

WELCOME!

Please sign-in, grab something to eat, and find a seat for the presentation





BAYOU BIENVENUE WETLAND TRIANGLE PROJECT KICKOFF MEETING

June 10, 2025



PROJECT TEAM

City of New Orleans



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

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INTRODUCTION TO THE TATE ETIENNE AND PREVOST (TEP) CENTER



AGENDA

Time	Activity
11:05 – 11:15	Arrival & Introductions
11:15 – 11:30	Project Overview Presentation
11:30 – 11:40	Q&A
11:40 – 12:30	Activity Stations: Community Priorities for Restoration of Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle
12:30 – 12:40	Close Out & Next Steps



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Project objectives
 - Enhance wetland resilience through data-driven restoration planning.
 - Develop and implement a Restoration Prioritization Plan (RPP) for Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle (BBWT).
 - Provide capacity building for the Lower 9th Ward youth.
- This year-long project will engage local stakeholders to ensure alignment with community priorities.

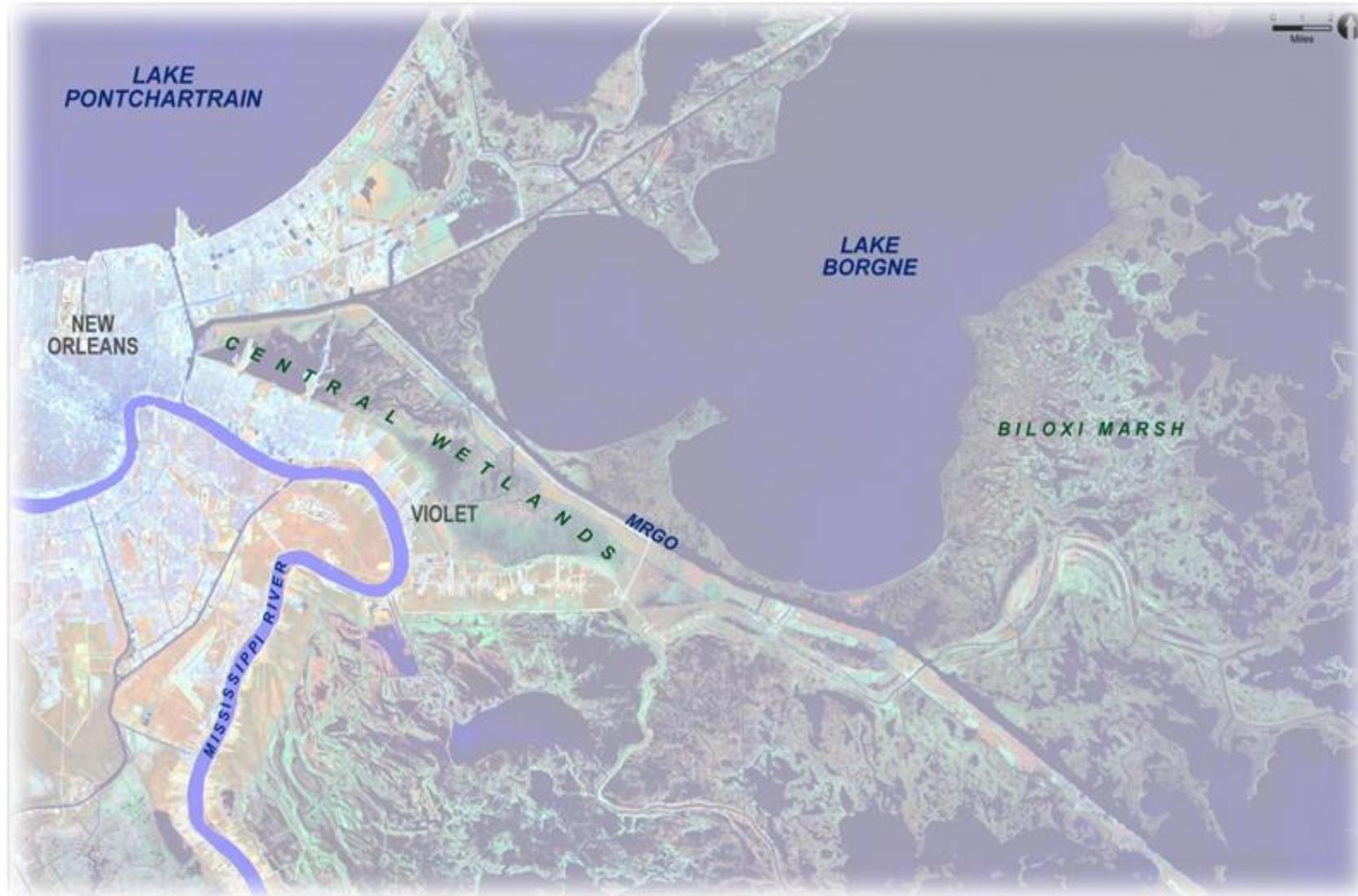


Aerial of Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle over time, from restorethebayou.com

