



LAFOURCHE PARISH ROUND 2 MEETINGS SUMMARY



ROUND 2 MEETINGS OVERVIEW

The second round of LA SAFE meetings focused on conversations at the community scale. The team held twenty-one meetings in nineteen towns and cities across the coast. Residents at the first round of meetings chose the round 2 meeting locations. In Lafourche Parish, meetings were held in Thibodaux, Lockport, Larose, and Galliano. Meeting at this level allowed the team to present a more in-depth view of the trends in each community, and to gather input at the community level.

In this series of community meetings, residents pinpointed challenges, proposed solutions, and collectively described a future across different types of environments and different levels of risk. The project team combined the residents' ideas and mapped their proposed strategies. The community recommendations will form the basis for the projects, programs, and policies that LA SAFE pursues going forward. The project team will review the ideas, and take into consideration current and future environmental risk, as well as best practices in planning.

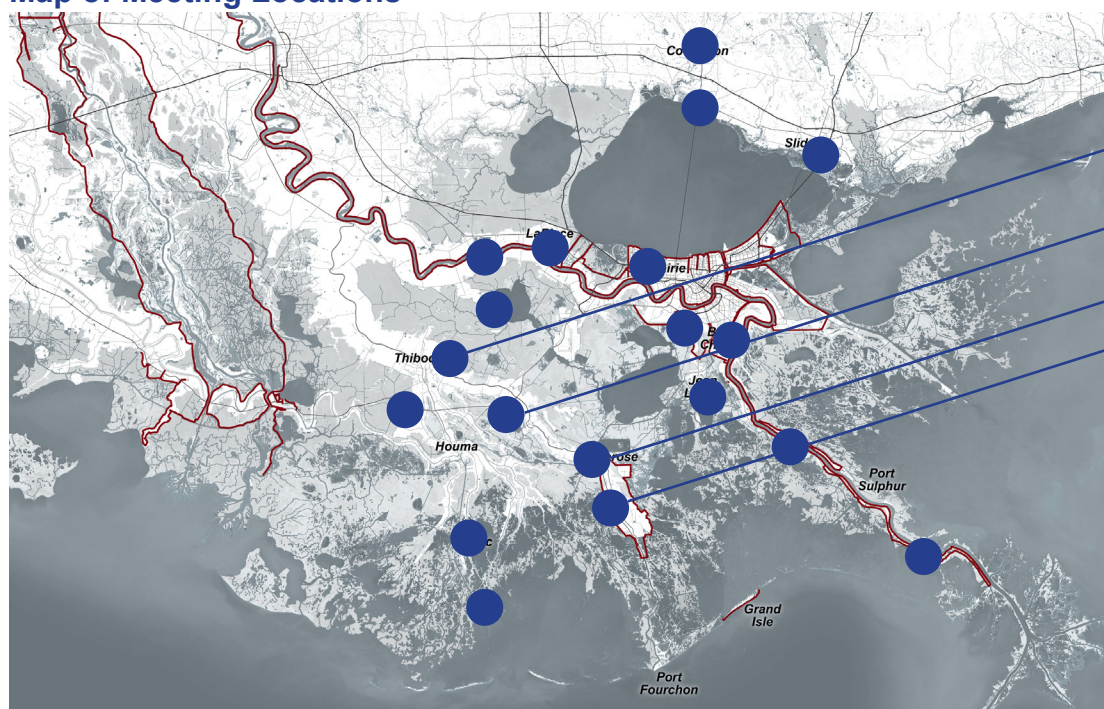


Residents at the Galliano Meeting



Residents, table host, and scribe at the Thibodaux Meeting

Map of Meeting Locations



Lafourche Meeting Locations

Thibodaux

Lockport

Larose

Galliano

ACTIVITY: MAPPING STRATEGIES

The activity included a large table map of the community, which depicted the 2067 flood risk, and a set of related question cards. Residents chose one card from each color category (shown on the right), and discussed a set of questions on the back. A table host facilitated the conversation, and a table scribe recorded it.

