



REVITALIZE NEIGHBORHOODS

Strengthening Neighborhoods, Increasing Housing Choice, and Supporting Business

CREATE A REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO REMOVE BLIGHT AND ELIMINATE ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES.

The plan recommends re-establishing the Lafayette Redevelopment Authority to streamline the process of reusing and investing in vacant or blighted properties.

“Vacant and abandoned properties, whether residential or commercial, create costly problems for cities... these properties are a drain on city budgets. They detract from the quality of life, as well as the economic opportunities, of those living around them.”

— US Conference of Mayors, Task Force on Vacant and Abandoned Properties, 2008



Top Image: Habitat for Humanity Infill, Lafayette, LA
UL-Lafayette School of Architecture & Design
Bottom Image: Downtown Lafayette Public Trust Finance Authority Redevelopment

DESIGN THE I-49 CONNECTOR TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND ENSURE NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION.

Key issues to address include traffic, connectivity, design impacts on Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, and relocation of housing and other uses as necessary.



“Through the public process, the (Community Design) Workshop realized that the design of the I-49 Connector was the most important urban design project for the city of Lafayette since the railroad entered the city and shifted the original grid.”

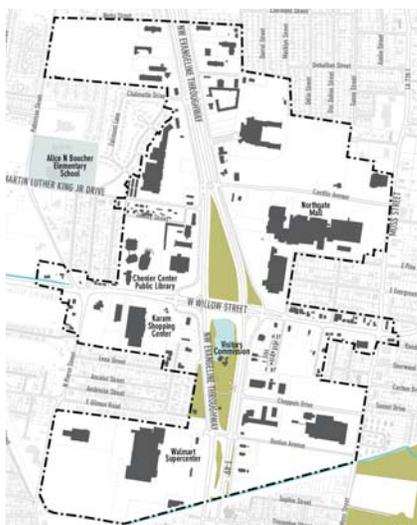
— Lafayette I-49 Connector Project, Community Design Workshop, ICG, MPO, and Neighborhood Pride, 1999.



Left Image: Proposed I-49 US alignment; WRT
Right Image: Proposed linear park concept near I-49; Blue Book, UL Lafayette Community Design Workshop

STRENGTHEN GATEWAYS TO THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE, INCLUDING THE NORTH GATEWAY TO LAFAYETTE.

Gateways create the first impression of a city. They provide an opportunity to create a positive community image, influencing the way people perceive a city as they pass through.



Left Image: North Gateway Small Area Plan (I-49 Corridor); WRT
Right Top Image: Gateway Example - Millburn, NJ Downtown; WRT
Right Bottom Image: Gateway Example - Dutch Kills Green, NY; WRT

STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER, INCREASE HOUSING CHOICE, AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO RECREATION AND HEALTHY FOODS.

The plan increases housing diversity and choice, as well as supports wellness by expanding access to healthy foods, improving stormwater management, increasing education and partnerships with schools, and creating more opportunities for walking and biking for leisure or transportation.



“The childhood obesity epidemic is one of the most serious health challenges of our time, because it is a leading cause of increases in adult obesity, type 2 diabetes, and related chronic diseases. There is a growing consensus on the relationship between the built environments and community wellness.”

— Active Living Research.



Top Image: Lafayette, Hub City Farmers Market
Bottom Left Image: River Ranch, Lafayette, LA ASW Architects Southwest
Right Image: LPS5 Students
Header Image: Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission



REENVISION NATURAL RESOURCES

Finding Opportunity in Our Environmental Challenges

IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE BAYOU VERMILION.

Central to Lafayette's history and culture, the Vermilion River is one of the city's greatest natural assets. Plan Lafayette includes actions to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants that enter the river watershed.



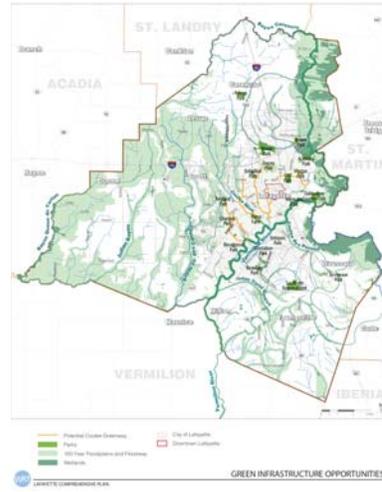
Boaters on the Vermilion Bayou in 1925 (left) and today (right). The Bayou Vermilion District manages boat, canoe and kayak launches in addition to public access along the river in an effort to promote recreation along the Vermilion. They remove trash and large debris from the Vermilion in addition to working with local government to monitor the water quality and water height of the Vermilion.



The use of creative landscape and carefully selected plants in the rendering to the left provides both a system for improving water quality and space for public enjoyment.

Top Images: Bayou Vermilion District (left) and Pack and Paddle (right)
Bottom Image: New Stapleton Waterfront, NY; WRT

STRENGTHEN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION FROM FLOODING USING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.



“The lesson learned so far... is that a wide-ranging commitment to including green infrastructure stormwater approaches, on public as well as private properties, can result in long-term fiscal savings for local governments as well as provide numerous, tangible economic and community benefits through related ecosystem services.”

