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# St. Bernard Parish Government

## 2019 Annual Coastal Report



**President Guy S. McInnis**

## Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	2
II. 2019: Recap and Highlights	3
III. 2020: Vision for Restoring the Coast	8
IV. Master Project List	9
V. SBPG Coastal Division	10



*Iconic white shrimp boots are commonplace in coastal St. Bernard Parish*

## I. Executive Summary

St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) and its partners moved a number of critical coastal activities forward in 2019. Most notably, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Technical Committee approved Phase 1 (engineering/design) funding for the *North Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing* project (\$35.5 million). This marks the third CWPPRA project to be approved in St. Bernard Parish since 2016, increasing the total value of all CWPPRA projects currently being designed in the parish to over \$100 million.

Engineering and design has been completed for a number of significant coastal activities in St. Bernard Parish, and many projects will be entering the construction phase in 2020. The US Department of Interior will be putting the *North Breton Island Restoration* project (\$72 million) up for construction bid in the coming months. Additionally, SBPG will be putting the *Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration* (Phase 1, \$3.3 million), *Lake Lery Marsh Creation* (Phase 2, \$3 million), and *Paris Road Streetscape Enhancement* (\$800,000) projects up for construction bid during the first quarter of the year. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) also recently funded two projects that are scheduled to be under construction in 2020: *St. Bernard Pump Station Repairs* (\$4 million) and *Violet Canal Siphon Repairs* (\$1 million).

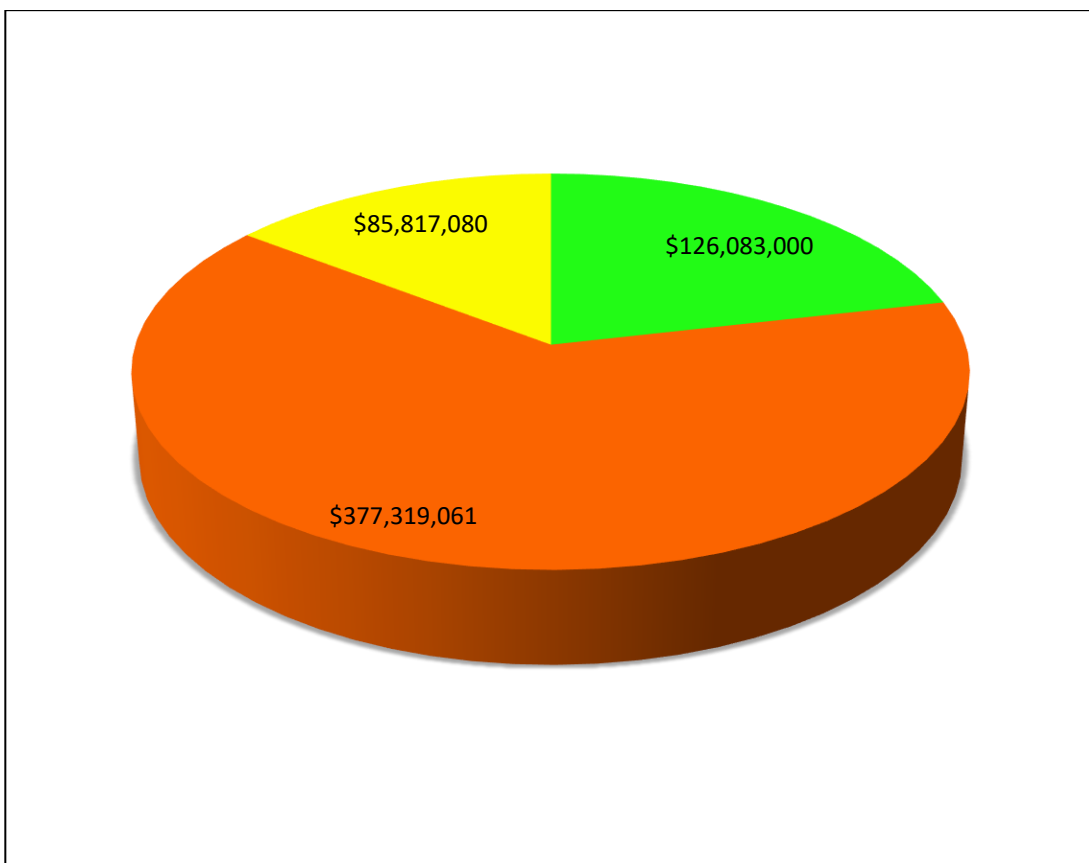
SBPG has made considerable investments in developing new projects over the past year. The *East Bank Sediment Pipeline* feasibility study and preliminary design were initiated in 2019. Additionally, SBPG entered into an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study for a beneficial use of dredged material (BUDMAT) project in eastern St. Bernard Parish. Finally, SBPG funded a feasibility study and preliminary design effort involving a *Barrier Island Creation* project in the Chandeleur Sound. As part of the CPRA's ongoing preparation for the *2023 State Coastal Master Plan* update, SBPG submitted a total of five new projects for the agency to consider.