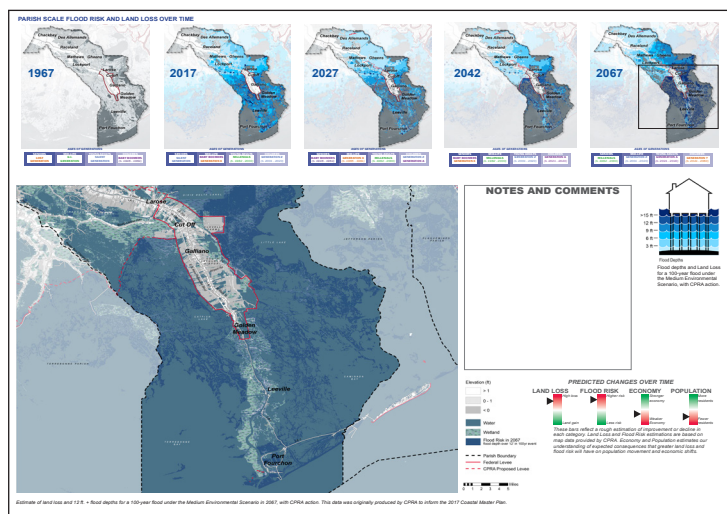
Each card had questions that related to three time periods:

- 1. Short Term (10 years):** current needs and opportunities.
- 2. Medium Term (20 years):** ways the community can adapt over time to a changing environment, economy, and population.
- 3. Long Term (50 years):** the long-term vision for the parish.

Each card prompted residents to write and draw on their maps to show areas in need, or areas with potential for growth. The table hosts encouraged the residents to write, draw, and point out where potential projects and programs would be most successful.



- QUALITY OF LIFE
- YOUTH & EDUCATION
- CULTURE & TOURISM
- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
- TRANSPORTATION
- PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES
- PROPERTY VALUE & COST OF LIVING
- LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- JOBS & JOB TRAINING



Activity Map used for the Galliano (English language) Meeting and the Larose (Vietnamese language) Meeting

