

JUNE 2022

# BAYOU ST. JOHN VISIONING STUDY

## SUMMARY REPORT


SCAPE





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*Gray bridge, silver guardrails. A palm tree. Oak trees along the bank. A billowing thicket of ornamental grasses. Clouds so white they're almost pearlescent. A kayaker in a red shirt, yellow boat, black paddle. Cars bunching along Carrollton Avenue. A speckled dog swimming. A ledge of cement along the shoreline, crumbling in places. Whir of a passing cyclist. Music drifting. Young people in shorts and floral sundresses, spreading a blanket. Ducks gliding by, creating a tiny, triangular wake. Houses with reddish roofs and jutting dormers. And the water — blue-brown expanse of subtle textures, riffling in the breeze."*

Cassie Pruyn, author of  
"Bayou St. John: A Brief History"



# A UNIFYING VISION FOR BAYOU ST. JOHN

Bayou St. John is a beloved public space stewarded by a dedicated and diverse set of stakeholders. In recent years, many organizations have worked to benefit the health of the bayou and the experience of its visitors. On any given Sunday afternoon, residents from across the city can be found reading, eating, kayaking, playing music, and otherwise celebrating the bayou along its banks.

Over the past several months, local nonprofit Friends of Bayou St. John has been working with local landscape architecture office SCAPE to conduct a visioning study of the bayou from Lafitte Greenway to Esplanade Avenue. Through site research, stakeholder engagement, and conceptual design iteration, the Design Team has produced a high-level holistic vision.

The Bayou St. John Visioning study aims to catalyze public and private investment in the waterway by providing a cohesive and aspirational narrative for Bayou St. John's future.

Specifically, the Study seeks to achieve the following three goals:

- Formalize a cohesive and community-informed vision for the Study Area
- Develop Illustrative graphics to support stakeholders in advocating for targeted improvements
- Catalyze investment from public and private partners

At the time of this document's completion, no plans exist to implement the suggested strategies. Rather, the Visioning Study is intended as a catalyst that can be built upon and carried forward by community organizations, non-profits, and government agencies.

While the vision will undoubtedly evolve over time, the following goals, strategies, and graphic representations are tools in advocating for and achieving positive change through targeted projects along the bayou.









# PROJECT BACKGROUND

# BAYOU ST. JOHN

Bayou St. John is a historically and culturally vital waterway that has benefited its stewards and visitors for millennia. As New Orleans endures to redefine its relationship with water, Bayou St. John's rich history and vibrant present provide an exciting ground for imagining positive futures.

## **Pre-Colonial Bounty**

For centuries before colonization, Indigenous communities fished and traveled along Bayou St. John. The waterway was referred to as "Bayouk Choupic." Many different tribes stewarded the waterway, including the Chitimacha, predominant inhabitants of the land that is today known as New Orleans. In 1706, French colonizers Bienville and Iberville were introduced to the bayou by Indigenous peoples as a shortcut from Lake Pontchartrain to the Mississippi River.

## **Industrial Necessity**

As New Orleans developed throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, Bayou St. John served as an important shipping route between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi. In the 1790s, the Carondelet Canal opened, and the bayou was dredged to make room for larger vessels. For the most part, Bayou St. John's character became increasingly industrial throughout this period. However, postcards from the turn of the twentieth century also show New Orleanians using the waterway for pleasure.

Small settlements sprung up along the bayou's high ground and at its confluence with Lake Pontchartrain, but for the most part the banks remained swampy and forested with Bald Cypress trees. The expansive swamp padding the bayou acted as a sponge, absorbing storm surges from the lake to protect development further south.

## **Modern Flood Risk**

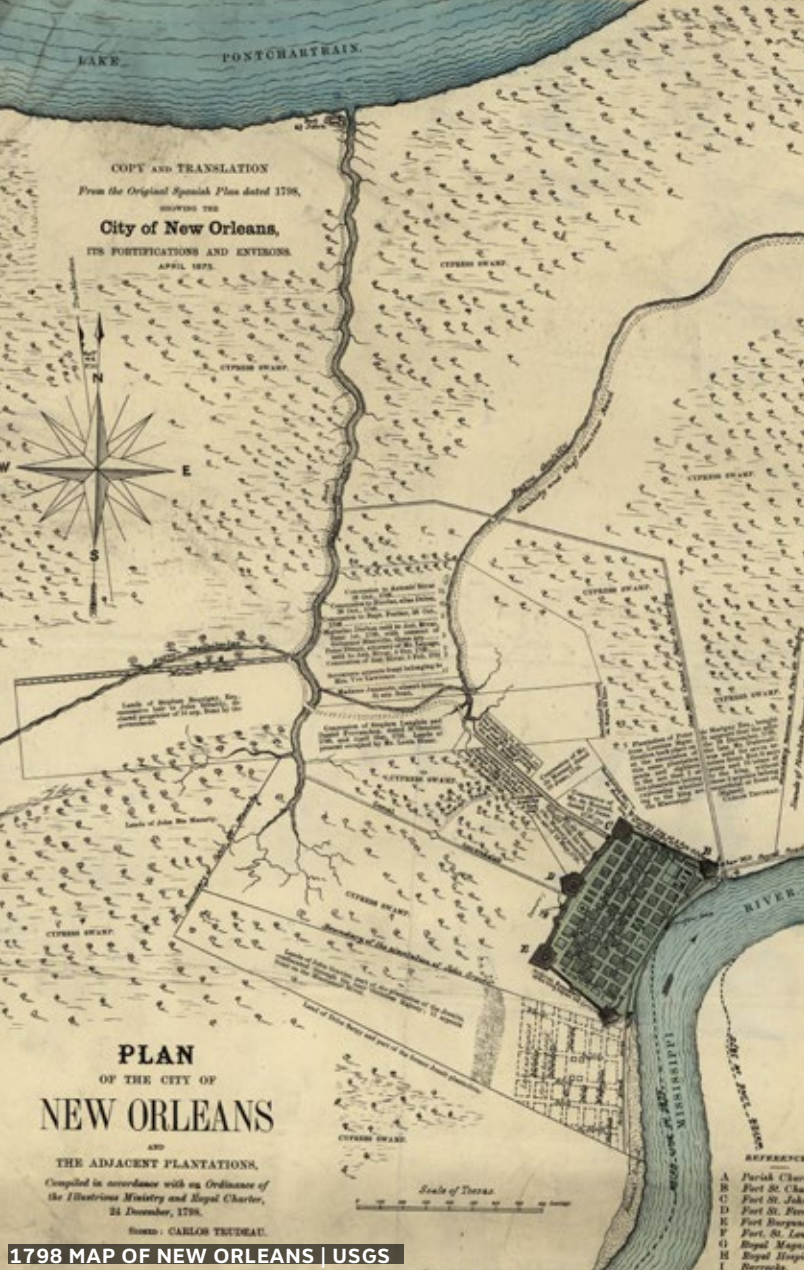
As New Orleans' population and housing needs grew in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Bayou St. John's cypress swamps were gradually eaten away to make room for the many historic homes that characterize the surrounding neighborhoods today. Storm surges from Lake Pontchartrain became a dangerous hazard for residents.

Further, the Bayou St. John shipping route that had been vital to New Orleans' initial development had fallen out of fashion. The New Basin Canal had absorbed most of the Carondelet Canal's traffic by the turn of the twentieth century, causing the outdated canal's closure in 1924.

Today, Bayou St. John is not meaningfully connected to New Orleans' drainage system. A series of midcentury infrastructure improvement projects isolated the waterway from other hydrological systems to prevent storm surges from the lake. In recent years, a new floodgate at Lake Pontchartrain has replaced some of these aging solutions.

## **Cherished Amenity**

Today, the Bayou is a cherished recreational amenity that cheekily displays signs of its storied past. Old bulkheads, both concrete and wooden, crumble into the water. An overflow valve at the bayou's dead-end is left over from mid-century industrial ambitions. Southern Live Oaks and Bald Cypress trees call back to a time long before Moss Street. In the coming decades, Bayou St. John's stewards have the exciting task of honoring Bayou St. John's many histories while building on the strengths of its enthusiastic community.



1798 MAP OF NEW ORLEANS | USGS



1903 POSTCARD



1945 AERIAL VIEW FROM LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN



1950S DREDGING OF THE BAYOU



EARLY 1900S POSTCARD

# ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Throughout the vision planning process, the team engaged a group of key stakeholders representing a wide range of organizations that steward Bayou St. John. A full list of stakeholders engaged can be found at the end of this document.

The team began with an in-depth existing conditions analysis studying Bayou St. John's history and culture, hydrology, ecology, and adjacent land use patterns. Documents produced through this process can be found in Appendix A: Site Walk Packet.

The following engagement process utilized virtual surveys and stakeholder calls as well as two in person events. The engagement timeline was as follows:

- **Site Walk** (February 9)
- **Stakeholder Survey** (February 9-23)
- **SCAPE Office Charette** (February 21)
- **Stakeholder Workshop** (March 16)
- **Targeted Meetings** (as needed)
- **Bayou Boogaloo** (May 20-22)

## Site Walk

To kick off the Bayou St. John visioning study, a site walk along the full extent of the study area was organized. Throughout the walk, the team observed critical features of the waterway while collecting targeted input from stakeholders. Following the site walk, a survey was shared with the stakeholder group to further understand early preliminary goals for the site. Feedback from the site walk and survey was used to develop a draft vision.

## SCAPE Office Charette

The study team hosted a design charette at SCAPE's New Orleans office to further iterate on the input gathered at the site walk. SCAPE team members developed focused strategies that respond to the challenges and opportunities observed in the study area, both as expressed by early stakeholder input and as observed through existing conditions analysis.

## Stakeholder Workshop

Following the completion of a draft vision, the team re-engaged stakeholders through a virtual workshop session. The workshop was organized into discussions around the three draft goals that ultimately shaped the final vision: **connected bayou, healthy bayou, and beautiful bayou**. The workshop was held on Zoom with study team members recording input on the visual collaboration platform Miro. Feedback from the workshop was used to inform revisions to the draft vision.

## Bayou Boogaloo

The study team shared the final vision at the Mid-City Bayou Boogaloo Festival. The festival was an opportunity for area residents and the public to engage with the work to date. The study team's hope is that the vision developed here will be carried forward and evolved by its surrounding community and stakeholders.



FEBRUARY SITE WALK | © SCAPE



BAYOU BOOGALOO ENGAGEMENT | © SCAPE



VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP | © SCAPE



BAYOU BOOGALOO ENGAGEMENT | © SCAPE



The background of the page is an aerial photograph of a forest with a winding path. The image is rendered in a halftone dot pattern, with the dots becoming denser and smaller towards the right side of the page. The colors are muted, showing shades of green, brown, and grey.

# THE VISION

# VISIONING GOALS

The diverse suite of strategies developed through the Bayou St. John Visioning Plan fall into three broad goals: **connected bayou, healthy bayou, and beautiful bayou.**

Each goal responds to needs expressed by stakeholders, as well as challenges and opportunities identified through analysis of existing conditions. Strategies will evolve and grow over time in accordance with momentum, feasibility, and changing stakeholder needs. The three goals, however, are intended to unite disparate opportunities to center a continuous, synthesized vision.

