



2017 Coastal Master Plan Frequently Asked Questions

Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast

This document compiles Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that pertain to the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. The intent is to provide interested coastal Louisiana residents, parish officials, coastal stakeholders, and the general public with additional information about the master plan.

1. What is the Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, or 2017 Coastal Master Plan?

The 2017 Coastal Master Plan articulates a clear statement of priorities and focuses development and implementation efforts to achieve comprehensive coastal restoration and protection for Louisiana. Developed using the best available science and engineering, the 2017 Coastal Master Plan focuses our efforts and guides the actions needed to sustain our coastal ecosystem, safeguard coastal populations, and protect vital economic and cultural resources. Additionally, the 2017 Coastal Master Plan provides the context needed to evaluate other activities in the coastal zone, including: transportation, navigation, and port projects; oil and gas development; ground water management and land use planning. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan is much more than just a plan. It is the guiding document of CPRA and our efforts to protect and restore the Louisiana coast, built on a solid foundation of scientific and engineering principles.

2. We created Coastal Master Plans in 2007 and 2012. Why do we need another one?

Louisiana law requires that the master plan be updated every five years so the state can respond to changes on the ground as well as innovations in science, engineering, and policy. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan is the third installment in what will be a series of Coastal Master Plans, each one improving on work done before and helping to establish clear priorities for the future. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan carries previous planning efforts forward by improving the science and analysis, incorporating new ideas and information, expanding stakeholder engagement, and focusing more on communities and comprehensive flood risk reduction.

3. What progress has been made since the 2007 and 2012 Coastal Master Plans were published?

Since CPRA was created and the first 2007 Coastal Master Plan was released, we've secured more than \$18 billion for protection and restoration projects in 20 parishes. Since 2007, we have completed or funded for construction a total of 135 projects, resulting in over 36,000 acres of land benefited, 282 miles of levee improvements, and over 60 miles of barrier islands and berms constructed or under construction.

In keeping with the mandate of Act 8 that established CPRA, the 2007 Coastal Master Plan set forth a new comprehensive approach that integrated planning for the protection of our communities with planning for our coastal environment in order to address the needs of the whole coastal system. The 2012 Coastal Master Plan then made a tremendous leap forward in developing the computer models and analytic tools that enabled us to better understand our changing landscape and to evaluate protection and restoration projects in a systems context. As a result, for the first time, the state made detailed recommendations for specific projects and



programs that have the best chance of reducing communities' flood risk and improving the sustainability of our coast.

The computer models developed for the 2017 plan again confirm that certain projects, such as levees and large sediment diversions have to be part of the solution. The 2017 plan also recommends a diverse balance of projects (79 restoration, 13 structural, and 32 nonstructural) that splits the protection and restoration funding evenly and incorporates an adaptive management approach to coastal protection and restoration. For more information on projects that have already been constructed or are currently in construction, please visit CPRA's [Interactive Project Map](#).

4. How does the 2017 Coastal Master Plan differ from the 2012 Coastal Master Plan?

The 2017 Coastal Master Plan stays true to the overall objectives and approach of the 2012 Coastal Master Plan, but includes several advancements:

- **Emphasizing communities:** The goals of coastal restoration and risk reduction ultimately support the people who live and work in coastal Louisiana. More than ever, the 2017 Coastal Master Plan places a greater focus on our coastal communities. It is important to understand the cost of continued land loss and the potential effects of protection and restoration projects on local communities, local businesses, and regional and national economies. This plan weaves together the story of our coast, reflecting on past efforts while steadily moving forward to provide benefits to Louisiana's coastal communities. For more information please see, [Appendix B: People and the Landscape](#), as well as [Appendix G: Outreach and Engagement](#).
- **Focusing on flood risk reduction and resilience:** Using all the tools available to reduce communities' flood risk, different types of nonstructural options were explored and policies were refined to help communities become more resilient. As a result, this plan presents a detailed path forward for nonstructural project recommendations, implementation procedures, and policy recommendations. The plan presents a multitude of projects that help to achieve our collective goal of reducing flood risk while increasing our resiliency. For more information on CPRA's Flood Risk and Resilience Program, please see [Appendix E: Flood Risk and Resilience Program Framework](#). In addition, CPRA has released an updated, interactive viewer to help residents better understand their flood risk now and in the future. To access the viewer, visit the [Master Plan Data Viewer](#).
- **Incorporating new ideas and information:** The 2017 Coastal Master Plan considers an array of new project ideas not evaluated in 2012, most of which were submitted from across the coast by stakeholders. The New Project Development Program and the open call for projects helped to capture local knowledge of coastal areas and problems, as well as broadened the transparency and inclusiveness of the planning process. Please see [Appendix A: Project Definition](#) and associated attachments.
- **Improving the science:** The 2012 Coastal Master Plan was developed using state-of-the-art analysis, and the 2017 effort builds upon this. The improved project evaluation process reflects a deeper understanding of Louisiana's current coastal environment and the changes expected over the next 50 years. More advanced modeling tools were used to evaluate the projects considered for the 2017 plan. A larger geographic area and a wider range of ecosystem outcomes were incorporated, including additional fisheries and wildlife species. The spatial details of hydrology and flood risk models were increased. Altogether, these efforts establish a solid scientific and technical foundation for the plan now and in the years to come. For more information, please see [Appendix C: Modeling](#) and associated attachments and [Appendix D: Planning Tool](#).



