

# New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Location 2013 Work Plan

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Source: Gabrielle Bodin, USGS

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**Point of Contact:** Danny Wiegand, US EPA Region 6

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Background .....	5
Federal Agency Partnership .....	5
State Agency Partnership.....	6
Local Government Agency Partnership .....	6
Non-Governmental Organization Participants .....	6
Overall Goals/Objectives .....	7
Identified Projects.....	7
Project 1: University of New Orleans Coastal Education and Research Facility .....	7
Project 2: West End Pier and New Canal Lighthouse.....	10
Project 3: Pontchartrain Beach .....	12
Project 4: Lafitte Greenway/Bayou St. John .....	14
Project 5: East End Area.....	17
Additional Projects Suggested by the City of New Orleans .....	19
Potential Area 6: Paris Road (COMPLETED).....	19
Potential Area 7: Bayou Bienvenue .....	19
Potential Area 8: Lincoln Beach .....	19
Potential Area 9: Lower Coast Algiers/Woodland Trails.....	19

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## **Background**

As outlined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Urban Waters Movement, the agency is “seeking to help communities — especially underserved communities — as they work to access, improve and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land.” A fundamental component of the EPA’s approach is leveraging existing programs to support projects and build partnerships with a variety of Federal, state, tribal and local partners that foster increased connection, understanding, and stewardship of local waterways. The agency’s Urban Waters Vision states that the combined efforts of the many partners and stakeholders will “restore urban water quality, revitalize our communities and reconnect communities to their urban waterways.” This collaboration will:

- align Federal government programs and investments in these communities;
- expand partnerships;
- build local capacity; and
- find innovative ways to communicate the environmental and economic potential of safe and clean urban waters.

EPA's approach in achieving these goals is outlined in the [Urban Waters Strategic Framework](#). For more information on the Urban Waters Movement, please visit [www.epa.gov/urbanwaters](http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters). For more information on the Federal partnership, please visit [www.urbanwaters.gov](http://www.urbanwaters.gov).

## **Federal Agency Partnership**

- Department of Agriculture
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Commerce
  - National Weather Service
  - Economic Development Administration
- Department of Defense – Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Homeland Security
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Interior
  - Fish and Wildlife Service
  - National Park Service
  - US. Geological Survey
- Department of Transportation

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

### **State Agency Partnership**

- Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
- Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

### **Local Government Agency Partnership**

- City of New Orleans
- City Planning Commission
- New Orleans City Council
- New Orleans Municipal Yacht Harbor Management Corporation
- New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

### **Non-Governmental Organization Participants**

- Friends of Lafitte Corridor
- Greater New Orleans Foundation
- Greener Bywater
- Groundwork New Orleans
- Gulf Restoration Network
- Hike for KaTREEna
- Lafitte Greenway Steering Advisory Committee
- Land Trust for Louisiana
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
- Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development
- NOLA Vibe/Horizon Initiative
- Regional Planning Commission
- Sierra Club
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Water Institute of the Gulf
- Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research
- Tulane City Center
- UNO Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences
- Urban Conservancy
- Woodlands Conservancy

## Overall Goals/Objectives

The New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Partnership will work to protect, restore and revitalize urban water resources in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area and the Lake Pontchartrain watershed. The Partnership will use the mission, vision and principles of the National Urban Waters Federal Partnership to guide this work:

- Promote clean urban waters
- Reconnect the citizens to their waterways
- Promote water conservation
- Promote economic revitalization and prosperity through existing networks of urban water resources
- Encourage community involvement through partnerships
- Engage and hear the needs of the communities
- Focus on measuring results and evaluation to fuel future success

## Identified Projects

### Project 1: University of New Orleans Coastal Education and Research Facility

**Overview:** The University of New Orleans opened the Shea Penland Coastal Education and Research Facility (CERF) eastern New Orleans in 2010. The facility is well situated to access Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne, and the extensive wetlands on the east side of New Orleans; and the facility has three vessels to access these areas. The facility is adjacent to the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, which is the Nation's largest urban wildlife refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are partnering with UNO to expand use of the facility as an educational resource for the area.

**Federal Lead(s):** Phase I (USGS and USFWS), Phase II (National Park Service [NPS])

**Partners/Stakeholders:** Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), University of New Orleans (UNO), Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC)

### Year 1 Work Plan Activities Identified

Phase I: USGS has the lead with assistance from USFWS on producing a wetland education video featuring the facility.

