



St. Bernard Parish Government

2018 Annual Coastal Report



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Chalmette High School volunteers planting black mangroves in the Biloxi Marsh

I. Executive Summary

St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) completed a number of projects and facilitated the movement of many coastal activities from planning to implementation in 2018. *Violet Canal Maintenance Dredging* and the *Delacroix Fishing Complex* (Phase 2) were both completed during the year. SBPG has also completed *Marine Debris Removal* and *Dredging* activities in Yscloskey, Shell Beach, and Hopedale and launched new coastal programs such as the *Nunez Community College Fisheries Workforce Development* program and the *Public Seafood Market* at Delacroix.

Engineering and design for many large-scale projects in St. Bernard Parish has either been completed or is ongoing. SBPG has completed engineering/design for *Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration* (Phase 1) and *Lake Lery Marsh Creation* (Phase 2). Additionally, SBPG has initiated engineering/design for *Lake Lery Marsh Creation* (Phase 3) and the *East Bank Sediment Pipeline*, the largest and most impactful project ever proposed in St. Bernard Parish. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) also initiated engineering/design for *Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration*; *Lake Borgne Marsh Creation* (Phase 1); *Golden Triangle Marsh Creation* (Phase 1); and *Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline*.

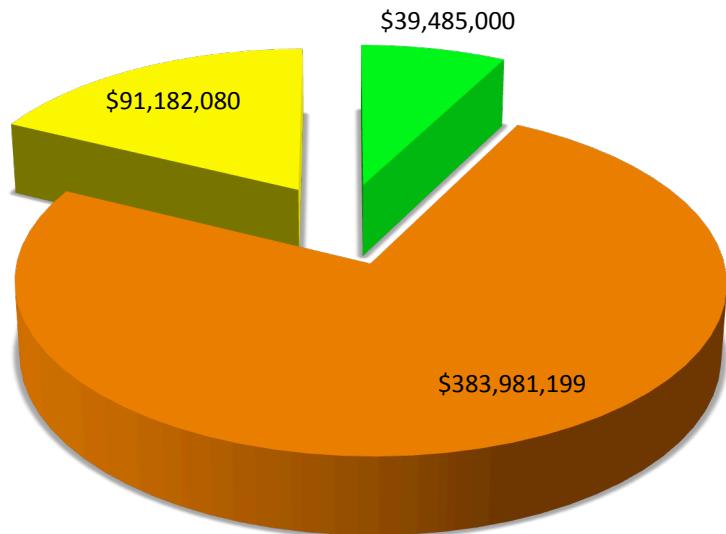
Partnerships and volunteerism have greatly benefitted coastal restoration efforts in St. Bernard Parish. The SBPG Coastal Division has worked closely with a number of public, private, and nongovernmental entities throughout the year to implement small-scale coastal restoration projects. Such projects include the planting of cypress trees near Caernarvon; the planting of black mangroves in the Biloxi Marsh; and several Bayou Bash marine debris removal events. Hundreds of volunteers from around the United States, including many from Chalmette High School and other local groups and businesses, contributed thousands of hours of volunteer labor in 2018.

The SBPG Coastal Division engaged in a number of planning and grant writing activities throughout the year. The *Coastal Strategy Document* and *RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan* were both updated in 2018. **The US Treasury has now obligated more RESTORE Act Direct Component funds to St. Bernard Parish than any other parish in Louisiana.** SBPG has also actively pursued Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding for various large-scale projects.

The 2018 Coastal Annual Report provides a summary of all coastal activities in St. Bernard Parish during the previous year. Additionally, the report includes a breakdown of projected expenditures by phase and type. The report concludes with a stated vision for the upcoming year and a comprehensive list of all coastal activities in St. Bernard Parish.

