

SELA Program Landscape Master Plan



Agenda

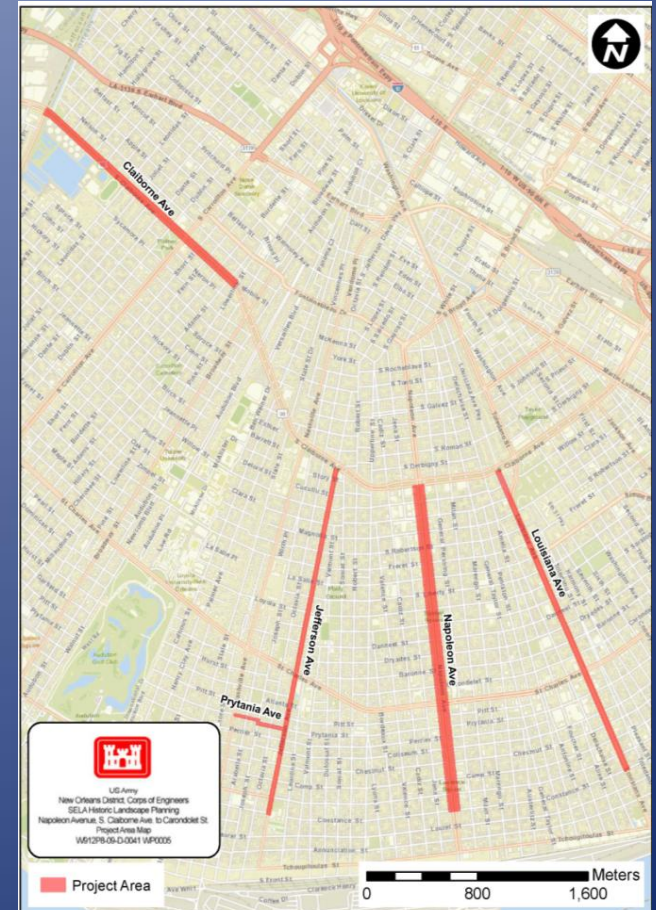
- SELA project overview
- SELA landscaping plan
- stakeholders
- historic significance
- landscape concepts
- public feedback
- preferred plans chosen
- tree palette criteria and choices

Overview of SELA Construction Areas

Uptown

The project includes drainage improvements in 4 uptown corridors:

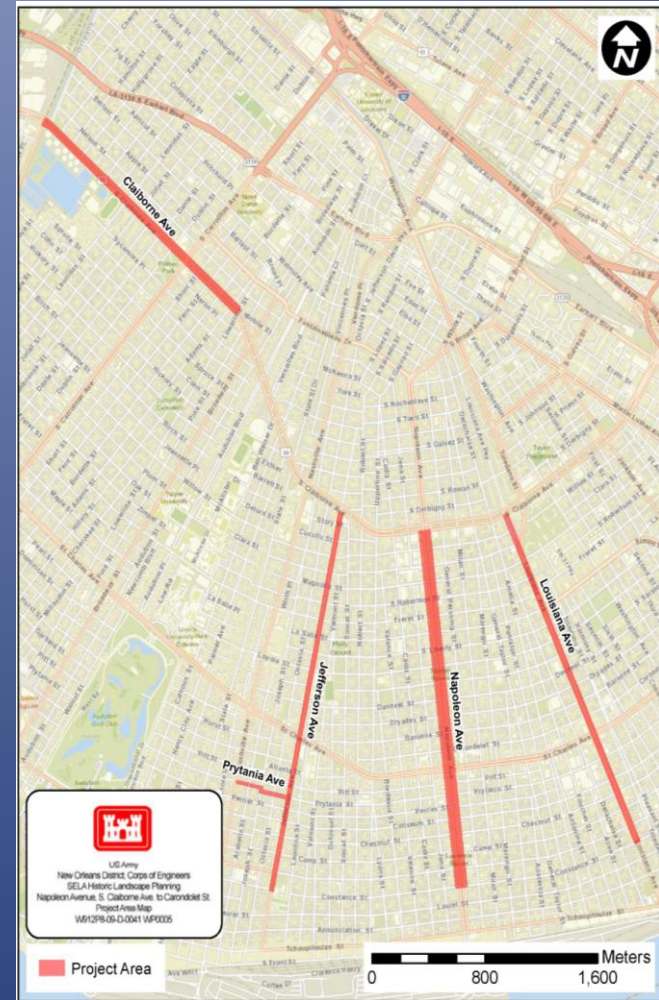
- Napoleon Avenue
 - Constance St. to S. Claiborne Ave.
- Jefferson Avenue
 - Constance St. to S. Claiborne Ave.
- Louisiana Avenue
 - Constance St. to S. Claiborne Ave.
- S. Claiborne Avenue
 - Monticello St. to Lowerline St.



For more information on the SELA project,
please visit www.mvn.usace.army.mil.

Conceptual Landscaping Plan Purpose

- ❑ SELA drainage construction required removal of landscaping along corridors.
- ❑ SHPO guidance suggested development of a master plan for landscape re-establishment post drainage construction.
- ❑ Currently, standards for landscape design and construction projects in these corridors are being developed.
- ❑ Sustainable and green infrastructure strategies and concepts are being considered.
- ❑ A uniform and consistent approach to re-establishing the landscape will be used.
- ❑ Consideration for historically significant features will be given.