Phase II: Development of a Visioning Plan with assistance from National Park Service (NPS) stakeholder process

Proposed Timeline:

Phase I: Completion of Filming March 2012 (see below)

Phase II: Conduct first round of stakeholder meetings (see below)

### **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 1**

The CERF was significantly impacted by Hurricane Isaac in August 2012. The facility had extensive damage to the grounds including loss of electricity for a number of days, temporary loss of access to potable water (the CERF currently uses well water), significant damage to the boat docks, etc. Even with these difficult circumstances, the facility has reopened and continues to work with local schools as an education outreach center as well as an ideal access point to facilitate research activities. However, the CERF is still struggling with day-to-day financing and scaling up operation to reach a broader audience of school children.

For the activities identified in the Year 1 work plan, the following outputs were developed:

Phase I (Education Video): USGS was on target to produce the video last year, but they encountered technical issues hampering their ability to meet the original August 2012 deadline. However, the recreated video is currently due around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February 2013. After encountering the technical issues, USGS was able to replicate the original edited version. Two New Orleans high schools were identified to be in the video. The video also features John Tubbs, Department of Interior, Bill Honker, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Dinah Maygarden, CERF.

Phase II (Visioning Plan): This effort was not initiated during Year 1 but is still on the table for Year 2 implementation.

### **Year 2 Work Plan Activities Identified**

It was noted that the original concept of the CERF included a series of lab/research facilities. There is a great opportunity to integrate the research function and the outreach function for local schools.

Now that the video is nearly completed, stakeholders and partners are eager to get planning for the Phase II Visioning Plan underway. Phil Turnipseed (USGS) and Dinah Maygarden (UNO CERF) are working on a National Science Foundation grant proposal focused on outreach. It is envisioned this could be a vehicle for helping build a visionary plan along with working with NPS. Some general ideas floated on the Visioning Plan include:

- Trawling and sampling trips are part of CERF's visionary future.
- U.S. Department of Education has joined the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. They could be a source of resources/assistance.



- Urban Education Partnership – Dinah is working with USFWS (Davis Stout) looking into applying for funds through this program.
- To engage UNO Administration in long-term funding stream issue, it was proposed they be invited to a roll-out event for the soon-to-be released education video. Could also showcase the USGS mapping tool.
- NPS will follow-up w/ Dinah to begin discussions on Visioning Plan.
- EPA could provide technical assistance on well and septic maintenance – offer ideas on more robust design for the drinking water well head to withstand impacts of storms.

In addition to the Visioning Plan, Dinah Maygarden identified the following near-term needs:

- Repair to docks: The docks are part of the leased property not owned by UNO, therefore, not reimbursable under a FEMA grant process for post-hurricane Isaac funds according to UNO attorneys. The facility currently lacks the funds to repair the docks.
  - It was suggested by agency partners to engage UNO administration, e.g. Dean of Biology or Vice President of Research (Steve Johnson), to find additional funding. The UNO Foundation owns the building. Also, HUD has suggested in previous meetings there are potential funding sources for Isaac damage through other avenues than FEMA.
- Day-to-Day Operational Funds: The CERF has access to a large boat, which is ideal for taking out large groups. However, it is expensive to insure and maintain. The CERF needs to identify consistent and sustainable funding streams for the boat maintenance and insurance.

### **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 2**

- Release of [CWPPRA video](#) on 2/11 highlighting CERF and Urban Waters.
- EPA and NPS met with Dinah on 4/19 to initiate Visioning Plan discussions. During the meeting it was identified that CERF along w/ their Advisory Board (formerly chaired by Denise Reed) developed the beginnings of a planning document with vision statement, etc. Marty O'Connell, Mark Kulp and Ioannis Giorgiou would be good POCs to help reinstate Advisory Board to develop Visioning Plan. Ioannis Giorgiou named the new Director of Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences and CERF.

### **Year 3 Work Plan Activities Identified**

At the June 2013 Partnership Meeting, two challenges were identified:

- Facilities Infrastructure
- Maintenance

Ideas generated during the breakout session included:

- Continue building partnerships (such as NOAA, LDWF, USFWS, Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program [LaSIP]) and identifying potential funding support
- Continue “Living Shoreline” initiative with HESCO and CPRA
- Find opportunities to engage UNO administration
- Look for creative and resilient ways to design and operate the facility (e.g., “off the grid” for utilities, etc.)

