Frequently Asked Questions

Master Plan Data Viewer

1. How can the viewer assist me?

People's number one question about the coast is, "How bad is flooding going to get?" To answer this question, we created the Master Plan Data Viewer. Based on the data used to support development of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, the Master Plan Data Viewer shows land loss and flood risk across the coast, as well as the ongoing and future protection and restoration projects that will make our communities more resilient. If you are a homeowner thinking of elevating your house, an entrepreneur analyzing where to locate your business, or a parish official planning to make your community safer, the viewer will help you better understand flood risk today and in the future.
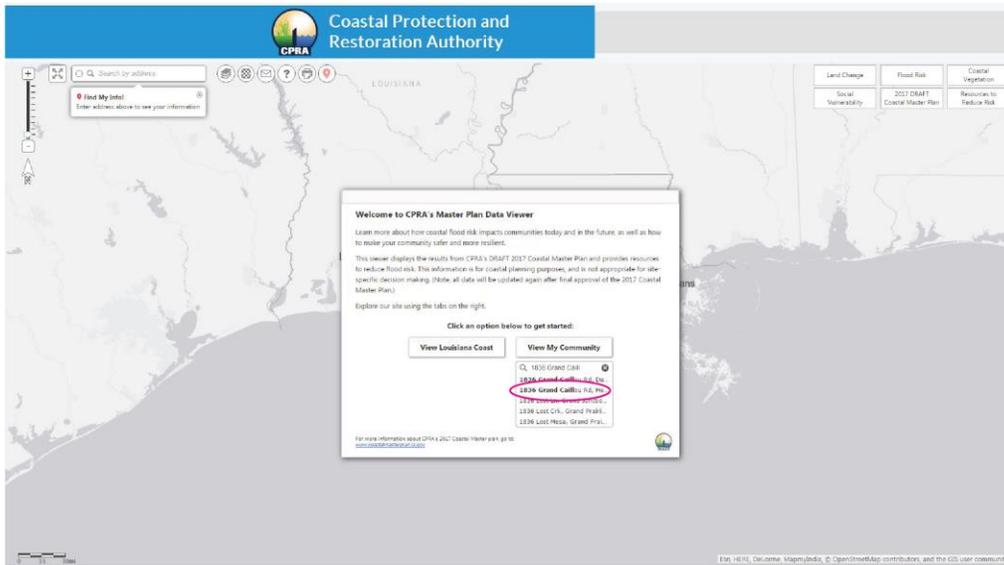
2. How do I learn about flood risk and resilience in my area?
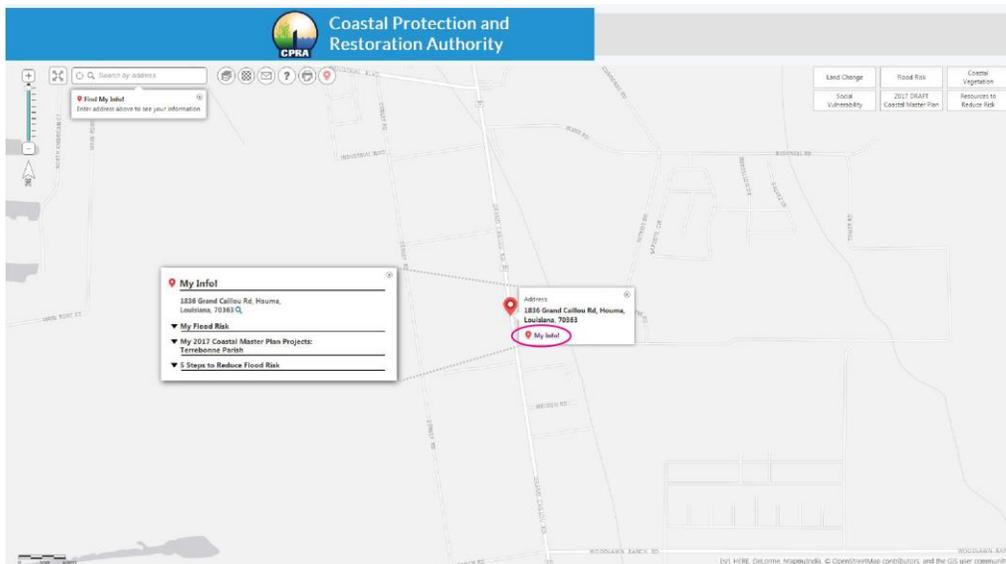
   1. Click "View My Community."
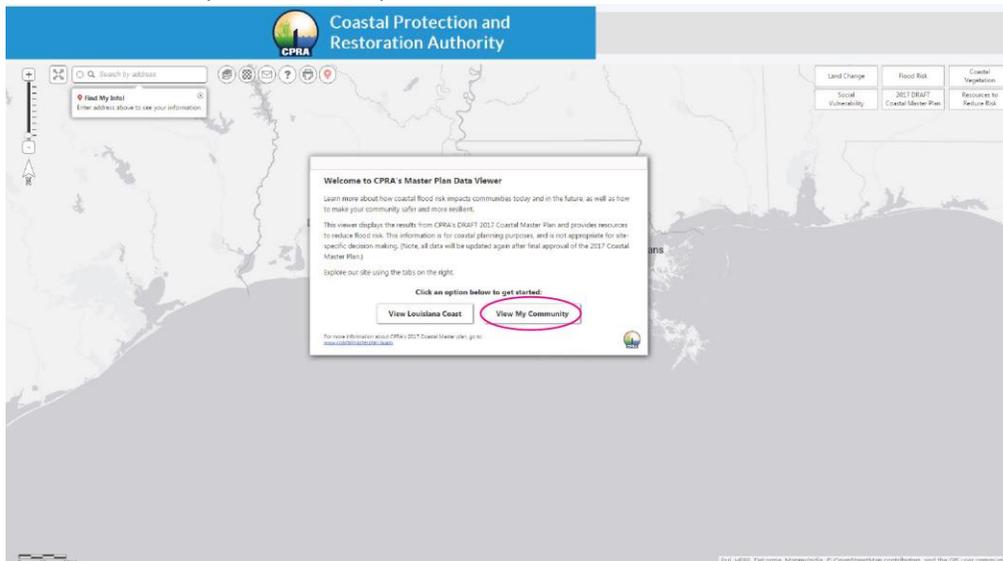
2. Enter your address.