Stakeholders



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District



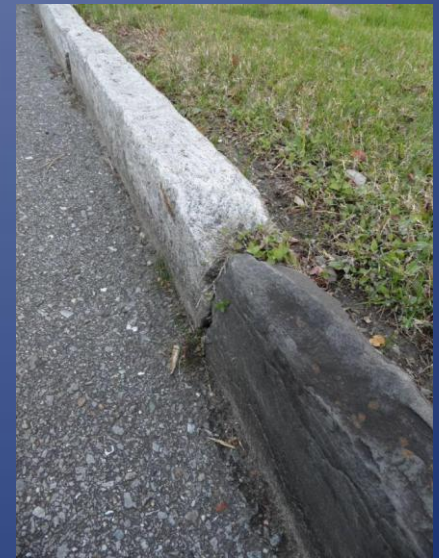
- City of NOLA
 - Park and Parkways
 - Sewerage and Water Board (S&WB)
 - Department of Public Works (DPW)
 - Planning Department
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD)
- Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office/Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation (SHPO)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
- City of New Orleans Residents



Historic Landscape Features

What was documented prior to construction:

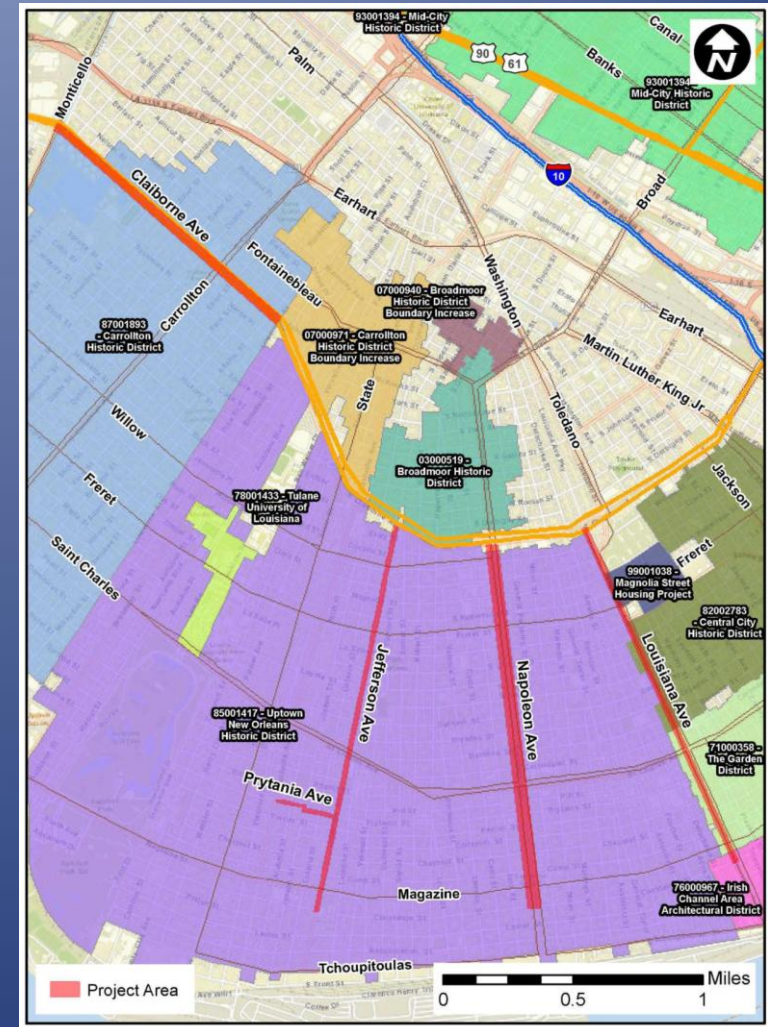
- existing vegetation
- historic vegetation
- granite curbing
- encaustic tiles
- lighting
- period of significance



Uptown Historic Districts

SELA Construction falls in the following historic districts:

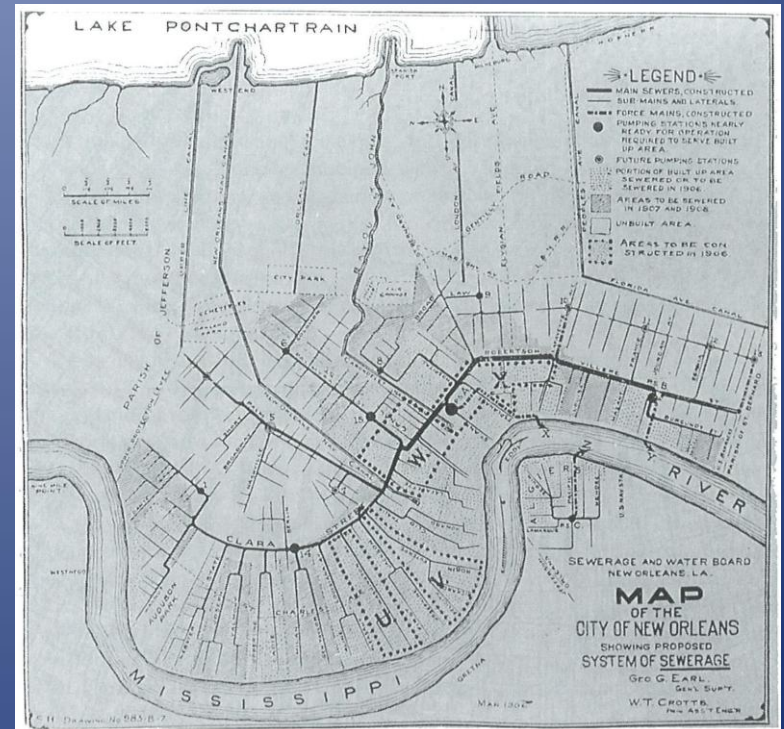
District	S. Claiborne	Napoleon	Jefferson	Prytania	Louisiana
Carrollton Historic District	X				
Central City District					X
Garden District					X
Irish Channel Area Architectural District					X
St. Charles Line (Streetcar)		X	X	X	X
Uptown Historic District		X	X	X	X