- **Expanding partnerships and collaboration:** The 2017 Coastal Master Plan builds upon existing partnerships. Input was gathered from a diverse range of coastal stakeholders and extensive dialogue with the public. These partnerships include a coastal stakeholder advisory group as well as focus groups that represent Louisiana’s coastal communities, landowners, and commercial activities (fisheries, navigation, energy, and industry). The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) also coordinated closely with key groups, such as floodplain managers, hazard mitigation specialists, other state agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). CPRA continues to reach out to the public in new ways to better share and receive information related to the changing landscape, current and future flood risk, and the solutions needed to create a more resilient and sustainable coast. In the end, these efforts have strengthened the collaborative spirit, lending to the robust offering of projects in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan that supports our ecosystem and reduces risk for communities and vital economic and cultural resources. For more information, please see the [Appendix G: Outreach and Engagement](#) or visit the “[Working Together](#)” section of our website.

5. If a project was included in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan, is it in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan?

Not necessarily. Projects included in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan that have not moved to implementation were analyzed and considered, just like new project concepts that were submitted through CPRA’s New Project Development Program. All of these projects underwent the same rigorous technical analysis. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan, much like the 2012 Coastal Master Plan, is resource constrained and includes a select number of projects that are based on sound science and stakeholder feedback.

6. What is the Annual Plan, and how does it relate to the Coastal Master Plan?

The [Integrated Ecosystem Restoration & Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana: Annual Plan](#) describes projects and actions that will be undertaken by the state and its partners each fiscal year. The Annual Plan also describes both the progress we have made and the challenges we have encountered in seeking to implement the guidance offered in the previous master plan. Finally, the Annual Plan forecasts project priorities and budgets up to three years into the future.

7. Who decides what is in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan? Who approves it?

The 2017 Coastal Master Plan is developed by CPRA with extensive input from coastal stakeholders. Once complete, it first goes to the CPRA Board for approval before it is submitted to the Louisiana State Legislature for approval in the spring of 2017.

8. What are the benefits of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan?

- **Building and Maintaining Land.** The plan dedicates nearly \$18 billion to marsh creation using dredged material, \$5 billion to sediment diversions, and more than \$2 billion to other types of restoration projects – providing land building benefits of more than 800 square miles, compared to a Future Without Action.
- **Reducing Flood Risk.** The plan dedicates \$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 Future Without Action and are expected to pay for themselves three times over the course of implementing the plan.
 - We know our risk will increase into the future, but through a combination of structural and nonstructural risk reduction projects, we estimate that we can reduce the expected annual damage we would face from storm surge by more than 75% for the Houma, Slidell, Franklin and Charenton, Edgard, Kenner and Metairie, and Garyville regions.
 - We also estimate that we can reduce expected annual damage by more than 90% for the Ama, Laplace and Reserve, Hahnville and Luling, Montz,



Donaldsonville, Convent, Vacherie, Larose and Golden Meadow, Morgan City, Abbeville and Delcambre, and Iberia regions.

- **Promoting Resiliency.** The Flood Risk and Resilience Program focuses on proactive investments to make our communities more resilient. It recommends floodproofing approximately 1,400 structures, elevating more than 22,400 structures, and acquiring approximately 2,400 structures in areas that are most at risk. Participation in the Flood Risk and Resilience Program is voluntary.
- **Supporting Ecosystems.** The ecosystem benefits provided by the plan will support commercial and recreational fisheries and wildlife coast wide, along with other ecosystem outcomes that benefit our communities.
 - The plan improves coast wide habitat for wild crawfish, largemouth bass, alligator, and mottled duck, as compared to Future Without Action conditions.
 - The plan results in increased suitable habitat coast wide for species like adult bay anchovy and spotted seatrout, small juvenile white and brown shrimp, oyster, and green-winged teal, as compared to initial conditions, but reduced suitable habitat as compared to Future Without Action conditions at year 50.
 - The plan results in similar coast wide suitable habitat for blue crabs, juvenile gulf menhaden, and gadwall at year 50 when compared to initial or Future Without Action conditions.
- **Promoting Consistency.** The plan provides a blueprint for action that is consistent with and supportive of other efforts like the Mabus Report, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force's Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act multi-year implementation plan, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan, and the mission of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Additionally, the plan well positions Louisiana for continued state and federal investment.

9. How can I get involved and learn more?

Please visit the "[Get Involved](#)" section of our website, or contact us at masterplan@la.gov.