

Engagement Activity: Community Priorities for Restoration of Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle – June 2025 Public Meeting

Participants rotated through 3 stations for 12 minutes each: (~12 min/station)

- Station 1: Environmental - Discussed specific plants and animals that existed in the BBWT in the past and ones that exist currently/the relationships between plants/animals and the BBWT as it has evolved
- Station 2: Social - Discussed priorities and opportunities related to recreation (past uses and opportunities for the future)
- Station 3: Economic - Discussed potential impacts of restoration on businesses and the economy (both positive and negative)

Synthesis of Feedback:

1. Environmental: Participants noted that some species, such as alligators and crabs, have returned to the Bayou since the closure of MRGO, but quantities are unknown. Participants also noted that invasive plants like water hyacinth are causing issues for the return of native species. There are overall concerns about salinity and drought conditions, that lower the survival rate native species, like bald cypress.
2. Recreation: Participants were interested in the possibility of the BBWT becoming a community space for the Lower Ninth Ward, including elements like educational storytelling, fishing, and walking trails that connect to the St. Bernard Parish network.
3. Economic: Participants discussed using the BBWT to create an ecotourism industry in the area, with bike and kayak rentals, and emphasis on education around the history of the Bayou. Opportunities such as cafes/restaurants, and bird observatories on the bayou were identified.

Outcomes: Comments from each station were synthesized and used to inform the creation of draft restoration objectives.

Objectives Activity: Participants were asked to place stickers on the objectives they valued the most. The BBWT Team is currently polishing these objectives and adding actions based on community feedback.