



TANGIPAHOA PARISH COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN

Long-Term Community Recovery Plan
December 2017



TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LOUISIANA

Long-Term Community Recovery Plan
December 2017

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Robby Miller

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Honorable Carlo S. Bruno - District 4

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COMMUNITY RECOVERY COORDINATOR

Alyson Lapuma / Bridget Bailey

COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE

Bridget Bailey

Kiley Bates

Lauren Brinkman

Andy Carrier

John Dardis

Tonya Mabry

Stacey Neal

Dawson Primes

Carla Tate

Joe Thomas

Kelly Wells

Cover Photo: Tiffany Bailey, parish resident

Community Recovery Planning Steering Committee Members

Bridget Bailey

Kiley Bates

Lauren Brinkman

Andy Currier

John Dardis

Tonya Mabry

Stacey Neal

Dawson Primes

Carla Tate

Joe Thomas

Kelly Wells

Sub-committee Members

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Stacey Neal – Director, Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation (Chair)

Melissa Bordelon – Greater Hammond Chamber of Commerce

Heather Dimatta

Bill Joubert - Southeastern University, Small Business

Billie Jo Laird – Ponchatoula Chamber of Commerce

Dorothy “Dot” Levine – Ponchatoula Chamber of Commerce

Michael Watkin – North Oaks Medical Center

Kelly Wells - Amite Chamber of Commerce

Nyron Haynes - Louisiana Spirit

Sharon Landry - Northshore Healthcare Alliance

Lisa Lee - Catholic Charities

Lisa McClinton – Louisiana Spirit

Beth Price - Tangilena VOAD

Patricia Solomon – Tangipahoa Parish Council on Aging

Bishop Rene Soule - LACES

Michele Sutton - North Oaks Health Systems

Pastor Keith Tillman - Christ Anointed Ministries (Independence)

Valerie Vincent - LSU Ag Center

Mona Whitted - Louisiana Spirit

Health and Social Services

Bridget Bailey – Director of Community Services Tangipahoa (Chair)

Sandra Burton - Turner Chapel AME (Roseland)

Pastor Trent Campbell - River Rock Church (Loranger)

Melissa Carter - Office of Public Health/Disaster Response

Jamene Dahmer- United Way

Josh Dickson - First Baptist (Ponchatoula)

Debi Fleming - Council on Aging

Housing

Tanya Maybry - Director, Tangipahoa Parish Section 8 Housing (Chair)

Anthony Denenea - Natalbany Rentals

Carolyn Jackson - Northlake Homeless Coalition

Toni Jackson – Housing Specialist, Tangipahoa Parish

Erin Matheny - Southeastern Louisiana University

Amanda Mills - Northlake Homeless Coalition

Infrastructure

Kiley Bates – Executive Director Drainage District No. 1 (Co-Chair)

Andy Currier – Tangipahoa Parish Director of Public Works (Co-Chair)

Dennis Crocker – Tangipahoa Parish Fire District Administrator

Wesley Danna – Tangipahoa Parish

Jack Geautreux – Northshore Home Builders Association

Jim Gray – Tangipahoa Water District

Jason Hood – Tangipahoa Sewer District

Maurice Jordan – Tangipahoa Parish Engineer

Jay Pittman – Spangler Engineering

Dawson Primes – Tangipahoa Parish Homeland Security Director

Natural and Cultural Resources

Carla Tate, Executive Director, Tangipahoa Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau (Chairwoman)

Alvon Brumfield, Louisiana Renaissance Festival

Amy Hoyt – Tangipahoa Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau

Donny Latiolais - Capital Resource Conservation and Development Council

Frank Neelis – Friends of the Manchac Greenway

Debbie Norwood - Louisiana Treasures Museum

Jim Perrin - Collinswood Museum

Whitney Wallace – Louisiana State University Agricultural Extension Service

Planning

Bridget Bailey – Community Development Director Tangipahoa Parish (Chair), 9/23/17 to present

Alyson Lapuma - Community Development Director Tangipahoa Parish (Chair), 5/16/17 to 9/23/17

Lauren Brinkman – Tangipahoa Parish Planning (Co-Chair)

Brad Cascio - Planning Commission Attorney

Missy Cowart – Director of Accounting and Grants Management, Tangipahoa Parish

Lane Daniel – Tangipahoa Parish Planning Commission

John Dardis – Tangipahoa Parish Grant Consultant

Honorable Louis Nick Joseph – Tangipahoa Parish Council District 3






Reynae Langlois – Tangipahoa Parish Planning

Bill Moorman – Tangipahoa Parish GIS

James M. Prather III – Environmental Scientist, ELOS Environmental LLC

Jeff Vallee – DR Horton Construction Company

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Tri-Colored Heron Manchac Swamp: wetlandswanderer.wordpress.com

Tangipahoa Parish was one of seven Louisiana parishes affected by catastrophic floods in both March and August 2016. Both flood events were declared major disasters by the federal government, which activated an array of federal programs to support the state in its response and recovery effort. In April 2017, Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller and parish department directors met with state and federal officials to establish a community recovery planning process for Tangipahoa Parish. The goal of the Tangipahoa Parish Community Recovery Plan is to provide a blueprint that will help the parish manage its recovery for a stronger and more resilient future.

Tangipahoa Parish

Tangipahoa Parish is located in southeastern Louisiana, with its southern border on Lake Pontchartrain and northern border at the Mississippi state line. The parish is vulnerable to tropical storms and extreme rain events because of its low-lying land, meandering rivers, southern border on Lake Pontchartrain and proximity to the Gulf of Mexico. Besides the March and August 2016 flood events, there have been five major disaster declarations in the parish since 2005.

The Tangipahoa River and its tributaries are the primary surface water bodies in the parish. The river originates in southwest Mississippi and enters Louisiana in Tangipahoa Parish. From there, it flows through the parish and empties into Lake Pontchartrain.

Northern Tangipahoa Parish is predominately rural and the south more developed with densely populated towns and small cities. Elevation declines from north to south and along the major drainage features of Tangipahoa River and Chappapeela Creek.

There are no major flood-control structures in Tangipahoa Parish.

March and August Floods of 2016

In Tangipahoa Parish, most of the flooding from the March and August 2016 floods was due to the swelling of the Tangipahoa River and its smaller tributaries that backed up and overflowed during and after the substantial rains. During both

floods, precipitation ranged from 6 to more than 20 inches throughout the Tangipahoa Watershed. The March and August floods resulted in 3 deaths in Tangipahoa Parish and 13 deaths statewide.

Tangipahoa Parish's emergency responders documented more than 5,000 residential and business structures that flooded in March 2016 and more than 10,500 flooded in August. At least 90 percent of applicants who applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance program for the floods in March 2016 also sustained damage in the August floods.

As of October 2017, the parish's combined total for FEMA Individual Assistance registrations was 15,915. The FEMA Public Assistance combined total was 103 projects at a total cost of \$5.3 million.

Community Recovery Planning Process

The parish's recovery planning process was supported by and aligned with the Federal government's National Disaster Recovery Framework. The framework establishes a structure to help coordinate the recovery efforts of the federal government, the private sector, and nongovernmental and community organizations in order to support the state's recovery. The framework is organized into six components or Recovery Support Functions: Community Planning and Capacity Building, Housing, Infrastructure Systems, Economic Recovery, Health and Social Services, and Natural and Cultural Resources.

Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller appointed the parish's community development director as the local disaster recovery manager and steering committee chair. On May 16, 2017, the steering committee, made up of a diverse cross section of the Tangipahoa Parish citizenry, held its first meeting and created six subcommittees: Infrastructure, Housing, Health and Human Services, Economic, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Planning.

From May through November 2017, the Tangipahoa Parish Recovery Committee Steering Committee and subcommittees held 40 meetings and workshops to discuss issues facing the community and share their ideas related to the parish's recovery.

The recovery committee hosted two open houses and conducted a survey that allowed the general public an opportunity to offer feedback on recovery issues and solutions, and prioritize early projects, programs and policies identified by the sub-committees. Based on citizen feedback from the open houses and the survey, the recovery planning sub-committees created a list of projects, programs and policies organized by the six Recovery Support Functions. This list was further refined based on feedback from a second survey and a series of meetings with various civic organizations.

Tangipahoa Parish Recovery Projects, Programs and Policies

The goal of the Tangipahoa Parish Community Recovery Plan, as expressed by the steering committee, is to meet the needs of residents to recover from the 2016 floods, and to implement the projects, policies and programs that will help build a more resilient and safe community. The Tangipahoa Parish Community Recovery Plan identifies action-oriented, community-supported projects, programs and policies that will reach far beyond basic flood recovery to help make the community more resilient.

"I think this one will way surpass the March flood," Miller said. "It just breaks your heart to know that many of these people were just moving back into their homes and now they've been hit again. We're dealing with two 500-year floods in five months."

- Robby Miller, Parish President -



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ROBBY MILLER
PARISH PRESIDENT

November 30, 2017

An Open Letter to the Residents of Tangipahoa Parish:

Over one year ago, the Parish faced its worst flooding disasters in our history. Immediately following the floods, we joined together, neighbor helping neighbor, to show that, "We are One-Tangipahoa". Since that time, the Parish has been working diligently towards a better future for our community.

We have completed an extensive planning process which included a variety of ways we gathered resident input through public meetings, community surveys (in-person and online), and staff participation at numerous events throughout the Parish. This would not have been possible without the active participation of dozens of volunteers who offered their time, talent and commitment to assist in identifying what our community needs to recover physically, financially, and emotionally from a devastating situation.

Many of the initiatives described in this plan are already underway. Recovery will not happen overnight, but rest assured we will rebuild stronger and better. As we continue implementing this plan, I urge those who can assist to please step forward.

Thanks for your support during this recovery and helping us keep Tangipahoa the best Parish in the State!

Respectfully,

Robby Miller, President
Tangipahoa Parish

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DISTRICT 6

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DISTRICT 2
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DISTRICT 5
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DISTRICT 10



INTRODUCTION

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Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller and the parish's department directors met with state and federal officials in April 2017 to establish a community recovery planning process. The goal of the Tangipahoa Parish Community Recovery Plan is to provide a blueprint that will help the parish manage its recovery for a stronger and more resilient future. The plan identifies community-supported projects that will reach far beyond basic flood recovery to help make the community more resilient.

This plan is a living document that can be amended to fit the community's needs as they develop. It is a guide for short-term and long-term initiatives to revitalize Tangipahoa Parish. The plan offers a collection of action-oriented projects, policies, and programs that the entire community can focus on in order to move the parish forward in its recovery process. **Crucial to early success are projects and policies that can be implemented quickly, have significant public support and have available resources.**

The plan was developed with the help of a steering committee and six sub-committees. The committees held meetings, workshops, public input sessions, and consulted with state and federal partners. Community stakeholders worked together to discuss recovery issues facing the parish, and share their ideas for rebuilding. These ideas led to projects, policies and programs needed to help the parish fully recover from the impacts of the 2016 floods in a manner that supports a more resilient and sustainable future for the parish. Community participation resulted in the prioritization of the projects listed in this plan.

The plan contains several projects, policies, and areas where technical studies are needed along with the steps needed to bring these recommendations to reality.



Photo by Tiffany Balley , parish resident

Tangipahoa Parish is located in southeastern Louisiana, with its southern border on Lake Pontchartrain and northern border at the Mississippi state line. The parish sits squarely between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and is approximately 35 miles from each city's boundaries. The parish is 53 miles long and 18 miles wide. Because of its low-lying land, meandering rivers, southern border on Lake Pontchartrain and proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, the parish is vulnerable to tropical storm systems and extreme rain events.

Tangipahoa Parish is located at the intersection of two important transportation corridors for the southeast region: I-55, an important north-south highway that connects the southeast with northern cities; and I-12, a 90-mile roadway that bypasses New Orleans traffic and serves as a more direct route for travel to the transcontinental I-10 corridor. Both highways play a central role in national and state commerce, and serve as vital evacuation and re-entry routes during and after disasters.

There are eight (8) incorporated communities within Tangipahoa Parish. The three largest incorporated communities are Hammond (20,609), Ponchatoula (7,209) and Amite (4,283), the parish seat. Parish farms supply fresh fruits and vegetables to restaurants throughout the greater New Orleans area. A variety of fairs and cultural attractions draw many tourists.

In 2016, the racial makeup of the parish was 67 percent white and 30.3 percent black or African American. Latinos comprise 4.2 percent of the total population. An estimated 24.6 percent of the population are under age 18 and 13.6 percent are over age 65. Nearly one in four people (24 percent) meets the federal poverty definition and is considered vulnerable. In 2016, there were 51,938 housing units with 67.6 percent of those owner-occupied. The median gross rent at that time was \$752.

Tangipahoa Parish is known for its abundance of natural beauty, wildlife and water resources. The Tangipahoa River begins in the state of Mississippi and flows south through the parish to its outlet in Lake Pontchartrain.



