



SOUTHWEST
ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER



Green Infrastructure Webinar Series

Webinar 7: Community-Driven Workforce Solutions for Green Infrastructure

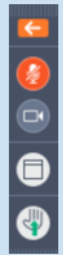
Thursday, 16 October 2025
10:00am Mountain Time



Logistics

Using the control panel

Opening the control panel



Show your control panel

All phones/microphones are muted for the duration of the webinar

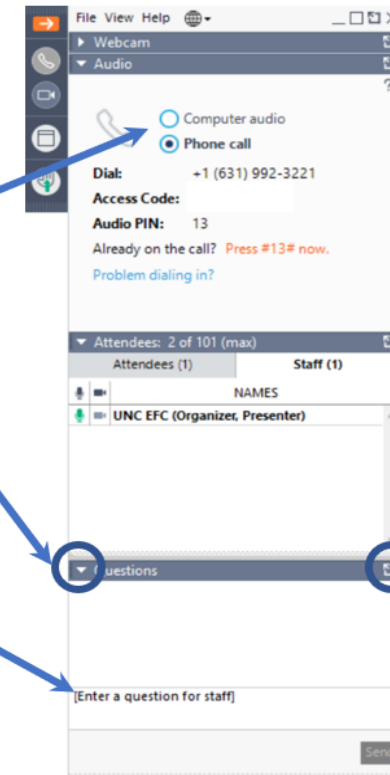
Toggle between full screen/window screen view

Audio: please choose between computer audio or phone call

If you do not hear audio right now, please check your speaker volume or enter #[your Audio PIN]# if using phone

Click  to open in Control Panel

Submit **questions** in the Questions box at any time, and press [Send]



Click  to open in separate box and resize

Certificate of Completion

This session has **NOT** been submitted for pre-approval of Continuing Education Credits, but eligible attendees will receive a certificate of attendance for their personal record.

To receive a certificate:

- You must attend the entire session
- You must register and attend using your real name and unique email address - group viewing credit will not be acceptable
- You must participate in polls
- Certificates will be sent via email within 30 days

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact smallsystems@syr.edu.

About Us

The **Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN)** is a university- and non-profit-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and water infrastructure.

The EFCN works collectively and as individual centers to address these issues across the entire U.S, including the 5 territories and the Navajo Nation. The EFCN aims to assist public and private sectors through training, direct professional assistance, production of durable resources, and innovative policy ideas.



Webinar Series Overview

Title	Date
Green Infrastructure 101	18 April 2024
Equitable Green Infrastructure in a Changing Climate	25 July 2024
Navigating the Green Infrastructure Policy Landscape	10 October 2024
Asset Management for Green Infrastructure	23 January 2025
Funding Green Infrastructure	24 April 2025
The Power of Partnerships for Green Infrastructure	17 July 2025
Community-Driven Workforce Solutions for Green Infrastructure	16 October 2025
Green Infrastructure Frameworks for Environmental Justice	22 January 2026
Source Water Protection and Watershed Planning for Wildfire	16 April 2026
Bridging the Gap: Integrating Land and Water Planning for Sustainable Futures	16 July 2026

Overview of Today's Webinar

1. Brief recap: What is green infrastructure?
2. Community-Driven Green Infrastructure Workforce Case Studies:
 - Dr. Angela Chalk: Building the People's Legacy
 - Jeff Supak: The Water Wise Gulf South Approach
3. Resources
4. Question & answer session with speakers

Today's Speakers



Shannon Sloane Pepper
Water Utility Trainer and Specialist,
*Southwest Environmental Finance
Center*



Dr. Angela Chalk
Founder & Executive Director,
Healthy Community Services



Jeff Supak
Executive Director,
Water Wise Gulf South



Quick Recap: Green Infrastructure

What makes green infrastructure such a compelling water management option for communities of all sizes?

Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Infrastructure

Gray:



Green:



Example: Gray & Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Gray



Sewer pipe

Green



Infiltration trench

Function: Convey storm water away from roads/buildings to prevent flooding and water damage.

Some co-benefits of infiltration trench or bioswale:

- Filtration of water through soil
 - Plant & fungi uptake of pollutants
- Dispersed absorption – stormwater does not make it to treatment plant
- Space for public enjoyment, habitat

Why Green Infrastructure?



