

Flood Risk and Resilience Viewer

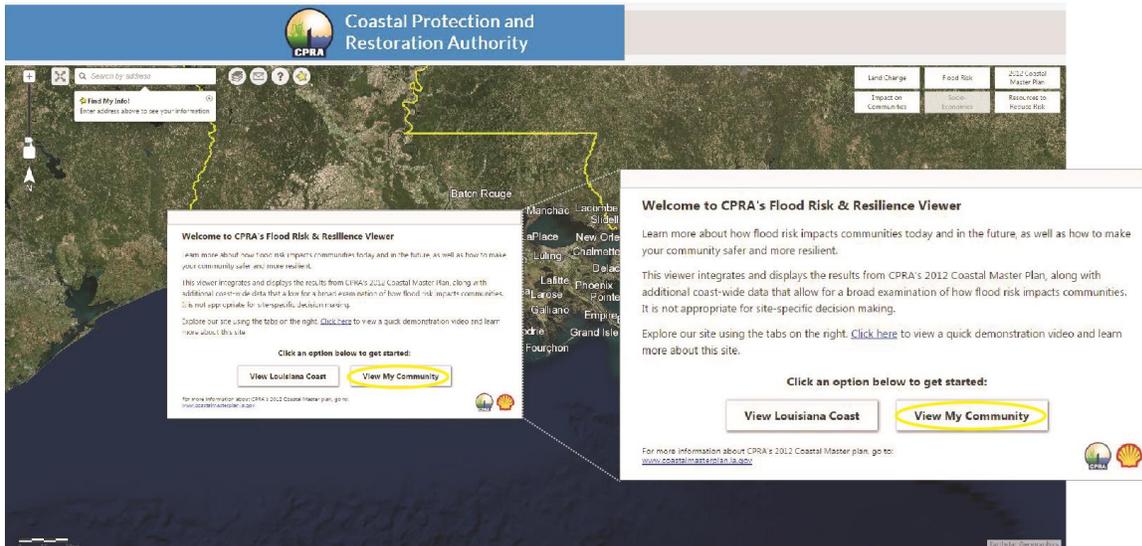
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How can the viewer assist me?

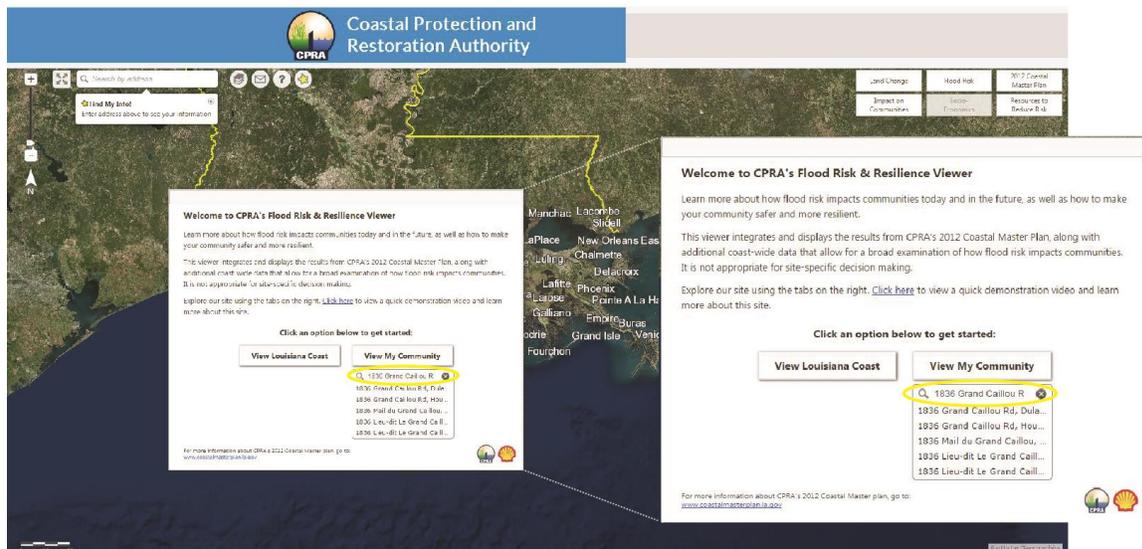
Based on the data used to support development of the 2012 Coastal Master Plan, the Flood Risk and Resilience Viewer shows land loss and flood risk across the coast, as well as the ongoing and future protection and restoration projects that will make our communities more resilient. If you are a homeowner 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. 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. How was this tool developed?

