

FISCAL YEAR 2028
ANNUAL PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This Atchafalaya Basin Fiscal Year 2028 Annual Plan provides an update on the state's efforts to protect and restore the Atchafalaya Basin. The Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan resides within the overall annual planning process of CPRA and is included as an appendix of the CPRA Annual Plan.

CPRA is committed to continuing the important work benefitting the Atchafalaya Basin, as well as its linkage to the State's coastal program as a whole. This Appendix to the Fiscal Year 2028 Annual Plan includes descriptions of planned and implemented projects in the Atchafalaya Basin. We thank all involved with the management and preservation of the Atchafalaya Basin.



COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY BOARD

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (CPRA Board) represents the state's position in policy relative to the protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area of the state; oversees the Coastal Protection and Restoration Trust Fund; and develops Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan. The CPRA Board is responsible for protecting, conserving, enhancing, and restoring the coastal area through the construction and management of integrated coastal projects and programs. Membership is as follows:

CPRA Chairman
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Lieutenant Governor, State of Louisiana
Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation (Chair)
Basin Representatives (8 appointments)
Designee of Senate President (Ex-officio)
Designee of Speaker of the House (Ex-officio)
At Large (3 appointments)

FY 2028 ATCHAFALYA BASIN PROJECT LIST

Water Quality/Water Management

- Grimmett Canal Improvements
- Murphy Lake Depth Restoration
- Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvements

Recreation/Access

- Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvements
- Sandy Cove Boat Launch

Other

- Atchafalaya Master Plan

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MAP OF FY2028 PROJECT LOCATIONS

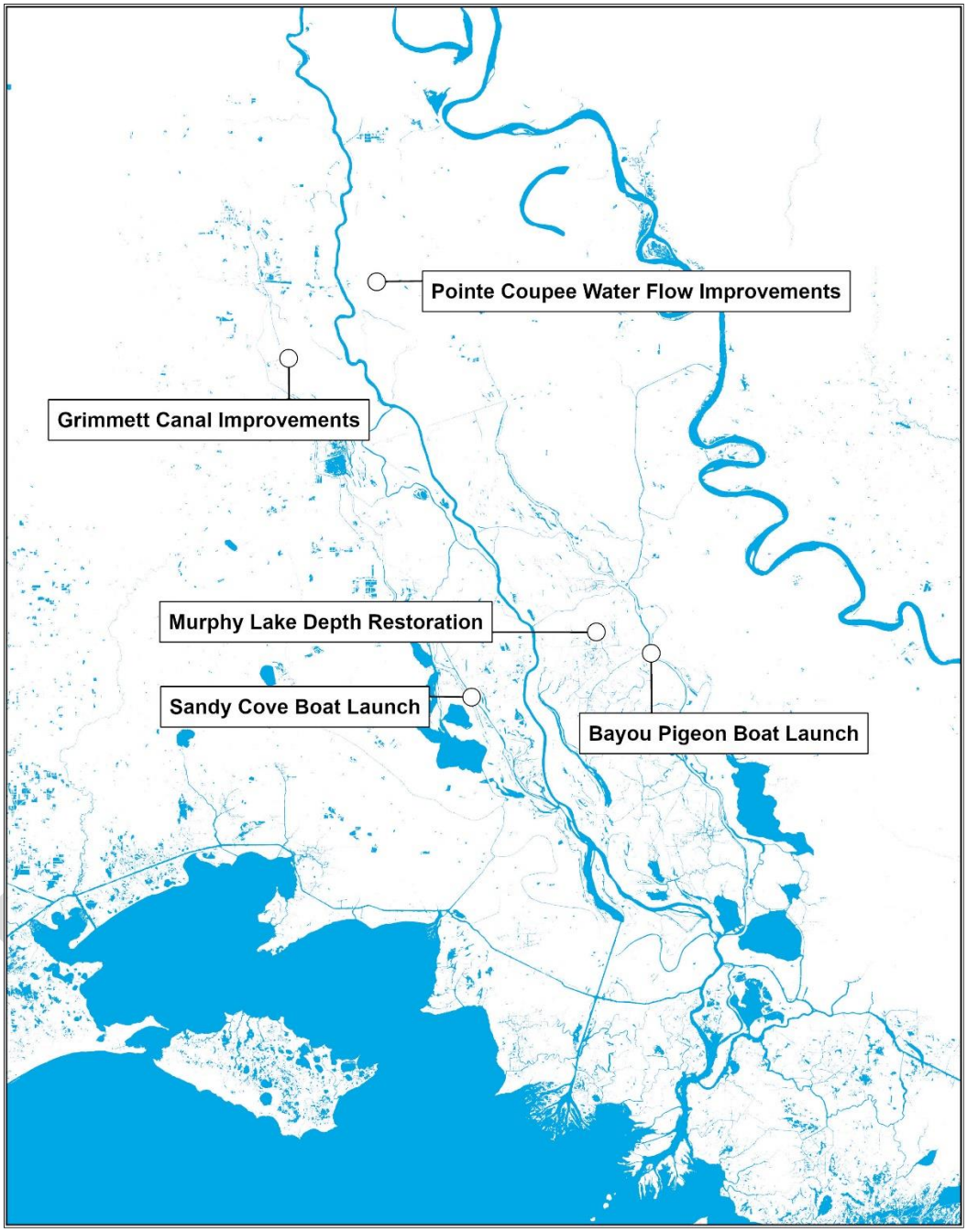

Figure 1: Map of FY28 project locations.

