Westbank Community Center & Evacuation Shelter

This community center is designed as a simple metal-framed structure with durable, hurricane-rated materials and sheltered outdoor space on the site of the existing 7,000 sf community center. The proposed building features permeable pavers and bioswales to hold stormwater.

Areas with low flood risk are expected to experience population and economic growth, requiring facilities to support that growth. This proposal is for a multi-service community center in Edgard to replace the existing E. 3rd St. facility. The new 7,500 sf facility includes a multi-purpose room, a commercial kitchen, and office/meeting space, and doubles as a hurricane evacuation shelter. It is elevated above the street level to avoid localized flooding, is hurricane resistant, energy efficient, handicap accessible and fitted with a generator to remain functional during power outages. The community event space extends outside to a covered porch and the site incorporates stormwater best management practices, with rain gardens, bioswales, cisterns and pervious parking.

Engaged landscaping and pervious parking retains stormwater on-site, reducing loads on the drainage system.

Provides a centralized gathering area that helps attract future housing and development.

The West Bank Community Center will be located near the courthouse and other parish buildings, creating a center that could be more easily served by transit in the future.

Educational signage explains stormwater management systems, enhances community awareness and encourages replication of best practices throughout the parish.

Provides a facility for cultural and recreational activities for all age groups.