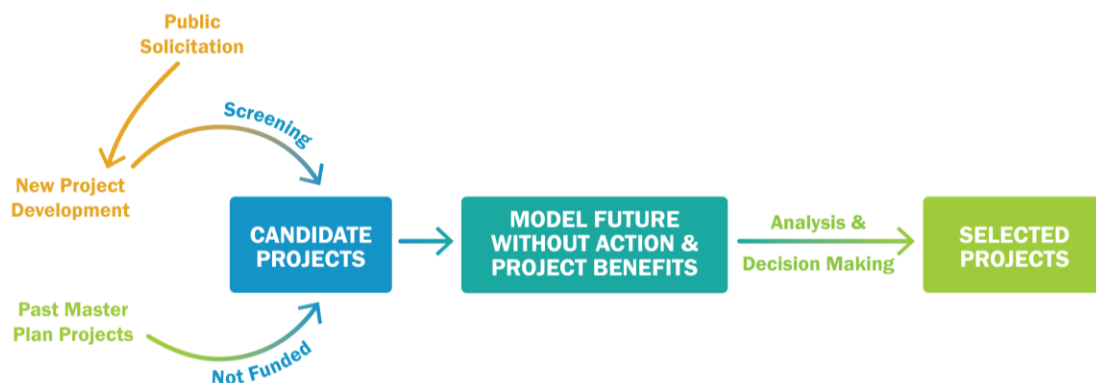


NEW PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR LOUISIANA’S 2029 COASTAL MASTER PLAN

PROCESS OVERVIEW

CPRA is now accepting new project ideas to be screened and evaluated for potential inclusion in Louisiana’s 2029 Coastal Master Plan (MP29). This new project development process is the most direct way residents can have input into the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Once a project is included in an approved master plan, it is then eligible to be picked up and moved forward by a program with funding for engineering, design, permitting, and construction. Submitting a master plan project idea is a critical first step in addressing the land loss and flood risk challenges facing coastal Louisiana. There are two public solicitation periods in which anyone can submit new project ideas for the 2029 Coastal Master Plan to CPRA: July – October 17, 2025 and early 2026 (exact dates TBD).



CPRA will screen all submitted projects according to the criteria listed below. After the first public solicitation period (July – October 17, 2025), CPRA will provide feedback on individual projects deemed not to meet the screening criteria. This feedback will be provided early enough that submitters will have the opportunity to refine their projects and resubmit them during the second public solicitation period (planned in early 2026). There will not be time

for the same feedback-revise-resubmit process after the second solicitation period closes so CPRA encourages the public to submit during the first period.

Projects that do meet the screening criteria will go on for further evaluation as MP29 candidate projects. Candidate projects are evaluated in the master plan models for their potential contributions to achieving master plan goals compared to a future without action over a 50-year planning horizon, and selected based on those results. Once a project is included in an approved master plan, it is then eligible to be picked up by CPRA or a partner and moved forward by a program with funding for engineering, design, permitting, and construction. However, funding for any specific project is not guaranteed at the master plan stage.

CPRA intentionally includes more projects in the master plan than we currently have identified funding to implement in any given year so that we are ready to begin work on them 1) when funds from steady sources become available over time and 2) when unexpected funding becomes available, such as following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and to highlight the overall need of the coastal program.

We want to give the public tools to develop promising project ideas to confront the land loss and storm surge-based flood risk challenges Louisiana is facing. To meet this goal, CPRA is sharing many informational materials on the web. These include the [Master Plan Data Viewer](#), an interactive online companion to the MP23 document that presents projections of coastal change over the next 50 years and the potential impacts of restoration and risk reduction projects to address the challenges of land loss and coastal flood risk. The viewer provides a guided tour option to explain the history of Louisiana's land loss crisis, as well as walking users through the different types of data presented. In addition to the website materials, CPRA is also conducting public workshops and holding virtual office hours throughout the project submittal period. Many of our partners will also hold additional MP29 new project development workshops around the coast.

NEW PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

Proposed projects will be evaluated primarily based on their ability to meet master plan goals over a 50-year planning horizon.



GOAL 1: STORM SURGE RISK REDUCTION

Reduce expected annual damage by storm surge-based flooding compared to a future without the master plan.



GOAL 2: LAND LOSS REDUCTION

Create and maintain land over 50 years compared to a future without the master plan.

For the Coastal Master Plan, the two primary project selection metrics for the first goal are expected annual damages reduced in dollars and structural equivalents compared to projected damage without the projects. The primary project selection metric for the second goal is land area benefit, specifically how much land area a project creates and maintains over 50 years compared to the projected landscape without the project.

In short, projects can be proposed that accomplish the following:

- **Build and/or sustain land**
- **Provide significant storm surge-based flood risk reduction**
- **Address future challenges and transitions in the coastal ecosystem**

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Land in the context of the Coastal Master Plan refers to coastal wetlands, including marshes and forested wetlands (e.g., swamps and bottomland hardwood forest), and additional features typical to the coastal landscape (e.g., ridges and barrier islands). Defining a clear line between land and water can be a challenge in coastal Louisiana because classification is sensitive to water level, which is always changing. Functional, healthy marshes occur within the tidal range and sit above the water when water levels are low but below the water when water levels are high. While building and sustaining land is the top priority for CPRA as the means to achieve our

master plan goal of reducing land loss, we note that preventing shifts from shallow water to deep water habitats is also desirable.

