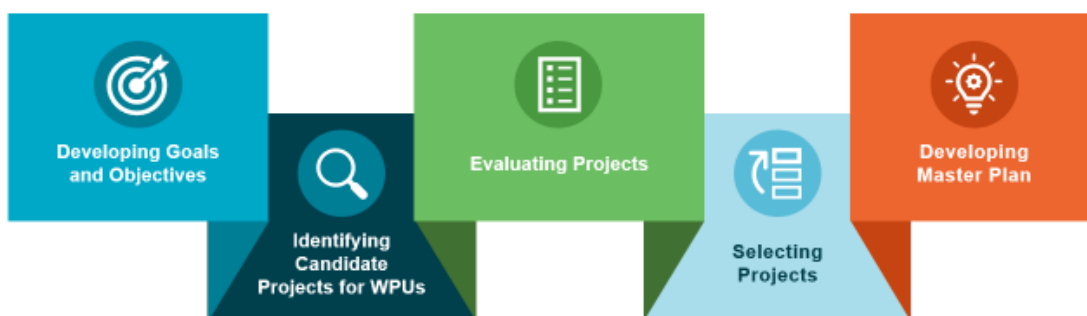




ATCHAFALAYA MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Progress on the Atchafalaya Master Plan is moving forward as the plan development team (PDT) continues to assess the most effective ways to manage the river system for natural processes, habitats, cultural heritage, and support of the working river system. After identifying and establishing a list of candidate projects, the focus of 2026 remains on project evaluation and refinement. The team is currently evaluating all candidate projects to determine which ones will best meet the plan's objectives.

PROJECT EVALUATION



The evaluation relies heavily on advanced modeling, including hydraulic, hydrologic, vegetation, and habitat, to predict how these projects will interact with the landscape. By analyzing these model outputs, the team can assess project performance under various assumptions regarding water flow and future sea-level rise.

Furthermore, this process allows for an understanding of how well each project meets specific objectives and Watershed Planning Unit (WPU) targets, as well as how different projects might interact with one another. Because of the technical complexity involved in these analyses and the need to identify effective solutions, this evaluation period represents the longest and most intensive stage of the plan development process.

PROJECT EXAMPLE: MURPHY LAKE DEPTH AND WETLAND RESTORATION

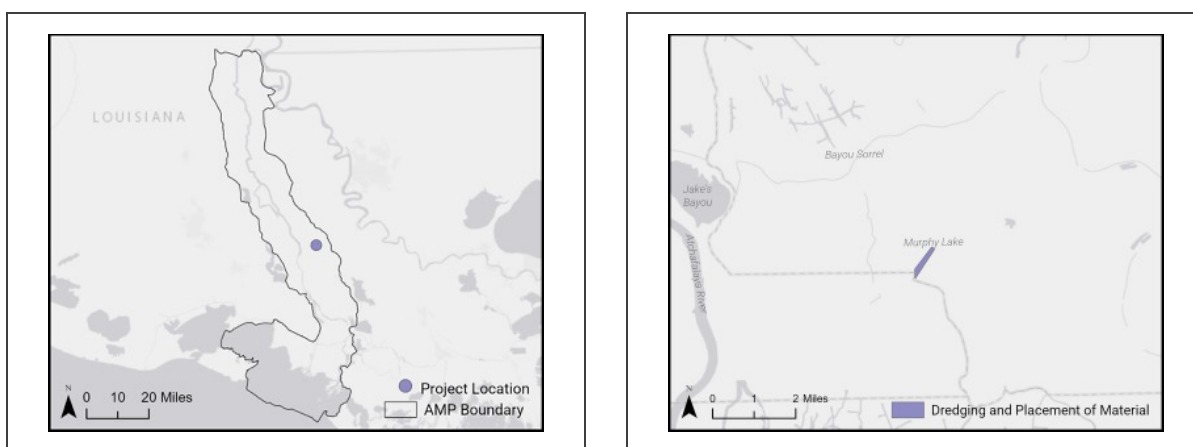
The Issue: Habitat Degradation & Loss

Habitat degradation in swamps occurs when a lack of hydrologic exchange decreases water quality. This can be caused by sedimentation or hydrologic modification. Sedimentation can also reduce dewater habitat by filling in deep areas, reducing access to critical low-water refuge.

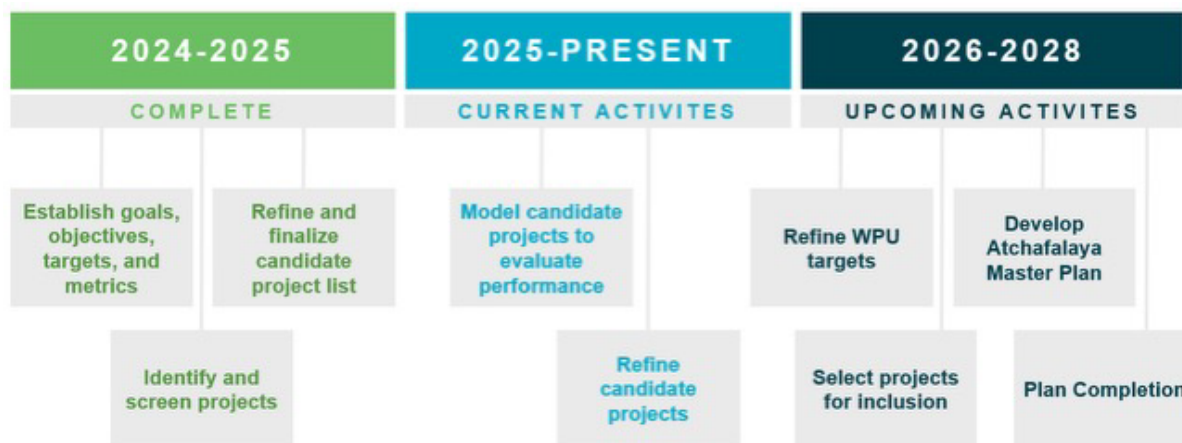
Project: Murphy Lake Depth and Wetland Restoration

The Murphy Lake Depth and Wetland Restoration project highlights a targeted approach to improving water movement and ecological function within the southeastern Atchafalaya Basin. Located in the Grand Lake and Bayou Sorrel area, this project focuses on restoring more natural hydrologic conditions that have been altered by past activities.

Project features include dredging approximately 56 acres of Lake Murphy to enhance water depth and circulation, backfilling 11 acres of an adjacent pipeline canal to reduce unnatural flow pathways, and constructing a rock plug at the Bayou Bridge Pipeline Canal to better manage water exchange. Together, these actions are designed to improve water circulation, support habitat health, and restore a more natural system processes.



TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS



Following project modeling and candidate project refinement, the PDT will refine WPU targets to identify the most effective solutions. These efforts will directly inform project selection and support the development and completion of the Atchafalaya Master Plan. The Atchafalaya Master Plan Team will also be providing a presentation update to the CPRA Board during the regular board meeting on April 15, 2026, at the LSU Center for River Studies. See the details for live streaming or in-person attendance on the [CPRA Calendar](#).



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