— Banking on Green: How Green Infrastructure Saves Municipalities Money and Provides Economic Benefits Community-wide, 2012

Left Image: Green Infrastructure Opportunities, Lafayette; WRT
Right Image: Floyd's Fork Park, Louisville, KY; WRT

DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT LEAD TO A MORE BEAUTIFUL AND ATTRACTIVE LAFAYETTE.

Litter, illegal signage, and unkempt right of ways are common in Lafayette. We can strengthen enforcement of our current ordinances and come up with new approaches to make Lafayette the most beautiful, well-kept city in the South.



Left Top Images: No Dumping Campaign & Anti-Litter Campaign
Right Center Image: Existing Johnston Street Signage
Right Images: Washington Avenue Loft District, St Louis, MO; WRT

“Environmental concerns and quality of life issues need to be addressed so they do not affect the community's business retention and recruitment efforts, as well as workforce recruitment.”

— Gregg Gothreau, President and CEO of LEDA

INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT OF OPEN SPACE, INCLUDING NEW TRAILS AND BIKE PATHS.

The quality of a community's recreation system is an important quality of life factor for employees, families, and individuals considering locating to Lafayette. To meet challenges of funding and changing recreational preferences, Plan Lafayette promotes multi-use recreational spaces at strategic locations that are connected to surrounding areas by sidewalks, trails, paths, and transit.



Top Left Image: Horse Farm, Lafayette, LA Photo: Elizabeth Brooks
Top Right Image: Floyd's Fork Park, Louisville, KY
Bottom Image: Lafayette Town, CA; WRT
Header Image: Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission



REFINE GOVERNMENT

Making the Best Use of Tax Dollars to Build a Smarter, More Efficient Government

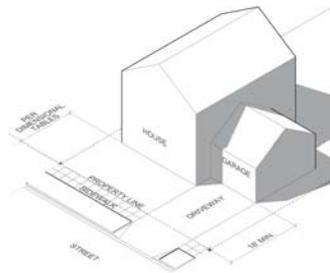
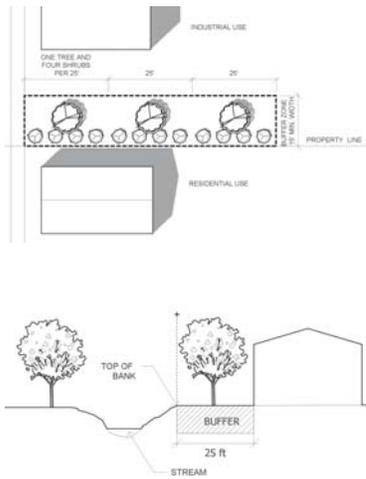
DEVELOP A STREAMLINED, EASY TO USE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE.

Many of the Plan Lafayette actions require changes to current regulations, government organization, and operations. The goal is to introduce more, not less, flexibility in land use in order to facilitate the types of innovative and resourceful development envisioned in the plan.

“The new Unified Development Code will combine LCG’s regulations into a single, integrated code and will implement many of the plan’s recommendations.”

Combining zoning, subdivision, and the Parish land use regulations into a single document provides a more user friendly structure.”

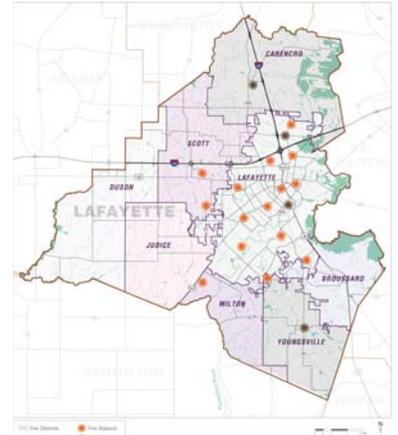
— Plan Lafayette, 2014



Images: Philadelphia Zoning Code; WRT

ANALYZE POTENTIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT BEFORE SPENDING TAX DOLLARS ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Capital improvement planning and budgeting is essential to implementation of Plan Lafayette. The plan provides a guide for future improvements like roadway connections, water and sewer utilities, parks, and other community services. There are 1,028 miles of city/parish roadways.

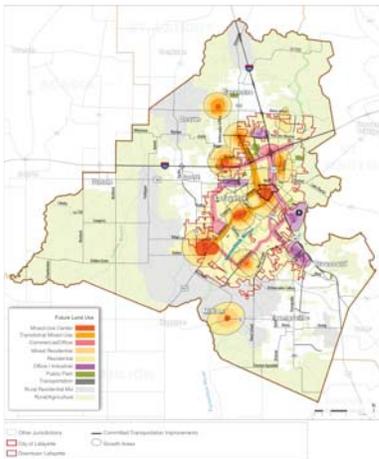


Left Image: The per linear mile costs are based on LCG project and maintenance records.

Right Image: Current police and fire districts, Lafayette, LA; WRT

STRENGTHEN INVESTMENT IN CENTERS AND CORRIDORS, INCLUDING DOWNTOWN LAFAYETTE, USING INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES.