Grimmett Canal Improvements

The Grimmett Canal project is located west of the Atchafalaya River, north of Henderson Lake and the ABP's Dixie Pipeline Spoil Bank Gapping Project. This project proposes to clear and snag Grimmett Canal and Bayou Fordoche, dredge a sediment-filled segment of Bayou Fordoche extending south from the high-voltage powerline crossing, create channel bank gaps at two adjacent channel locations, and create spoil bank gaps at one location. The goal of this project is to increase north to south water flow from the Bayou Courtableau floodgates to Henderson Lake by improving water flow from Grimmett Canal through Bayou Fordoche. This will improve floodwater movement through the interior swamp, improving water quality and alleviating flooding events in adjacent communities.

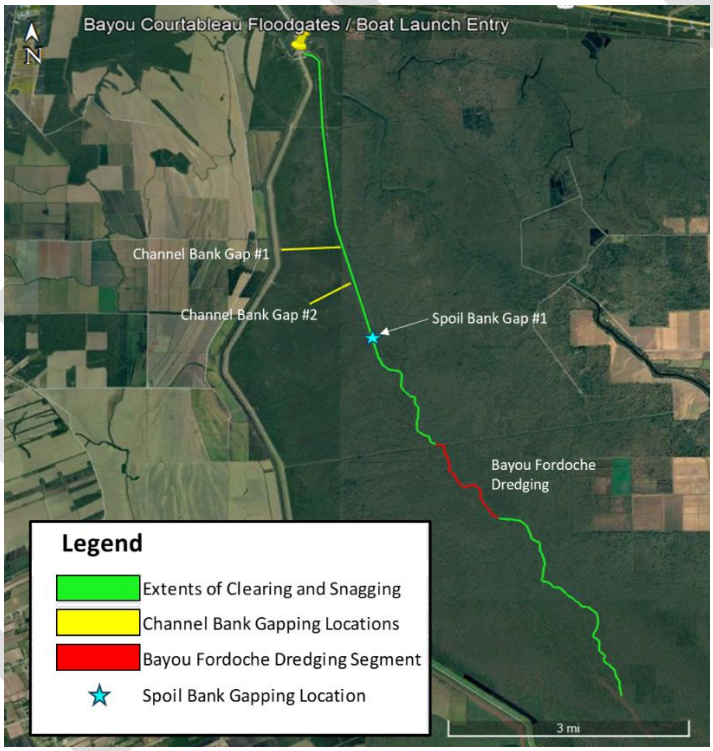

Figure 2: Locations of the five proposed efforts of Grimmett Canal Improvements project.

Project Status

This project is currently undergoing engineering and design and permitting. Surveying has been completed and an Alternatives Analysis is underway to evaluate feasibility of the five project elements (clearing and snagging the full extent of Grimmett Canal and Bayou Fordoche, dredging 1.5 miles of Bayou Fordoche, channel bank gapping in two locations, and spoil bank gapping).

Murphy Lake Depth Restoration

The Murphy Lake Depth Restoration project is located on the eastern side of the Atchafalaya Basin at the conjunction of Bee Bayou and Cross Bayou. The project proposes to dredge a portion of Murphy Lake to improve access and water flow into the lake as well as reestablish historical deep water habitat. Preliminary bathymetric, magnetometer, and topographic surveys were completed in July 2023 to provide necessary information for determining the feasibility of proposed dredging in the area.



Figure 3: (Left) Surveying locations for the Murphy Lake project. (Right) Murphy Lake.

Project Status

This project is currently undergoing a feasibility assessment with the primary challenge of determining locations for placement of dredged material.

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Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvements

The Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvement project is located in Pointe Coupee and Iberville Parishes in the northern Atchafalaya Basin. Currently, the project area has multiple water drainage obstacles, including collapsed culverts, leveed roads, and siltation and debris within waterways. The project was split into two projects. Project AT-0035 installed six reinforced concrete culverts, with rip-rap armoring at two of them, and was completed in July 2024. Project AT-0040 proposes to armor the four remaining reinforced concrete culverts, as well as clearing, snagging, and dredging Bayou Stiff.