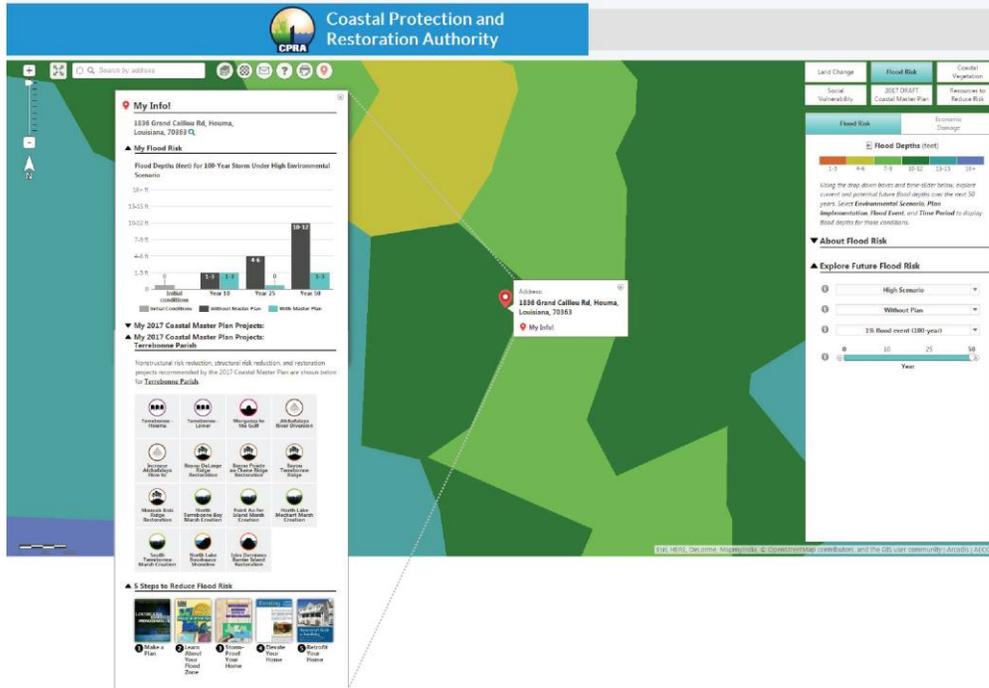3. Click "My Info!."

