

Atchafalaya

MASTER
PLAN

CPRA BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20,
2024

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OUTLINE

BACKGROUND

PLAN DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

PROJECT SOLICITATION OVERVIEW

QUESTIONS

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

ATCHAFALAYA SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

- Home to the nation's largest river swamp
- Contains the largest contiguous bottomland hardwood forest in North America
- Atchafalaya River and Wax Lake deltas have exhibited increases in wetland area since 1974
- Atchafalaya River conveys about 30% of the combined flow of the Mississippi and Red Rivers to Atchafalaya Bay
- Home to the largest nesting concentration of bald eagles in the south-central United States
- Estimated average annual commercial harvest of nearly 22 million pounds of crawfish
- Critical navigable waterway for shipping

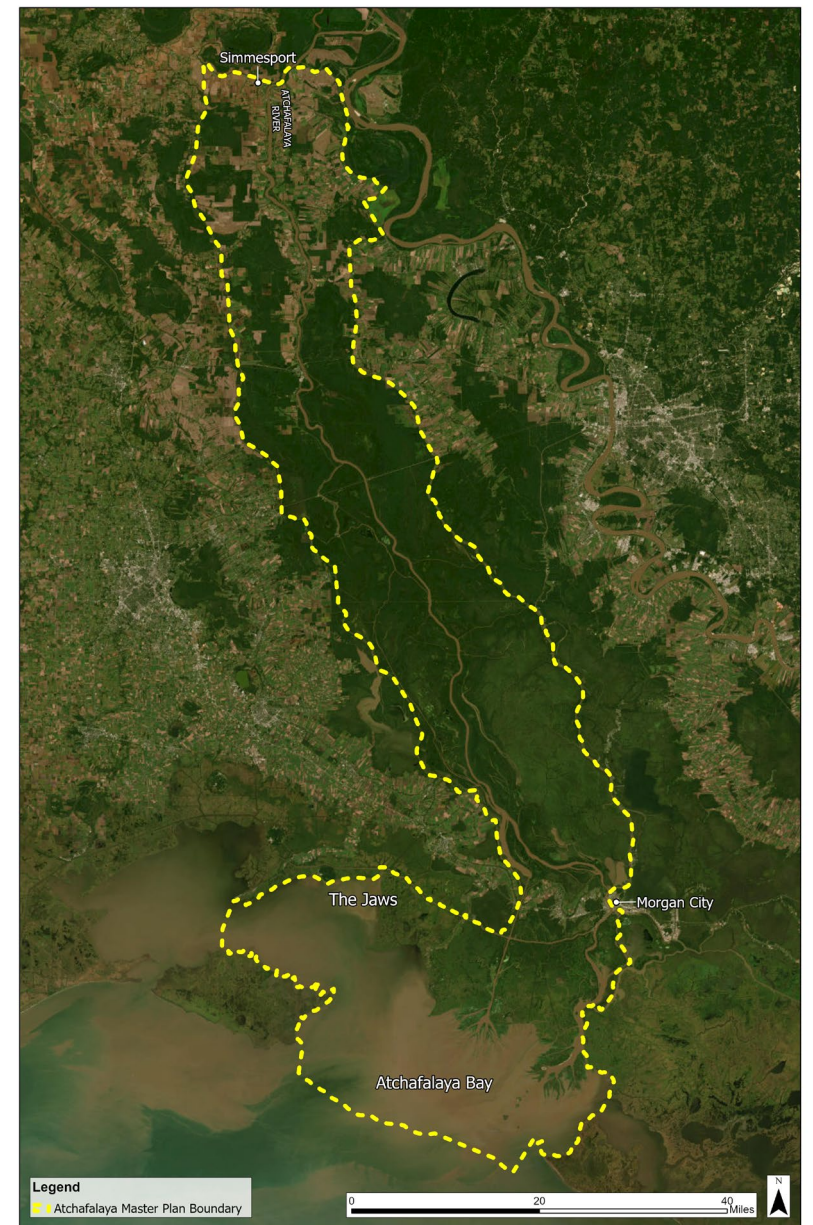
BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

HISTORY OF PLANNING

- The Atchafalaya River System is managed by USACE to support flood risk management. In recent decades, state and federal interest has expanded to include restoration and navigation.
 - Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Feasibility Study (USACE, 1982)
 - Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Louisiana Project State Master Plan (LDNR, 1998)
 - Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plans (LDNR, 2010-2019; CPRA, 2020-present)
- In 2018, the Louisiana Legislature (Act 570) transferred the responsibilities of the Atchafalaya Basin Program from LDNR to CPRA.
 - Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement (ARBRE) Task Force Findings and Recommendations to Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (GOCA, 2021)

