



TOP POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS FOR OVERALL FLOOD MITIGATION

FLOODPLAIN PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

Natural floodplains provide significant flood risk reduction benefits by slowing stormwater runoff and storing flood water. Typically located next to rivers, streams, and coasts, they are a great defense against destructive floods. **Bluebonnet swamp is a great example of a preserved floodplain in the heart of Baton Rouge.**

Public support, thorough community planning and higher floodplain management standards can help preserve and restore the beneficial functions of floodplains that protect people, property, and wildlife. Also updated codes and ordinances as well as the installation of green infrastructure components can help protect a community's valuable floodplain. The Louisiana Watershed Initiative's Bayou Duplantier Floodplain Acquisition Project, which will preserve 200-acres of natural forested floodplain, is another great example of the parish preserving floodplains. Bayou Duplantier floodplain captures stormwater runoff from developed areas and carries it downstream to Dawson Creek then Ward Creek.



Bluebonnet Swamp



RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

Resilient development means factoring risk into the planning and design of land development projects. From where development occurs, to how it is built, and how it performs during rain and flooding events, Resilient Development standards can reduce flood risk by lowering the likelihood that new development will adversely impact its surrounding area's natural ability to manage stormwater. In some cases, Resilient Development can help reduce flood risk, as well as provide ecological, recreational, and economic benefits to the surrounding communities.

The Stormwater Master Plan will provide recommendations based on national best practices to promote Resilient Development throughout the Parish.



CULVERT/BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS

A culvert is a tunnel carrying a stream or open drain under a road or railroad. When culverts are not the proper size they can reduce (slow) the flow of water, resulting in flooding upstream of the structure.

An example of this can be found at the box culvert at Harrelson Lateral and Old Hammond Highway. Currently, the box culvert causes a restriction of water flow during rain events. The city-parish has been awarded FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to replace the culvert which will increase water flow and reduce backwater flooding.



MAINTENANCE

OUR STORMWATER SYSTEM

Maintenance to our existing drainage system is a key component to managing stormwater. Wrap your mind around these numbers! Our parish's stormwater system is comprised of **over 300 miles of major channels and tributaries, hundreds of miles of small streams and roadside ditches**, and in the subsurface drainage system, **over 67,000 inlet/outfall structures** and **63,000 pipe segments**. All of this must be maintained to ensure the efficient flow of water through the parish watersheds. Clearing and Snagging and Subsurface maintenance, such as structure and pipe cleaning, are just some of the methods the city-parish utilizes for drainage maintenance. Remember, for all maintenance requests, residents should contact Red Stick 311 via telephone, website or mobile app.



300+ MILES

Major channels and tributaries, small streams and roadside ditches



67,000+

Inlet/outfall structures



63,000

Pipe segments

Clearing & Snagging

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, clearing and snagging is the removal of vegetation along the bank (clearing) and/or selective removal of snags, drifts, or other obstructions (snagging) from natural or improved channels and streams. The flow area of a channel may become clogged by various kinds of obstructions including trash. When that happens, the stream flow is reduced, and some or all of the obstructions may need to be removed. Clearing and snagging aids in restoring the flow capacity and prevents excessive bank erosion.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is currently clearing and snagging five major channels throughout the parish. In addition, the city-parish is performing similar work throughout the parish.



Structure & Pipe Cleaning

The **subsurface** pipes and drains that move the stormwater out of our communities are maintained by the East Baton Rouge Parish Department of Maintenance. Drain systems can routinely get clogged with mud, sticks and trash which can cause backups during severe rainstorms. Routine storm drain system cleaning can greatly reduce the amount of debris both in the storm drain system and where it drains to.

Since the Metro Council approved the first rounds of ARPA Funds in June 2021 for drainage initiatives, **the city-parish has cleaned 3,800 storm drains and pipes—removing 5.6 million pounds of sediment and debris.**



Mayor Broome and the city council have allocated \$40 Million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to support maintenance of the parish's drainage infrastructure.

For more information on projects in your area, visit stormwater.brla.gov.

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