

St. Bernard Neighborhood Campus & Willie Hall Playground

Fact Sheet, 2024



The St. Bernard Area is a neighborhood historically challenged with flooding and lack of access to park spaces. In 2025 as part of the Gentilly's National Disaster Resilience (NDR) Program, ground will break on several new developments in the area. The goal of these projects is to improve residential flood conditions, restore historic recreational space, add new parks and facilities, improve road conditions, and introduce green infrastructure.

Project Stats

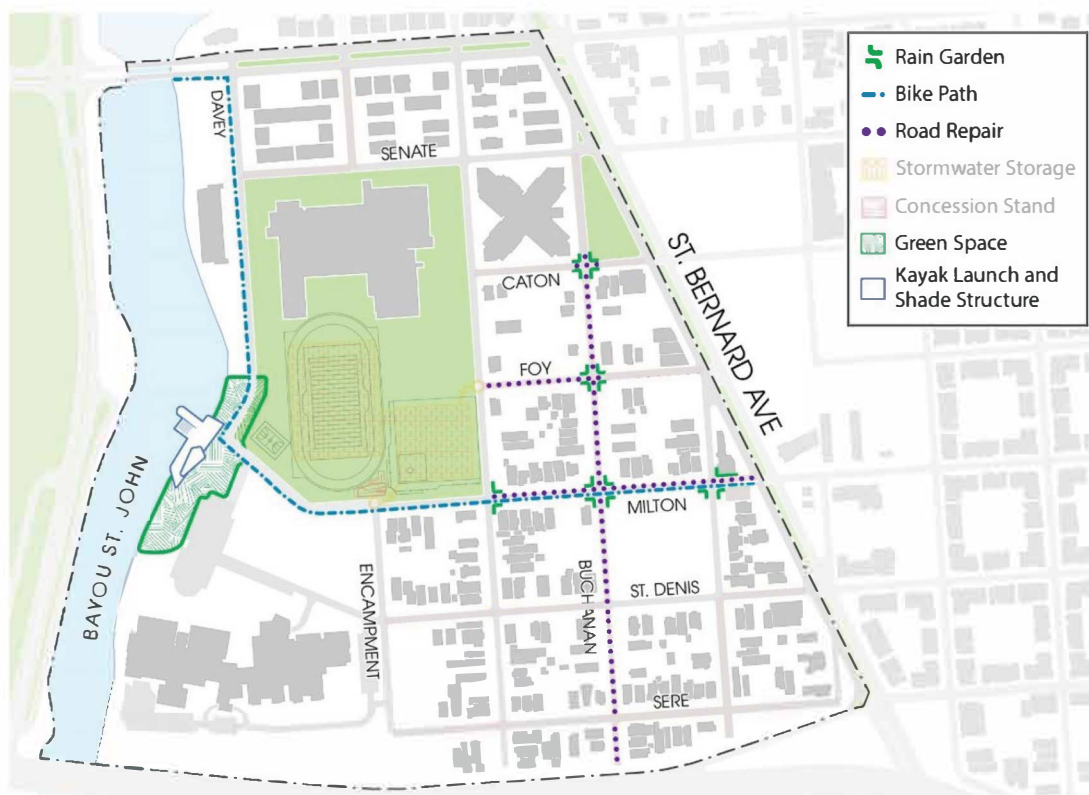
Project Location

Between Harrison Ave. and I-610, St. Bernard Ave and Bayou St. John.

Funding

- \$14 Million – National Disaster Resilience (NDR)/ Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
- \$2.2 Million – FEMA Joint Infrastructure Recovery Request

Project Lead: Stantec



Underground Stormwater Storage

Phase I

The project will begin with development of underground detention basins that can store up to 5 million gallons of stormwater. The basins will be located under the NORD athletic fields. This innovative solution is the largest of it's kind in the American south and is anticipated to more than double the stormwater capacity for the St. Bernard Area.



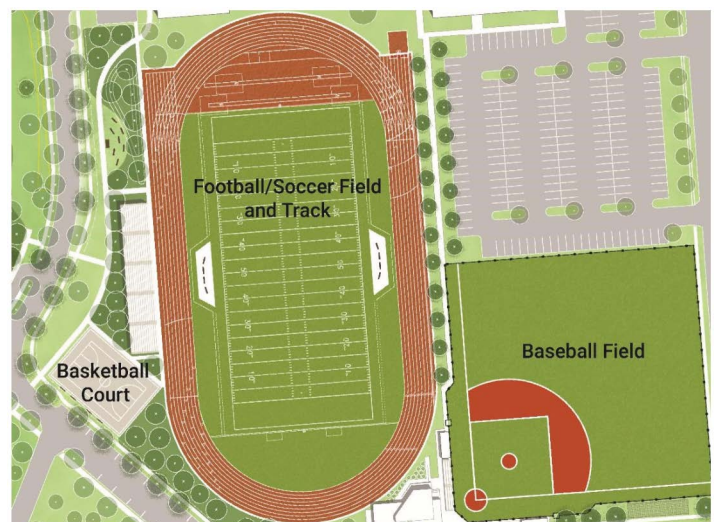
Restoration of the Willie Hall Playground

Phase I

The underground stormwater storage system will sit beneath athletic fields. Development of these fields will mean the return of the Willie Hall Playground to the St. Bernard neighborhood.

Historically and pre-Katrina, these athletic fields were the home to decades of youth sporting activities and mentoring of youth by coaches. The restored spaces will offer both day and evening community recreational programs. This will include development of:

- Regulation Track & Field Facilities
- Football/Soccer Field, a Baseball/Softball Field, and a Basketball Court
- Sports and Area Lighting and Bleachers



Multi-purpose Recreational Building

Phase II

This NORDC facility will provide a concessions counter, public restrooms, small office and multi-use spaces for coaches and site staff, a community kitchen, and equipment storage.



Bayou St. John Park

Phase III

In addition to the facilities at the new Willie Hall Playground, neighborhood rebuilding/recovery plans have always included a goal of connecting the playground to the Bayou St. John green space—doing so by adding park spaces, water access, and additional community features. Educational water features will be placed along walking trails/paths that meander throughout the project limits.



The amenities being developed are based off of community member input early in the design phase, and may include:

- Kayak launch & boardwalk
- Shade structures
- Kid's playground
- Walking trails
- Fitness area
- Outdoor classroom & event lawn



Rain Gardens & Road Repairs

Phase III

Green infrastructure (rain gardens) will be constructed to improve stormwater management within neighborhood intersections east and southeast of the athletic fields. FEMA roadway repair funds have been leveraged to tie rain gardens into the neighborhood's drainage system and repair street damages in the same areas.

You can see if your street is scheduled for road repairs or rain garden installation by referencing the map on page 1.



Stay In Touch

For more information, contact Roadwork Nola at 504.658.7623, ose@nola.gov, or visit nola.gov/stormwater/gentilly-resilience-district



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The Gentilly Resilience District is a combination of efforts across Gentilly to reduce flood risk, slow land subsidence, improve energy reliability, and encourage neighborhood revitalization.

Do you have questions, feedback, or want to learn more about the exciting updates coming to the St. Bernard Neighborhood?

Visit ISeeChange.org/GRD and create an account to share your thoughts and stay up to date on the latest project updates.

