

Pontilly Neighborhood Stormwater Network

Fact sheet 2024



The Dwyer Canal will be enhanced to improve drainage and provide more capacity to store water. These improvements, connected to interventions throughout the neighborhood, will reduce flooding during heavy rainfalls and provide new neighborhood amenities.

OVERVIEW

The Pontilly Neighborhood Stormwater Network project will reduce flood risk and beautify green spaces in the Pontchartrain Park and Gentilly Woods neighborhoods through the construction of green infrastructure strategies. The project will combine improvements to the Dwyer Canal with a network of interventions along streets, in alleyways, and within vacant lots designed to slow and store stormwater. These strategies reduce the burden on the strained drainage system, reduce land subsidence, and improve water quality – all while beautifying the neighborhood.

Pontilly is a combination of two neighborhoods historically divided by the Dwyer Canal: Pontchartrain Park to the north and Gentilly Woods to the south. Pontchartrain Park is one of the first areas in New Orleans designed to provide home ownership to middle class African Americans at a time when housing developments specifically excluded people of color. This project will not only reduce flood risk for residents, but will also beautify and connect the neighborhoods.



Dwyer Canal today.

FUNDING & PARTNERS

The City in conjunction with New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) was awarded a \$15 million FEMA hazard mitigation grant to fund the project, which supports NORA's investments in housing and commercial development in the neighborhood. The project will also receive an additional \$5.8 million federal funding through the City's award from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) as a project within the Gentilly Resilience District.

The HUD funds to be invested in this project will be used to enhance landscape design and support programmatic features such as educational or recreational amenities that further serve and connect the neighborhoods. The FEMA construction phase will begin fall 2018.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

FLOODING – excess water the drainage system cannot handle

- New Orleans receives on average 60 inches of rain per year
- The drainage system can handle one inch of rain the first hour and one-half inch thereafter
- Rainfall at greater rates causes flooding

SUBSIDENCE – sinking of the land caused by dry organic soils

- Low-lying areas are former marshlands with organic (highly porous) soils that need water to remain stable
- Pumping drains soils of water causing them to shrink like a sponge and swell again when it rains
- This damages streets and building foundations

WATER QUALITY

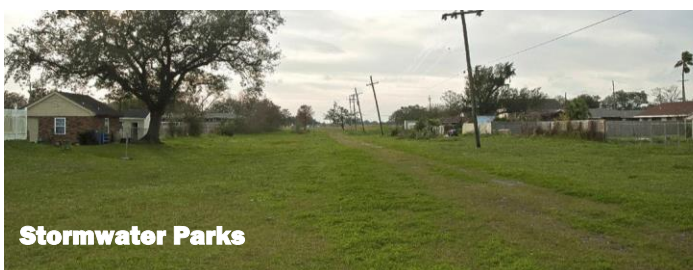
- When rain falls it absorbs atmospheric pollution. It then collects leaked auto fluids from parking lots, fertilizers from crops and fields, herbicides from lawns and gardens, sediment from construction sites, and chemical agents leeching from old debris.
- These pollutants are collected and carried off, by the runoff, and eventually deposited into Lake Pontchartrain.
- With green infrastructure, plants and soil help filter out pollutants both above and below the surface before they soak into the ground or enter the drainage system.

INTERVENTIONS

BEFORE



AFTER



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
MAYOR LATOYA CANTRELL