The Belle Chasse Wetland Park — half of which is in the floodplain and situated on lands that are on average three feet below sea level — diverts and temporarily stores water during heavy rain events to mitigate flooding and subsidence in the surrounding area. The design provides vehicular access from Avenue A to the east, from Olson Dr. to the southwest in Phase II, and by bike or on foot from the neighborhood to the north along Good News Ave. While the project’s main purpose is to reduce risk by increasing water storage capacity in the park, it also provides paths and boardwalks for viewing natural habitats and the opportunity to experience military jet flights overhead from the adjacent Naval Air Station. A new walking and bike path also extends to the segment of Planter’s Canal west of the park, creating a new connection between a beautiful existing waterway and the new park amenity.

**Key Info**

- **Project Area**: 90 acres
- **LA SAFE Investment**: Up to $6.0M
- **Estimated Project Cost**: $6.0M - $13.8M
- **Partners**: Plaquemines Parish
- **Location**: Belle Chasse

**Community Benefits**

- Creates a park and natural walking amenities to the benefit of adjacent neighborhoods and developments.
- Reduces the potential for street flooding and danger to nearby motorists by detaining stormwater runoff; increases neighborhood connectivity to nature.
- Creates a community asset and educational tool for nearby schools to highlight the benefit of stormwater management.
- Provides green space, walking paths and natural habitat.

**Plan View**

- **Phase I**:
  - Permeable Parking and Bioswales
  - Open Lawn Area
  - Constructed Wetlands for Water Storage
  - Linear Park with Natural Pathway
  - Pedestrian Bridge to connect neighborhood to wetland park
  - Permeable Parking and Bioswales
  - Open Lawn Area

- **Phase II**:
  - Permeable Parking and Bioswales
  - Open Lawn Area
  - Constructed Wetlands for Water Storage
  - Linear Park with Educational Signage in Forested Wetland
  - Constructed Wetlands for Water Storage
  - Linear Park with Educational Signage in Forested Wetland

- **Future Vision**:
  - Future Nature & Conference Center
  - Existing Retention Ponds - future potential to convert to Fishing Pond
  - Future Expansion of Path Network to integrate into existing park pathways
  - Future Recreational Pavilion

**Comments**

- Onsite retention capacity and stormwater management interventions slow water flow as it moves into the drainage system.
- Creates a park and natural walking amenities to the benefit of adjacent neighborhoods and developments.
- Reduces the potential for street flooding and danger to nearby motorists by detaining stormwater runoff; increases neighborhood connectivity to nature.
- Creates a community asset and educational tool for nearby schools to highlight the benefit of stormwater management.
- Provides green space, walking paths and natural habitat.