Highway map of Tangipahoa Parish



Independence, LA Historic District (National Register of Historic Places)



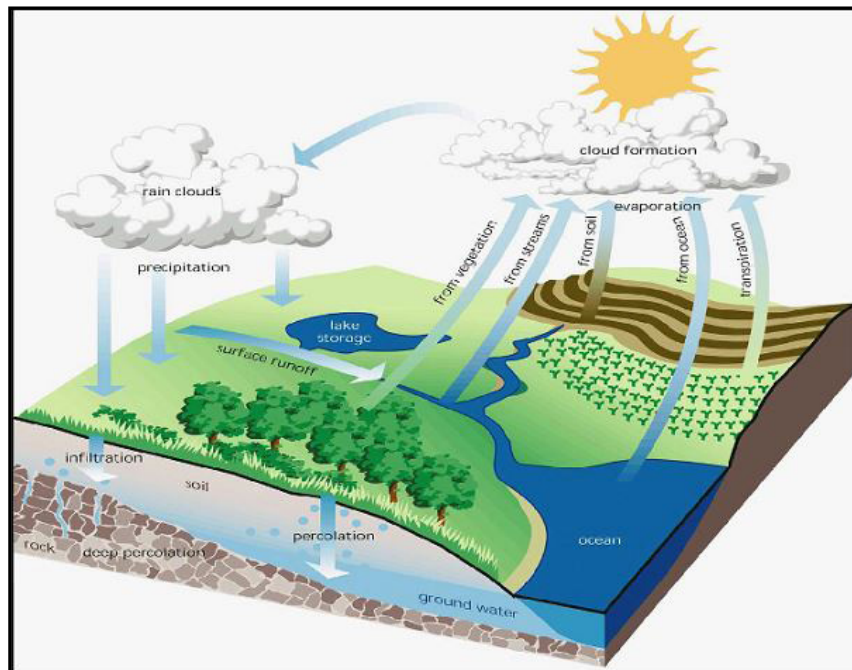
Pontcharoula, LA Historic District (National Register of Historic Places)



Hammond, LA Historic District (National Register of Historic Places)

Ninety-three (93) percent of Tangipahoa Parish is within the Tangipahoa Watershed. A watershed is the area of land that, when it rains, drains to a common outlet, such as a bayou or river.

Portions of the watershed are mapped into known flood plains. These areas are expected to have a 1% chance of flooding each year. The parish has agreed with FEMA to limit development in these areas, and in return, FEMA provides insurance policies. Although it is voluntary, flood insurance is typically required to obtain mortgage financing.



Water cycle diagram

Tangipahoa River Watershed



Watershed area map showing Tangipahoa, St. Tammany and St. Helena Parishes

Tangipahoa Parish, with its history of flooding, is concerned about surface water drainage – especially when the drainage system is overwhelmed and flooding occurs. When rain hits the ground, it can either soak into the ground, evaporate into the atmosphere, or move downhill, becoming surface water runoff. When water lands on a rooftop, parking lot, or roadway, the hard, impermeable surface prevents the rainfall from soaking into the ground. Instead, it runs across the surface of the land, downhill towards a bayou or waterway. Because hard surfaces are usually smoother than permeable vegetated surfaces, the water flows rapidly, and quickly accumulates in the waterway. This can lead to flash flooding, especially during heavy rains. There are extensive natural drainage areas that exist within the watershed boundaries that can absorb some of this excess surface water runoff. Protecting and preserving the water storage capacity of those natural drainage ways will protect the residents of Tangipahoa Parish.

Stormwater management is the responsibility of Gravity Drainage District Number 1, which has jurisdiction in the southern half of the parish. Within the area of the drainage district is a system of canals which are essential to the economic vitality of agriculture and rural residential development. The parish contains two additional small drainage districts which receive limited funding. Currently there is no parish-wide program to maintain stormwater drainage.

Drainage in the southern portion of the watershed flows into Lake Ponchartrain. This region, known as the North Shore, experiences tidal conditions and is vulnerable to storm surge. Rising sea level and the ability of the lake to drain into the Gulf of Mexico are a collective concern of all the parishes that

surround Lake Ponchartrain. Tangipahoa Parish’s primary concern is that the lake water level is low enough to allow the river to operate normally with blockage or back flow.

In summary, viewing flooding as watershed management problem promotes an understanding of how drainage system upgrades are interrelated and impact the entire watershed. Without a full understanding of the natural and manmade drainage system there is a likelihood that clear cutting trees, land development, or drainage improvements in one location will increase flooding elsewhere.

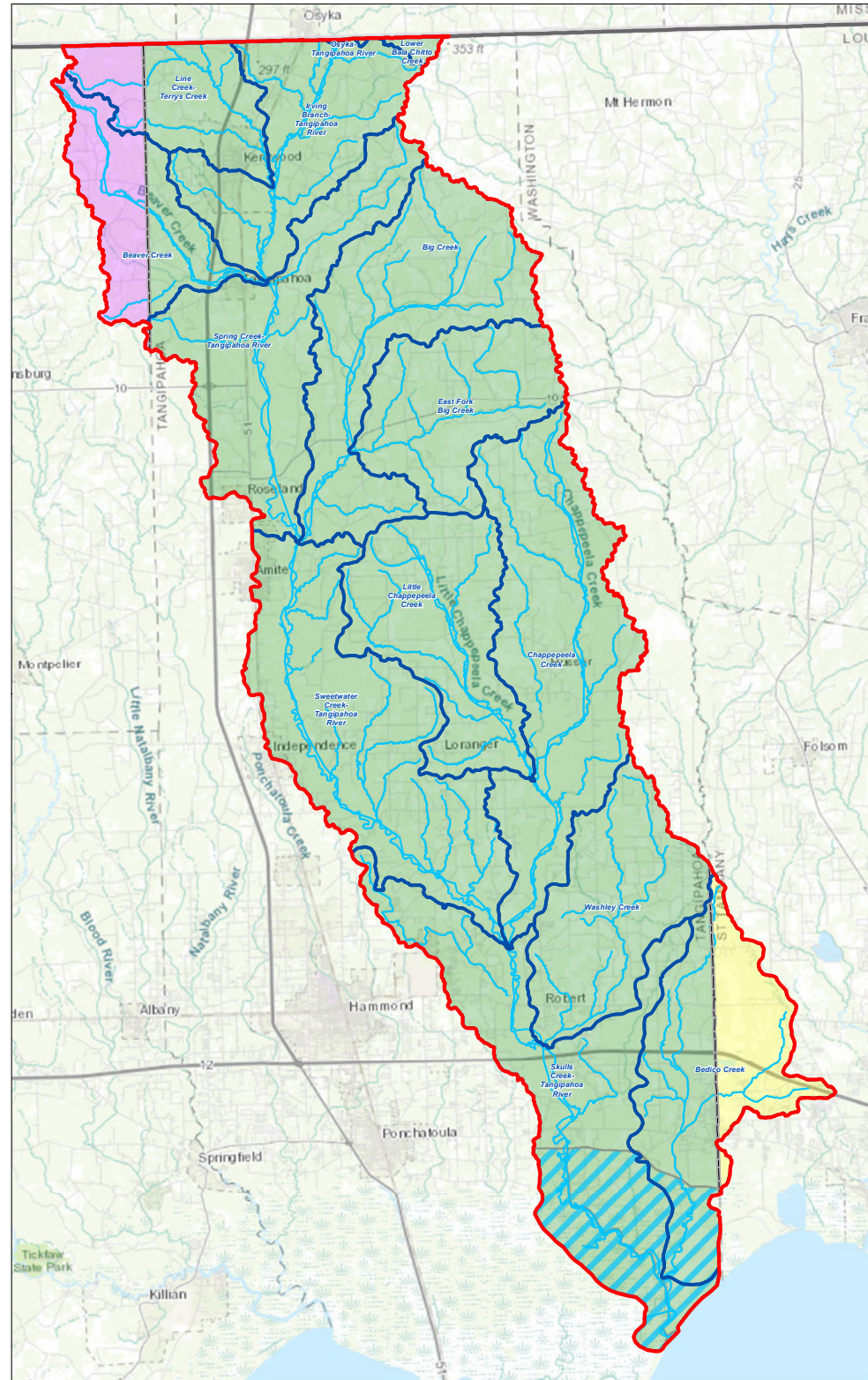
The Tangipahoa Watershed is composed on 14 sub-watersheds which are listed in the table image below.

In 2016, nearly 20% of flooded homes in Tangipahoa Parish were outside the floodplain

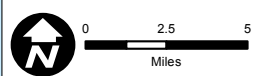
Sub-Watershed HUC-12 Name	Drainage Area (Square Miles)	Sub-Watershed HUC-12 Name	Drainage Area (Square Miles)
Beaver Creek	25	Line Creek-Terrys Creek	22
Bedico Creek	45	Little Chapepeela Creek	38
Big Creek	50	Lower Bala Chitto Creek	1
Chapepeela Creek	62	Skulls Creek-Tangipahoa River	59
East Fork Big Creek	32	Spring Creek-Tangipahoa River	47
Irving Branch-Tangipahoa River	36	Sweetwater Creek-Tangipahoa River	62
Lake Pontchartrain	0	Washley Creek	36

BACKGROUND - WATERSHED

Louisiana Watershed Resiliency Study - Map 1.3.1 Sub-Watersheds - Tangipahoa Watershed



- Tangipahoa Watershed
- Sub-Watershed
- LA State Boundary
- River / Stream / Canal
- Water Feature
- Parishes Affected**
- St. Helena
- St. Tammany
- Tangipahoa
- Parish Boundary

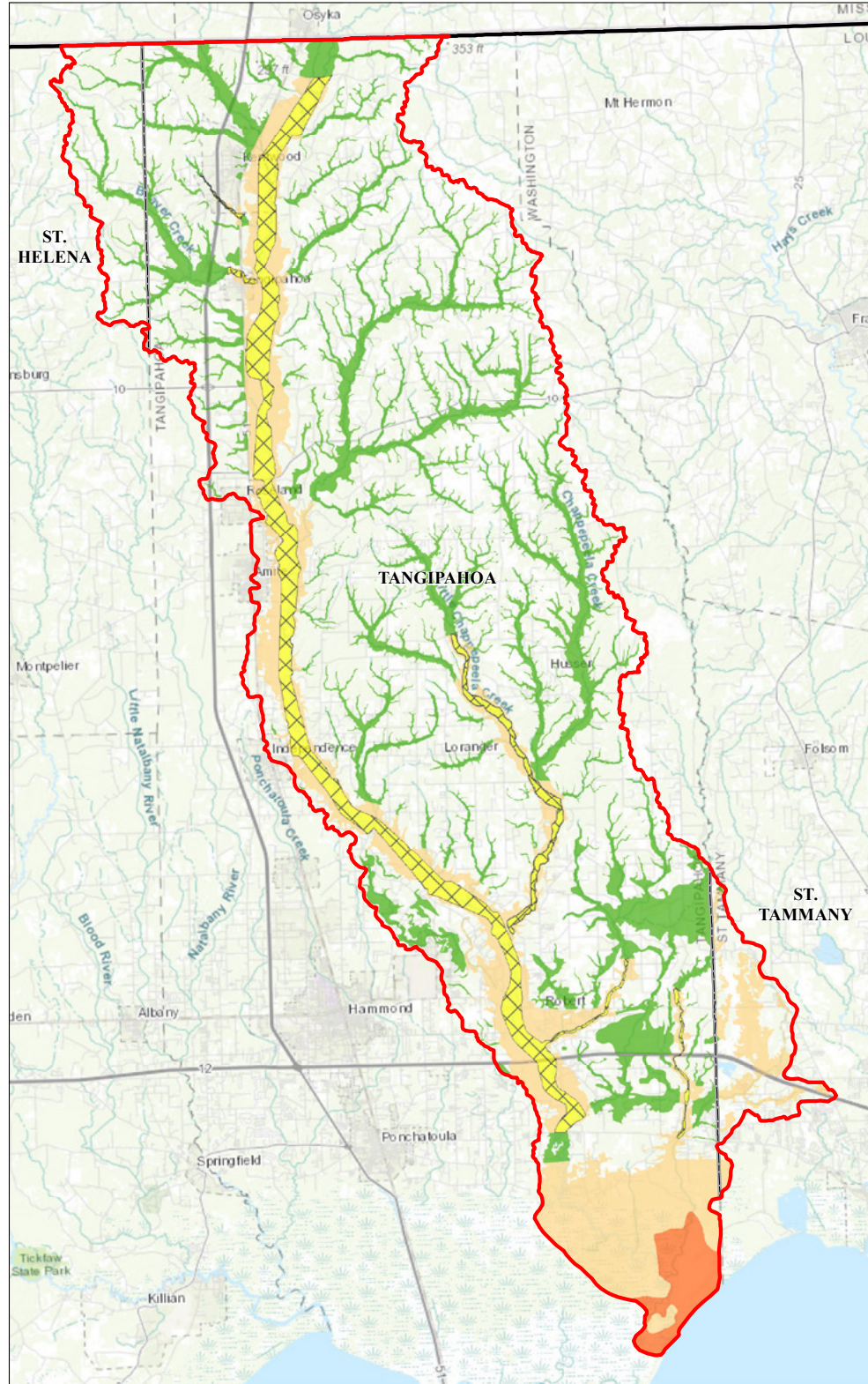


Data Sources: Esri, FEMA, LaDOTD, USGS
 Datum: North American 1983
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Data Updated: 06 June 2017, 1400 CDT

Author: LaWRS_GIS Date: 6/6/2017 Time: 2:23:22 PM Path: ...LA_DR_4277_VMXDs\Mitigation\LaWRS_Projects\SubWatersheds\SubWatersheds_basemap.mxd

Sub-Watershed Area Map

Louisiana Watershed Resiliency Study - Map 2.5.1
Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) - Tangipahoa Watershed



- Tangipahoa Watershed
- Parish Boundary
- LA State Boundary
- Flood Zone**
- A
- AE
- VE
- Regulatory Floodway

Parish	Floodplain Source
Tangipahoa	Effective
St. Tammany	Preliminary
St. Helena	Effective

SFHA Square Mileage and Percent of Watershed: Tangipahoa

Flood Zone A	78.98	15.30%
Flood Zone AE	88.33	17.12%
Flood Zone AO	0.00	0.00%
Flood Zone AH	0.00	0.00%
Flood Zone VE	7.11	1.38%
Total SFHA	174.41	33.80%



Data Sources: Esri, FEMA, LaDOTD, USGS
 Datum: North American 1983
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Data Updated: 13 July 2017, 1100 CDT

Author: LaWRS_GIS Date: 7/13/2017 Time: 11:03:20 AM Path: ...LA_DR_4277_MXD\Mitigation\LaWRS_Projects\Floodplain\Floodplain_Base_20170503.mxd

FEMA Flood Zone Data Map showing Special Flood Hazard Area

BACKGROUND - IMPACT OF MARCH & AUGUST 2016 FLOODS

Heavy rains began March 8, 2016, bringing more than 2 feet of rain and unleashing rivers to historic flood levels in northern Louisiana. This led to a major disaster declaration on March 13, 2016.