4. Explore three drop down fields for an overview on:
   - **My Flood Risk-** shows estimated flood depths in your area
   - **My 2017 Coastal Master Plan Projects-** shows the nonstructural risk reduction, structural protection, and restoration projects recommended for your parish
   - **5 Steps to Reduce Flood Risk-** links to five things you can do to reduce your flood risk

3. Where can I get help using the viewer?

If you need further assistance, please contact the CPRA Master Plan team at masterplan@la.gov.

4. What are some of the limitations of the viewer's information?

The data displayed through the viewer are products of CPRA's 2017 Coastal Master Plan analysis, which included assumptions about our built and natural environments and how these environments may change in the future. Broadly speaking, the planning effort made assumptions about how the coastal landscape may change due to factors like sea level rise and subsidence and how future population change and development may occur. While this viewer provides residents with detailed information about what could happen over the next 50 years, there is always uncertainty in projecting the future. Very detailed explanations of the environmental scenarios, predictive models, and other elements of the planning process are available through the 2017 Coastal Master Plan Appendices.

5. How were flood depths measured?

Flood depths were measured as the height of the floodwaters above the ground level. Note that the ground level was assumed to be an average elevation taken at the center of each CLARA grid cell. This elevation was an estimate which may be slightly different than the estimate noted on your local floodplain map developed by FEMA due to different factors considered. For additional information on your elevation and current flood risk, also

see the LSU Ag Center [Louisiana's Flood Maps](). These maps enable users to study flood and wind hazards at your site and to explore how flood maps are changing in your parish.

6. How was flood risk determined?

To estimate flooding, 60 synthetic storms with different intensities, sizes, and landfall locations were modeled across the coast. These simulations, along with the relative likelihood of each storm occurring, provided an estimate of flood depths across Louisiana's coast for the initial condition, and at 10, 25, and 50 years in the future.

It should be noted that for all areas outside a levee system, flood depths were determined by the height of the floodwaters or storm surge above ground level. This did not include any flooding due to rainfall. In areas entirely enclosed by a levee, flooding included both rainfall and storm surge inundation due to levee overtopping or breaching.

7. How was economic damage determined?

Economic damage was determined by the value of assets in a given area (grid point) and the depth of flooding the assets are subject to. Assets included:
- Residential structures (single family homes, multi-family homes, and manufactured homes)
- Businesses & commercial structures
- Public facilities
- Industrial structures
- Agricultural crops and structures
- Roads, railroads, bridges
- Vehicles

Economic damage for a given area also included the value of assets directly damaged, as well as repair or replacement costs, and other direct economic impacts such as cost of evacuation, loss of sales, loss of income, and relocation costs.

8. Does the master plan consider future population change/growth?

The 2017 Master Plan considers future population change by taking into account three population scenarios which vary by overall annual coast wide growth rate, as well as different localized growth rates due to differences in population density, land loss rates, and flood depths. The population growth scenarios are based on historical development trends, but also reflect the divergent pathways that future growth could take over the 50-year period of analysis. As number and location of assets are generally assumed to be proportionate to population growth, the population scenarios influence plausible future flood damage to better represent future uncertainty and support the comparison of proposed structural and nonstructural risk reduction projects.

9. Why are there three different environmental scenarios?

The Louisiana coast is dynamic and future changes in the built and natural environments are uncertain. The Master Plan modeling effort incorporates this uncertainty by using multiple future scenarios to account for continued environmental change over the next 50 years. These environmental scenarios affect the coastal Louisiana landscape (total land area), flood depths (the height and extent of future storm surge based flooding), and economic damage (the range of economic impacts on buildings and infrastructure due to different flood depths).

For the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, three environmental scenarios reflect differences in six key environmental drivers considered to have uncertain outcomes over the next 50 years. The three environmental scenarios are Low, Medium, and High, which incorporate different assumptions about eustatic sea level rise (global change in sea level), subsidence (sinking of land), tropical storm intensity, tropical storm frequency, evapotranspiration, and precipitation. The values of these variables included in each scenario represent a range of plausible options based on the best available scientific research, and do not necessarily represent "best-case" or "worst-case" environmental conditions.