The goals are summarized below. The following pages provide further information including high-level strategies and precedent imagery for each goal.

## Connected Bayou

Promoting accessibility, safety, and connectivity between the bayou and the urban fabric of New Orleans is a primary goal. The study area ties into City Park and the Wisner Trail to the north, and the Lafitte Greenway and Norman C. Francis Greenway to the south. Enacting pedestrian and bicycle friendly infrastructure that ties together these networks will improve the City's multimodal connectivity overall. Further, advocating for sidewalks or accessible pathways, protected bike lanes, and traffic calming strategies will ensure that traversing the bayou's banks is not

only possible, but safe and comfortable for community members of all ages and abilities.

## Healthy Bayou

Encouraging water quality and healthy hydrological patterns in the bayou and connected water bodies is a primary goal. The bayou's diverse history is made clear by the layers of infrastructural fragments at its edges and beneath its surface. Taking steps to naturalize, maintain, and connect Bayou St. John will promote biodiversity and lead to a healthy, self-sustaining water body. Creating opportunities for New Orleans residents to understand the ecological, historic, and social water-based narratives evident in the bayou will form more complex and productive relationships between the City's residents and the hydrological systems that surround them.

## Beautiful Bayou

In recent years, Bayou St. John's banks have become a site for live music, exercise classes, picnics, and countless other social and cultural activities. Supporting this dimension of the bayou by providing opportunities for public art and light-touch social gathering infrastructure is a primary goal. A more expansive tree canopy, benches, lighting, sculptures, and street murals are all strategies that could nurture a beautiful bayou.





EXISTING SIGNAGE + PUBLIC ART | © SCAPE



DETERIORATING BULKHEAD | © SCAPE



BAYOU ST. JOHN AT ESPLANADE AVE | © SCAPE



PATHS OF DESIRE | © SCAPE



YOGA ON BAYOU ST. JOHN | © SCAPE

# CONNECTED BAYOU

Lafitte Greenway and Wisner Trail should be connected for regional bicycle mobility

Continuous sidewalks on both sides of the Bayou should be a bare minimum

Moss Street is too busy for neighborhood kids to ride their bikes to the Bayou

Throughout stakeholder engagement efforts, issues of connectivity and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians was a consistent concern. The study area represents a break in bicycle connectivity that, if remediated, would connect Lake Pontchartrain to Uptown and the French Quarter. Ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities can safely access the bayou is a strong priority. The following strategies were identified to create a more connected bayou:

- Create an off-street connection between the Lafitte Greenway and Wisner Trail, with a preference for permeable and accessible surface materials such as crushed aggregate
- Convert Moss Street to a one-way on both sides of the bayou to create space for a continuous protected on-street bike lane
- Implement a woonerf (shared street) in front of Cabrini High School to experiment with pedestrian-centered traffic patterns and events
- Implement traffic calming strategies such as rumble strips, bollards, and high-visibility crosswalks at all intersections along the study area





BELL STREET PARK | SEATTLE, WA | TERRY REED



ASPHALT MURAL | NEW YORK CITY, NY | SUPERFRESHDESIGN



CLEMATIS STREET | WEST PALM BEACH, FL | DOVER, KOHL & PARTNERS



SLOW STREET | NEW ORLEANS, LA | SCOTT THRELKELD



COLORFUL BOLLARDS | ISLINGTON, UK | VASCO



JACKSON STREET RECONSTRUCTION | SAINT PAUL, MN | BRUCE BUCKLEY



PROTECTED BIKE LANE | NEW ORLEANS, LA | CREATIVE COMMONS



STREET MURAL | BALTIMORE, MD | GRAHAM COREIL-ALLEN

# HEALTHY BAYOU

In a perfect world, the Bayou would connect to the City's channels and the floodgate would stay open more frequently

Naturalized banks and floating wetlands along the bayou would encourage ecological health

Native plant and animal species like blue crabs and cypress will improve the bayou's water quality and ecology

Bayou St. John's water quality and ecology are the clearest indicators of its industrial past. Although the bayou is connected by weirs to the City Park lagoons and by a flood gate to Lake Pontchartrain, these structures are often closed. Various bulkhead conditions along the bayou present a challenge to ecosystem growth. The following strategies were identified to create a healthier bayou: :

- Reliably connecting the bayou with the wider hydrological systems surrounding it, including the St. Louis Canal, City Park lagoons, and Lake Pontchartrain
- Revise the City Park weir and Lake Pontchartrain floodgate schedules to circulate water through the bayou at a consistent routine of flow
- Remove the bulkhead and naturalize banks where possible, planting native species and fostering native wildlife; Install floating wetlands where naturalizing banks is not possible
- Create opportunities for water monitoring and water quality education, such as in front of Cabrini High School, New Harmony High School, and the St. Louis Canal intersection





**WILD MILE | CHICAGO, IL | BIOMATRIX**



**WATER RE-USE PROJECT | SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA | TURF DESIGN STUDIO**



**INTER-TIDAL POOL | NEW YORK CITY, NY | ELIZABETH FELICELLA**



**CLEAR CREEK STORMWATER BASIN | ATLANTA, GA | STEVE CARRELL**





RECYCLED PARK | ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS | CLEAR RIVERS



BLUE CRAB | CREATIVE COMMONS



TINKER'S CREEK | OHIO



GREAT EGRET | CREATIVE COMMONS

# BEAUTIFUL BAYOU

The activity along the bayou is great, and minimal interventions like picnic tables and kayak launches could support it

It's so hot on the bayou that spending too long there in the summer can be dangerous

There is room for more local public art projects and music along the bayou

Throughout the study area, Bayou St. John has undoubtedly become a social spine for neighboring communities. Small-scale interventions could foster the continued use of the bayou as a valuable public space in New Orleans' urban fabric without over developing a cherished public space. The following strategies were identified to create a more beautiful bayou:

- Plant native trees (such as Southern Live Oak and Bald Cypress) to establish shade for thermal comfort along the bayou
- Add furniture and fixtures where appropriate, including benches, solar lighting, centralized restroom, and trash cans
- Provide opportunities for local public art, including street murals, public performances, and sculpture
- Create active program opportunities that can generate revenue such as kayak launches, food and beverage pop-ups, and public event spaces





**Sycamore Creek Headwaters Stream Restoration**

As one of Sycamore Creek Headwaters Park's tributaries, the Sycamore Creek Headwaters Stream Restoration project will improve the Sycamore Creek Watershed and the City of Blue Ash.



Ohio SEPA

**SUMMIT PARK SIGNAGE | BLUE ASH, OH | MKSK**



**HOUTAN PARK | SHANGHAI, CHINA | TOURENSCAPE**



**CITY PARK WILDFLOWERS | NEW ORLEANS, LA | CREATIVE COMMONS**



**GREEN CITY MARKET | CHICAGO, IL | TESS GRAHAM**



MORGAN FALLS LAUNCH | ATLANTA, GA | NPS/JOHN HUTH



CONGO SQUARE | NEW ORLEANS, LA | REBECCA BYRNE



AUDUBON PARK | NEW ORLEANS, LA | AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE

