Funding & Project Partners

- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- LA Sea Grant
- City of Covington
- UNO-CHART
  - French & Associates
- City of Covington
  - Building Permits
  - Public Works
  - IT
  - Code Enforcement
Project Goals

• Improve drainage system maintenance efforts to reduce flood losses to existing development and
• Improve related CRS scores for the City of Covington
Project Deliverables

• Step-by-step guidance for all elements
• Model ordinance language
• GIS maps
• Templates for proper documentation
• Outreach
Community Rating System (CRS)

• 300 Public Information Activities
• 400 Mapping and Regulations
• 500 Flood Damage Reduction Activities
• 600 Warning and Response
540 Drainage System Maintenance

Maximum credit: 470 points

- a. Channel debris removal (CDR)
- b. Problem site maintenance (PSM)
- c. Capital improvement program (CIP)
- d. Stream dumping regulations (SDR)
- e. Storage basin maintenance (SBM)
Channel debris removal (CDR)

(1) a. A program to inspect its drainage facilities annually, upon receiving a complaint, and after each major storm.

b. Action must be taken after an inspection identifies a need for maintenance or cleaning.
Channel debris removal (CDR)

- (2) a. Map of community’s drainage maintenance area with the conveyance system delineated and its components labeled.
- b. Complete inventory corresponding to the map.
- c. Copy of the procedures
- d. Copies of inspection and maintenance records
- e. Completed CC-540EHP
Map & Inventory:
All rivers, streams, and other natural channels within the developed area

- Public and private
- All channels in developed SFHA
- All natural channels shown as blue lines on US Geologic Survey
  - >40 contributing acres
- Large underground segments if they convey flow from natural channel
Next step: Identify Problem Sites
Identify Areas not Counted for Credit

- Outside city limits
- Undeveloped
- Manmade
Identify Areas not Maintained by City

- Maintained by Parish??
- Maintained by State??
- Private Property
  - Neighborhood detention or retention ponds
Conclusions

- Documented procedures for areas maintained by the City
- Areas maintained by the Parish will not earn credit
- There are no areas maintained by the State
- Provisions in place for maintenance by property owners
  - Code Enforcement
Scenic Rivers

- Six streams are designated Natural & Scenic Rivers by the La Legislature
- Work is regulated by LA Wildlife & Fisheries
- Permits may be required
- Actions requiring approval:
  - Removal of trash, garbage, and animal carcasses.
  - Removal of human-made objects, such as shopping carts, tires, lumber, furniture, and appliances.
  - Vegetation growth, tree limbs, “naturally” occurring debris, and post-storm natural debris provided there is a threat to a building, road, bridge, or culvert. *(may require a permit)*
  - Documentation of coordination (map, summary or proposed work, letter or email)
Problem site maintenance (PSM)

• (1) a. Copy of the procedures that explain the community’s problem site inspection and maintenance.
• b. A list of the problem sites and a map showing their locations.
• c. Copies of records that show inspections were conducted and maintenance was performed.
Stream Dumping Regulations (SDR)

• (a) No person shall intentionally dispose or permit the disposal of litter upon any public place in the city, upon private property in the city not owned by him, or in or on the waters of the city…

(CURRENT)

• (h) No person shall dump, deposit, or otherwise cause any trash, landscape debris, or other material to be placed in any river, creek, canal, ditch, or storage basin that regularly or periodically carries or stores water. The enforcement provisions of Sections 42-64(d), 42-70(a) and 42-71 shall apply to this section. (Awaiting adoption by Council)
Capital improvement plan (CIP)

1. Excerpts from the capital improvement plan or other documentation that shows that the community (or other drainage maintenance agency) has an ongoing program to reduce drainage maintenance problems. The submittal must include:
   a. Master list of the community’s drainage maintenance problem sites in need of elimination or correction.
   b. Recommended correction measures for the problem sites.
Outreach

Videos (Public & Internal)

Covington Flood Facts

Know your flood hazard

In the last 15 years, the City of Covington has flooded 13 times from spring storms, tropical storms, or hurricanes. The Bogue Falaya and Tributary Rivers leave that flood waters over roads and streets causing in Lake Ponchatrain. This can cause flooding to cover many blocks in Covington up to two or three feet deep. Spring Creek, Bayou Young Creek, Mill Branch and Butterfield Branch are smaller streams, which flood during or after heavy rains. Flooding is not as deep, but they still cover streets and yards and can flood basements, garages, basements and lower floors.

Stay alert

Floodwater can rise very quickly. The National Weather Service along with the Louisiana Emergency Management Agency provide flood warnings up to three hours in advance. You can also call 504-716-1111 to check if you are in a mapped floodplain or in an area that has historically flooded.

Stay out of flooded areas.

If the road is closed, do not drive. Flooded areas can be deceptive, even those of standing water can knock you off your feet.

Protect yourself from the flood hazard

Do not walk or drive through standing water. If you must walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around of mud barriers.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

Topic 1

Keep It Clean

DOLING TO RIVER
Protect your property from the flood hazard

Every year, flooding in the United States causes more property damage than any other type of natural disaster. There are several ways to reduce potential flood damages and you may be able to reduce your flood insurance premiums:

- Construct a floodwall, waterproof your walls and make doorways watertight, or raise your home above the flood level. Call Covington’s Building Official at (953) 898-4715 to discuss possible flood protection measures by telephone or to schedule a site visit. These could be grant funding available.


- You can also find information at the Covington Branch of the St. Tammany Public Library.

Build responsibly

The City of Covington requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building’s market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building.

- All development in the floodplain requires a permit (not just building construction). You must contact the Planning Department before you start any development. If you see any development in the floodplain without a permit, please contact City Hall at (953) 898-4725.

Protect natural floodplain functions

The City of Covington is a beautiful place to live, and our streams and undisturbed wetlands provide a wide range of benefits for human and natural systems. However, the animals and plants that live in our streams and wetlands are threatened by pollution. More than 90% of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking, fertilizers and pesticides from farms and gardens, and pet waste. Many common products contain toxic chemicals. You can help keep our streams clean. Do not dump garbage, oil, cleaners, pesticides, or other pollutants into storm drains, ditches, or streams.

- Trash, litter, and other debris, even grass clippings, may also obstruct the flow of water in ditches and streams and cause overflow into streets, yards and homes. The City has an inspection and maintenance program in which the Public Works Department conducts routine inspections but we still need your help.

- To prevent flooding, the drainage system must be kept clean and free of obstructions. Protect yourself and your neighbors by not dumping or depositing anything in a waterway. It is also against the law — Section 42-64(h) of the City of Covington’s Code of Ordinances makes it illegal to “cause any trash, landscape debris, or other material to be placed in any river, creek, canal, ditch, or storage basin.” If you see any violations, please contact Code Enforcement at (953) 898-4738.
Contact Information

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