Historical Significance South Claiborne Avenue



South Claiborne Avenue after Road Widening (1956)
(<http://nutrias.org/photos/allison/streets/>)



Historical Significance

South Claiborne Avenue

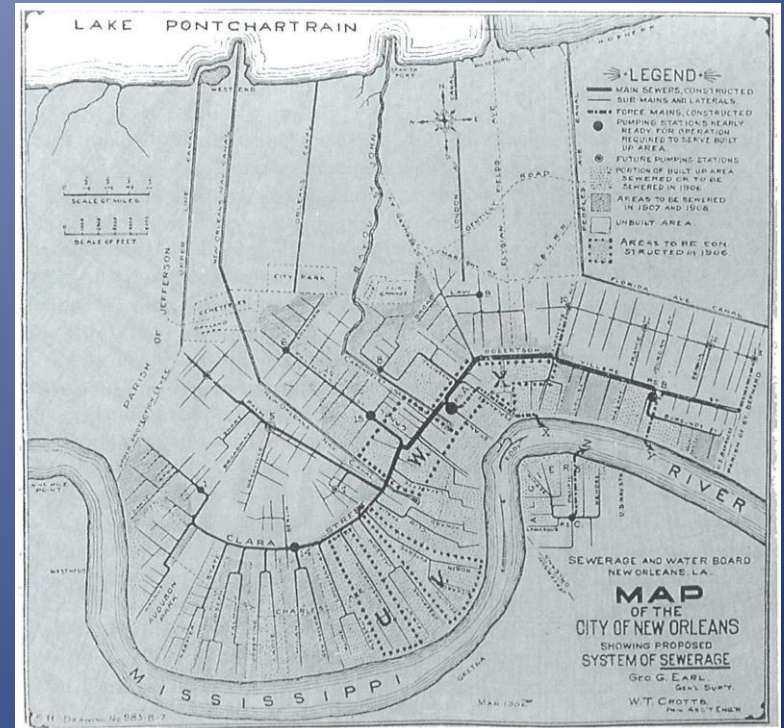
- Since the second quarter of the nineteenth century to the 1970s, the neutral ground functioned primarily as a major open drainage canal.
- With increased urbanization between 1915 and 1937, streetcar transit service was established on the south side of the canal. Streetcar lines were abandoned by 1953 in favor of wider roads for automobile traffic.
- The neutral ground has evolved into a linear green space with decorative landscaping that serves as a divider for the six-lane roadway.
- Many of the historic features are missing from the corridor, with street name tiles present at two street intersections and granite/slate curbs and historic-style lighting fixtures entirely missing.



South Claiborne Canal after 1940s Improvements
(<http://nutrias.org/photos/wpa/wpa15.htm>)

Historical Significance

Napoleon Avenue



Napoleon Avenue looking south from Baptist Hospital, ca. 1940s (<http://nutrias.org/photos/allison/streets/>)

Historical Significance

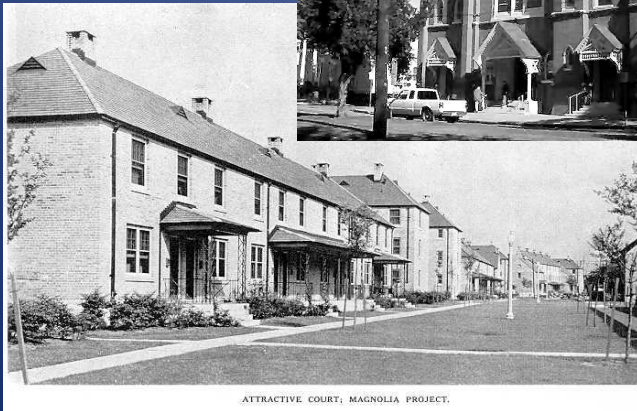
Napoleon Avenue

- The Napoleon Avenue public ROW still contains elements that contribute to the historic character of the area.
- The neutral ground has seen the most change in its historic integrity, primarily due to the removal of the streetcar transit service.
- The neutral ground is now largely bare, except for sparse plantings of crape myrtle, many of which are poor specimens and in decline.
- Lighting units from the first half of the twentieth century or their replicas are represented, but are interspersed with modern fixtures.

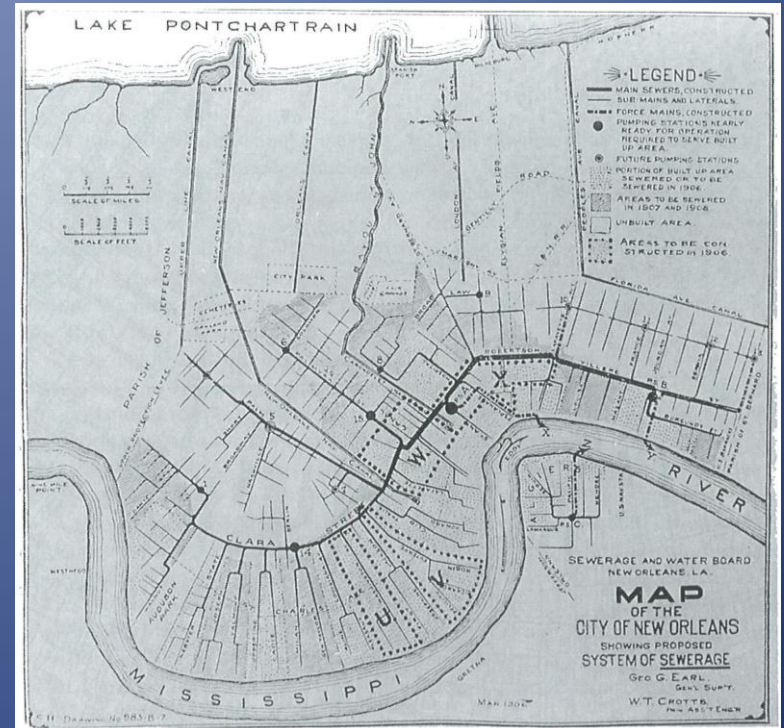


Napoleon Avenue Canal Construction, 1912
(<http://nutrias.org/photos/>)

