



Garden on Marais
New Orleans, Louisiana

Sometimes an abandoned property only needs assessments to learn the site is ready for reuse!

BEFORE



AFTER



In 1997, Rochester Germicide Company sold its property to the Praise Assembly of God Church. The church donated the property after Hurricane Katrina to Elan Ministries to use as a community garden.

The Regional Planning Commission for the New Orleans metro area assisted with environmental site assessments using their Brownfields Assessment grant. Agricultural sampling was also conducted by the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center. No contaminants were found and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality was able to provide a “No Further Action” determination.

The Garden on Marais, is now flourishing with produce and flowers.

In addition, the garden launched its 4-H Kids Club in 2015, dedicated to educating children in urban farming practices, proper nutrition habits and creation care. A brood of 13 hens also call the garden home. They have served as perfect subjects for teaching the 4-H Kids Club members about small animal care, and their eggs will be sold to local restaurants.

Part of the garden features a 1,100 square foot hoop house, ideal for growing seedlings year round. Seedlings are then transplanted into garden beds.

The church building is now used for community gatherings and functions.

Knowledge helped make this garden quickly grow!

