



# Our Plan!

Community  
Outreach

**Vermilion Parish**  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

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## Introduction

This report is a summarization of the *Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan (Plan)* May 2012 public outreach meetings, including the visioning exercises in the months prior to the meetings, as well of the July 19, 2014 outreach. These exercises were included in this report to introduce the reader to the importance and purpose of the visioning exercises.

There were a total of **303** participants throughout the visioning process and public outreach meetings. With a total of **57,999** citizens, as of the 2010 census, a total of **.52 percent**.

Previously, Austin, Texas held five meetings that had **336** participants in a population of over **790,000**, a total of **.04 percent**.

In comparison, Lafayette Parish recently held six meetings where they had **615** participants in a population of **221,578** citizens, a total of **.28 percent**.

The following information is a summary of each visioning exercise and public outreach meeting.



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## Stakeholder Committee Visioning Exercise

The following is a summary of a visioning exercise held January 12, February 9 and February 16, 2012. Participants were members of the Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Planning Stakeholder Leadership Group. Participants were asked to respond to a series of visioning questions about the future of Vermilion Parish. The Stakeholder Leadership Group visioning input from all three meetings is below, organized by meeting date.

### January 12

- **Visioning Conversation**
  - Create a growing community to retain the youth of Vermilion Parish.
    - What role can state + local government play in creating a state of economic desirability in Vermilion Parish?
  - Create a vibrant, sustainable, resilient, growing economic base to both attract new business and retain current businesses, even in a post-disaster environment.
  - Strongly integrated Parish identity – everyone cares/involvement of every citizen
  - Create a culture where Vermilion Parish citizens are ambassadors + where Vermilion Parish is known, by the world, for more than its food.
  - Consider quality of life issues — things to do, especially for young people, food, entertainment, activities, etc.
  - Mitigate/reduce risk in preparation for the next disaster, so people + businesses return afterwards.
    - Consider from both the individual + global perspectives.
  - More coastal protection/restoration
    - Open to ideas
  - Stronger ties with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

### February 9

- What Vermilion Parish resources, if any, do you feel **need protecting**?
  - Coastal wetlands
  - Freshwater + groundwater
  - Industries
  - First responders
    - Health + welfare
  - Infrastructure
  - Culture
  - Way of life



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- What improvements, if any, do you feel **are needed** in the unincorporated areas of Vermilion Parish?
  - Land use planning
  - Zoning +/- (Both the positive + negative aspects)
  - Flood protection
  - Safe harbor for coastal fishing fleets
  - Sewage systems
  - Coastal restoration/protection
  - Infrastructure
  - Affordable housing options
- Do you have an **area of particular interest** and/or **knowledge** (coastal protection, economic development, education, hazard mitigation, health + human services, housing, land use, natural resources, parks + open spaces, transportation, utilities or other) that you would like to focus on as a Stakeholder Leadership Group member?
  - Yes, all of the above
  - Agriculture
  - Marsh-type map – include in plan
    - NRCS has one
    - Louisiana Sea Grant
    - Use for permitting + restoration
  - Culture
- What are the **big issues** that you see **impacting the future** of Vermilion Parish, both the **opportunities** and the **challenges**?
  - **Opportunities:**
    - Land use planning
    - Zoning +/- (Both the positive + negative aspects)
    - Economic development
    - Future of oil + gas
    - Agriculture
    - Mitigation
    - Education
    - Population growth
    - Diversity + different jobs
    - Tourism
    - Increase technology
    - Infrastructure
    - Better services
    - Better education
  - **Challenges:**
    - Future of oil + gas
    - Zoning +/- (Both the positive + negative aspects)
    - Agriculture
    - Increase tax base in districts – declining population
    - Maintaining infrastructure (population-based)
    - Elevation (hazard mitigation)

- Storm protection
  - Retention of youth
    - Fair wages: how do we increase earning power?
    - How to best keep the Parish's best + brightest? (Key Challenge)
      - Better education
      - Better wages
      - Benefits
  - Lack of diversity (different jobs)
  - Education + skilled labor force
  - Lack of technology – behind the curve + lack of awareness
- What **key trends** do you think the Parish will be dealing with in the next **10-15** years (economic growth, demographic shifts, topology changes such as coastal erosion)?
- Depends on results of *Coastal Master Plan* + other studies
  - Louisiana Economic Development website has Parish-specific predictions
  - Urban sprawl
  - Declining tax revenue
  - Population shift from south to north
  - Limited rental homes (lack of affordable housing)
  - Lack of technology infrastructure
  - Loss of freshwater
- What areas do you feel most need **strengthening** in Vermilion Parish (transportation, economy, expanded social services, beautification efforts or other)?
- All
  - Economy
    - Tax base – if you don't have what people need they do business somewhere else.
  - Education
  - Coastal restoration/protection
  - Infrastructure (technology)
  - Capture your own, draw in outsiders
- What do you most **treasure** about Vermilion Parish?
- Big C (Cajun Culture)
  - Food
  - Atmosphere
  - Small town feel
    - Trust
    - Share stories
    - Hospitality
  - Natural resources
  - Landscape (scenery)
  - Heritage

## February 16

- What are the major **opportunities** for and **threats** to **resilient development** and **growth** in the Parish (including important trends)?
  - **Opportunities:**
    - Proximity to Gulf of Mexico
    - Freshwater supply
    - Whole Parish working together as a community
  - **Threats:**
    - Proximity to Gulf of Mexico
    - Lack of freshwater
    - Working together as a Parish is challenging – Outlying communities sometimes feel left out of the process
- What do you think the **critical problems** and **issues** are that you hope the *Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan (Plan)* will address?
  - Land loss
  - Flood protection
  - Inclusive of the whole Parish's needs
  - Technological + transportation infrastructure
  - Economic development
- How would you describe your **overall image** of what you want Vermilion Parish to be and look like?
  - Forward-thinking
  - Dynamic
  - Multicultural
  - Resilient
  - Prosperous
  - Floodproof
  - Business-friendly (infrastructure, roads/transportation, communications, trained workforce, skilled labor, better education)
  - Technologically advanced
- What **values** and **community elements** (e.g., social networks, schools, etc.) do you want to **preserve** and/or **strengthen**?
  - Preserve small neighborhood schools.
  - Strengthen inner-city schools.
  - Strengthen green space .
    - More parks, large or small
  - Preserve + strengthen Law enforcement.
  - Preserve + promote Culture (Cajun, African American, Asian, Hispanic, etc.).
  - Preserve family/rural/traditional culture.
  - Want to be an industrial community + a bedroom community for Lafayette
- **Where** and **how** do you feel that Vermilion Parish should grow?
  - Workforce



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- Economic development
- Incentivize growth of cities (keep people from moving out to country; infrastructure costs less)
- Regentrification of cities
  - Revitalize + promote Abbeville (flagship city)
- What is your **ideal outcome** of the planning process?
  - A plan that can be implemented Parish-wide
  - Strategic economic development plan that can be implemented + executed
  - Doable + within reach – with goals + steps to achieve
  - A focus on low-hanging fruit
    - A new economic development committee just created; Paul Bourgeois + Nathan Granger (both VP Jurors) are members.
    - Previous attempts are felt to have been underfunded.
  - Attainable goals
  - Public buy-in by securing media coverage of successes large + small to show we are making progress
  - Formalized economic development responsibilities
    - Process to identify needs of businesses already here (stay on top of what they want/need so they don't leave without communication..)
    - Have someone assigned with the responsibilities associated with economic development.

## Key Visioning Themes

**Based on the responses and in-depth discussions with the Stakeholder Leadership Group and others, the following key themes emerged from the visioning process:**

### Agriculture

- Better **flood protection** to prevent **saltwater intrusion** into farmlands
- Encourage retention of **farmlands for agricultural purposes**.

### Culture

- **Preserve** and **promote Cajun heritage**.

### Economic Development

- Known as a **business-friendly** Parish
- **Formalize economic development responsibilities** and **assign** those responsibilities to someone.
- **Preserve** and **strengthen local industries**, including but not limited to:
  - **Agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, oil and gas, small businesses**

### Housing

- Create more **affordable rental housing**.
- Encourage and grow reputation of Parish as a **bedroom community** for Lafayette.

### Infrastructure

Expand **infrastructure capacity** to increase industrial capabilities.

### Land Use

- **Create land use guidance** to ensure growth is supported by resilience.

### Protection (e.g., saltwater intrusion protection and other in-place protective measures)

- Increase **protection measures**.
- Assure **continuation of existing** protection measures.

### Tax Structure

- Evaluate the **current tax structure – is it working?**

### Technology

- Become more **technologically savvy**.
- Build better **technology infrastructure**.

### Water

- Protect **freshwater** and **groundwater**.
- Increase **coastal protection** and **restoration**.

### Youth

- Keep the Parish's **best** and **brightest** young people from leaving by offering **jobs** and **wages**.

## Tour Group Discussion

**On March 13, 2012, a group of nine Stakeholder Committee members took a tour of Vermilion Parish. The tour consisted of viewing each of the municipalities of the Parish and their surrounding unincorporated areas.**

### Key facts, issues, challenges, opportunities, etc. by area:

#### Maurice

- Tour participants seem very proud of the growth of subdivisions and new buildings around the Maurice area.
- Newly constructed health clinic and elderly facility
- New subdivisions
- Maurice City Park
- NuNu's fresh meat mart
- New Bank of Abbeville being constructed

#### Kaplan

- Kaplan restricts mobile homes to be less than 10 years old before being moved into the city.
- The mayor of Kaplan wants to educate himself about resiliency and a resiliency plan so he can explain this to his residents.
- Elevated Slemco service station
- The 2010 census has Kaplan at about 4,600 people; the Mayor believes this is an underestimate.
- No more rice mills in town; vacant rice mills still present
- Hospital is the largest in-town employer.
- Town owns local utilities (gas, electric, phone).

#### Gueydan

- Gueydan is trying to get their levee FEMA-certified. They are trying to install a wall inside the small width of the back levee so they are not listed in a flood zone.

#### Delcambre

- After Hurricane Rita, LA-14 was only traveled by boat. Champagnes Grocery was torn down after the storm because it was too damaged to repair.

#### Erath

- Dosier Elementary front floodgate opens when the flood waters pass through. There are several other gates placed around the back and front of the building for supply as well as to allow access to the playground when it is not flooded.

#### Abbeville

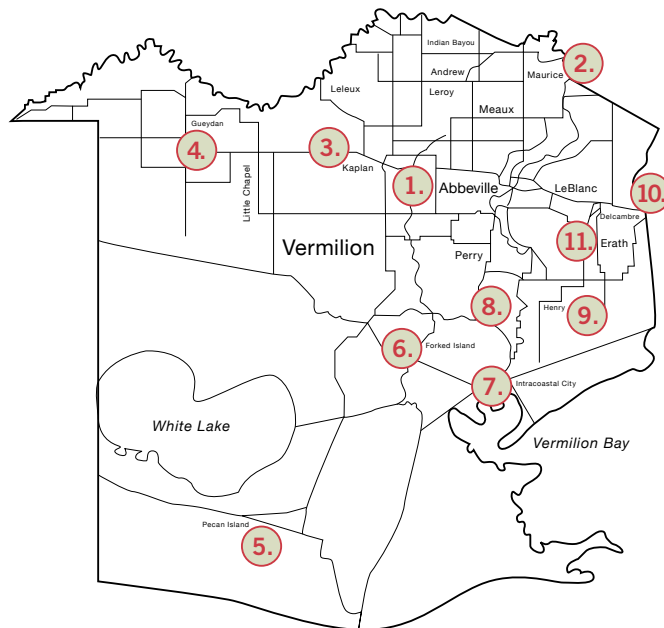
- Frank's Alley – Pumping station that will be working together with the retention pond to allow water to pass slower into the coulee that runs behind Lafitte mall

## Miscellaneous Notes

- Land use was brought up by participants. Participants are considering that some areas are in the flood zone and they shouldn't build facilities in these areas.
- Concern over elevated structures and that they are going to 'blow away' in the next hurricane
- Concern over inadequate or unsafe housing in the Parish
  - Also a concern of some areas, having a nice house next to a decaying mobile home
- Kaplan is not gaining any population - youth are moving away to find jobs.

## Tour of Vermilion Parish

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 (8:30am – 1:30pm)



Meet in **Abbeville**<sup>1</sup>

Take LA-167 to **Maurice**<sup>2</sup>

Take LA-92/LA-700/LA-35 to **Kaplan**<sup>3</sup>

Take LA-14 to **Gueydan**<sup>4</sup>

Take LA-35/LA-82 to **Pecan Island**<sup>5</sup>

Take LA-82 to **Forked Island**<sup>6</sup>

Take LA-333 to **Intracoastal City**<sup>7</sup>

Take LA-82 to **7th Ward/Palmetto Island**<sup>8</sup>

Take LA-330 to **Henry**<sup>9</sup>

Continue on LA-330 to **Delcambre**<sup>10</sup>

Take LA-14 to **Erath**<sup>11</sup>

Continue on LA-14 to **Abbeville**



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## Special-topic Focus Group Meetings As Part of Tour Week

**From March 13 to March 15, 2012, we held eight special-topic focus groups. The following is a key points summary from each of those meetings.**

### **Vermilion Parish Coastal Protection and Restoration Committee**

Attendance: Nine members

- **Key Facts**
  - Public outreach efforts were reported that have resulted in participation of 303 of 58,000 Vermilion Parish residents, twice the % of the number of those involved in the initial round of the Lafayette Parish Comprehensive Plan.
  - The 303 participants compares very favorably to the 336 who attended the initial round of planning meetings in Austin, Texas.
  - Committee members reviewed the Maps Book created for the parish's resiliency plan.
  - Funding resources for potential resilience grants were presented and discussed.
  - Ten plan elements were reviewed during the committee meeting and input was requested.
- **Key Opportunities**
  - Immediate feedback was received and committee members took copies of the draft plan elements for additional input. Those comments are incorporated into the plan.

### **Health + Human Services**

Attendance: Five members

- **Key Facts**
  - The Vermilion Parish Hospital prides itself on its Medical Emergency Operations Center (EOC). They are the only known Parish in the country to have a Medical EOC.
  - Abbeville General Hospital (AGH) includes the hospital (with full ER and a 16-bed mental healthcare center in Abbeville), and clinics in Maurice and Gueydan, and there are plans to build a new clinic in Erath (we viewed the property during tour).
- **Key Issues**
  - AGH wants to build a safe room. FEMA's mitigation program will pay for the room but not any contents. The safe room would be only for AGH's patients.
- **Key Opportunities**
  - Kaplan has its own utilities.



- Four-lane Highway 14 from Gueydan to Jennings (to be used as an evacuation route). Heard several times that folks don't want to evacuate through Lafayette (congested). A four-lane Hwy 14 would provide an alternative to I-10.
  - Participants also noted that expansion of Highway 14 into four lanes would be an economic boom for the Parish; it's out of the floodzone and would open up thousands of acres to industrial development.

### **Critical + Sensitive Areas + Water Management**

Attendance: 16 members

- **Key Facts**

- Participants were aware that the supply of freshwater could limit the 'use' of the Parish – such as limit the possibility of industry/agriculture, which will affect economy.
- According to participants, the major misuses of freshwater are automatic sprinklers, pools and watering lawns. Recent 45 percent increase in usage (not sure of the timeframe).
- Delcambre and Gueydan don't have water meters (described as unfair to rest of Parish residents).
- Saltwater intrusion in southern part of Parish is causing metal piping/tools/buildings to rust.

- **Key Issues**

- People are moving from Lafayette Parish and southern area of Vermilion Parish into the northern areas (taxes capacity of northern part and viability of southern part), putting pressure on and increasing demand in this area of the Parish.
- Saltwater intrusion

- **Key Challenges**

- Saltwater intrusion is a threat to rice/crawfish/cattle/local economy.
- Costs/infrastructure of pumping freshwater into the Mermentau Basin (saltwater is moving into basin)
- Permit process (wetlands and CZM permits) gets in the way.
- Many leaks in the Mermentau Basin levee (have been leaks in levee system for years)
- Being able to provide enough water for fire truck/station drawdown (water system cannot supply volunteer firemen with water to fight a fire at new school)
- Insurance costs increasing for homeowners, particularly those outside of fire districts (one participant stated that insurance rates can triple when you're outside of a fire district)
- With more residents moving into the Parish, there is less room for waterfowl and less waterfowl to hunt (hunting is part of the economy); preserving large tracts of open space is important to maintain waterfowl habitat.

- Need for hurricane protection in order to limit saltwater intrusion (this may stabilize population movement from south to north)
- **Key Opportunities**
  - Educate Parish residents on importance of water conservation practices.
  - One participant emphasized that residents need to understand what is at stake and why it is important for them to participate in the planning process.
    - The plan should guide the investment of tax dollars.
    - People should “speak up or give up”.
    - Plan can help to preserve the VERMILION “way of life”.
    - Need to fight apathy.