# ILLUSTRATIVE VISION PLAN

MAIN  
LAWN

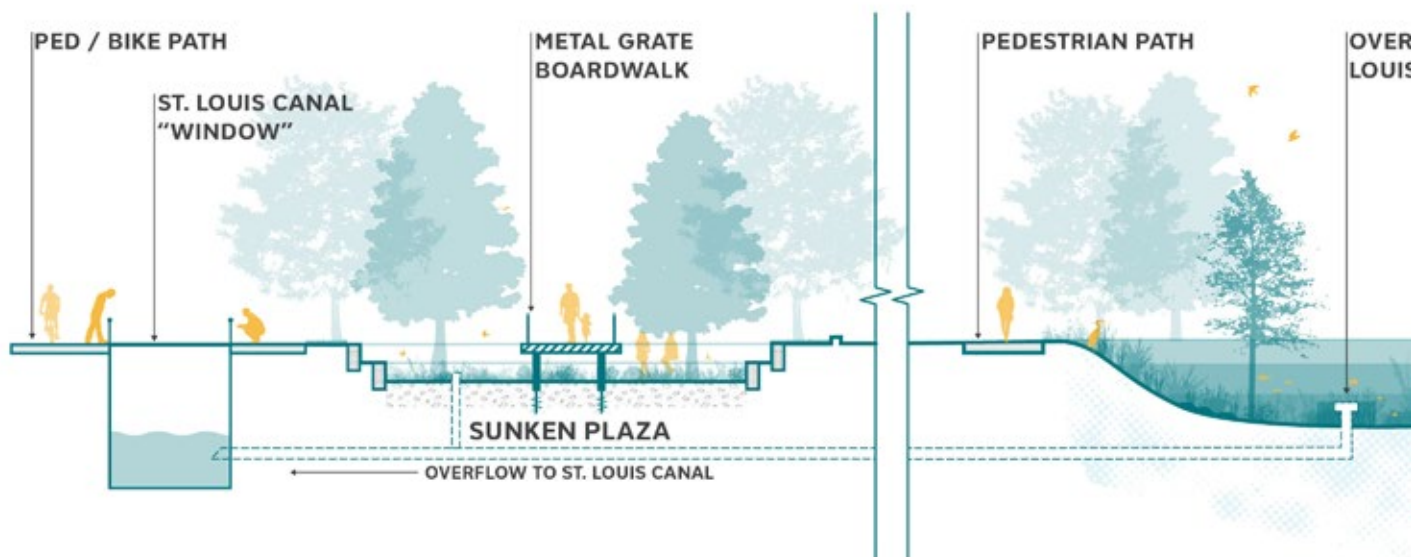
COMMUNITY  
BACKYARD

CONFLUENCE  
PLAZA



MARSH  
MEANDER

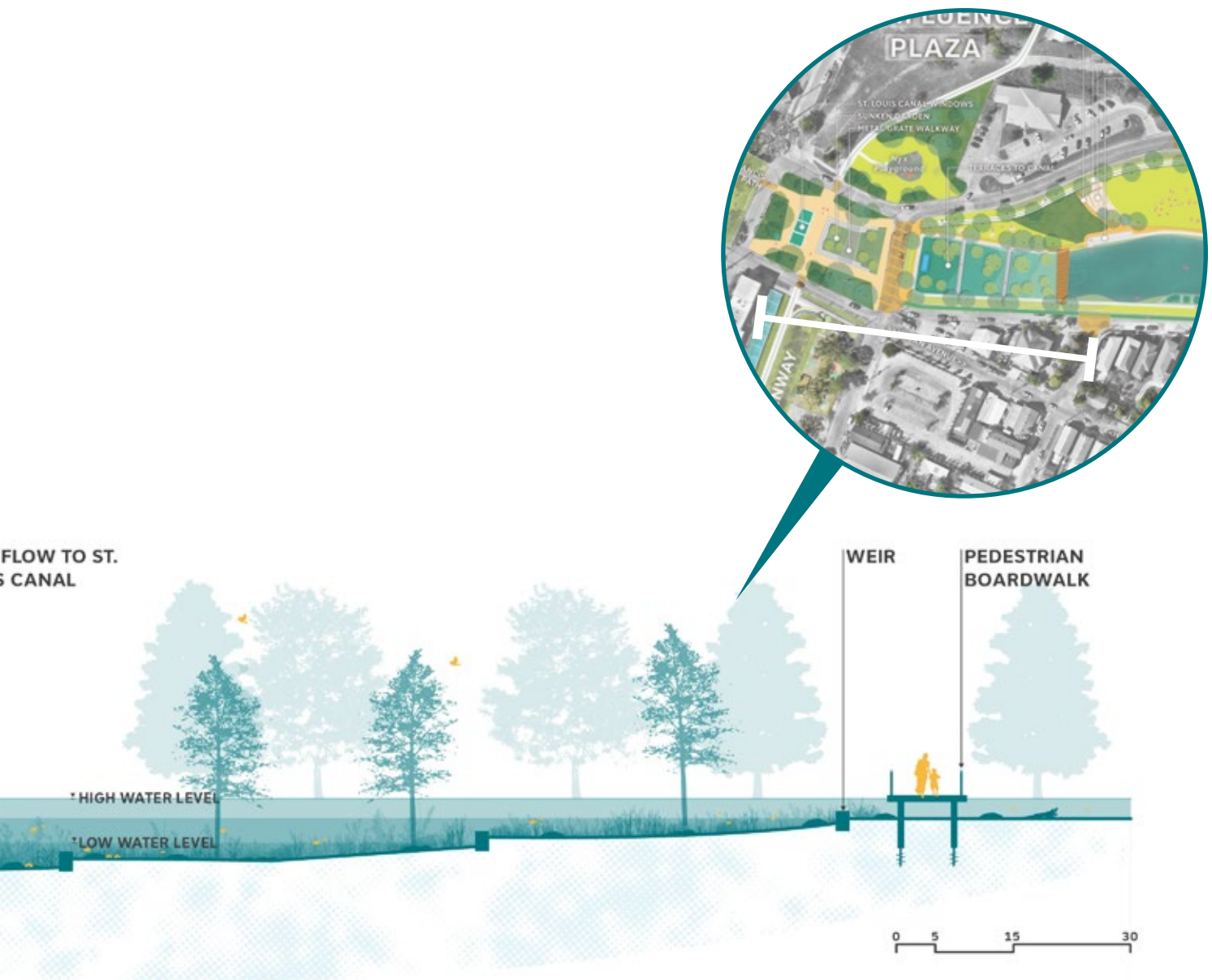
ECOLOGICAL  
LABORATORY



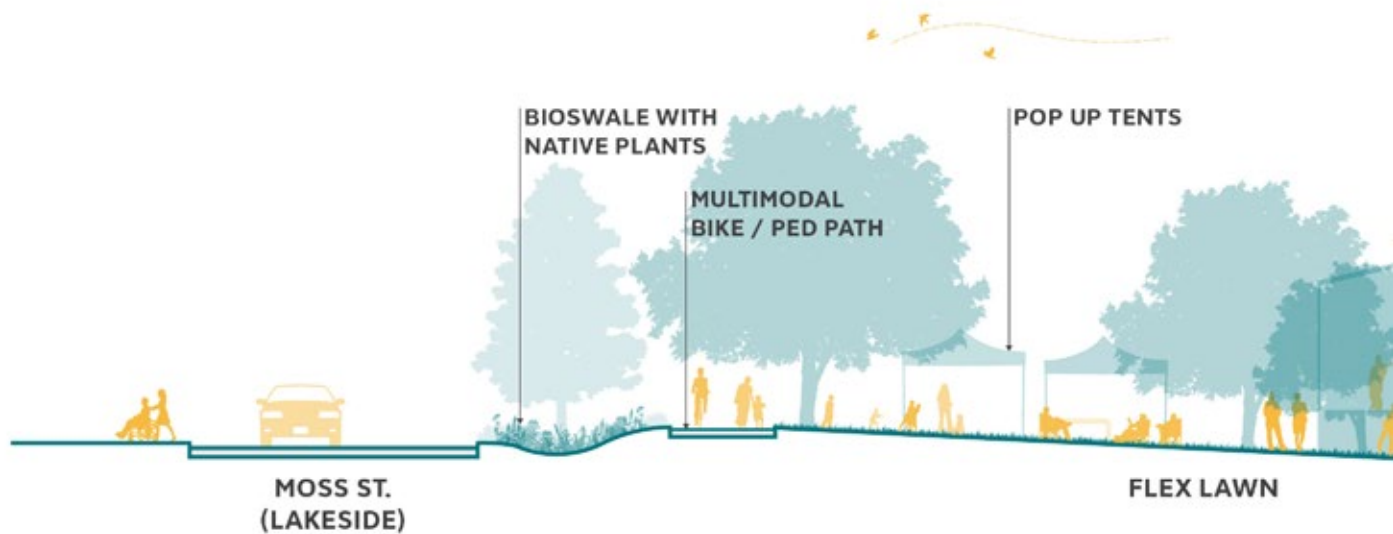
## CONFLUENCE PLAZA

Currently, Bayou St. John “dead ends” into Lafitte Avenue. The plaza is located at the “confluence” of the Lafitte Greenway and Norman Francis Parkway Bike Trail. The area current hosts successful program and events such as the Crescent City Farmers Market. Underground, another confluence takes place. Bayou St. John visually ends at Lafitte Avenue but continues beneath ground to the St. Louis Canal through an existing overflow valve. Daylighting a portion of the St Louis Canal and tracing the connection between bayou and canal would create a unique interpretive plaza.





The design proposal seeks to restore the riparian vegetation at the bayou's endpoint through a series of terraces and weir structures. The plaza is activated through an engineered overflow system to draw down the bayou and allow an influx of water from Lake Pont. This would improve the water quality of the bayou. The area seeks to “uncover” and activate the water systems below revealing a robust physical and social infrastructure unique to New Orleans.



## MAIN LAWN

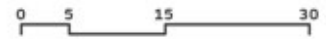
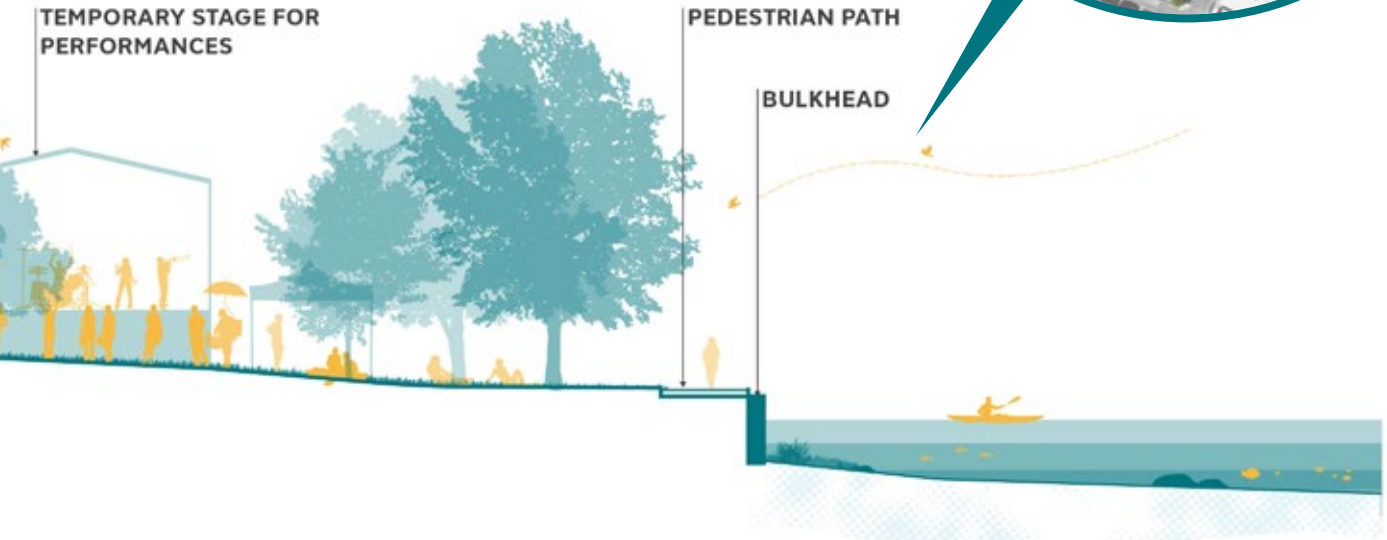
Many social and cultural events on Bayou St. John currently take place on the generous western bank between Lafitte Avenue and Orleans Avenue. This southern end of the bayou has a diverse land-use pattern including single-family, commercial, and multi-family. While the flexibility and informal nature of this “Main Lawn” are part of its appeal to New Orleanians, the study recommends a series of peripheral interventions to improve accessibility and support new adjacent programs.