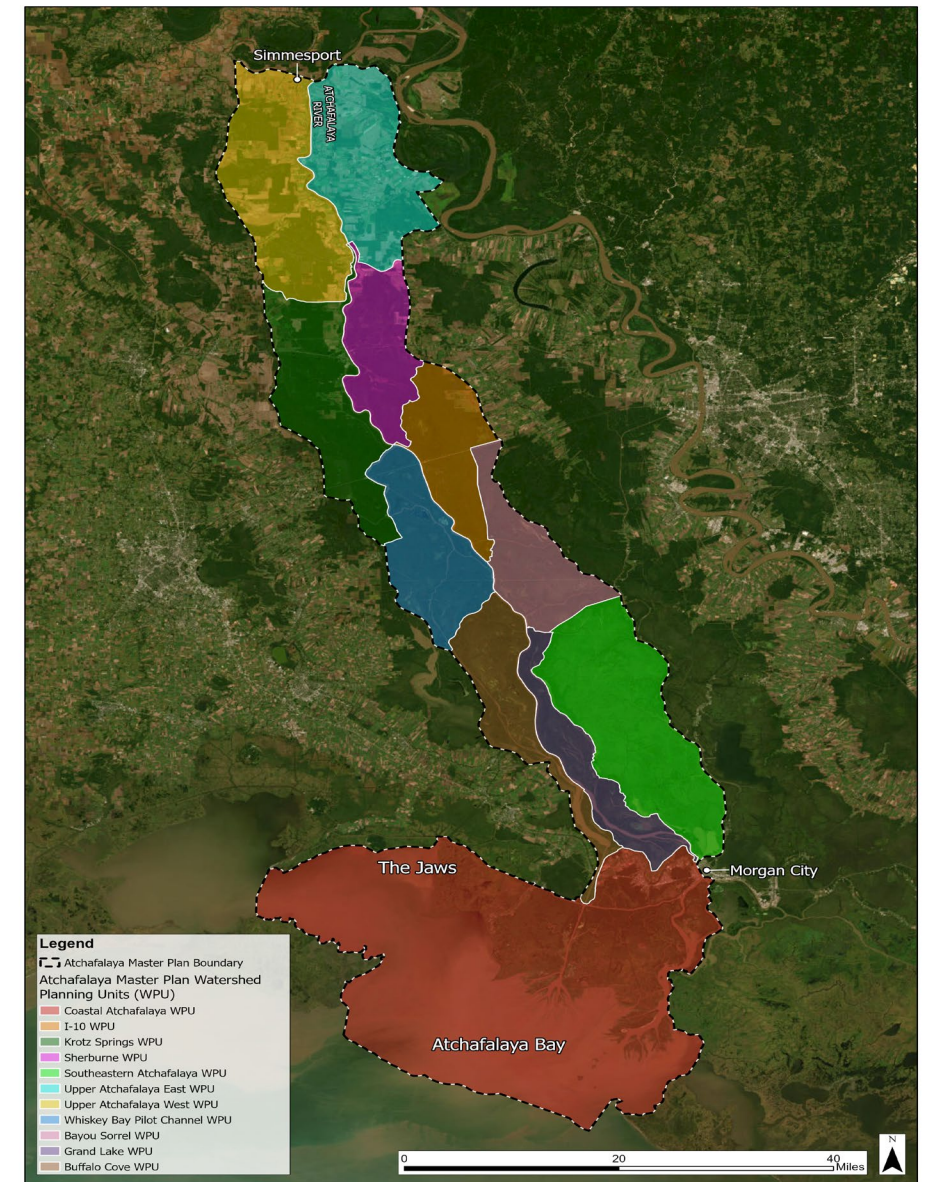
ATCHAFALAYA MASTER PLAN BOUNDARY

- Total area: ~1.5M acres
- Boundary
 - North: Simmesport
 - South: Gulf of Mexico
 - East and West (above Morgan City): Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levees
 - West (below Morgan City): West Cote Blanche Bay
 - East (below Morgan City): Atchafalaya Bay



WATERSHED PLANNING UN.

- Eleven WPUs developed using HUC10 boundaries and dividers such as levees or rivers
- WPUs range from ~56,000 to ~568,000 acres
- Land cover types include
 - Upland and Cultivated Crops
 - Bottomland Hardwood and Swamp Forest
 - Fresh, Intermediate, Brackish, and Saline Marsh



CHALLENGES & CONSIDERATIONS

- Hydrology
- Sedimentation
- Water Quality
- Flood Risk
- Navigation
- Stakeholder Priorities, Interests, and Uses

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ALIGNED WITH THE COASTAL MASTER PLAN

GOAL

- Manage the use of Atchafalaya River System sediments and water to maximize ecosystem functions and support continued human uses

OBJECTIVES

- **NATURAL PROCESSES:** Promote a sustainable ecosystem by harnessing the natural processes of the Atchafalaya River System.
- **HABITATS:** Provide habitats suitable to support conservation and an array of commercial and recreational activities in the Atchafalaya River System.
- **CULTURAL HERITAGE:** Sustain the unique cultural heritage of the Atchafalaya River System by protecting historic properties and traditional living cultures and their ties and relationships to the natural environment.
- **WORKING RIVER SYSTEM:** Promote a viable working Atchafalaya River System to support regionally and nationally important business and industry.