II. 2018: Recap and Highlights

Projected Total Expenditures by Project Phase

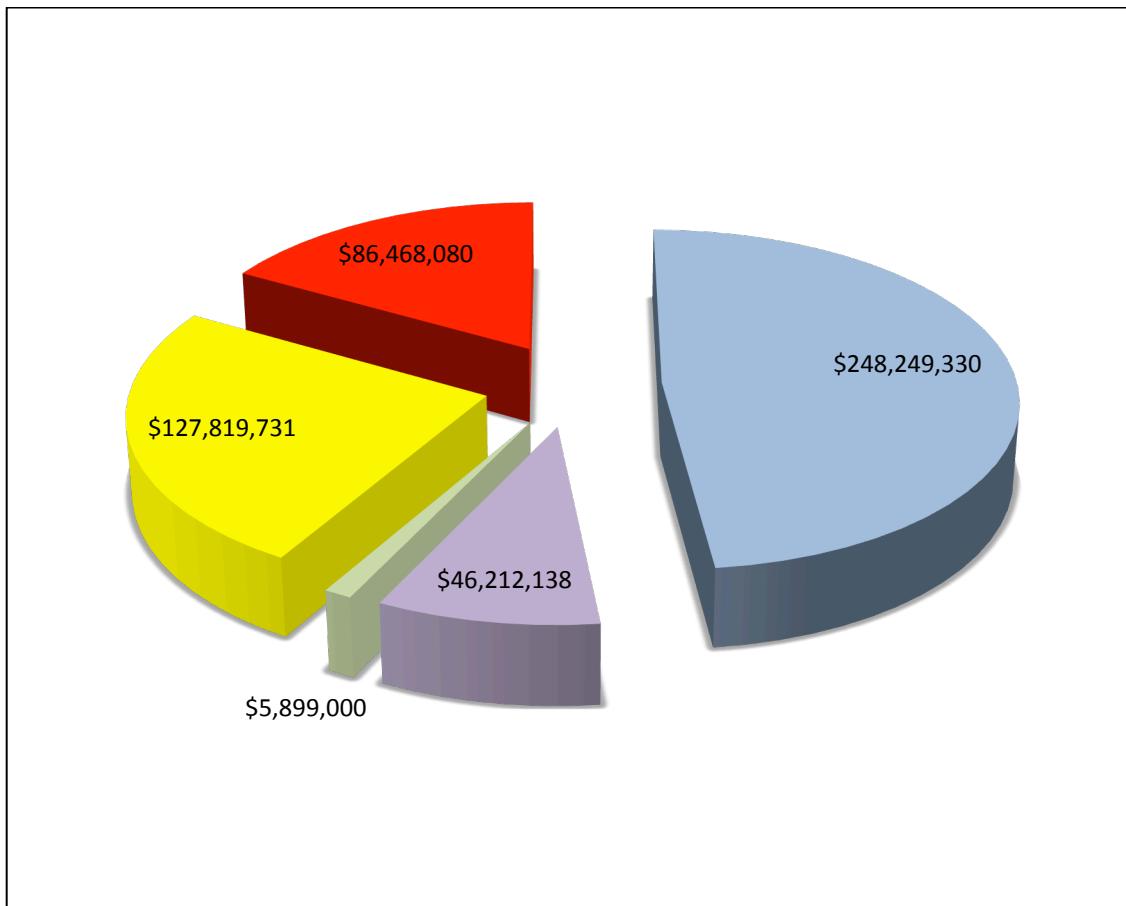


 Complete/Ongoing	\$39,485,000
 Engineering/Design	\$383,981,199
 Planning	\$91,182,080