SBPG has continued to work closely with its public, private, and nongovernmental partners to implement small-scale coastal restoration projects and programming throughout the year. Such efforts include the planting of black mangroves in the Biloxi Marsh, hosting two Delacroix Public Seafood Market events, and co-hosting the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cook-off for the Coast*, where approximately \$10,000 was raised in support of local environmental causes. SBPG and its partners also co-hosted the ongoing *Marsh Dawgs* program for local 4-H students and worked closely with Chalmette High School and Nunez Community College on various volunteer opportunities.

The *2019 Coastal Annual Report* provides a detailed summary of all coastal activities in St. Bernard Parish during the previous year. Additionally, the report includes a breakdown of completed and projected expenditures by activity 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.

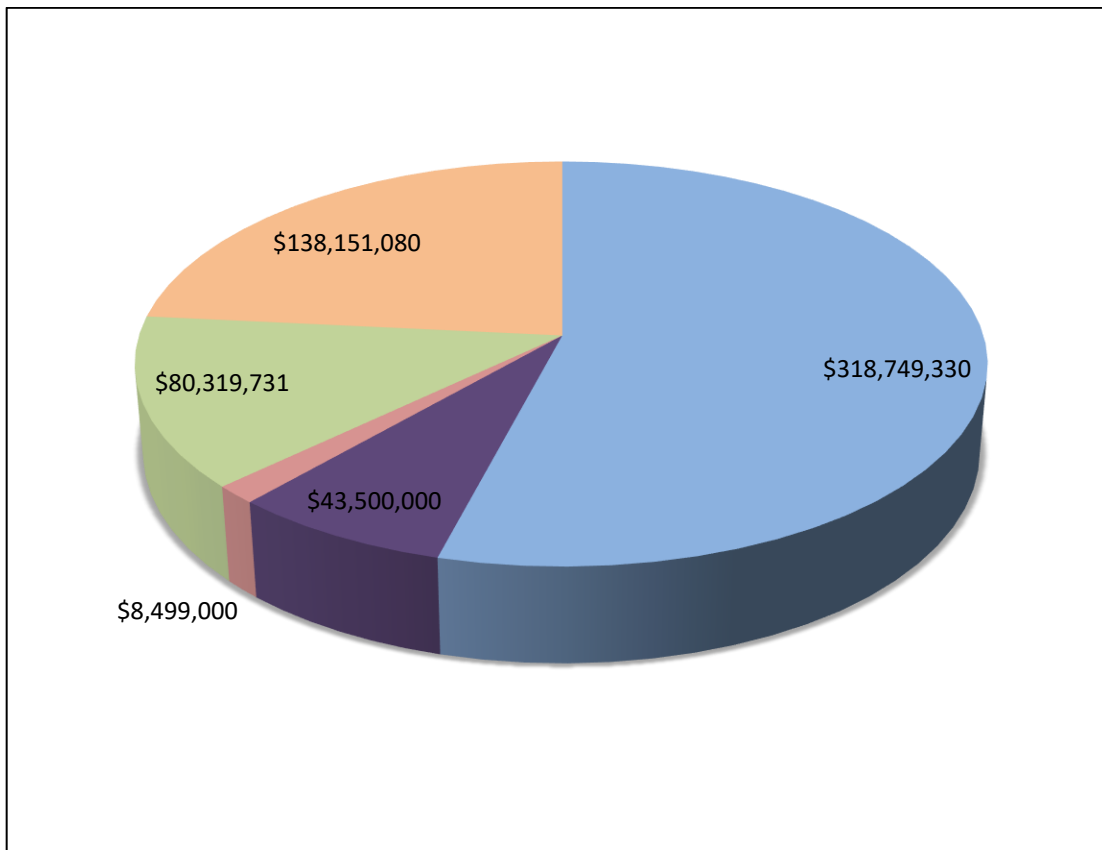
## II. 2019: Recap and Highlights






### *Completed and Projected Total Expenditures by Activity Phase*



	\$126,083,000	<b>Construction/Implementation (Complete or Ongoing)</b>
	\$377,319,061	<b>Engineering/Design</b>
	\$85,817,080	<b>Planning</b>

