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The need for subterranean termite management in New Orleans, Louisiana

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The Formosan subterranean termite, *Coptotermes formosanus* Shiraki (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae) has become the most economically important structural pest species in New Orleans since its introduction into the city following World War II. In 1998, an area-wide termite population management program, named 'Operation FullStop', was initiated to control populations of Formosan subterranean termites in the city's French Quarter to protect historically significant structures and trees. In 2012, funding for this program ceased, resulting in many historically properties being without termite protection. Two previously established research sites, Louis Armstrong Park and Canal Street, now serve as models to show the effect of termite baiting technology on areas of high termite activity. Both of these sites are located in close proximity to the French Quarter and both exhibit high levels of termite pressure. Previous studies within Louis Armstrong Park have shown that if termite bait is removed from the site, the number of termite colonies and relative termite activity will increase to pre-baiting levels within five years. Currently, bait has been applied again to Louis Armstrong Park and the park exhibits little termite activity. Canal Street, as an untreated site until just recently, has exhibited levels of high termite activity. The contrast between the baited and untreated sites shows the potential for future termite damage in the French Quarter.