LIVING AND WORKING IN COMMUNITIES TO BRING EQUITY:

Using Nature-Based Interventation to Mitigate Climate Impact

Who We Are

Cheryl R. Austin, Greater Treme Consortium
Gaynell B. Bradley, Lower 9th Homeownership Association
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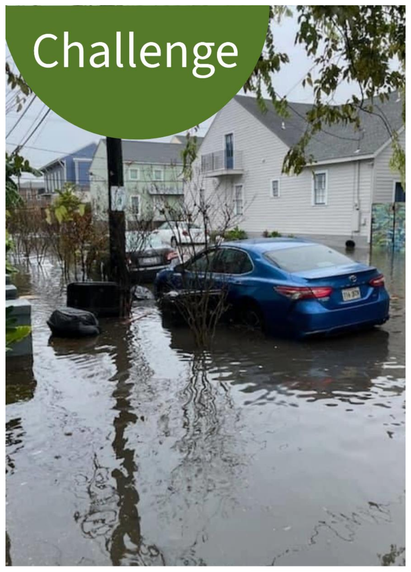
Pamela Carrie, New Orleans East Green Infrastructure
Angela M. Chalk, Healthy Community Services
Kimberly Doley, Water Wise Gulf South
Katherine P. Prevost, Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association
Jeffrey Supak, Water Wise Gulf South.

Our efforts have resulted in the planting of over 770 trees, installation of 146 rain barrels, and implementation of over 113 other green infrastructure projects. These projects include rain gardens, concrete removal, French drains, rain barrels, stormwater planter boxes, pervious pavement, and bioswales.

Healthy Community Services

Challenge



Flooding has been a persistent issue in New Orleans (NOLA) for a long time. The city is located in a low-lying area, which makes it prone to floods. Most of the city was developed along the drainage bowls and Lake Pontchartrain, where water collects. Unfortunately, these lands continue to sink due to a process called subsidence. The continuous pumping of groundwater and the decomposition and drying of former wetland soils contribute to this. With over 60 inches of rainfall per year and eight complex engineering systems and environmental conditions, NOLA faces unique flooding challenges.

The flooding that these communities face is a result of a history of racially discriminatory local policies and disparities in public investments in these neighborhoods. For WWGS communities, the development of the I-10 corridor is a mark of environmental racism. This project separated areas of economic opportunity and investment while creating new environmental hazards.

Impact

770 Trees Planted

146 Rain Barrles

175 Neighborhood Champions

200,000 gallons plus strom water managed per rain event

More About Us

Water Wise Gulf South
The Real Cost of Resilience For All Summit

French Drain Installation in
Hollygrove-Dixon

Methodology

Community
Community Driven

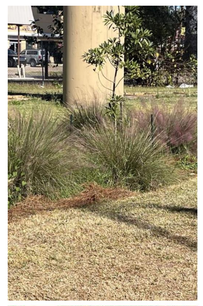
Build a Partnership
Collectively, CBO's with IRS 501-3 (c) Status and Independtly

Gain Property Rights
Personal, Private or Governmental Joint Use Agreement.

Solution

Transforming impervious surfaces into green spaces that use green infrastructure to mimic the function of wetlands enhances the benefits that residents receive from the little green space in these neighborhoods. Green infrastructure projects built on both public and private land in the metropolitan area help store stormwater locally, reducing the burden on NOLA's stormwater infrastructure and improving local quality of life.

Adding green features to the landscape works in concert with existing drainage systems to reduce urban flooding, and it also provides communities with significant environmental co-benefits. Green spaces in the 7th Ward, Tremé, and Upper 9th Ward neighborhoods perform economically valuable functions throughout the year. These functions include reducing flood risk, stabilizing shorelines, and providing recreational opportunities. They are called ecosystem services, which describe the benefits people receive from natural capital.



Bioswale Biography

Cost: $65,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: $1500.00 Maintenance Groundwork New Orleans

Capacity: 35,000 gallons of stormwater/rain event
Measurements: 600X40X2.5

Serves: residents of Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes as the site is located on a Hurricane Evacuation Route.

Location: 1543 N. Claiborne Ave., 7th Ward, New Orleans, LA. This site is located on a historically major African American business corridor

Property Owner: Joint Use Agreement between the LA DOTD and Healthy Community Services