At the October 2013 Partnership Meeting, the following activities were identified for Year 3 to advance development of the Visioning Plan and scaling up operations:

- NPS will engage the new Director (Ioannis Georgiou) and develop next steps to advance development of a plan.
- CERF will explore opportunities with CSX Railroad with help from other partners as needed.
- Land Trust for Louisiana is interested in partnering with CERF on grant and other opportunities.
- Letter(s) of support from partners (EPA/Urban Waters, Urban Conservancy, etc.) to UNO Administration.

## **Project 2: West End Pier and New Canal Lighthouse**

**Overview:** The West End is a lakefront area which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Facilities in the area included a marina and Yacht Club, fishing pier and the New Canal Lighthouse. The pier and lighthouse were destroyed by the storm and the marina facilities severely damaged. The Urban Waters Pilot partnership is focused on reconstruction of the lighthouse and the pier.

**Federal Lead(s):** EPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

**Partners/Stakeholder:** Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CAC, Non-Flood Assets Management Authority, Yacht Club of New Orleans, New Orleans Municipal Yacht Harbor Management Corporation (MYHMC)

### **Year 1 Work Plan Activities Identified**

Phase I (Pier): Work with City and FEMA to move pier reconstruction plans along.

Phase I (Lighthouse): Assist LPBF in negotiations with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) on lease.

Timeline:

Phase I (Pier): To Be Determined/FEMA and Master plan activities

Phase I (Lighthouse): Contingent on the Lease Agreement and completing the contract for rebuild.

### **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 1**

Phase I (Pier): Due to the USACE construction of a new permanent pump station at the outfall of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal, the MYHMC recommended moving the pier from its original location to a new site, which was eventually approved by FEMA with no cost increase.

Phase II (Lighthouse): EPA and the Federal partners successfully facilitated discussions with USCG on a lease agreement.

### **Year 2 Work Plan Activities Identified**

Phase I (Pier): Maintain dialogue with FEMA and the City to monitor design and construction schedule activities and assist where possible.

Phase II (Lighthouse): LPBF has secured funding to rebuild the lighthouse but will be moving to the next phase of restoration to include landscaping (fountain plaza, lawn restoration, signage, etc.). The next steps include looking for assistance to spread the word about the lighthouse and its current outreach capacity, as well as scale up the outreach component (i.e., expand the message to the rest of the Nation including tourists, consumers, etc.).

### **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 2**

Phase I (Pier): FEMA finalized the approval process for the pier activities with an approval letter on March 21, 2013.

Phase II (Lighthouse): LPBF celebrated the opening of the new Lighthouse with a ribbon cutting ceremony in April 2013.

### **Year 3 Work Plan Activities Identified**

At the June and October 2013 Partnership meetings, the following activities were identified:

Phase I (Pier): Continue to work with the City and FEMA to monitor design and construction activities for pier and other harbor repairs as well as assist where possible in discussions on potential Hazard Mitigation funding. Specifically,

- EPA will engage FEMA on City's Hazard Mitigation proposal.

- NOAA Restoration Center will provide technical support for dredged material placement, as requested, for potential wetland creation near outfall canal.
- Explore shoreline restoration and other potential opportunities along problem-area of parking lot (EPA, City, others).

Phase II (Lighthouse): After opening of the Lighthouse in April 2013, LPBF will continue building out the facility including finalizing the front lawn, incorporating more bicycle-related opportunities, and identifying potential funding opportunities to repair the dock. LPBF is currently pursuing FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation funding due to damages from Hurricane Isaac. Specific activities include:

- HUD will continue to seek potential funding sources for the dock repairs through ADA/DOJ.
- EPA will reach out to Small Business Administration for potential funding opportunities.
- LPBF and others will explore opportunities to tie the bike path along the lakefront from Pontchartrain Beach to West End. Potentially engage OLD, Bike Easy, NO Cycling Club, etc.

### **Project 3: Pontchartrain Beach**

**Overview:** Pontchartrain Beach is a lakefront beach adjacent to the UNO main campus. LPBF prepared a Pontchartrain Beach Improvement Plan in March 2005 to increase access and use of the area, but the beach facilities were heavily impacted by Katrina in August 2005. FEMA funds have been pursued to repair the pier; however, little progress has been made in restoring the area as an asset to the community.

