

Benefits



Urban Water
Reduced flooding and improved water quality



Recreation
Outdoor forest classroom and interpretive signage



Ecology
Forest and wetland ecosystem restoration



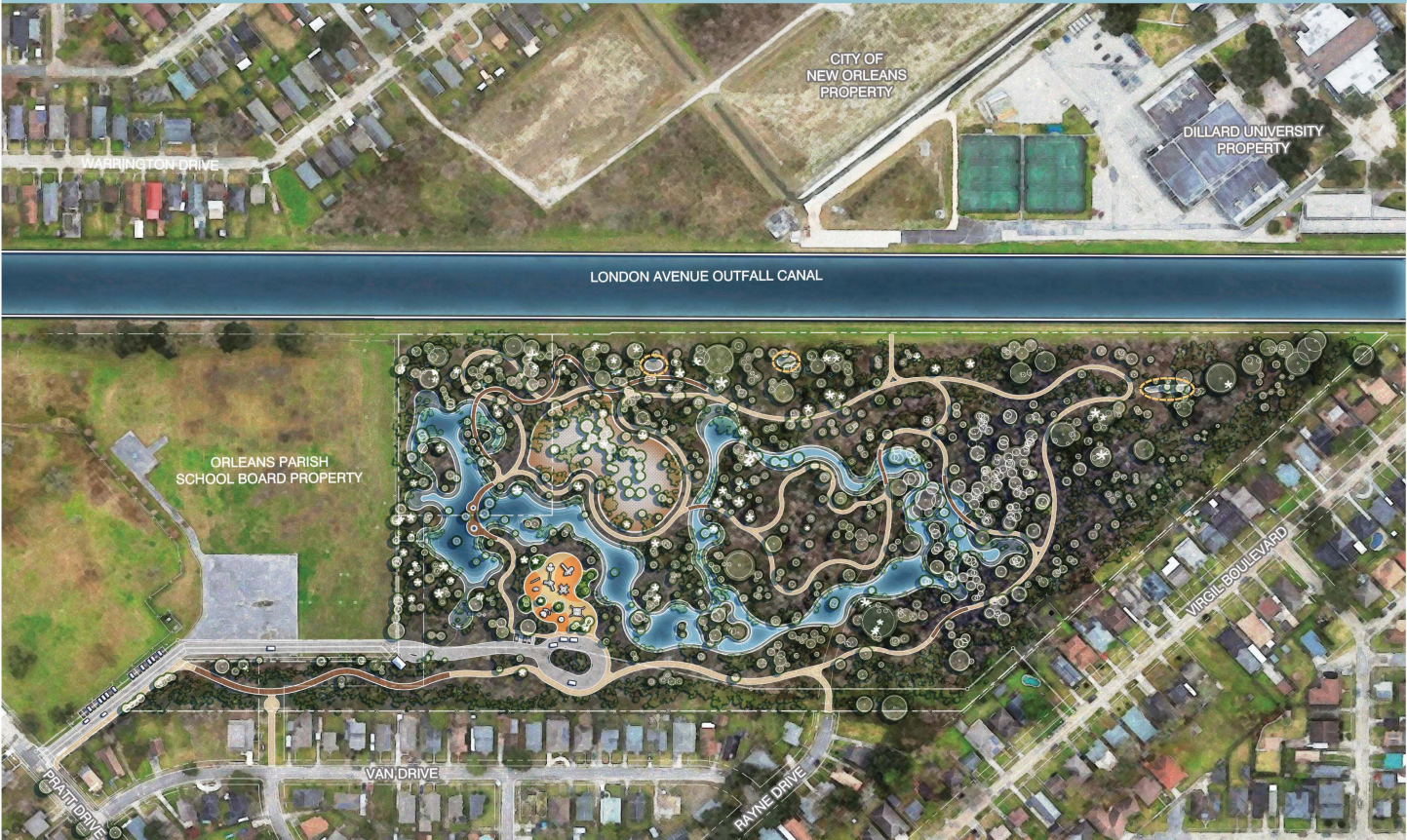
Urban Heat Mitigation
Improved vegetation and tree canopy



Public Health
Nature walks in urban forest



Community
Access to property for recreation and education



Conceptual design showing wetland restoration, water storage, and community elements (trails, boardwalks, roads, and program features).