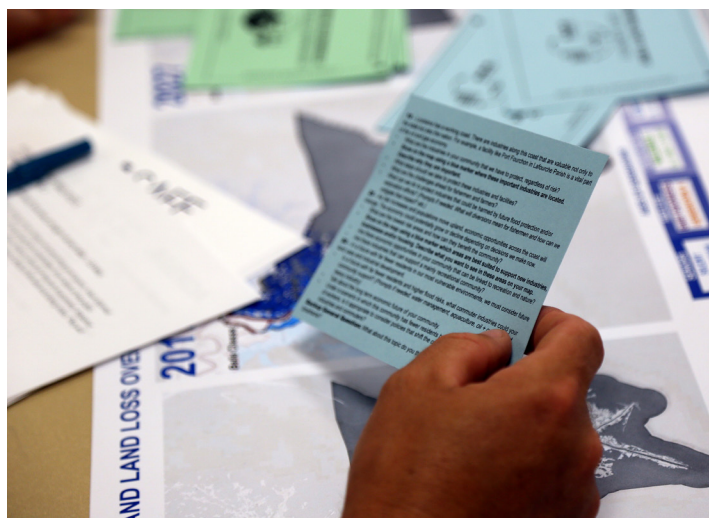
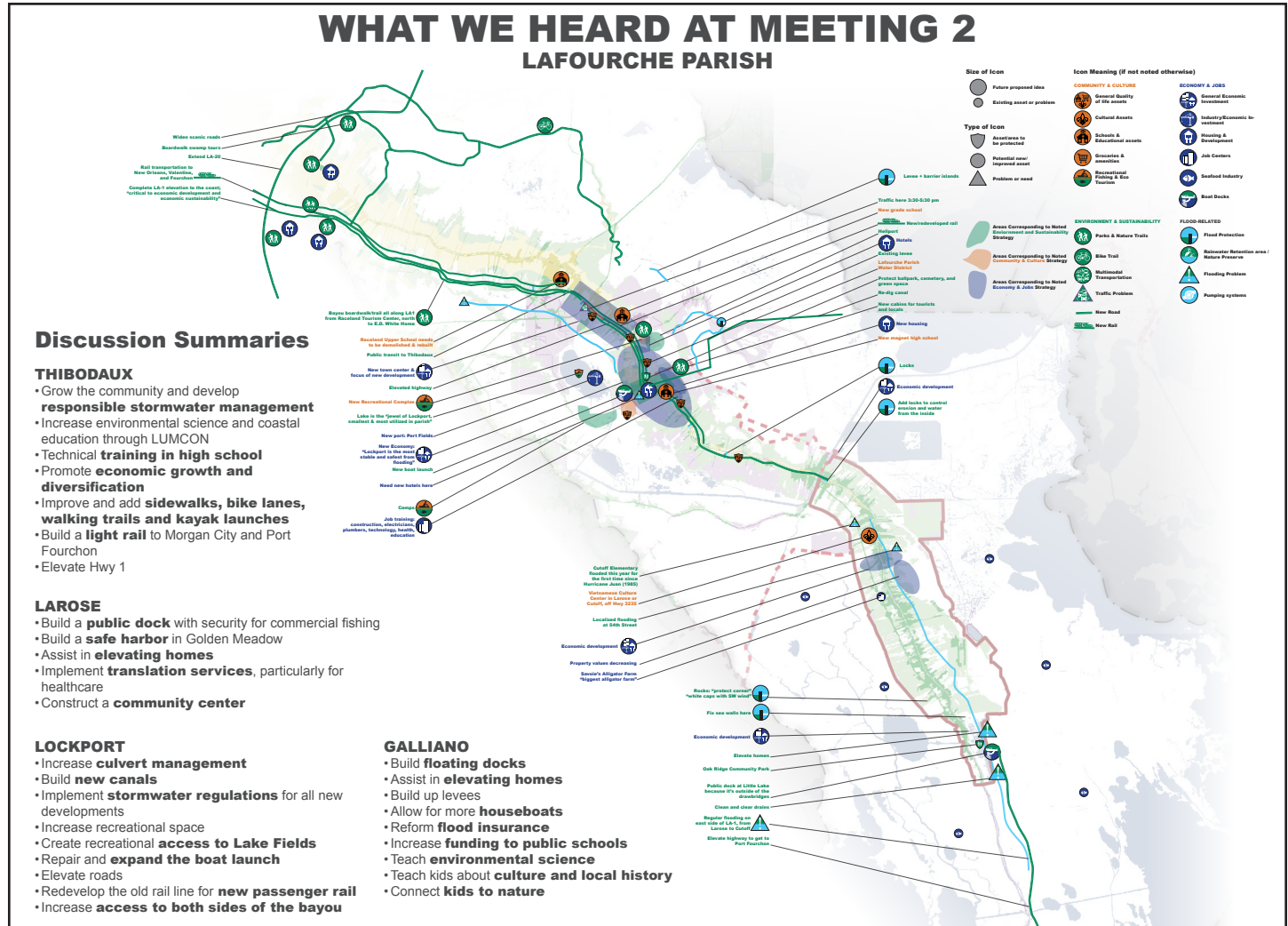


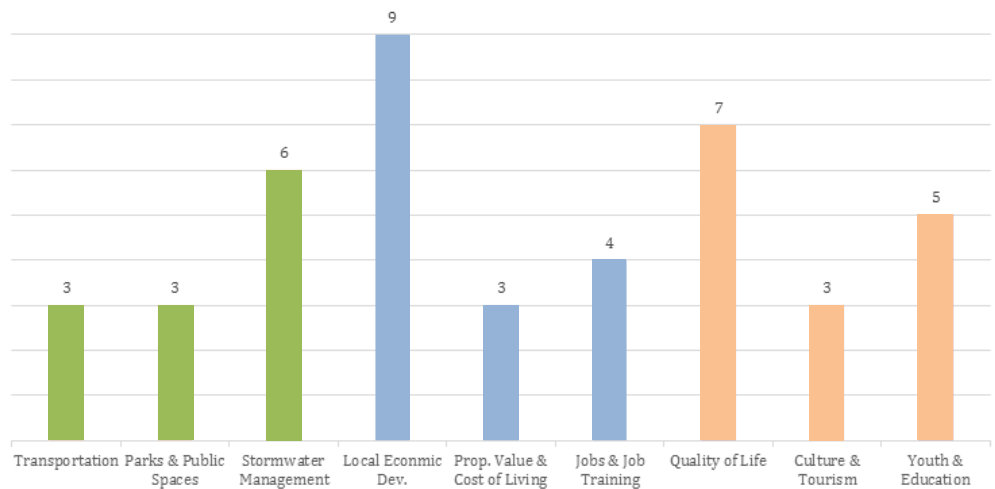
Table host reading questions from an Economy & Jobs card

