



St. Bernard Parish Government

2017 Annual Coastal Report



December 2017



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Parish President Guy McInnis and John Lane, Executive Director of Coastal Affairs

I. Executive Summary

The St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) Coastal Division reached a number of critical milestones in 2017. Engineering and design began for five large-scale projects: *Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration*; *Bayou Terre aux Beoufs Ridge Restoration (Phase 1)*; *Lake Borgne Marsh Creation (Phase 1)*; *Golden Triangle Marsh Creation (Phase 1)*; and *Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline*. SBPG also constructed Phase 1 of the *Delacroix Fishing Complex* and installed navigational aids near Shell Beach and Hopedale. Finally, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) board convened at Chalmette High School in July, marking the first time the agency has conducted an official meeting in St. Bernard Parish.

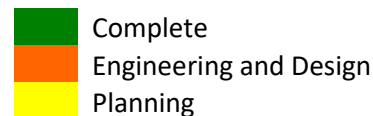
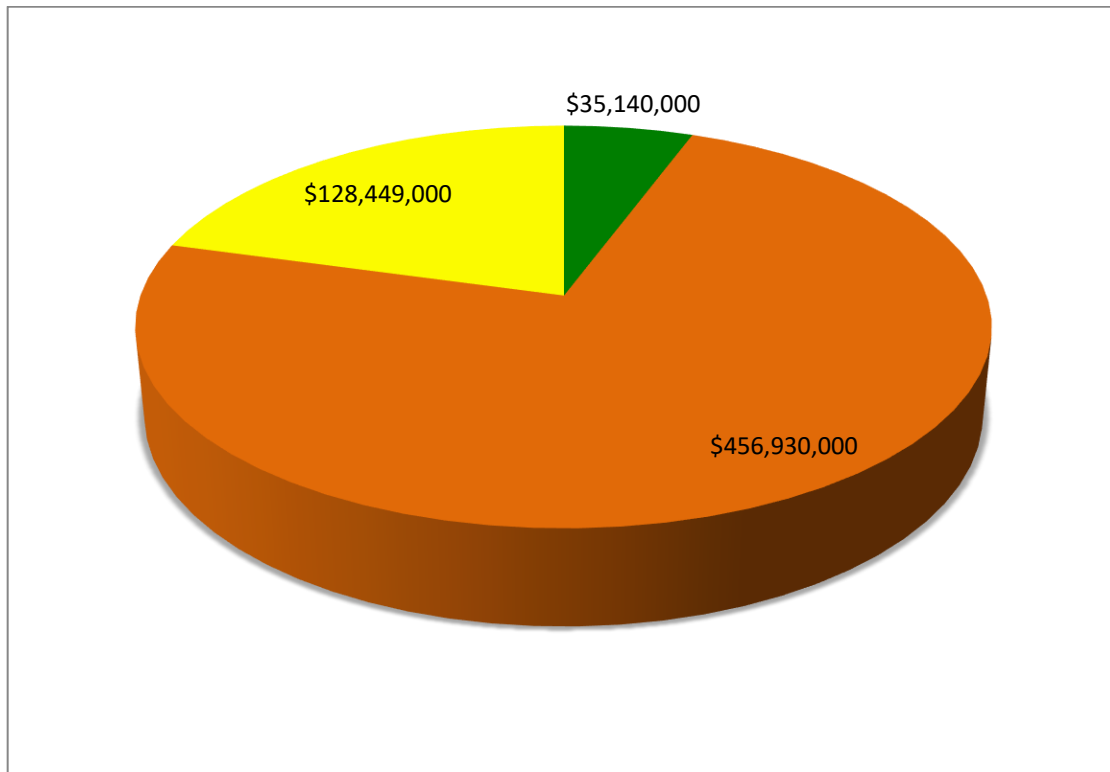
Local coastal restoration efforts have benefitted greatly from partnerships and volunteerism. The SBPG Coastal Division worked closely with a number of public, private, and nongovernmental entities throughout the year to implement small-scale coastal restoration projects. Such projects include the planting of cypress trees near Caernarvon; the planting of black mangroves in the Biloxi Marsh; and the removal of derelict crab traps near Delacroix. Hundreds of volunteers from around the United States, including many from Chalmette High School (CHS) and local groups and businesses, contributed thousands of hours of labor during the implementation of the aforementioned projects.