## Land Use + Transportation, Parks + Open Space

Attendance: Nine members

- **Key Facts**

- US Farm Bill is currently being revised; revisions will have a big impact on local agricultural economy.
- Efforts to level rice fields help to preserve water.
- Rice production has dropped from more than 100,000 acres before Rita to about 45,000 acres today.
- Cattle production has also dropped; Vermilion used to be number one producer in the State, now it's fourth.
- It can take six to eight years to flush saltwater out of the land; this assuming no additional saltwater intrusion during that time.
- Mermentau Basin is a critical source of freshwater for southwestern Vermilion Parish.
- Funding is a major issue for the Parish, particularly for maintenance/operating costs.
- Tax assessor confirmed that population is declining south of Highway 14.
- Intracoastal City has seen a decline in businesses.
- Most of the millage comes from residential sources (agricultural land is included in residential), not commercial/industrial.

- **Key Issues**

- Stop erosion by piping silt.
- Educate population on cattle-raising best practices.
- Some kind of hurricane protection for coastal areas.
- There is no need for urban areas like Abbeville if there are no rural/southern areas (protect rural to keep urban areas).
- Freshwater filters into everything in Vermilion Parish economy.
- Tax revenue is tied back to and controlled by wards.
- Pattern of tax revenue sources; in Lafayette 30 percent of sales tax comes from non-Lafayette residents; in Vermilion this is 50 percent.

- **Key Challenges**

- Saltwater intrusion is a threat to rice/crawfish/cattle/economy.
- Maintaining freshwater in the Mermentau Basin; possible diversion from Red River (currently being studied?)

- **Key Opportunities**

- Educate cattle ranchers on cattle-raising best practices.



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## Housing

*\* Please note that two housing meetings took place at the same time in two locations. One meeting took place in Erath. The other meeting took place in Abbeville.*

### Erath Housing

Attendance: Two members

- **Key Facts**
  - Erath has total of 58 affordable housing units (two units still in repair from Ike); Delcambre has total of 52 units, of which 36 are in operation (others need flood repairs).
  - Shortage of affordable housing in Parish.
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) units are located in Delcambre, Erath, Abbeville, Kaplan and Gueydan.
  - No housing authority units built since 1950s or 1960s.
  - The Erath units are required to have National Flood Insurance Program insurance.
- **Key Issues**
  - HUD not building any more units of this type.
  - Fear that HUD will not rebuild if flooded/damaged in future events
  - Extensive waiting lists
- **Key Challenges**
  - Minimum wage jobs keep residents in affordable housing.
  - Units are old.
  - Erath units are in a 'bowl'; flood wall and pump are not practical.
  - Home financing and costs of homeowners insurance are problems for landlords and tenants.
- **Key Opportunities**
  - Identify where affordable units are located within the Parish for inclusion/consideration in the plan.

### Abbeville Housing

Attendance: Five members

- **Key Facts**
  - Ten years ago the majority of the housing market was focused on the \$100,000-\$125,000 price point; now that market has dried up and the \$200,000-\$300,000 is the focus.
  - The Vermilion Parish rental market is pretty dry; 250-unit, mixed-income complex in Maurice has filled most of the rental housing need.
  - People moving north of Highway 14; the cost of insurance has made it difficult to close deals south of Highway 14 (residential and commercial).

- **Key Issues**
  - School districts have a bad perception.
  - Vermilion Parish needs codes (not zoning); the Abbeville Smart Code was portrayed in a positive light.
    - Vermilion Parish Police Jury could use codes to prevent certain situations like building in low elevations.
- **Key Challenges**
  - Mobile homes (trailers) are not a good affordable housing alternative.
    - Delcambre will no longer allow mobile homes; Abbeville has adopted the Smart Code and is phasing out mobile homes.
  - The subdivision ordinance should not apply to single-lot subdivision (e.g., a family sells a lot of land to another family member so they can build a home).
- **Key Opportunities**
  - The Parish (and city) need a planner.
    - The Lafayette planner was cited as an example.
    - Need someone that knows what they're doing to generate projects, get grants, economic development.

### Resiliency in Accordance with the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Attendance: Eight members

- **Key Facts**
  - People will get back into the Parish after an event even though the return order has not been given.
  - Clerk of Court is responsible for coordination of volunteers and donations after an event.
  - EOC preparedness addresses detention facilities, special needs population, waste sites, phased re-entry and many other concerns.
  - Only Medical EOC in the country
  - Fire Districts are mostly volunteer-based; Abbeville, Erath and Kaplan have paid fire departments.
    - Fire districts use mutual aid agreements to support one another.
    - Vermilion Parish Police Jury does contribute some funding to the volunteer departments.
  - All fire trucks are owned by the Parish.
  - Only ladder truck is in Abbeville and it travels to all calls in Parish.
  - Mobile homes that are more than 20 years old cannot be moved within the Parish.
  - All Vermilion Parish (unincorporated) water is from wells.
- **Key Issues**
  - Lafayette is a bottleneck during evacuations – everyone trying to go north.



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- Vulnerability of Erath; city is in a bowl
- Need for an interface levee between Vermilion Parish and Iberia Parish
- **Key Challenges**
  - Conflict of needing employees back in Parish and National Guard/State Police blocking their return.
  - Return to Parish sometimes blocked by neighboring parishes who are preventing returns.
  - Concern over improperly elevated structures (not properly designed and/or constructed) and residents sheltering in place in these structures
  - Convincing local businesses to invest in backup generators; most would recoup their costs
- **Key Opportunities**
  - Educate businesses about a Business Cooperation Plan.
  - Some businesses delay return so as to discourage some special needs (dialysis) residents from return.

### **Agriculture/Aquaculture**

Attendance: Nine members

- **Key Facts**
  - Estimated 45,000 cattle before Hurricane Rita – now estimate 10,000
    - We probably will not see much of an increase from 10,000 because the north end of the Parish is being developed, the south end is too salty.
    - Ten years ago Vermilion Parish was the state's largest producer of cattle; now it is fourth.
  - Estimate less than 50,000 acres of rice being planted this year.
  - Participants believe farming technology has reached its peak and few improvements can be made.
  - Participants acknowledged that it is going to be harder to feed the growing world population.
  - Land determined too wet for cattle to stand on and left unused for a time may be considered wetlands and becomes protected land.
  - It is easier to NOT farm or raise cattle.
  - Most post-incident coordination is done at the local level.
    - This is good for the distribution of goods; Parish farmers know best where the post-disaster needs are amongst their group.
  - Ditch cleaning and fence repair are big post-incident issues for cattle farmers.
  - Estimated cost of fencing is \$1.30 per foot.
  - Long ago, cattle were wintered down in wetlands (Coastal Cowboys).
  - AgCenter employees developed list of higher ground where cattle could be moved.

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) paid for replacement of interior fencing.
- The EQIP is a voluntary conservation program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural, vegetative and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Applications for EQIP can be made at local NRCS offices. ([ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/stateeqip.html](http://ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/stateeqip.html))
- Rice brings in approximately \$40 million per year to the Parish; largest ag industry most years.
- Yields on more salt tolerant rice are so low it is not economical.
- It costs approximately \$1 million to run/maintain an 800-1,000 acre farm.
- Chinese crawfish costs ½ as much as local crawfish.
- **Key Issues**
  - Need for hurricane protection to dissipate waves
  - Need for relaxing of rules after event (use of Parish equipment on private lands)
  - Use of higher ground for evacuation of herd left bad taste (over-grazing, bad calving rates, depleted commodities/feed) – probably won't volunteer to house cattle in next event.
  - Develop better system for coordination of volunteers or Ag Center workers through LA Cattlemen's Association or the Department of Agriculture (USDA).
  - Saltwater intrusion from damaged locks system is "unimaginable", "unseen levels of salt in water (ppm)" – Vermilion Parish declared state of emergency.
  - Saltwater has been increasing near Kaplan for last 10 years (per the rice farmer).
  - Less and less land available for farming/cattle
  - It is costly to clear land that sits for a season or two and becomes overgrown.
  - Mermentau Basin needs to be kept as freshwater.
    - Largest freshwater basin in North America.
  - Concern that there is some slowdown in deep offshore drilling and that more drilling will be on land (less expensive) and this affects Vermilion Parish economy – Vermilion Parish has the infrastructure and skilled personnel to build and operate the equipment (another draw for youth to move away).
  - It's hard for farmers to start from scratch these days; previous generations' investments in ag infrastructure is critical.
  - Most crawfish production is done in conjunction with rice production.
    - Total production is trending downward.
    - Marginal rice land is used for crawfish farming.
  - Without agriculture in Vermilion, the Parish will be a suburb.
- **Key Challenges**
  - Cost of replacing herd/fencing if lost in storm
  - Need fair system for distribution of donations.

- Develop list of who potential donors should call or where potential donations should go (e.g., LA Cattlemen's Association or LSU AgCenter).
- Cleanup after a storm is a mess.
- Even if you can afford to buy cattle lost in storm, you have no place to put them.
- Permits or permitting process and loss of land to wetlands
- Less and less viable land to raise cattle or rice/crawfish.
- Participants complained that the USDA wasn't and isn't helpful (only 40 percent of budget goes to farmers – other monies go to food stamps and other programs).
- Saltwater intrusion significantly affects ability to plant rice or grow crawfish.
- Youth don't want to farm or raise cattle – it is hard work.
- Hard for young farmers to get started in business (cost of infrastructure/equipment).
- Because of the cost of land/equipment, younger farmers are buying in southern part of Parish; the older farmers are moving north to better and more expensive lands.
- Bureaucracy is extremely slow (for land development and coastal restoration).
- Mark from LSU AgCenter asked "What if we can't grow rice or cows? What becomes of Vermilion Parish?"
  - Chinese Tallow (chicken trees) will grow throughout the Parish; there is a market for these; the cost to clear an acre of land of chicken trees exceeds the value of the land in most cases.
  - If lands sit fallow too long they will become wetlands.
- Non-Vermilion Parish residents coming in and buying huge tracts of land for hunting or other non-agricultural purposes
- New US Farm Bill is a cause for concern; farm subsidies overseas create inequities.
- Farming efficiencies may be peaking.
- **Key Opportunities**
  - Educate youth about benefits of agriculture/aquaculture.
  - Educate farmers about rules/laws so they know how to build back (don't do things that will later cause penalties or tear-down).
  - The Sabine River and Red River are being considered as options for replenishing Parish freshwater.
  - If the Dutch can keep the North Sea at bay why can't we do the same with the Gulf?

### **Capital Improvements Plan**

Attendance: Eight members

- **Key Facts**



The Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan is made possible through a grant provided through the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) – Disaster Recovery Unit (DRU) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- Kaplan Phone Company (KPC) took 7 days after they got back into area to 'get back up'.
- KPC has broadcast capability.
- KPC moved one station completely out of area and brought it back in after event.
- Office of Public Health (OPH) does only one sewage inspection when new service is requested.
- Phone
  - KPC equipment is elevated four feet up and lines are buried underground.
  - Is an all-fiber phone provider; includes land lines, cellular, cable and is geared more to business.
  - Secured more generators and have mutual aid contracts in place for getting lines back up.
  - Sole supplier of phone service in Pecan and Forked Island
  - Diesel fuel tanks have seven-day run time.
  - Population is moving north – about 1/3 of customers remain in Pecan Island (moved to Kaplan).
- SLEMCO
  - Lifted 3 substations (2 complete, one contracted).
  - Has mutual aid contracts with other suppliers.
  - Population/service need is moving north.
  - Newer developments are putting lines underground (gel-filled conduit).
  - Camaraderie after storm/event is great.
  - Trend is for irrigation wells to convert from diesel to electric (more economical for farmers).
- Office of Public Health
  - Individual sewerage (septic tanks) is the cheapest way to develop property.
  - Individuals don't maintain system.
  - If service is interrupted, no new inspection conducted.
  - Impact is the tanks are leaking polluted water.
  - Long-term flooding causes septic systems to fail.
  - Lot size is 12,000 square feet.
  - A big improvement is the availability of public water.
  - Mobile home parks use oxidation ponds to treat sewage.
  - All neighboring Parishes have stronger ordinances.
- **Key Issues**
  - Most individual sewer systems are not functioning properly.
- **Key Challenges**
  - Getting back into area after event.
  - Buried cable is under salt/surge water for days.
  - North Vermilion is growing and not tied to a sewer system.
  - Minimal inspections by OPH (when new construction, new mobile home location, home addition, etc.) No follow-up inspections.

- Non-compliance means a fine – up to \$10,000/year – but usually OPH just wants a customer to be in compliance (Ex: permit to build a chicken coop but builds a two-story home).

## **Historic + Cultural Preservation + Economic Development**

Attendance: Nine members

### • **Key Facts**

- Several museums in the Parish and exhibits travel between them
- Several (four spring/four fall) music on the square events – brings in rural folks
- A film commission for the growing Louisiana (Hollywood South) filming industry
- The Parish has a tourist commission [vermilion.org/about-us](http://vermilion.org/about-us).
- Area museums and cultural events hold meetings to coordinate tourism and local art displays.
- The Blacksmith Shop (only one locally?) has expanded hours and improvements (A/C and heat).
- Abbeville has volunteer tour guides.
- Part of Abbeville is a designated Cultural District – which means artists don't need to charge tax, which hopefully spurs the artist economy and makes artwork sold in Abbeville a little more attractive to purchase.
- The Alliance Cultural Center consists of four entities that contribute funds to the Alliance:
  - *Vermilion Historic Society* – History of Vermilion Parish
  - *Acadian Center* – Acadian Heritage
  - *Giant Omelet (Confrerie D'Abbeville)* – held in November and coordinated with other French-speaking communities around the world, promotes the French language and helps children build relationships with other communities.
  - *Vermilion Arts Council* – Music, arts, dance, food
- Information can be found on two websites: [abbevillemuseum.org](http://abbevillemuseum.org) or [vermilionParish.org](http://vermilionParish.org)

### • **Key Issues**

- Participants believe more residents should volunteer.
- Lots of requests from tourist for aquaculture (where are the alligators?)
- Alligators don't like noise and they are very susceptible to human diseases.
- Few tour sites (Steen's doesn't have tours)
- Merchants don't have promotional items (like tiny Steen's samples).
- Few local restaurants open on Sundays.

### • **Key Challenges**

- Keeping musicians in the Parish
- Saltwater
- Oil and gas, but optimistic about 'new ways of doing' oil and gas.



- Parish location on the Gulf is good and bad – bad because of storms and saltwater, good because lots of industries need access to the Gulf.
- **Key Opportunities**
  - Help children learn about music.
  - For Economic Development, three items to promote are: Blue Ocean (deep water) industries, I-10 and I-49 highways and Intracoastal Waterway.
  - Other economic drivers are food, music and nature (lots of birders come through the Parish).
  - Per Economic Development participant, “We have to plan and adapt” to keep viable.
  - “People are our Assets.”
  - “Delcambre Direct” is a creative model for providing direct access to shrimpers.
  - Possible trademark as “Food of the Wetlands”.
  - Betty is the main attraction at Betty’s RV Park.
  - New Economic Development group meetings are scheduled to begin at the end of March. The coordinators are “thrilled” about speakers coming from similar and nearby parishes like Jeff Davis and St. Martin.
  - The ‘pogey’ plant is getting some interest because of extracting Omega Oil, which is becoming a popular human vitamin supplement.
  - Emerging market for Chinese Tallow (locally called Chicken trees), which locals consider ‘trash’ trees.

## Visioning Exercise Questions

A visioning exercise is a group exercise that uses a series of questions to **promote thought** and **encourage discussion of planning options**. Visioning input from the Stakeholder Leadership Group, the Vermilion Parish Police Jury and the public will help define what Vermilion Parish's **priorities** for its future are.

The questions in this summary are the condensed group of questions that were presented to the public during the May Outreach Meetings. The options listed are ones suggested by the Stakeholder Leadership Group and those mentioned during the focus session meetings.

- What do you **most treasure** about Vermilion Parish (e.g., atmosphere, Cajun culture, food, hospitality, landscape [scenery], natural resources, small town feel, OTHER)?
- What Vermilion Parish **resources**, if any, do you feel need protecting (e.g., coastal wetlands, culture, farmlands + cattle industry, freshwater, health+ welfare, industries, way of life, OTHER)?
- What **key issues** do you think the Parish will face in the next 10-15 years (e.g., coastal erosion, hurricane protection [flooding and high winds], loss of jobs, population movement, saltwater intrusion, OTHER)?
- What **improvements** do you feel are needed in the **unincorporated areas** of Vermilion Parish (e.g., affordable housing options, ambulance service, coastal restoration/protection, economic development, education, expanded social services, fire protection, flood protection, land use planning, lower property insurance rates, roads, safe harbor for coastal fishing fleets, sewage systems, tourism, OTHER)?

