



COASTAL DIVISION



ST. BERNARD PARISH

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St. Bernard Parish Government

2020 Annual Coastal Report



COASTAL DIVISION



ST. BERNARD PARISH



President Guy S. McInnis



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Phase 1 of the Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration project
 (Source: Capt. George Ricks)



V. SBPG Coastal Division

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Sunset in coastal St. Bernard Parish





IV. Master Project List

Project	Phase	Cost	Funding Source
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 North Levee Alignment	Complete	\$4,000,000	CPRA/CDBG/HMGP
Black Mangrove Planting	Complete	\$15,000	SBPG/Orvis/AFFTA/Private
Violet Harbor of Refuge	Complete	\$2,000,000	CDBG
Caernarvon to Verret Reforestation	Complete	\$10,000	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
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
Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Phase 1	Complete	\$2,000,000	SBPG/CPRA
BUDMAT Lake Lery Feasibility Study	Complete	\$300,000	SBPG
Nunez Fisheries Workforce Devt.	Ongoing	\$325,000	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 2	Ongoing	\$5,200,000	SBPG/NFWF/RESTORE
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
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
Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Phase 3	Eng/Design	\$3,300,000	SBPG/TBD
Barrier Island Creation Prelim. Design	Eng/Design	\$650,000	SBPG
Isle au Pitre Restoration	Eng/Design	\$3,500,000	NRDA
Islenos Community Archive at Nunez	Eng/Design	\$100,000	RESTORE
Recreational Fishing Pier (Shell Beach)	Planning	\$1,374,000	SBPG/RESTORE
Rec. Fishing Pier/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 Bridge	Planning	\$500,000	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: \$591,071,141

I. Executive Summary

The St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) Coastal Division generally operated at full capacity throughout the year despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and historic hurricane season. Phase 1 of the *Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration* project (\$2 million) was completed in June. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) later awarded SBPG with \$2.6 million to construct Phase 2 of the project, which is scheduled to begin in 2021. The US Department of the Interior (DOI) also recently initiated construction for the highly-anticipated *North Breton Island Restoration* project (\$72 million). Finally, the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) approved \$3.5 million in Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding to begin engineering and design for the *Isle au Pitre Restoration* project, an effort that will commence in 2021.

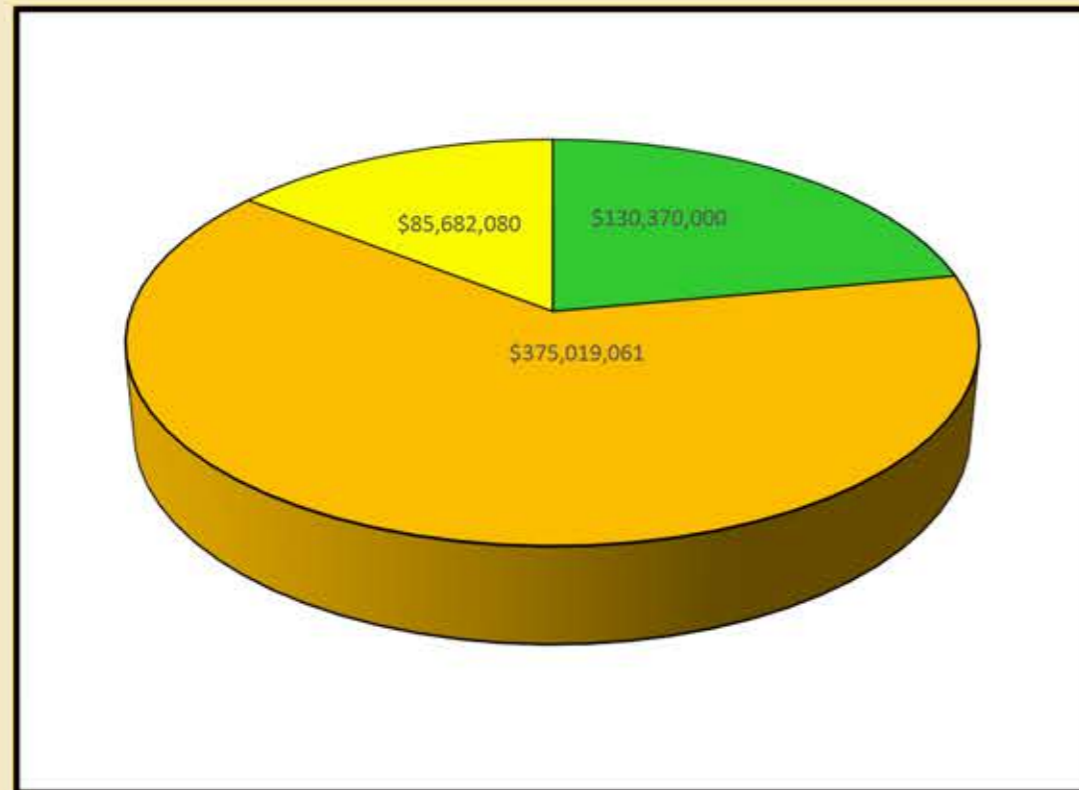
A number of other significant projects will be ready for construction next year, including *Lake Borgne Marsh Creation* (Phase 1, \$127 million), which will be the largest marsh creation project ever constructed in Louisiana. Additionally, the *Lake Lery Marsh Creation* (Phase 2, \$3 million) and *Paris Road Streetscape Enhancement* (\$800,000) projects are scheduled for construction during the upcoming year. Although construction funding for the *Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration* project (\$31 million) will not be available in 2021, it is anticipated that engineering and design for the project will be completed next year. Engineering and design for two other largescale Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) projects (*North Delacroix Marsh Creation* and *East Delacroix Marsh Creation*) will be ongoing throughout 2021.