The SBPG Coastal Division engaged in a number of planning and grant writing activities in 2017. The first iteration of the parish's *RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan* was approved by the US Treasury in May. SBPG has since submitted RESTORE Act Direct Component grant applications for the *Paris Road Corridor Streetscape Enhancement* project and the *Nunez Community College Fisheries Workforce Development* program. The parish also recently submitted a request to the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) for \$3.5 million in Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding for the *Chandeleur Islands Maintenance and Re-vegetation* project.

A number of high priority coastal activities will be implemented during the coming year. Several projects will likely be funded via the RESTORE Act in 2018, including Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 2). Additionally, each of the previously referenced small-scale coastal restoration projects (cypress trees, black mangroves, and derelict crab traps) will occur again next year. Finally, the SBPG Coastal Division looks forward to capitalizing on new funding opportunities in 2018, including Phase 2 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA).

II. 2017: Recap and Highlights

Projected Total Expenditures by Project Phase

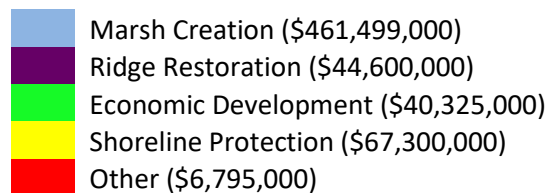
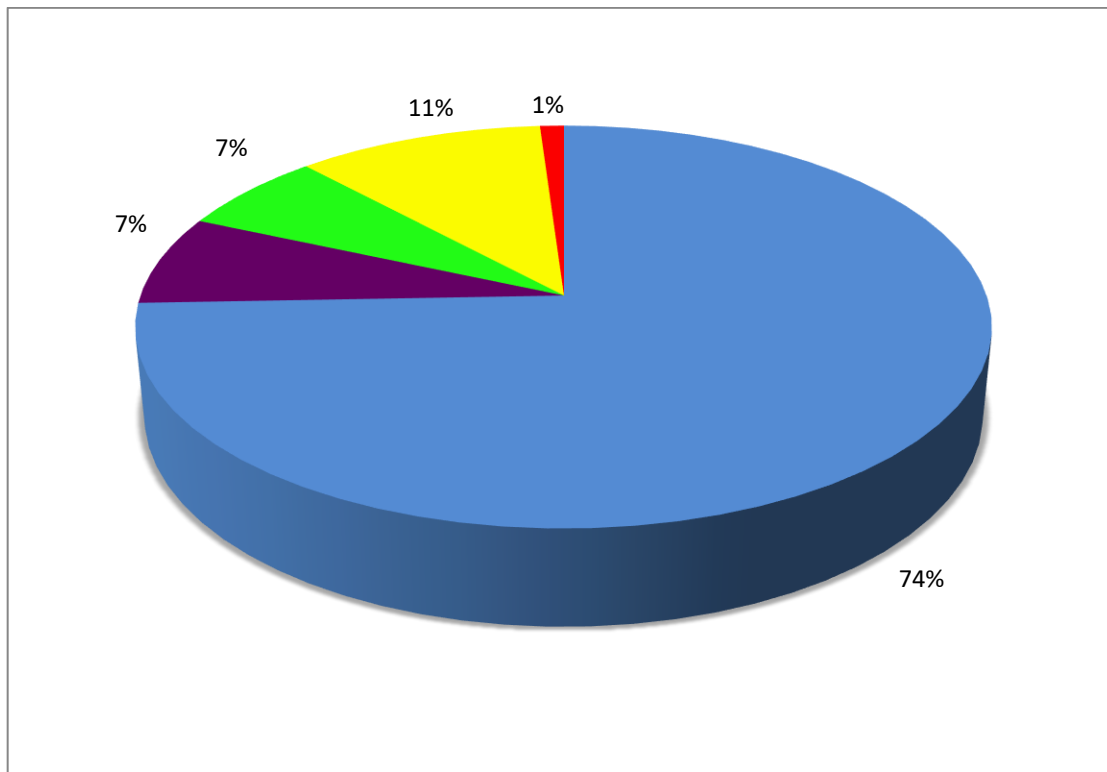