## Vermilion Parish Police Jury Visioning Exercise

The following summary is from the April 15, 2012 Police Jury meeting where we held a visioning exercise for the 14 Police Jury members.

- What do you **most treasure** about Vermilion Parish (e.g., atmosphere, Cajun culture, food, hospitality, landscape [scenery], natural resources, small town feel, OTHER)?
  - Family
  - Cajun culture
  - Hospitality
  - Heritage
  - Natural resources
  - Food
  - Community
  - Small town feel
- What Vermilion Parish **resources**, if any, do you feel need protecting (e.g., coastal wetlands, culture, farmlands + cattle industry, freshwater, health+ welfare, industries, way of life, OTHER)?
  - Wildlife
  - Wetlands
  - Way of life
  - Coast
  - Lifestyle
  - Freshwater
  - Farmlands
  - Cattle industry
  - Industry
- What **key issues** do you think the Parish will face in the next 10-15 years (e.g., coastal erosion, hurricane protection [flooding and high winds], loss of jobs, population movement, saltwater intrusion, OTHER)?
  - Saltwater intrusion
  - Hurricane protection
  - Population movement
  - Loss of jobs
  - Shrinking tax base
  - Feeling protected
  - Coastal protection
  - Economic development

- What **improvements** do you feel are needed in the **unincorporated areas** of Vermilion Parish (e.g., affordable housing options, ambulance service, coastal restoration/protection, economic development, education, expanded social services, fire protection, flood protection, land use planning, lower property insurance rates, roads, safe harbor for coastal fishing fleets, sewage systems, tourism, OTHER)?
  - Insurance rates
  - Hurricane protection
  - Economic development
  - Better road connections
    - Four lane Hwy 14 to Hwy 90 (A detour of I-10 straight through Vermilion Parish)
  - Tourism
  - Roads
  - Safe harbor for coastal fishing fleets
  - Expanded social services

## Vermilion Parish Police Jury Poster Station Voting

The following is a summary of the Police Jury poster station voting held at a luncheon on May 7, 2012, that six members attended. Each person received three dots with which to vote.

What Do You **Most Treasure** About Vermilion Parish?

	Jurors
Atmosphere	
Cajun Culture	5
Food	4
Hospitality	
Landscape (scenery)	
Natural Resources	3
Small Town Feel	5
<i>Other:</i>	
Attitude (Everyone knows everyone and helps when needed)	
Coastal Wetlands	
Hunting-Fishing-Shrimping	
Garbage Recycle	
Grazing lands south of 330	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>17</b>

\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.

**Poster Station Voting – Each person received three dots with which to vote.**

*What Vermilion Parish **Resources**, if Any, Do You Feel Need Protecting?*

	<b>Jurors</b>
Coastal Wetlands	4
Culture	2
Farmlands + Cattle Industry	6
Freshwater	
Health + Welfare	
Industries	
Way of Life	1
<i>Other:</i>	
Industries: Including Commercial Fishing Industry – Shrimp, Menhaden, Crabs, Alligator	
People	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>13</b>

*\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.*

**Poster Station Voting – Each person received three dots with which to vote.**

*What **Key Issues** Do You Think the Parish Will Face in the Next 10-15 Years?*

	<b>Jurors</b>
Coastal Erosion	3
Hurricane Protection	5
Loss of Jobs	2
Population Movement	3
Saltwater Intrusion	6
<i>Other:</i>	
Insurance	1
Reduced Agriculture Industry	
Replace Natural Barrier Reefs That Were Originally There. Flood Control Levees.	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>20</b>

*\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.*

**Poster Station Voting – Each person received three dots with which to vote.**

*What **Improvements** Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish?*

	<b>Jurors</b>
Affordable Housing Options	0
Coastal Restoration/Protection	4
Economic Development	1
Education	1
Expanded Social Services	0
Fire Protection	0
Flood Protection	4
Land Use Planning	0
Lower Property Insurance Rates	2
Roads	3
Safe Harbor for Coastal Fishing Fleets	0
Sewage Systems	0
Tourism	3
Other:	
Hurricane Protection	



*What **Improvements** Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish? (Continued. . .)*

	<b>Jurors</b>
Litter Awareness	
More Networking Among Parish Residents - opportunities for Parish-wide exchange of talents, knowledge and ideas - possibly through library system meetings. Learn skills from experienced people - gardening, electrical, self-sufficiency.	
Quicker Response Times for Law Enforcement	
Coastal Protection Levee	
Loss of Property Values	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>

*\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.*

The following is a **Key Points Summary** of information provided to the Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Team from Vermilion Parish citizens during the May 2012 public outreach meetings. Details with all information from the poster stations and surveys follow this **Summary**.

- A total of **202** Vermilion Parish citizens attended the May 2012 public outreach meetings.
  - **42** Vermilion Parish citizens attended the **Abbeville** meeting.
  - **17** Vermilion Parish citizens attended the **Gueydan** meeting.
  - **61** Vermilion Parish citizens attended the **Forked Island** meeting.
  - **24** Vermilion Parish citizens attended the **Maurice** meeting.
  - **58** Vermilion Parish citizens attended the **Erath** meeting.
- A total of **518** votes were cast on the *What Do You **Most Treasure** About Vermilion Parish?* poster.
  - *Atmosphere* received **30** votes.
  - *Cajun Culture* received **117** votes.
  - *Food* received **52** votes.
  - *Hospitality* received **22** votes.
  - *Landscaping (scenery)* received **45** votes.
  - *Natural Resources* received **117** votes.
  - *Small Town Feel* received **90** votes.
  - *Other: (Post-it® Notes)*
    - *Attitude (Everyone knows everyone and helps when needed)* received **two** votes.
    - *Coastal Wetlands* received **12** votes.
    - *Hunting-Fishing-Shrimping* received **21** votes.
    - *Garbage Recycle* received **three** votes.
    - *Grazing Lands South of 330* received **seven** votes.
- A total of **524** votes were cast on the *What Vermilion Parish **Resources**, if Any, Do You Feel Need Protecting?* poster.
  - *Coastal Wetlands* received **152** votes.
  - *Culture* received **23** votes.
  - *Farmlands + Cattle Industry* received **123** votes.
  - *Freshwater* received **104** votes.
  - *Health + Welfare* received **29** votes.
  - *Industries* received **49** votes.
  - *Way of Life* received **39** votes.
  - *Other: (Post-it Notes)*
    - *Industries: Including Commercial Fishing Industry – Shrimp, Menhaden, Crabs, Alligator* received **one** vote.
    - *People* received **four** votes.

- **522** votes were cast on the *What **Key Issues** Do You Think the Parish Will Face in the Next 10-15 Years?* poster.
  - *Coastal Erosion* received **147** votes.
  - *Hurricane Protection* received **142** votes.
  - *Loss of Jobs* received **58** votes.
  - *Population Movement* received **55** votes.
  - *Saltwater Intrusion* received **101** votes.
  - *Other: (Post-it Notes)*
    - *Insurance* received **three** votes.
    - *Reduced Agriculture Industry* received **six** votes.
    - *Replace Natural Barrier Reefs That Were Originally There. Flood Control levees* received **10** votes.
- A total of **545** votes were cast on the *What **Improvements** Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish?* poster.
  - *Affordable Housing Options* received **eight** votes.
  - *Coastal Restoration/Protection* received **126** votes.
  - *Economic Development* received **33** votes.
  - *Education* received **40** votes.
  - *Expanded Social Services* received **three** votes.
  - *Fire Protection* received **seven** votes.
  - *Flood Protection* received **116** votes.
  - *Land Use Planning* received **18** votes.
  - *Lower Property Insurance Rates* received **94** votes.
  - *Roads* received **63** votes.
  - *Safe Harbor for Coastal Fishing Fleets* received **13** votes.
  - *Sewage Systems* received **one** vote.
  - *Tourism* received **seven** votes.
  - *Other: (Post-it Notes)*
    - *Hurricane Protection* received **one** vote.
    - *Litter awareness* received **one** vote.
    - *More Networking Among Parish Residents – opportunities for Parish-wide exchange of talents, knowledge and ideas – possibly through library system meetings. Learn skills from experienced people – gardening, electrical, self-sufficiency* received **two** votes.
    - *Quicker Response Times for Law Enforcement* received **two** votes.
    - *Coastal Protection Levee* received **seven** votes.
    - *Loss of Property Values* received **three** votes.
- A total of **132** Vermilion Parish citizens rated the meeting a **positive** (7-10) rank.
- A total of **11** Vermilion Parish citizens rated the meeting a **neutral** (5-6) rank.
- A total of **four** Vermilion Parish citizens rated the meeting a **negative** (1-4) rank.

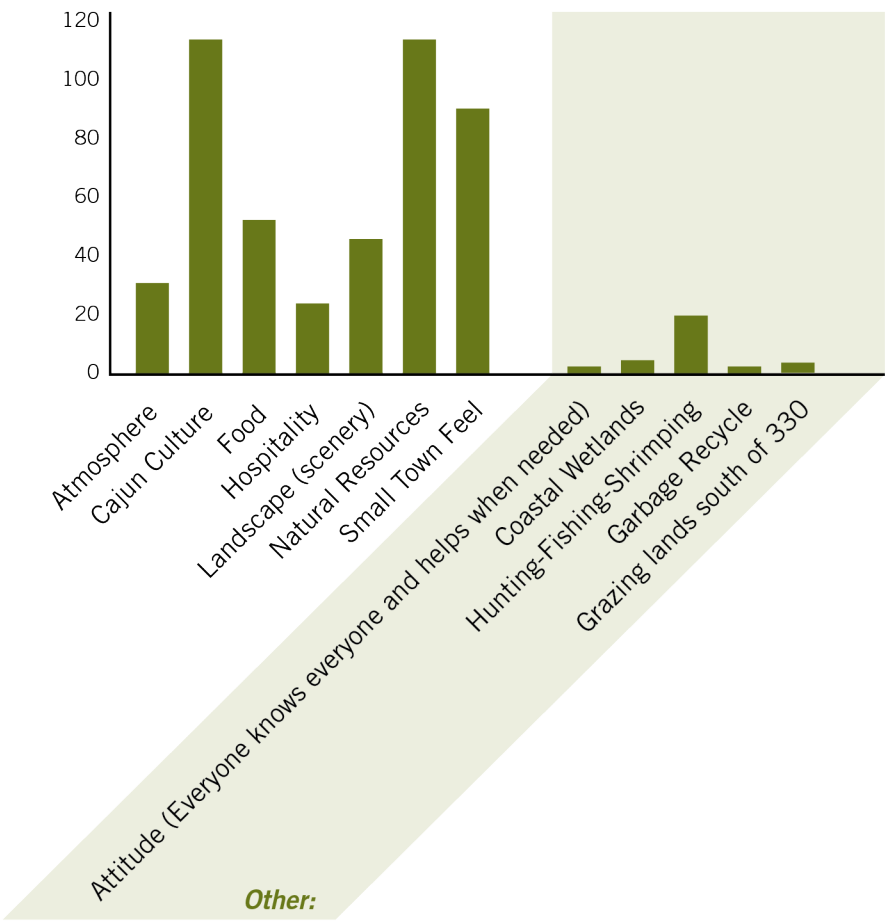
- When asked to list their number **one** priority, **67** indicated *Building Levees and Other Hurricane Protection Measures*.
- When asked to list their number two priority, **53** indicated *Restoring/Protecting Coastal Areas*.
- When asked to list their number three priority, **22** indicated *Providing Better Roads*.
- When asked if they would like to be involved, **23** indicated they would like to become a Stakeholder committee member and **19** indicated they would like to volunteer.

**The surveys indicate that all five meetings were excellent. Ninety percent of Parish citizens gave the meeting a positive rank.**

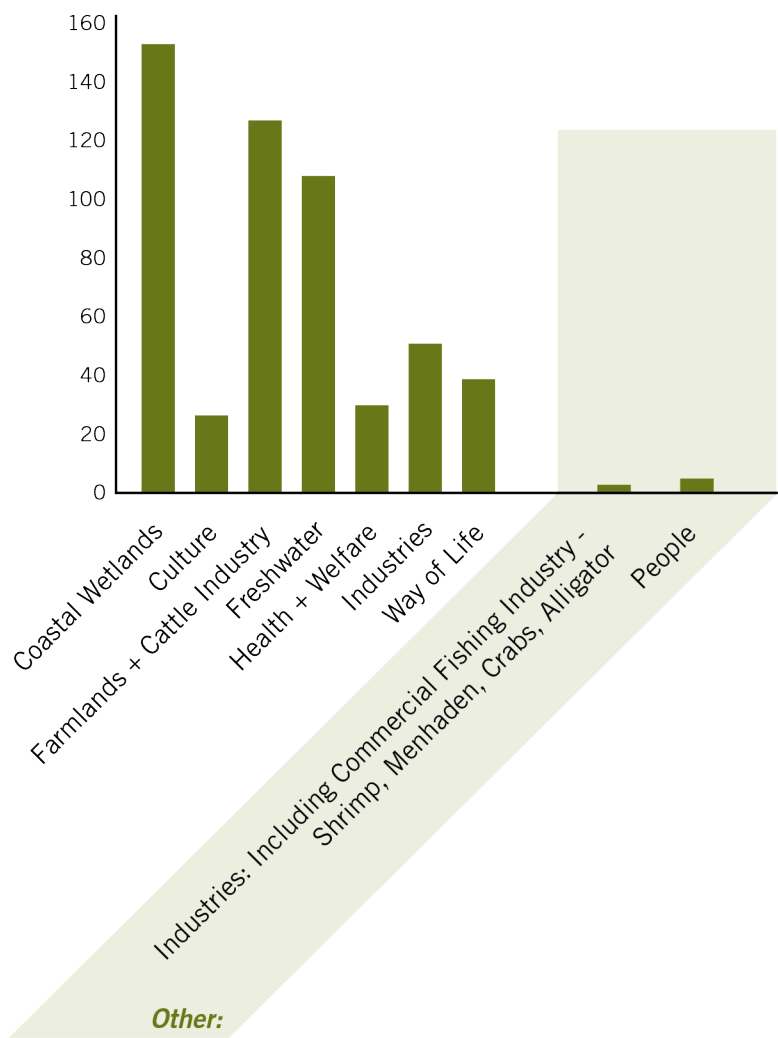


The Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan is made possible through a grant provided through the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) – Disaster Recovery Unit (DRU) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