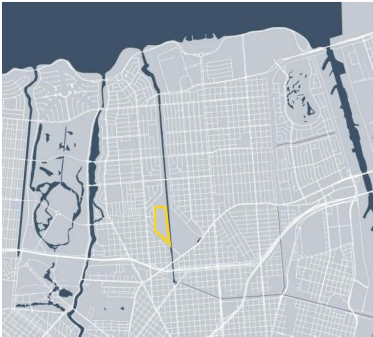
Gentilly Resilience District Project at Dillard Wetland

Fact Sheet / 1st Quarter 2023



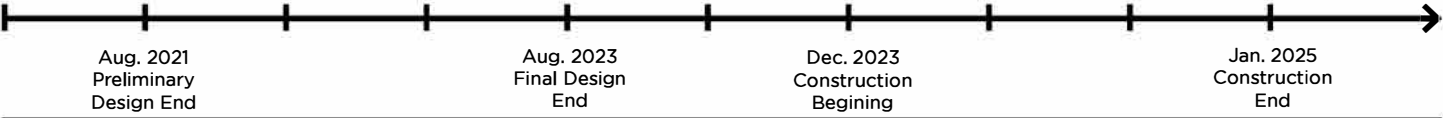
Dillard Wetland Site

Location

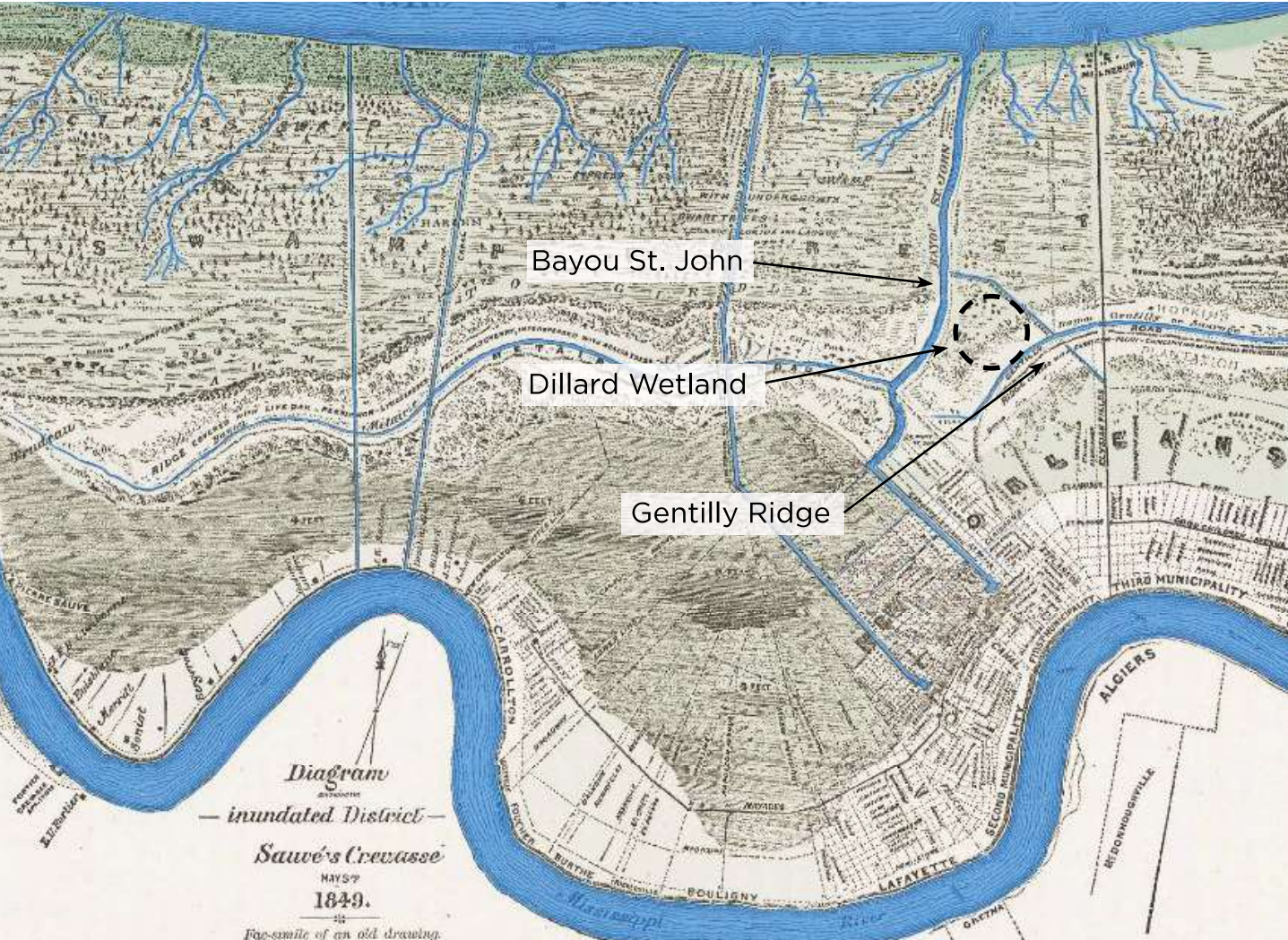


Dillard Wetland

Tucked along the western side of the London Avenue Canal across from the Dillard University campus in the Dillard section of Gentilly is a 27-acre dense woodland owned by the City of New Orleans. Restoration of the long-forgotten wetland area is the part of the Gentilly Resilience District, a combination of efforts across Gentilly to reduce flood risk and slow land subsidence. The existing wetlands will be enhanced to store and treat stormwater runoff. Non-native and invasive vegetation will be removed and the site will be planted with native vegetation to restore the forested wetland ecosystem. Upon restoration, the site will be transformed into an educational and recreational nature preserve open to the public. The city’s first Resilience District uses various approaches to water and land management that have been successfully piloted throughout New Orleans. When implemented together, these approaches are intended to beautify neighborhoods, improve health, and provide opportunities for recreation. The Gentilly Resilience District is funded through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD’s) National Disaster Resilience Competition.



Site History



Source: Louisianan Digital Map Library