SBPG canceled several of the organization's usual coastal activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the annual *Black Mangrove Planting* and *Marsh Dawgs* community education and outreach event. However, the parish did successfully host three public seafood market events in Delacroix and Hopedale during the year. Additionally, SBPG was able to continue its partnership with Nunez Community College by funding the ongoing *Fisheries Workforce Development Program*. In late 2020, the parish amended its RESTORE Act *Multiyear Implementation Plan* (MIP) and expanded its relationship with Nunez by securing additional funding for the workforce development program and adding construction funding for the *Islenos Community Archive*, which will be housed in the school's library.



II. 2020: Recap and Highlights

Completed and Projected Total Expenditures by Activity Phase



\$130,370,000	Construction/Implementation (Completed or Ongoing)
\$375,019,061	Engineering/Design
\$85,682,080	Planning



III. 2021: Vision for Restoring the Coast

After five years of making substantial investments in planning and engineering/design, and leveraging partnerships and external funding sources to the extent possible, St. Bernard Parish will finally experience a significant uptick in construction activity during 2021. Additionally, SBPG will continue working closely with its Federal and State partners to facilitate the ongoing engineering and design processes for the largescale projects referenced in this report. Finally, SBPG will make every effort to resume the organization's full slate of coastal activities, including volunteer and community education and outreach events, as Federal and State COVID-19 pandemic mitigation guidance allows.

SBPG has developed a great working relationship with its Federal and State partners, including the US Army Corps of Engineers and CPRA. However, it is critical that the parish remain vigilant with respect to the many ongoing and proposed activities that are inconsistent with the SBPG 2018 Coastal Strategy Document and/or pose threats to the sustainability of our natural environment and local economy. Such activities include:

- Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion project;
- MRGO rock dam;
- Proposed changes to the OLACP;
- Increased frequency and duration of Bonnet Carre Spillway openings; and
- Delays in the provision of recovery funding following the 2019 Gulf of Mexico Freshwater Flooding federal fishery disaster.

SBPG will continue monitoring the above activities, coordinating with relevant agencies and other stakeholders regarding their impacts, and submitting official public comments and other correspondence where necessary and appropriate.