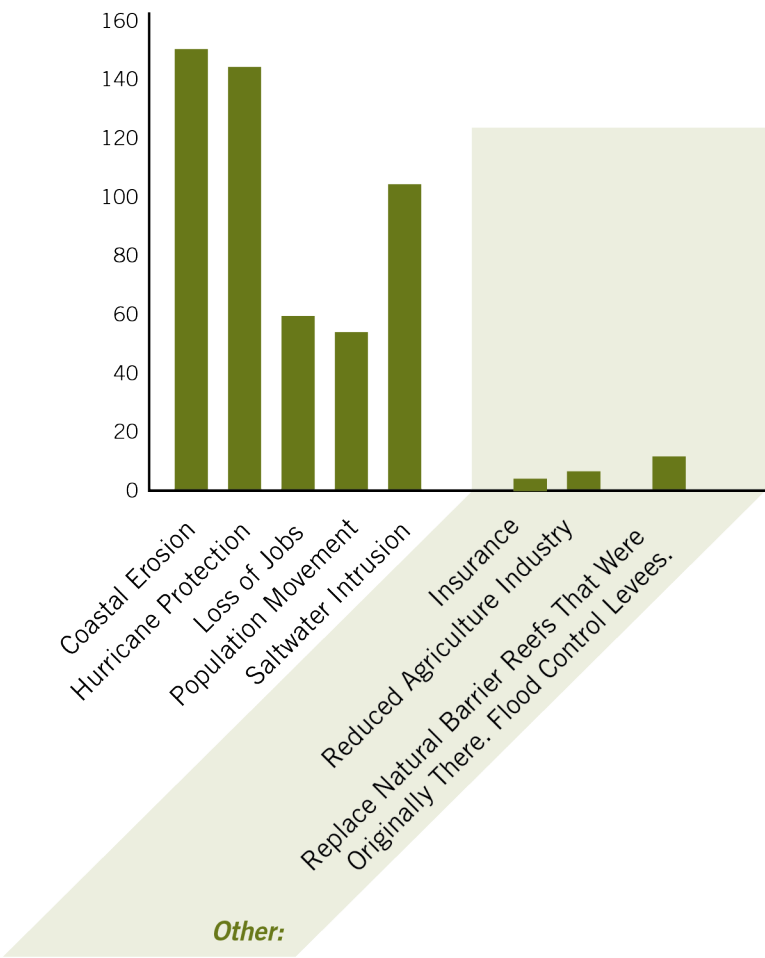
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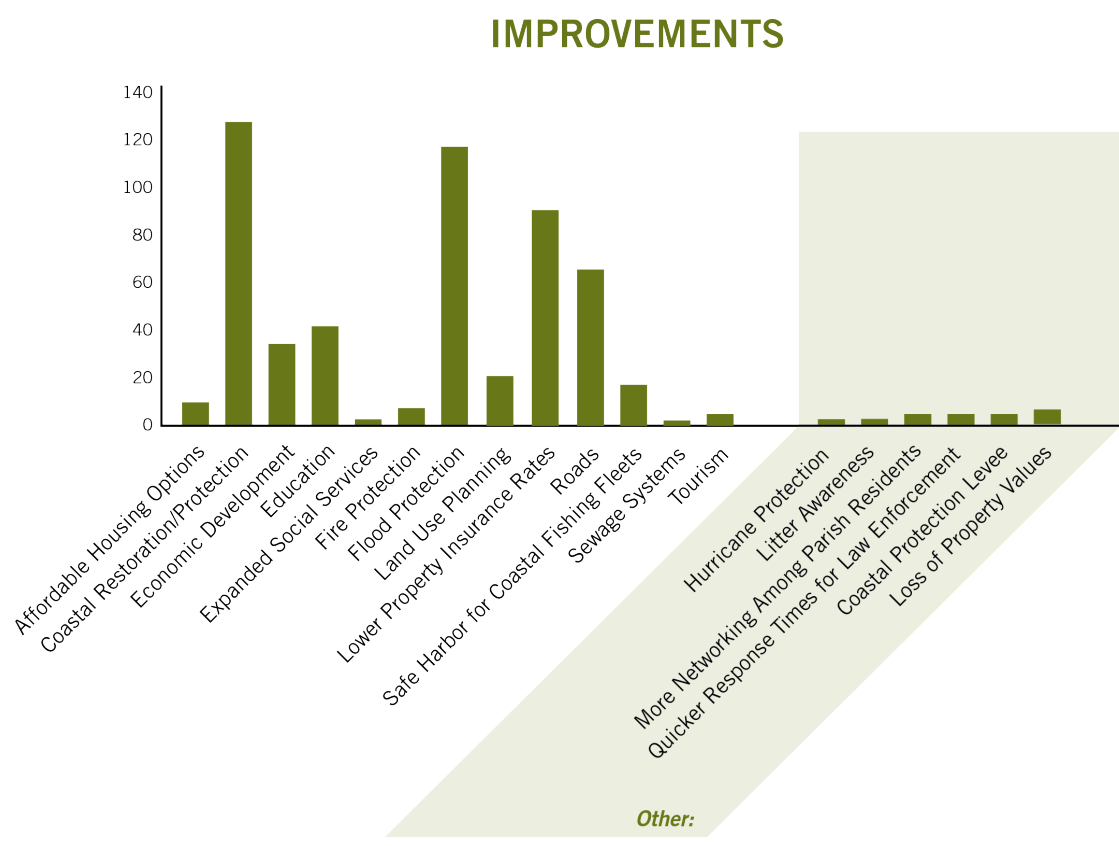


## RESOURCES



KEY ISSUES







## Poster Station Voting Summary – Each person received three dots with which to vote.

What Do You **Most Treasure** About Vermilion Parish?

	Abbeville	Gueydan	Forked Island	Maurice	Erath	Parish-wide Total
Atmosphere	8	3	11	3	5	30
Cajun Culture	17	10	43	17	30	117
Food	10	2	27	7	6	52
Hospitality	7	4	0	3	8	22
Landscape (scenery)	11	6	12	9	7	45
Natural Resources	29	9	32	16	31	117
Small Town Feel	18	14	12	12	34	90
<i>Other:</i>						
Attitude (Everyone knows everyone and helps when needed)	2					2
Coastal Wetlands			12			12
Hunting-Fishing-Shrimping			21			21
Garbage Recycle				3		3
Grazing lands south of 330					7	7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>518</b>

\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.

**Poster Station Voting – Each person received three dots with which to vote.**

*What Vermilion Parish **Resources**, if Any, Do You Feel Need Protecting?*

	Abbeville	Gueydan	Forked Island	Maurice	Erath	Parish-wide Total
Coastal Wetlands	27	16	50	18	41	152
Culture	3	0	10	6	4	23
Farmlands + Cattle Industry	26	13	47	15	22	123
Freshwater	18	7	36	13	30	104
Health + Welfare	6	0	13	4	6	29
Industries	14	9	1	4	21	49
Way of Life	8	3	14	9	5	39
<i>Other:</i>						
Industries: Including Commercial Fishing Industry - Shrimp, Menhaden, Crabs, Alligator						1
People					4	4
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>524</b>

*\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.*

**Poster Station Voting – Each person received three dots with which to vote.**

*What **Key Issues** Do You Think the Parish Will Face in the Next 10-15 Years?*

	<b>Abbeville</b>	<b>Gueydan</b>	<b>Forked Island</b>	<b>Maurice</b>	<b>Erath</b>	<b>Parish-wide Total</b>
Coastal Erosion	32	14	48	18	35	147
Hurricane Protection	27	8	49	15	43	142
Loss of Jobs	8	9	20	8	13	58
Population Movement	7	5	19	12	12	55
Saltwater Intrusion	25	12	32	10	22	101
<i>Other:</i>						
Insurance	3					3
Reduced Agriculture Industry				6		6
Replace Natural Barrier Reefs That Were Originally There. Flood Control Levees.					10	10
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>522</b>

*\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.*

**Poster Station Voting – Each person received three dots with which to vote.**

*What **Improvements** Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish?*

	Abbeville	Gueydan	Forked Island	Maurice	Erath	Parish-wide Total
Affordable Housing Options	2	1	5	0	0	8
Coastal Restoration/Protection	22	12	38	14	40	126
Economic Development	13	5	8	4	3	33
Education	10	4	19	2	5	40
Expanded Social Services	0	0	0	0	3	3
Fire Protection	1	2	0	3	1	7
Flood Protection	21	10	44	10	31	116
Land Use Planning	7	0	4	0	7	18
Lower Property Insurance Rates	20	7	18	18	31	94
Roads	8	6	34	8	7	63
Safe Harbor for Coastal Fishing Fleets	1	0	5	6	1	13
Sewage Systems	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tourism	1	1	2	3	0	7
Other:						
Hurricane Protection	1					1

What **Improvements** Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish? (Continued. . .)

	Abbeville	Gueydan	Forked Island	Maurice	Erath	Parish-wide Total
Litter Awareness			1			1
More Networking Among Parish Residents - opportunities for Parish-wide exchange of talents, knowledge and ideas - possibly through library system meetings. Learn skills from experienced people - gardening, electrical, self-sufficiency.				2		2
Quicker Response Times for Law Enforcement					2	2
Coastal Protection Levee					7	7
Loss of Property Values					3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>545</b>

\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.



## Summary of Parish-wide Surveys

*How would you rate this community meeting?*

Meeting	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Surveys	Answers
Abbeville					1	1	3	7	7	5	26	24
Gueydan							1	3	5	6	16	15
Forked Island						2	5	12	8	24	54	51
Maurice		1					1	3	4	13	23	22
Erath	1	1		1	3	4	3	9	4	9	42	35
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>147</b>

*\* Please note that not all respondents answered all questions.*

Meeting	Positive (7-10 Rank)	Neutral (5-6 Rank)	Negative (1-4 Rank)	Total Responses
Abbeville	22	2	0	<b>24</b>
Gueydan	15	0	0	<b>15</b>
Forked Island	49	2	0	<b>51</b>
Maurice	21	0	1	<b>22</b>
Erath	25	7	3	<b>35</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>132 (90%)</b>	<b>11 (7%)</b>	<b>4 (3%)</b>	<b>147</b>

## Summary of Planning Priorities from Parish-wide Surveys

What Is Most Important to You in Resiliency?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Check mark	Three checks	1,2,3 in one box
<b>Encouraging Development of New Affordable Housing in Rural Areas</b>		6	9	0	0	2							4		
<b>Building Levees and Other Hurricane Protection Measures</b>	67	27	9										8	1	1
<b>Restoring/ Protecting Coastal Areas</b>	31	53	19			1							8		
<b>Protecting the Environment</b>	10	3	8	2			3						5		
<b>Economic Development</b>	10	13	20	2				2					2		
<b>Creating More Parks and Open Spaces</b>	1	6	1							2			1		
<b>Providing Better Roads</b>	19	16	22		4								2		
<b>Lower Property Insurance Rates</b>	12	9	18	2									4		
<b>Improving Schools</b>	10	18	10	3									3		
<b>Providing Better Community Social Services (elder/child/health care etc.)</b>	6	6	7		1						2		3		
<b>Supporting the Arts and Culture</b>		6	8									2	2		
<b>Providing Supplies of Fresh Water</b>	2	12	10	1					2				3		



## Planning Priorities from Abbeville Surveys

What Is Most Important to You in Resiliency?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Check mark	Three checks	1,2,3 in one box
Encouraging Development of New Affordable Housing in Rural Areas			1										1		
Building Levees and Other Hurricane Protection Measures	7	5	1										2		
Restoring/ Protecting Coastal Areas	8	5	1										1		
Protecting the Environment		1	2										1		
Economic Development	1	2	6										1		
Creating More Parks and Open Spaces													1		
Providing Better Roads	1		4												
Lower Property Insurance Rates		2	2										1		
Improving Schools	2	2	1	1									1		
Providing Better Community Social Services (elder/child/health care etc.)			1										1		
Supporting the Arts and Culture															
Providing Supplies of Fresh Water			1												

## Planning Priorities from Gueydan Surveys

What Is Most Important to You in Resiliency?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Check mark	Three checks	1,2,3 in one box
Encouraging Development of New Affordable Housing in Rural Areas			3												
Building Levees and Other Hurricane Protection Measures	5	2	2												
Restoring/ Protecting Coastal Areas	2	4	3												
Protecting the Environment	2														
Economic Development	2	2	3												
Creating More Parks and Open Spaces		1	1												
Providing Better Roads	6	5	2												
Lower Property Insurance Rates	3	2	1												
Improving Schools	2	2													
Providing Better Community Social Services (elder/child/health care etc.)	2		1												
Supporting the Arts and Culture		1	1												
Providing Supplies of Fresh Water	1	1	1												

## Planning Priorities from Forked Island Surveys

What Is Most Important to You in Resiliency?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Check mark	Three checks	1,2,3 in one box
<b>Encouraging Development of New Affordable Housing in Rural Areas</b>		6	3			2							3		
<b>Building Levees and Other Hurricane Protection Measures</b>	24	10	1										3		
<b>Restoring/ Protecting Coastal Areas</b>	11	19	6										4		
<b>Protecting the Environment</b>	4	1	6				2						4		
<b>Economic Development</b>	2	3	2					2					1		
<b>Creating More Parks and Open Spaces</b>	1	3								2					
<b>Providing Better Roads</b>	9	5	8		2								1		
<b>Lower Property Insurance Rates</b>	5	2	13	2									3		
<b>Improving Schools</b>	2	11	6										1		
<b>Providing Better Community Social Services (elder/child/health care etc.)</b>	2	4	1								2				
<b>Supporting the Arts and Culture</b>		4	2									2	1		
<b>Providing Supplies of Fresh Water</b>		9	4						2				3		

## Planning Priorities from Maurice Surveys

What Is Most Important to You in Resiliency?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Check mark	Three checks	1,2,3 in one box
<b>Encouraging Development of New Affordable Housing in Rural Areas</b>			1												
<b>Building Levees and Other Hurricane Protection Measures</b>	6	5	4												
<b>Restoring/ Protecting Coastal Areas</b>	5	6	2			1									
<b>Protecting the Environment</b>	1	1					1								
<b>Economic Development</b>	1	3	6												
<b>Creating More Parks and Open Spaces</b>															
<b>Providing Better Roads</b>	2	2	4	1											
<b>Lower Property Insurance Rates</b>	4	3	2												
<b>Improving Schools</b>	3			1											
<b>Providing Better Community Social Services (elder/child/health care etc.)</b>			1												
<b>Supporting the Arts and Culture</b>			2												
<b>Providing Supplies of Fresh Water</b>		2													

## Planning Priorities from Erath Surveys

What Is Most Important to You in Resiliency?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Check mark	Three checks	1,2,3 in one box
<b>Encouraging Development of New Affordable Housing in Rural Areas</b>			1												
<b>Building Levees and Other Hurricane Protection Measures</b>	25	5	1										3	1	1
<b>Restoring/ Protecting Coastal Areas</b>	5	19	7										3		
<b>Protecting the Environment</b>	3			2											
<b>Economic Development</b>	4	3	3	2											
<b>Creating More Parks and Open Spaces</b>	2														
<b>Providing Better Roads</b>	1	4	4		1								1		
<b>Lower Property Insurance Rates</b>	5		11										2		
<b>Improving Schools</b>	1	3	3	1									1		
<b>Providing Better Community Social Services (elder/child/health care etc.)</b>	2	2	3		1										
<b>Supporting the Arts and Culture</b>			2												
<b>Providing Supplies of Fresh Water</b>	1		4	1											

## Individual Observations Collected From Surveys

Individuals Who Would Like to Be A Part of the Stakeholder Committee.

- Dale Stelly, Abbeville Meeting
- Richard Watkins, Abbeville Meeting
- John Boudreaux, Abbeville Meeting
- Victoria Vizier, Forked Island Meeting
- Rodney Sagera, Forked Island Meeting
- Jamie Stelly, Forked Island Meeting
- Curtis Bufford, Forked Island Meeting
- Richard Mouton, Forked Island Meeting
- Sandrus Stelly, Forked Island Meeting
- Wayne Theriot, Maurice Meeting
- Gwen Lanoux, Erath Meeting
- J. Gerard Richard, Erath Meeting
- Mary Hartman, Erath Meeting
- Richard Suire, Erath Meeting
- Presley Vincent, Erath Meeting
- Michael Martin, Erath Meeting
- Phil Simon, Erath Meeting
- Tom Vincent, Erath Meeting
- Randy Stutes, Erath Meeting
- Tobie Hebert, Erath Meeting
- Richmond Suire, Erath Meeting
- Brett Suire, Erath Meeting
- Holden Suire, Erath Meeting

## Individual Observations Collected From Surveys

### Individuals Who Would Like to Volunteer.

- Logan Sagrera, Abbeville Meeting
- Willis Hebert, Abbeville Meeting
- Kay Wilson, Abbeville Meeting
- Tammy Maze, Abbeville Meeting
- Margaret Story, Abbeville Meeting
- Riannon Breaux, Abbeville Meeting
- Larry Rubert, Abbeville Meeting
- Joel Rubert, Abbeville Meeting
- Thomas Broussard, Abbeville Meeting
- Manson Saltzman, Gueydan Meeting
- Tristan Greene, Forked Island Meeting
- Jacob Faulk, Forked Island Meeting
- Jan Williams, Maurice Meeting
- Rita Whitney, Maurice Meeting
- Mark Arceneaux, Erath Meeting
- Mary Hartman, Erath Meeting
- Gaylyn Hebert, Erath Meeting
- Kerry Richard, Erath Meeting
- Dories Stoute, Erath Meeting

## Individual Observations Collected From Abbeville Surveys

What did you like the most?

- The people presenting and explaining
- Sharing with friends
- Coastal maps and the stations
- Each one
- Nice posters. Well laid out
- Some of the education I received with the problems
- The information given and talked about
- The decision about the rebuilding of the wetlands
- Meeting members; hearing explanations of each component; feeling enthusiasm for our Parish
- It was quick/simple.
- Info given
- Covered the main issues facing us simple; clear means of expressing our views; ample area that prevented congestion
- Ease of going through the process
- Helpful, good feeling of community, informative
- Coastal erosion maps
- Interactive "dots" voting
- Very organized
- How I walked around reading and understanding how our community is working
- Information about protecting property and the coast
- Visual aids
- The maps and the friendly atmosphere
- Information given
- The setup and the way all was explained



## Individual Observations Collected From Abbeville Surveys

What improvements would you suggest?

- Contact and educate people about this all the time. It's for the progress and benefit of all in the Parish.
- More sense of connectedness to similar efforts of previous years
- More turnout
- Hurricane protection
- Have the maps of the coast be the first thing you see when you get in.
- Seeing some of the results of past surveys – or just at what point this program is at.
- Keep the information coming. The more the Parish informs the public, the more we can get done.
- To push more for our community to remain the same, cause there are a lot of people who will not be able to just up and move.
- Maybe have a speaker explain what is happening and what will happen with the votes.
- Open discussions
- More advanced notice of meetings and better explanation (public) of what the meeting will consist of.
- Sure wish more people would have come.
- None. Everything seems to be very professional.
- More people
- Collaboration between presenters
- More boards – more areas to vote on
- Our school
- Need to build a levee
- Have a speaker to let everyone know the background and study used.
- More visuals
- Possibly air on TV to let the public also know

## Individual Observations Collected From Abbeville Surveys

Tell us if you've thought of other good ideas.

