

INVESTING IN MOSS POINT'S FUTURE

Nature-based solutions (NBS) offer Moss Point a smart, cost-effective way to reduce flooding and enhance the community. By restoring wetlands, planting rain gardens, and adding green spaces, NBS can absorb rain, reduce runoff, and protect homes. They also keep streets clear during storms and can improve daily life.

Beyond flood protection, NBS can boost property values, create green jobs, and enhance air and water quality. More parks, trails, and shaded areas provide better recreation and cooler temperatures. Financially, NBS can save the city money by lowering stormwater management costs and reducing the need for expensive infrastructure. Investing in NBS will help Moss Point protect its residents, cut costs, and create a greener, healthier community.



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NBS vs. Flooding:

How Nature Based Solutions can benefit Moss Point





Slow and steady can win the race

When it comes to managing floodwaters, it turns out the tortoise had it right all along. Unlike the old-school gray infrastructure that rushes water away like it's late for work, nature-based solutions take a more patient approach. Traditional gray infrastructure—such as concrete channels, storm drains, and levees—were designed with the primary goal of moving water away from communities as quickly as possible. However, during heavy rainfall or extreme weather events, these systems can become overwhelmed, leading to backups and flooding. By slowing the flow and sometimes holding water in place, features like rain gardens, wetlands, and permeable surfaces give the ground time to soak it in. This reduces street flooding, prevents overflow, and helps keep water where it belongs—not in your living room.



KEY FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED STORMWATER PARK

Flood Reduction:

- Diverts stormwater from neighborhood ditches into a naturalized detention area to reduce flooding.
- Provides 5.8-acre-feet (~252,500 cubic feet) of stormwater storage.
- Manages overflow through a riser pipe and junction box, as outlined in Moss Point's Drainage Improvement Plan.

Access to Nature and Recreation:

- ~0.4 miles of 6-foot-wide, treelined sidewalks for shaded walking.
- ~1/3 mile of permeable-paved nature trails to promote water infiltration.
- Two boardwalks offering scenic wildlife views and educational signage along the trails.

Improved Habitat:

- Gradual interior slope for optimal drainage and planting conditions.
- Native species, including pond cypress in low areas and slash pine at higher elevations.
- Open sightlines with conifers, avoiding broadleaved shrubs to maintain visibility.

Minimal Maintenance:

- Low-upkeep design with evergreen and semi-evergreen trees to reduce leaf litter.
- 2 acres of naturalized native meadow and 2.3 acres of typical lawn.
- Mown path through the meadow for informal engagement with the landscape.

WHY DOES FLOODING OCCUR ON THE GULF COAST?

Flooding is a frequent challenge on the Gulf Coast due to a combination of shifting weather patterns, rising tides, and outdated infrastructure. This region experiences frequent and intense storms, including hurricanes, which bring heavy rainfall and powerful storm surges that push more water inland. With sea levels rising, coastal areas are even more vulnerable, as water has less distance to travel before breaching streets and homes. The Gulf, along with its many streams and tributaries, surrounds low-lying communities, like Moss Point, that sit only slightly above sea level, making them prone to flooding. Additionally, much of the region's development took place on former wetlands that were filled in or drained, reducing the land's natural ability to absorb water. Combined with aging and insufficient stormwater management systems, which struggle to handle back-to-back flood events, these factors create a perfect storm for chronic flooding in the Gulf Coast region.