Again, starting on August 11, and continuing through August 31, prolonged rainfall resulted in catastrophic flooding that submerged thousands of homes and businesses in the south central areas of the state. The major disaster declaration for this event was on August 14, 2016. The flooding events caused 3 deaths in the parish and 13 deaths statewide.

During each of the flooding events, precipitation ranged from 6 to over 20 inches throughout the Tangipahoa River drainage basin. The parish's emergency responders documented over 5,000 residential and business structures flooding in March 2016 and over 10,500 flooding in August.

Tangipahoa Parish has an extensive history of flooding. Floods are usually due to intense rainfalls associated with moving fronts. During late summer and fall, very heavy rainfall associated with hurricanes can cause floods. Flooding along lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas can occur from either headwater floods, wind-driven wave action from hurricanes, or from both.

There are no major flood-control structures in the parish.



Parish flooding, photo courtesy of abcnews.go.com

National Climate Data Center shows the following major disaster declarations in Tangipahoa Parish since 2005:

- 2005 Hurricane Katrina
- 2005 Hurricane Rita
- 2008 Hurricane Gustav
- 2008 Hurricane Ike
- 2012 Hurricane Isaac
- 2016 March Floods
- 2016 August Floods



Parish flooding, photo courtesy of YouTube.com

BACKGROUND - IMPACT OF MARCH & AUGUST 2016 FLOODS

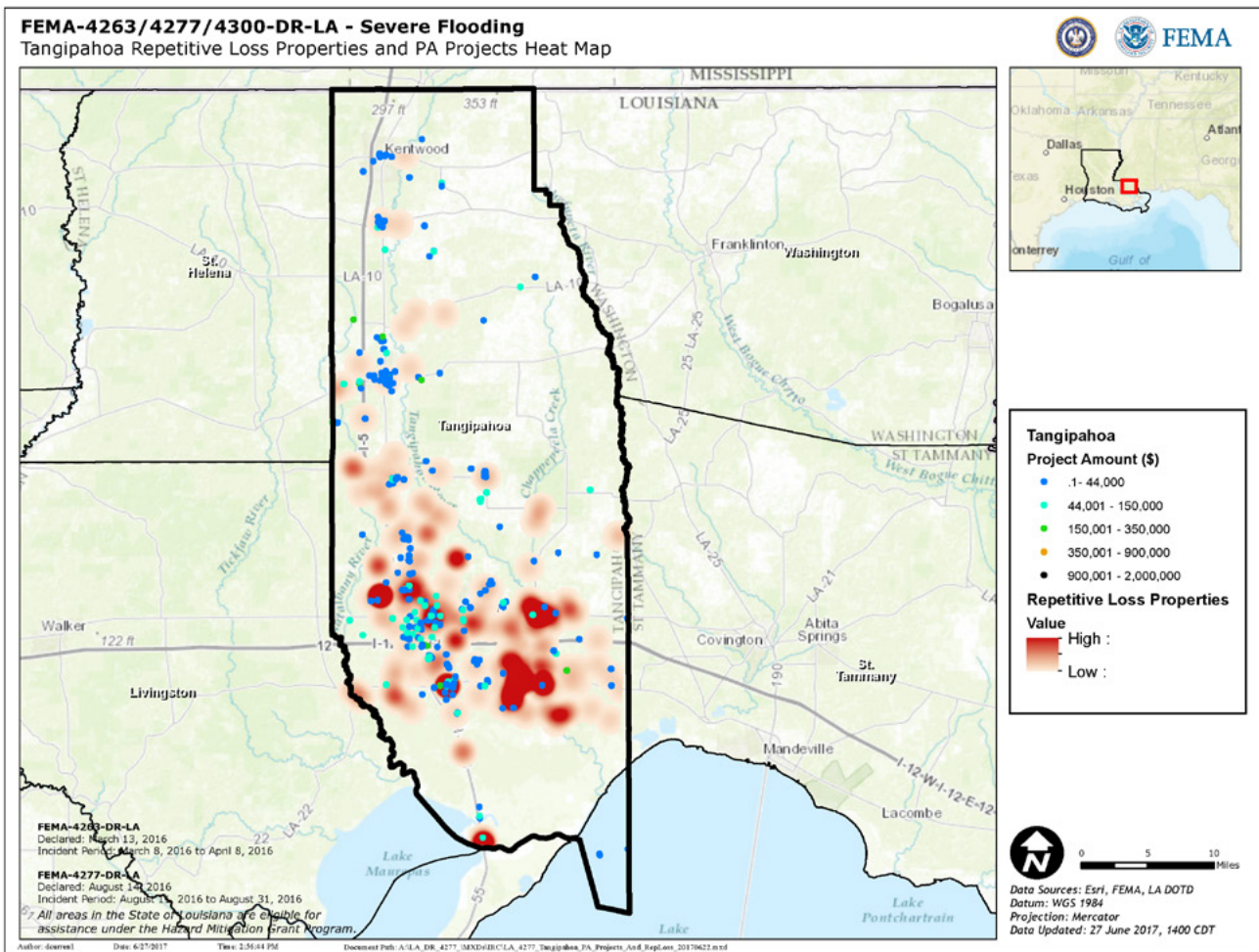
Areas along the Tangipahoa River experienced high peak stream flow during both floods that occurred less than five months apart, causing estimated \$15 billion in damage to homes, businesses, farms, and critical infrastructure.

At least 90 percent of residents impacted in the March flood were hit again by the August floods. In Tangipahoa Parish, 5,862 residents applied for FEMA assistance in March, and 10,053 applied in August. Many flood victims from August's floods were not located in areas know to be at risk for flooding.

While many businesses have reopened and many homes are re-occupied, the impact of the floods reaches far beyond property damage.

These impacts include:

- Displaced residents who may or may not return
- Lack of safe, affordable rental housing for survivors
- Abandoned homes and blight
- Homes with incomplete repairs due to lack of funds
- Loss of employment and closed small businesses
- Fear and uncertainty about future flooding events
- Loss of property values and property tax and utility revenues
- Potential victimization by scam artists and shady contractors



Map of Tangipahoa's Affected Areas in the March and August 2016 Flood Disasters



Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA



RECOVERY PLANNING PROCESS

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Goals for Recovery 20



PLANNING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The parish's recovery planning process was supported by and aligned with the federal government's National Disaster Recovery Framework. The framework establishes a structure to help coordinate the recovery efforts of the federal government, the private sector, along with nongovernmental and community organizations in order to support the state's recovery. The framework is organized into six components or Recovery Support Functions: Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB), Housing, Infrastructure Systems, Economic Recovery, Health and Social Services, and Natural and Cultural Resources.

Beginning on April 3, 2017, Tangipahoa Parish staff supported by a FEMA CPCB team worked together to assess the parish's recovery planning needs. Parish President Robby Miller appointed the parish's Community Development Director as the Project Manager and Steering Committee Chair. Committee chair were asked to recommend additional committee members for appointment by the Parish President.

On May 16, 2017, the Tangipahoa Parish Recovery Plan Steering Committee held its first meeting and created six subcommittees to reflect the NDRF RSFs. The Steering Committee and subcommittees held 40 meetings and workshops from May through November 2017 to discuss issues facing the community and to share ideas related to the parish's recovery.



FEMA



FEMA



FEMA

In order to reach a broader cross section of the public, the steering committee hosted two open houses. The first open house was held in Amite on August 10, 2017, and the second in Hammond on August 17, 2017. During the open houses, the public had an opportunity to provide comments on the issues presented, and prioritize the early projects, programs and policies identified by the sub-committees.

Tangipahoa Parish ran public service announcements on the local radio station beginning three weeks prior to each open house. The local TV station conducted an interview with Parish President Robby Miller to discuss the Tangipahoa Recovery Plan and encourage citizens to attend the open houses. English and Spanish flyers for the open houses were disseminated through subcommittee members' email list and were posted at government facilities. In addition, more than 1,200 copies of the flyers were hand delivered to 78 locations, including libraries, social service agencies, churches and businesses.

To seek additional citizen participation, the parish developed a three page survey. The survey merged open house questions that were posed to the public with past feedback to seek information that was used to help refine priorities and gain a better understanding of specific problem flooding locations and citizen preference on various issues.

After considering the open house comments and survey results, the planning subcommittees created a list of 14 projects and 10 programs/policies. The subcommittees presented the projects, programs and policies to the public in meetings with civic organizations, including the Shake, Rattle and Roll Cheerleading Competition on October 4, 2017 and the Business Expo at the Tangipahoa Parish Fair on October 6, 2017. In addition, the steering committee sought citizen feedback on their preferences through dissemination of a second survey. The purpose of this outreach was to determine citizens' preferences on the projects, programs and policies. This input was used to establish the ranking (high, medium, and low).



FEMA



FEMA

The overall goal of the Tangipahoa Parish Community Recovery Plan, as expressed by the steering committee, is to meet the needs of the residents in recovering from the 2016 floods.

This plan is designed to be used as a blueprint to implement the projects, policies and programs that will help build a more resilient and safer community for all residents.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY PROJECTS

Infrastructure Systems	22
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In response to the floods of March and August 2016, the major concern of Tangipahoa Parish officials has been storm water drainage. Tangipahoa Parish has large-scale flood control issues that require solutions on a watershed level. Small area repetitive flooding is a historic problem. The parish is also experiencing growth that will result in future drainage issues unless storm water management practices are enacted.

Tangipahoa Parish has three drainage districts. Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. #1 is responsible for maintaining 350 miles of drainage canals, and serves the southern half of the parish. Gravity Drainage Districts No. #4 and No. #5, serve portions of the northern half of the parish but are financially constrained to smaller scale maintenance projects. Drainage districts require voter approval to sell bonds to undertake major drainage or flood control projects. A substantial portion of the parish that lies outside the established drainage districts have no publicly maintained drainage canals or mechanism to maintain storm water drains.

The existing system of natural and manmade watercourses requires a rigorous program of maintenance to remove brush, debris and obstructions. The need for maintenance is compounded by the flood events over the last few years. The 2016 Floods created additional debris blockages, and sedimentation that requires restoration.

Other infrastructure issues are related to the impacts of growth (development) and to the expansion and maintenance of infrastructure (roads, sewer systems, water service). Funds for sewer and water districts come from special tax levies. Because tax revenues come after the development occurs, upgrades tend to occur after the system exceeds capacity. It is also difficult for the district utilities to plan for expansion of the system without the benefit of a parish growth management program. This is the reason why resolving the local historic flooding problems is critical. However, it is merely an attempt to catch up with the past. The growth the parish is experiencing will result in future drainage issues without effective surface water management.

This Plan proposes a strategy for infrastructure recovery that entails repairing overtopped roads and neighborhood drainage systems by doing small projects on a priority needs basis. The first action is to identify routinely flooded areas and road segments that are closed due to flooding. These road segments will be further evaluated based on the population served, the need to support commerce, employment and public safety. The most critical road segments are examined along with the associated upstream drainage system to determine if cost effective design solutions are available.

The parish also proposes projects that would allow the parish to manage stormwater on a watershed level. For example Parish leaders have developed a strategy to manage storm water using major and minor diversion lakes that are designed to limit or slow the flow of storm water in the higher elevated middle and northern parts of the parish in order to protect the more developed and lower in elevation southern portions of the parish. This approach has the potential to reduce the amount of flood prone property and accommodate the projected growth of the parish. The man-made and natural diversion lakes or wetlands also have the potential to support water based recreational attractions.