HISTORY OF BAYOU BIENVENUE WETLAND TRIANGLE

- Remnant of once great Mississippi River Delta swamp
- Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal (MRGO) completed in 1960s, converted swamp to open-water brackish marsh

LOWER PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN



Bayou Bienvenue Central Wetlands Unit within the Lower Pontchartrain Basin

HISTORY



- The cypress back swamps of what is now Bayou Bienvenue were inhabited by maroons.
- Maroons were previously enslaved people who liberated themselves, choosing freedom and communal ways of life.

Plan of the city and suburbs of New Orleans from an actual survey made in 1815

Tanesse, I., Rollinson, W., Del Vecchio, C. & Maspero, P. (1815) *Plan of the city and suburbs of New Orleans: from an actual survey made in*. New York: Charles Del Vecchio ; New Orleans: P. Maspero. [Map]

Retrieved from the Library of Congress.





- The landscape of the swamp (foliage, variation of light, fluidity of ground) offered security in a way almost no other landscape could
- The Maroons lived in a communal and restorative manor, protecting the wetlands and the ecosystem therein, for keeping it intact provided cover and sustenance.



HISTORY



- Until the 1960s, Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle (BBWT) was a community resource filled with cypress trees, water lilies, alligators, otters, crawfish, turtles, herbs, and other freshwater species
- Construction of Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal (MRGO) resulted in die-off and loss of wetland protection; BBWT largely forgotten by community
- MRGO impacts led to catastrophic flooding of community during Hurricane Katrina
- BBWT "rediscovered" by Lower 9th Ward community post-Katrina and effort to restore the wetlands commenced

HISTORY

- Post-Katrina community vision tied the wetlands back to the Lower 9th Ward
- Working with community leaders, platform built by Univ. of Colorado in 2008
- Platform served as a portal to the coastal crisis and need for restoration



Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Platform

BAYOU BIENVENUE AND THE LOWER 9TH WARD



John Taylor

“For the community of the Lower 9th Ward, the swamp was a place to fish, catch turtles for soups, go crawfishing, and explore as a kid. Many wild foods were harvested from the bayou as was the cypress wood for building materials in the community.”

- John Taylor, lifelong resident of the Lower 9th Ward



BAYOU BIENVENUE AND THE LOWER NINTH WARD



John Taylor showing *The Guardian of the Wetlands*

“There is an ongoing effort to restore the wetlands to their natural state, so that future generations will have a place to go that is still wild in the middle of a city. Restoring this swamp would bring back an incredible resource which would be accessible to all people, including Lower Nine residents, citizens of Louisiana, and visitors.”

- John Taylor, lifelong resident of the Lower 9th Ward

RECENT AND ONGOING RESTORATION EFFORTS



- Demonstration projects since Hurricane Katrina: **floating islands, wastewater assimilation**
- Several Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act Program (CWPPRA) **proposals**, some through scoping
- 2009 **rock dam closure** at Bayou La Loutre (located in St. Bernard Parish toward the entrance of the MRGO) reduced salinity throughout MRGO ecosystem
- Extensive **plantings** and **terracing** led by several local non-profits and State of Louisiana throughout the Central Wetlands, including BBWT



ONGOING AND PLANNED PROJECTS



Open Water Conditions



Reforestation in the Central Wetlands Unit



Bayou Bienvenue Marsh Creation (PPL24 Candidate)