Historical Significance Louisiana Avenue



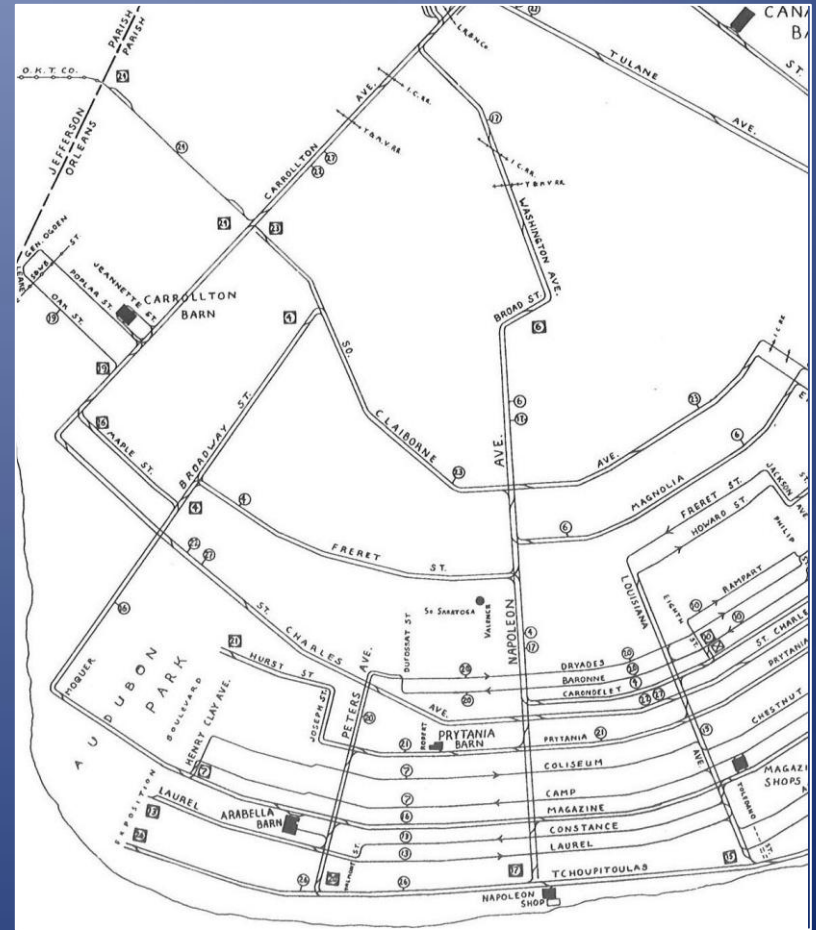
ATTRACTIVE COURT, MAGNOLIA PROJECT.



Historic Sites Along Louisiana Avenue

Historical Significance Louisiana Avenue

- This study area neutral ground has seen the most change in historic integrity, primarily due to the removal of streetcar transit and rail service.
- The narrow neutral ground along Louisiana Avenue now primarily serves as a divider for the four-lane roadway section.
- The neutral ground still contributes to the overall historic feel and character of the Louisiana Avenue neighborhood, with historic slate and/or granite curbing and historic street name tiles present.

