

Blue & Green Corridor

Fact Sheet | August 2018



Overview

Major boulevards and neutral grounds in Gentilly will transform into a series of blue and green corridors that reduce flood risk and subsidence while facilitating safe and comfortable spaces to travel and recreate.

A core component of the Gentilly Resilience Strategy is effectively adapting key public assets, including boulevards, parkways/medians, and adjacent park spaces to improve community resilience. By reshaping these City assets into a network of Blue & Green Corridors and Priority Complete Streets, the community can achieve the six benefits below.

The project area includes several boulevards in Gentilly that are re-envisioned as future Blue & Green Corridors that form a framework for integrating, connecting, and building a more resilient physical, social, and economic environment. The Corridors were strategically selected to create a core network of interventions in the areas within Gentilly that are at greatest risk of flooding and that have the highest concentration of low and moderate income vulnerable populations. The Corridors also provide the backbone for the overall Gentilly Resilience District and will be carefully designed to support and connect the other projects within the District as listed below.

Issues to be Addressed

FLOODING – excess water the drainage system cannot handle

New Orleans receives 60 inches of rainfall per year on average. Flooding occurs during greater rates of rainfall. Our drainage system can handle one inch of rain for the first hour, and one-half inch with each following hour.

SUBSIDENCE – sinking of the land caused by dry organic soils

Low-lying areas of New Orleans, such as Gentilly, are former marshlands with organic (highly porous) soils that need water to remain stable. Pumping drains the soils of water, causing them to shrink like a sponge and swell again when it rains. This shrink-swell effect causes differential movement, which damages streets and building foundations.



**Resilience +
Sustainability**

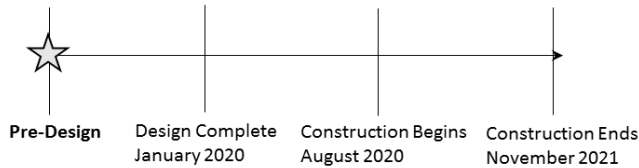
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What IS THE BLUE & GREEN CORRIDORS PROJECT?

It uses natural systems to manage water and reduce flooding by:

- Creating a network of canals—Blue Corridors—in wide neutral grounds that will also serve as neighborhood parks.
- Creating a network of Green Corridors in smaller neutral grounds, where trees, plants, and sidewalks allow water to seep slowly into the ground.

Timeline



Benefits

The Blue & Green Corridors project will

- Improve stormwater management and reduce flood risk – examples may include increasing pervious surfaces, bioswales, open canal, bioretention areas, and tree plantings
- Increase high quality multimodal facilities in and across neighborhoods – examples may include separated and buffered bike lanes, shared use paths, road diets, sidewalks, bike racks, traffic calming, safe and comfortable transit stops, and intersection safety improvements
- Create new and enhanced civic spaces – examples may include plazas, seating areas, multi-purpose places, and play areas
- Enrich social cohesion through community engagement, awareness, and participation – examples may include creative programming, walking/bicycling workshops, interpretive wayfinding, tactical urbanism techniques, and creative long-term stewardship approaches
- Attract economic development opportunities

Gentilly Resilience District

Blue & Green Corridor is a key component of the city's Gentilly Resilience District. The City has secured \$45 million dollars in federal funding through the City's award from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC)

The Gentilly Resilience District is a combination of efforts across Gentilly to reduce flood risk and slow land subsidence. When implemented together, these approaches are intended to beautify neighborhoods, improve health, and provide opportunities for recreation.

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