**Federal Lead:** EPA

**Other Partner/Stakeholder(s):** NPS (Trails and Public Involvement process), LPBF, USACE, NOAA (Coastal Zone Project), City of New Orleans, UNO, FEMA, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East (SLFPAE)

#### **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 1**

EPA, LPBF, UNO, and others proposed to initiate discussions on status, short-term plans, FEMA dollars, maintenance of the beach, etc. UNO submitted a proposal to FEMA for funding to restore the pier.

#### **Year 2 Work Plan Activities Identified**

After several iterations of the Project Worksheet, it was determined that the SLFPAE (OLD) is the owner of the property, which UNO leased. Due to recent incidents near the beach, UNO

decided in the Fall of 2012 to let their lease expire. This creates some uncertainty on the status of the FEMA funding, which has been obligated to restoration of the site with UNO as the applicant. FEMA is researching next steps and the possibility of transferring the funds to OLD since they are the property owner and are an eligible applicant that can demonstrate legal responsibility under FEMA's grants program. EPA will continue to monitor the situation and stay in close communication with FEMA and the other partners/stakeholders.

**Other opportunities proposed:**

Per Carlton Dufrechou, GNOEC, LPBF has collected bathymetry data in the area of Pontchartrain Beach. The original pier footprint (~1930s) is a great opportunity for access. LDWF would like to see it built back out to area more ideal for fishing (~1950s footprint).

Carlton also mentioned the significance of the Milneburg Light, which is one of original along lakefront. This is also a good opportunity for connectivity along the Lakefront. It is on UNO property, and they are looking for an interested party to restore and maintain the light/site. Rough estimates to restore the light are approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000. A bike path (i.e., levee "access road") runs from Williams Blvd in Kenner over to West End.

**Outputs and Outcomes of Year 2**

LPBF began exploring opportunities for engagement in the Pontchartrain Beach reopening and developed an advisory committee. LPBF has worked closely with their Board and OLD and continues to monitor activities related to FEMA funding allocations to repair the pier.

**Year 3 Work Plan Activities Identified**

At the June and October 2013 Partnership meetings, the following opportunities were identified:

- LPBF to further discussions on potential operation of Pontchartrain Beach/Pier.
- Look for opportunities to change perceptions of dangers of swimming in Lake Pontchartrain due to recent drowning in other, off-limits areas. The Beach could be an opportunity to provide safe access to the water.
- Look for creative and resilient ways to design and operate the facility (e.g., "off the grid" for utilities, etc.)

Work Plan activities include the following:

- EPA will facilitate discussions with FEMA on the current Project Worksheet (PW) and assist coming to resolution on level of damage to the pier.

- LPBF will pursue grant and other opportunities to increase awareness of the beach and pier as well as improve risk perceptions of swimming in the Lake.

#### **Project 4: Lafitte Greenway/Bayou St. John**

**Overview:** The City of New Orleans owns most of a 3.1-mile linear right-of-way along a former shipping canal and railway that once connected the historic French Quarter to Bayou St. John. The right-of-way is unique in that it traverses a cross-section of the City that captures its 200-year settlement pattern, ranging from the colonial-era settlement of the Vieux Carre to the mid-twentieth century suburban neighborhood of Lakeview. The proposed Lafitte Greenway is within this right-of-way and will be comprised of publicly-accessible open space, recreation areas, and other amenities.

The Lafitte Greenway vision is to provide a safe, publicly accessible open space that reflects the needs and desires of the surrounding neighborhoods. The Lafitte Greenway is part of Mayor Mitch Landrieu's "Committed Projects." At the heart of the Greenway is a bicycle and pedestrian trail that facilitates travel among diverse, adjacent neighborhoods.

The City has obtained HUD funding to design and construct the Greenway, and design work for the first phase of construction is in the final stages. The City has developed a Greenway Master Plan that is an estimated \$34 Million in capital investment. Phase I construction currently does not include all of the components identified in the Master Plan and is limited to developing a trail and open space area to be used primarily for recreation purposes and to serve as a connection between neighborhoods from Basin Street to North Alexander Street. More funding will need to be identified to fulfill the concepts of the Master Plan.