Climate Resiliency



Co-Benefits



Partnerships

Building the People's Legacy

ECFN Green Infrastructure
Presented by Angela M Chalk, DHA, GIP
Executive Director, Healthy Community Services
October 15, 2025



Goals for Today's Discussion

- The 3 E's: Engage, Educate, Empower
- Building Trusting Relationships
- Intentionality of Building Resilient Communities
- Vision to Reality Stormwater Management Park
- Call to Action



Residents' Needs, Expertise, Social & Cultural Norms are Primary to Success



The 3 E's Engage, Educate, Empower

- **Engage**

Meaningful meetings, workshops, and professional development trainings to understand the challenges and shared goals

Tapping in the resident's personal professional skills, legacy knowledge as well as social and cultural norms

Compensating people for time as Visioning Session Committee Members

PRIORITIZING RESIDENTS



The 3 E's

- **Educate**

Working with Professionals for Technical Assistance, (i.e., engineers, architects, municipal operators)

Educating Elected Officials and Policy Makers



The 3 E's

- Empower
- Meeting People Where They Are
- Respecting Social & Cultural Norms
- Building Trust



Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership -
Facilitating Power

The 3 E's

- Empower
- “Taking It to the Streets”
- Hands on Experiences



The 3 E's

- Empower
- Cultural Exchanges
- Traveling to Amsterdam
- Understanding how to apply technology for local needs
- Peer-to-Peer Learning



Building Trusting Relationships

- Have **PLANNED** and **DOCUMENTED** roles, responsibilities, timelines
- Compensate People for their **VALUE** and **EXPERTISE**
- Have an **EXIST** Strategy
- Part ways amicably and respectfully



Vision to Reality Stormwater Management Park



Vision to Reality Stormwater Management Park

- 35,000-gal stormwater capacity per/
Rain Event
- Community Driven selection process
- JUA with LA DOTD with HCS
- Increased property value from
\$28,000 to ~ \$300,000.00 (2017)
- Hurricane Evacuation Route
- Provides Full-time
Employment/Apprenticeship for
GWNO Workforce Development



Photo Credit: Todd Reynolds,
GWNO

V2R Stormwater Management Park



Photo Credit: Todd Reynolds, GWNO

- Built and Maintained by Groundwork New Orleans
- Phase 2 includes:
 - Mini Solar Grid to Power the V2R
 - Weather Station
 - Solar Powered Resilience Hub
 - Avg Hourly Salary \$20-\$25
 - Apprenticeship lasts 2-8 Years
 - Annual Maintenance Cost \$4000
 - Maintenance Cost is shared by HCS and GWNO



V2R Stormwater Management Park



Community Participatory Learning Process to Developing Sustainable Nature-Based Interventions



Funders



NATIONAL ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES



Contact

Dr Angela M Chalk



Scan the QR code to add this
contact.