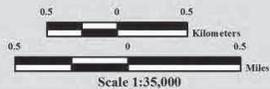


Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, LA

Image Source:
2012 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles



-  Marsh Creation *
-  Project Boundary
- * denotes proposed features

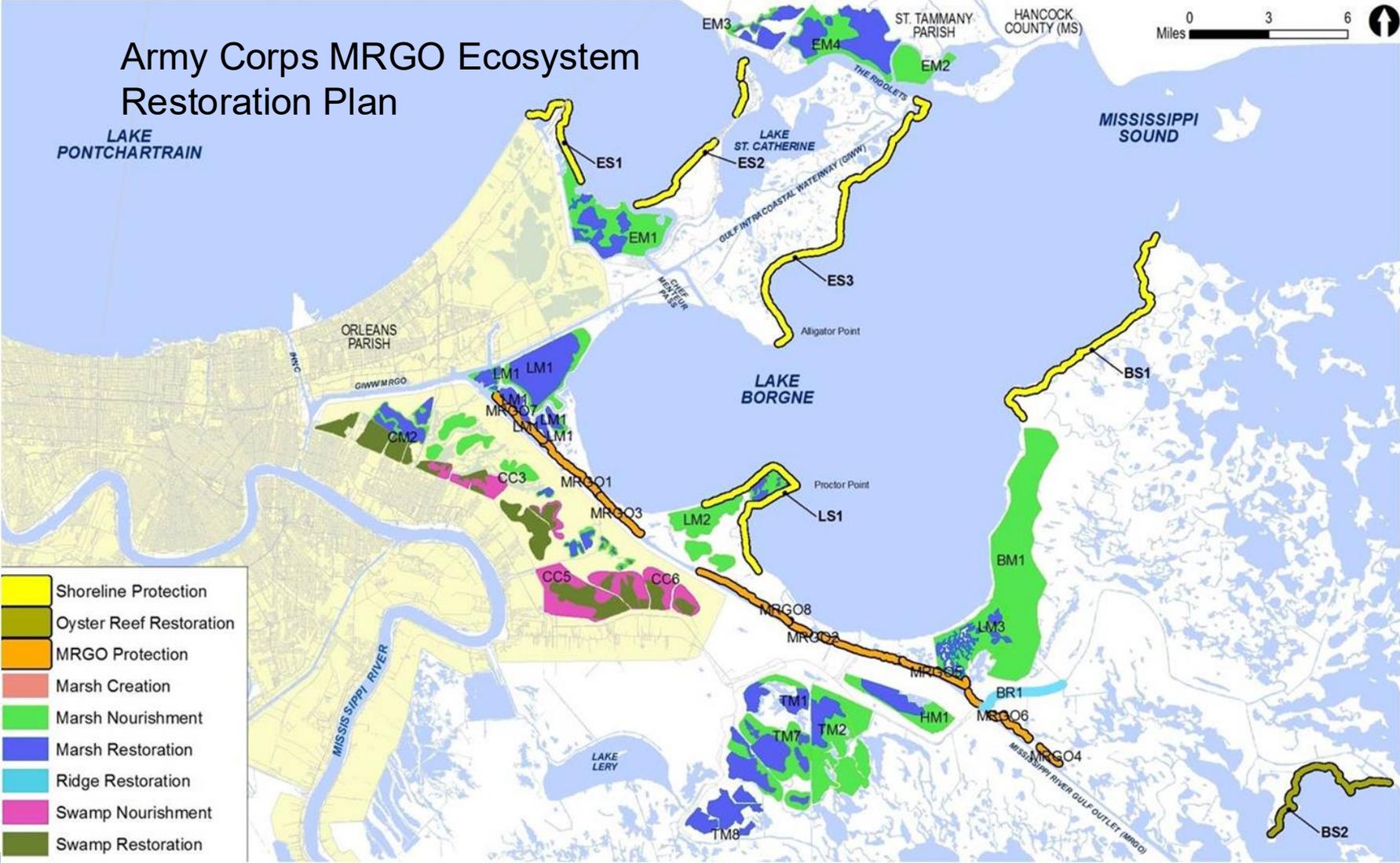


Map ID: USGS-NWRC-2014-11-0026
Map Date: September 19, 2014



- Louisiana Coastal Master Plan
- MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan

RESTORATION
EFFORTS
CONT.



COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION REQUIRES COMMUNITY INPUT

Project Area



S2 Lake Borgne 1 3 Central Wetlands 4 Lake Pontchartrain Lake Borgne West Bank Grand Isle
Gulf of Mexico Bird Foot Delta Map data © OpenStreetMap Contributor: CC BY-SA