- Better environmental practices
- So much depends on our farm and cattle as well as oil and fish industries. I would not know where to begin! Great meeting.
- Economic development would get the new businesses to start restoration of coast and jump start the levee protection.
- The best idea is that you have invited and engaged open discussions about the future of our communities – Thank you for your efforts.
- I think we need more people to find out about what is going on in the area so we can get more support to be able to go and talk for us to be able to save our community.
- Be friendly to all and it will change your personal life and others.

## Individual Observations Collected From Gueydan Surveys

What did you like the most?

- Opportunity to vote
- Information
- Information presented
- Atmosphere, very friendly. Easy to understand.
- Most informative and very good personal attention
- Being more educated on what's going to happen if something is not done soon
- The information
- The explanation of what is needed
- Everything
- Very good presentation
- To meet new people and find out about the Parish
- People
- Explaining of the Parish needs
- The options you presented
- The voting dots on the charts – whatever that will come to

## Individual Observations Collected From Gueydan Surveys

What improvements would you suggest?

- More explanations for each options
- Fire protection
- None
- Speed up the process on erosion improvements
- Just more future plans for south Louisiana and lower Vermilion Parish
- None
- None
- Industries
- Highway improvements
- God's help

## Individual Observations Collected From Gueydan Surveys

Tell us if you've thought of other good ideas.  
(No comments were given in this section.)



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## Individual Observations Collected From Forked Island Surveys

What did you like the most?

- The opportunity to place your vote
- Simplicity
- It is important to our community to vote what they think.
- The charts were easily understood and people in charge were very helpful.
- Voting
- Walk-through
- Everything great!
- Voting
- People
- Putting the dots
- Nice representatives
- When we put the stickers
- Being able to vote on things that really matter in our community.
- The asking to voice my opinion through voting.
- Very friendly and understanding
- The information provided
- Voting because it let me show my point of view.
- Putting dots on the boards! I also like how y'all are getting people involved.
- Simple
- Easy walkthrough. \* Nice to know people input is important.
- Being able to make choices about our future.
- Like the stickers
- Seeing what is going on over here.
- Seeing what improvements you can make.
- Survey
- Attendance
- The community
- The community
- It was simple
- Friendly, informed workers. Notice by phone
- Fact-finding mission
- Courtesy
- Getting a say in what happens to my community
- They show where we need to take of.
- They show where we need to take of.
- They were well-presented
- Casual, ability to interact with host, little formality
- Finally an opportunity to voice a opinion about the future of the Parish. It's time for a change.
- That there is a real concern for our community and livelihood
- That people are concerned

- Information was very useful. I like that we can finally see that maybe we will have help to make the changes needed to save Vermilion Parish. (Thank you.)
- Interesting information
- Flood protection/coastal erosion.
- I liked how the boards provide a clear and understanding of how our Parish could be affected in the future.
- Information
- That people are really concerned about our Parish

## Individual Observations Collected From Forked Island Surveys

What improvements would you suggest?

- None
- Road improvement. Hwy 35
- Fix Hwy 35
- Road improvement of Hwy 35
- Highway 35 – Resurface
- None
- Protect the wetlands.
- None
- Coastal improvements
- More job options
- None
- Helping out small-business owners
- Lower gas prices and jobs
- Lower gas prices
- None
- Coastal protection along freshwater bayou. Fixing our roads
- Coastal restoration. Roads
- Don't know but please email results
- Coastal restoration
- Put rock levees to stop water into coming on land in Forked Island to our road and houses and destroying our property.
- Put rock levees to stop water into coming on land in Forked Island to our road and houses and destroying our property.
- Building levees, restoring and protecting coastal areas, freshwater
- Could have offered sub-topics. Topics were very broad
- Ag. Needs to be protected from storms, everyone needs to be protected from flood waters, erosion is also huge. New industry
- Building protection levees for hurricane and saltwater
- More information on Hunting – Fishing – Shrimping
- Protection levees
- I would suggest having on-site examples of problems in our Parish.
- Raise awareness.
- Better roads. Levee
- Building some protection levee to help the surge of saltwater
- Build levee.



## Individual Observations Collected From Forked Island Surveys

Tell us if you've thought of other good ideas.

- We need to protect the Parish from flood water. Most important to our agricultural properties. New opportunities for people to stay
- Protecting lower Vermilion is critical to protecting municipalities in Northern Vermilion. All the topics/choices are interwoven starting at the bottom, creating a foundation that can be built onto and upon in any and all directions.
- Lower gas prices
- Lower gas prices
- Lower gas prices
- Not really. You guys got pretty much everything covered.

## Individual Observations Collected From Maurice Surveys

What did you like the most?

- Opportunity for input
- The displays were very legible and comprehensive.
- Able to give our opinion on issues
- Involving the people in helping and making a difference in the state
- Letting us give individual input
- Asking our opinions
- Nice people to direct you
- Relaxed – Well-laid out – Easy to move through
- Welcomed us as we walked in, explained everything necessary to answer all the questions
- Community aware of plans
- Hospitality, explained well
- Help that personal demonstrated
- Presentations
- Layout was well-done
- Very informative
- I thought we would discuss issues!
- The organized structure
- I like the ranking of importance of ideas.

## Individual Observations Collected From Maurice Surveys

What improvements would you suggest?

- The categories were sometimes vague.
- Place sea-level 2011 Louisiana maps at beginning of walk-thru.
- Recycling made easier. Improve (Control) home insurance rates. Protect coastal areas.
- None needed
- Good as is
- Roads
- More interaction
- More advertisement on TV
- Roads need improvement
- More advertisement! More involvement!
- An actual meeting with presentation format. Giving community the option of voicing opinions

## Individual Observations Collected From Maurice Surveys

Tell us if you've thought of other good ideas.

- Keep people involved! Knowing leads to helping!
- I would put the "Louisiana 2100 Coastline" and "sea-level" maps in the forefront of the presentation to raise awareness of such issues prior to vote casting.



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## Individual Observations Collected From Erath Surveys

What did you like the most?

- Public involvement
- Posters
- Visiting
- The interest that our local government is giving to our local community
- Literature on coastal restoration and providing protection from storms for our communities
- Where do we see ourselves in 10 years
- Storyboards is all they had
- Friendliness of staff
- The information on all topics. Good
- Friendly, informed station workers
- Levee protection
- Time of day
- Well-organized and informative
- Extra input
- The maps and explanation of things that could happen and allow us to give our opinions
- The opportunity to submit ideas
- Easy and fast
- Easy and fast
- Flow of information
- Storm protection
- Storm protection
- Being able to see the vast areas which need attention within our Parish
- 1. Opportunity to participate in this most crucial planning. 2. Clear, concise voting stations
- Organization
- Building of levees for coastal surges
- Depends on effectiveness! Covers grand area.
- Input for the various areas of concern
- Emphasis on hurricane protection
- Information
- People at each station to help explain the process
- Going to Erath

## Individual Observations Collected From Erath Surveys

What improvements would you suggest?

- Let us know about the meeting more than 45 minutes in advance.
- Just stop wasting tax money on these foolish projects and get a levee built.
- Get drugs off the streets, child molesters and burglars.
- We need to try to get more federal money from grants etc. that could help our community against natural disasters since we are at high risk for hurricane and other natural disasters on the coast.
- Everything needs improvements. We need to work together to make these improvements work.
- More on protection for the coast
- Coastal erosion. Protection of water rising coming from Vermilion Bay area to the Erath town area – we always get hit the hardest.
- More open discussion. Elected officials to be present
- The information on all topics good
- Flood protection
- More information
- Less study, more project completion
- Not allowing one person opinion in each meeting. In other words if you attend one meeting your vote should only count once.
- More advertisement of the meeting.
- More involvement for accrual committee homeowners and more assistance for homeowner's maturation.
- Rebuild natural barrier reefs.
- Rebuild barrier reefs.
- Start implementing studies. Levees, etc.
- Possibly have a short discussion on the most popular topics. I felt that it was portrayed as a meeting. It was only an information gathering meeting – Not an exchange of information meeting. Disappointed
- Community member interaction answering questions
- None at this time
- Restoration of coastal levees
- Rebuild in Intracoastal levee to prevent tidal surge – No brainer – also build coastal reefs.
- More interaction between government and residents
- Save government money.

## Individual Observations Collected From Erath Surveys

Tell us if you've thought of other good ideas.

- Better economic development will help to encourage all other aspects of any plan.
- Economic development is very important, however, if the above checked areas are not addressed, economic development will continue to lag.
- \* Land use planning will help prevent future problems. \* Responsible!
- Enough with the studies! How do we get things done?
- Create a coastal levee constructed of riff-raff along the beach. From Texas line to the Atchafalaya River
- Protect us against saltwater intrusion wells in and water system or of aquifers, being that we are at the end of it.
- Looking at the priorities, I think they should all be in the planning process.
- Too many to list here!
- 1. Large rocks, cement along beach area, along Vermilion Bay area – e.g., Boston Canal opening. 2. Old cars tied together to make a levee along the Gulf Coast area. 3. Dredge out Intracoastal canal – that was done years ago – that provides a levee. 4. Could charge barges like a toll – similar to highway
- Phase I – Large rocks, cement blocks along beach coastal area. Phase II – Old cars along Gulf area. Phase III – Dredge Intracoastal for levee
- Have a community base person to tell your problems to. Great job
- Improving education system. 1. Teaching our youth about the US Constitution and our Bill of Rights

# Vermilion Parish

## COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN



**Think the Parish Will Face the Next 10-15 Years?**

COASTAL EROSION	COASTAL WETLANDS
HURRICANE PROTECTION	CITY/LOCAL
SC	FARM/LAND - CATTLE INDUSTRY
SP	FRESHWATER
OTHER (Please specify using Point-to-Point scale)	LOWER PROPERTY INSURANCE RATES
	BONDS
	SAFE HARBOUR FOR COASTAL FISHING FLEETS
	DEWATERING SYSTEMS

**What Do You Most Treasure About Vermilion Parish?**

ATTRACTION
CALM CULTURE
FLOOD
HOSPITALITY
LANDSCAPE (scenery)
NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL TOWN FEEL
OTHER (Please specify using Point-to-Point scale)

**You Feel Are Needed in Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish?**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPT
COASTAL RESTORATION/PROTECTION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
EXPANDED SOCIAL SERVICES
FIRE PROTECTION
FLOOD PROTECTION
LAND USE PLANNING

**Other Ideas**

We need more money  
 ABOLISH THE FEDERAL RESERVE  
 Buy local and intra-state whenever possible.  
 TAKE FLOUVRIDE OUT OF THE WATER  
 Educate the public

Abbeville SA/



The Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan is made possible through a grant provided through the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) - Greater Recovery Unit (GRU) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).





**What Vermilion Parish Resources, if Any, Do You Feel Need Protecting?**

COASTAL WETLANDS

FARMS

HEALTH CARE

WAY OF LIFE

**What Do You Most Treasure About Vermilion Parish?**

ATMOSPHERE

CAYENNE CULTURE

FOOD

HOSPITALITY

LANDSCAPE (scenery)

NATURAL RESOURCES

SMALL TOWN FEEL

*5/9 Gueydan*

**What Key Issues Do You Think the Parish Will Face in the Next 10-15 Years?**

COASTAL EROSION

WETLAND PROTECTION (Hunting and high winds)

LOSS OF LIVES

POPULATION MOVEMENT

**What Improvements Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish?**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS

COASTAL RESTORATION/PROTECTION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

EXPANDED SOCIAL SERVICES

FIRE PROTECTION

FLOOD PROTECTION

# Vermilion Parish

## COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN



**What Key Issues Do You Think the Parish Will Face in the Next 10-15 Years?**

CONTRIBUTORS

COASTAL PROTECTION (Including Wetlands)

LOSS OF JOBS

POPULATION MOVES

INFRASTRUCTURE

*Formed Is*  
*5/10/12*

**Resources, if Any, Do You Feel Need Protecting?**

COASTAL WETLANDS

CULTURE

WETLANDS - CATCHMENT

FRESH WATER

HEALTH + WELLNESS

WETLANDS

**What Do You Most Treasure About Vermilion Parish?**

ATMOSPHERE

OUTDOOR RECREATION

FISH

INDUSTRY

LANDSCAPE (scenery)

NATURAL RESOURCES

SMALL TOWN FEEL

OTHER (Please write using Post-It notes)

**What Improvements Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish?**

APPROPRIATE ZONING OPTIONS

COASTAL REDEMPTION PROTECTION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

ENHANCED SOCIAL SERVICES

FIRE PROTECTION

FLOOD PROTECTION

LAND-USE PLANNING

**Our Plan!**

LOWEST PRIORITY RESILIENCE RATE

SCORES

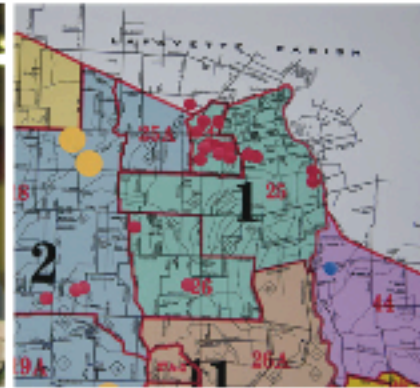
SAFETY/DO FOR CLIMATE TIPPING POINTS

STORAGE RESILIENCE



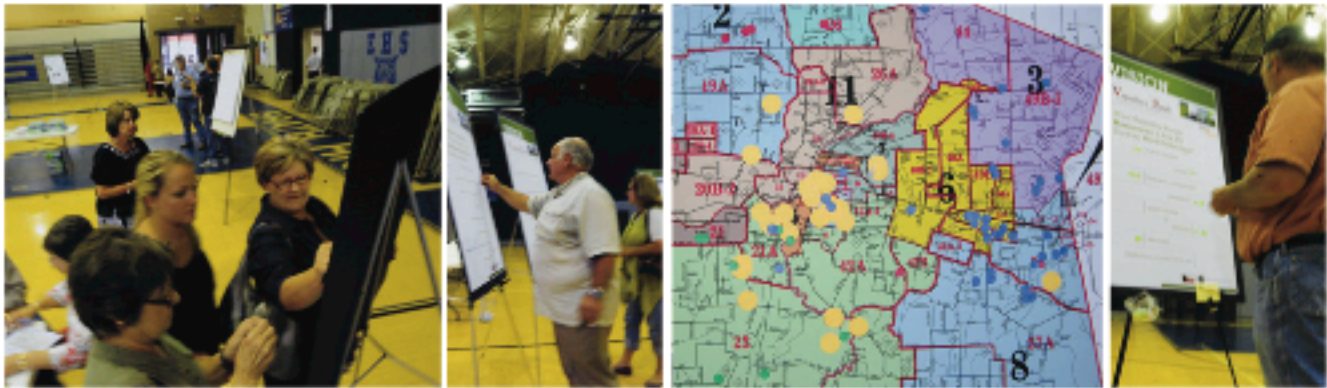
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# Vermilion Parish

## COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN



**What Vermilion Parish Resources, if Any, Do You Feel Need Protecting?**

COASTAL WETLANDS

LANDSCAPE

WATER - WELLS

WATER OF LIFE

**What Do You Most Treasure About Vermilion Parish?**

ATMOSPHERE

CAJUN CULTURE

FOOD

HOSPITALITY

LANDSCAPE (scenery)

NATURAL RESOURCES

SMALL TOWN FEEL

OTHER (Please name using Post-it notes)

**What Key Issues Do You Think the Parish Will Face in the Next 10-15 Years?**

COASTAL EROSION

HURRICANE PROTECTION (flooding and high winds)

LOSS OF JOBS

POPULATION MOVEMENT

SALTWATER INTRUSION

OTHER (Please name using Post-it notes)

**What Improvements Do You Feel Are Needed in the Unincorporated Areas of Vermilion Parish?**

ADDITIONAL HOUSING OPTIONS

COASTAL RESTORATION PROTECTION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