www.hcsnola.org



Water Wise Gulf South Collective

Treme: Greater Treme Consortium

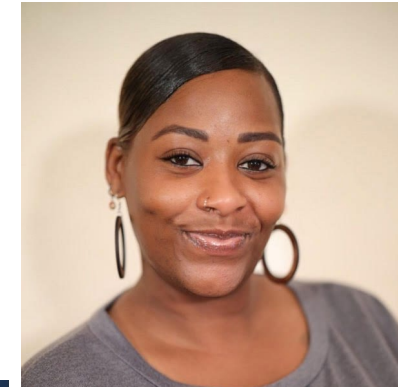
7th Ward: Healthy Community Services

Upper 9th Ward: Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association

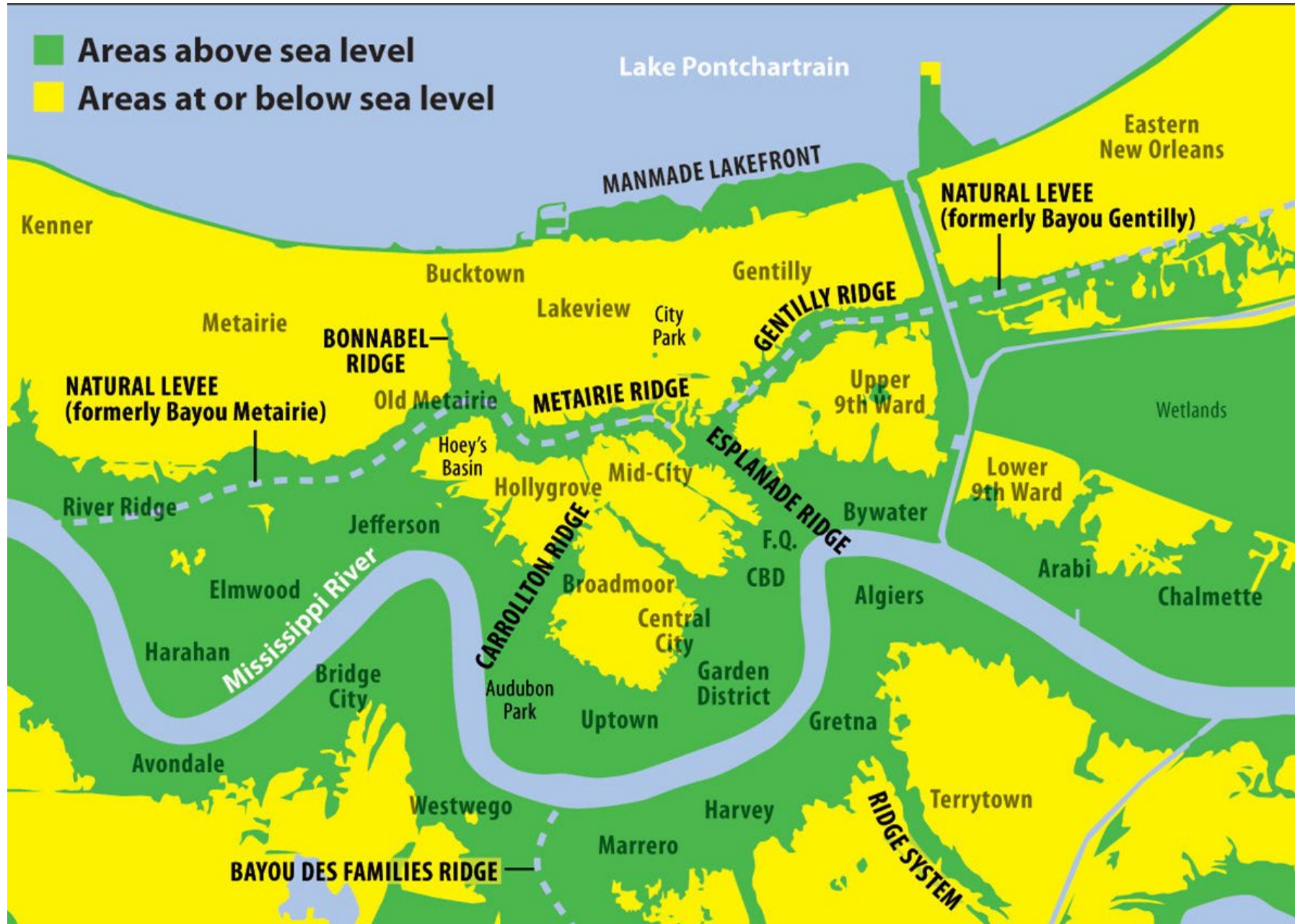
Hollygrove-Dixon: Hollygrove-Dixon Neighborhood Association

New Orleans East: NOE Green Infrastructure Collective

Lower 9th Ward: Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association



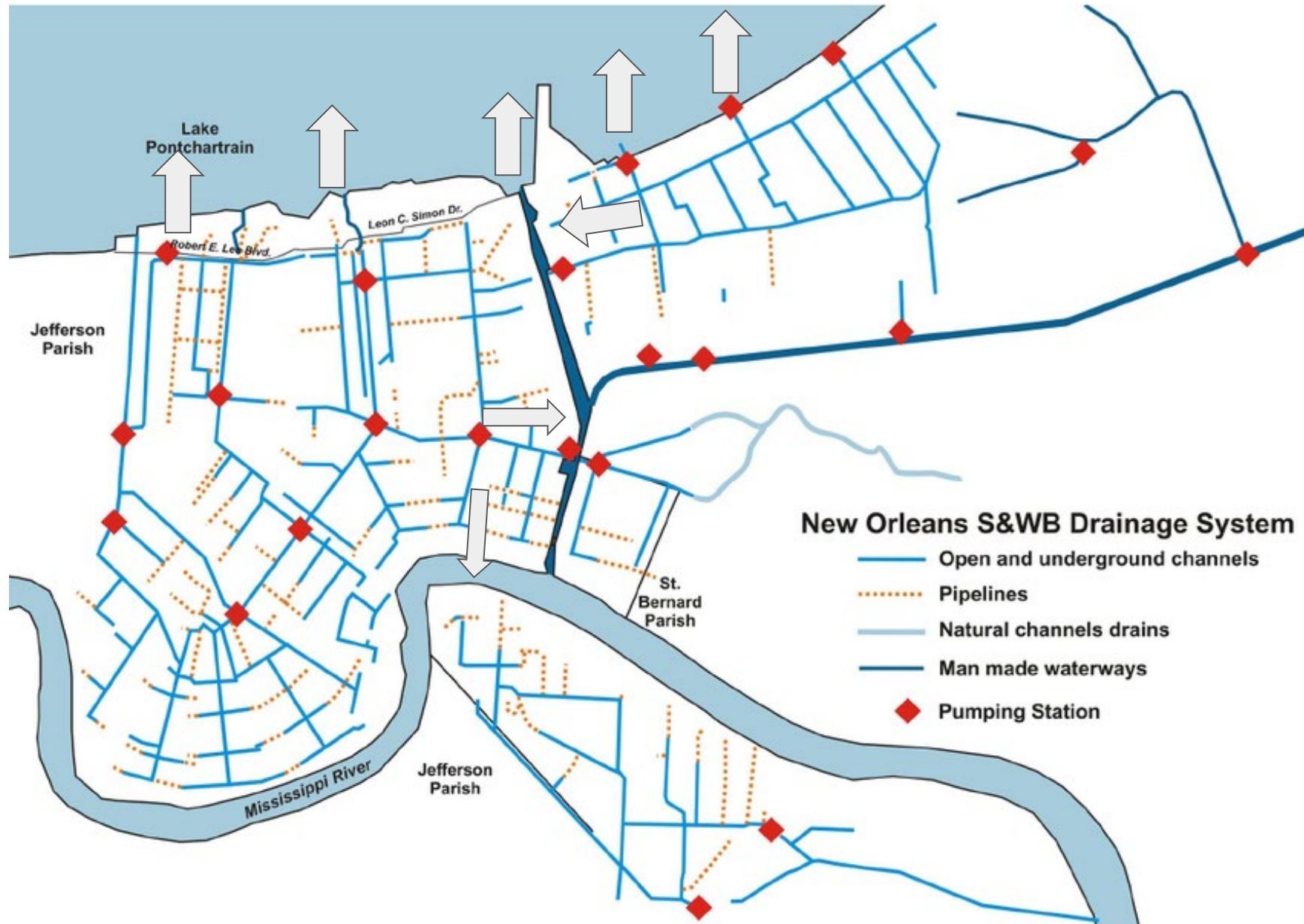
New Orleans' Topography-Back of town Neighborhoods