10. How were the 2017 Master Plan projects selected?

Restoration and risk reduction projects were selected for their ability to 1) build or maintain land and 2) reduce flood risk, respectively. Extensive public engagement in the plan development process ensured that master plan projects were both scientifically sound had broad based community support. Click here for more information on the 2017 Master Plan development process.

11. How are nonstructural risk reduction projects developed?

Nonstructural risk reduction projects are recommended for various communities across the coast and are shown in "Nonstructural Projects" under the "2017 Coastal Master Plan" tab. These projects are often located in areas outside of existing or proposed structural protection systems to provide resources and flood risk reduction measures for at-risk residents living in the most vulnerable areas.

Projects were based on the structure type (residential or nonresidential) and the level of flooding an area was subject to. The below mitigation standards correspond to CPRA 100-year flood depths that the nonstructural measures are designed to mitigate (plus two feet of required freeboard for elevation projects) for either year 10 or year 25 future flood depth conditions.

The 2017 Coastal Master Plan considers three types of mitigation measures including:
- Floodproofing of non-residential structures is recommended in areas where the mitigation standard is less than three feet above grade
- Elevation of residential structures is recommended in areas where the mitigation standard is between 3-14 feet above grade

- Voluntary acquisition for residential structures is recommended in areas where the mitigation standard is greater than 14 feet above grade

Thus, if an area experiences six feet of future flooding, residential structures are proposed to be elevated to eight feet in order to account for the required two feet of freeboard. Similarly, an area that experiences thirteen feet of flooding would be eligible for voluntary acquisition, as structures would need to be elevated greater than 14 feet in order to account for two feet of required freeboard.

Nonstructural projects proposed for the initial implementation time period (year 1-30) are defined by 100-year future flood depths for year 10 under the High environmental scenario; nonstructural projects proposed for the later implementation period (year 31-50) are defined by 100-year future flood depths for year 25 under the High environmental scenario (see FAQ #16 for more information about environmental scenarios).

12. Is there a list of homes and businesses that qualify for elevation or floodproofing?

CPRA does not have a list of specific structures recommended for mitigation or that qualify for nonstructural funding. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan's nonstructural recommendations are meant to be for coast wide planning purposes based on estimates of how many structures are in a given project area and the flood depths in that project area. These project locations will be further examined by parishes and local officials for the implementation of elevation, floodproofing, and/or voluntary acquisition for particular structures.

13. Can local planning decisions be made using this data?

The viewer is a useful resource to inform broad parish or community-level planning decisions. However, local planners and public officials are encouraged to conduct additional location-specific floodplain analyses to make more detailed plans.

14. Can I apply to CPRA for funds to elevate my home?

Currently, CPRA does not have allocated funding to implement nonstructural projects. Nonstructural project recommendations are based on the assumption that this funding will become available in the future. However, we have compiled an easy-to-read pamphlet describing currently available funding sources in the *Pocket Guide to Funding Resources: Reducing Flood Risk For Homeowners + Renters + Business Owners.*

Also, other state agencies may currently have funding available. Use the links below to access these resources.
- **Governor's Office of Homeland Security**
- **Office of Community Development**

15. How up-to-date is the viewer data?

The viewer is based on land loss and flood risk data produced for the Coastal Master Plan, which is updated every five years. The data currently shown was produced for the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, and it will be revised for the 2022 Coastal Master Plan. However, more detailed information about the status of project implementation will be updated quarterly to reflect CPRA's ongoing project activities across the coast.

16. Can I print or save maps from the viewer?

Yes, all the maps can be printed or saved. To print or save your map, first select the print icon at the top of the webpage (second to the right). You can then select preferred output type (pdf or jpg), map quality (fast, good, or best), and if you would like the map scaled to fit the full state of Louisiana within the printed page (yes or no). If you would like to print your current view extent, select no scaling. After pressing the print button, a "Download print" link will appear and this will open the page to be printed in a new browser tab. You can then print or save an image of your map.

17. Can I download specific datasets from the viewer?

Currently, the viewer does not directly support downloading of data; however, this feature will be added after the plan is finalized by the State Legislature. This data and a much wider array of geospatial coastal information are available through CPRA's Coastal Information Management (CIMS) Spatial Viewer.