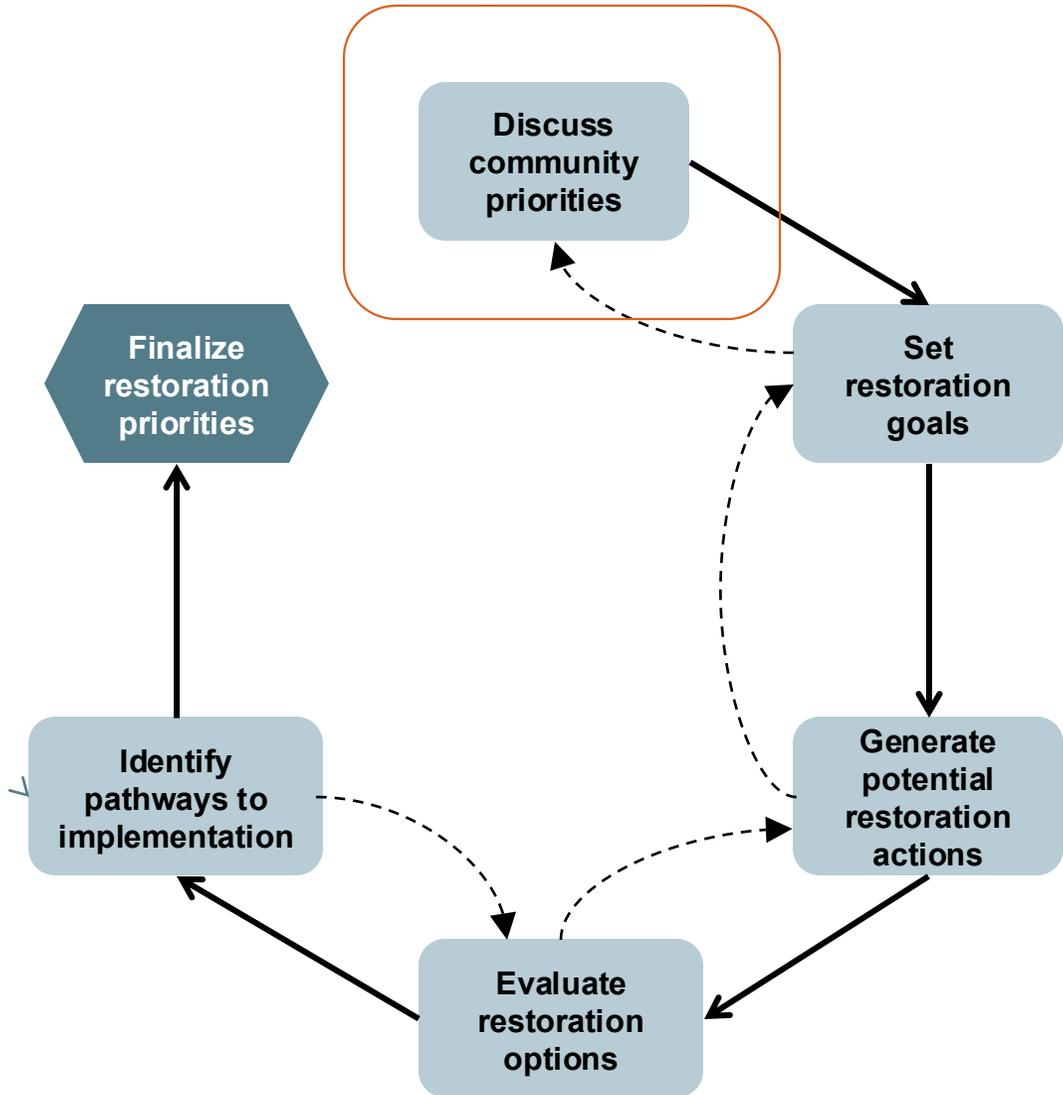


PLANNING PROCESS

- 1. *Kickoff Workshop**
 - Provide project overview and opportunities for stakeholders to communicate priorities
- 2. Restoration Assessment Development**
 - Collect and synthesize available data and information on previous efforts
 - Identify gaps and uncertainties
- 3. Objectives Workshop**
 - Build consensus on a holistic set of objectives.
 - Identify priority restoration activities
- 4. Restoration Prioritization Plan Development**
- 5. Implementation Workshop**
- 6. Draft Plan Workshop**



Today's Meeting



Discuss community priorities



PROJECT TIMELINE

Activity	JUN '25	JUL '25	AUG '25	SEPT '25	OCT '25	NOV '25	JAN '26
Stakeholder Kickoff: Introduce local stakeholders to the project, discuss common priorities	★						
Develop Restoration Assessment							
Objectives Workshop: Build consensus on objectives for restoration activities in Bayou Bienvenue			★				
Develop Restoration Prioritization Plan							
Implementation Workshop: Refine restoration strategies and begin to identify implementation opportunities					★		
Draft Plan Input Workshop: Discuss draft prioritization plan ahead of finalization.							★



Q&A



ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR RESTORATION OF BAYOU BIENVENUE WETLAND TRIANGLE

- Divide into 3 groups; each group will spend ~15 minutes at each station
 - **Station 1:** Environmental priorities
 - **Station 2:** Social priorities
 - **Station 3:** Economic priorities