## Completed and Projected Total Expenditures by Activity Type



	\$318,749,330	<b>Marsh Creation</b>
	\$43,500,000	<b>Ridge Restoration</b>
	\$8,499,000	<b>Economic Development</b>
	\$80,319,731	<b>Shoreline Protection</b>
	\$138,151,080	<b>Other</b>

### Construction and Implementation

- **February 2019:** SBPG, the Meraux Foundation, and other partners hosted the 2nd Annual Cook-off for the Coast, raising \$10,000 for local environmental causes.
- **April 2019:** SBPG, Chalmette High School, and other partners planted over 1,000 black mangroves in the Biloxi Marsh, bringing the total planted since 2017 to over 3,200.

- **June 2019:** SBPG, Louisiana Sea Grant, and other partners hosted the first Delacroix Public Seafood Market event of the year. Over 700 people attended and 2,579 pounds of shrimp and 95 dozen crabs were sold.
- **July 2019:** SBPG, Louisiana Sea Grant, and Anglers Bettering Louisiana's Estuaries (ABLE) hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Marsh Dawgs community education and outreach event for local 4-H students.
- **August 2019:** SBPG and Nunez Community College launched the first academic school year of the Nunez Fisheries Workforce Development program.
- **September 2019:** SBPG, Louisiana Sea Grant, and other partners hosted the second and final Delacroix Public Seafood Market event of the year. Attendance and the quantity of seafood sold were comparable to the June event.
- **November 2019:** The Department of Interior informed SBPG that the North Breton Island Restoration project would be going up for construction bid in early 2020.
- **December 2019:** Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration project (Phase 1) was advertised for construction bid.
- **December 2019:** Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 2) began being prepared for construction bid. It is anticipated that advertisement will begin in early 2020.
- **December 2019:** Paris Road Streetscape Enhancement project began being prepared for construction bid. It is anticipated that advertisement will begin in early 2020.

### **Engineering and Design**

- **January 2019:** CPRA continued engineering and design for the CWPPRA *Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation* project. The effort will be ongoing throughout 2020.
- **January 2019:** CPRA initiated engineering and design for the CWPPRA *East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing* project. The effort will be ongoing throughout 2020.

- **January 2019:** SBPG and CPRA engaged Royal Engineering for the purpose of completing a study and preliminary design for the East Bank Sediment Pipeline project. The effort will be ongoing throughout 2020.
- **January 2019:** The Duplantis Group 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 2020.
- **January 2019:** Chicago Bridge and Iron 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 2020.
- **January 2019:** Hatch Mott MacDonald continued the engineering and design process for the *Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline* project (\$57,719,731). The effort will be ongoing throughout 2020.
- **January 2019:** All South Engineering, Royal Engineering, and Kyle Associates continued the engineering and design for the *Lake Lery Marsh Creation* project (Phase 3, \$21,699,000). The effort will be completed in 2020.
- **February 2019:** SBPG engaged Kyle Associates for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study and preliminary design for a *Barrier Island Creation* project in the Chandeleur Sound. The effort was completed in 2019 and the project was nominated for the 2023 State Coastal Master Plan.
- **April 2019:** SBPG entered into an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers and engaged Arcadis Engineering to conduct a feasibility study for a beneficial use of dredged material (BUDMAT) project in eastern St. Bernard Parish. The process is ongoing and will be completed in 2020.
- **December 2019:** The CWPPRA Technical Committee approved Phase 1 (engineering/design) funding for the *North Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing* project (\$35.5 million). Engineering and design is scheduled to begin in 2020.