SOCIAL SERVICES

WATER PROTECTION

WATER PROTECTION

WATER PROTECTION

USE PLANNING

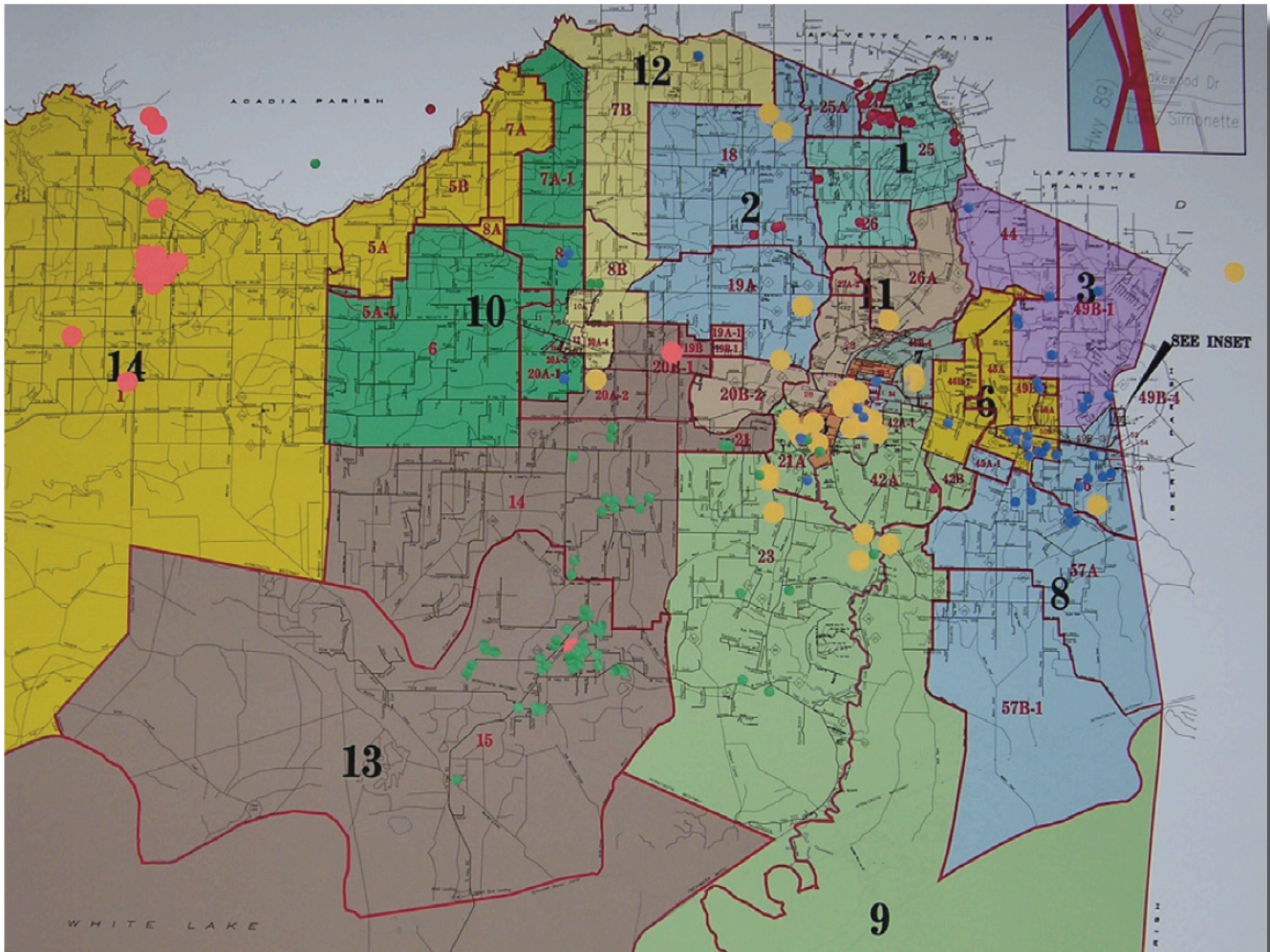


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# Vermilion Parish

COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN



The Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan is made possible through a grant provided through the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) - Disaster Recovery Unit (DRU) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

## DRAFT Plan Presentation

Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

1

Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

### Resiliency

- A community's ability to **bounce back** after a disaster.
- It is measured, in part, by the **speed + effectiveness** a community is **once again functioning** after a disaster.

2

Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

### Why Plan?

- Planning tells **YOUR** story.
- **Organizes** thoughts + efforts.
- Builds a **roadmap** for action.
- Defines **destination/outcome**.

3

Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

### Why Plan?

Importantly . . .

- **Funders are more likely fund projects that are part of plan.**

4

Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

## Why Plan?

- Plans **educate + raise awareness.**
- Inform **decision making + public policy.**
- Plans are a **legacy** for another generation. . .

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5

Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

## They are . . .

- ONLY door stops. . .
- ONLY dust catchers. . .
- ONLY shelf fillers. . .



If **YOU** allow them to be. . .

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Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

They are useful **ONLY** to the extent you as **this leadership group** **insist** they are **read + acted upon.**

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Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our  
Plan!

**YOUR** role is to be an **active – annoying! – relentless advocate** for resiliency.

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8



Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our Plan!

**YOU** need to consider a full time **dedicated grant writer.**

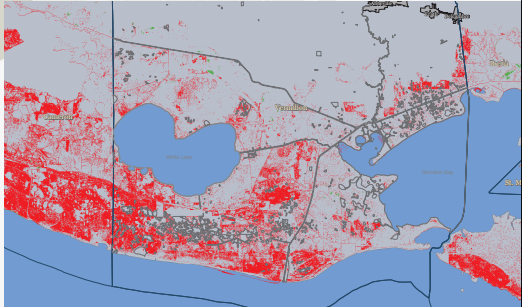
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Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our Plan!

## Risk



10

Vermilion Parish  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our Plan!

## Is it all doom and gloom?

- **NO!**
- **Opportunity** in adversity.
- **Knowledge** is exportable.

 **LOUISIANA**  
**Study: Funding coast would make jobs**  
109,000 permanent science and engineering jobs with \$3.6 billion in annual earnings. Spending at the \$100 billion level would support more than 33,000 annual construction jobs and more than 212,000 permanent jobs with more than \$7 billion in earnings.  
Ryan cites the Netherlands as an

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COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

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**Based on stakeholder outreach comments. . .**

**We narrowed our focus to 9 plan areas, giving some more emphasis than others.**

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COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

Our Plan!

1. Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection
2. Land Use
3. Capital Improvements Plan
4. Economic Development
1. Transportation
2. Housing
3. Parks + Open Spaces
4. Health + Human Resources
5. Historic + Cultural Preservation

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## 26 Recommended Projects

- Some **existing**: Captured + prioritized.
- Some **new**: Large + small.

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## Organized by:


- Brief **description**.
- Estimated **cost**: A first look.
- **Kick-start** strategies.
- Prospective **funding** resources.
- Prospective **champion**.

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 **Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)**

- **Existing Projects of Importance**

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 **Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)**

- CR+FP Project #1: Iberia/Vermilion Upland Levee
- CR+FP Project #2: Introduction of Freshwater to the Mermentau Basin from the North + East
- CR+FP Project #3: Gulf Shoreline Protection
- CR+FP Project #4: Implementation of Freshwater Allocation Study
- CR+FP Project #5: Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization

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 **Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)**

- **New Initiatives: Small-scale Intervention Strategies**

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 **Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)**

- CR+FP Project #6: Tree + Marsh Grass Plantings
- CR+FP Project #7: Execute NOW Small-Scale Measures to Conserve and Restore Wetlands
- CR+FP Project #8: Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS)

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 **Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)**

- **New Initiatives: Larger-scale Intervention Strategies**

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## Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)

- CR+FP Project #9: Flood Control Structure + Levee Segment in Bayou Tigre
- CR+FP Project #10: East Vermilion Hurricane Protection System
- CR+FP Project #11: West Vermilion Hurricane Protection System

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## Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)

- CR+FP Project #12: Shoreline Protection Vermilion Bay
- CR+FP Project #13: Gulf Intracoastal Water Way (GIWW) Shoreline Protection
- CR+FP Project #14: Chenier Plain Freshwater Management

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## Land Use (LU)

- **New Initiatives: Small-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - LU Project #1: Public Outreach + Education
  - LU Project #2: Adopt a Land Use Map for the Unincorporated Areas of the Parish

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## Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- **Existing Project of Importance**
  - CIP Project #1: Prioritize CIP Projects

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## Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- **New Initiative: Larger-scale Intervention Strategy**
  - CIP Project #2: Dedicate a Parish-wide Funding Stream for Resiliency Measures

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## Economic Resiliency (ER)

- **Existing Projects of Importance**
  - ER Project #1: Launch a Dedicated Economic Development Effort
  - ER Project #2: Launch an Existing Industry Effort
  - ER Project #3: Feasibility Study for Bio-Fuel Crops
  - ER Project #4: Restore Natural Drainage from Freshwater Basin

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## Economic Resiliency (ER)

- **New Initiatives: Small-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - ER Project #5: Develop + Deliver a COOP Outreach + Education Training Initiative
  - ER Project #6: Develop + Maintain + Exercise Port Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)
  - ER Project #7: Enhance Education Opportunities in the Parish

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## Transportation Resiliency (TR)

- **New Initiatives: Larger-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - TR Project #1: Expand Major Thoroughfares to Support Economic Development + Evacuations
  - TR Project #2: Promote Evacuation Routes + Evacuation Planning
  - TR Project #3: Implement Parish-wide Off-System Arterial Road System

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## Housing (HR)

- **Existing Projects of Importance**
  - HR Project #1: Elevation or Flood Proofing of Structures Outside of Hurricane Protection Systems

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## Housing (HR)

- **New Initiatives: Larger-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - H Project #2: Home + Business Owner HMA Outreach + Education Initiative
  - H Project #3: Create a Home + Business Owner Resiliency Education Program
  - H Project #4: Encourage Urban Renewal in Downtown Areas

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## Parks + Open Spaces (P+OS)

- **Existing Projects of Importance**
  - P+OS Project #1: Preservation of Marshland: Dredging + Filling Abandoned Canals
  - P+OS Project #2: Preservation of Marshland: Creation of Emergent Terraces
  - P+OS Project #3: Stabilize Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline

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## Parks + Open Spaces (P+OS)

- **New Initiatives: Larger-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - P+OS Project #4: White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area – Birding and Nature Trail
  - P+OS Project #5: Create an Open-Space Conservation Program
  - P+OS Project #6: Brand the Parish as the Premier Parks + Trails + Fishing Locations in the Region

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 **Health + Human Services (H+H)**

- **Existing Projects of Importance**
  - H+H Project #1: Safe Room for Abbeville General Hospital

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 **Health + Human Services (H+H)**

- **New Initiatives: Larger-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - H+H Project #2: Form a Vermilion Parish Public-Private Infrastructure Alliance
  - H+H Project #3: Monitoring of Local Sewage Treatment Facilities

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 **Health + Human Services (H+H)**

- **New Initiatives: Larger-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - H+H Project #4: Parish Curbside Recycling Program
  - H+H Project #5: Strengthen Ties to 211/232-HELP Information + Referral Social Service Networks

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 **Historic + Cultural Preservation (H+CP)**

- **New Initiatives: Larger-scale Intervention Strategies**
  - H+CP Project #1: Create a Community Coalition to Foster Resiliency

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## What we need from YOU . . .

- **Review** projects.
  - How to **kick-start**
- **Write comments:**
  - **Funding** resources
  - Who a **champion** should be
  - **What's missing** (other projects that should be included)
- **Description**
- Whether you **like it**
  - or not – as a project
- **Budget**

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## WRITE NOTES

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## Unique funding tools . . .

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## Funding Sources: Are reviewing

# 1,100+



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## HOMework!

- Read + mark up.
- **Additional notes for projects** (Section 3).
- **Review of Sections 1 + 2.**
- **DUE BACK: COB 4/11/14**

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The following is *Key Points Summary* of information provided to the Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Team from Vermilion Parish citizens during the *Ice Cream and Cake Festival* in Abbeville on July 19, 2014 to present attendees with 30 new proposed projects included in the Plan. 80 people participated. Details with all information from the poster stations and surveys follow this *Summary*.

A total of **114 votes** were cast on the **Coastal Restoration and Flood Protection (CR+FP)** projects poster:

- *East Vermilion Hurricane Protection System* received 13 votes.
- *West Vermilion Hurricane Protection System* received 10 votes.
- *Shoreline Protection + Marsh Creation in Vermilion Bay* received 27 votes.
- *Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline Protection* received 9 votes.
- *Chenier Plain Freshwater Retention Management* received 3 votes.
- *Tree + Marsh Grass Plantings* received 38 votes.
- *Execute NOW Small-Scale Measures to Conserve + Restore Wetlands* received 5 votes.
- *Participate in the National Flood Insurance Protection (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS)* received 0 votes.
- *Flood Control Structure + Levee Segment in Bayou Tigre* received 9 votes.

A total of **13 votes** were cast on the **Land Use (LU) projects** poster:

- *Public Outreach + Education* received 9 votes.
- *Adopt a Land Use Map for the Unincorporated Areas of the Parish* received 4 votes.

A total of **11 votes** were cast on the **Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) project** poster:

- *Dedicate a Parish-wide Funding Stream for Resiliency Measures* received 11 votes.

A total of **45 votes** were cast for the **Economic Resiliency (ER) projects** poster:

- *Develop + Deliver a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Outreach + Education Training Initiative* received 6 votes.
- *Develop + Maintain + Exercise Port COOP Plans* received 6 votes.
- *Enhance Education Opportunities in the Parish* received 33 votes.

A total of **64 votes** were cast on the **Transportation Resiliency (TR) projects** poster:

- *Expand Major Thoroughfares to Support Economic Development + Evacuations* received 33 votes.
- *Promote Evacuation Routes + Evacuation Planning* received 24 votes.
- *Implement Parish-wide Off-System Arterial Road System* received 7 votes.

A total of **35 votes** were cast on the **Housing Resiliency (HR) projects** poster:

- *Home + Business Owner Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Outreach + Education Initiative* received 10 votes.
- *Encourage Urban Renewal in Downtown Areas* received 25 votes.



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A total of **67 votes** were cast on the **Health and Human Services (H+HS) projects** poster:

- *Form a Vermilion Parish Public-Private Infrastructure Alliance* received 1 vote.
- *Monitoring of Local Sewage Treatment Facilities* received 15 votes.
- *Parish Curbside Recycling* received 43 votes.
- *Strengthen Ties to 211/232-HELP Information + Referral Social Service Networks* received 8 votes.

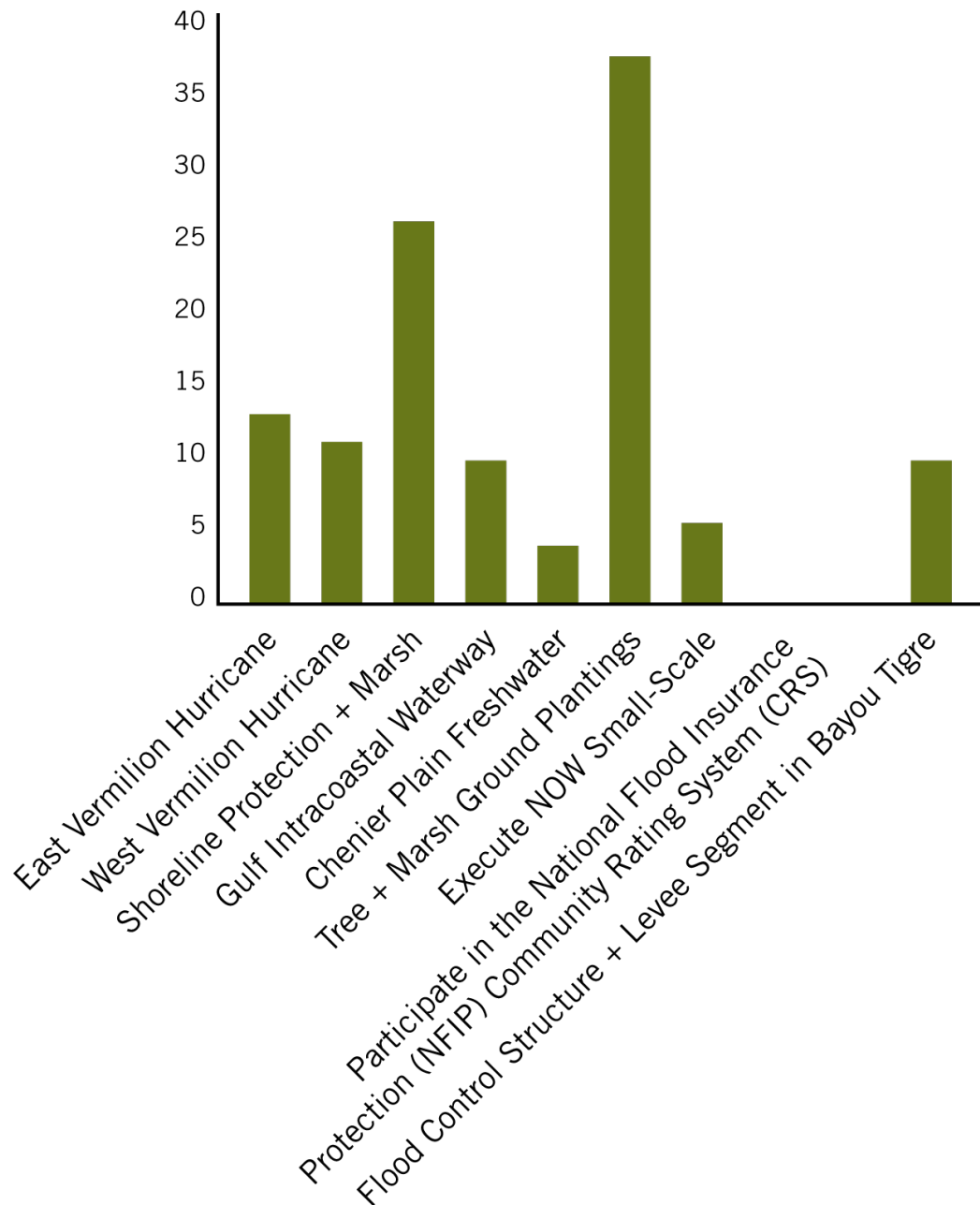
A total of **93 votes** were cast on the **Parks and Open Spaces (P+OS) projects** poster:

- *White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WCA) – Birding + Nature Trail* received 20 votes.
- *Create an Open-Space Conservation Program* received 3 votes.
- *Palmetto Island State Park (PISP) Continued Success + Expansion* received 43 votes.
- *Brand the Parish as the Premier Parks + Trails + Fishing Location in the Region* received 27 votes.