**Federal Leads:** EPA, NPS

**Other Partner/Stakeholder(s):** USACE, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), City of New Orleans, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), HUD, NOAA, Friends of Lafitte Corridor (FOLC), Lafitte Greenway Steering Advisory Committee, Urban Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, CAC, LPBF

#### **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 1**

The City conducted 3 charrettes/workshops with the last occurring in October 2012. Extensive outreach occurred for each meeting including:

Workshop No. 1 (August, 2011)

- 10,000 door hangers distributed
- 5,593 Robo-calls

- 7,171 E-blasts
- 400 letters sent to business member/community leaders

Workshop No. 2 (November, 2011)

- 10,000 door hangers distributed
- 4,000 Robo-calls
- 11,197 E-blasts

Workshop No. 3 (October, 2012)

- 10,000 door hangers distributed
- 5,593 Robo-calls
- 3,155 E-blasts

NPS participated in the charrettes and has been coordinating efforts with existing funding available to address noted needs from the River and Trails program. The City is on schedule to begin construction of Phase I in the Summer of 2013.

## **Year 2 Work Plan Activities Identified**

The City has identified the following near-term needs:

- Assistance negotiating with Norfolk Southern for right-of-way access in stretch of Greenway from North Alexander Street to Canal Boulevard. The City has been attempting to reach an agreement with the railroad without progress to date. Design and environmental clearance for Phase I construction was forced to end at North Alexander Street due to this issue. The City has requested Federal assistance to move these discussions along with the railroad.
- Assistance identifying a sustainable Management Structure for the operation and maintenance of the Greenway. Several organizations/community groups have approached the City about implementing features of the Master Plan, and the City needs assistance formulating a framework to facilitate the implementation of these features.
- Assistance in working with the USACE to address the location of a generator in the Greenway at the Broad Street Pump Station #2. The generator was placed in the middle of a narrow stretch of the Greenway just off Broad Street. The City has expressed an interest to screen and/or integrate the generator into the Greenway.

During the January 2013 face-to-face meeting, it was proposed that a demonstration project be implemented along the Greenway. NPS has taken the lead on possible implementation of this concept. Below are general concepts put on the table during the face-to-face meeting:

- Solicit feedback from local/stakeholders on near-term milestones for various quadrants of the Greenway footprint.
- Identify a pilot/demonstration project in a quadrant that the Federal partners can provide support.
- Identify Federal partners that can also provide technical support on “greening” the corridor, i.e., green infrastructure elements, plantings, etc. Possible seminar/webinar on green infrastructure elements within the Greenway – concepts, effectiveness, costs/benefits, etc.

## **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 2**

The following activities were initiated/coordinated:

- Engaged USDOT HQ in discussions with Norfolk Southern and right-of-way access. Norfolk Southern engaged in e-mail exchanges, but to date has still not provided a response to the City’s request. The City is currently exploring other opportunities for leverage in negotiations.
- NPS, EPA, and the City developed a work plan to map out the process to identify a sustainable management strategy for the Greenway once constructed.
  - EPA and NPS facilitated a series of meetings with the City, City Council, FOLC, LGSAC, TPL, and Urban Conservancy through the summer of 2013 to explore public/private partnership opportunities. The City is currently exploring public/private partnership opportunities under a conservancy model approach.
- EPA and USACE worked together to provide as-builts of the generator and associated utilities trench at PS#2 to the City’s architect. The City is working on developing a screening solution based on the data provided.
- The NPS-led demonstration project was put on hold while the Management Strategy is further developed. This may be restarted once a strategy is adopted by the City.

## **Year 3 Work Plan Activities Identified**

At the June 2013 Partnership Meeting, the following activities were proposed:

- Identify dedicated, long-term funding:
  - Fiscal management
  - Fundraising
  - Single POC at the City (Greenway Czar)
- Consider security/safety including crossings at intersections with roads



- Facilitate synergy with hospitals and other development in Corridor
- Develop partnerships with local businesses
- Further consider stormwater management within Greenway

After the October 2013 Partnership Meeting, the following work plan activities were identified:

- EPA and NPS will continue to work with the City and other stakeholders on the Management Strategy and developing a public/private partnership.
- EPA and other Federal Partners will continue to support the City in negotiations with Norfolk Southern.

### **Project 5: East End Area**

**Overview:** A fishing pier utilizing the demolished sections of the I-10 Twin Spans was proposed on/near the property of the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. This area is already a popular fishing spot with limited, safe access for the community. The City of New Orleans, LDWF, USFWS and NOAA are all interested in construction of the pier and associated facilities as an asset to the community. Due to changes in the approaches to the I-10 bridges during reconstruction following Katrina, a new location was identified in a cove near the US Highway 11 Bridge on lands of the Refuge.