TEMPORARY STAGE FOR PERFORMANCES

PEDESTRIAN PATH

BULKHEAD



# CONFLUENCE PLAZA

NORMAN C. FRANCIS  
PKWY BIKE TRAIL

LAFITTE GREENWAY

Nyx  
Playground

MULTI-MODAL PATH

PAVILION

KAYAK LAUNCH

BOARDWALK  
TERRACES TO  
THE CANAL

WOONERF

METAL GRATE WALKWAY

SUNKEN GARDEN

ST. LOUIS CANAL WINDOWS

<<HAGAN

# MAIN LAWN

<<TOULOUSE ST>>

POP-UP EVENT FLEX SPACE

PEDESTRIAN PATH

FLOATING WETLANDS

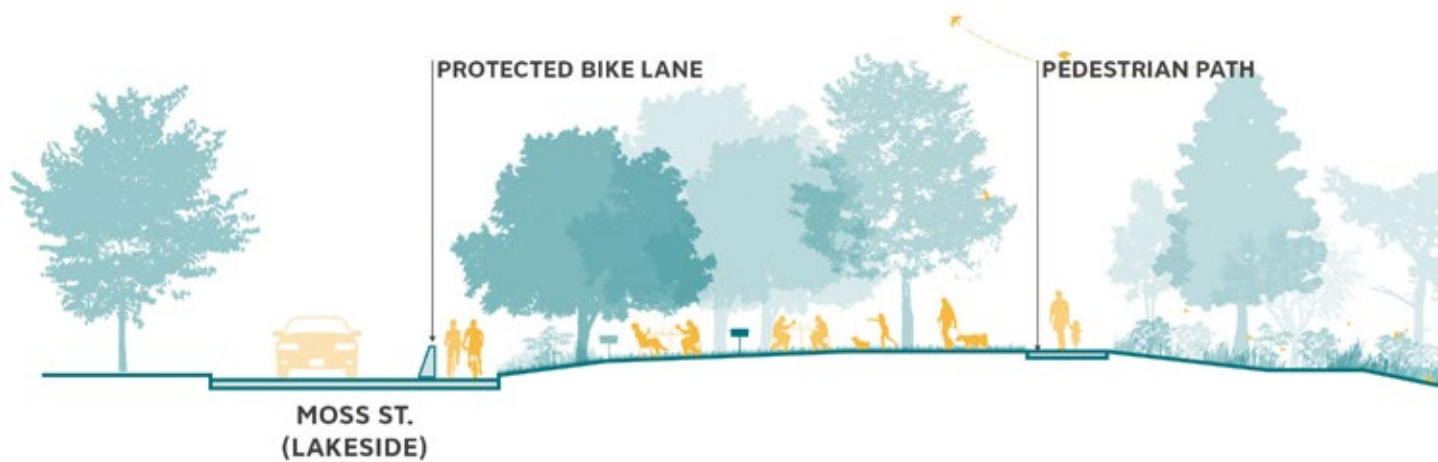
Future Green  
Space

<<MOSS ST>>

<<ORLEANS AVE>>  
>>ORLEANS AVE<<

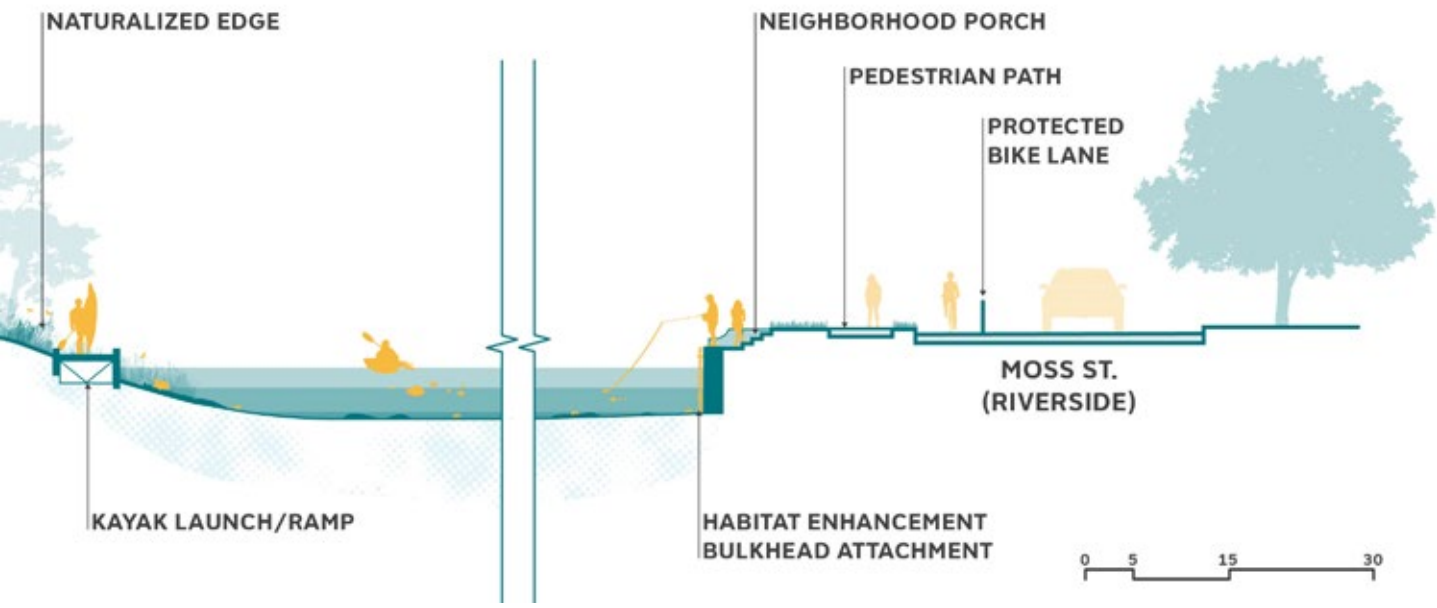
<<MOSS ST>>

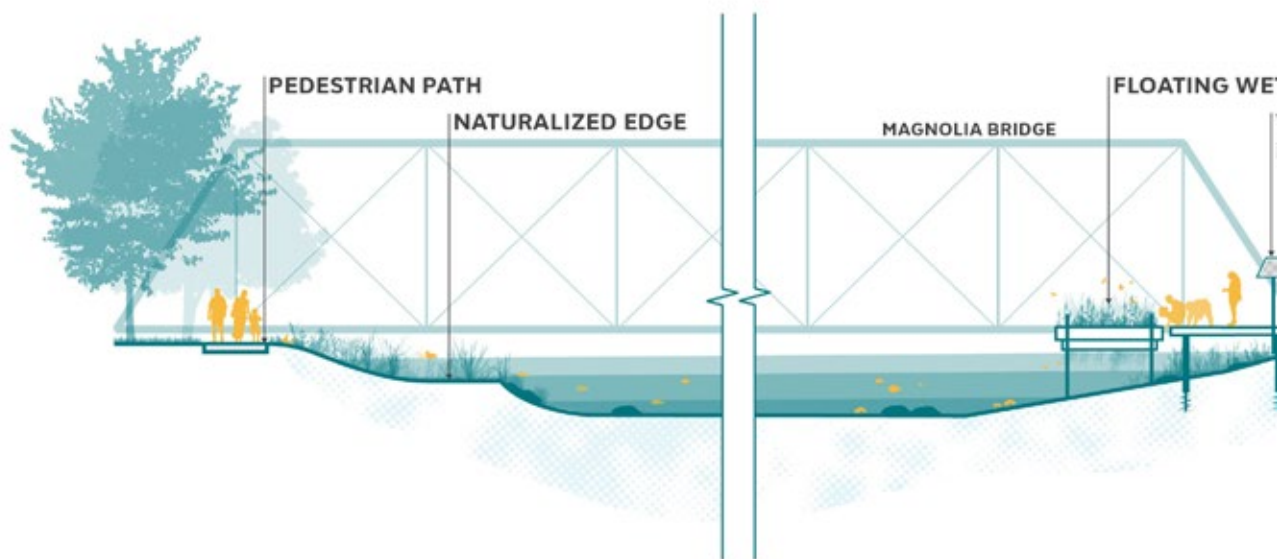
AVE>>



## COMMUNITY BACKYARD

From Orleans Avenue to Grand Route St John Street, the bayou's banks begin to narrow and are bordered primarily by single-family residential properties. Through this zone, the study recommends efforts to naturalize banks, restore riparian vegetation, and create opportunities for engagement with the water's edge. The recommendations' aim is to prioritize ecological restoration and create spaces that are appropriate for small gatherings to serve the surrounding community.





## ECOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Cabrini High School, New Harmony High, and the institutional organizations that surround it create a condition for more ambitious interventions that target a younger group of stewards. There are less residential properties from Grand Rt Saint John Street to Esplanade Avenue the stretch of Moss Street in front of Cabrini. This land-use pattern presents an opportunity to explore innovative shared streetscape strategies such as a “woonerf” that prioritizes pedestrian safety. The educational institutions within the zone also provide potential activation by students for water monitoring and water quality education built into school curriculums.



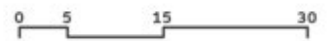


WATER QUALITY MONITORING STATION



MOSS ST. WOONERF (RIVERSIDE)