*Note that this plan is focused on restoration and conservation actions, not on addressing flood risk.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

1. Developing Goals and Objectives

2. Identifying Candidate Projects for WPU's

3. Evaluating Projects

4. Prioritizing Projects

5. Developing Master Plan

ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC

- Introductory webinar
- Project solicitation
- Ongoing engagement at key Plan development milestones

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Engagement of local, tribal, state, and federal agency personnel who are engaged in system activities

WORKING GROUP

- Engagement of subject matter experts to provide technical input and feedback on key elements of the Atchafalaya Master Plan

COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT GROUP

- Engagement with community members who represent conservation organizations; environmental, recreational, and cultural interests; navigation, ports, and industry; academia; landowners; recreational fisheries; and commercial fisheries to gather their input on key issues within each sector and how potential management approaches or project concepts may affect key sectors

CPRA BOARD

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

COASTAL.LA.GOV/OUR-PLAN/ATCHAFALAYA-MASTER-PLAN/

PROJECT INFORMATION AND OVERVIEW

RECORDED PUBLIC WEBINAR (10/1)

RECORDED PROJECT SOLICITATION
WEBINAR (11/14)

PROJECT SOLICITATION SURVEY

- Project solicitation demonstration video

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The screenshot shows the CPRA website header with the logo and name "Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority". To the right, there is a "Sign Up. Stay Informed." section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: "About CPRA", "What's At Stake", "Our Plan", "Our Work", "Press Releases", "Resources", and "Calendar".

On the left side of the main content area, there is a vertical list of links for various plans:

- Five Year Strategic Plan
- 2029 Coastal Master Plan
- 2023 Coastal Master Plan
- 2017 Coastal Master Plan
- 2012 Coastal Master Plan
- Annual Plan
- Atchafalaya Master Plan

On the right side, there is a section titled "Atchafalaya Master Plan" featuring a large image of a coastal landscape with the text "Atchafalaya" in a large, teal, cursive font and "MASTER PLAN" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font on a green rectangular background. The CPRA logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

PROJECT SOLICITATION

PROJECT SOLICITATION

PROJECTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLINE UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 2025

ALL PROJECT IDEAS SUBMITTED THROUGH THE PROJECT SOLICITATION PROCESS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Three-step process:

1. Project screening (e.g., relevance to the Atchafalaya Master Plan, sufficient detail to evaluate)
2. Detailed evaluation (e.g., modeling of habitat changes, consideration of costs, etc.)
3. Prioritization based on how well the projects meet the objectives and targets for each WPU

Individuals who submit a project will receive feedback on how their submitted project is being considered in the planning process.

PROJECT SOLICITATION ENGAGEMENT

FOUR IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Morgan City, New Roads, Cecilia, Plaquemine
- 50+ in-person attendees

RECORDED WEBINAR

- Recording Available on CPRA website
- 60+ attendees



The Atchafalaya Master Plan is a multi-year process driven by cutting-edge coastal science and extensive engagement from local interests. The Plan will be the cornerstone to guide future investments for decades to come. The Atchafalaya Master Plan will solicit project ideas and concepts directly from the people of the Atchafalaya Region to include as part of the Atchafalaya Master Plan – community members, landowners, business owners, subject matter experts, academic leaders, and more – throughout the plan development process. Your input will help us gain a clearer understanding of the specific needs and challenges associated with each project, enabling us to make more informed decisions.

PROJECT SOLICITATION:

- Scan the QR code to submit your project ideas.
- Projects must align with one or more of the Atchafalaya Master Plan objectives and fit into one of seven project types.
- Each individual who submits a project will receive feedback on how their submitted project is being considered in the planning process.
- Projects will be accepted until **February 28, 2025**.



PROJECT TYPES



HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION

Channel Plug, Channel Plug Removal, Channel Floodplain Exchange, Channel Filling



FRESHWATER DIVERSION



SEDIMENT DIVERSION



DREDGING & PLACEMENT OF MATERIAL



SEDIMENT TRAPPING



SHORELINE PROTECTION



RECREATIONAL USE/ACCESS

Boat Launch, Fishing Pier, Campsite, Trails, Park, Information or Education Center

All submitted projects must align with one or more Atchafalaya Master Plan objectives: Natural Processes, Habitats, Cultural Heritage, and/or Working River System.



CONNECT WITH US

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