

# Coastal Zone

NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2020

What's inside:

## CPRA Updates

The Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority has set their goals for 2020! Find out what the agency has in store for the coming year and how much the CPRA has accomplished since 2007! Also, we take a look into 2021 Annual Plan. This annual plan for expenditure of funds is available for public comment until February 15, 2020.

## St. John the Baptist Parish Updates

Updates on local projects and coastal use permits.

## Green Infrastructure

Find out more about the principles of green infrastructure and learn how communities across the state are working towards implementation.

## Planning and Zoning Wins Sustainability Leadership Award

The Planning and Zoning Department was recently awarded the Sustainability Leadership Award by the U.S. Green Building Council Louisiana Chapter. The Department was recognized for efforts made to prioritize flood risk reduction and coastal restoration in the Parish's planning framework.



## QUEEN BESS ISLAND RESTORED

[John Bel Edwards](#) officially declared Queen Bess Island open for nesting on February 3, 2020. The island, located off the coast of Jefferson Parish near Grand Isle, supports 15-20% of the state's total brown pelican nesting activity. Attempting to stave off risks of extinction in the 1960s, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has since used Queen Bess Island to house and restock the brown pelican community. In 2010, the island was hit hard by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. In fact, only five acres were deemed usable for nesting. The restoration project announced by the Governor was designed to produce nesting habitat outcomes and included: maintenance of the rock ring around the island, placement of sand fill within the ring, and construction of breakwaters to reduce wave action and create a lagoon feature area for infant birds to learn how to swim, preen, and feed. The success of the project is a huge achievement for Louisiana and demonstrates the state's commitment to restoration and protection of vital coastal wildlife habitats.

# Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority

## 2020 GOALS FOR COASTAL LOUISIANA

The CPRA has set its goals for 2020! This year, the agency aims to create 11,135 acres of land, more than is projected to erode in the same time frame! Additionally, twenty eight projects will be going to bid this year with an approximate construction value of \$1.97 billion – the most ever in the agency’s history

[The Annual Plan for 2021 has also been released](#) and is under public comment until February 15, 2020. Annual plans are components of the CPRA’s six year planning cycle to address coastal needs and expend funds for critical projects. Comments are encouraged and can be emailed to [coastal@la.gov](mailto:coastal@la.gov).



Four women working on LSU's Mississippi River Model at the Center for River Studies in Baton Rouge, LA

## Mississippi River Model

The Mississippi River in LSU's Center for River Studies, located next to CPRA headquarters, houses a complete model of the lower Mississippi River system. The model is based on the bathymetry and topography of Southeast Louisiana. Water is injected into the model, which replicates the transport of water and sediment of the river. Multiple sensors measure elevation and water levels that correspond to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' river gauges on the Mississippi River. Different scenarios can be performed on the model, where one hour equates to one year, to design and evaluate projects like the Maurepas Swamp Diversion. There is also an interactive educational tour on the formation of the Mississippi River Delta, coastal issues, their root causes, and what Louisianans can do to combat land loss. If you were unable to make the recent tour hosted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, you can request a tour by simply filling out this [form](#).

# St. John the Baptist Parish Updates



## Coastal Project Updates

- **Belle Terre Streetscape and Stormwater Enhancement:** Design contract awarded to CSRS, Inc. in December 2019.
- **LASAFE Complete Streets:** GEC conducting environmental analyses and hydraulic calculations.
- **Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection:** HDR Engineering working to prepare preliminary reports and alternatives for design.
- **River Reintroduction Into Maurepas Swamp:** St. John Parish submitted a letter of support for this project in January. The RESTORE Council will vote on funding this project on 2/15/2020.



## Coastal Use Permits (CUP's)

- P20181001: Mitigation Value Assessment Complete
- P20190545: Open
- P20190156: Awaiting Payment
- P20191103: On Hold
- P20190136: Open
- P20191247: On Public Notice
- P20191311 Open

## Green Infrastructure

**Grey infrastructure** has dominated the spatial landscape of cities across the United States for over one hundred years. Pipes, ditches, and pumps were the only vehicle for water treatment and conveyance until the recent emergence of **green infrastructure**. This new alternative is defined as the strategic use of networks of natural lands, working landscapes, and other open spaces to conserve ecosystem values and functions and provide associated benefits to human populations. There are many forms of green infrastructure with new styles constantly emerging! The main function of these systems is to retain and detain stormwater instead of draining or pumping it. Native plants are utilized and improve water quality, filtering pollutants before being absorbed into the ground. While green infrastructure requires routine maintenance, the cost is insignificant compared to the maintenance and repair costs of traditional grey infrastructure. For more information on green infrastructure, visit this [interactive guide](#).



## EPA PROVIDES CPRA \$1.6 MILLION IN RESTORATION FUNDS

Calcasieu Parish has arguably experienced some of the most deleterious effects caused by salt water intrusion. The Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded CPRA [\\$1.6 million](#) for a coastal restoration project in Calcasieu Parish that will create 392 acres of land. This will be done by using dredged sediment from a previous coastal restoration project around the Calcasieu Ship Channel. The remainder of the project is funded through the [Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act](#) (CWPPRA).

For more information, please visit [St. John's Planning and Zoning website](#), or contact our Coastal Zone Administrator Devin Foil at (985) 651-5565 Ext. 1300