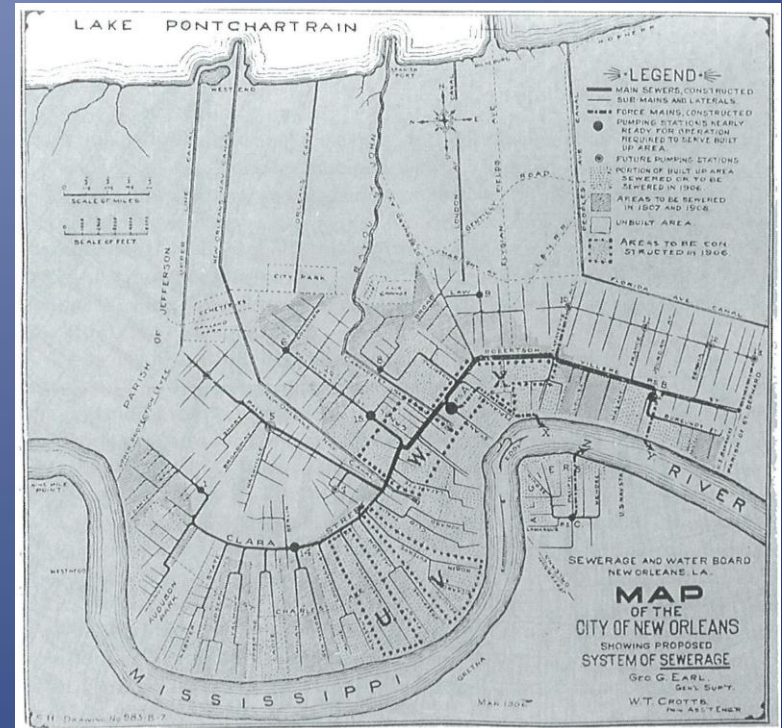


New Orleans Streetcar System Map, 1922

Historical Significance Jefferson Avenue

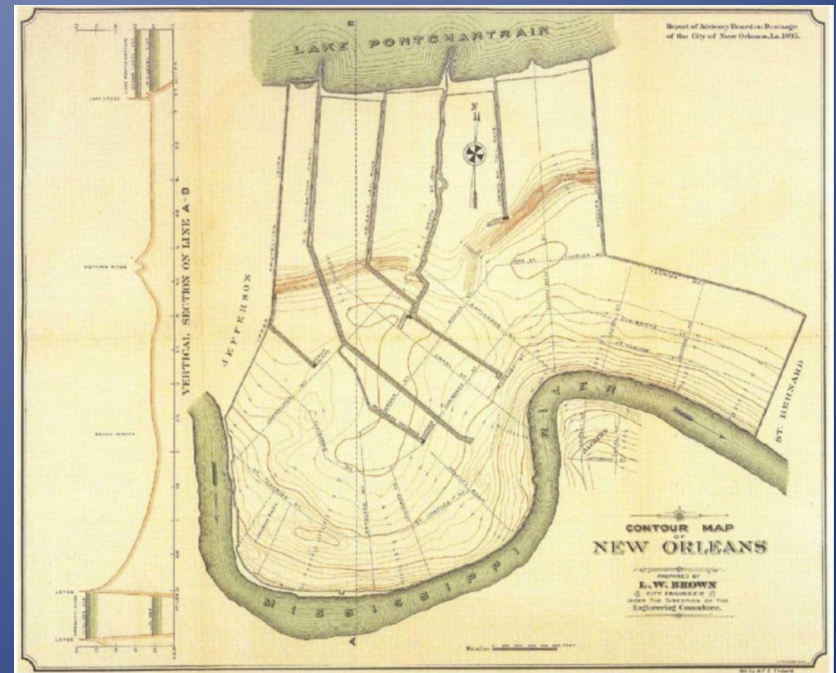


View of Jefferson (Peters) Avenue Just North of Claiborne Avenue, ca. 1928
(New Orleans Public Library 2013)



Historical Significance Jefferson Avenue

- The Jefferson Avenue public ROW retains substantive elements of its' historic character, but the neutral grounds have seen the most change in historic integrity, primarily due to the removal of the streetcar transit service.
- Local residents and City staff appear to have eclectically decided on the variety of tree species that were planted within the neutral ground.
- The neutral ground serves as a divider for the two-lane roadway section and it has evolved from utilitarian use to green space.
- The presence of slate/granite curb elements, Belgian and American reproduction tiles, and scattered early lighting units still provide an association with the historic context of Jefferson Avenue.



Contour Map of New Orleans Showing the
Proposed Drainage Canals
(Brown and Third 1895)

Landscape Concepts

- Landscape designers, historians, arborists, engineers, planners, and city and state stakeholders have been working over the last year to develop draft design guidelines for the four corridors.
- These design guidelines incorporate stormwater management, preferred species for planting while still maintaining the historic nature of the these New Orleans travel corridors.
- The goal of this effort was to incorporate these design guidelines into three landscape concept plans for each corridor, and present these plans to the public for input.

Landscape Concepts Considered

Avenue	Concepts				Additional Features	
	Natural	Basic	Palm	Cluster	Meadow	Art (Not funded)
Claiborne	X	X			X	X
Napoleon	X	X		X	X	X
Jefferson	X	X		X		X
Louisiana	X	X	X			X

Natural Concept

*Considered for S. Claiborne, Napoleon, Jefferson
and Louisiana avenues.*

- With sustainability as a prime consideration in the design of the neutral grounds, a natural alternative was proposed for each corridor.
- This natural alternative includes a mixture of native evergreen and deciduous trees with some exotic flowering and foliage plants included.
- This informal alternative lends itself to using more tree varieties to complement the overall natural look of the planting arrangement and provide increased habitat.



Natural Concept

*Considered for S. Claiborne, Napoleon, Jefferson
and Louisiana avenues.*



Basic Concept

*Considered for S. Claiborne, Napoleon, Jefferson
and Louisiana avenues.*

- This represents a more formal planting alternative, including trees in rows.
- Tree varieties are grouped to provide continuity and simplicity and to reinforce the nature of the corridor as a connector of neighborhoods.
- The formal aspect of the design concepts limits the number of tree species used, but includes the use of native species mixed with exotic flowering trees at street crossings.



Basic Concept

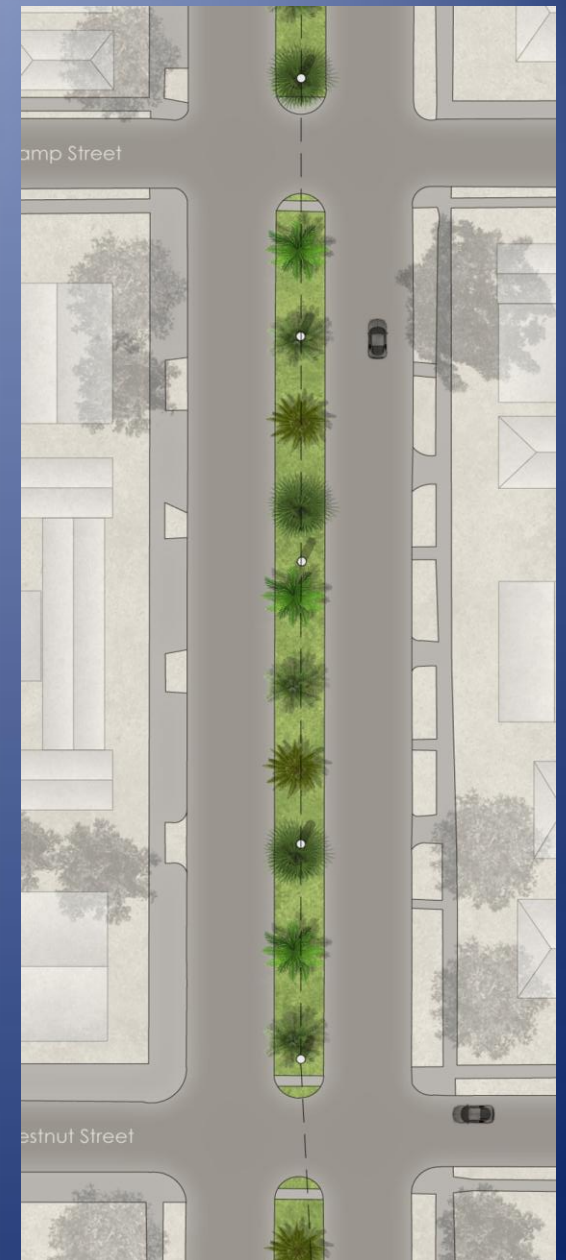
*Considered for S. Claiborne, Napoleon, Jefferson
and Louisiana avenues.*