CABRINI HIGH SCHOOL





HIGHLY VISIBLE CROSSINGS

PICNIC FURNITURE

FLEX LAWN

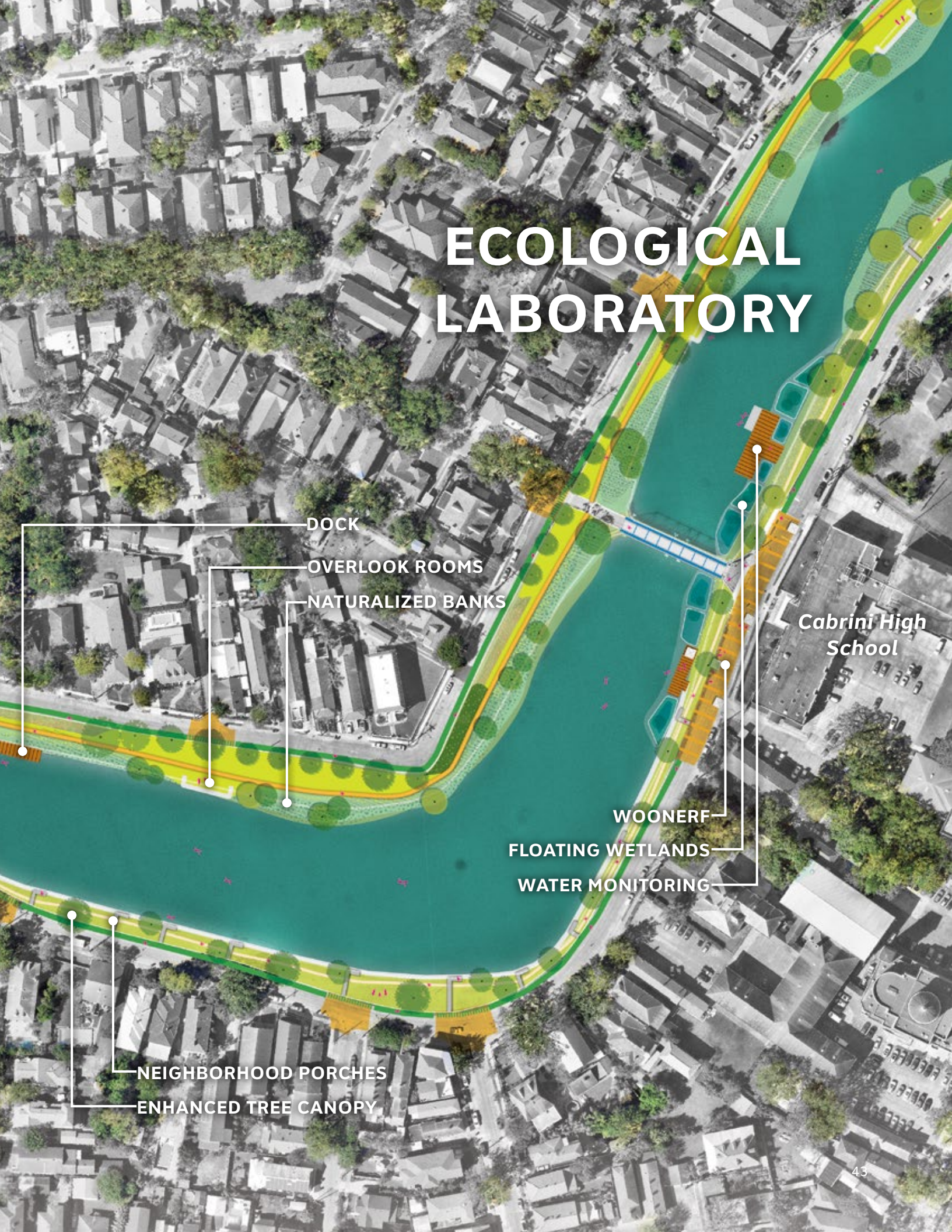
# COMMUNITY BACKYARD

KAYAK LAUNCH

PEDESTRIAN PATH

BIKE LANE

# ECOLOGICAL LABORATORY



DOCK

OVERLOOK ROOMS

NATURALIZED BANKS

Cabrini High School

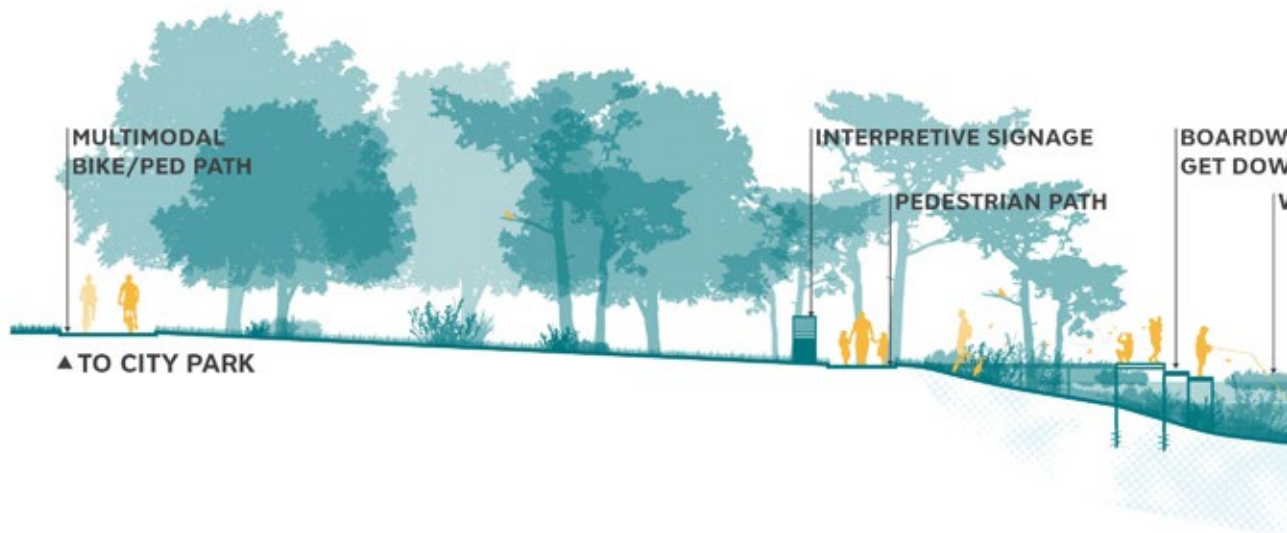
WOONERF

FLOATING WETLANDS

WATER MONITORING

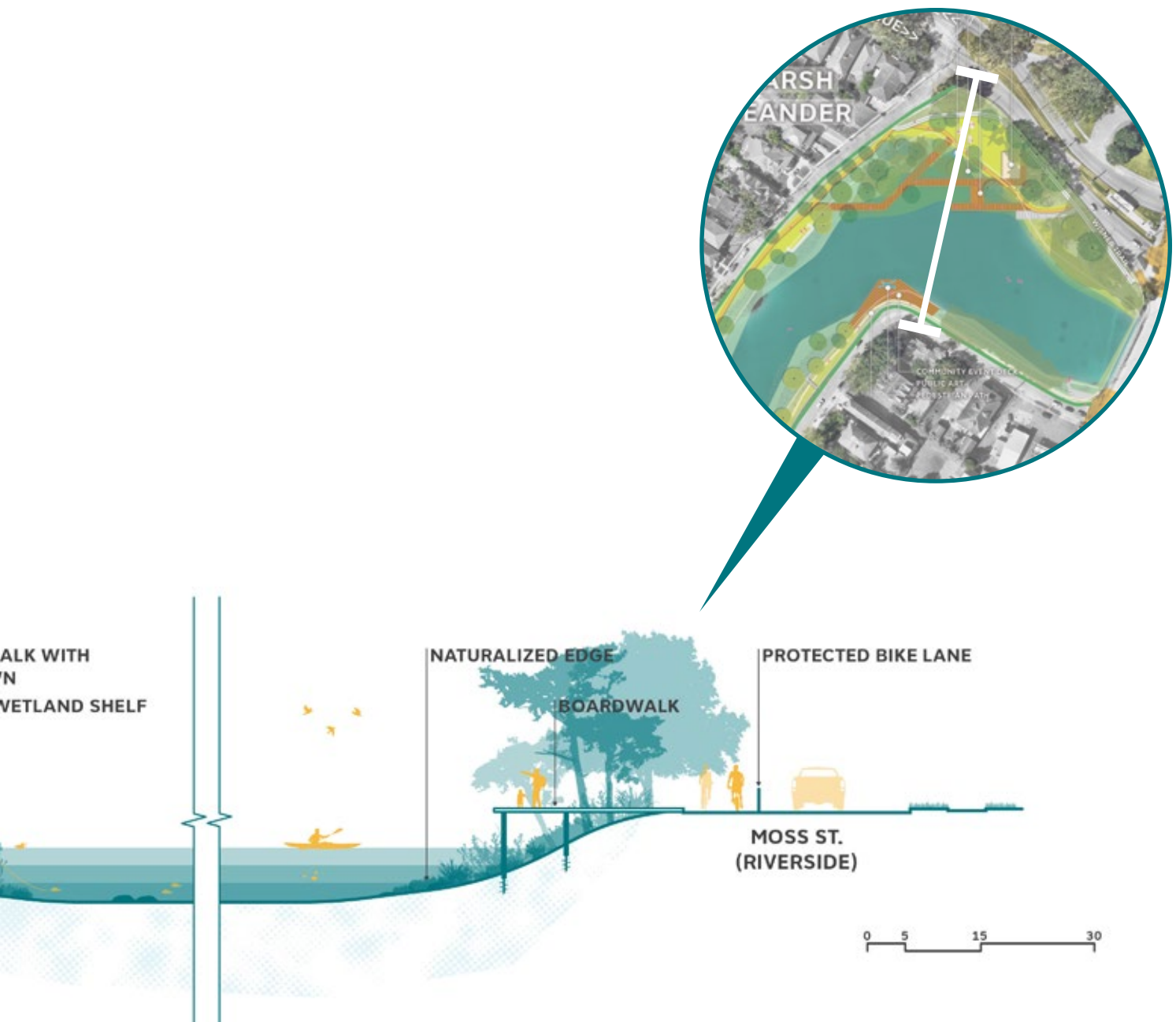
NEIGHBORHOOD PORCHES

ENHANCED TREE CANOPY



## MARSH MEANDER

This turn is representative of the bayou’s birth. Here, Bayou St. John meets the Gentilly Ridge, created by the long-inactive Metairie Sauvage distributary. About a millennia ago, a channel broke free from the Metairie-Sauvage distributary and found its way out to Lake Pontchartrain, creating the water body that we today know as Bayou St. John. Adjacent to City Park, the Marsh Meander is already robustly



naturalized, with a relatively dense shade canopy and native riparian vegetation. Restorative edges filter further up and down the bayou's banks and provide access to the water's edge through an immersive boardwalk system. Boardwalks frame vistas for visitors to take in the iconic New Orleans skyline through a more naturalized setting.



# MARSH MEANDER

<<TAFT PL>>

<<WILSON DR>>

<<DELGADO DR>>

<<WILSON DR>>

Jack Bartlett  
Park

# City Park

- KAYAK LAUNCH
- PAVILION
- PICNIC FURNITURE
- CITY PARK LAGOON WEIR
- IMMERSIVE BOARDWALK

- NATURALIZED BANKS
- PUBLIC ART
- COMMUNITY EVENT DECK
- PEDESTRIAN PATH

Pitot House

<<ESPLANADE AVE<<  
>>ESPLANADE AVE>>

# WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR BAYOU ST. JOHN?



PUBLIC  
ART

BIKE  
LANE

MEADOW

ORLEANS AVENUE





TERRACES TO  
THE CANAL

SHADE  
PAVILION

BOARDWALKS

KAYAK  
LAUNCH

FLOATING  
WETLANDS

EXPANDED  
TREE CANOPY

FLEX  
LAWN

PEDESTRIAN  
PATH

SEATING

BIOSWALE

MULTI-MODAL  
PATH

MOSS STREET

# THANK YOU!

## ENGAGED STAKEHOLDERS\*

**Rhonda Ardoin**, Bayou Paddlesports  
**Hailey Bowen**, Parks and Parkways  
**Burt Cary**  
**Kevin Centanni**, Friends of Lafitte Greenway  
**Pamela Harris-Coward**, Desaix Neighborhood  
**Sophie Harris-Vorhoff**, Friends of Lafitte Greenway  
**Eva Hillman**, Pontchartrain Conservancy  
**Michael Hopkins**, Pontchartrain Conservancy  
**Julia Lightner**, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
**Maisha Mena**, REMIXEcology  
**Shaun Mena**, REMIXEcology  
**Brittany Mulla McGovern**, Parks and Parkways  
**David Muth**  
**Martin O'Connell**, University of New Orleans  
**Emily Painton**, New Orleans Public Library  
**Mark Schexnayder**, Batture LLC  
**Anne Teague Landis**, Landis Construction  
**Grace Vogel**, Sewerage and Water Board

## FRIENDS OF BAYOU ST. JOHN

**Jared Zeller**, Board President  
**Rodney Beals**, Board Secretary  
**Geoff Coats**, Board Member  
**Jason Hemel**, Board Vice President  
**Ian McNulty**, Board Member  
**William Ramsey**, Board Member  
**Sara Howard**, Board Member  
**Becker Rutledge**, Board Member

## PROJECT TEAM

**Chris Barnes**, SCAPE New Orleans Studio Director  
**Jazmin Castillo**, SCAPE Designer  
**Kaede Polkinghorne**, SCAPE Designer  
+ **SCAPE Landscape Architecture, DPC**

**SCAPE**



*\*Due to the highly limited scope of the study, engagement made use of established connections between Friends of Bayou St. John and other Bayou stakeholders. Additional community engagement should be a part of any further planning and implementation efforts.*



My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
celebrating my 25<sup>th</sup> birthday with a BIG group of friends

My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...  
The people and the community

My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
Buying my house on Moss St.

My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...  
picnicking

My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
making friends on floats during Bayou Boogaloo  
♥ - Val from PDX

My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
I'd love to put a memorial bench on the banks of Bayou St. John in memory of my late husband, who loved to walk here.  
Maryann.baudouin@gmail.com

My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...  
The people (Carmel - Bronckley E.)

My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
Fishing and swimming in the bayou

My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
TODAY!  
NOVA AND BOOGALOO ARE BACK!

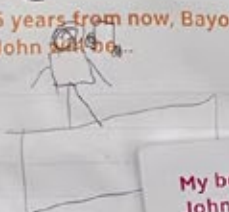
# Let's make Bayou St. John a healthy, beautiful community

My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...  
ALL THE ACTIVITY - KAYAKS, POWERS, etc.

My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...  
Relaxing in a chair on the Bayou and reading a good book

My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...  
Seeing the water walking on it

My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...  
Locals' Music  
The Fun in sitting in Locations, Food, Boats  
E.T.C

5 years from now, Bayou St. John will be...  