MEETING RESULTS

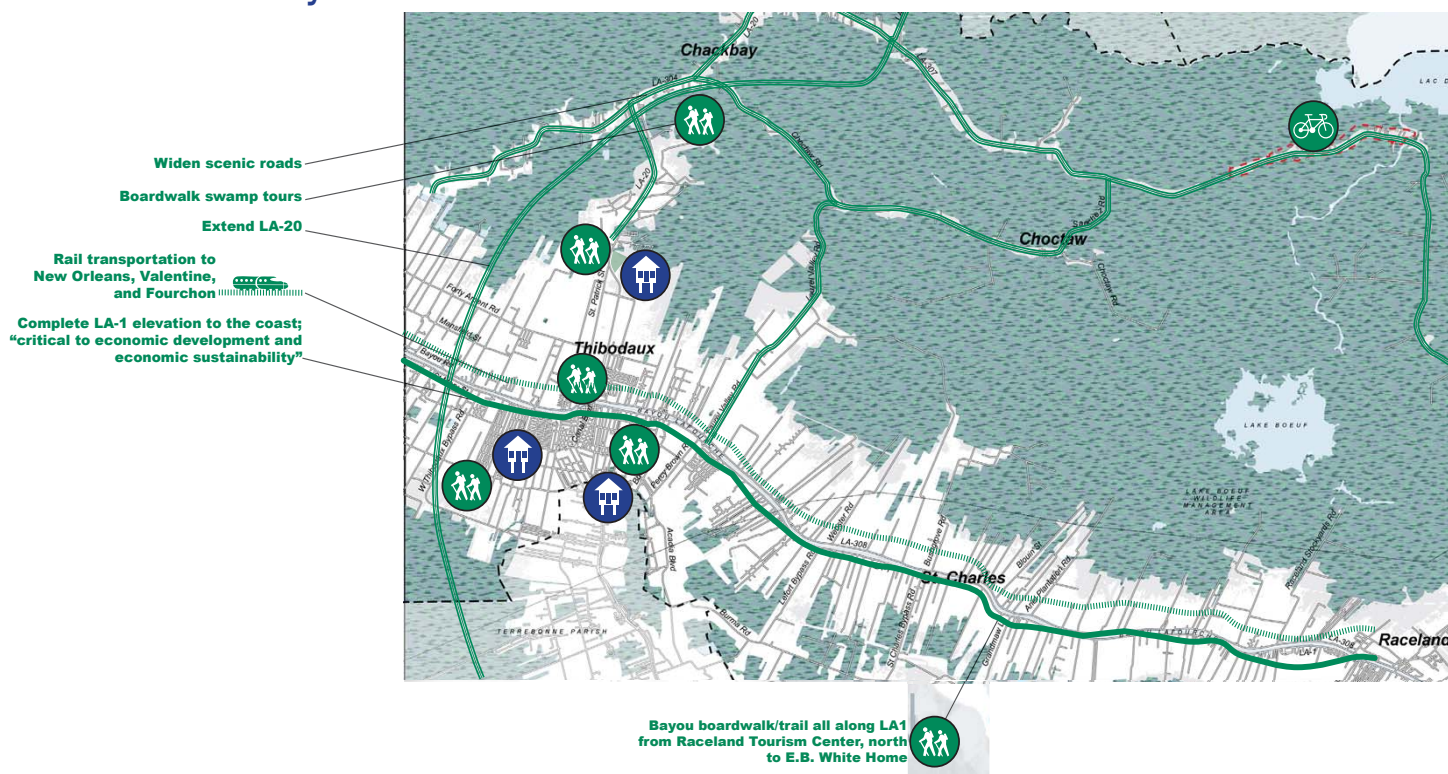
The following pages show what residents added to the maps, and contain summaries of the discussions from each of the meetings in Lafourche Parish. The map below includes the results from each meeting. A large version of this is available at LASAFE.la.gov.



Each table group chose one card from each of the three categories. In Lafourche Parish, residents chose Local Economic Development, Quality of Life, and Stormwater Management the most frequently.



Thibodaux Summary



Residents at the Thibodaux meeting envisioned a future of growth, with a diverse economy, responsible stormwater management, upgraded transportation infrastructure, and a renewed educational focus on science and culture.