Community Project Priority Ranking by Numbers 1 through 3:

3	HIGH
2	MODERATE
1	LOW

PROJECT NAME: CONDUCT A PARISH-WIDE STORM WATER ENGINEERING STUDY

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The study will create a stream flow and storm surge timing model of the entire parish gravity drainage system. The study will be designed to support storm water management and inform the design of drainage improvements that will enhance the overall system rather than improving performance in one area at the expense of downstream property. The study will provide the basic data needed to plan improvements to the system and understand the impacts of additional channelization, tree clearance or urban development in the watershed.

Recovery Value

The study will support informed decisions about the location for constructing drainage projects and enable better utilization of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Challenges

The study requires extensive on-site measurement, surveying of stream gradients (elevations) and calculation of flow and capacity. This type of work when coupled with the building and calibrating a model of the system, is estimated to cost \$2,000,000.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG - DR)
- Local University in-kind and other local sources



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to work with the parish president on this project. Examine the work that has been done in St. Tammany Parish. Apply for assistance from Engineers Without Borders USA to develop a drainage master plan.



Determine how to support the Clinton S. Wilson, Ph.D., P.E of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College CE 4260 (hydrologic design) spring 2018 class to reduce the cost of the study.

PROJECT NAME: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT LARGE DETENTION LAKE(S) ALONG THE TANGIPAHOA RIVER TO CONTROL FLOW RATE AND REDUCE FLOODING.

Priority: HIGH 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As part of the investigation and study of the parish's drainage issues, determine if large scale lake construction with major storm water detention capacity would mitigate routine and major flood events, lower the cost of small scale projects, provide recreational opportunities, and support tourism.

Recovery Value

Large scale projects may create visible change in the impact of future flooding events in the near term. As a consequence, large scale projects may be easier to understand and supported by the public.

Challenges

A project of this scale will require a major investment from the parish and require debt service payments for 20-30 years.



Tangipahoa River

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil and Water Conservation
- Real estate investors
- Private donors



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to determine the effectiveness of large scale detention on HUC 8 watersheds in terms of overall flood control.



Develop scope of work for design of project.



Model the project(s) effectiveness using major rain events in numerous locations.



Estimate the cost of the project(s).



Estimate long-term recreational and economic benefit.

PROJECT NAME: FOCUS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN FLOOD IMPACTED (LOCAL) AREAS.

Priority: HIGH 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Undertake an inventory of routinely flooded neighborhoods and the locations where roads are often flooded. Examine the drainage characteristics of the smaller flood impacted areas in order to identify potential solutions, such as elevating the roadbed, small scale upgrades to open drains, larger road crossing structures (culverts) or storm water detention. The parish is currently considering this type of project in the vicinity of Beaver Creek and the Yellow Water River.

Recovery Value

Small-scale projects may mitigate existing neighborhood flooding issues or help determine that larger scale projects are needed.

Challenges

Projects of this scale may have a high cost in relationship to the benefit in the surrounding area. In some cases, due to the lack of an adequate outlet or gradient, a gravity drainage solution may not be available.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil and Water Conservation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- State of Louisiana Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Private donors
- State of Louisiana Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program; Drainage District current funds or special assessment
- US Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center and Water Security Division
- Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development - Statewide Flood Control Program

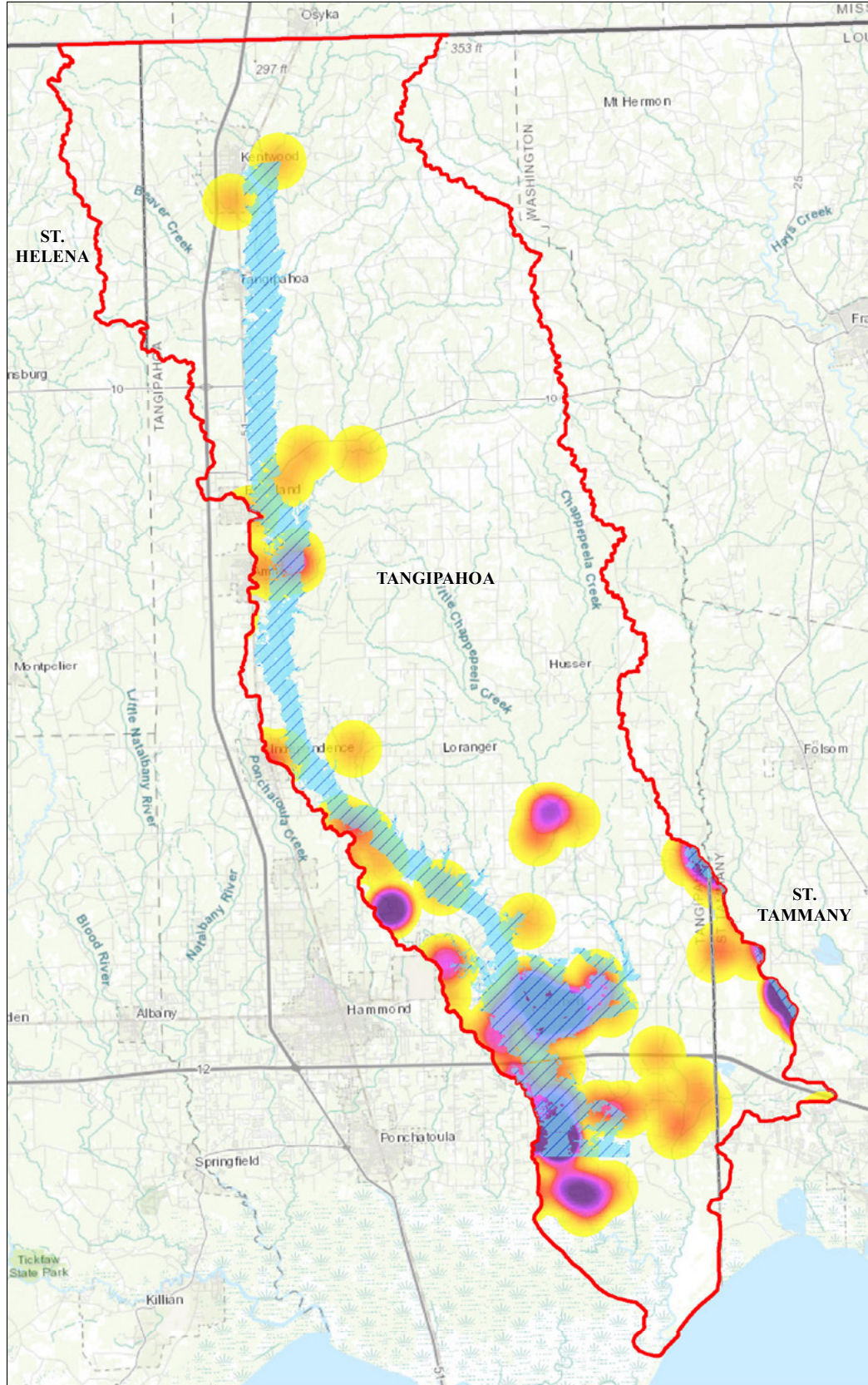


ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to identify routine flooded locations.
- Gather historic data on actual flood evaluation, residential damage, and frequency of road flooding for each area.
- Develop a cost effective solution to mitigate flooding.
- Determine the cost of the project and the potential for funding under HMGP or Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR).

Louisiana Watershed Resiliency Study - Map 2.1.1

FEMA-4263-DR-LA - March 2016 - NFIP Claims - Tangipahoa Watershed



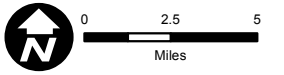
Legend

- Tangipahoa Watershed
- Parish Boundary
- LA State Boundary
- 4263 USGS Flood Extent

NFIP Claim Density

NFIP Claims in SFHA	120
NFIP Claims not in SFHA	48
NFIP Claims in 4263 USGS Extent	98
NFIP Claims not in 4263 USGS Extent	70
NFIP Claims in 4277 USGS Extent	121
NFIP Claims not in 4277 USGS Extent	47
Total NFIP Claims in Watershed	168

Using Esri's Kernel Density tool, this map provides a spatial measurement of features' proximity to each other, and is meant for use in qualitative and relative interpretation of the observed data. Density is calculated by dividing count by area, and kernel size is calculated by an assigned value of 1 mile for the search radius. Darker areas represent areas with higher counts, while lighter areas represent areas with lower counts.



Data Sources: Esri, FEMA, LaDOTD, USGS
 Datum: North American 1983
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Data Updated: 17 July 2017, 1500 CDT

Author: LaWRS_GIS Date: 7/17/2017 Time: 3:27:30 PM Path: ...MXDs\Mitigation\LaWRS_Projects\NFIP_Claims\4263_NFIP_WS_KD.mxd

FEMA NFIP Map of Flood Claims from 2016

PROJECT NAME: STREAMLINE PROCESS TO REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE EXISTING DRAINAGE SYSTEM (LOCAL CREEKS, CANALS, ETC.)

Priority: HIGH 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Existing permitting process has caused extreme delays in the parish drainage districts efforts to maintain man-made channels. Permit approval often takes 12-15 months. Tangipahoa Parish will be using the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers General Permit 159 which allows minor debris removal activities with a shorter review period. It was reported by the Tangipahoa Parish Emergency Manager that about 600 trees fell during the August floods remain as obstructions to drainage canals.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- American Public Works Association, Louisiana Chapter
- Louisiana State University - Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Louisiana State University Sea Grant Program
- Louisiana State University Coastal Sustainability Studio
- Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)

Recovery Value

Failure to properly maintain drainage canals along with delays in removing post disaster fallen trees and other debris results in increased flood damage to property and infrastructure.

Challenges

The permitting process is a constant challenge for the routine maintenance of the drainage system. When major storm events occur, the slow permitting process delays recovery and increases flood risk.



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to clarify permitting issues and explore actions that may reduce review time.



Parish officials will use U.S. Army Corp of Engineers General Permit 159 to shorten permit processing time when possible.

PROJECT NAME: ESTABLISH PARISH-WIDE DRAINAGE DISTRICTS.

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Parish has 3 drainage districts with independent funds for the maintenance and upgrade of drainage canals. District #1 is located in the southern portion of the parish and has the capacity to effectively manage storm water. Districts #4 and #5 are funded to maintain a smaller network of drains. The remainder of the Parish is outside of any drainage district. An objective of the project is to determine how to fairly treat tax payers in the existing districts, while expanding the system to cover the entire Parish. This could be done either by creating new district(s) or establishing a single parish-wide district.

Recovery Value

The parish has no flood control structures; hence, the drainage districts are an important means of flood mitigation.

Challenges

Determining how to use property taxes to fairly charge property owners for needed drainage improvements given that the density of development and the evaluation of property varies greatly within the parish.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP)
- Louisiana State University - Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Louisiana State University Sea Grant Program
- Louisiana State University Coastal Sustainability Studio



ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to undertake a study of the natural and manmade drainage system, the size of the smaller watersheds within Tangipahoa Parish, and the slope, soils, land cover, and land use in each small watershed.
- The study would access the general and flood control benefits of drainage improvements.
- This information, when incorporated into a parish-wide storm water engineering study and an analysis of the impact of changes in the requirements for new development, could be used to develop a storm water /flood protection master plan.
- The master plan will help determine the scale of the program and the scope of needed improvements.
- The establishment of additional drainage districts or incorporating into expanded ones will provide an additional funding source.

Following the March and August 2016 flood events, the rental housing market became tighter due to competition from neighboring parish residents seeking housing they could afford. Renters comprise almost one-third of the population.

Many renters in the parish were displaced and have had difficulty returning to Tangipahoa Parish. This had previously occurred following Hurricane Katrina. The lack of affordable housing for the local workforce has been a concern for some time. According to the Louisiana Housing Corporation 2014 Housing Needs Assessment for Louisiana, gross rent as a percent of income) has become a substantial issue in Louisiana. In 2000, 29.8% of renters paid more than 35% of their gross income on housing expenses. In 2010, this ratio increased to 44.6%, an increase of 14.8 percentage points. If we examine the percentage of families paying more than 30% of their gross income in housing expenses, the estimate in 2000 was 36% while in 2010 the estimate is 53.1%.

In Tangipahoa Parish, 2,070 owner-occupied households reported damage in excess of \$5,000. Although these homes were required to have flood insurance, the majority of these homes were without flood insurance because much of the flooding occurred outside known flood prone areas. This created financial distress for middle to moderate income families that lacked adequate resources to rebuild. There remains a need to educate these home owners in managing their risks, the need for flood insurance, how to navigate the assistance processes, and ways to connect these families with the local non-profit assistance programs.

Additional concerns include the lack of affordable, accessible housing for the elderly, disabled and special needs residents who live in repetitive flood areas. The 2014 Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) estimated that 58.2% of Tangipahoa's elderly population were living below at the low income level (80% of the Area Median Income). The report also estimated that the portion of the population living in poverty exceeded 22%. Finally, the HNA estimates that persons with disabilities made up 17.5% of the population with concentrations around Hammond and in the northern-most sections of the Parish. These vulnerable residents may have extreme difficulty finding suitable replacement housing that they can afford.