- Emphasis should be on projects that continue to provide benefit in the face of sea level rise and subsidence without continued maintenance, those that make a contribution to maintaining estuarine gradients in future decades (e.g., by increasing freshwater inflow, hydrological restoration, and/or the strategic placement of a ridge-marsh complex to modulate marine incursion), those that have reasonable access to renewable/out of system sediment sources (when sediment is needed), and those that provide risk reduction at the community or regional scale.
- Master plan projects should not yield **net negative** land or risk reduction benefits over the 50-year modeled evaluation period.
- Master plan projects should be expected to provide benefits for multiple decades into the future.
- Previously analyzed projects
 - Projects selected for the 2023 Coastal Master Plan will be included in one of two ways:
 - If already funded for construction, the most current version of the project will be included in the MP29 future without action landscape
 - If not yet funded for construction, the project will be screened and, if screening is favorable, then included as an MP29 candidate project to be evaluated through modeling along with all new MP29 candidate projects
 - Projects analyzed for the 2023 Coastal Master Plan but not selected are being screened for potential reconsideration in MP29 analysis.

MASTER PLAN PROJECT TYPES

For detailed descriptions of master plan project types, please see the [Project Types Booklet](#).

- Project types accepted during Public Solicitation:
 - Integrated Projects
- Integrated projects include one or more of the following six project types as dominant features, and may also include programmatically consistent project types. All components of an integrated project must work together synergistically to achieve the desired benefits.
 - Medium- to Large-Scale Hydrologic Restoration
 - Ridge Restoration
 - Diversion
 - Marsh Creation
 - Landbridge
 - Structural Risk Reduction
- Considered programmatically consistent, not evaluated or selected individually through the MP29 process:

Programmatically consistent projects are not individually identified or analyzed for the Coastal Master Plan, but they are considered consistent with it. These projects

may be pursued through programs that allow them to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, such as the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). The 2023 Coastal Master Plan allocated \$2.5 billion to programmatic restoration efforts without specifying specific projects. Project types that CPRA considers programmatically consistent do not need to be submitted for MP29 screening and evaluation. These types include:

- o Nonstructural risk reduction – residential elevations, commercial floodproofing, and voluntary acquisitions are activities often carried out at the local scale through a number of different state and federal programs
 - o Barrier island restoration – CPRA develops plans for maintaining the barrier island system separately from the Coastal Master Plan
 - o Shoreline protection, bank stabilization, oyster reef/living shoreline, small-scale hydrologic restoration, earthen terraces, and forested wetland restoration
- Aggregated Concepts
 - o If more than one project idea would yield largely the same benefits in the same area, CPRA may combine them into one project or select the most promising concept of the group to become a candidate project.
 - o If nearby projects are too small to be evaluated individually, CPRA may combine them into a single candidate project.

SUBMITTING A PROJECT IDEA

- New projects can be proposed by any source (parishes, elected officials, tribes, government agencies, NGOs, landowners, business/industry, researchers, and the general public).
- All new MP29 project ideas should be submitted through the online form found [here](#).
- If you are unable to use the online form, please contact CPRA at MasterPlan@LA.GOV to make alternative arrangements.

DESKTOP SCREENING CRITERIA

CPRA will conduct a desktop screening process to determine whether a project will be included as a candidate project in the MP29 analysis. Screening Criteria include:

- **Consistency with the Master Plan Goals, Objectives, and Principles** (for definitions of these, see pages 6 and 7 of the [2023 Coastal Master Plan](#))
 - Project needs and concepts must clearly contribute to and be consistent with the goals, objectives, and principles of the master plan to be considered for inclusion.
- The project's **dominant feature should be a project type the master plan evaluates** and selects individually, not a programmatically consistent project type (see project type definitions under Guidelines above).
 - Note, however, that programmatic consistent features can be submitted as supplemental components of an Integrated Project.
- **Minimum Level of Performance**
 - Master plan projects should typically benefit an area of at least around 500 hundred acres. If projects with smaller anticipated benefit areas are proposed, an explanation should be provided of why the project should be considered strategic. For marsh creation and landbridge projects, the initially-constructed project footprint will typically be considered for desktop screening.
 - In practice, most ridge restoration features are constructed to complement and protect marsh creation areas. Those proposing a standalone ridge restoration project for MP29 should try to achieve benefits beyond the project footprint by strategically positioning the ridge to cut across a salinity gradient in a meaningful way. Beyond-footprint benefits tend to be especially promising where there is a source of freshwater whose influence can be modulated. Desktop screening will look for opportunities for these conditions when considering standalone ridge restoration features.
 - For master plan structural risk reduction projects, proposed standalone features must tie in to an existing natural or manmade flood protection system. Pump stations will only be considered if proposed as an element directly supporting storm surge protection.
- **Geographic Area**
 - Project ideas should address areas of significant projected flood risk and/or land loss
 - Restoration projects within the scope of the Barrier Island System Management Program or the Atchafalaya Basin Program will not be considered for individual inclusion in MP29
- **Constructability**
 - For restoration projects, CPRA will consider major constructability risks related to oil and gas infrastructure, reasonable access to sediment source,

known site-specific issues from previous project experience, known geotechnical limitations, and other considerations

- o For risk reduction projects, CPRA will consider sufficient avoidance of potential impacts to wetlands, known geologic or topographic limitations to project success, and sufficient avoidance of existing structures, rights of way, and utilities

- **Different from Previously Analyzed Projects**

- o The ideas submitted for MP29 should be different than projects that have been proposed before. This includes projects that were submitted to CPRA but were not selected.
 - If you decide to submit a project idea that is highly similar to one that has been analyzed for a previous master plan, you must provide an explanation of why you would expect a different result for the MP29 analysis.