

Flood Protection

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, the US Army Corps of Engineers was authorized and funded to design and construct the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for southeast Louisiana (including Jefferson Parish). This risk system is stronger and more resilient than it has ever been in the area's history. The new HSDRRS is capable of defending against a 100-year level storm surge, or a storm that has a one percent chance of occurring in a year.

Over the past ten years, the Corps has strengthened and improved the levees, floodwalls, gated structures and pump stations that form the 133-mile Greater New Orleans perimeter system, as well as approximately 70 miles of interior risk reduction structures.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, along with local partners recently completed the 100-year perimeter system, which successfully performed as designed in recent storms, such as Hurricane Isaac.

HSDRRS Quick Facts

- The perimeter system and other HSDRRS projects include 350 miles of levees/floodwalls
- The total program budget is \$14.6 billion with a total of 456 construction contracts
- The total pumping capacity of the HSDRRS to date is 16,000 cubic feet per second
- All Orleans and Jefferson Parish contracts are currently scheduled to be complete in 2018

Jefferson Parish Upgrades

- In Jefferson Parish, \$2.7 million was spent on upgrading 17 pumping stations
- \$136 million was spent on storm proofing pumping stations
- The West Bank & Vicinity (WBV) project, which spans the entire West Bank of Jefferson Parish and parts of St. Charles, Orleans, and Plaquemines Parishes, protects these densely populated areas from a 100-year storm event and contains the Western Closure Complex, the world's largest pumping station
- The completed \$1 billion Western Closure Complex, located in Jefferson Parish, is made up of 11 pumps and a 225-foot gate that blocks storm surges from entering the Harvey and Algiers canals

WBV Levee System



FEMA's National Flood Insurance Community Rating System has Jefferson Parish in its highest discount class, which provides a 20% discount on flood insurance premiums. This translates to a total of \$15 million in premium savings for the parish each year. Jefferson Parish earned this classification for its comprehensive approach to flood management.