Source: Tulane geographer Richard Campanella

Dan Swenson, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

New Orleans' Drainage System



New Orleans' Drainage System: Flooding

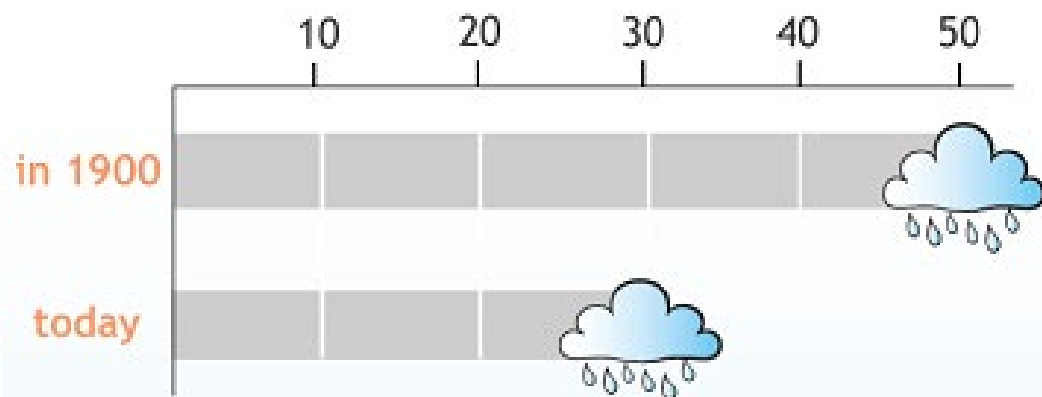
Flooding due to heavy rain storm events in New Orleans



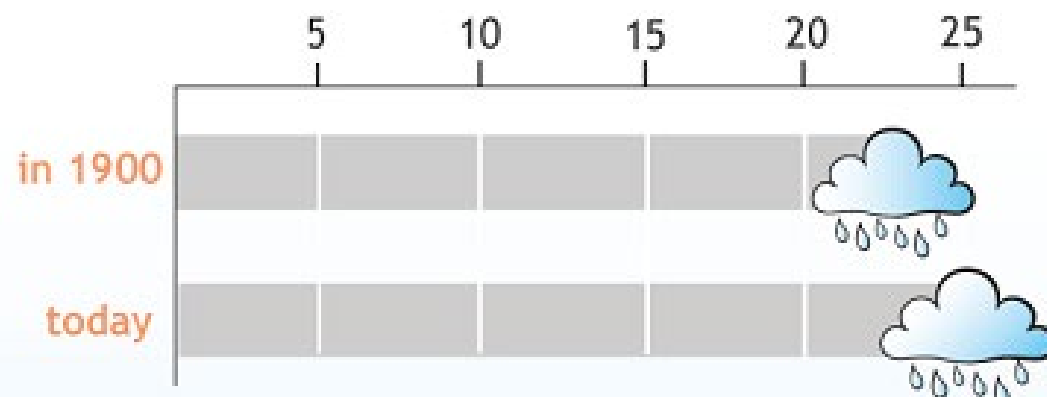
More Flood Events due to Climate Change

How has global warming affected **HEAVY RAIN EVENTS** like the one along the Gulf in mid-August?

average # years between events



typical 3-day heavy rain total in inches



**RISK OF
SIMILAR
EVENTS** **↑** **ODDS** **+40%**

**AMOUNT
OF
RAIN** **↑** **INTENSITY** **+10%**

Water Wise Gulf South Collective



All of the Census Tracts that we work in are:

Projected flood risk

Projected risk to properties from projected floods, from tides, rain, riverine and storm surges within 30 years

99th above 90th percentile

-Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Thinking Outside the Pipe: Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure mimics natural systems to manage rainwater



Harnessing the Power of Collective Action

The Water Wise Gulf South Model

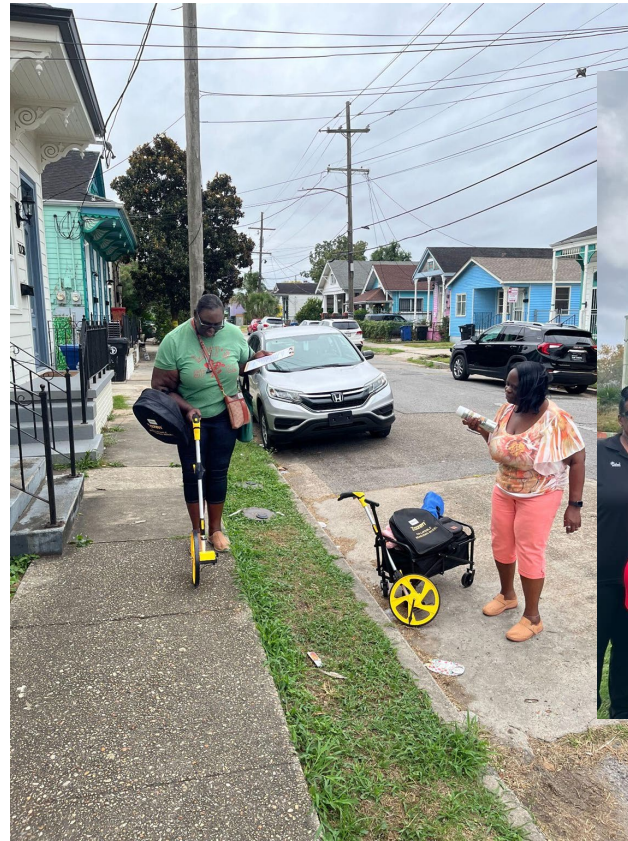
-Community based organizations, are supported by Water Wise Gulf South to build their capacity in stormwater management and green infrastructure development.



Harnessing the Power of Collective Action

The Water Wise Gulf South Model

-Resident leadership is developed through the **Water Wise Neighborhood Champions Program** and continued through the **Water Wise Visioning Session Committee**



Harnessing the Power of Collective Action

The Water Wise Gulf South Model

Contractors are trained in **Green Infrastructure Construction**. We provide scholarships to the **National Green Infrastructure Certification Program** and **Louisiana Horticulture License**. We hire contractors to install green infrastructure projects and to provide workforce development training.



Harnessing the Power of Collective Action

The Water Wise Gulf South Model

Youth who are members of the **Water Wise Youth Committee** learning about green infrastructure and native plants.



THE SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO OWNERSHIP



Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Inform Outreach and Green Infrastructure 101 Workshops



Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Inform Green and Grey Infrastructure Tours



Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Inform Work N Learns



Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Consult

Community Engagement 1 & Questionnaire Compiled Results



Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Involve



Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Collaborate

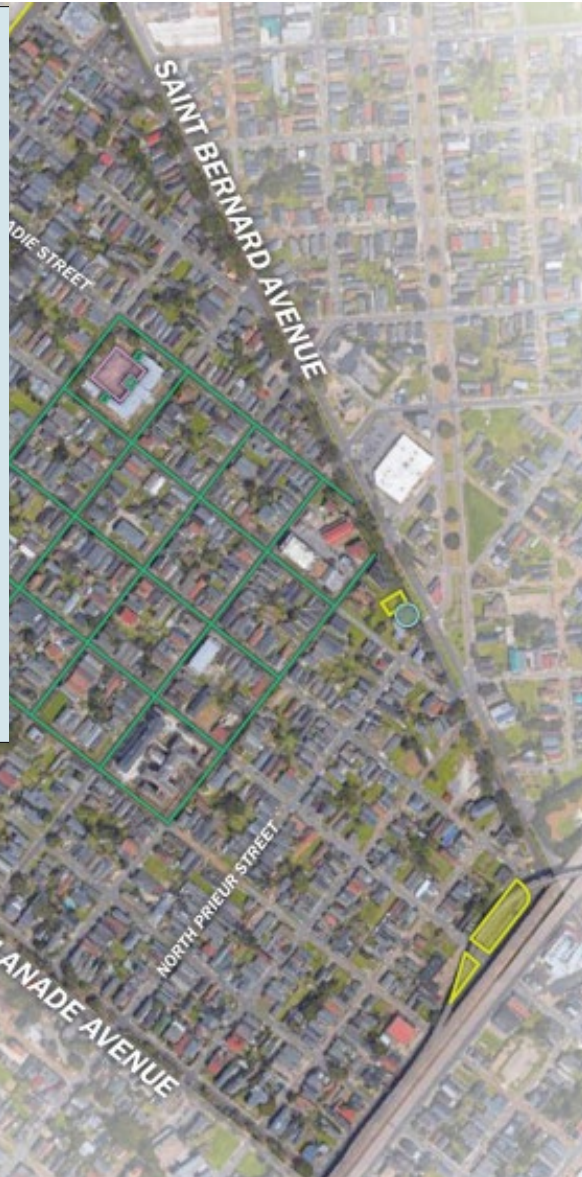


Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Defer To



7TH WARD GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOOKBOOK

LOOKBOOK PREPARED BY WATER WISE 7TH WARD
VISION PLANS CREATED BY 7TH WARD RESIDENTS



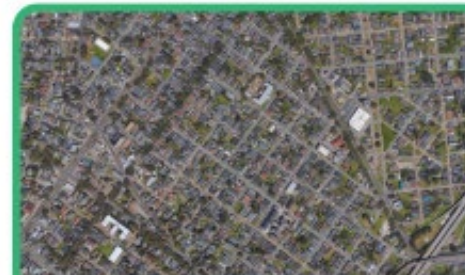
a North Claiborne Avenue Detention Basin

Stormwater Storage Capacity	242,145 gal
Construction Cost	\$124,500
Annual Maintenance Cost	\$8,127



b North Broad Street Curb Extensions

Stormwater Storage Capacity	28,800 gal
Construction Cost	\$630,000
Annual Maintenance Cost	\$15,400



c Street Tree Grid

Stormwater Storage Capacity	21,200 gal
Construction Cost	\$144,900
Annual Maintenance Cost	\$1,575



d Bayou Road Curb Extension

Stormwater Storage Capacity	29,360 gal
Construction Cost	\$26,875
Annual Maintenance Cost	\$24,190

Community-Led Green Infrastructure: Defer To

Water Wise Technical Support Hollygrove - Dixon Neighborhood Project

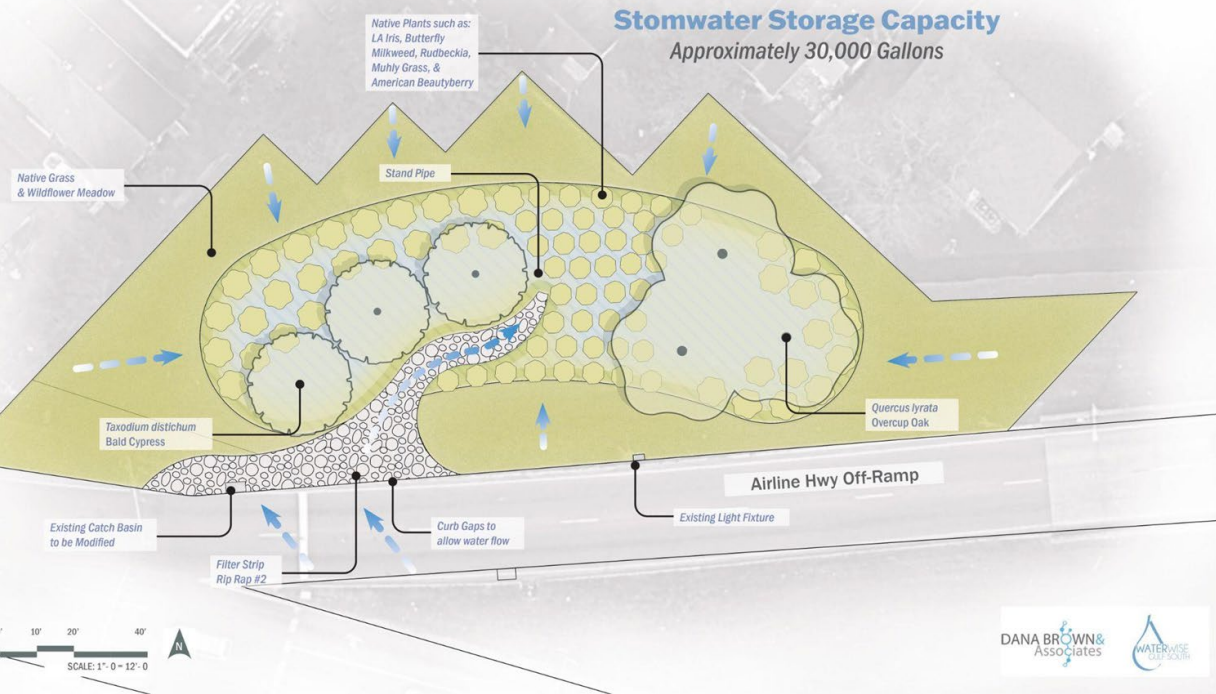


Photo by: Groundwork New Orleans



Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management "Free Flow" Video Series

Hosted by Greater Treme Consortium and Water Wise Treme



Greater Treme Consortium, Inc is opening its doors to anyone interested in learning what can be done to increase green infrastructure and manage stormwater to reduce flooding in our communities.