Over \$25 million in additional projects were *completed* in 2017, most notably the *Living Shoreline* and *Delacroix Fishing Complex*. Projected *engineering and design* expenditures have remained relatively static since 2016. Total projected *planning* expenditures have increased by approximately \$40 million since last year, largely due to the passage of the State's *2017 Coastal Master Plan* and the introduction of the *East Delacroix Marsh Creation* polygon and other large-scale projects.

Construction and Implementation

- **January 2017:** SBPG completed an emergency navigational aids project near the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) at Shell Beach and Hopedale. Channel markers were installed in order to mitigate some of the navigational hazards caused by the MRGO rock dam closure.
- **February and March 2017:** SBPG worked with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF), Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), and Sweetwater Marina to conduct a derelict crab trap sweep in Delacroix. Approximately 3,000 derelict crab traps were removed from St. Bernard Parish waterways during the event. Two similar sweeps will be conducted in February and March of 2018.
- **March 2017:** SBPG worked with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and Common Ground to plant 500 Roseau cane stalks in Reggio and 1,500 plugs of smooth cordgrass along Bayou La Loutre. The parish will be working with LDAF on a similar bulrush project in the Central Wetlands Unit in 2018.
- **March and April 2017:** SBPG worked with LPBF, the St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation, and Restore the Earth to plant 2,300 cypress trees in the Caernarvon area. Approximately 1,000 additional cypress trees will be planted near Caernarvon in March 2018.
- **April 2017:** SBPG worked with Nicholls State University, the LSU Ag Center, and others to plant 1,000 black mangroves in the Biloxi Marsh. The project was largely funded by private contributions and grants. The SBPG Coastal Division, CHS, and the LSU Ag Center have raised 3,000 black mangrove plants in the school's greenhouse since 2016. An additional 1,000 mature black mangroves will be planted in the Biloxi Marsh in April 2018.
- **August 2017:** SBPG completed the construction of the Delacroix Fishing Complex (Phase 1), which included a fishing pier, pavilion, and restroom. The property for the fishing pier and pavilion was donated by the Meraux Foundation. Phase 2 (boat hoist and dry dock) construction will be completed in 2018.
- **October 2017:** SBPG completed the *Violet Safe Harbor* (marine debris removal) project in the Violet Canal. The CPRA will also be performing maintenance dredging along a portion of the canal in January 2018.

Projected Total Expenditures by Project Type



Projected total expenditures by project type have generally remained static since 2016. However, the *shoreline protection* category increased by \$40 million due to the reclassification of the Point aux Marchettes project. The reclassification of the project from marsh creation to shoreline protection is the result of recent project scoping conducted by various federal agencies as part of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration (CWPPRA) process. Newly proposed projects such as Chandeleur Islands Maintenance and Re-vegetation have also resulted in a fairly significant increase in projected expenditures for projects designated as *other*.

