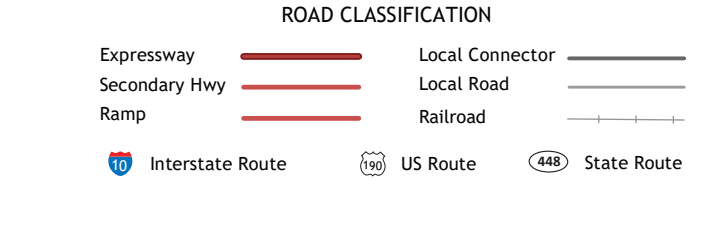
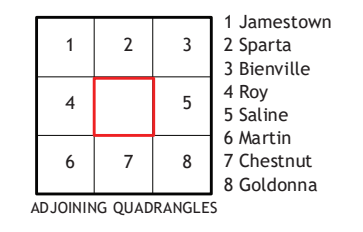
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SCALE 1:24,000

Base map from U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000 GeoPDF  
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.  
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection, Zone 15  
North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83)  
Contour Interval 10 Feet  
North American Vertical Datum 1988



Base Map.....United States Geological Survey, 2020  
Boundaries.....LaDOTD, 2007  
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2008 - 2011  
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2002 - 2017  
Names.....GNIS, 1980 - 2017  
Roads.....U.S. Census Bureau, 2017  
Wetlands.....FWS National Wetlands Inventory 2021

**Geology of the Ashland 7.5 minute quadrangle  
Bienville and Natchitoches Parishes, Louisiana**

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