The Housing Subcommittee used residents' input to help prioritize projects that they developed to meet identified needs. They focused on locating and leveraging funding sources and development tools to provide a variety of housing options to meet those needs. During the planning process, residents echoed the proposition that housing was one of their highest priorities.

The projects presented in this section address new construction, rehabilitation, home-buyer assistance, and rental assistance options and opportunities, all of which have the goal of increasing the number of affordable permanent housing and rental units.



Aurora Place Residential Duplex

PROJECT NAME: CREATE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT HOME OWNERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES; FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT; HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS; AND RENTER’S RIGHTS AND LANDLORD RESPONSIBILITIES.

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Create a public education program to provide the following information: home ownership responsibilities; budgeting and managing finances; available housing assistance programs; and renters rights and landlord responsibilities.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Local philanthropic groups, e.g.,
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- Gulf Coast Housing Partnership
- Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
- Louisiana Housing Corporation

Recovery Value

Informed home owners and renters will be more resilient to natural disaster and will understand options and programs available to help their recovery.

Challenges

Finding nonprofits with the expertise to meet this need, i.e., HUD-certified housing counseling agencies. Obtaining other resources to meet the educational program needs.



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to conduct an analysis of need within the parish.



Determine needed resources and investigate sources available.



FEMA

PROJECT NAME: INCREASE SPECIAL NEEDS/SENIOR HOUSING

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Construct housing complexes, initially focused in the northern half of the Parish, to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities. The overall strategy is to work with the private sector and affordable housing organizations to increase housing targeted to serve elderly, and special needs populations.

Recovery Value

The Tangipahoa residents and nonprofit agency representatives identified this as an outstanding need within the parish. These vulnerable populations were at high risk of displacement during the flood events. They have found it challenging to return to their pre-disaster homes. The existing facilities that serve these segments of the population are subject to long waiting lists for housing units.

Challenges

Finding developers with the mission and expertise to meet this need. In addition, obtaining adequate funding to meet the need.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Local philanthropic groups, e.g.,
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- LA Department of Health Permanent Supportive Housing
- Louisiana Housing Corporation
- Enterprise Community Partners, Inc
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation



ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to inventory existing special needs and senior housing units, analyze demand, and determine gap.
- Develop cost estimates of facilities that can fill gap.
- Determine resources needed. Identify and partner with local developers working in this field.

PROJECT NAME: CREATE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST PRIVATE LANDLORDS WITH DISASTER RECOVERY

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Private rental property owners are not eligible for government support to rebuild their damaged units after a disaster. The rental market in the Parish relies on these properties to help meet the post disaster demand for rental units.

Provide financial assistance to private rental property owners, through direct loans by either Tangipahoa Parish, financial institution, or nonprofit organization (possibly using loan guarantees from government or foundation).

Recovery Value

Direct assistance to private landlords will enable the housing market to recovery faster and reduce the needs for longer term temporary housing assistance and the need for families to relocate to find available housing.

Challenges

Finding adequate amounts of funding.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Local philanthropic groups, e.g.,
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- Cox Enterprises/James M. Cox Foundation
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- St. Bernard Project
- American Planning Association
- Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery
- Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to develop these programs



Inventory rental property owners impacted by the disasters, damage incurred, and financial assistance needed. Determine extent of issue and resources needed.

PROJECT NAME: INCREASE AVAILABLE RENTAL HOUSING

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

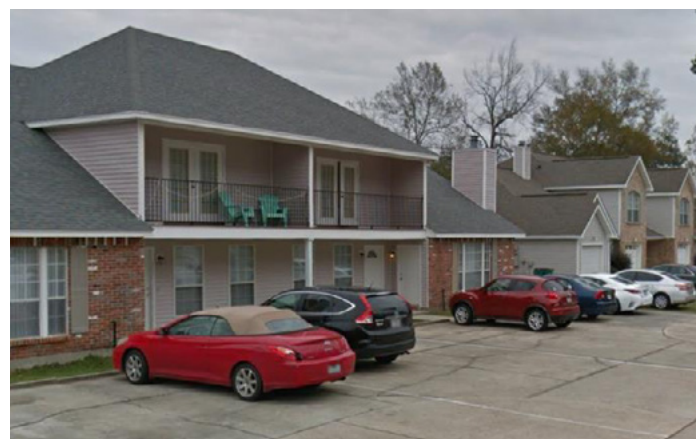
Increase rental housing in the parish through the following: 1. Encourage use of low income housing and new markets tax credits to help support development of affordable rental housing; 2. Establish rental assistance program for disaster displaced renters; and 3. Encourage workforce housing near employment centers.

Recovery Value

The availability of affordable housing is a necessary component or a resilient community. The 2016 floods cause an affordable housing shortage from Baton Rouge to Hammond. Additional rental housing in this area is an essential to the current recovery and continued disaster resilience.

Challenges

Educating and recruiting developers to engage in tax credit projects; finding adequate funding for rental assistance program; and recruiting developers and employers to participate in workforce housing development.



Medium Density Residential Development (Tangi Lakes Townhomes)

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Local philanthropic groups, e.g.,
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- Cox Enterprises/James M. Cox Foundation
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
- Neighbor Works America
- Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to develop these projects.



Inventory existing rental housing units, and calculate demand and gap.



Investigate resources needed to help fill the gap and work with local developers to develop and site housing projects.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Tangipahoa Parish is rich in natural and cultural resources. Cultural resources include eight museums; historic downtown districts in the cities of Ponchatoula, Hammond, Independence, and Amite; and 30 properties listed on the National Historic Register.

There are also numerous festivals and events year-round to celebrate the culture of the parish and its communities. These events include Ponchatoula's Strawberry Festival, Old Farmer's Day in Loranger, the Italian Festival and Sicilian Festival.

Southeastern University runs "Fanfare", which is a performing arts festival that brings professional theatre, dance, and musical productions to the campus. Tangipahoa Parish is in a unique location to attract tourists. The parish is equidistant from the two largest cities in Louisiana, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Tourist attractions that draw people and income from all over the region, include the Global Wildlife Refuge on the eastern edge of the parish and the Renaissance Festival located just outside of Hammond.

Parish Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) include: a portion of 124,567 acre Maurepas Swamp; Joyce WMA (27,965 acres); Sandy Hollow WMA (4,655 acres); and Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA (1,643 acres). These areas provide the public with opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, bird watching, photography and other outdoor activities.

The parish is proud of its agricultural heritage. Agriculture plays an important role in the parish, which has 1,188 farms totaling 123,861 acres. The parish ranks in the top five in the state for production of oats, corn silage, milk, cattle, horses and goats. Annual agriculture revenues are estimated at \$45 million with 40 percent from crops and the remaining 60 percent from livestock. Ponchatoula is known as the "strawberry capital of Louisiana." Agriculture is the reason for the Florida Parishes Arena, built by the parish government in Amite to support cultural events and fairs. The arena host regional 4-H and the Future Farmers of America events.

Agri-tourism is the fastest growing sector of the tourism market. Liuzza Farms, the largest agricultural concern in the parish has been doing agri-tourism for years with farm tours, u-pick and other hands-on experiences. According to Bloomberg News, agri-tourism is expected to grow at 15 percent per year for the next 10 years. Agri-tourism can provide opportunities for local farmers to add more value to their crops, creating a new branch of the tourism industry in the parish, and providing citizens with more options for fresh locally grown food can strengthen the resilience and economic opportunities of Tangipahoa Parish.

Conservation of natural resources has a mutually beneficial relationship with flood prevention. Although some flooding is required to support natural resources, extreme flooding can also damage the resources. Examples include the rich agricultural topsoil deposited by floods, the riverine gravel deposits that supply the aggregates market and the wetlands and bayous that help absorb heavy rains and buffer inland areas from storm surge.

The parish's strategy is to take advantage of its location, cultural history, and abundant natural resources in order to focus on sustainable activities such as agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and cultural heritage tourism. Developing these natural assets requires additional amenities, such as publicly accessible restrooms, parking, user information and trash service.



Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Manchac Greenway

PROJECT NAME: EXPAND PARISH ATTRACTIONS BY SUPPORTING AGRITOURISM, MUSEUMS, HISTORIC DISTRICTS/SITES AND EXPANSION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANCHAC GREENWAY.

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide enhanced organizational leadership to promote the Greenway in Tangipahoa Parish, and initiate agri-tourism and cultural tourism working groups. This project will analyze needs, resources and constraints to determine the best approaches to take.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- US Department of Interior
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- U. S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Recreational Trails Program
- Louisiana State Parks Recreational Trails Program
- American Institute Conservation
- Area philanthropic organization and conservation groups
- The Nature Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- The Conservation Fund
- National Audubon Society
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- Tony Hawk Foundation




Recovery Value

The long-term conservation of the Manchac Greenway will help maintain the swampland in the parish as a storm surge barrier. This type of tourism provides great opportunity for economic development based on natural and cultural resources.

Challenges

The project along the Manchac Greenway requires the cooperation of two parish governments, three state agencies and the CN Railroad. and recruiting developers to engage in tax credit projects; finding adequate funding for rental assistance program; and recruiting developers and employers to participate in workforce housing development.

 ACTION STEPS

-  The Friends of the Manchac Greenway is the champion for this project along with the parish Community Development Department.
-  The National Park Service (NPS), Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program is providing technical assistance on trail development.
-  The NPS report, scheduled to be completed in January of 2018, will provide the basis for the development of additional projects.

PROJECT NAME: DEVELOP MANCHAC GREENWAY TRAIL AMENITIES

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Manchac Greenway Trail requires parking, drinking water, restroom facilities, picnic tables and shaded pavilions, additional walking trails, and signage.

Recovery Value

These amenities are essential to the viability of the greenway. The success of the Manchac Greenway will conserve thousands of acres of vacant land that is subject to storm surge for tropical weather events.

Challenges

The Manchac Greenway Project requires the cooperation of two parish governments, three state agencies and the CN Railroad to develop a master plan. Joint-use or memorandums of understanding need to be developed with Louisiana Fish & Wildlife for use of existing parking (which also currently requires annual US Fish & Wildlife license).

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- US Department of Interior
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program
- Philanthropic organization and conservation groups
- The Nature Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- The Conservation Fund
- National Audubon Society
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- Tony Hawk Foundation



ACTION STEPS



The Friends of the Manchac Greenway is the champion for this project along with the parish Community Development Department. The group is working to develop a master plan for greenway project.



The master planning process will include a marketing study to determine strategies to increase public use of trail; seek the cooperation and buy-in from the public and private interests along the trail in order to develop trail signage, and parking facilities.



Friends of Manchac Greenway



Kenyo of Pensacola

PROJECT NAME: CONSERVE/INCREASE OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PARKS AND TRAILS

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Develop a structure to support the dedication and proper management of open space. Acquire properties or have conservation easements placed on suitable properties.

Recovery Value

Reserving land for parks, open space and trails will support healthy recreational activities and low cost storm water management.

Challenges

The cost of obtaining, holding, and managing land in a trust for future recreational development. Lack of adequate land use controls



Tickfaw State Park and Lake

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Philanthropic organization and conservation groups:
 - Land Trust for Louisiana
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
 - The Conservation Fund
 - National Audubon Society
 - National Environmental Education Foundation
 - Tony Hawk Foundation
- Department of Interior (DOI)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- HMGP
- CDBG-DR
- USDA



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to identify natural and scenic properties that warrant conservation.



Encourage the dedication or set-aside of land for future parks and trails when new subdivisions and other projects are reviewed.

Health and Social Services includes public health (including behavioral health), healthcare, and social service networks. Healthcare services are critical to economic stability and quality of life. Nevertheless, Tangipahoa Parish lacks adequate mental health service providers and programs, which became more apparent as a result of the impacts of flooding:

The 2016 Louisiana Caring Communities Youth Survey for Tangipahoa Parish students shows the following data:

- 26 percent of 10th and 12th grade students indicate a need for emotional health services due to self-reported psychological distress;
- 29 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders have considered attempting suicide.
- Nearly 14 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders have attempted suicide

Stress levels are elevated during times of crisis such as natural disasters. Displacement of families, disruption of life cycles, and other negative impacts related to the disaster increase the levels of stress and mental anxiety within the affected population. The psychological impact of the flooding can be widespread and long lasting. Vulnerable populations, including seniors, have a particularly difficult time dealing with the loss of routines, homes, possessions, and the grief that goes along with these losses. For some vulnerable populations, these changes have made independent living impossible. Many such impacts were observed and identified in Tangipahoa after the floods of 2016.

Following the floods of 2016, volunteer efforts initiated by the faith-based community included assistance with the removal of damaged household belongings and wet sheet-rock from homes. It became clear that there is a need for consistent training of volunteers. For example, some volunteers removed and disposed of cabinets that were salvageable. There was also a need for improved coordination of supply distribution and a better method to prevent contractor fraud.

Health and Social Service committee members proposed projects to help address issues associated with health and social services, which resulted from the 2016 floods. Community input substantiated the need for and support of the projects listed below.

PROJECT NAME: STANDARDIZE TRAINING AND REGISTRATION FOR VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS POST DISASTERS

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A program consistently and accurately training of volunteer groups. A program to credential and registration residential contractors.

Recovery Value

Recovery is enhanced by assuring that costly mistakes do not occur in either mucking out homes or selection of contractors.