For youth, residents desired increased science and coastal educational experiences through LUMCON, park service summer camps, and the school curriculum. They also stressed the importance of cultural education, French-immersion schools, and the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to support students in college and technical schools. Many participants cited the need for more technical training in high school, and increased relationships between employers and schools to create a career pipeline for those not college-bound.

The residents wanted existing industries to thrive alongside growing sectors such as filmmaking, car manufacturing, solar energy, and coastal restoration. They discussed the need for more youth-oriented and entertainment businesses, as well as better sidewalks, more bike lanes and walking trails, and additional kayak launches. Residents recommended that parks serve the community as recreational assets and stormwater retention areas. They stated that larger parks could include amphitheatres and walking paths, while smaller pocket parks could be organized throughout denser areas.

Participants also emphasized new transportation ideas, including rail to Morgan City and Port Fourchon and an elevated Highway 1, complete with bike lanes.

- Future proposed idea
- Existing asset or problem

- Asset/area to be protected
- Potential new/improved asset
- Problem or need

- Areas Corresponding to Noted Environment and Sustainability Strategy
- Areas Corresponding to Noted Community & Culture Strategy
- Areas Corresponding to Noted Economy & Jobs Strategy

Icon Meaning (if not noted otherwise)

COMMUNITY & CULTURE

- General quality of life assets
- Cultural Asset
- Schools & Education
- Groceries & amenities
- Recreational Fishing & Eco Tourism

ECONOMY & JOBS

- General Economic Investment
- Industry/Economic Investment
- Housing & Development
- Job Centers
- Seafood Industry

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

- Parks & Nature Trails
- Bike Trail
- Multimodal Transportation
- Traffic Problems!
- New Road
- New Rail
- Water Transportation Infrastructure

FLOOD-RELATED

- Flood Protection
- Rainwater retention area / Preserve
- Flooding!
- Pumping systems

Lockport Summary



Residents at the Lockport/Mathews meeting focused on quality of life, economic development, and stormwater management.

Participants described frequent flooding during rain events, especially when Larose closes its levee system. They suggested improving drainage through increased culvert management, new canals, and more personal responsibility placed on homeowners and developers. Some residents recommended regulating all new developments, so that developers manage their own stormwater and provide plenty of green space and retention areas.

One resident recommended taxing based on the size of the roof, which would encourage builders to go vertical and preserve pervious areas. Participants also recommended increased recreational areas, including repairing and expanding the boat launch, which is often flooded. One table suggested that the parish buy the boat launch in Lockport and create recreational access to Lake Fields, "the best jewel in the Parish." Residents from Mathews said that they also need recreational areas such as a park, walking trails, sports fields, and an auditorium.

Residents suggested creating mixed-use developments and a town square that provides recreational areas and green space. Others suggested expanding jobs and opportunities in medical research, high-tech manufacturing, shipbuilding, and construction. Participants suggested elevating roads and redeveloping the old rail line to light rail to maintain connectivity to Port Fourchon. They also recommended connecting the sides of the bayou by fixing band bridges, and increasing development on the east bank.

Residents expressed the need to keep the area family friendly, resisting development of casinos and adult establishments. They recommended more retail, manufacturing, and recreational industries in the area, as well as boardwalks across the bayou. Participants said that they do not have enough local entertainment options for the weekends. However, they were generally pleased with the educational options in the area. They thought the Career Academy was instilling real trade skills in students successfully. Some residents would like increased cultural education in the curriculum.