Palm Concept

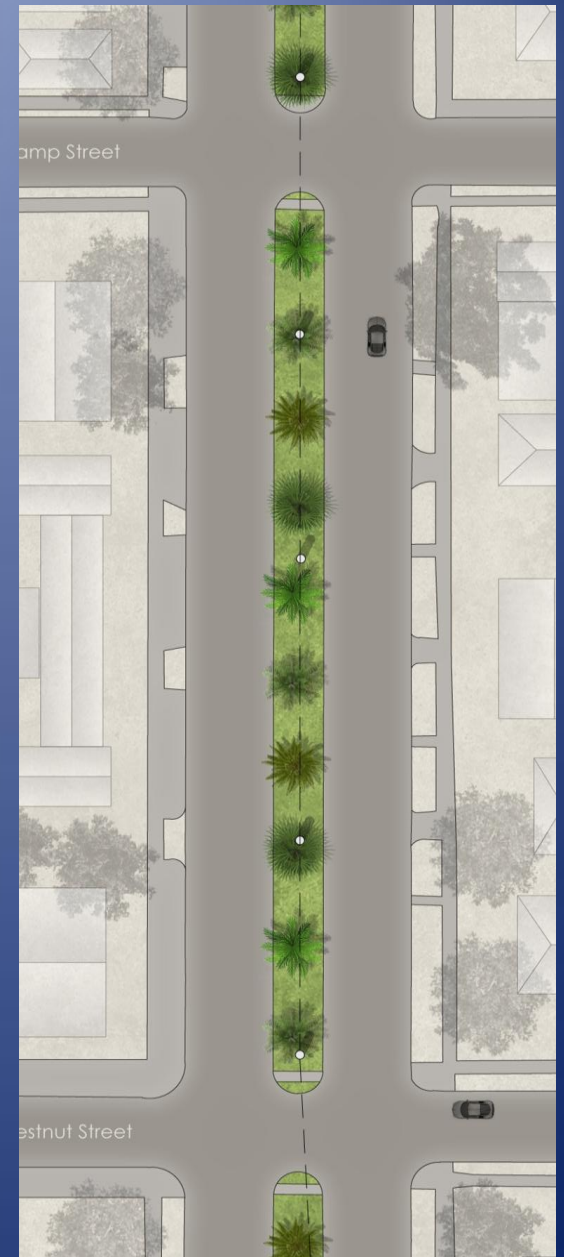
Considered for Louisiana Ave.

- A single row of palms is proposed to be planted in the center of the neutral ground.
- This planting arrangement would be unique to the uptown area and could serve as a focal point in the adjoining neighborhoods



Palm Concept

Considered for Louisiana Ave.



Cluster Concept

*Considered for Napoleon Ave.
and Jefferson Ave.*

- The cluster concept is similar to the Basic Concept but utilizes a greater variety of tree species.
- Evergreen trees are clustered in tighter spacing in the center of the neutral ground between streets with deciduous trees extending outward toward the intersection.
- This concept is more interesting and breaks with the rigid formality of the basic planting alternative.



Cluster Concept

*Considered for Napoleon Ave.
and Jefferson Ave.*



Additional Option - Meadow

*Considered for Napoleon Ave.
and S. Claiborne Ave.*

- The meadow concept can be adapted to both basic and natural concepts but includes a meadow extending down the center of the neutral ground between the two rows of trees.
- The meadow concept is not recommended to be included in the **Louisiana** or **Jefferson** Avenue neutral grounds due to the limited width of the neutral ground.
- The concept is recommended for minimal use in the Napoleon Avenue neutral ground due to the annual Mardi Gras activities in the corridor.
- The concept is recommended for S. Claiborne Avenue for the entire reach due to the available width of the neutral ground.



Additional Option - Meadows

- The meadows consist of slight depressions and clusters of grasses, sedges, and other native plant species. These deep rooted grasses will infiltrate large quantities of storm water into the ground further reducing runoff and contributing to the overall sustainability of the green space planting.



- These additional native species will provide food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects which reduce insect pest, reduce runoff and create a sustainable landscape solution in these significant transportation corridors.
- Meadow plants will also provide visual seasonal interest and beauty.

Additional Option – Public Art (not funded)

- If funded, public art installations can be considered for all corridors. (Currently, there is no funding for art installations.)
- Specific locations will be determined based on neighborhood involvement and funding.



Public Input

Between 5 and 8 pm on September 30, 2014, the Corps hosted a SELA Corridor Landscape Implementation Plan Open House at the Salvation Army building located at 4526 S. Claiborne Ave. Public input was gathered on each recommended concept.

Information provided to the public:

- Introduction to SELA
- Plant palette and plant heights
- Sustainable landscape plan features
- Historic features
- For each corridor:
 - Plan view maps
 - Perspective and cross section images



Feedback received from open house:

☐ The Natural Concept was chosen as the preferred landscape concept for each corridor:

- S. Claiborne Ave.
- Jefferson Ave.
- Napoleon Ave.
- Louisiana Ave.

