

# NEW LIFE FOR THE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN AREA

A COMEBACK THROUGH COLLABORATION

## THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

### ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

The Lake Pontchartrain Area is one of seven locations selected for help from the nation's new Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits. Specifically, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership will:

- Break down federal program silos to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources through better coordination and targeting of federal investments.
- Recognize and build on local efforts and leadership, by engaging and serving community partners.
- Work with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.
- Learn from early and visible victories to fuel long-term action.

Led by these federal agencies and coordinated by the White House Domestic Policy Council, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership closely aligns with and advances the work of the White House's place-based efforts, including the [Partnership for Sustainable Communities](#), to revitalize communities, create jobs and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the nation. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership also advances the work of the [America's Great Outdoors](#) Initiative (<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>).

For more information, visit [www.urbanwaters.gov](http://www.urbanwaters.gov)

### ABOUT THE NEW ORLEANS PARTNERSHIP

The New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Federal Partnership Pilot project strives to support local restoration efforts. Goals include enabling safe public access, restoring essential facilities and structures, and providing environmental education to the community. Federal partner agencies will work with the City of New Orleans, other interested municipalities, Louisiana State agencies, and local non-governmental agencies to make these goals a reality.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

The Partnership brings federal agencies together with the City of New Orleans, other interested municipalities, state agencies, and local non-governmental agencies to provide safe public access and to reconstruct and restore local ecosystems. Current federal and/or local projects include:

**Environmental Education** – With technical assistance from the Federal Partnership, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has rebuilt the New Canal Lighthouse as a museum and education center. The Partnership has also worked with the University of New Orleans Coastal Education and Research Facility (CERF) to develop an [outreach video](#) on coastal wetlands and urban waters.

**Greenway Revitalization** – The Federal Partnership is working with the City of New Orleans and Friends of the Lafitte Corridor to turn 3 miles of abandoned land into a vibrant urban network of parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, and community centers. The Lafitte Greenway will provide a link between key neighborhoods of New Orleans to the Mississippi River, Bayou St. John and Lake Pontchartrain and promote a more sustainable, compact, and livable city.

**Facilities Reconstruction** – The Federal Partnership will focus on reconstruction of facilities in the West End and Pontchartrain Beach areas as well as new pier access near the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge.



### ABOUT LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN & THE COMMUNITY

At over 40 miles wide, Lake Pontchartrain is the second largest inland saltwater body in the United States. It covers over 630 square miles, serves six Louisiana parishes and 1.5 million lives. Though classified as a lake, Lake Pontchartrain is technically an estuary that connects to the Gulf of Mexico. Because of its link to the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Pontchartrain has seen devastating hurricanes and was most recently affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Spill. While the community continues to recover from lingering impacts of Hurricane Katrina and the recent oil spill, Lake Pontchartrain remains a vital resource for recreation and economic development. The lakeshore has historically been utilized by a wide range of New Orleans' diverse community members, and this project seeks to reconnect citizens to the Lake by revitalizing abandoned lakeshore areas, restoring damaged structures, improving access and educating citizens about their environment.

**Enhanced Access** – The Partnership will seek to enhance access to Bayou St. John and the Lakeshore through the Lafitte Greenway and enhance utilization of the CERF in eastern New Orleans.

## WHAT'S NEXT

**More Community Involvement** – Once the fishing piers are completed, the Pilot plans to invite local youth to compete for the chance to design signage for the piers. These new, highly visible symbols of community involvement will attract local residents and enhance the use of the lakeshore facilities.

**More Conservation** – In partnership with a number of non-profit agencies, EPA and the City of New Orleans are pursuing ways to improve water quality and water conservation. Storm water collection and green infrastructure planning will enhance the continued growth of the area.

**More Education** –The facilities at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation Education Center and the CERF will enhance water resource education opportunities both on the lakefront and in New Orleans East with assistance from the Federal Partnership. Additionally, linkages to local colleges and universities will be created to increase student studies and research applications.



## THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

The partnership includes: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of the Army (Army Corps of Engineers), U.S. Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Transportation

### For more information on the New Orleans Urban Waters Federal Partnership, please contact:

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