

Benefits



Urban Water

Reduced flooding and improved water quality



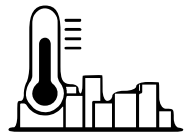
Recreation

Outdoor forest classroom and interpretive signage



Ecology

Forest and wetland ecosystem restoration



Urban Heat Mitigation

Improved vegetation and tree canopy



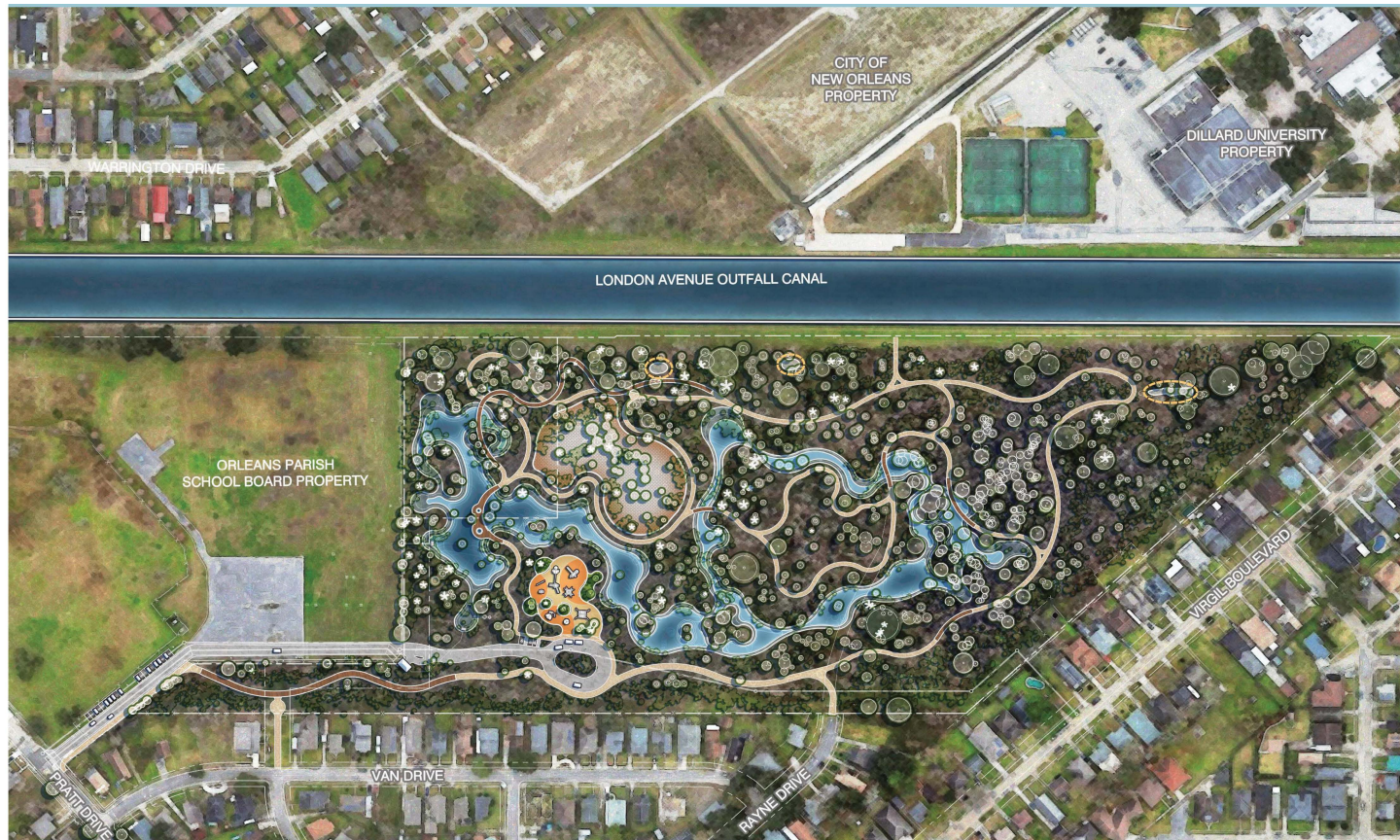
Public Health

Nature walks in urban forest



Community

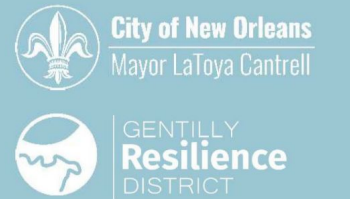
Access to property for recreation and education