**Federal Leads:** USFWS, NOAA

**Other Partner/Stakeholder(s):** City of New Orleans, USACE, HUD, NOAA (Coastal Zone), Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF), LCCA

#### **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 1**

The City, USFWS, NOAA and LDWF discussed design concepts of an alternative location to the Twin Spans piers in a cove near the US Highway 11 Bridge, which is on (possibly adjacent to) Federal lands of the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. The estimated cost was approximately \$2.4 Million. The USFWS/LDWF grant/match program did not have the capacity for this level of cost. Tim Osborn (NOAA) was co-leading this with Ponn Dixon and Ken Litzenberger (USFWS).

#### **Year 2 Work Plan Activities Identified**

To re-engage discussions on this project, the following ideas were presented at the January 2013 face-to-face meeting:

- Set up meeting with the City, USFWS, and LDWF.
- Identify potential funding sources (e.g., post-Isaac funds, HUD funds and/or partner w/ NASA?).

- Look into alternate location for pier that would be better protected and safer for public access.

## **Outputs and Outcomes of Year 2**

The following activities were initiated/coordinated:

- EPA set up and facilitated a series of meetings between City, USFWS, and LDWF to identify funding and partnership opportunities moving forward.
- Discussions between USFWS and the City on establishing an agreement for construction of the facility on Federal lands (Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge).

## **Year 3 Work Plan Activities Identified**

At the October 2013 Partnership Meeting, the following work plan activities were identified:

- Confirm the proposed facilities location is on USFWS (Refuge) land. USFWS will consult with their Realty Department to confirm legal delineation of land.
- City will continue to explore Federal Highway Administration (Federal Land Access Program) funding opportunities for planning and project costs.
- Finalize a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and USFWS for use of Federal lands.
- Engage potential community partners for fundraising and management strategy of the facility once constructed. Potential partners include local kayak fishing clubs as well as Ducks Unlimited.

## **Additional Projects Suggested by the City of New Orleans**

**The following projects were identified as potential candidates for the Urban Waters Pilot. However, Federal Leads have not been identified to date. These may be revisited upon completion of the five projects listed above.**

### **Potential Area 6: Paris Road (COMPLETED)**

**Overview:** The City of New Orleans worked with the involved parties and developed a strategy to clean-up Katrina-related debris near Paris Road. This has been completed!

### **Potential Area 7: Bayou Bienvenue**

**Overview:** The Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle is an old cypress-tupelo swamp adjacent to the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. The area has degraded significantly over the years and many in the community would like to see the area restored. There are several plans/proposals that have been developed including the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) Ecosystem Restoration Plan; Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) proposals; Louisiana's 2012 Coastal Master Plan developed by CPRA; Sierra Club and CSED initiatives; etc.

Sierra Club and CSED continue efforts to raise awareness about the area. Below are some highlights of recent/on-going activities:

- Engaged w/ National Wildlife Federation on signage.
- Saltwater decreasing due the closure of the MRGO – CSED hopes to do more plantings now that salinities are reaching levels the cypress trees could tolerate.
- New Orleans Redevelopment Authority – awarded funding to acquire land across from the Lookout Platform – plan to develop museum and education center.
- New playground (Bush Playground) recently opened across from Lookout Platform.
- CSED received grant to develop an oral history of area/bayou.

### **Potential Area 8: Lincoln Beach**

**Overview:** The City of New Orleans proposed the restoration of the Lincoln Beach area. This area is a significant piece of the City's history. Activities that occurred during Year 1 include:

- NPS initiated discussions w/ the City and S&WB after work plan 1 developed. There was issue on access through/over floodwall.
- There is potential for this to be a Brownfields project but would be a long-term (15 – 20 year) effort. As an UW pilot would need to identify short-term, actionable item(s).

### **Potential Area 9: Lower Coast Algiers/Woodland Trails**

**Overview:** The Woodlands Conservancy is a nonprofit organization created with the mission to “preserve and develop an ecosystem dedicated to creating daily public opportunities for

recreation, ecotourism and education in a natural and historic setting.” On-going efforts reported by the Conservancy include:

- Woodlands Conservancy acquiring land and discussing restoration plan development with USFWS.