

## Louisiana Recreational Trails Program

LCG was awarded and has two active recreational trail grants from the Federal Highway Administration through the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. The focus is to improve ‘urban bicycle infrastructure.’ The grants were originally awarded to the Metropolitan Planning Organization and are now being implemented by LCG planning staff.

### *Atakapa-Ishak Trail*

One grant is for phase 2 of the multi-phased Atakapa-Ishak Trail (AI Trail). Phase 1 runs from downtown Lafayette to Beaver Park, where Phase 2 begins. The trailhead for Phase 1 (in downtown Lafayette) will also serve as the trailhead for the proposed *Urban Bike Trails Network*, which includes three interconnected bicycle trails that link downtown Lafayette to the UL campus and Heymann Park.

The AI Trail Phase 2 begins at the trailhead inside Beaver Park. The trail utilizes a very low volume/ low speed/ dead-ended shared roadway through the park until it reaches US Hwy 90. Here the trail transfers to a two-way/ off-road/ multi-use path that was constructed as part of a separate project by Louisiana DOTD (within DOTD right-of-way). The trail passes underneath US Hwy 90 and continues on the path parallel to the US 90 and then turns west, crossing over a coulee (drainage ditch). Solar lighting assemblies will be installed adjacent to the trail at US 90 in late 2016, early 2017.

Once across the ditch, the DOTD-constructed trail continues to be a two-way/ off-road/ multi-use path until it reaches Fisher Rd., where it once again becomes shared roadway until it reaches the Jean Lafitte National Park Acadian Cultural Center. In late 2016, a trailhead will be installed at Jean Lafitte that will include a picnic table, two bicycle racks and informational kiosks. Appropriate signage will be installed along the trail for safety and to draw attention to the trail route.

### *Urban Bike Trails Network*

The central link to the three trail projects that comprise the Urban Bicycle Trails network is the Atakapa-Ishak Phase 1 Trailhead at Parc Sans Souci in downtown Lafayette. In addition to serving as the trailhead for the Atakapa-Ishak Trail, the trailhead will also be the terminus for the ***Souvenir Gate Bicycle Trail*** and the beginning of the ***Pontiac Point Bicycle Trail*** (through which the ***Orange Street Bicycle Trail*** will connect). Also, the ***Souvenir Gate Trail*** connects the Atakapa-Ishak Phase I trailhead at Parc San Souci to the University of Lafayette’s University Multi-Use Path. The trail runs for 1.60 miles until it reaches the trailhead for the Atakapa-Ishak Trail at Parc Sans Souci in Downtown Lafayette (215 feet west of the E. Vermilion St. / Lee Ave. intersection).

The ***Pontiac Point Trail*** begins at 201 E. Vermilion Street at the trailhead for the Atakapa-Ishak Trail at Parc Sans Souci in Downtown Lafayette (215 feet west of the E. Vermilion St. / Lee Ave. intersection). The trail runs for 1.85 miles to Pontiac Point Neighborhood Park (located at 100 Moss St. adjacent to the intersection of E. Simcoe St., Jefferson Blvd. and Surrey St.).

The ***Orange Street Trail*** begins just south (15 feet) of the intersection of N. Orange Street and E. Third Street and heads south on N. Orange St. The trail will consist of shared roadway for 2.53 miles until its terminus at Heymann Park Access Drive inside Heymann Park (1500 S. Orange St.).

The Urban Bicycle Trails system was developed to provide an interconnected system of bicycle trails that branch out from Lafayette's urban core and link parks and residential areas outside the city center to the downtown area. These trails serve as a "nodal" trail network that has the Atakapa-Ishak trailhead in Parc Sans Souci at its center. Future trails will expand outward from this network to increase trail connectivity to and from the urban core of Lafayette.

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