This viewer was developed by CPRA in partnership with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and funded by a grant from the Shell Corporation. Many state and local partners who are involved with flood risk, outreach, and mitigation activities also provided excellent input on the tool's development. These partners are listed below, and they offer additional useful resources:

- [Bayou Interfaith Shared Community](#)
- [Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#)
- [The Data Center](#)
- [Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness](#)
- [LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio](#)
- [LSU Agricultural Center](#)
- [Louisiana Sea Grant](#)
- [Restore or Retreat](#)
- [Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance](#)
- [University of New Orleans Center for Hazards, Assessment, Response, and Technology](#)



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

The data displayed through the viewer are products of CPRA's 2012 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 [2012 Coastal Master Plan Appendices](#).

6. 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 a census block. 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 [LSU Ag Center's Flood Insurance Rate Maps \(FIRMS\)](#). These maps enable users to study flood and wind hazards at your site and to explore how flood maps are changing in your parish.

7. How was flood risk determined?

To estimate flooding, 40 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 current condition, 25 years in the future, 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.

8. How were economic damages determined?

Economic damages were determined by the value of assets in a given area (census block) 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 damages 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.

9. How were community assets determined?

The assets used to calculate damages were based on 2011 inventories which were derived from several sources of data including FEMA, 2010 US Census, and US Army Corps' Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) study. These assets were then projected out over the next 50 years using assumptions about regional growth and urbanization. Assets were generally assumed to grow proportionally over time with population growth, with the exception of agricultural crops and transportation infrastructure (roads and bridges).

10. Why are there two 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 future conditions are commonly referred to as the "Moderate" and "Less Optimistic" Environmental Scenarios; however, it should be noted these do not represent a best-case or worst-case scenario but rather plausible scenarios of future change.

A range of future uncertainties in environmental factors are included in the Scenarios. Factors evaluated under Environmental Scenarios include: sea level rise, subsidence, storm frequency, storm intensity, rainfall, evapotranspiration, river sediment load, river nutrient concentrations, and marsh collapse threshold.

11. How were the 2012 Master Plan projects selected?

Restoration and protection projects were selected for their ability to 1) build or sustain 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 2012 Master Plan development and project selection process.

12. How are nonstructural protection projects determined?

Nonstructural projects are recommended for various communities across the coast and are shown in “Nonstructural Projects” under the “2012 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 as determined by FEMA’s most currently available flood maps.

- **Floodproofing:** Recommended for residential and non-residential structures in areas with current 100-year flood depths of 3 feet or less (based on FEMA’s flood maps) above the structure’s foundation height.
- **Elevation:** Recommended for residential structures in areas with current 100-year flood depths between 3 and 18 feet based on FEMA’s flood maps; Elevation is recommended to FEMA’s BFE+1, or to one foot above the “Base Flood Elevation” (BFE) which is considered the 100-year flood depth.
- **Voluntary Acquisition:** Recommended for residential structures which would need to be elevated greater than 18 feet to reach the BFE+1 based on FEMA’s flood maps.

The viewer displays portions of project areas that are populated and shows where nonstructural projects could be implemented.

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

The recommendations for nonstructural projects (including elevation, floodproofing, or voluntary acquisition) are conceptual and meant to be for coast-wide planning. These recommendations are based on estimates of how many structures are in a given project area and the flood depths in that project area. There is not a list of specific structures that qualify for nonstructural funding. However, these project locations were deemed as key areas that should be further examined for the implementation of elevation, floodproofing, and/or voluntary acquisition projects.

14. 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.

15. Can I apply to CPRA for funds to elevate or floodproof 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 [“A 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](#)

16. 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 2012 Coastal Master Plan, and it will be revised for the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. However, more detailed information about the status of project implementation will be updated **annually** to reflect CPRA’s ongoing project activities across the coast.

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 in the future. This data and a much wider array of geospatial coastal information are available through CPRA’s [Coastal Information Management \(CIMS\) Spatial Viewer.](#)