- Future proposed idea
- Existing asset or problem

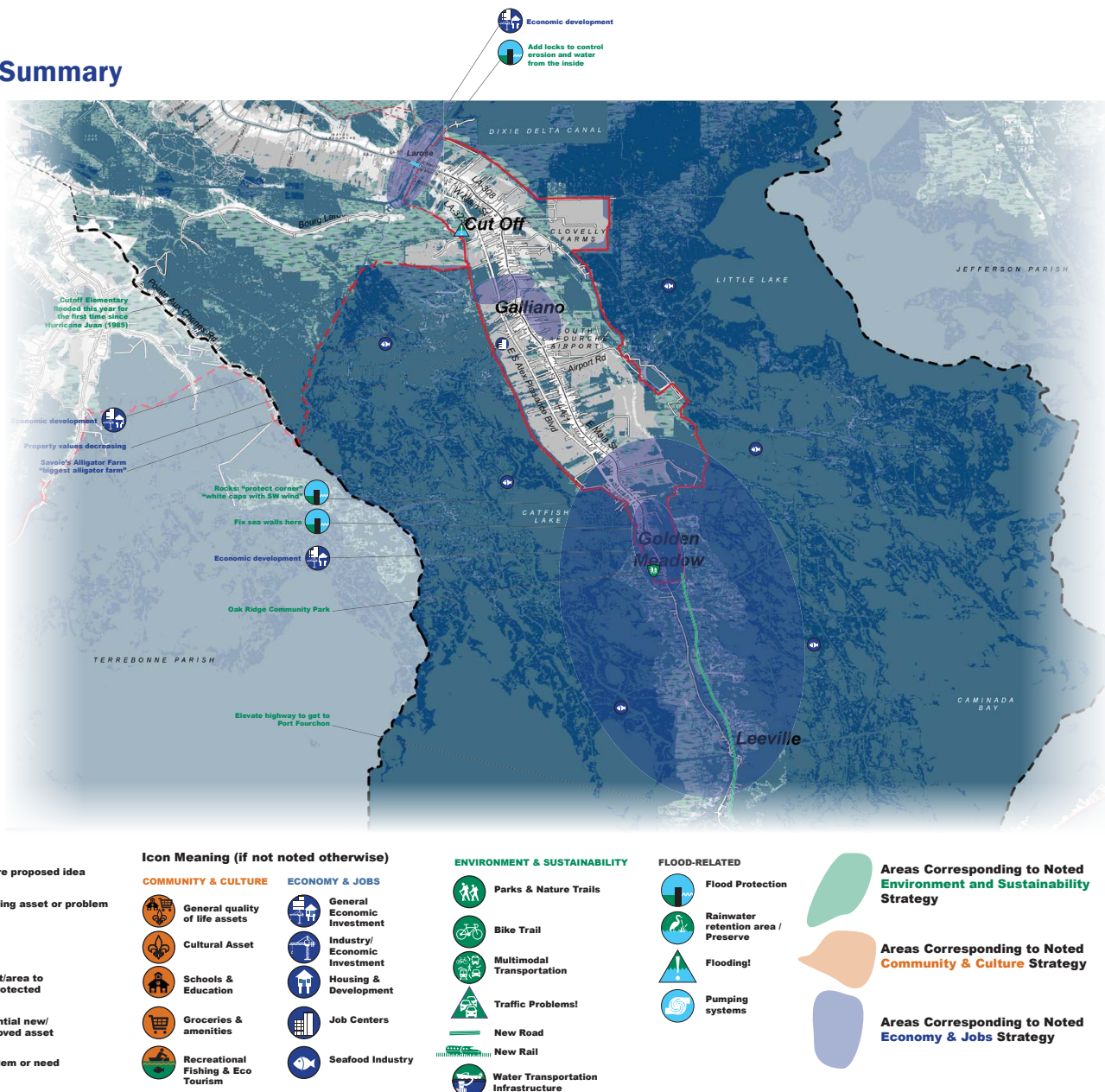
- Asset/area to be protected
- Potential new/improved asset
- Problem or need

Icon Meaning (if not noted otherwise)

COMMUNITY & CULTURE	ECONOMY & JOBS
General quality of life assets	General Economic Investment
Cultural Asset	Industry/Economic Investment
Schools & Education	Housing & Development
Groceries & amenities	Job Centers
Recreational Fishing & Eco Tourism	Seafood Industry

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	FLOOD-RELATED
Parks & Nature Trails	Flood Protection
Bike Trail	Rainwater retention area / Preserve
Multimodal Transportation	Flooding!
Traffic Problems!	Pumping systems
New Road	Areas Corresponding to Noted Environment and Sustainability Strategy
New Rail	Areas Corresponding to Noted Community & Culture Strategy
Water Transportation Infrastructure	Areas Corresponding to Noted Economy & Jobs Strategy