Engineering and Design

- **January 2017:** The CWPPRA Task Force approved Phase 1 (engineering/design) funding for the Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation project (\$29.4 million). The CPRA has since agreed to fund the 25% non-federal cost-share for the project. Engineering/design began in November 2017.
- **February 2017:** SBPG engaged Royal Engineering for the purpose of initiating engineering/design (\$1.3 million) for Phase 1 of the Bayou Terre Aux Beoufs Ridge Restoration project (\$15.2 million). Engineering/design is approximately 90% complete as of November 2017. This portion of the project is being funded by SBPG.
- **October 2017:** The CPRA engaged The Duplantis Group for the purpose of initiating engineering/design for the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project (Phase 1) (\$131 million). The initial phase of the project will create approximately 600 acres of marsh. The project is being funded through the NRDA program.
- **October 2017:** The CPRA engaged CB& I for the purpose of initiating engineering/design for the Golden Triangle Marsh Creation project (Phase 1) (\$272.8 million) near the St. Bernard/Orleans parish line. The initial phase of the project will create approximately 600 acres of marsh. The project is being funded through the RESTORE Act.
- **October 2017:** The CPRA engaged Hatch Mott MacDonald for the purpose of initiating engineering/design for the Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline project (\$3.2 million). The purpose of this project is to stimulate the growth of oyster reefs along the coast and protect the shoreline. The project is being funded through the RESTORE Act.
- **December 2017:** SBPG advertised a request for proposals to remove marine debris from Yscloskey Bayou and Bayou La Loutre. It is anticipated that a contractor will be selected and work will begin in early 2018.
- **December 2017:** SBPG and Plaquemines Parish Government (PPG) have proposed a partnership to engage Royal Engineering and Coastal Engineering Solutions to conduct a study/preliminary design for the *East Bank Sediment Pipeline* project (\$1.3 million). The project would provide a renewable source of sediment from the Mississippi River to service marsh creation efforts throughout the region. The initial portion of the project may be funded by SBPG and PPG.

Planning

- **January 2017:** SBPG has a pending request to the CPRA for \$35 million in GOMESA funding to install sheet piling along Louisiana Highway 300 (LA 300). The proposed project would compliment the LA 300 road elevation project that was recently completed by the State. It is anticipated that the CPRA will make a decision regarding the request in early 2018.
- **April 2017:** SBPG worked with several federal agencies to nominate the *Point aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection* (\$40 million) and *East Delacroix Marsh Creation* (\$25 million) projects for CWPPRA funding. Both were voted as top projects in their respective basins and have since been endorsed by over twenty entities and elected officials, including Senators Cassidy and Kennedy and Congressman Scalise. The CWPPRA Technical Committee will make its final recommendations regarding project funding in December 2017.
- **May 2017:** The US Treasury approved the initial version of the parish's RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan (RESTORE MIP). SBPG has since submitted grant applications for several projects and is currently in the process of updating its RESTORE MIP to include additional projects. SBPG anticipates that it will submit its updated RESTORE MIP to the US Treasury for review and approval by February 2018.
- **July 2017:** SBPG received a number of grants and private contributions for its ongoing black mangrove program. Grantors included Orvis and the American Fly Fishing Trade Association. Low Tide Charters, Biloxi Marsh Lands Corporation, and Lake Eugenie Land Development, Incorporated also recently made private contributions to the program.
- **September 2017:** SBPG submitted a request to the CPRA for RESTORE Act Parish Matching Funds (\$2.7 million) to complete construction of the Lake Lery Marsh Creation (Phase 2) project. It is anticipated that the CPRA will make a decision regarding the request in early 2018.
- **September 2017:** SBPG submitted a request to the *Deepwater Horizon* TIG for \$3.5 million in NRDA funding for the Chandeleur Islands Maintenance and Re-vegetation project. It is anticipated that the TIG will make a decision regarding the request in early 2018.
- **December 2017:** SBPG is in the process of updating its *2016 Coastal Strategy Document*. It is anticipated that the updated plan will be submitted to the St. Bernard Parish Council for review in early 2018.

III. 2018: Vision for Restoring the Coast

The State of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan includes a number of new large-scale projects in St. Bernard Parish. The SBPG Coastal Division is in the process of updating its Coastal Strategy Document and other local plans in order to better align the State's priorities with those of the parish. Additionally, it is worth noting that the CPRA has removed the *Upper Breton Sediment Diversion* project from the updated State master plan. SBPG will continue to closely monitor any new developments regarding proposed large-scale sediment diversions.