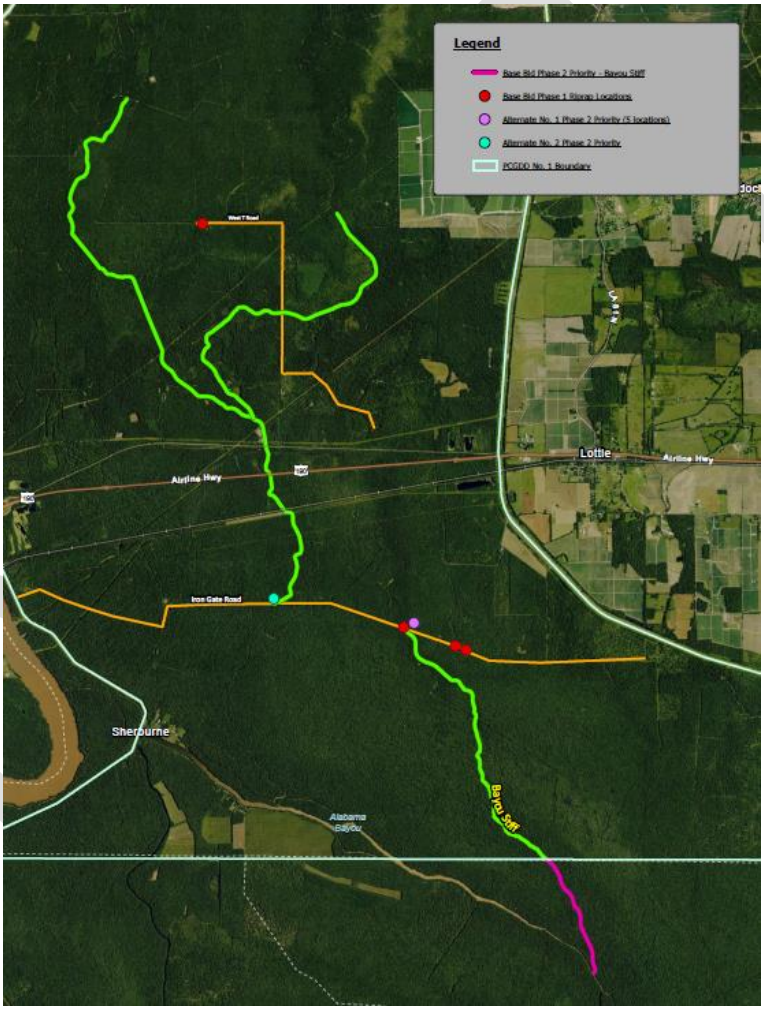

Figure 4: Proposed project elements for the Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvements project.

Project Status

This project has received funding and is in the engineering and design phase. The project is being led by Pointe Coupee parish, who were able to match state funds with a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to maximize hydrologic benefits by expanding the clear and snag area of the project.

RECREATION/ACCESS PROJECTS

Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvements

The Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvement Project was completed in January 2026. The Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch features additional ramps, parking areas, and accessibility for a wide range of vessels. Widely used by anglers, boaters, and outdoor enthusiasts, the Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch serves as a key gateway into the Atchafalaya Basin. By investing in these improvements, CPRA and its partners are enhancing recreational access, strengthening the connection between coastal communities and Louisiana's natural resources.



Figure 5: Improved ramps, piers, and parking area at Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch.

Sandy Cove Boat Launch

The Sandy Cove Boat Launch is located in Iberia Parish. Upgrades were proposed in the State Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan to improve the boat launch, parking area, lighting, restrooms, and fishing area. The project is currently unfunded.

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Atchafalaya Master Plan

In 1972, Congress directed the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System (ABFS) Louisiana Project. The purpose of the study was to 1) review the ABFS features of the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project to develop a plan for flood control; 2) review the operation of the Old River Control Complex (ORCC) and determine if the 30/70 water flow was sustainable; and 3) develop a comprehensive plan for the preservation and use of water and land resources of the Atchafalaya River Basin. Congress designated responsibilities for these items within the Atchafalaya River Basin to the USACE.

In 1998, the State of Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) and a committee comprised of basin stakeholders reviewed the USACE ABFS Louisiana Project and incorporated the USACE recommendations into the 1998 State Master Plan. The Plan incorporated all major aspects of the Atchafalaya Basin Project, including water management for improved water quality and habitat, environmental easements, public access, and recreation; and proposed projects designed with a 15-year implementation period.

In 2021, the Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force produced a list of recommendations for restoring and managing the Atchafalaya Basin. An update to the Atchafalaya State Master Plan was one of 12 recommendations the Task Force presented to the CPRA Board. During the 2023 Louisiana Legislature Regular Session, $2,000,000 non-recurring revenues were appropriated to be used to update the Atchafalaya Master Plan.

In 2024, four primary plan objectives were identified and the basin was divided into 11 Watershed Planning Units (WPUs) with input from subject matter experts and resource users within the basin. Public solicitation meetings were held in November of 2024 for project proposals, resulting in 23 new project submissions. These submissions, combined with projects from prior plans and submissions, were screened for modelling potential and alignment with Master Plan objectives. A suite of hydrologic, vegetation, and habitat models were developed to evaluate the resulting 54 projects against future without action (FWOA) scenarios.

Project Status

This effort is currently funded and ongoing. Model runs are being conducted throughout 2026 to determine project effects and Master Plan completion is anticipated to coincide with the publication of CPRA's 2029 Coastal Master Plan. There will be extensive opportunities for public input (public, industry, agency, and tribal) which will be used to inform the development of the Master Plan.



Connect With US!

@LouisianaCPRA

EMAIL: AtchafalayaBasin@la.gov

WEBSITE: www.coastal.la.gov

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