My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
getting married ♥♥ at Pitot house

My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
Riding my bike up and down the Bayou... Good times  
P.D. Tolson

My best memory of Bayou St. John is...  
planning wedding

5 years from now, Bayou St. John will be...  
a place where everyone can enjoy the water  
Please

**My best memory of Bayou St. John is...**  
 taking walks during lock down w/ my fav human & pup

**My best memory of Bayou St. John is...**  
 eating crawfish on the bayou

**My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...**  
 paddleboarding and relaxing near the bayou after a long day at work.

**My best memory of Bayou St. John is...**  
 having too many drinks and swimming to the other side and back again

**My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...**  
 Bayou Brunch Fest

**5 years from now, Bayou St. John will be...**  
 A place with 1-2 beach volleyball courts

**We can take care of Bayou St. John by...**  
 having regular days for trash removal

**My best memory of Bayou St. John is...**  
 During "deep covid", having a place to gather with my community that felt safe and filled with love

**We can take care of Bayou St. John by...**  
 taking care of its ecosystem and introducing native species that aid in filtering the water

**My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...**  
 Building our house in Bayou Boeuf like Dilbert House tenants

**5 years from now, Bayou St. John will be...**  
 an enjoyable destination for New Orleansians and visitors

**My best memory of Bayou St. John is...**  
 The Bayou

**5 years from now, Bayou St. John will be...**  
 a zero entry Beach (white sand)

**We can take care of Bayou St. John by...**  
 cleaning up after ourselves post-enjoying its beauty

**My favorite thing about Bayou St. John is...**  
 Keep it clean

**5 years from now, Bayou St. John will be...**  
 with designated sand volleyball court.

**Bayou St. John a  
 fun, and connected  
 community amenity**







**APPENDIX A:  
SITE WALK PACKET**





**BAYOU ST. JOHN VISIONING STUDY**  
**SITE WALK**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022**



**SCAPE**

# CONTEXT

Bayou St. John is a historically and culturally vital waterway that continues to benefit its stewards and visitors.

Indigenous communities fished and traveled along the Bayou, which was referred to as “Bayouk Choupic,” and introduced the waterway to Bienville and Iberville around 1700.

Bayou St. John and the Carondelet Canal served as an important shipping route between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi, enabling New Orleans’ growth throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

By the mid-20th century, Bayou St. John’s cypress swamp had been replaced by dense residential development, and the waterway was isolated to prevent storm surges from the lake.

Today, the Bayou is a well-loved public amenity that benefits and is stewarded by a diverse host of communities and organizations.

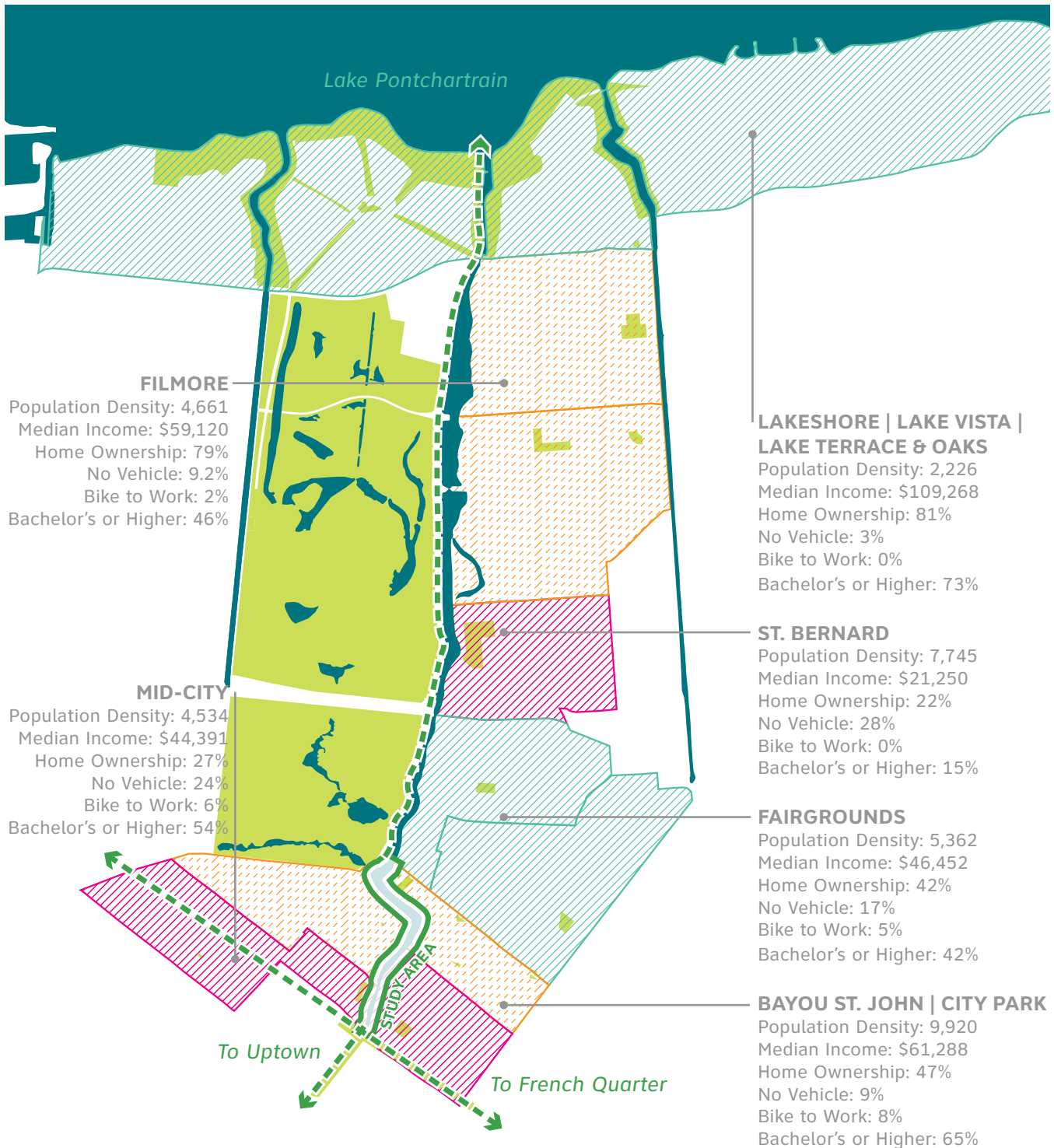
One such organization, Friends of Bayou St. John, has been working over the past several months with landscape architecture office SCAPE to conduct a Visioning Study of the bayou from Lafitte Greenway to Esplanade Avenue.

Although Bayou St. John is beloved by its surrounding community, jointed pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, defunct infrastructure, poor water quality, and bureaucratic maintenance disputes present challenges to the bayou’s potential within New Orleans’ greater urban framework.

The Visioning Study aims to catalyze public and private investment in the waterway by providing a cohesive, aspirational, and actionable narrative for Bayou St. John’s future.