RESTORE Act and GOMESA funding will be made available to fund a number of coastal activities in 2018. It is anticipated that SBPG will receive over \$1 million in RESTORE Act Direct Component funds and at least \$600,000 in GOMESA funds over the next year. These funds have been set aside for projects ranging from marsh creation to economic development. Other pending grant applications made through the CPRA, such as the GOMESA Coastal Infrastructure Program and RESTORE Act Parish Matching Program, may also facilitate project funding and implementation in 2018.

The SBPG Coastal Division will remain heavily engaged in the CWPPRA process, which provides the parish with opportunities to obtain funding for large-scale projects annually. After obtaining Phase 1 funding for the Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration project in 2016, two additional projects (Point aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection and East Delacroix Marsh Creation) were nominated for program funding in 2017. The SBPG Coastal Division will be working closely with its federal and state partners to nominate additional projects in 2018.

Small-scale coastal restoration programming will continue to provide SBPG with opportunities to engage in coastal restoration on an ongoing basis while the parish seeks funding for larger projects. As demonstrated in 2017, such projects also provide opportunities for community education and engagement. The SBPG Coastal Division will continue to work with its private and nongovernmental partners, as well as local citizens, to continue implementing its annual small-scale coastal restoration programming in 2018.

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
Living Shoreline	Complete	\$23,500,000	CPRA
Black Mangrove Planting	Complete	\$15,000	SBPG/Orvis/AFFTA/Private
Violet Harbor of Refuge	Complete	\$2,000,000	CDBG
Caernarvon to Verret Reforestation	Complete	\$5,000	LPBF/SBPG
Derelict Crab Trap Removal	Complete	\$5,000	LPBF/SBPG
Recreational Fishing Piers (Delacroix 1)	Complete	\$1,000,000	SBPG
Violet Canal Maintenance Dredging	Eng/Design	\$300,000	CPRA
Lake Lery Marsh Creation Phase 2	Eng/Design	\$3,000,000	RESTORE
Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline	Eng/Design	\$3,200,000	CPRA/RESTORE
Lake Borgne Marsh Creation	Eng/Design	\$131,000,000	CPRA/NRDA
Golden Triangle Marsh Creation	Eng/Design	\$272,800,000	CPRA/RESTORE
Bayou La Loutre Ridge Rest.	Eng/Design	\$29,400,000	CWPPRA/CPRA
Bayou Terre Aux Beoufs Ridge Rest.	Eng/Design	\$15,200,000	SBPG/CAP 206
Recreational Fishing Piers (Delacroix 2)	Eng/Design	\$1,000,000	SBPG
Paris Road Streetscape	Eng/Design	\$800,000	RESTORE
Nunez Fisheries Workforce Development	Eng/Design	\$225,000	RESTORE
Central Wetlands Reforestation	Eng/Design	\$5,000	SBPG/LDAF
Recreational Fishing Piers (Shell Beach)	Planning	\$1,300,000	SBPG/RESTORE
Rec. Fishing Piers/Public Market (Hopedale)	Planning	\$1,000,000	SBPG/RESTORE
Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection	Planning	\$40,000,000	TBD/CWPPRA
Chandeleur Islands Maint. & Reveg.	Planning	\$3,500,000	NRDA
East Delacroix Marsh Creation	Planning	\$25,000,000	TBD/CWPPRA
Lake Lery Marsh Creation Phase 3	Planning	\$21,699,000	TBD
LA Highway 300 Resilience	Planning	\$35,000,000	CPRA/GOMESA/DoTD
Marine Debris Removal and Dredging	Planning	\$300,000	SBPG
East Bank Sediment Pipeline Study/Design	Planning	\$650,000	TBD/SBPG

TOTAL: \$620,519,000

V. SBPG Coastal Division

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Parish President Guy McInnis at the CPRA board meeting at Chalmette High School