Every Tuesday in August and September
814 N. Robertson Street
1:00pm-7:00pm

Contact: cheryl@greatertreme.org
www.waterwisegulfsouth.org



BEFORE



AFTER





770
TREES PLANTED



146
RAIN BARRELS



113
ADDITIONAL
GI PROJECTS



189,000
GALLONS OF
STORMWATER
RETENTION CAPACITY

*As of 2023, Water Wise Collective green infrastructure projects provide **\$19.3 million** in social and environmental benefits each year! -Earth Economics Report*

Stay in Touch

Website: www.waterwisegulfsouth.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/waterwisegulfsouth

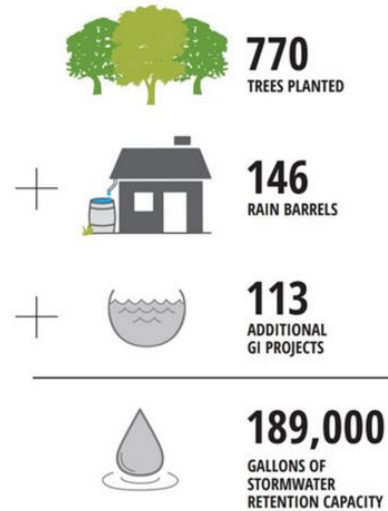
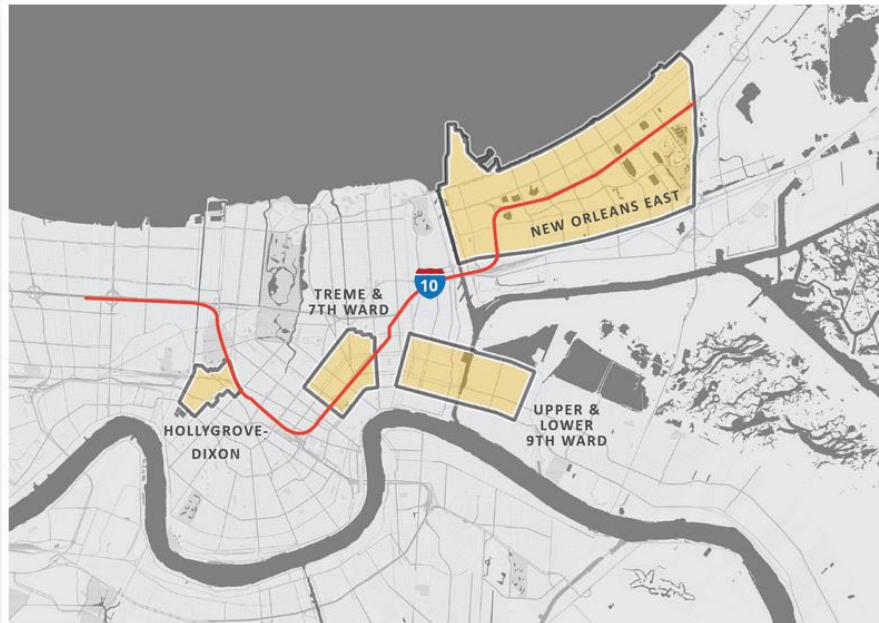
Instagram: [waterwisegulfsouth](https://www.instagram.com/waterwisegulfsouth)

Contact us at info@waterwisegulfsouth.org

Additional Resources



Report: *Benefits of Community-Driven Green Infrastructure*



THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY-DRIVEN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (UPDATED)