## Planning

- **May 2019—September 2019:** SBPG worked closely with the State of Louisiana to declare an emergency and request that a federal fishery disaster be declared following the unprecedented 2019 Mississippi River Flood event and associated Bonnet Carre Spillway openings. In addition to declaring its own emergency, SBPG also presented the State of Louisiana with the parish's own federal fishery disaster recovery programming and spending priorities. Approval of an official spending plan for the disaster is pending.
- **May 2019:** The US Treasury approved Amendment #2 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 2020.
- **October 2019:** SBPG worked closely with property owners in Reggio to develop the *Reggio Shoreline Protection* project (\$250,000) along the Reggio Canal. The parish will continue to pursue grant funding for the project in 2020.
- **October 2019—Ongoing:** SBPG has been working closely with the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) Coalition and the congressional delegation on increasing the current revenue stream for Louisiana.
- **November 2019:** SBPG worked with the US Environmental Protection Agency on further developing the *Reggio Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration* project (\$30 million), which will be nominated for the CWPPRA program in January 2020.



### **III. 2020: Vision for Restoring the Coast**

SBPG 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 (Phases 2 and 3). Due to the complexity and size of the referenced projects, many of them will take several years to complete. 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 2019 and will continue to do so next year. Annual 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 2020. Programs such as Marsh Dawgs and the black mangrove planting will continue making coastal restoration accessible to the public. Additionally, the growth and promotion 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	\$22,000,000	CPRA
Violet Canal Noth Levee Alignment	Complete	\$4,000,000	CPRA/CDBG/HMGP
Black Mangrove Planting	Ongoing	\$15,000	SBPG/Orvis/AFFTA/Private
Violet Harbor of Refuge	Complete	\$2,000,000	CDBG
Caernarvon to Verret Reforestaion	Complete	\$10,000	LPBF/SBPG
Derelict Crab Trap Removal (2017)	Complete	\$5,000	LPBF/SBPG
Rec. Fishing (Delacroix Pier/Restroom)	Complete	\$1,000,000	SBPG
Rec. Fishing (Delacroix Hoist/Dry Dock)	Complete	\$1,000,000	SBPG
Lake Fortuna Oyster Cultch	Complete	\$2,500,000	LDWF/NRDA
Wayne's Wetlands/Marsh Dawgs	Ongoing	\$8,000	ABLE/SBPG
Violet Canal Maintenance Dredging	Complete	\$280,000	CPRA
Marine Debris Removal and Dredging	Complete	\$300,000	SBPG
Bayou Bash Marine Debris Removal	Complete	\$20,000	SBPG
Nunez Fisheries Workforce Devt.	Ongoing	\$225,000	RESTORE
Lake Lery Marsh Creation Phase 2	Ongoing	\$3,000,000	CIAP/RESTORE
North Breton Island Restoration	Ongoing	\$72,000,000	NRDA/DOI
Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs Ridge Phase 1	Ongoing	\$3,300,000	SBPG/CPRA
Paris Road Streetscape	Ongoing	\$800,000	RESTORE
St. Bernard Pump Station Repairs	Ongoing	\$4,000,000	CPRA
Violet Canal Siphon Repairs	Ongoing	\$1,000,000	CPRA
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
Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs Ridge Phase 2	Eng/Design	\$9,200,000	SBPG
Lake Lery Marsh Creation Phase 3	Eng/Design	\$21,699,000	SBPG/TBD
East Bank Sediment Pipe. Prelim. Design	Eng/Design	\$1,000,000	SBPG/CPRA
Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration	Eng/Design	\$31,000,000	CWPPRA/CPRA
East Delacroix Marsh Creation	Eng/Design	\$39,000,000	CWPPRA/CPRA
North Delacroix Marsh Creation	Eng/Design	\$35,500,000	CWPPRA/CPRA
Barrier Island Creation Prelim. Design	Eng/Design	\$650,000	SBPG
BUDMAT Lake Lery Feasibility Study	Planning	\$385,000	SBPG/USACE
Recreational Fishing Piers (Shell Beach)	Planning	\$1,374,000	SBPG/RESTORE
Rec. Fishing Piers/Market (Hopedale)	Planning	\$1,000,000	SBPG/RESTORE
Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protect.	Planning	\$46,000,000	NRDA
Chandeleur Islands Maint. & Reveg.	Planning	\$3,500,000	NRDA
40 Arpent Bike Bath	Planning	\$250,000	RESTORE
Louisiana Oyster Cultch Phase 2	Planning	\$3,058,080	NRDA
Reggio Marsh Creation	Planning	\$30,000,000	TBD
Reggio Shoreline Protection	Planning	\$250,000	TBD

**TOTAL: \$589,219,141**

## V. SBPG Coastal Division

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*Sunset in coastal St. Bernard Parish*