**BAYOU ST. JOHN**  
February, 2022

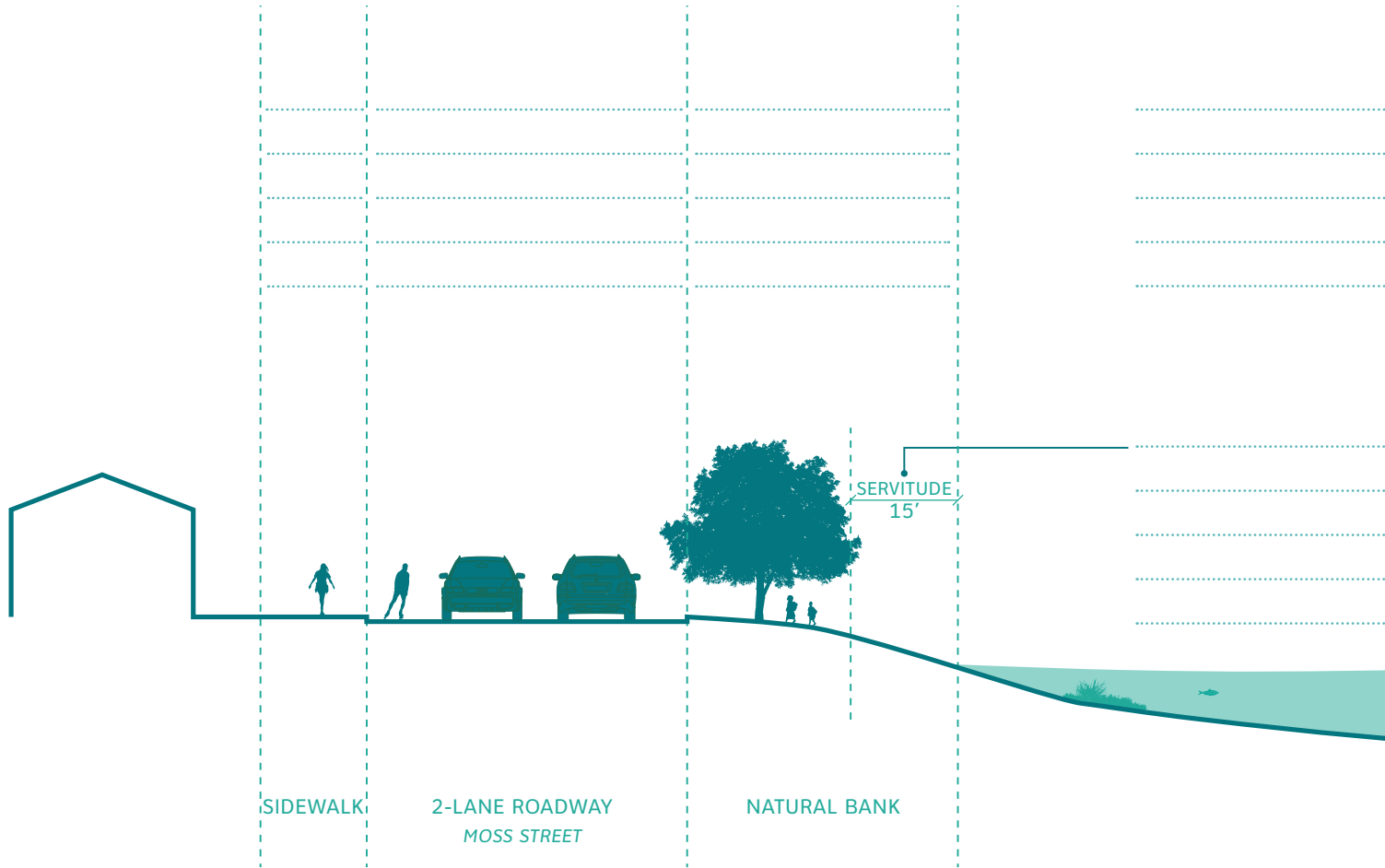


**SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**

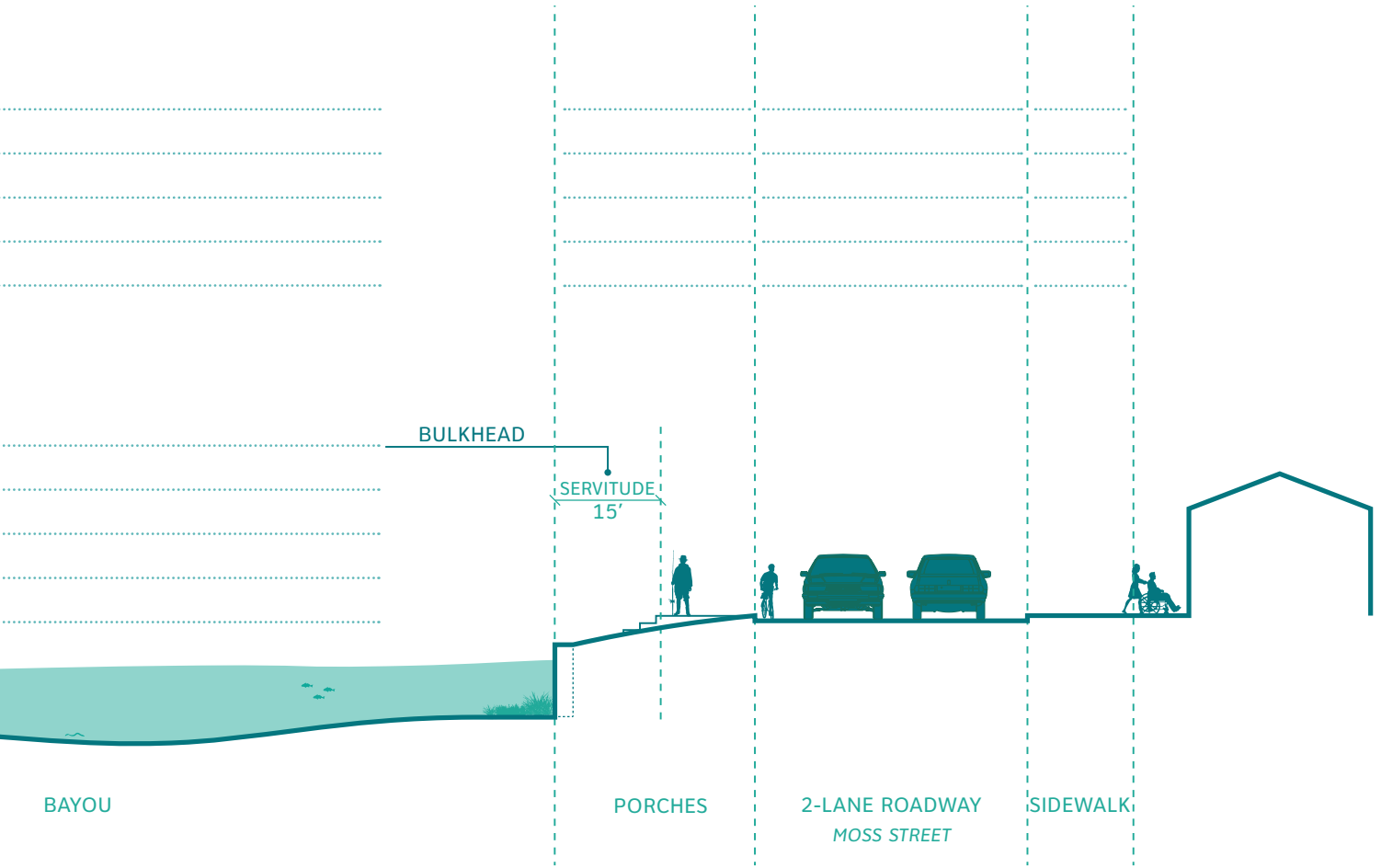


**SCAPE**

# REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WORKSHEET



# STREET



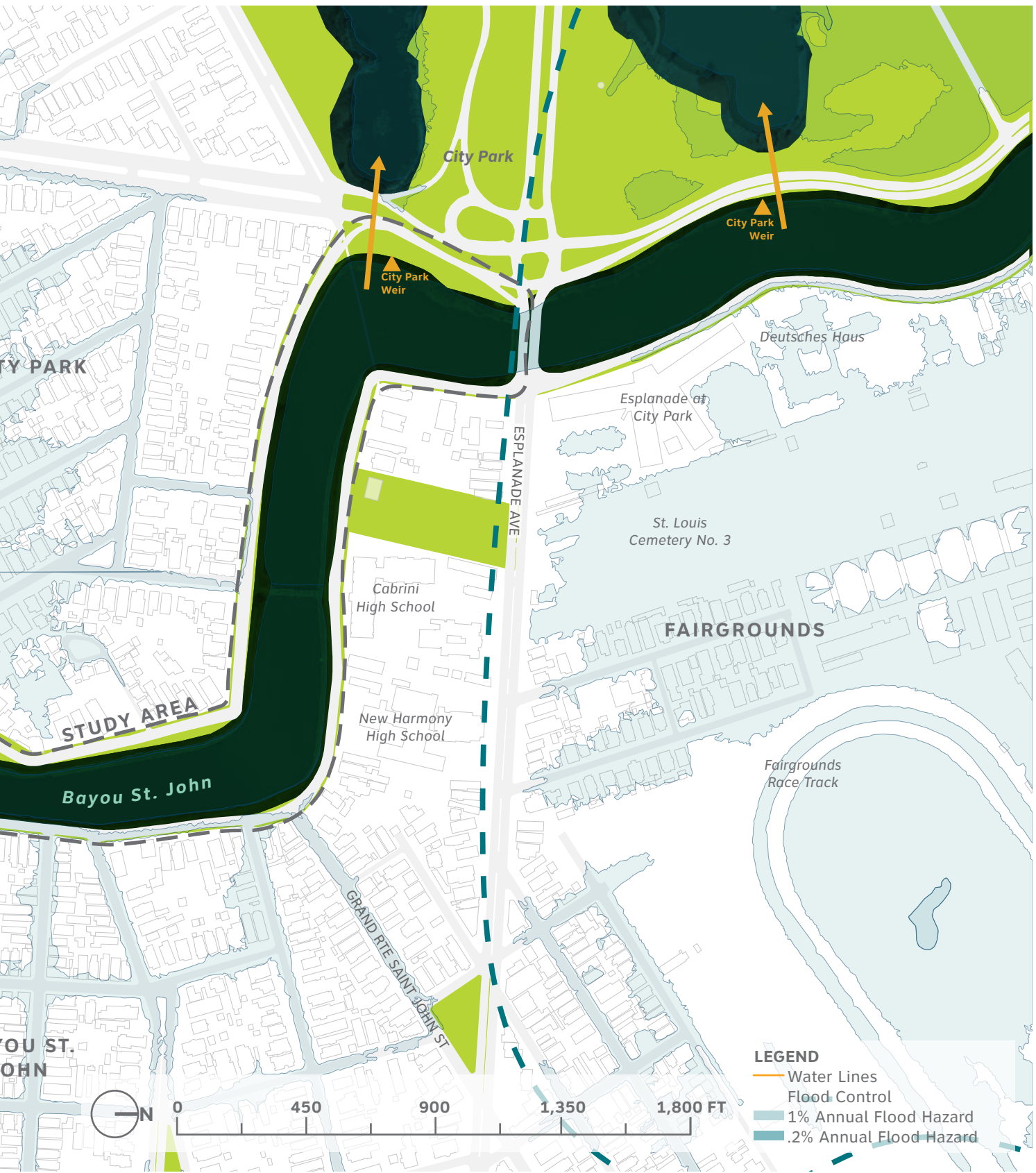
NOTE: This is a typical cross section, and does not represent any specific segment of the bayou to scale.



SCAPE

# HYDROLOGY





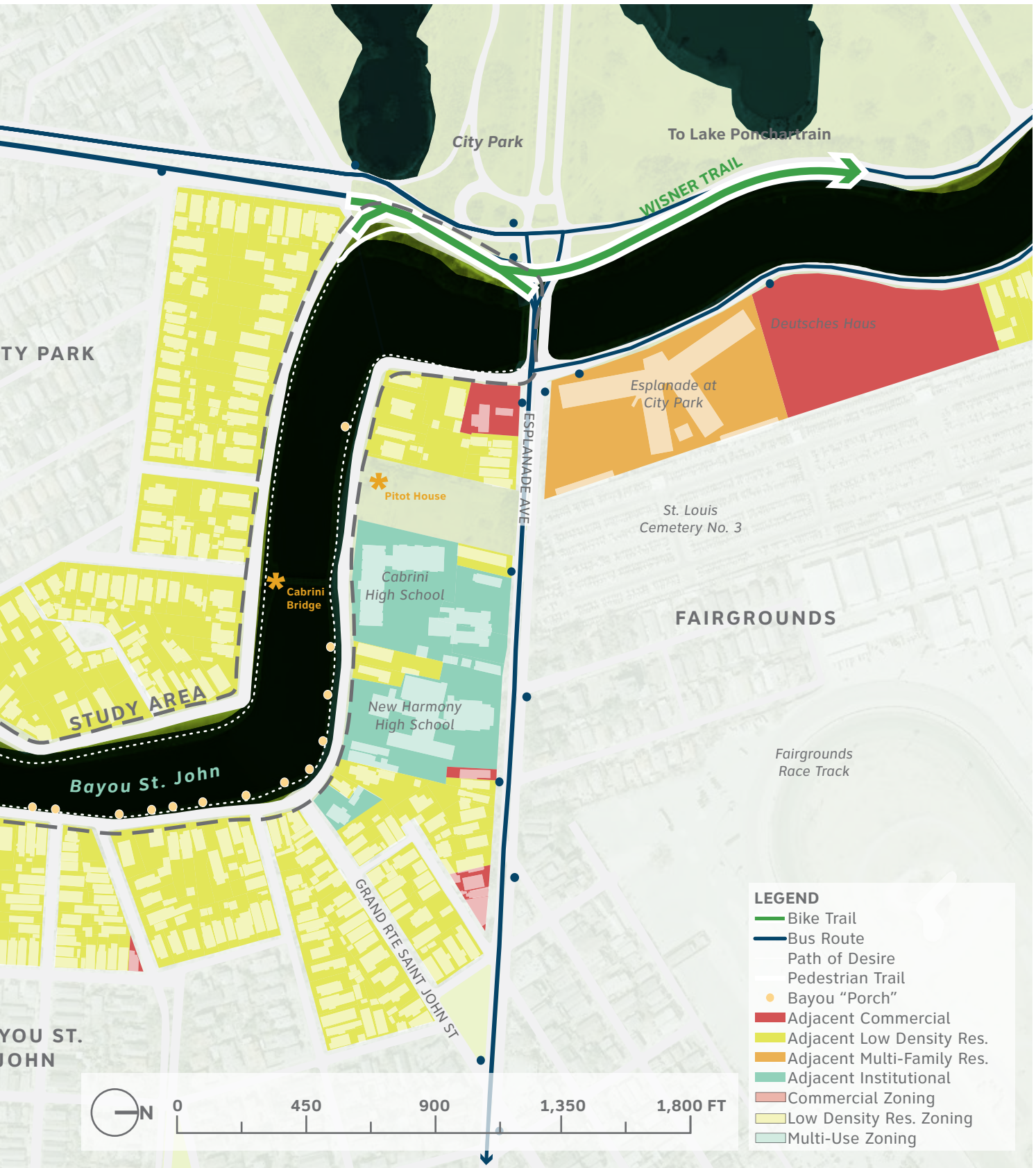
- LEGEND**
- Water Lines
  - - - Flood Control
  - 1% Annual Flood Hazard
  - .2% Annual Flood Hazard