Challenges

Establishing the programs within the proper jurisdictional entities and the logistics of program implementation, including staffing and resources.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- US Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of Agriculture
- Local philanthropic groups:
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- Parish budget
- Disasterready.org
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army



ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to identify volunteer training program needs.
- Examine existing programs that certify disaster volunteer groups.
- Review the existing contractor registration practices and the process for outside contractors to work in the parish.
- Establish a registration program for volunteers and contractors.

PROJECT NAME: MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Acquire a Mobile Medical Unit to improve the delivery of health services post disaster and year-round, especially in rural areas.

Recovery Value

Access to healthcare has been an outstanding issue in the parish, particularly in rural areas and for the most vulnerable residents. Natural disasters exacerbate the condition and demonstrate the need to bring care to neighborhood or village.

Challenges

The logistics of consistently improving access to health services, both pre-and post-disaster and having adequate resources to support the effort. Establishing a memorandum of understanding between healthcare providers for delivery of services.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- US Health and Human Services Department
- US Department of Agriculture - Rural Development
- Philanthropic groups:
 - Boo Grigsby Foundation
 - The Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation
 - Kresge Foundation
 - CVS Health
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- North Oaks Health System



ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to help North Oaks Health System of Hammond LA in developing cost estimates for capitalizing the project and cost/benefit analysis for implementation.
- Recruit other allied healthcare providers to develop a partnership to support the program.

PROJECT NAME: MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER/SHELTER

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Design and build a Multi-Purpose Community Center with the capacity to provide warehouse space emergency shelter and community events.

Recovery Value

Several facility needs became apparent during the 2016 storms. These included: medically necessity sheltering, space to staging, store and control of donated goods, and supplies. A central located facility could accommodate these needs and make response and early recovery efforts more efficient.

Challenges

Finding the most suitable location with easy access to the roadway system. Designing an adequately sized and functional building. Obtaining resources necessary to build and operate the facility as intended.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- U.S. Health and Human Services Department
- US Department of Agriculture - Rural Development
- U.S. Housing and Urban Development
- Philanthropic groups:
 - The Home Depot Foundation
 - Praxair Foundation
 - Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation
 - Lowe's
 - Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
 - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation



ACTION STEPS



Identify working group to develop a capital operating and maintenance budget for this project.



Investigate funding sources for project construction.



Identify location for center/shelter.



Acquire site, design and build the center.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The 2016 Louisiana floods had a significant effect on the economy of Tangipahoa Parish. The floods affected many farming operations and businesses, and disrupted vital transportation links. The flooding event revealed the need to diversify the economy, making it more resilient and less dependent on a few major employers. In community/economic development, diversification is resilience. The parish is in a good position to provide training and education needed to support diversification. Both Southeastern Louisiana University and Northshore Technical Community College are capable of providing the educational and training needs of new and emerging industries.

Tourism and economic development are interwoven and interdependent. Tourism creates wealth by bringing in dollars from outside visitors providing more opportunities for visitors to enjoy Tangipahoa Parish.

Based on a news report from WDSU TV 6 New Orleans on Oct 19, 2017 "The First Guaranty Bank President, Alton B. Lewis predicted that the parish will have the second fastest economic growth rate in the state. The parish is expected to add about 600 jobs next year, and another 400 the year after."

PROJECT NAME: DEVELOP A LOAN PROGRAM TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE SHORT-TERM WORKING CAPITAL TO DISASTER-IMPACTED SMALL BUSINESSES.

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Being in a position to help during the first weeks in a post disaster environment is essential to the survival of small businesses. This project would create a loan program that could be used to meet business survival needs for cash flow.

Recovery Value

Impacted businesses were not able to receive money needed to address immediate financial needs such as removing debris, making repairs, making up for revenue loss during the interruption of business, and funding for recovery of customer base or lost supplies and equipment not covered by insurance.

FEMA estimates that within three years of a major disaster, 40 percent of impacted businesses will close. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, the lack of capital is the primary reason why these businesses fail.

Challenges

The existing U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Disaster Loan Program is helpful to some small business owners. However, some business owners do not qualify for the program, and others need capital more rapidly than SBA can provide. There are also issues associated with the time and effort it takes to apply for SBA disaster loan funding.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Louisiana Small Business Development Center
- National Development Council
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Philanthropic - FedEx Cares
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- NewCorp
- Office Depot Foundation
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- Whitney Bank Corporate Philanthropy



ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to create a proposal, including operational details.
- Meet with funders, including financial institutions, to determine their level of participation in terms of contribution to the fund.
- Work with the SBA’s Disaster Loan Program to allow businesses that sign a release form to reuse the information they provided to the SBA for other potential loan applications.
- Banks with long-standing relationships with these businesses may be willing to accept those applications and consider funding directly.
- Encourage businesses to utilize the state of Louisiana Office of Community Development disaster loan program.

PROJECT NAME: PROVIDE TEMPORARY SHARED WORKSPACE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO USE UNTIL THEY CAN RE-OPEN.

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Identify and secure a multi-purpose space that can accommodate truck deliveries, provide space for meetings and computer work stations with high speed Wi-Fi.

Recovery Value

After a disaster, reopening quickly and fulfilling orders are essential to the survival of small businesses. Many small businesses lack working capital or line of credit financial arrangements with banks. Without revenue from sales these businesses usually fail within months of the time of disaster impact. Re-establishing their customer base after 3-6 months of inactivity is highly unlikely.

Challenges

Due to the size of the parish, several facilities need to be identified in advance of a disasters.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Southeastern Louisiana University
- Tangipahoa Emergency Management
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Whitney Bank Corporate Philanthropy
- JM Kaplan Fund
- Home Depot Foundation
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to identify sites and obtain written agreements with owners and property managers.



Develop a communications plan to inform small businesses of the program and how to identify a facility.

PROJECT NAME: ASSIST EMPLOYEES IN RETURNING TO WORK BY PROVIDING CLEAN CLOTHES, SHOWERS, AND TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES.

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

After the 2016 floods, some of the parish's major employers have struggled from the inability of their employees to return to work because of the lack of transportation and prolonged power outages.

Recovery Value

Many employers in the parish are not able to pay employees during prolonged periods when the employees cannot report to work. This results in loss of income at a time when it is needed most for both employee and employer.

Challenges

Every major employer needs a plan to assist their workforce in returning to work. Transportation is the most critical factor needed by employees after a disaster. The challenge is providing transportation, clean clothes, and showers for returning employees.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- The parish's major employers are the principal resource for providing the needed services, and the parish emergency management office is the logical coordination agency
- US Department of Labor
- Louisiana Workforce Commission
- Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
- Capital One Corporate Philanthropy Program
- Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance
- Lions Club International Foundation



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to engage local and parish emergency managers to identify providers of portable showers and laundry facilities.



Work with employers to obtain bus service contracts or arrange ride-sharing programs for employees.

Tangipahoa Parish adopted its first comprehensive plan in June 2008. At the time it was adopted, the plan provided policy guidance for the growth and development of the parish over 20-25 years. However, *without the adoption of additional growth management regulations, the parish lacks the tools needed to implement the plan.*

The Tangipahoa Parish Community Recovery Plan calls for additional rules to manage storm water and increase the level of flood protection for new construction. The policy changes and new areas of regulation proposed in this plan have been vetted at public meetings and in local surveys. Positive public feedback for additional rules to support better drainage are included as an appendix to this plan.

PROJECT NAME: REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL ONE FOOT TO THE MINIMUM ELEVATION OF NEW CONSTRUCTION IN FLOOD PRONE AREAS.

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Consider the advantages and disadvantages for the new regulatory requirements and potential compliance incentives for meeting or exceeding new requirements.

Recovery Value

Implementing new standards to protect structures from flood damage over time will reduce future flood damage and promote stable neighborhoods.

Challenges

Educating decision makers on the positive impacts of lower flood insurance cost and how homeowners with flooded houses may benefit from an additional insurance pay out for the cost of elevating flood-prone homes.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation: Region VI
- LSU Center for Planning Excellence
- St. Tammany Parish
- State Association of Flood Plain Managers
- Capital Regional Planning District
- Center for Planning Excellence



ACTION STEPS



The parish Community Development Director is taking the proposal to the parish Council in early 2018 as a first step in implementing this plan.

PROJECT NAME: DEVELOP LAND CLEARANCE AND SITE FILL ORDINANCES.

Priority: HIGH 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Implement standards for new development that support minimal land clearance and prohibit transport of fill dirt to new construction sites to raise structures.

Recovery Value

Importing fill dirt onto construction sites in flood prone areas can potentially increase storm water runoff on to surrounding properties. Trees and natural vegetation absorb proportionately more water than bare land and help to reduce flooding.

Challenges

There are no regulations that prohibit clear cutting a property without a permit or approved development plans. Many property owners clear cut a site to make it “more saleable” to developers. Currently, land development regulations allow for the import of fill dirt, which is a much less expensive way to build. It allows the developer to raise a site out of the flood plain, while still building slab on grade foundations.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Capital Region Planning District
- State Association of Flood Plain Managers
- St. Tammany Parish
- Louisiana State University (LSU) Coastal Sustainability Studio
- LSU Sea Grant Program



ACTION STEPS



The Parish Community Development Department is developing a proposed ordinance to establish standards and require a permit to disturb land by cutting trees or grading for the purpose of future development.

PROJECT NAME: PROVIDE RELIABLE FLOOD ELEVATION HISTORY INFORMATION, LEVEL OF RISK AND FLOOD INSURANCE OPTIONS TO RESIDENTS.

Priority: HIGH 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Use available flood inundation data to inform residents of the inherent risk of building in flood-prone areas. Make this information widely available to the public to increase awareness on flood risk.

Recovery Value

Knowing where flooding occurs routinely and how severely properties are impacted can help residents make better decisions on where to build and who needs flood insurance.

Challenges

Translating technical flood data, e.g., LiDAR elevations, into information that is understandable to the general public.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- Federal Emergency Management Agency mitigation grants and planning programs
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Civil Works Program
- Statewide flood control program
- Philanthropic organizations



ACTION STEPS



Identify a working group to inventory existing flood inundation data sources, determine what's missing or needed, pursue additional sources of data as necessary.



Obtain most current LiDAR data available. Prepare GIS layers of data.



Compile all data and work with local community stakeholder groups, public information officers, and resident focus groups to develop a public information campaign.

PROJECT NAME: PURSUE VOLUNTARY BUY-OUT PROGRAMS FOR FLOOD PRONE NEIGHBORHOODS.

Priority: LOW 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Develop an educational program designed to encourage greater numbers of voluntary buy outs. Determine the quantity of homes eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) buy outs and calculate the amount of matching funds necessary to implement a program.

Recovery Value

Several neighborhoods in the parish are located in areas where gravity drainage improvements will not reduce the likelihood of future flooding. Elevation of structures or buy-outs are the only options to address repetitive flooding.

Challenges

The length of time involved to complete the program with the HMGP, the 25 percent required match, and the perception that a well insured total loss is more advantageous to the property owner, can discourage property owners from considering the buy-out program.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- FEMA
- Louisiana Governor’s Office Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Property owners who have experienced HMGP buy-outs
- Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) for use as match or alternative buy-out funding (without match)
- Housing and Urban Development renter relocation expertise



ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to determine and map the locations of repetitive loss and serve repetitive loss properties.
- Hold neighborhood meetings that display maps of impacted areas, answer questions about the details of the buyout program and educate the public about the rising cost of flood insurance.
- Pursue resources to fund a buy out program.
- Work with U.S. Housing and Urban Development to determine the impact of the buy out program on renters and the need for a relocation program for renters.

PROJECT NAME: REQUIRE NEW DEVELOPMENT TO BE SUPPORTED BY ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE.

Priority: HIGH 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Develop parish-wide standards that prohibit development on land if it increases storm water runoff on adjacent property that is greater than the predevelopment amount. Implement a similar standard to insure that sewer and water service have the capacity for the full design volumes for the new development.

Prohibit new development that increases traffic beyond the existing capacity of the roadway system in the surrounding area.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- State administered CDBG
- US Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- Delta Regional Authority
- EPA Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance
- Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC)
- USACE Small Projects
- Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)
- Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences

Recovery Value

Infrastructure capacity issues can become major problems during a flood disaster. Public utilities recover faster when they have redundancy and excess capacity. Reliable roadway capacity is essential for disaster evacuation plans.

Challenges

Infrastructure systems need to embrace preventative maintenance and life-cycle replacement scheduling in order to resolve problems before they become more costly. In most cases, this will require additional funding.



ACTION STEPS

- Re establish the committee that spearheaded development of the Tangipahoa Parish Comprehensive Plan.
- Recommend that the Tangipahoa Parish Council adopt the regulations and incentives recommended in the Tangipahoa Parish Recovery Plan.
- Develop a series of activities and projects needed to maintain and update existing parish utilities.
- Update master plans for utility expansion.
- Ensure that new development projects do not burden the existing system.

PROJECT NAME: EXPAND PROGRAMS THAT DISCOURAGE AND REDUCE BLIGHT.

Priority: MODERATE 1 2 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Due to increases in abandoned/damaged properties post disaster, there is need for additional programs and resources to supplement existing programs.

