



CHAPTER 7: Implementation

Implementation Overview

The UNOP planning process results in the publication of two different products: District Plans and the "Citywide Recovery and Rebuilding Plan" (Citywide Plan). The Citywide Plan will be submitted to the City Planning Commission, the City Council and the Mayor for formal approval. Following this, it will be available for the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) to incorporate into the State's recovery planning. The Citywide Plan will be action-oriented, primarily focused on infrastructure projects designed to hasten the recovery of the City and guide public and private investment decisions. Every recovery project that is identified in the District Plans will also be incorporated into the Citywide Plan and will, therefore, be submitted to the LRA as a potential recovery project.

The recommended projects resulting from the UNOP process may require changes to various City plans and policies. These may include the City's Master Plan, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO), building codes, and capital improvements program. Other implementation issues and recommendations will be articulated in the Citywide Recovery and Rebuilding Plan.

Implementation Strategy

The initial funding source for implementation of infrastructure projects will come from Congressional funding that is funneled through the Louisiana Recovery Authority. Additionally, some residents have or will receive individual funds through insurance settlements, SBA loans, and Road Home compensation grants to rebuild their homes and businesses. However, none of these sources of funding are expected to be anywhere near adequate for the City and Region. Further planning, organization, and fundraising efforts are clearly needed. These efforts will be ongoing at the Federal and State levels, as well as at the city level in the form of the recently appointed Recovery Director for the City of New Orleans. Finally, the residents of District 13 need to become advocates for their own community.

Overall, the implementation strategy suggests an achievable, balanced, and holistic approach to the District's recovery. Cities around the country and here in Louisiana are facing budget shortfalls and are cutting down on the outlay and upkeep of their infrastructure and facilities. Private funding is being stretched and is harder to come by to make up the match with public funds.

Immediate Needs & Community Initiatives

Neighborhood groups to monitor Citywide Recovery Plan and implementation

(immediate action item)

Ensure the flood protection recommendations from the District Framework and from the Citywide team recommendations are implemented.

Conduct a detailed ecological study and District-wide Master Plan

(Immediate to short-term up to 5 years)

As stated in the Recovery Scenario Chapter, a thorough ecological study needs to be conducted to ascertain the true boundaries of the bottomland hardwood forest and wetland areas. These areas not only contribute to the specific natural character of the District, they are also flood mitigation devices. These ecological zones are at threat from erosion and invasive species, and should be studied to be restored as both a beautiful and pragmatic asset for ecological resilience.

Even though at the time of this report there is not consensus from the District residents for a unified vision, the Recovery Scenario recommends as part of the implementation strategy to conduct a Master Plan for the District subsequent only to the ecological study. The Master Plan should consider transportation and egress issues, conservation planning initiatives promoting ideas of smart growth in relation to the ecological assets present in this most unique District within Orleans Parish.



Action Plan & Recommendations

The most imperative concept to arise from this process is that the community, and the city, should be both proactive and responsive in moving the implementation forward. The following action plan and phasing should be followed, but poised to modify strategies based on projects that might be proposed in the near or distant future by the private sector or larger capital improvement projects posed by the local, state, or federal government which benefit the district. The Community should also coordinate its planned actions with the work with the City, the Recovery Offices at local, state, and federal levels, and refine its schedule to be responsive to the positive activities of others. In essence, implementation should proceed in the categories offered, yet the schedule should remain flexible to accommodate changing conditions.

In general, the community should set a high priority on recovery, immediate needs and improvements supporting individuals and/or private reinvestment that is consistent with the recovery development goals of District 13.

Implementation Strategy

The recovery process and District Recovery Framework is never complete – it is ongoing. Recovery needs to be sought and completed in a proactive manner. Anticipating housing and business needs and trends; looking for opportunities, monitoring recovery programs and their implementation; evaluating projects for need and value; adjusting the vision and the plan are all part of taking ownership of the process and the sustainability of the community into the future. Continuous advocacy requires a position of ownership and pride within a civil and united District, not just the celebration of success. It does not begin or end with the development of a plan but depends on a vision and a commitment to achieve the unified vision of District 13.