Construction and Implementation

- **January 2018:** CPRA awarded SBPG \$2,781,000 in RESTORE Act Parish Matching funds for the construction of Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 2). The project is scheduled for construction in 2019.
- **February 2018:** The US Treasury awarded SBPG \$1,055,750 in RESTORE Act Direct Component funding for the *Paris Road Corridor Streetscape Enhancement* project and Nunez Community College Fisheries Workforce Development Program. As of October 2018, St. Bernard Parish had been obligated more RESTORE Act funding than any other parish in Louisiana. Both of the referenced projects are currently ongoing.
- **March 2018:** SBPG worked with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) and the St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation to plant 1,000 cypress trees in the Caernarvon area. Approximately 3,400 cypress trees have been planted near Caernarvon since 2017.
- **March 2018:** SBPG worked with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and Common Ground to plant 500 plugs of bulrush in the Central Wetlands Unit near Violet.
- **April 2018:** The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) awarded SBPG \$2,500,000 to restore oyster public seed grounds at Lake Fortuna. The project included the establishment of a sixty-one (61) acre cultch plant and the installation of 770 cubic yards of spat-on-shell material. The project was completed in September.
- **April 2018:** SBPG worked with Nicholls State University, the LSU Ag Center, and others to plant 1,200 black mangroves in the Biloxi Marsh. The project was largely funded with private contributions and grants. The SBPG Coastal Division, Chalmette High School (CHS), and LSU Ag Center have now raised over 3,000 black mangrove plants in the school's greenhouse since 2016. The Meraux Foundation has also recently agreed to provide additional greenhouse space for future SBPG black mangrove planting efforts. An additional 1,500 mature black mangroves will be planted in the Biloxi Marsh in April 2019.
- **May 2018:** SBPG and the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office hosted the first Bayou Bash marine debris removal event in Hopedale and Yscloskey. Volunteers removed five (5) tons of debris from local waterways during the event.
- **June 2018:** SBPG worked with Louisiana Sea Grant to host the first Public Seafood Market event at the Delacroix Fishing Complex. Over 350 patrons attended the event and local commercial fishermen sold over \$4,500 in fresh seafood.

- **June 2018:** SBPG and Nunez Community College launched the school's Fisheries Workforce Development Program. The program is being funded by the RESTORE Act, and 16 students have already enrolled in the Coastal Applications in Crane Operation program. Nunez is preparing to launch additional program offerings in 2019.
- **July 2018:** SBPG partnered with LDWF and local fishermen to release approximately twenty (20) containers of *salvinia* weevils in navigable waterways near Violet and Shell Beach for the purpose of controlling aquatic vegetation growth.
- **May 2018:** SBPG and the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office hosted the second Bayou Bash marine debris removal event in Delacroix. Volunteers removed two (2) tons of debris from local waterways during the event.
- **July 2018:** Louisiana Sea Grant, LSU Ag Center, Anglers Bettering Louisiana's Estuaries, and SBPG co-hosted the first annual Wayne's Wetlands event, a three-day long environmental educational experience for high school students from St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. The event culminated with a volunteer marine debris removal activity in Hopedale.
- **September 2018:** SBPG completed the construction of the Delacroix Fishing Complex (Phase 2), which included the installation of a boat hoist and dry dock facility. The Meraux Foundation donated the property along the Bayou Terre aux Boeufs side of the complex.
- **September 2018:** SBPG worked with Louisiana Sea Grant to host the second Public Seafood Market event at the Delacroix Fishing Complex. Over 400 patrons attended the event and local commercial fishermen sold over \$5,000 in fresh seafood.
- **December 2018:** SBPG will complete the installation of a kayak trail in Bayou La Loutre near Hopedale as part of the parish's ongoing Navigational Aids local coastal program.
- **December 2018:** SBPG completed marine debris removal and dredging activities in navigable waterways near Yscloskey, Shell Beach, and Hopedale.
- **December 2018:** CPRA awarded SBPG \$280,000 to perform maintenance dredging (8,000 cubic yards of material) in the Violet Canal between St. Bernard Highway and the Violet Canal Bridge. The project was completed in early December.

Projected Total Expenditures by Project Type

Marsh Creation	\$248,249,330
Ridge Restoration	\$46,212,138
Economic Development	\$5,899,000
Shoreline Protection	\$127,819,731
Other	\$86,468,080