Recovery Value

The identification and removal of damaged, abandoned, and/or blighted properties is important for post-disaster recovery.

Challenges

Adequate manpower and resources to effectively address the issue.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- FEMA mitigation grants
- Philanthropic organizations
- CDBG-DR
- Parish budget
- US Department of Agriculture Rural Development



ACTION STEPS

- Identify a working group to inventory existing resources, historical data, and procedures on blighted properties.
- Identify the locations of abandoned properties.
- Work with financial institutions to inventory post disaster foreclosed properties and responsible parties for property maintenance.
- Obtain necessary resources from available sources.



IMPLEMENTATION/NEXT STEPS



IMPLEMENTATION/NEXT STEPS

Tangipahoa Parish is increasing its capacity to manage recovery from major flooding events. Recent changes in the structure of parish government including the establishment of a community development director help the parish look broadly at issues and focus the efforts of several departments or agencies. The community development director and staff act as the recovery manager to implement this plan.

The director's efforts are currently focused on coordinating the efforts of parish agencies in fully developing the projects and policy recommendations detailed in this plan. As the

projects become fully scoped and probable funding sources are identified, the parish's contract grant writer and grant administrator will be engaged to carry out the projects. It may become necessary to decentralize portions of the grants writing and administration function to other agencies as the number of projects increases.

Listed below is the current status of the plan's recommended projects, initiatives and policies. Specific actions have begun on eight of the named projects. Other proposed actions are in various stages of development.

INFRASTRUCTURE					
PROJECT GOALS	CURRENT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	STATUS	TIME LINE	FUNDING SOURCE
Design and construct large detention lake(s) along the Tangipahoa River to control flow rate and reduce flooding.	LSU Civil Engineering 4260 Spring Design Class Project to collect bathymetry data for portions of the Tangipahoa River along a Geomorphic assessment to support modeling	HIGH	Underway	2018	LSU, Tangipahoa Parish and Gravity Drainage Board #1.
Focus drainage improvements in flood impacted (local) areas.	Undertake an inventory of routinely flooded neighborhoods and the locations where roads are often flooded. Examine the drainage characteristics of the smaller flood impacted areas in order to identify potential solutions.	HIGH	Underway	2018	U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil and Water Conservation; Parish and Gravity Drainage Board #1; DOTD Statewide Flood Control Program.
Streamline process to remove obstructions in the existing drainage system (local creeks, canals, etc.)	Parish Drainage District staff challenged the long USACE Permit process for open drainage maintenance and post disaster tree removal; resulting in a determination from USACE, New Orleans District that general permit process can be used that will reduce the permitting cycle from about 14 months to 3 months	HIGH	Completed	2017	Low cost: Internal
Establish parish-wide drainage districts	Study the natural and manmade drainage systems, the size of the smaller watersheds within Tangipahoa Parish. Determine how to fairly treat tax payers in the existing districts, while expanding the system to cover the entire parish.	MODERATE	Underway	2018	HMGP; Louisiana State University (LSU); Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; LSU Sea Grant Program; LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio.
Conduct a parish-wide storm water engineering study	The study will create a steam flow and surge timing model of the entire parish gravity drainage system. Examine the work that has been done in St. Tammany Parish. Determine if work by LSU, other college student engineers and trained para-professionals can be used as for data input in order to reduce the cost of the study.	MODERATE	Underway	2018	HMGP, CDBG-DR, local university in-kind and other local sources.

HOUSING					
PROJECT GOALS	CURRENT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	STATUS	TIME LINE	FUNDING SOURCE
Create public education programs that provide information	Conduct analysis of need within parish	MODERATE	Underway	2018-19	Internal Staff; HUD; USDA; Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance; Gulf Coast Housing Partnership; LHC
Increase Special Needs/Senior Housing	Inventory existing special needs and senior housing units	LOW	Started	2017	Internal Staff; HUD; USDA; Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance; LHC; LA Department of Health Permanent Supportive Housing
Create programs to assist private landlords with disaster recovery	Inventory rental property owners impacted by the disasters, damage incurred, and financial assistance needed.	LOW	Started	2017	Internal Staff; HUD; USDA; Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance; Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery; Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
Increase available rental housing	Inventory existing rental housing units. Conduct research on local developers working in this field.	LOW	Started	2017	Internal Staff; HUD; USDA; Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance

NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES					
PROJECT GOALS	CURRENT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	STATUS	TIME LINE	FUNDING SOURCE
Expand parish attractions by supporting Agri-tourism, museums, historic districts/sites and developing Manchac Greenway	Initiation of the Tangipahoa Tourism Strategic Plan (Marketing Branding and Promotion). Parish has Tourism Task Force of local stakeholders looking into this issue. Manchac Greenway biodiversity survey to support outdoor classroom education and marketing the trail for eco-tourism	MODERATE	Underway	2018	Existing parish funds Louisiana State Parks Recreational Trails Program; FHWA Recreational Trails Program; DOI Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
Conserve/increase open space for recreational development, parks and trails	Identify natural and scenic properties that warrant conservation.	MODERATE	Underway	2018	DOI, Land and Water Conservation Fund; Land Trust for Louisiana; The Nature Conservancy
Develop Manchac Greenway Trail Amenities	Technical assistance to the parish to identify and provide a conceptual trail master plan illustrating alternative trail routes from downtown Ponchatoula south to Manchac.	MODERATE	Started	2107	Louisiana Department of Treasury for Restore Act National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Rivers, Trail and Conservation Assistance Program

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES					
PROJECT GOALS	CURRENT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	STATUS	TIME LINE	FUNDING SOURCE
Standardize training and registration for volunteers and contractors post disasters	Identify training program needs.	LOW	Started	2017	Sub-committee research with internal staff assistance
Mobile Medical Unit	Develop cost estimates for capitalizing the project and recruit healthcare providers	LOW	Underway	2017	HHS, USDA-RD; Boo Grigsby Foundation; Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance;
Multi-Purpose Community Center/Shelter	Work with parish on capital budget allocation for this project.	MODERATE	Underway	2017	HMGP; HHS; HUD; Home Depot Foundation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
PROJECT GOALS	CURRENT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	STATUS	TIME LINE	FUNDING SOURCE
Develop a loan program to provide immediate short-term working capital to disaster-impacted small businesses	Meet with funders, including financial institutions, to determine their level of participation in terms contribution to the fund.	LOW	Underway	2018	Louisiana SBDC; SBA; Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance, and Whitney Bank Corporate Philanthropy
Provide temporary shared workspace for small businesses to use until they can re-open	Identify potential sites; Investigate funding needed.	LOW	Underway	2018	Parish ED; SE Louisiana University; Tangipahoa Emergency Management;
Assist employees in returning to work by providing clean clothes, showers, and transportation resources	Work with emergency managers to identify providers of services needed. Do cost estimates and identify resources. Strategize approach to employers.	LOW	Underway	2018	The parish's major employers; US Department of Labor; Louisiana Workforce Commission;

COMMUNITY PLANNING					
PROJECT GOALS	CURRENT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	STATUS	TIME LINE	FUNDING SOURCE
Require an additional 1 foot to the minimum elevation of new construction in flood prone areas	Parish staff is preparing recommendation to Parish Council to increase freeboard for new construction to 1 foot above the Base Flood Elevation	MODERATE	Started	2017	Low cost: Internal Technical Assistance: Delta Regional Authority; Capital Region Planning District; EPA; EDA
Develop land clearance and site fill ordinances	Unification of existing land development policies report to Council	HIGH	Underway	2018	Low cost: Internal Technical Assistance: Delta Regional Authority; Capital Region Planning District; EPA; EDA
Provide reliable flood elevation history information, level of risk and flood insurance options to residents	Inventory existing flood inundation data sources and pursue additional sources of data as necessary	HIGH	Underway	2018	FEMA; USACE; statewide flood control program;
Pursue voluntary buy-out programs for flood prone neighborhoods.	Focused effort to assist the Village of Tangipahoa with HMGP funds, CDBG-DR and parish resources.	LOW	Underway	2018	Parish funds and Hazard Mitigation Grant; CDBG-DR
Require new developments to be supported by adequate infrastructure.	Consider the pros and cons for the new regulatory requirements and potential compliance incentives for meeting or exceeding new requirements. FEMA staff are providing the parish Community Development Department with background information and examples of storm-water management, land development practices and other guidance sources to support the parish's development of needed additional development controls	HIGH	Underway	2018	No Cost. Technical Assistance: Delta Regional Authority; Capital Region Planning District; EPA; EDA

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APPENDICES

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SURVEY RESULTS

Constant Contact Survey Results Survey

Name: Recovery Plan Survey 2 Response Status:



Partial & Completed Filter: None

11/29/2017 6:04 PM EST

TextBlock:

Demographic Information

Gender (Optional)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Male			52	41.6 %
Female			72	57.5 %
No Response(s)			1	<1 %
Totals			125	100%

Which age group do you belong in? (Optional)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
18 years old and under			9	7.1 %
19 - 25 years old			5	4.0 %
26 - 35 years old			12	9.6 %
36 - 45 years old			28	22.4 %
46 - 59 years old			37	29.5 %
60 and older			31	24.8 %
No Response(s)			3	2.4 %
Totals			125	100%

*What town do you live in?

124 Response(s)

TextBlock:

Please provide us with your opinion on ways you think future planning can be improved upon by answering the following questions.

*Was your home flooded in 2016?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			12	9.6 %
No			90	72.0 %
Other			2	1.6 %
No Response(s)			21	16.8 %
Totals			125	100%

If your home was flooded, where did you receive help from? (Check all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Church Group			9	47.3 %
Non-profit			3	15.7 %
Local Government			3	15.7 %
Red Cross			2	10.5 %
Other			11	57.8 %
Totals			19	100%

(Optional) If home flooded, Street Address (Town & Zip Code too) of damaged property.

12 Response(s)

When responding after a disaster, do you feel we need a central place in Tangipahoa Parish for supplies to flow into and out of ? (Multi-use Community Center/warehouse)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			99	79.2 %
No			16	12.8 %
Other			4	3.2 %
No Response(s)			6	4.8 %
Totals			125	100%

SURVEY RESULTS

Do you feel we need standardized training and registration for volunteers and any new contractors coming into Tangipahoa Parish to help after a disaster?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			107	85.6 %
No			10	8.0 %
Other			5	4.0 %
No Response(s)			3	2.4 %
Totals			125	100%

Why do you believe residents of Tangipahoa Parish are not accessing social or health services? (check all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Lack of adequate transportation to services.			62	63.2 %
The services needed are not available here. Please say what is missing in "COMMENTS" below.			16	16.3 %
Other			39	39.7 %
Totals			98	100%

Which of the following do you feel are most important for Tangipahoa Parish Community Recovery Plan? (Pick your Top THREE choices)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Eliminate or reduce repetitive flooding damages.			47	38.8 %
Maintain and improve natural and man-made drainage canals, including river dredging			96	79.3 %
Reduce how often roads are closed due to flooding.			11	9.0 %
Support existing and future business needs related to flooding impacts.			15	12.3 %
Require all new construction to exceed FEMA minimum elevation requirements.			44	36.3 %
Support wetland areas (greenways, forests, swampland, etc.) as natural drainage systems.			58	47.9 %
Require preventative actions on homes or businesses in flood prone areas to reduce future damage (e.g., raise homes, swales or retention ponds in shopping centers, etc.).			39	32.2 %
Require all new subdivisions, new shopping centers, or new industry does not increase storm water impacts on any neighbors.			79	65.2 %
Other			1	<1 %
Totals			121	100%

What public infrastructure do you believe needs to be in place in Tangipahoa Parish to ensure quality urban/suburban growth before further expansion? (Pick your top TWO choices)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Adequate roads to handle traffic.			89	73.5 %
Adequate drainage to reduce flooding.			101	83.4 %
Water & sewer lines.			29	23.9 %
Telephone & internet service.			17	14.0 %
Parks.			12	9.9 %
Adequate parking.			10	8.2 %
Other			5	4.1 %
Totals			121	100%

What changes do you feel are needed in Tangipahoa Parish Land Development rules to help control urban density and reduce flood impacts? (Pick the top two categories below)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
More green space to act as natural drainage;			78	66.6 %
Require land clearing and grading permits;			39	33.3 %
Require fencing permits to avoid obstructing flood waters;			27	23.0 %
Require flood water to be detained on site;			12	10.2 %
Require new construction buildings in flood prone areas to be built to allow water to flow through/under the structure.			76	64.9 %
Other			3	2.5 %
Totals			117	100%

SURVEY RESULTS

Which of the following potential solutions are needed to expand rental properties in Tangipahoa Parish?
(Choose all that you feel are needed.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Establish a rental assistance program to help renters, who were displaced due to a disaster with move-in costs to get into a new rental property.			55	52.8 %
Establish tax credits for developers, who set aside a certain amount of apartments for vulnerable people, for example seniors with health issues, disabled veterans, disabled people, etc.			55	52.8 %
Develop a program of immediate financial assistance (low interest loans) to small rental property owners, who are not eligible for FEMA assistance.			60	57.6 %
Encourage the development of workforce rental housing located close to job opportunities.			36	34.6 %
Increase Mobile Home rentals in the Parish.			7	6.7 %
Other			6	5.7 %
Totals			104	100%

