Welcome!

We welcome you to the Lower Ninth Ward. On this self-guided tour you will see the efforts of residents rebuilding and restoring their neighborhoods. The damage you will see was caused by the largest engineering failure in the history of the United States, with the collapse of the levees built to protect the Lower Ninth Ward from flood waters from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

The residents of the Lower Ninth Ward started meeting weekly in November 2005, after neighborhoods were urged by the mayor to develop their own recovery plans. They had a vision of rebuilding: stronger, smarter and safer. Their plan called for the sustainable renewal of the Lower Ninth Ward. From this vision, over 80 new homes were built with a high level of green building designs, technology, and energy-saving appliances. There have been over 112 homes retrofitted with radiant barrier and weatherization products. The community is actively working to restore the cypress swamp north of Florida near Bayou Bienvenue, thus restoring part of Louisiana’s coastal wetland system.

The Lower Ninth Ward residents are not waiting for the “Government” to help them rebuild their neighborhood: they are renewing their community stronger, smarter and safer – one house at a time.

Information Courtesy of Greater New Orleans Community Data Center and Sierra Club
Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development’s focus is to make sustainable, resilient decisions informed by community engagement that will help uplift our neighborhood.

Global Green USA Holy Cross Project
401 Andry Street
A national environmental nonprofit. Global Green USA constructed the Holy Cross Project as a sustainable model for the development and rebuilding of New Orleans. The project’s LEED Platinum Visitors Center is open for tours Mondays and Fridays, 11am–4pm and Saturdays, 10am–4pm.

The Guerrilla Garden
Charter Street and Charity Street
A vibrant greenspace in place of blighted land where families can congregate, socialize, grow vegetables and pick from fruit trees. The project is organized by the Backyard Gardener’s Network.

Lower 9th Ward Village
1001 Charlbonnet Street
The Village serves as a hub where all community members can access or create essential resources to empower themselves, be self-sufficient, sustain an equitable quality of life, and become whole after Hurricane Katrina and beyond.

House of Dance & Feathers
1317 Tupelo Street
Celebrating the cultural history of the Lower Ninth Ward, the House of Dance & Feathers features a personal collection of New Orleans social aid and pleasure clubs and Mardi Gras Indian memorabilia and artifacts.

Lower Ninth Ward Neighbors Empowering Network (NENA)
1123 Lamanche Street
NENA was founded by residents of the Lower 9th Ward after Hurricane Katrina to assist neighbors in the rebuilding process. Our mission is to play a vital role in our neighborhood’s redevelopment. Since its inception, NENA has provided direct services to over 2,000 families.

Our School at Blair Grocery
1740 Benton Street
Our School at Blair Grocery (OSBG) is an independent alternative school and sustainability education center based in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. Composting more food waste than any in the Orleans Parish, it is a green oasis right in the heart of the Lower Ninth Ward.

lowernine.org
2124 Lamanche Street
Rebuilding homes for the Lower Ninth Ward residents who lost their properties in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the ensuing levee breaches. We also operate a lamanche urban farm, where we grow organic produce to feed volunteers, donate and sell.

Bayou Bienvenue
Florida Avenue and Caffin Avenue
The Bayou Bienvenue restoration project is driven by the desire of residents of the Lower Ninth Ward to restore the natural coastal cypress forest, helping to reduce storm surge into the Lower Ninth Ward.

Make It Right
Tennessee Street
More than 4,000 homes in New Orleans’s Lower 9th Ward were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Two years later, when actor Brad Pitt toured the city, the neighborhood was still deserted and devastated. He founded Make It Right to build 150 affordable, green, storm-resistant homes for families living in the Lower Ninth Ward.

Common Ground Relief
1800 Deslonde Street
Founded on September 5, 2005, Common Ground Relief volunteers gutted nearly 3,000 houses, businesses and churches throughout the Ninth Ward in the first two years following Hurricane Katrina.

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