Engineering and Design

- **January 2018:** CPRA initiated engineering and design for the CWPPRA Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation project (\$31,012,138). The effort will be ongoing throughout 2019.
- **June 2018:** SBPG and CPRA engaged Royal Engineering for the purpose of completing a study and preliminary design (\$1 million) for the East Bank Sediment Pipeline project. The effort is focused on identifying borrow sources in the Mississippi River and a pipeline corridor through the Breton Basin in order to efficiently deliver sediment to marsh creation polygons in eastern St. Bernard Parish. The effort will be completed in 2019.
- **October 2018:** The Duplantis Group has continued the engineering and design process for the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation project (Phase 1, 1,500+ acres of marsh creation, \$127 million). The effort will be ongoing throughout 2019.
- **October 2018:** Chicago Bridge and Iron has continued the engineering and design process for the Golden Triangle Marsh Creation project (Phase 1, 600+ acres of marsh creation, \$54,550,330). The effort will be ongoing throughout 2019.
- **October 2018:** SBPG engaged All South Engineering and Kyle Associates for the purpose of completing engineering and design (\$1.35 million) for the Lake Lery Marsh Creation project (Phase 3). The effort will be completed in 2019.
- **October 2018:** Hatch Mott MacDonald has continued the engineering and design process for the Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline project (\$57,719,731). The effort will be completed in early 2019 and construction will go up for bid shortly thereafter.
- **December 2018:** The US Department of the Interior is nearing completion of engineering/design for the North Breton Island Restoration project (Plaquemines Parish). Although the project is technically located in an adjacent parish, it will significantly benefit the Chandeleur Island system. The proposed project (\$72 million) includes the dredging of over 8 million cubic yards of material. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2019.
- **December 2018:** SBPG engaged Linfield, Hunter & Junius for the purpose of designing the Paris Road Corridor Streetscape Enhancement project (\$800,000). The effort will be completed in 2019.
- **December 2018:** SBPG engaged Royal Engineering for the purpose of completing engineering/design (\$1.3 million) for Phase 1 of the Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration project (\$15.2 million). Engineering/design and permitting will be completed in December 2018 and SBPG has already requested construction funding from CPRA.

Planning

- **March 2018:** SBPG updated its *Coastal Strategy Document* to include a number of new coastal projects and programming. This effort marked the first update to the parish's initial comprehensive coastal restoration plan, which was first adopted in 2016.
- **April 2018:** SBPG worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to nominate the *East Delacroix Marsh Creation* project (\$34 million) for CWPPRA Project Priority List 28. The project was voted #1 in the Breton Basin and #5 statewide by the CWPPRA Technical Committee. Senators Cassidy and Kennedy, Congressman Scalise, and over a dozen other coastal stakeholders have since endorsed the project. The CWPPRA Technical Committee will make its final recommendations regarding Phase 1 (engineering/design) project funding on December 6, 2018.
- **September 2018:** SBPG nominated several large-scale coastal restoration projects to the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) for NRDA funding consideration, including Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration; Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration; and Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 3). Additionally, SBPG is in the process of nominating the *Louisiana Oyster Cultch* project (Phase 2) to the LA TIG and the *Point aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection* project to the Open Ocean TIG. A portion of the Louisiana Oyster Cultch project (Drum Bay) has also been submitted directly to LDWF for NRDA funding consideration.
- **October 2018:** The US Treasury approved Amendment #1 to the parish's RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan. SBPG is in the process of preparing grant applications for its next round of RESTORE Act projects, including Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 2) and the *Shell Beach Recreational Fishing Complex at the Katrina Memorial*. It is anticipated that funding for both projects will be obligated in 2019.
- **November 2018:** SBPG updated its Coastal Strategy Document to include a feasibility study for the construction of barrier islands in the Chandeleur Sound.

III. 2019: Vision for Restoring the Coast

The SBPG Coastal Division will continue aggressively pursuing funding for large-scale coastal restoration projects. Engineering/design and construction funding have already been allocated for a number of large-scale efforts, including Lake Borgne Marsh Creation (Phase 1); Golden Triangle Marsh Creation (Phase 1); North Breton Island Restoration; Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline; and Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 2). Due to the complexity and size of the referenced projects, many of them will take several years to complete. However, it is anticipated that Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline, North Breton Island Restoration, and Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 2) will all be under construction in 2019. Although the CWPPRA and NRDA funding processes are highly competitive and often slow, SBPG will continue proposing additional projects for consideration throughout the upcoming year.