Would you support a buy-out program for properties in Tangipahoa Parish repeatedly damaged by floods or ones that are vacant, abandoned, and run-down to be used as public parks, open space, recreational uses, trails, etc.?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			96	76.8 %
No			15	12.0 %
Other			5	4.0 %
No Response(s)			9	7.1 %
Totals			125	100%

What Education Programs do you feel we need in Tangipahoa Parish concerning housing issues? (Choose all that you feel are needed.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
First-time Home Buyers (how to enter the homeowner process);			71	60.1 %
Budgeting and managing your finances, "money how to use it correctly";			69	58.4 %
Renter rights and Landlord responsibilities;			46	38.9 %
Available housing assistance resources and how to access them;			47	39.8 %
Home maintenance for new homeowners;			44	37.2 %
Flood risk and the need for flood insurance.			89	75.4 %
Other			5	4.2 %
Totals			118	100%

Do you feel it is important to have a program to give immediate help to "small" businesses in Tangipahoa Parish impacted by floods/disasters to help them provide services to the community faster?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			105	84.0 %
No			11	8.7 %
Other			1	<1 %
No Response(s)			8	6.4 %
Totals			125	100%

If you answered "Yes" to the above question about "Small Businesses", which of the following should be included?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Financial (loans) assistance;			82	80.3 %
Internet connectivity;			32	31.3 %
Temporary work space (house the business during repairs), e.g., public building, warehouse space, trailers, etc;			72	70.5 %
Clean clothes, showers for small business's employees			35	34.3 %
Transportation to/from work;			36	35.2 %
Other			1	<1 %
Totals			102	100%

SURVEY RESULTS

Were you or do you know a friend/neighbor/family member unable to get to work due to flooded roads in your neighborhood?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			47	37.6 %
No			69	55.2 %
No Response(s)			9	7.1 %
Totals			125	100%

If you said "Yes" to the Question #18 above, please tell us which LOCAL (Parish) roads have flooded consistently with heavy rains over the years (near what town)?

38 Response(s)

If you said "Yes" to the Question #18 above, please tell us which MAJOR (State) roads have flooded consistently with heavy rains over the years (near what town)?

23 Response(s)

Which of the following Tourist Attractions do you feel should be maintained and/or expanded in Tangipahoa Parish to help preserve our heritage and boost our economy? (Choose all that you feel are needed.).

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Agriculture events, e.g., Liuzza Land (farms) "Old Farmers Day", farm tours, etc.			74	65.4 %
Manchac Greenway, walking/bike path Ponchatoula to Laplace			69	61.0 %
Local Museums (e.g., Children's Discovery, African American Heritage, Camp Moore, etc.)			66	58.4 %
Historic Attractions (e.g., Amite Historic District, Hammond Historic District, Ponchatoula Commercial Historic District, Arcola Presbyterian Church, Blythewood, etc.)			69	61.0 %
Other			12	10.6 %
Totals			113	100%

Looking ahead, which attractions do you feel should be promoted/marketed to have a bigger impact on Tangipahoa Parish's economy? (Choose Two)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Regional/National Sporting events (e.g., Little League World Series)			71	60.6 %
Agro-Tourism (Agriculture-related tours, working farms, activities, etc)			49	41.8 %
Nature walkways (greenways), bike paths, swamplands, fishing piers/ areas, etc.			65	55.5 %
Renaissance Festival (Ren Fest)			44	37.6 %
Local Festivals (e.g., Strawberry Festival, Italian Festival, Oyster Festival, etc.)			83	70.9 %
Other			7	5.9 %
Totals			117	100%

SURVEY RESULTS

Constant Contact Survey Results Survey

Name: Recovery Survey 2 Response Status:

Partial & Completed Filter: None

11/29/2017 6:01 PM EST

* Please select UP TO 3 POLICY/PROGRAM choices from the list below that you feel are important to include in our Long-Term Recovery Plan and pursue for future growth and recovery for the parish:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Streamline process to remove obstructions in existing drainage system (local creeks, canals, etc.).			127	69.3 %
Establish parish-wide drainage districts.			49	26.7 %
Standardize training and registration for volunteers and contractors post disasters.			18	9.8 %
Increase housing opportunities for vulnerable populations (examples - special needs residents, seniors).			26	14.2 %
Increase available rental housing through: 1. Encouraging tax credit projects by developers. -2. Establishing rental assistance program for disaster displaced renters. -3. Encouraging workforce housing near employment centers.			20	10.9 %
Create public education programs that provide information on: 1. Home ownership responsibilities 2. Budgeting & managing finances 3. Available housing assistance programs 4. Renter's rights/landlord responsibilities.			44	24.0 %
Add/require an additional foot to the minimum elevation of new construction in flood prone areas.			51	27.8 %
Implement standards for new development that support minimal land clearance and prohibit bringing of fill dirt to new construction sites.			62	33.8 %
Expand programs that discourage and reduce blight.			50	27.3 %
Provide reliable flood elevation history information, level of risk, and flood insurance options to residents.			73	39.8 %
Other			8	4.3 %
Totals			183	100%

* Please select UP TO 4 PROJECT choices from the list below that you feel are important to include in our Long-Term Recovery Plan and pursue for future growth and recovery for the parish:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Conduct a parish-wide Storm-water Engineering Study.			53	29.1 %
Focus drainage improvements in flood impacted areas.			94	51.6 %
Design and construct large detention lake(s) along the Tangipahoa River to control flow rate and reduce flooding.			65	35.7 %
Build a Multi-Purpose Community Center in a central location. (Warehouse/Shelter/Events).			42	23.0 %
Create programs to assist private landlords with disaster recovery.			14	7.6 %
Develop a loan program to provide immediate short-term working capital to disaster impacted small businesses.			25	13.7 %
Provide temporary shared workspace for small businesses to use until they can re-open.			12	6.5 %
Assist employees in returning to work by providing clean clothes, showers, and transportation resources.			25	13.7 %
Expand parish attractions by developing Manchac Greenway, and supporting agri-tourism, museums and historic districts/sites.			60	32.9 %
Develop Manchac Greenway Trail Amenities (Restrooms, Nature Walkways).			41	22.5 %
Require new developments to be supported by adequate drainage, sewer & water supply and public roads.			102	56.0 %
Pursue voluntary buy-out programs for flood prone neighborhoods.			27	14.8 %
Conserve/increase open space for parks and trails for recreation development.			59	32.4 %
Acquire a Mobile Medical Unit to improve health services delivery post-disaster and in peace time.			29	15.9 %
Other			11	6.0 %
Totals			182	100%

Advice on Tourism and Economic Development from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration

As part of the planning program the representatives of the U.S. Department of Economic Development made several suggestions that are captured in the following attached report.

Economic Recovery and Resilience Strategies Economic Development Administration

The 2016 Louisiana floods had a significant effect on the economy of Tangipahoa Parish. Many businesses were impacted, some were significantly damaged, and vital transportation links were disrupted. The incidents also reflected a need to further diversify the economy there by making it more resilient and less dependent on a few major employers. In assessing the issues brought forward by both spring and August flood events, the following were deemed as most important by the long-term recovery strategy committee's economic recovery subcommittee.

1. Tangipahoa Parish is strategically located, it serves as a distribution point for several large companies including Walmart. Ensuring transportation in and out of the center of his vital not only for their continuity but for them to be able to ship needed supplies to stores and impacted areas throughout Southeast Louisiana. Other distribution centers such as the Winn-Dixie grocery chain also need the ability to continue Distributing to their stores in the region. Therefore flood-proofing and making more resilient transportation routes to and from these major employers is critical.
2. Businesses that were impacted we're not able to receive capital needed to address immediate financial needs such as removal of debris and repair, cash to compensate for business interruption, and funding for long term recovery of customer base or lost supplies and equipment that were not covered by insurance. Though the SBA disaster Loan program is very beneficial, some businesses do not qualify for a variety of reasons, and others need capital rapidly. One of the reasons for this is the time and effort it takes to apply for SBA disaster loan funding, then if that is not feasible they have to start over and reapply again. Therefore, many businesses simply stopped trying, and some no doubt suffered, others may have closed.
3. Though Tangipahoa Parish has a history of Entrepreneurship, most notably as the birthplace of a global natural cosmetics and beauty Corporation, entrepreneurs of the future have different needs. The millennial generation is very large and unique. Millennials, many of whom now are in prime age ranges to start new businesses, prize collaboration and open business models. These require different types of assistance and different types of physical facilities to encourage their growth. Economic diversification cannot be overstated as a resilience strategy. Therefore taking the opportunity that the focus on these incidents provides to create new and innovative workspaces for these entrepreneurs and emerging businesses is critical.

4. Tourism and economic development are inner woven and interdependent. Tourism creates wealth by bringing dollars from visitors outside the community into Tangipahoa Parish. Providing more opportunities for visitors to come spend money and enjoy Tangipahoa Parish products and people can be an effective strategy for economic resilience. Tangipahoa is known as the strawberry capital of Louisiana and is also known for its bountiful pumpkin harvest. Agri tourism is the fastest growing sector of the tourism market. According to Bloomberg News agri-tourism is expected to grow at 15 percent per year for the next 10 years. Led by millennials tourist that want to experience harvesting, packaging, preparing, and enjoying fresh fruits and vegetables on the spot. This experiential branch of agri-tourism can produce high margins for growers and employment opportunities for tour guides and related positions.
5. Tangipahoa is in a unique location approximately 45 minutes from either Baton Rouge or New Orleans. To further diversify its economy Tangipahoa could take advantage of that location, its colorful history, and abundant natural spaces to provide additional attractions such as nature trails and tours, along with more traditional tourist attractions such as water parks, to boost that valuable economic sector.

To address these issues, the Tangipahoa may want to consider following strategies:

1. Work with the Small Business Administration Disaster Recovery Loan Program to allow businesses that sign a release form to reuse the financial information they provided to the SBA for other potential loan applications. This idea, pioneered by Bill Joubert of the Southeastern Louisiana University Small Business Development Center, could be replicated nationwide as a best practice. Saving that time and energy could be critical to the survival of small businesses who may not qualify for SBA disaster loan assistance, but may qualify for alternative financing such as community development financial institution funding or a variety of non-bank and non-traditional lenders. Finally, banks that have long-standing relationships with these businesses may be willing to accept those applications and consider funding directly. In addition, encouraging businesses to utilize the state of Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Loan program, which provides funding at 0% interest, of which 20% is forgivable, may be appropriate for many businesses still in need of capital. These loans may be obtained through one of five lenders authorized to administer the program. Businesses that can prove they were impacted by the floods can borrow up to \$150,000 for any need except capital improvement.
2. Work with the Louisiana Supply Chain/Transportation Resilience Council to identify and target vulnerabilities in Tangipahoa Parish's transportation system, focusing on its highways. The Supply Chain/Transportation Resilience Council was formed as a result of recovery efforts from the 2016 Louisiana floods and is statewide, involving both public and private sectors in a partnership to solve the state's transportation vulnerabilities in times of flood and other disasters. The council has been recognized by a concurrent resolution of the state legislature, and has been requested to submit a report in February 2018 outlining needs for transportation resilience. By engaging the Council, Tangipahoa may be able to have its transportation issues included in that report which may be addressed by the Louisiana legislature as it provides transportation funding in the future.

3. Develop a co-working space and other creative work spaces. Tangipahoa has unique communities such as Amite City, Hammond, and Ponchatoula that by their very nature would foster creativity and attract creative professionals. Establishing co-working space for creative entrepreneurs and professionals could generate significant opportunities over time. Funding for such endeavors is available from both public and private sources. There are successful examples already in Louisiana, and Tangipahoa could draw on the expertise of other Louisiana based efforts such as Co-Habitat in Shreveport and the Idea Village in New Orleans.
4. Create a task force to work with Tangipahoa Parish agricultural interests and communities to develop food tours, experiential food outings, and local food systems. These efforts may encourage diversity and expansion of agricultural interests while creating new opportunities for tourism growth. There are successful examples that could be followed such as the Fresh Central local food movement based in Alexandria and the Red Stick Food Market in Baton Rouge, both of which could be replicated on a smaller scale. Providing opportunities for local farmers to add more value to their crops, creating a new branch of the tourism industry in Tangipahoa, and providing citizens of Tangipahoa with more options for fresh locally grown food can again strengthen the resilience and economic opportunities of the entire Parish.
5. Implement strategies to attract new visitors through development of attractions such as the Manchac Greenway Trail, continued focus on the Ponchatoula Antique District, Hammond's downtown, and Amite City's unique attractions. Also research market opportunities for such attractions as water parks and historic tours. All these have the opportunity to create wealth in Tangipahoa Parish by bringing dollars into the local economy from outside the region in exchange for value added experiences and locally made products. A successful example of this exists in Asheville North Carolina where the Handmade in America non-profit was formed and developed significant tourism attractions featuring local culture and art. Tangipahoa Parish may be able to create its own version of this successful tourism industry development again taking advantage of its strategic location equidistant from the two largest cities in Louisiana.

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Tangipahoa Parish
Community Recovery Plan
December, 2017