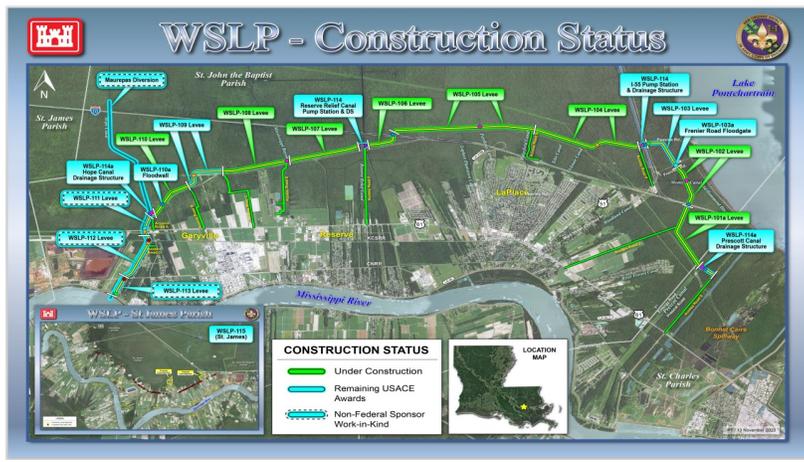


COASTAL ZONE Newsletter

April 2024

Contents:

-  West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Risk Reduction Project Update (1)
-  NOAA Spring Outlook (2)
-  NWS Water Prediction and Management Tool (2)
-  CPRA Sends Annual Spending Plan to Legislature (3)
-  CPRA Receives RESTORE Council Awards (3)
-  Community Conversations for 2029 Coastal Master Plan (4)
-  Fast Facts about Wetland Benefits (4)
-  St. John Coastal Updates (5)



West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee

Construction of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain (WSLP) Hurricane Risk Reduction Project continues. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contractors are currently constructing levee reaches WSLP-101a, WSLP-102, WSLP-104, WSLP-105, WSLP-106, WSLP-107, WSLP-108, and WSLP-110. In total, eight of thirteen sections of the levee are now under construction. USACE anticipates awarding levee reach WSLP-103 this quarter and the Hope and Prescott Canals Drainage Structures next quarter. All pile load testing is complete. Levee reaches WSLP-111, WSLP-112, and WSLP-113 will be designed and constructed by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority in tandem with the River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp Diversion project.



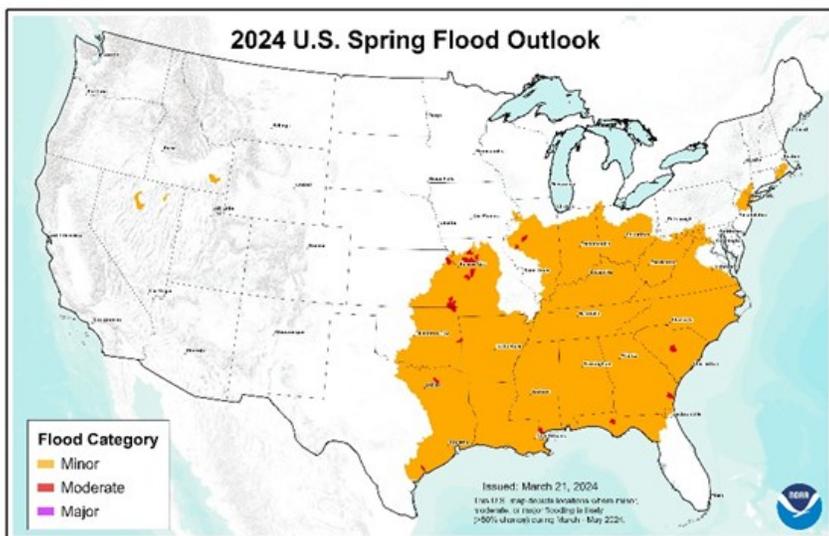
WSLP-106



WSLP-110

Regular updates on the WSLP Levee can be found on the [Army Corps' WSLP Website](#) or [Facebook Page](#).

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Spring Outlook: Flood Risk



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasters released their [Spring Outlook](#) last month. They are predicting minor to moderate flood risks for flood-prone areas in the South. For the first time since 2021, NOAA does not anticipate major flooding impacts. Above-normal temperatures, reduced precipitation, and lack of snowpack in the Northern Plains and Midwest may result in low flow conditions on the Mississippi River. Multiple factors contribute to the prediction, including current snowpack conditions, drought, frost depth, levels of

soil saturation, precipitation, and streamflow. The Spring Outlook assists in providing the nation with weather and climate preparedness through highlighting predictions of weather, drought, and flood for the period running from April through June. Communities can better prepare for threatening weather and environmental conditions that may lead to impacts on their lives and livelihoods with the information NOAA provides.