TECHNICAL REPORT | WATER WISE GULF SOUTH, NEW ORLEANS, LA
MARCH 20, 2023



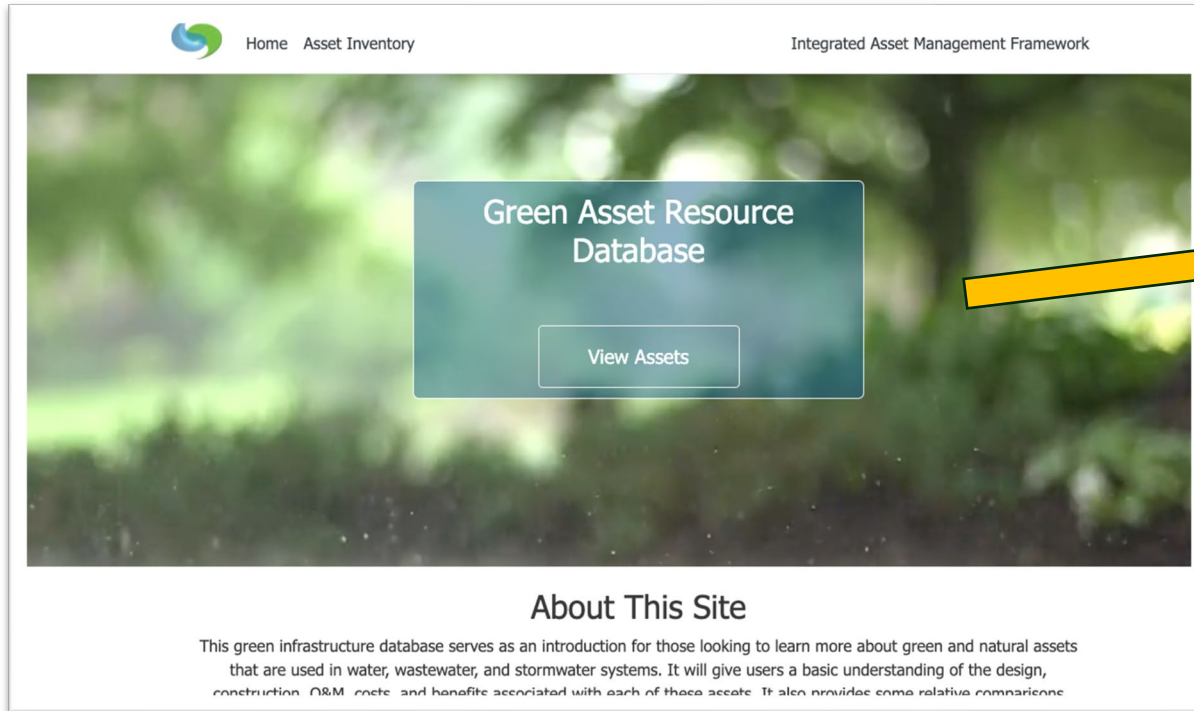
<https://www.eartheconomics.org/all-publications/2021/wwgs>

GSI Operations & Maintenance Manual & Video Series



<https://aridlidcoalition.org/index.php/gsi-maintenance>

Integrated Asset Management Framework & Green Asset Resource Database



The screenshot shows the 'Green Asset Resource Database' table. It includes a search bar, a 'Show 10 entries' dropdown, and a table with columns for Name, Asset Type, Construction Rank, O&M Difficulty, and Action. A yellow arrow points from the 'View Assets' button in the previous screenshot to this table.

Name	Asset Type	Construction Rank	O&M Difficulty	Action
Bioretention Areas	Enhanced	2	2	View
Blue Roof	Engineered	3	3	View
Constructed Wetlands	Natural	5	2	View
Curb and Gutter Elimination	Engineered	2	1	View
Downspout disconnection	Engineered	1	N/A	View
Drainage Ditch or Channel	Enhanced	2	2	View

<https://swefcapps.unm.edu/gardb>

Question & Answer Session



Green Infrastructure Webinar Series

Join us for this 10-part webinar series focused on the financial, managerial, and technical aspects of green infrastructure. Experienced practitioners, policy and funding experts, as well as academics, will discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the implementation of green infrastructure. These informative sessions will be offered quarterly, from April 2024 to July 2026.

Series Host: Shannon Pepper, Research Scientist, *Southwest Environmental Finance Center*

Green Infrastructure 101

April 18, 2024 | 12:00-1:00 EDT

[Watch Here](#)

Equitable Green Infrastructure in a Changing Climate

July 25, 2024 | 12:00-1:15 ET

[Register Now](#)

Navigating the Green Infrastructure Policy Landscape

October 10, 2024 | 12:00-1:15 ET

[Register Now](#)

Asset Management for Green Infrastructure

January 23, 2025 | 12:00-1:15 ET

[Register Now](#)

Funding Green Infrastructure

April 24, 2025 | 12:00-1:15 ET

[Register Now](#)

Power of Partnerships in Green Infrastructure

July 17, 2025 | 12:00-1:15 ET

Registration TBA

Building a Green Infrastructure Workforce

October 16, 2025 | 12:00-1:15 ET

Registration TBA

Green Infrastructure Frameworks for Environmental Justice

January 22, 2026 | 12:00-1:15 ET

Registration TBA

Source Water Protection & Watershed Planning in the Face of Wildfires

April 16, 2026 | 12:00-1:15 ET

Registration TBA

Bridging the Gap: Integrating Land & Water Planning for Sustainable Futures

July 16, 2026 | 12:00-1:15 ET

Registration TBA

<https://efcnetwork.org/training-events>



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Please fill out the survey for this webinar!



Thanks for attending!

Next webinar in our Green Infrastructure Series:

Community Education and Engagement for Successful Green Infrastructure

January 22, 2026

Shannon Sloane Pepper

Webinar Series Host

spepper@unm.edu



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