

## Project Research Summary

Our team looks at environmental and open space issues in New Orleans' 9th ward. We work from the premise that neighborhoods that welcome nature into the city are safer, more livable and more sustainable. In the 9th ward, we believe that locally-controlled green space must be at or near the center of any plan to repopulate the neighborhood, for reasons of politics, disaster-resistance and food security alike. We had the opportunity to poll residents with statements about community green space options. One surprise for us is that residents polled did not distinguish between green space controlled by neighbors themselves and city-owned and operated parks, despite city proposals to turn a substantial number of residential blocks into parkland. On the whole, residents polled tended to favor a greener 9th ward, in particular when green space becomes a part of nourishing community members and rebuilding the neighborhood so that it can be more resilient. Having collected this data, we are proceeding toward a palette of options and recommendations for community members to choose from. Residents are near unanimous in their desire to purchase "fresh, healthy and affordable" food within the neighborhood. We will present a range of community institutions from local gardens to cooperative markets that can help make that desire real.