National Weather Prediction Service Launches New Website for Water Prediction and Management

Last month, the National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) introduced a new online service to assist in decision making for water safety and management. The [website](#) combines forecast information for local and regional areas with new national level capabilities and includes maps showing flood inundation and the National Water Model, a hydrologic model that simulates observed and forecasted streamflow over the entire continental U.S. Modern software, enhanced displays, geospatial technology, and cloud infrastructure offer a vastly improved experience for the customers. The services are available during and after extreme water events, including floods and droughts, and now include an Application Programming Interface. NOAA anticipates that nearly 100% of the U.S. will be covered with real-time comprehensive flood inundation maps by October 2026.



National Water Prediction Service ([NOAA.gov](https://www.nwps.noaa.gov))

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Sends Annual Spending Plan to Legislature

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's (CPRA) Board of Directors unanimously approved the annual spending plan for fiscal year 2025. The [Plan](#) includes \$1.71 billion for coastal restoration and hurricane protection. Approximately 80% of the budget is allocated for construction projects. A large portion of the funds will contribute to 19 projects involving dredged material that will be utilized to develop 12,770 acres of new land. CPRA anticipates the Annual Plan will generate 11,312 jobs and \$670 million in labor income.



Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project
(nola.com)

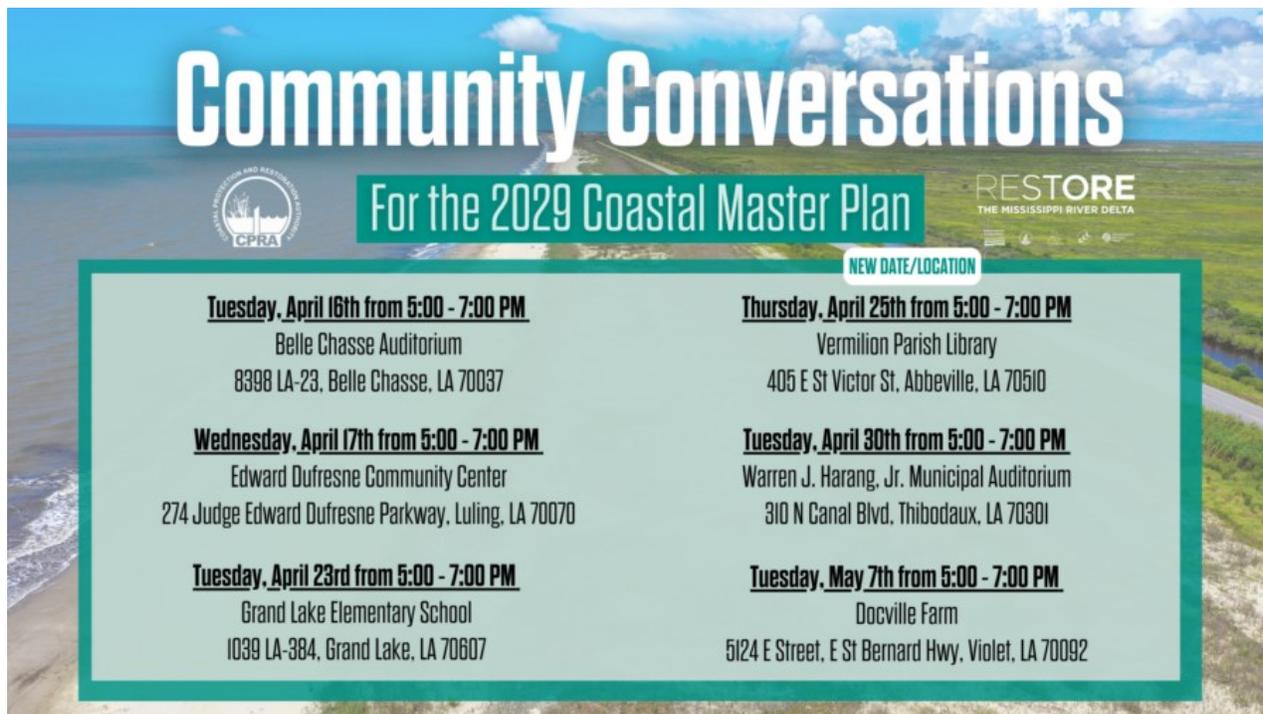
CPRA Receives Two of the Largest Grants Ever Awarded by RESTORE Council

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council [awarded CPRA](#) the two largest grants ever distributed by the organization last month. The Council administers funds from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and Transocean Deepwater settlements through the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act

(RESTORE Act). The funding will advance two major projects: the River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp project (\$130 million) and the Houma Navigation Canal (HNC) Lock Complex project (\$163 million). The river diversion will revitalize 45,000 acres of Maurepas Swamp by reconnecting the Mississippi River to the state's second-largest coastal swamp forest for the first time in 100 years. The HNC Lock Complex will be 110 feet wide by 800 feet long and 23.5 feet high. It will reduce saltwater intrusion and help distribute freshwater within the Terrebonne Basin. Learn more about the River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp [here](#) and the HNC Lock Project [here](#).