☐ Additional comments received include:

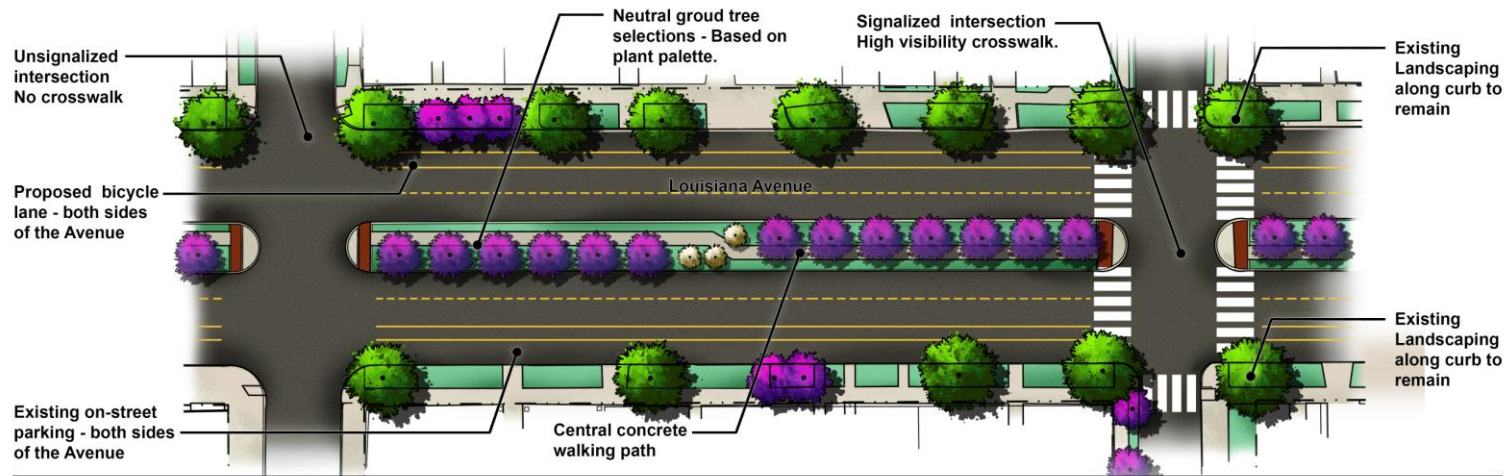
- More mixed design concepts (i.e. random/natural)
- Walking trail to be included where possible
- Uniformity to design concepts (structured approach)
- Include palm trees in design concepts
- Return historic lighting
- Include water absorption strategies

Claiborne Ave. Preferred Plan



The preferred plan for the S. Claiborne Ave. corridor is a natural concept with a meadow.

Napoleon Ave. Preferred Plan



CONCEPTUAL PLAN VIEW



CONCEPTUAL SECTION VIEW

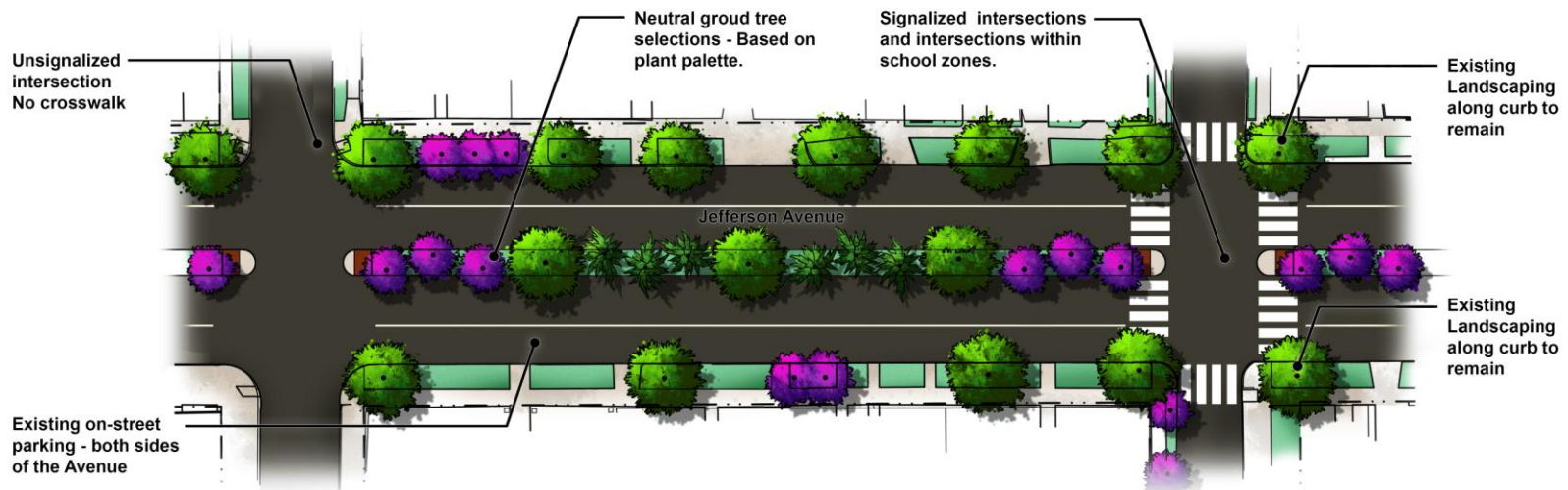
SELA - ORLEANS PARISH, NAPOLEON AVENUE
SOUTH CALIBORNE TO CONSTANCE



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Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

The preferred plan for the Napoleon Ave. corridor is a natural concept with a pathway and historical style lighting. The plan will closely resemble the existing corridor north of S. Claiborne Ave. Napoleon Ave. lanes will be reconfigured to include a bike lane in each direction.