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

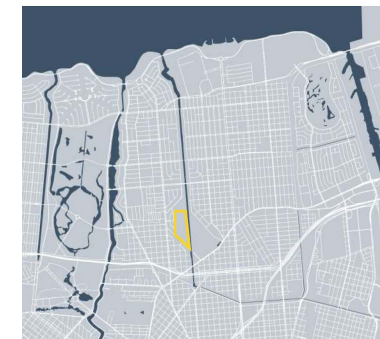
Gentilly Resilience District Project at Dillard Wetland

Fact Sheet 2024



Dillard Wetland Site

Location

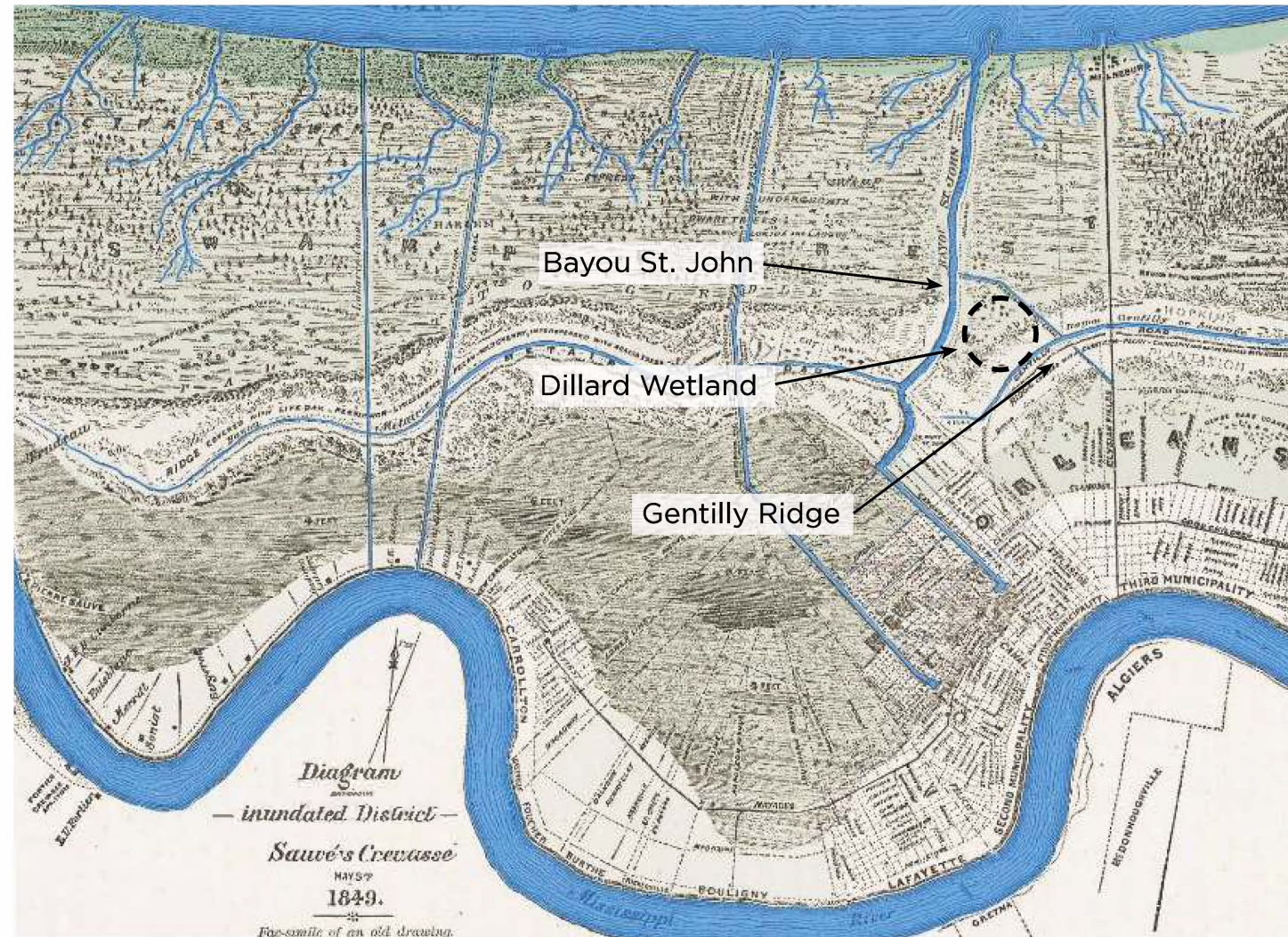


Dillard Wetland

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