



State Legislature Approves 2017 Coastal Master Plan



The Louisiana State Legislature has approved the state’s 50-year plan to protect and restore Louisiana’s coast. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan was passed unanimously through the State House and Senate with unanimous bipartisan support. The master plan was submitted to the legislature on April 25, 2017 and was unanimously approved on June 02, 2017.

With the approval of the master plan, state agencies are directed by Executive Order JBE 2016-09 to “administer their regulatory practices, programs, projects, contracts, grants, and all other functions vested in them in a manner consistent with the Coastal Master Plan and public interest to the maximum extent possible.”

The coastal master plan was developed through a robust scientific and technical analysis with extensive public input. The plan recommends 124 projects- including restoration projects, structural protection projects, and nonstructural risk reduction projects.

Over the next 50 years, the 2017 Coastal Master Plan includes:

- \$18 billion for marsh creation, \$5 billion for sediment diversions, and more than \$2 billion for other types of restoration projects, providing land building benefits of 800 to 1,200 square miles compared to no action.
- \$19 billion for structural protection and \$6 billion for nonstructural risk reduction; these projects will reduce expected annual damage by \$8.3 billion by year 50 as compared to no action and are expected to pay for themselves three times over the course of implementing the plan.
- Many restoration benefits that will support commercial and recreational fisheries, coastal wildlife, and the diverse habitats which enable us to live, work, and play across the coast.

In all, the master plan outlines projects that cost, in present value, approximately \$50 billion. These investments will not only provide direct restoration and risk reduction benefits, but will also provide tremendous economic development opportunities for Louisiana and its residents. Such restoration and risk reduction projects will also continue to provide important national services and enhance national security by supporting our nation’s critical infrastructure, international trade, and economy.

The unprecedented investment in coastal restoration and protection will continue to put Louisiana at the forefront of using science and innovation to plan a more sustainable future for our coastal communities and our valuable ecosystem.

Click to view the [2017 Coastal Master Plan](#).