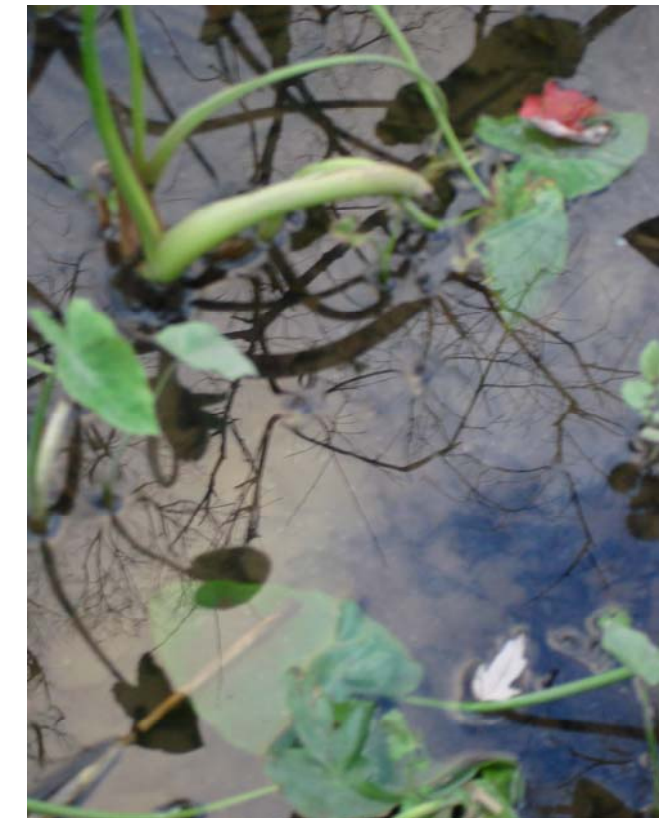
Additional Funding for Implementation

After local, state and federal government critical funding and resource allocation decisions have been made by and determined, other resources will be necessary to meet the vision of District 13.

Implementation Strategy Phasing

As previously stated, this recovery plan is addressing both the immediate and intermediate needs of the community. Moreover, there is a long-term vision. However, projects can be prioritized according to users/community desire, accountability, ease, and available funding or cost sharing.

Additionally, rather than strictly place projects on timelines, they should be determined by leveraging of resources, financial and otherwise. Projects may move forward or be delayed according to funding opportunities or leadership. As such, the following projects are preliminary phasing. Their order and priority are subject to change.



Immediate to Short Term Strategy

Recommendations to be initiated and/or completed within two (2) years:

Study potential for Category 5 levee protection, with emphasis on the Donner Canal and Levee, Intracoastal Pumping Station, and Mississippi River levee

Complete an Independent Third Party Study of Flood Risk

Conduct a Detailed Ecological Study

Develop a Voluntary Rain-Garden program

Conduct a Study for Coordinated Emergency Services & Safe Haven Evacuation Center

Open Private Audubon Nature Institute & Coast Guard Entrance in Times of Emergency

Conduct a Study to Elevate Highway 406 in Low Topographic Zone

Extend English Turn Parkway from Stanton Road to Delacroix Road

Develop & Implement a Voluntary Incentive-based Hurricane & Flood Building Program

Develop a Voluntary Incentive-based Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Materials Program

Recommendations to be initiated and/or completed within two (2) to five (5) years:

Reinstate & Repair District-wide Basic Infrastructure and Public Works Services

Hardening of Utility Service & Street Infrastructure Program

Create a New Public Park in Low Topographic Zone along Highway 406

Create a Master Plan for the District

Recommendations to be initiated and/or completed within two (2) to ten (10) years:

Provide Category 5 Levee Protection (over 5 years and beyond 10 years)

Implement the Voluntary Rain-Garden Program

Implement the Voluntary Incentive-based Hurricane Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Building Materials Program





References/Resources:

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

<http://www.btnep.org/>

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>

Environmental Protection Agency: Wetlands

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/>

Forestry Images

<http://www.forestryimages.org>

North American Migration Flyways

<http://www.birdnature.com/flyways.html>

A Studio in the Woods

<http://astudiointhewoods.org/>

Gulf Base

<http://www.gulfbase.org>



