Even in higher ground locations, natural systems must be maximized to retain stormwater in response to current and heightened future flood risk. French Branch Pond will be converted to a high-capacity stormwater detention area in 2018, providing 324 acres of floodplain storage in a critical drainage area. This proposal adds a suite of recreational and educational amenities transforming the traditional detention pond into a community asset. Proposed amenities include educational signage throughout, a walking/biking path surrounding the pond, floodable boardwalks within the pond, and a new trail under I-10 connecting to the City of Slidell’s existing trail network.

**Community Benefits**
- Reduces surrounding neighborhood and street flooding by expanding detention capacity.
- Improves property values and incentivizes new development by creating a community asset and reducing flood risk.
- Helps to alleviate potential for street flooding and danger to motorists by retaining stormwater runoff; increases neighborhood walkability and bikeability.
- Creates a community asset and educational tool for nearby schools to highlight the benefits of stormwater management projects.
- Provides community recreational opportunities through access to water and trails.

**Key Info**
- **Project Area**: Approx. 55 acres
- **L.A. SAFE Investment**: Up to $3.7M
- **Estimated Project Cost**: $3.7M
- **Partners**: St. Tammany Parish, FEMA, City of Slidell
- **Location**: Slidell

**Comments**