The Master Plan:

Phase I: Create a Multipurpose Resource Facility (complete)

Phase II: Construction of a Wetlands Education Center and Replica of a Fishing Village

Phase III: Expansion of Amenities and Cultural Activities at the Fishing Village

The Louisiana Wetlands Education Center will be an educational asset serving students and families in the region, with programming for all ages, including a research outpost and meeting location for agencies and institutions. The Center will promote preservation, conservation, and adaptation related to wetland ecosystems, using its location in the Lafitte area as an outdoor classroom. Future phases would include an expanded fishing village to learn about coastal community traditions, a treetop ropes course, water taxis to Grand Isle, kayak and canoe rental and overnight cabins. The Center is complementary to the existing Lafitte Fisheries Market, and adjacent to the Auditorium, Nature Trail and Multi-Purpose Facility and Museum. Under this proposal, LA SAFE will potentially provide funding toward the Center’s construction.

1. Wetlands Education Center will include:
   • Combination classroom and film theater with seating for approximately 80 students.
   • Small meeting rooms for private research.
   • Multiple restoration, preservation, and adaptation displays with emphasis on wetland ecosystems.
   • Several interactive and static galleries and exhibits, including turtles, spiders, baby alligators, etc.
   • A large observation window, an outdoor observation deck and an observation tower.
   • Gift shop and first aid station.

2. Extension of the existing elevated wooden Walking Trail through the cypress swamp, including various docks, observation platforms and picnic areas.

3. Construction of the Fishing Village, including rental cabins, outdoor classrooms, tour boat and water taxi dock.

Community Benefits

- Master plan includes water taxis, tour boats, and trips to destinations like Grand Isle.
- Boardwalks and trails provide access to wetland ecosystems.
- Provides educational opportunities for all ages, focusing on the ecology and culture of wetland areas.
- Provides a recreational destination connected to nature, including boardwalks, trails and outlook decks. Cultural programming includes traditional boatmaking, netmaking, duck calling, storytelling and other interactive exhibits.

Key Info

- LA SAFE Investment
  Up to $6.5 million
- Estimated Project Cost
  Up to $12.1 million
- Partners
  Town of Jean Lafitte
- Location
  Jean Lafitte