CPRA Begins 2029 Coastal Master Plan



Community Conversations
For the 2029 Coastal Master Plan

CPRA logo and RESTORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA logo are visible at the top of the poster.

NEW DATE/LOCATION

<p>Tuesday, April 16th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM Belle Chasse Auditorium 8398 LA-23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037</p>	<p>Thursday, April 25th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM Vermilion Parish Library 405 E St Victor St, Abbeville, LA 70510</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 17th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM Edward Dufresne Community Center 274 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, LA 70070</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 30th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM Warren J. Harang, Jr. Municipal Auditorium 310 N Canal Blvd, Thibodaux, LA 70301</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 23rd from 5:00 - 7:00 PM Grand Lake Elementary School 1039 LA-384, Grand Lake, LA 70607</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 7th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM Docville Farm 5124 E Street, E St Bernard Hwy, Violet, LA 70092</p>

Although the 2023 Coastal Master Plan was finalized last year, the 2029 Coastal Master Planning process is already underway. CPRA and Restore the Mississippi River Delta are joining together to present “Community Conversations,” a series of public meetings to provide input in the process. Through these opportunities, CPRA will be able to hear communities express what is most important to them as well as their local priorities early in the planning process. Learn more about Community Conversations [here](#) and be sure to [register](#) if you plan to attend one to the meetings.

NOAA Office for Coastal Management Fast Facts about Wetland Benefits

Fast Facts

Coastal wetlands function as natural defenses by acting as permeable barriers to help protect coastlines. They slow waves and surges by increasing friction and reducing flooding.

\$200 Billion Payout - Coastal damages from storms have cost insurers over \$200 billion over the last 10 years.

20% Fewer Damages - Areas located behind existing salt marshes have 20% fewer property damages, on average.

\$625 Million in Damages Prevented - The Nature Conservancy conducted research regarding property damages due to hurricanes and concluded that coastal wetlands prevented more than \$625 million in damages.

Read the nature Conservancy’s report: Role of Coastal habitats in Managing natural Hazards [here](#).

Wetland Benefits
\$625 million in damages prevented.



Office of Coastal Management ([NOAA.gov](https://www.noaa.gov))

St. John the Baptist Parish Coastal Updates

Airline and Main Update



Project under construction and on schedule.

Funded through the Office of Community Development, this project will improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and reduce flood risk through green infrastructure and drainage enhancements. Construction should be substantially complete in June.

Sunset Park Shoreline Restoration



Engineering and Design is complete.

St. John the Baptist Parish has secured a grant through CPRA's Conservation and Restoration Partnership Fund to design and construct a shoreline restoration project in Sunset Park along Lake Maurepas. The environmental permitting process is underway.

Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) Next 100 Years Challenge



Strategic planning meetings underway.

St. John the Baptist Parish was one of ten recipients selected for a \$100,000 award to continue advancing green infrastructure solutions in the Parish. This award is intended to pilot a green infrastructure project and expedite a larger funding proposal for a comprehensive green infrastructure strategy. Meetings with the project partners are underway to develop potential sites for a pilot green infrastructure project. Public meetings will be scheduled soon.

BRIC Direct Technical Assistance



FEMA

Technical Assistance identifies drainage improvement project.

Planning & Zoning and Public Works are engaging with FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to receive technical assistance with project prioritization and development to address flood risk. The Direct Technical Assistance Team has submitted a full BRIC application to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) requesting funding for a scoping study to fully evaluate the drainage issues along Highway 51 at I-10/I-55 and develop a project scope to address those issues. The application was reviewed by GOHSEP and submitted to FEMA. Award notification is anticipated in June 2024.

Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection

Surveying and material gathering is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in August.

This project will construct a breakwater on the western shore of Lake Pontchartrain between the St. Charles Parish line and Frenier. The shoreline has eroded approximately 10 feet per year since 1915. The breakwater will reduce erosion, stabilize the shoreline, and build back additional land through the accretion of sediments. As a coastal parish, St. John the Baptist Parish receives an annual allocation for coastal projects through the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). In 2019, the Parish issued \$9.5 million in municipal bonds to obtain funds up-front to complete this project.



St. John
The Baptist Parish

Coastal and Water
Management