# LAND USE + CONNECTIVITY

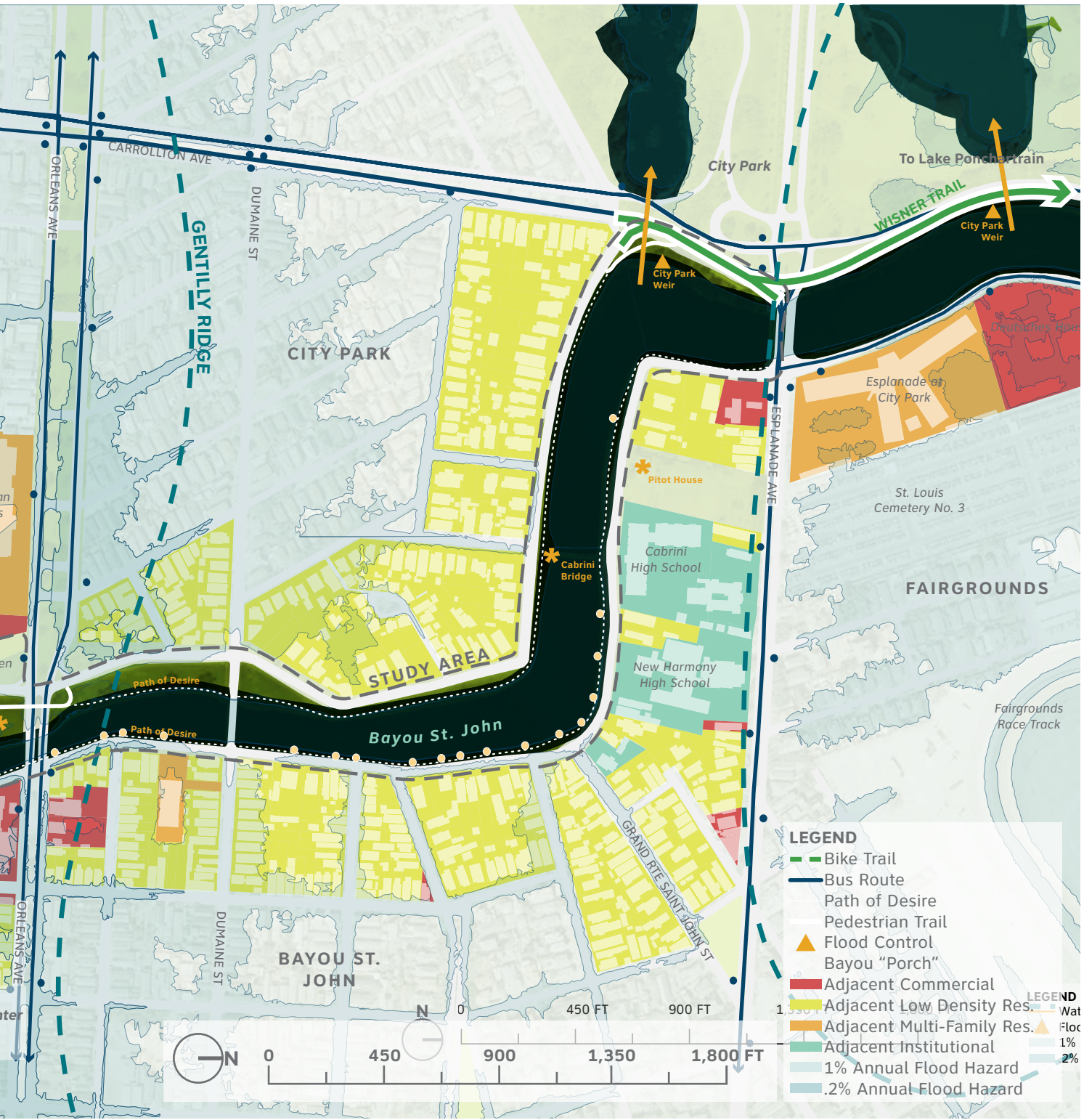






# SYNTHESIS MAP



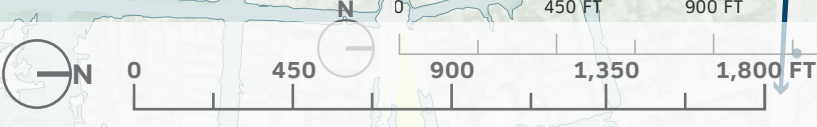


**LEGEND**

- Bike Trail
- Bus Route
- Path of Desire
- Pedestrian Trail
- ▲ Flood Control Bayou "Porch"
- Adjacent Commercial
- Adjacent Low Density Res.
- Adjacent Multi-Family Res.
- Adjacent Institutional
- 1% Annual Flood Hazard
- .2% Annual Flood Hazard

**LEGEND**

- Water
- ▲ Flood
- 1%
- 2%





An aerial photograph of a dense forest, showing various shades of green and brown. The image is overlaid with a dark blue halftone pattern of small dots, which is most prominent in the upper right and lower right areas, fading towards the left. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

# **APPENDIX B: STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**



- CONNECTED BAYOU**
- ▶ CREATE A PRIORITIZED PEDESTRIAN + BICYCLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LARITE GROUNDWATER AND WINDY TRAIL
  - ▶ CONVERT SIDES OF TO A ONE-WAY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BAYOU
  - ▶ IMPLEMENT A NETWORK FROM GRAND ROUTE TO ESTUARINE
  - ▶ IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING STRATEGIES

- HEALTHY BAYOU**
- ▶ CONNECT TO ABANDONED HYDROLOGICAL SYSTEMS INCLUDING THE DE JARRE CANAL, CITY PARK CANALS, AND THE BAYOU
  - ▶ PROVIDE THE CITY WITH BEST AND CLEAN PRACTICES THAT PROVIDE A SCHEDULE TO PREPARE CONCRETE WATER-TIGHT LAUNCHES AND BAYOU AND PREVENTION OF JUMPING WATER LEVELS AND REDUCING WATER QUALITY
  - ▶ CHALLENGE PLANNING WITH A FOCUS ON IMPROVING BAYOU + NOT POSSIBLE

- BEAUTIFUL BAYOU**
- ▶ PLANT NATIVE TREES TO RESTORE SHADE CANOPY ALONG THE BAYOU
  - ▶ ADD FURNITURE AND FIXTURES INCLUDING BENCHES, SOLAR LIGHTS, TRASH CANS, FIRE PILES, AND ART
  - ▶ CREATE ACTIVE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN GENERATE REVENUE SUCH AS KAYAK LAUNCHES AND PUBLIC EVENT SPACES





## CONNECTED BAYOU



- ▶ CREATE A PROTECTED PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LAFFITE GREENWAY AND WISKEY TRAIL
- ▶ CONVERT HOV 3 TO A ONE-WAY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BAYOU
- ▶ IMPLEMENT A WOODENY FIRM GRAND ROUTE TO EXPLAIN
- ▶ IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING STRATEGIES



## HEALTHY BAYOU



- ▶ PROMOTE TO ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT & SYSTEMS INCLUDING THE PLANTED TREES, BAYOU, AND LANDS
- ▶ IMPROVE THE CITY-DOWN BAYOU AND LAND MANAGEMENT NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC
- ▶ DEVELOP A BAYOU WALKING TRAIL, PLANTING ARTS AND PUBLIC MARKET WALKWAY
- ▶ PROMOTE WALKING TRAIL AND BAYOU WALKWAY



## BEAUTIFUL BAYOU



- ▶ PLANT NATIVE TREES TO RESTORE SHADE CANOPY ALONG THE BAYOU
- ▶ ADD FURNITURE AND FEATURES INCLUDING BENCHES, SOLAR LIGHTING, TRASH CANS, BIRD HOUSES, AND ART
- ▶ CREATE ACTIVE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN GENERATE REVENUE SUCH AS GOLF LAUNCHES AND PUBLIC EVENT SPACES









**APPENDIX C:  
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY**

# Bayou St. John Visioning Survey – Stakeholder Share Back

Thank you for joining us on the Bayou last week! It was a pleasure to hear about the opportunities and challenges that your organizations face, as well as your personal experiences with Bayou St. John.

Based on your input, we've defined four goals for the Bayou St. John Visioning Study. Whether you were with us on Wednesday or not, we would greatly appreciate your continued feedback on the goals and preliminary projects.

Please fill out the survey before Monday (2/21). We'll be translating your input graphically and synthesizing our thoughts for a workshop in March.

Thank you for your time!

1. What is your email?

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## Goal: Bayou St. John is Safe

Many folks shared on Wednesday that kids in the Bayou St. John neighborhood can't ride their bikes across Moss Street, and that there isn't a safe route from the neighborhood to City Park. Safe streets will be a part of our vision for the Bayou.

Preliminary strategies discussed at the site walk include bollards, traffic calming (rumble strips, neck downs), stop signs, and cross walks.

2. What strategies or projects do you think would make Bayou St. John safer?

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3. What challenges do you anticipate to enacting these strategies or projects?

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4. Is this an appropriate goal for the Bayou St. John Visioning Study?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

**Goal: Bayou St. John is Inclusive**

Walking along the Bayou, we experienced a wide array of pedestrian amenities. Although the Bayou is well-loved, ensuring that it can be easily enjoyed by all of our neighbors will be a part of our vision.

Preliminary strategies discussed at the site walk include continuous sidewalks on both sides of the Bayou, well-defined passive and active recreation zones, and a connection between the Lafitte Greenway and Wisner Trail.

5. What strategies or projects do you think would make Bayou St. John more inclusive?

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6. What challenges do you anticipate to enacting these strategies or projects?

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7. Is this an appropriate goal for the Bayou St. John Visioning Study?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

**Goal: Bayou St. John is Healthy.**

As a relatively isolated waterway, Bayou St. John has fallen victim to algae blooms, unreliable water levels, and less than ideal conditions for native wildlife. Many organizations and individuals have invested in the ecological stewardship of the Bayou (some of them are reading this!). Our vision will build on their efforts to promote a thriving, well-connected Bayou.

Preliminary strategies discussed at the site walk include connections between the Bayou and New Orleans' canals and the reframing of Bayou St. John as a "blueway," increased native planting and wetland restoration efforts, and improvements to the maintenance practices that guide the City Park Weirs and Pontchartrain Flood Gate.

8. What strategies or projects do you think would promote Bayou St. John's ecological and hydrological health?

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12. What challenges do you anticipate to enacting these strategies or projects?

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13. Is this an appropriate goal for the Bayou St. John Visioning Study?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

**We'll see you soon!**

14. If you would like to share any further thoughts about the Bayou St. John Visioning Study, please do so here.

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