Jefferson Ave. Preferred Plan



CONCEPTUAL PLAN VIEW



CONCEPTUAL SECTION VIEW

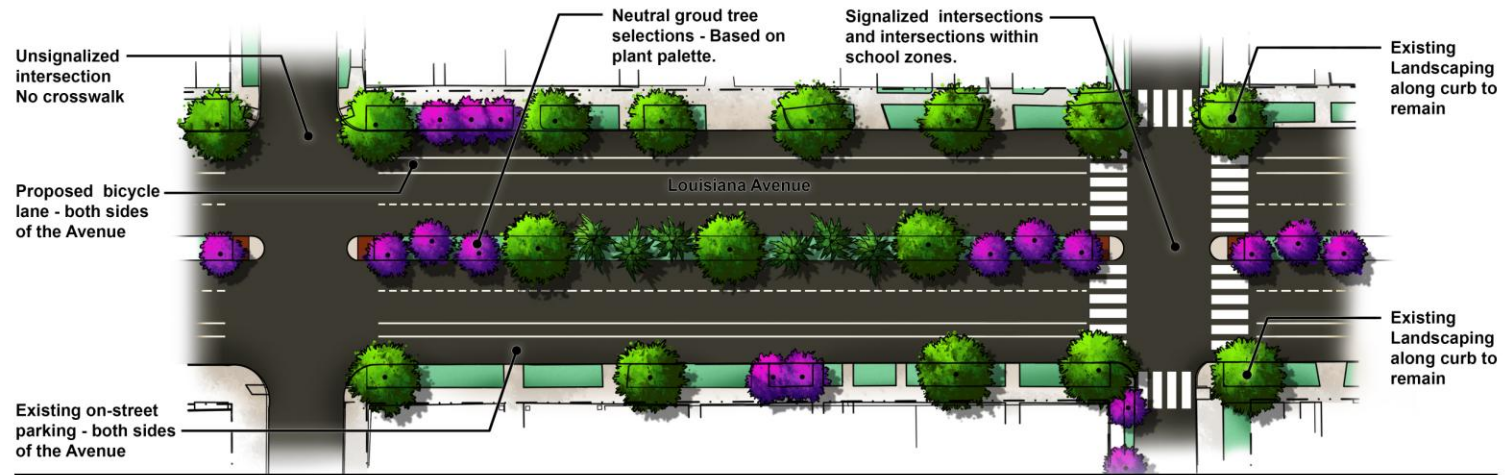
SELA - ORLEANS PARISH, JEFFERSON AVENUE
SOUTH CALIBORNE TO CONSTANCE



U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

The preferred plan for the Jefferson Ave corridor is a natural concept.
Palm trees will be recommended for the palette.

Louisiana Ave. Preferred Plan



CONCEPTUAL PLAN VIEW



CONCEPTUAL SECTION VIEW & PERSPECTIVE VIEW

SELA - ORLEANS PARISH, LOUISIANA AVENUE
SOUTH CALIBORNE TO CONSTANCE



U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

The preferred plan for the Louisiana Ave. corridor is a natural concept.

Palm trees will be recommended for the palette.

The Louisiana Ave. lanes will be reconfigured to include a bike lane in each direction.

Tree Palette Recommendations

- Since this is a conceptual planning project, a range of trees are recommended for planting in the neutral grounds. These trees are known to be dependable growers in the New Orleans urban environment.

- Specific tree species are recommended based upon several site specific criteria including:

- overhead power lines
- soil depth over the concrete drainage structures
- sight visibility at intersections
- width of the neutral ground planting areas

Tree Palette Recommendations

☐ Trees are selected based on the following environmental considerations:

- Shade productivity
- Oxygen productivity
- Ability to clean air
- Ability to reduce water runoff
- Ability to provide food and habitat for wildlife

☐ Additionally, trees are selected based on the following aesthetic properties:

- Size
- Shape
- Seasonal interest
- Foliage
- Flowering abilities

☐ Trees are grouped in pallets for each of the corridor. These pallets include primary, secondary, and tertiary tree species.

- Trees defined as **primary** species will provide a sense of unity and structure to the entire corridor.
- Trees defined as **secondary** species will provide a sense of environmental context to the corridor.
- Trees defined as **tertiary** trees will provide accents.

Please see the Boards displaying Tree Species and Heights.

Tree Palette Recommendations

Suggested trees for planting under low utility lines:

- Nellie Stevens Holly
- Foster's Holly
- Savannah Holly
- Dahoon Holly
- American Holly
- Spruce Pine
- Ironwood
- Fringe Tree
- Silverbell Possum-Haw Holly
- Crape Myrtle
- Japanese Evergreen Oak
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- 'Alta' Magnolia
- 'Little Gem' Magnolia
- 'Highrise' Live Oak
- Chinese Pistachio
- Yaupon/Weeping Yaupon



Tree Palette Recommendations

Suggested trees for planting where no utility lines exist:



- Live Oak
- Nuttall Oak
- Bald Cypress
- Catalpa
- Green Ash
- Ginkgo
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Southern Red Oak
- Overcup Oak
- Shumard Oak
- American Elm
- Winged Elm
- Cedar Elm
- Sawtooth Oak
- Dawn Redwood

Path Forward

- Detailed plans and specifications will be developed for each corridor using the preferred plan as the starting point for tree placement.
- The plan will be refined with tree palette selection and recommended additional features such as pathways or meadows.
- Preferred plans will be designed to meet the City of New Orleans' master plan criteria.
- The target for landscape planting would be the first planting season after drainage construction is complete.