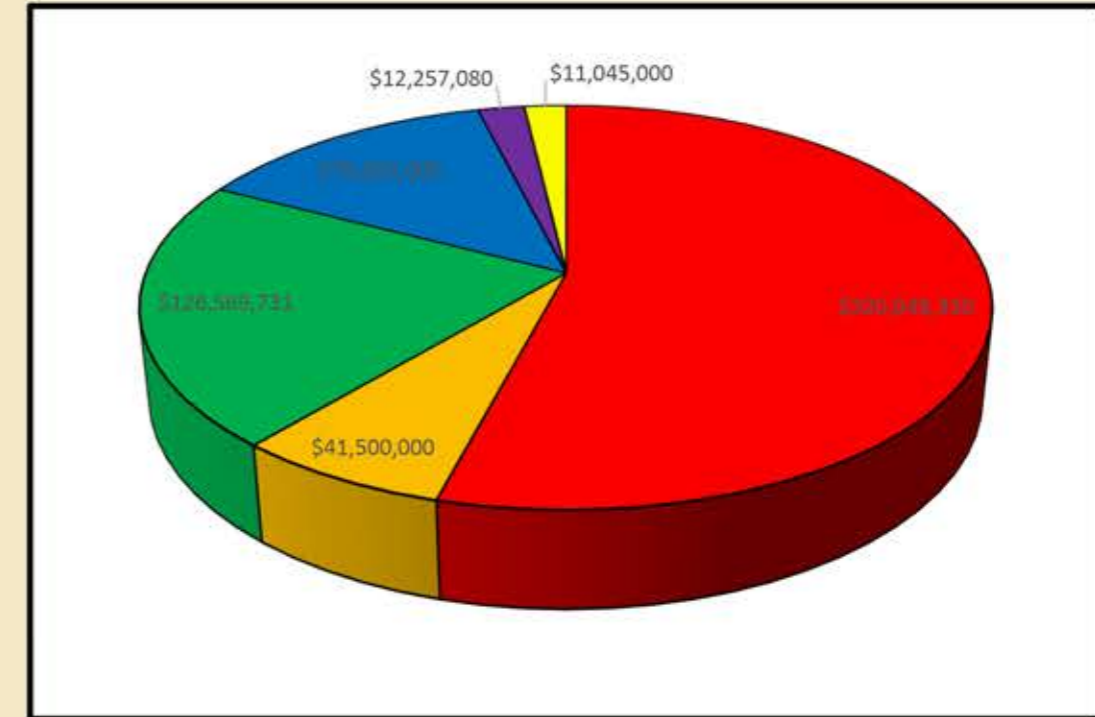
Planning

- **January 2020:** SBPG worked with the US Environmental Protection Agency to nominate the Reggio Marsh Creation project for the CWPPRA program.
- **February 2020:** The Reggio Marsh Creation project was voted the #1 CWPPRA project in the Breton Basin.
- **April 2020:** The Reggio Marsh Creation project was voted the #1 CWPPRA project in Louisiana.
- **May 2020 - Ongoing:** SBPG began advocating that the US Army Corps of Engineers and CPRA take emergency measures regarding the current design of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) rock dam closure. The structure has adversely impacted water quality, fish and wildlife, drainage, and navigation since its construction.
- **September 2020 - Ongoing:** SBPG began participating in the CPRA's *Oyster Lease Acquisition and Compensation Program (OLACP)* Group Study effort. The parish has consistently advocated that CPRA make the program more efficient and accessible in order to accommodate oyster leaseholders who may be impacted by largescale sediment diversions.
- **October 2020:** The US Treasury approved Amendment #3 to the SBPG RESTORE Act MIP. The updated plan includes additional funding for the ongoing Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration project and Nunez Fisheries Workforce Development program. Construction funding for the Islenos Community Archive project was also included in the latest MIP.

Over 1,000 acres of marsh creation is currently planned for the area east of Delacroix
 (Source: Capt. George Ricks)



Completed and Projected Total Expenditures by Activity Type



	\$320,049,330	Marsh Creation
	\$41,500,000	Ridge Restoration
	\$126,569,731	Shoreline Protection
	\$79,650,000	Barrier Island Restoration
	\$12,257,080	Economic Development
	\$11,045,000	Other



Construction and Implementation

- **June 2020:** The Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration project (Phase 1) was completed.
- **June 2020:** SBPG, Louisiana Sea Grant, and other partners hosted a Public Seafood Market event in Delacroix.
- **August 2020:** SBPG and Nunez Community College launched the second academic school year of the Nunez Fisheries Workforce Development program.
- **September 2020:** SBPG, Louisiana Sea Grant, and other partners hosted a Public Seafood Market event in Hopedale.
- **September 2020:** The DOI initiated construction of the North Breton Island Restoration project.
- **November 2020:** SBPG, Louisiana Sea Grant, and other partners hosted a Public Seafood Market in Hopedale.

Residents stand in line for fresh shrimp at a Public Seafood Market event in Hopedale
(Source: Dominique Siebert)



Engineering and Design

- **January 2020 - Ongoing:** CPRA continued the engineering and design processes for the Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration (PO-0178), North Delacroix Marsh Creation (BS-0041), and East Delacroix Marsh Creation (BS-0037) CWPPRA projects. Engineering and design for the ridge restoration project is nearing completion, and engineering and design for the marsh creation projects will be ongoing throughout 2021.
- **January 2020 - Ongoing:** Chicago Bridge and Iron continued the engineering and design process for the *Golden Triangle Marsh Creation* (PO-0163) project. The effort will be ongoing throughout 2021.
- **January 2020 - Ongoing:** Hatch Mott MacDonald continued the engineering and design process for the *Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline* (PO-0174) project. The effort will be ongoing throughout 2021.
- **September 2020:** The Duplantis Group completed the engineering and design process for the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation (PO-0180) project. The LA TIG also approved construction funding for the project.
- **December 2020:** The CWPPRA Technical Committee approved Phase 1 (engineering and design) funding for the *Reggio Marsh Creation* project. This effort is scheduled to begin in 2021.

Construction of the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation project (PO-0180) will begin in 2021
(Source: CPRA)

