



St. Tammany Parish — Hurricane Katrina

A decade of progress through partnerships

Ten years of progress since Hurricane Katrina

St. Tammany Parish, part of the New Orleans-Metairie metropolitan statistical area, resides on Louisiana’s “North Shore,” bordering Lake Pontchartrain to the south. The parish sustained major damage from wind and flooding when Hurricane Katrina made landfall near the Louisiana/Mississippi border Aug. 29, 2005. Ten years later, the parish has rebuilt even stronger than before with elevated, reinforced structures.

In the 10 years since Katrina struck the Louisiana coast, nearly **\$938 million in federal funding** has been approved to help **St. Tammany Parish survivors, local governments and private nonprofits recover and rebuild**. This includes assistance for the parish and its cities to repair and rebuild disaster-damaged infrastructure, assistance to individuals for housing and other needs, and projects designed to mitigate damage from future natural disasters. Projects include roads, bridges, schools, police and fire departments and health care facilities.



“The success of Louisiana’s recovery so far has been all about solidifying and strengthening partnerships. It’s about coming together, finding common ground and focusing on rebuilding communities that are stronger and more sustainable for the future.”

Mike Womack
Director
Louisiana Recovery Office

Individual Assistance

More than \$407.3 million was approved for nearly 78,000 St. Tammany Parish individuals and households. That includes more than \$318.8 million for home repair and replacement costs and rental assistance. The remaining \$88.5 million helped survivors with other needs including repair or replacement of personal property, dental, medical and funeral costs, transportation and other disaster-related expenses.

Public Assistance

Nearly \$475 million in FEMA Public Assistance grants has been obligated for recovery projects in St. Tammany Parish. This includes nearly \$105.8 million for educational facilities, more than \$44.6 million for public infrastructure, nearly \$33 million for utilities, more than \$2.7 million for health care facilities and more than \$1.1 million for fire, police and other services. Another \$287.6 million was obligated for debris removal and emergency measures taken to protect lives and property.

Hazard Mitigation

FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has pledged \$1.86 billion statewide to fund projects designed to help make Louisiana communities stronger and safer. To date, nearly \$1.4 billion of the total has been provided to the state-administered program. In St. Tammany Parish, 22 mitigation projects have been approved for more than \$55.9 million in total funding from Hurricane Katrina. The top projects to receive grants in St. Tammany Parish include home and building elevations, modifications to existing structures to strengthen them against high winds and future damage and drainage improvements to protect communities from floodwater.



Recovery figures as of 5/1/2015
Mitigation figures as of 6/15/2015

St. Tammany Parish Project Highlights



Salmen High School — \$69.5 million

Storm surge of up to eight feet from Lake Pontchartrain, combined with strong wave action and hurricane force winds from Hurricane Katrina, caused extensive damage to the entire Salmen High School campus. All of the buildings, with the exception of the Science Building, have been replaced and the campus is currently in use. FEMA obligated nearly \$69.5 million in Public Assistance grant funding to the St. Tammany School Board for the project.



Slidell Pathways School — \$11.4 million

Storm surge of up to five feet from Lake Pontchartrain flooded all four buildings that comprised the Slidell Pathways School. Damage was extensive throughout the buildings, resulting in replacement rather than repair. This project was consolidated to one facility. The new facility, called the Robert C. Brooks Jr. Educational Complex, is complete and has opened to students. FEMA obligated nearly \$11.4 million in Public Assistance grant funding to the St. Tammany School Board for the project.



Brock Elementary School — \$10.6 million

Strong winds from Hurricane Katrina caused storm surge to flood the Brock Elementary School campus, damaging roofing, ceilings, walls, doors, wood flooring, terrazzo flooring, sub-flooring, AC systems and a stage platform. The damage to this historical building was so extensive that it was deemed a replacement, but to retain the historical character of the neighborhood, the school was repaired at the replacement value. Construction is complete with upgrades to meet current codes and standards. FEMA obligated nearly \$10.6 million in Public Assistance grant funding to the St. Tammany School Board for the project.



Slidell Municipal Auditorium — \$7.1 million

Hurricane Katrina flooded the Slidell Municipal Auditorium with approximately four feet of water and storm surge, damaging sheetrock, wooden studs, flooring, ceramic tile, ceramic tile base and wall covering. The auditorium was deemed substantially damaged by the local floodplain manager. To satisfy National Flood Insurance Program requirements, mitigation options, such as elevating the building or building a floodwall, were explored but not feasible. As a result, the building had to be replaced. The building was demolished, and a new auditorium was built and is currently in use for events. FEMA obligated more than \$7.1 million in Public Assistance grant funding to the City of Slidell for the project.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

For more information, visit <https://beta.fema.gov/Katrina10>. News Desk: 225-907-7534