A total of **23 votes** were cast on the **Historic and Cultural Preservation (H+CP) project** poster:

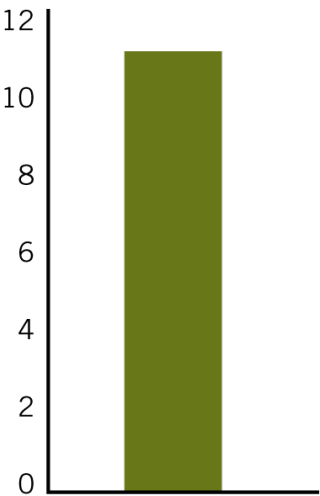
- *Create a Community to Foster Resiliency* received 23 votes.

## COASTAL RESTORATION + FLOOD PROTECTION (CR+FP) PROJECTS

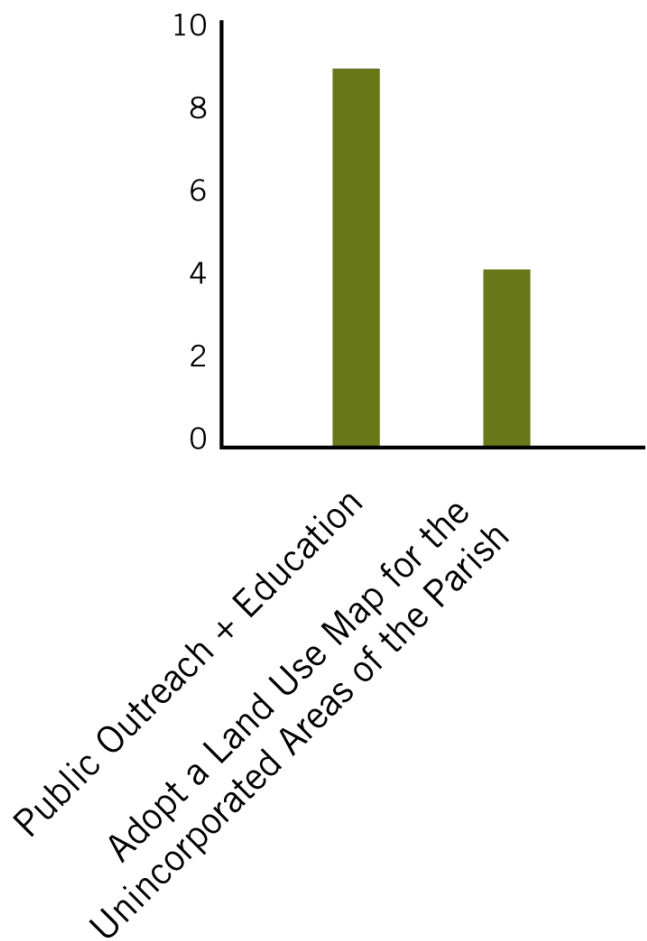


# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) PROJECT

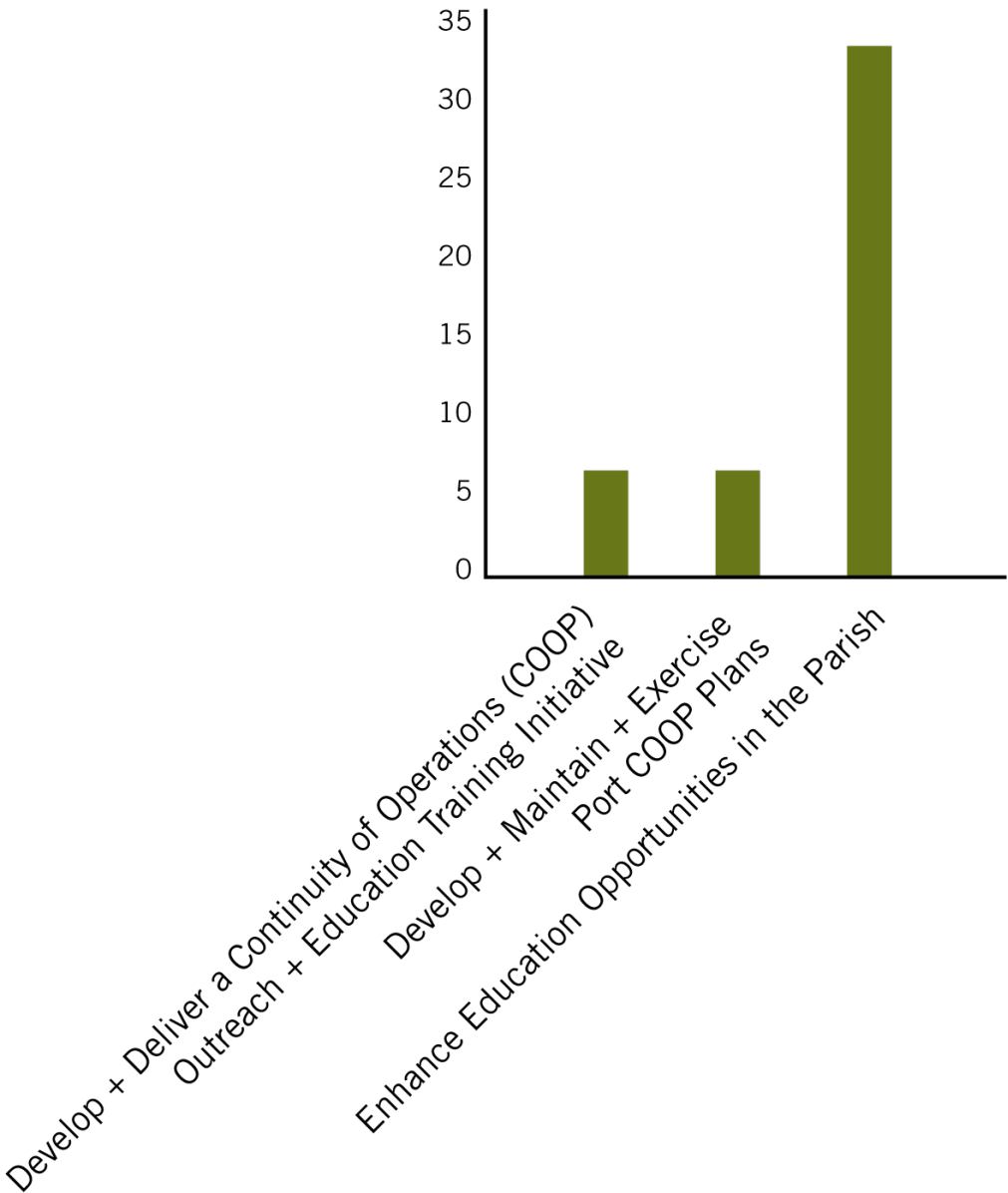
Dedicate a Parish-Wide Funding  
Stream for Resiliency Measures