The Future Land Use Map designates targeted centers and corridors for new mixed-use commercial, residential, and employment uses, some of which will occur through redevelopment of economically obsolete uses.



Left Image: Draft Future Land Use Map, Lafayette, LA; WRT

Right Bottom Image: Utility Service, Photo: LUS

Right Top Image: Downtown Lafayette, Photo: DDA

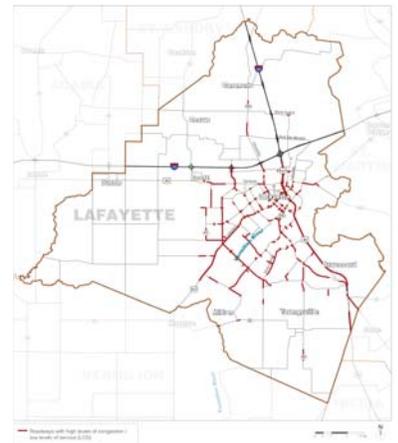
STRENGTHEN OUR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FOR ALL USERS BY REDUCING CONGESTION AND IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY.

Plan Lafayette stresses the importance of providing transportation options to people of all ages and abilities and promotes connectivity as a crucial, low-cost method to achieve transportation options and reduce congestion.



“One of the most critical transportation network needs throughout Lafayette Parish is the lack of inter-connectivity among Lafayette residential developments.”

— Lafayette Metropolitan Area 2030 Transportation Plan



Top Image: Dutch Kills, NY; WRT

Right Image: Map of Highly Congested Roadways, Lafayette, LA; WRT

Header Image: Philip Gould; Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission



REINVENT THE HUB CITY

Investing in Community Assets that Define the Hub City of the Future: A Connected, Innovative, and Culturally Rich Place

UTILIZE BEST PRACTICES IN DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT OF EMERGING CENTERS AND CORRIDORS, INCLUDING COMPLETE STREET DESIGN.

Small Area Plans will be used as prototypes to apply urban design and connectivity principles and to illustrate how desired new forms of development will look and interface with existing neighborhoods.



Top Image: Miller Avenue Streetscape Plan, Mill Valley, CA; WRT
Bottom Image: Rendering of St. Mary streetscape

WORK WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO EDUCATE AND FULLY PREPARE STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN THE WORKPLACE.

A strong education system is essential to all aspects of the economy, quality of life, and a key to attracting and retaining residents and jobs to Lafayette. The plan's recommendations include supporting and creating partnerships with the business community, arts organizations, and LPS students and private schools to continue to improve education and prepare the next generation.

“Workforce development programs specifically produce widespread benefits for employers and society as a whole, likely leading to sustained increases in productivity and economic growth.”

— University of Texas, Workforce Narrative Project Report from Christopher King & Carolyn Heinrich, 2011

Bottom Images: LPS Students



GROW LAFAYETTE AS A LEADER IN TECHNOLOGY AND FIBER AVAILABILITY

Lafayette's fiber network and service provides a regional and national economic advantage. Plan Lafayette includes recommendations to ensure that LUS Fiber expands to planned future growth areas as our population and employment centers grow, and continues to provide excellent service to businesses and technology related companies.



“Lafayette headed toward cyber connectivity more than a decade ago, when it laid 65 miles of fiber optics...It's given Lafayette a true edge. Other communities around the country 20 years from now will want what Lafayette has today.”

— Terry Huval
Director of Lafayette Utilities System Fiber

Right Image: Terry Huval, USA Today
Top Image: Fiber Cables, Flickr/kainet

ENHANCE LAFAYETTE'S HISTORIC RESOURCES AND MAKE LAFAYETTE'S CULTURE AND ARTS A VISIBLE PART OF THE COMMUNITY'S IMAGE.

Arts and culture have already played a vital role in the community. The plan includes action to support and grow the role of culture and art in education, in the built environment through public art and streetscape, and by preserving Lafayette's Cajun and Creole heritage, music and stories.

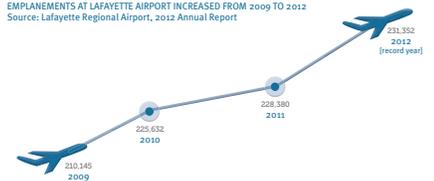


Top Image: Festivals Acadiens
Bottom Image: University Art Museum; Philip Gould; Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission

EXPAND AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY AND BOLSTER THE ECONOMY.

Not only do airports move people and goods around, they serve as a key component of regional economic development.

EMPLACEMENTS AT LAFAYETTE AIRPORT INCREASED FROM 2009 TO 2012
Source: Lafayette Regional Airport, 2012 Annual Report



“...economist Jan Brueckner also notes a close connection between airline passengers and regional employment growth, finding that a 10 percent increase in passengers in a metro generates a one percent increase in regional employment. The study concludes that: ‘the evidence confirms the common view that good airline service is an important factor in urban economic development.’”

— John Kasarda, Director of the Center for Air Commerce from the Atlantic Cities “Airports and the Wealth of Cities,” May 2012

Top Image: Lafayette Airport emplacements

Left Image: Lafayette Regional Airport

Header Image: WRT