The parcel was created when the London Avenue Canal sliced through land owned by the Creole Bermudez family. While the site was proposed for a cemetery and a tuberculosis hospital over the years, it was acquired by Dillard University in 1931. Due to the site's location on the west side of London Avenue Canal, it was never developed by. In 1982, the City of New Orleans acquired the property in a land swap with the university. The site was cut for timber sometime earlier than the 1940's, and there are a few live oak trees of approximately 100 years in age. The property is one of the last remaining parcels of forest within city limits.

Through the years, the property has largely remained undisturbed and hidden from the community. The site has had limited use by the city and other institutions for research related to mosquito control and urban forests. While the site contains a variety of mature oak trees, willows, and other hardwood species, the predominant vegetation consists of undesirable invasive trees such as Chinese tallow and elm. When it rains, water pools on the site and slowly infiltrates into the ground creating the conditions conducive to a wetland.

Key Information

- Project Area**
27 Acres
- Project Status**
Final Design
- Budget**
\$5.6 Million
Scope: Design and Construction
- Project Lead**
Freese & Nichols Inc.
- Key Goals**
Reduce Neighborhood Flooding
Improve Water Quality
Enhance Forested Wetland
Opportunities for Recreation and Education

The Site Today



Bullrush and Sedge understory



Palm understory and tree canopy



Ditch holding water in the northern section of the site



Live Oak tree with Chinese Tallow in background

Design Team

- Project Lead
- Design and Survey Support
- Community Engagement
- Geotechnical

- Freese & Nichols, Inc.
- Batture, LLC
- WATER BLOCK LLC
- Eustis Engineering, LLC