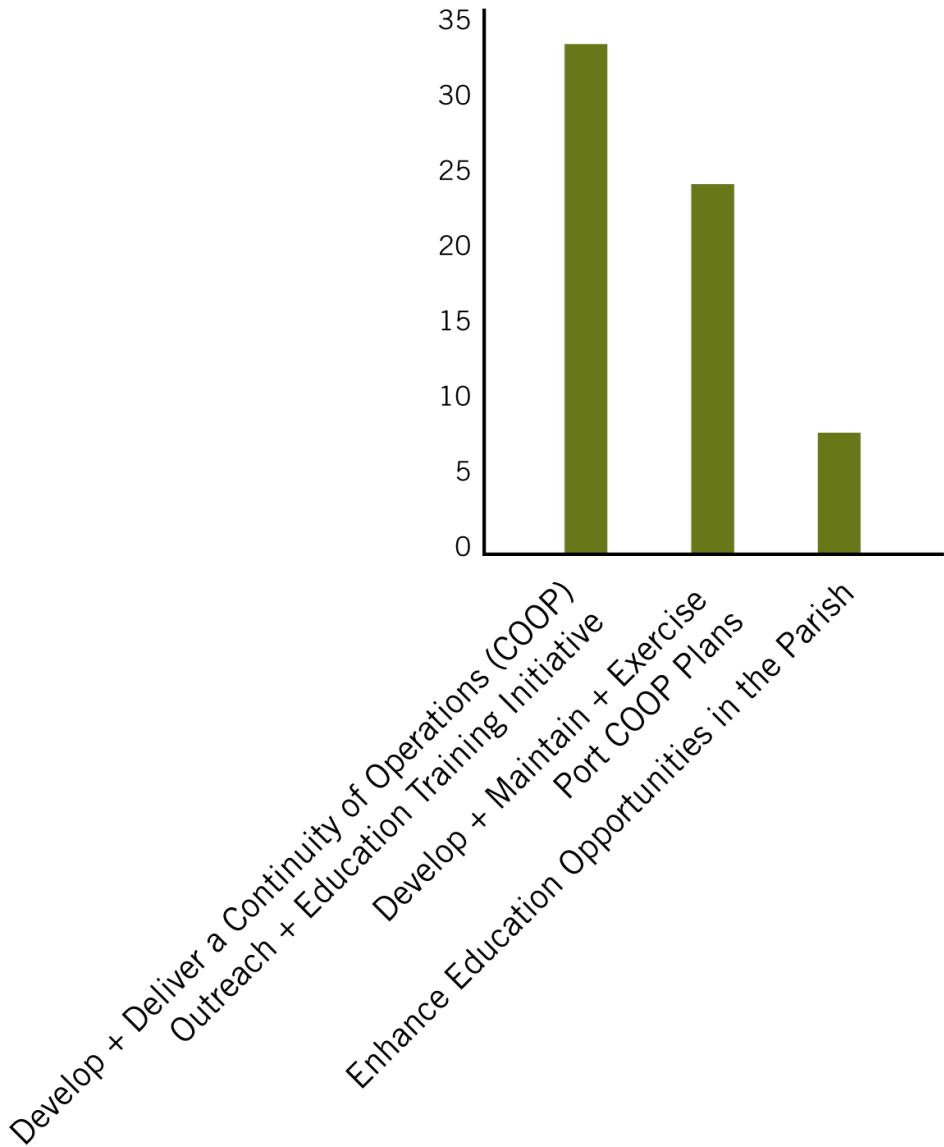
# LAND USE (LU) PROJECTS



## ECONOMIC RESILIENCY (ER) PROJECTS

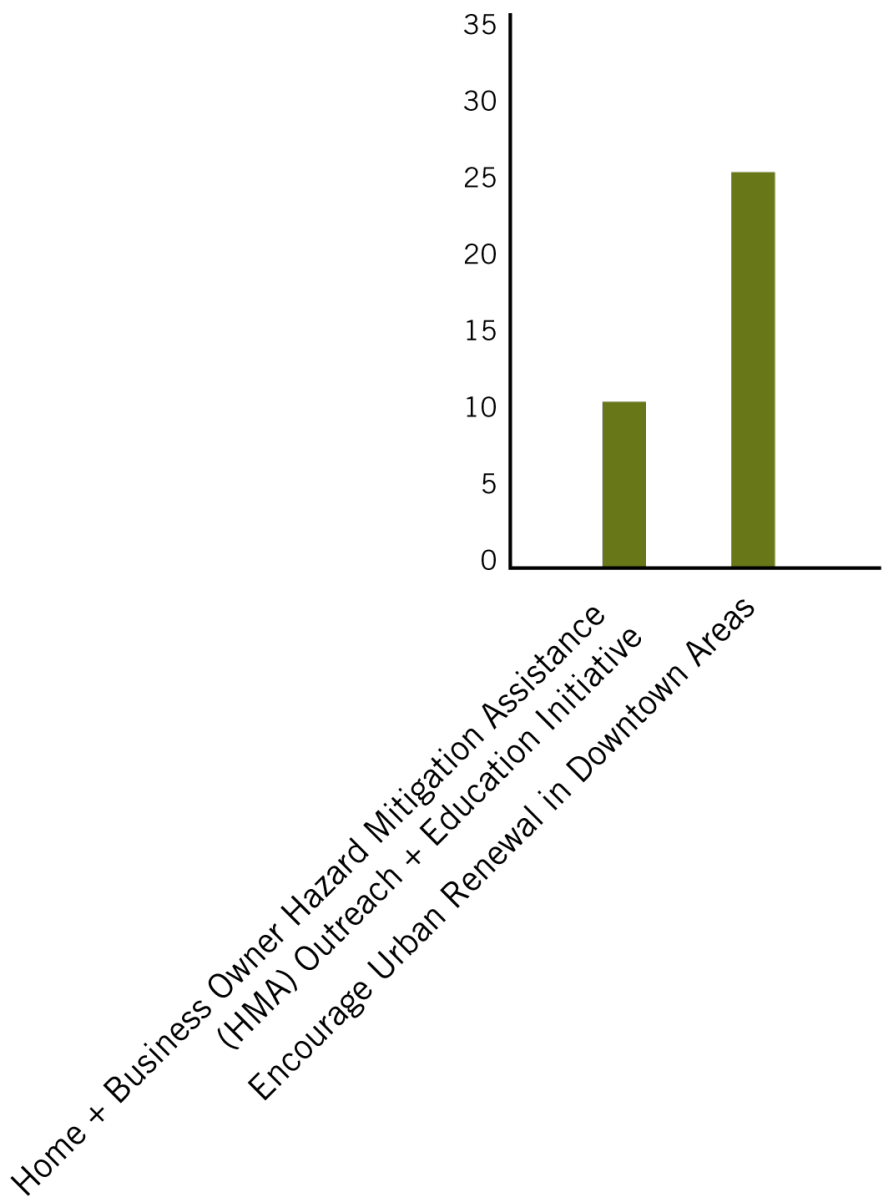


# TRANSPORTATION RESILIENCY (TR) PROJECTS

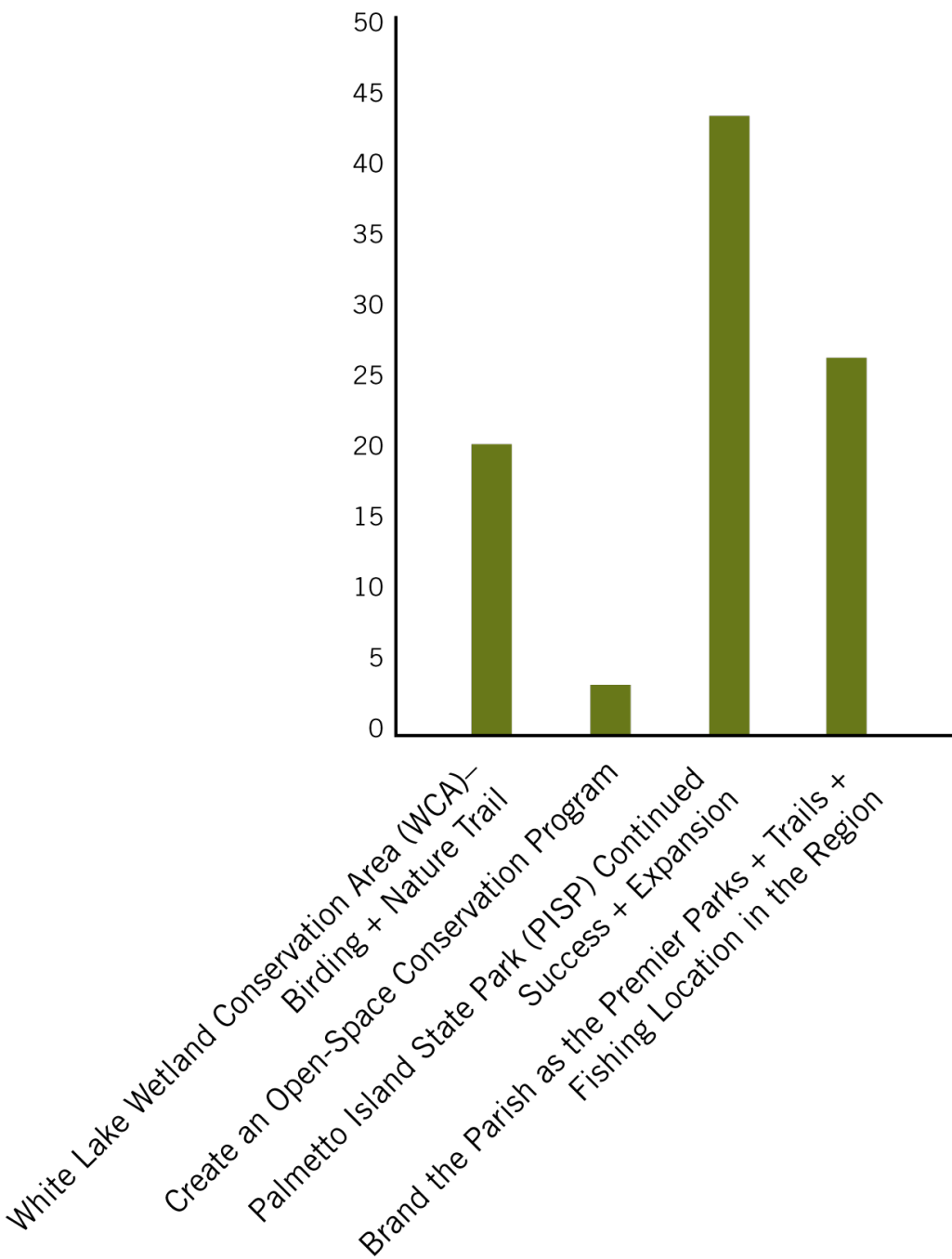




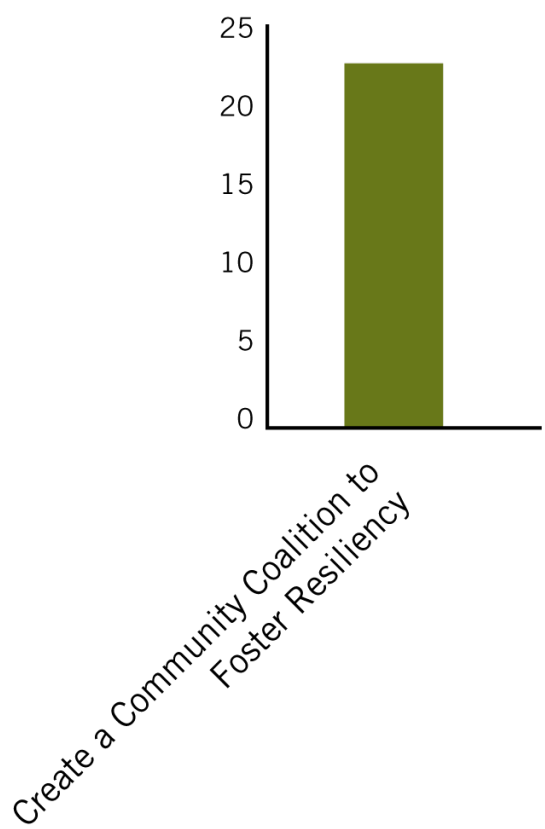
# HOUSING RESILIENCY (HR) PROJECTS



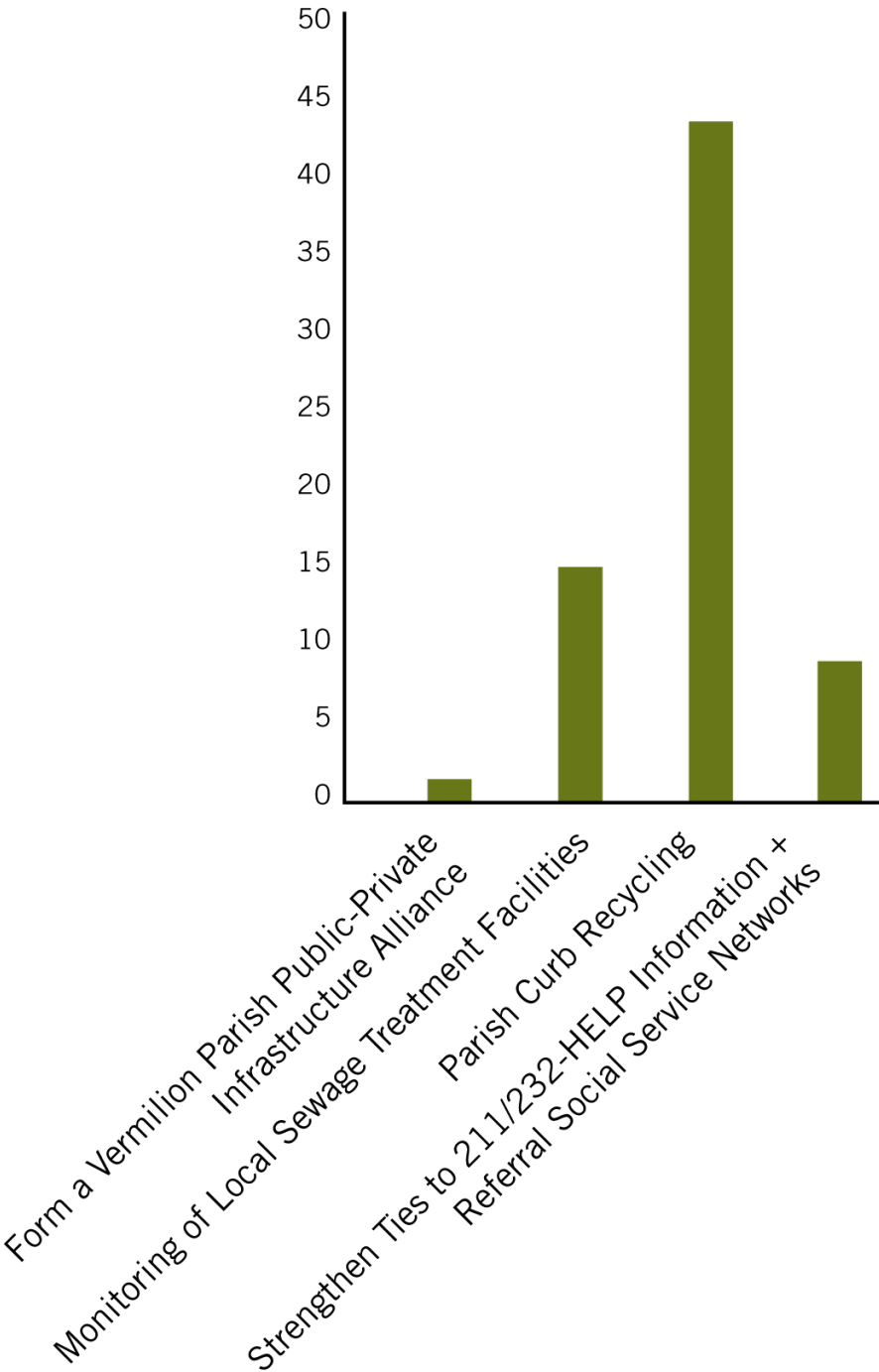
## PARKS + OPEN SPACES (P+OS) PROJECTS



# THE HISTORIC + CULTURAL PRESERVATION (H+CP) PROJECT



# HEALTH + HUMAN SERVICES (H+HS) PROJECTS



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Each person received nine (9) dots with which to vote on which project they supported. The following are the results from those votes.

***Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP) projects***

	Votes
East Vermilion Hurricane Protection System	13
West Vermilion Hurricane Protection System	10
Shoreline Protection + Marsh Creation in Vermilion Bay	27
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline Protection	9
Chenier Plain Freshwater Retention Management	3
Tree + Marsh Grass Plantings	38
Execute NOW Small-Scale Measures to Conserve + Restore Wetlands	5
Participate in the National Flood Insurance Protection (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS)	0
Flood Control Structure + Levee Segment in Bayou Tigre	9
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>114</b>

***Land Use (LU) projects***

	Votes
Public Outreach + Education	9
Adopt a Land Use Map for the Unincorporated Areas of the Parish	4
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>13</b>

**Poster Station Voting Summary – Each person received nine dots with which to vote.**

***Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) project***

	<b>Votes</b>
Dedicate a Parish-wide Funding Stream for Resiliency Measures	11
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>11</b>

***Economic Resiliency (ER) projects***

	<b>Votes</b>
Develop + Deliver a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Outreach + Education Training Initiative	6
Develop + Maintain + Exercise Port COOP Plans	6
Enhance Education Opportunities in the Parish	33
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>45</b>

***Transportation Resiliency (TR) projects***

	<b>Votes</b>
Develop + Deliver a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Outreach + Education Training Initiative	33
Develop + Maintain + Exercise Port COOP Plans	24
Enhance Education Opportunities in the Parish	7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>64</b>

**Poster Station Voting Summary – Each person received nine dots with which to vote.**

***Housing Resiliency (HR) projects***

	<b>Votes</b>
Home + Business Owner Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Outreach + Education Initiative	10
Encourage Urban Renewal in Downtown Areas	25
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>35</b>

***Health and Human Services (H+HS) projects***

	<b>Votes</b>
Form a Vermilion Parish Public-Private Infrastructure Alliance	1
Monitoring of Local Sewage Treatment Facilities	15
Parish Curbside Recycling	43
Strengthen Ties to 211/232-HELP Information + Referral Social Service Networks	8
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>67</b>



**Poster Station Voting Summary – Each person received nine dots with which to vote.**

***Parks + Open Spaces (P+OS) projects***

	<b>Votes</b>
White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WCA) – Birding + Nature Trail	20
Create an Open-Space Conservation Program	3
Palmetto Island State Park (PISP) Continued Success + Expansion	43
Brand the Parish as the Premier Parks + Trails + Fishing Location in the Region	27
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>93</b>

***The Historic + Cultural Preservation (H+CP) project***

	<b>Votes</b>
Create a Community Coalition to Foster Resiliency	23
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>23</b>



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## Survey

### How would you rate this community meeting?

- One 7 out of 10 vote.
- One 9 out of 10 vote.
- One 10 out of 10 vote.

### What is most important to you in resiliency?

- Creating more **parks** and **open spaces**, providing **better roads** and supporting the **arts** and **culture**.
- Providing better community **social services** (elder/child/health care, etc.), **economic development** and encouraging development of new **affordable housing** in rural areas.

## Individual observations

### Write YOUR Ideas Here

- Install a marquis to advertise events and do away with road signs (i.e., on our courthouse). W. L. A.
- We want twice as much of the 2nd Street Band. J.S.O.
- Drainage problems, clean all ditches





## Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)



### CR+FP Project #7 Tree + Marsh Grass Plantings

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### CR+FP Project #8 Execute NOW Small-Scale Measures to Conserve + Restore Wetlands

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### CR+FP Project #9 Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS)

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### CR+FP Project #10 Flood Control Structure + Levee Segment in Bayou Tigre

Place a dot here if you support this project.



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**Vermilion Parish**  
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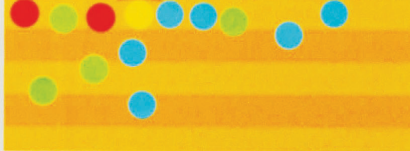
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## Coastal Restoration + Flood Protection (CR+FP)



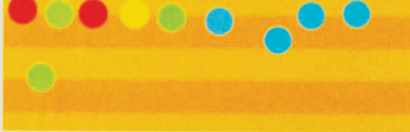
**CR+FP Project #11**  
**East Vermilion Hurricane Protection System**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



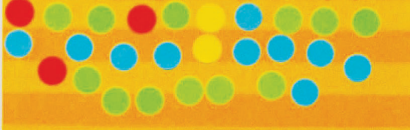
**CR+FP Project #12**  
**West Vermilion Hurricane Protection System**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



**CR+FP Project #13**  
**Shoreline Protection + Marsh Creation in Vermilion Bay**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



**CR+FP Project #14**  
**Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline Protection**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



**CR+FP Project #15**  
**Chenier Plain Freshwater Retention Management**

Place a dot here if you support this project.





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## Land Use (LU)


**LU Project #1**  
Public Outreach + Education


Place a dot here if you support this project.

**LU Project #2**  
Adopt a Land Use Map for the Unincorporated Areas of the Parish

Place a dot here if you support this project.

## Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)





**CIP Project #2**  
Dedicate a Parish-wide Funding Stream for Resiliency Measures


Place a dot here if you support this project.

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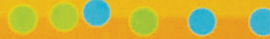
## Economic Resiliency (ER)



### ER Project #6

Develop + Deliver a  
Continuity of Operation  
(COOP) Outreach + Education  
Training Initiative

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### ER Project #7

Develop + Maintain +  
Exercise Port COOP Plans

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### ER Project #8

Enhance Education  
Opportunities in the Parish

Place a dot here if you support this project.



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# Transportation Resiliency (TR)



**TR Project #1**  
**Expand Major Thoroughfares to Support Economic Development + Evacuations**



**TR Project #2**  
**Promote Evacuation Routes + Evacuation Planning**



**TR Project #3**  
**Implement Parish-wide Off-System Arterial Road System**



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## Health + Human Services (H+HS)



**H+HS Project #2**  
**Form a Vermilion Parish**  
**Public-Private Infrastructure**  
**Alliance**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



**H+HS Project #3**  
**Monitoring of Local Sewage**  
**Treatment Facilities**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



**H+HS Project #4**  
**Parish Curbside Recycling**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



**H+HS Project #5**  
**Strengthen Ties to 211/232-**  
**HELP Information + Referral**  
**Social Service Networks**

Place a dot here if you support this project.



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## Parks + Open Spaces (P+OS)



### P+OS Project #4

White Lake Wetlands  
Conservation Area (WCA) –  
Birding + Nature Trail

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### P+OS Project #5

Create an Open-Space  
Conservation Program

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### P+OS Project #6

Palmetto Island State Park  
(PISP) Continued Success +  
Expansion

Place a dot here if you support this project.



### P+OS Project #7

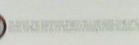
Brand the Parish as the  
Premier Parks + Trails +  
Fishing Location in  
the Region

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**Our  
Plan!**

**Vermilion Parish**  
COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN



## Historic + Cultural Preservation (H+CP)



### H+CP Project #1 Create a Community Coalition to Foster Resiliency

#### DESCRIPTION

- >> Create a **local coalition** focused on **Vermilion Parish resiliency**.
- >> Engage **entire Parish** and **continue** efforts of resiliency planning stakeholder leadership group.
- >> Partner with **local media outlets**, **Parish website** and **social media resources** to:
  - >> Heighten **resiliency awareness**.
  - >> Promote resiliency through **community outreach** and **education**.
  - >> **Advocate** for individual and Parish-wide resiliency measures.
  - >> Build knowledge of **available resiliency grants** and how to pursue them.
- >> Provide quarterly updates of key resiliency projects in **development** or being **implemented** throughout the Parish.
- >> Develop and implement an **annual awards program** – perhaps in partnership with University of Louisiana – to recognize **individuals, businesses, construction professional** and other for **innovations** in resiliency.
- >> Include **student competitions**.
- >> Identify **staff support** for all of the above.



#### MEDIA

Tv: Cox Media / KADN-TV / KATC-TV / KLAF-TV / KLFY-TV

NEWSPAPER: Abbeville Mornindial / Gueydon Journal  
Kaplan Herald / Daily Iberian / Daily Advertiser

Radio: KFTE-FM / KHXT-FM / KMDL-FM / KPFL-AM  
KPFL-FM / KROF-AM / KTDY-FM / KNEK-FM / KRDJ-FM  
KRQD-FM / KSMO-FM / KXAC-FM / KYBG-FM



Mitigation Nation is an example of student-based activities that can increase resiliency and mitigation awareness.

ESTIMATED COSTS | **\$25,000 Annually**

#### PROJECT CHAMPION

To Be Determined

Place a dot here if you support this project.



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COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN



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The Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan is made possible through a grant provided through the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) - Disaster Recovery Unit (DRU) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



# Vermilion Parish

## COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

**Building safer, stronger and more  
resilient physical and human systems  
so that communities are better able to  
withstand future disasters.**



The *Vermilion Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Plan* is made possible through a grant provided through the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) - Disaster Recovery Unit (DRU) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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& ASSOCIATES

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