Recurring sources of revenue and new grant opportunities will continue allowing SBPG to make progress while larger projects are designed and constructed. The RESTORE Act Direct Component program funded a number of efforts in 2018 and will continue to do so next year. Annual Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) allocations and federal and state grant opportunities will also continue providing SBPG with funding for small-scale efforts going forward. Finally, SBPG has invested a significant amount of its own funding in engineering/design (Bayou Terre aux Boeufs, Lake Lery, and the Eastbank Sediment Pipeline), and will work to leverage those investments to obtain federal and/or state construction funding.

Education, outreach, and volunteerism will remain priorities for the SBPG Coastal Division in 2019. Programs such as Bayou Bash and the black mangrove planting will continue making coastal restoration accessible to the public. Additionally, the anticipated expansion of the Nunez Fisheries Workforce Development Program will better prepare the local workforce for employment opportunities in the emerging coastal restoration sector.

IV. Master Project List

Project	Phase	Cost	Funding
Lake Lery Marsh Creation Phase 1	Complete	\$8,000,000	CIAP
Oyster Reef Shoreline Protection	Complete	\$600,000	CRCL/CPRA/NFWF
MRGO Navigational Aids	Complete	\$15,000	SBPG
Kayak Navigational Aids	Complete	\$5,000	SBPG
Living Shoreline	Complete	\$23,500,000	CPRA
Black Mangrove Planting	Ongoing	\$15,000	SBPG/Orvis/AFFTA/Private
Violet Harbor of Refuge	Complete	\$2,000,000	CDBG
Caernarvon to Verret Reforestation	Ongoing	\$10,000	LPBF/SBPG
Derelict Crab Trap Removal (2017)	Complete	\$5,000	LPBF/SBPG
Recreational Fishing Piers (Delacroix 1)	Complete	\$1,000,000	SBPG
Recreational Fishing Piers (Delacroix 2)	Complete	\$1,000,000	SBPG
Lake Fortuna Oyster Cutch	Complete	\$2,500,000	LDWF/NRDA
Wayne's Wetlands/Marsh Dawgs	Ongoing	\$10,000	ABLE/SBPG
Violet Canal Maintenance Dredging	Complete	\$280,000	CPRA
Marine Debris Removal and Dredging	Ongoing	\$300,000	SBPG
Bayou Bash Marine Debris Removal	Ongoing	\$20,000	SBPG
Nunez Fisheries Workforce Development	Ongoing	\$225,000	RESTORE
Lake Lery Marsh Creation Phase 2	Eng/Design	\$3,000,000	RESTORE
Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline	Eng/Design	\$57,719,731	CPRA/RESTORE
Lake Borgne Marsh Creation	Eng/Design	\$127,000,000	CPRA/NRDA
Golden Triangle Marsh Creation	Eng/Design	\$54,550,330	CPRA/RESTORE
North Breton Island Restoration	Eng/Design	\$72,000,000	NRDA/DOI
Bayou La Loutre Ridge Rest.	Eng/Design	\$31,012,138	CWPPRA/CPRA
Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs Ridge Rest.	Eng/Design	\$15,200,000	SBPG/CAP 206
Paris Road Streetscape	Eng/Design	\$800,000	RESTORE
Lake Lery Marsh Creation Phase 3	Eng/Design	\$21,699,000	SBPG/TBD
East Bank Sediment Pipeline Study/Design	Eng/Design	\$1,000,000	SBPG/CPRA
Recreational Fishing Piers (Shell Beach)	Planning	\$1,374,000	SBPG/RESTORE
Rec. Fishing Piers/Public Market (Hopedale)	Planning	\$1,000,000	SBPG/RESTORE
Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection	Planning	\$46,000,000	NRDA
Chandeleur Islands Maint. & Reveg.	Planning	\$3,500,000	NRDA
40 Arpent Bike Bath	Planning	\$500,000	RESTORE
Drum Bay Oyster Cutch	Planning	\$1,100,000	NRDA/LDWF
Louisiana Oyster Cutch Phase 2	Planning	\$3,058,080	NRDA
Barrier Island Creation Feasibility Study	Planning	\$650,000	TBD
East Delacroix Marsh Creation	Planning	\$34,000,000	CWPPRA

TOTAL: \$514,648,279

V. SBPG Coastal Division

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Volunteers join President Guy McInnis and Councilman Monty Montelongo during
Bayou Bash