Galliano Summary

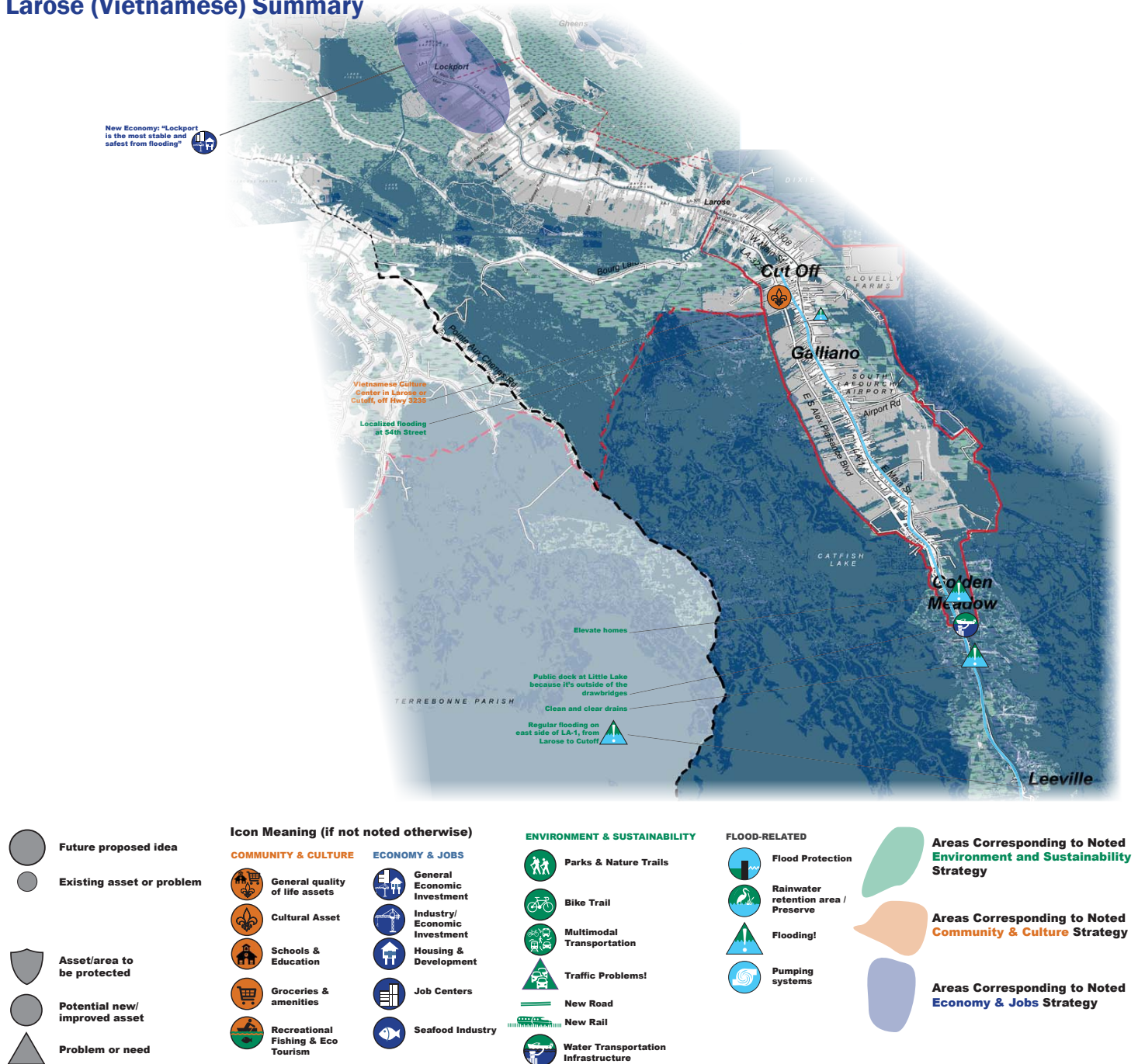


Residents in Galliano discussed increased flooding, flood insurance costs, and low oil and seafood prices. They emphasized a struggling school system that is increasingly disconnected from the culture and economy of the area.

On the topic of stormwater, participants proposed many possible initiatives, including floating docks, elevated houses, retention ponds, taller levees, barrier islands, houseboats, insurance reform, subsidized insurance, larger pumps, and floodgates. Residents said that the flooding and flood insurance issues are hurting property values, and making it difficult to sell homes. One participant said that falling gas and shrimp prices, Hurricane Katrina, and the oil spill created a steady decrease in home values in the area. Another resident described the community as a “dire” situation that young people choose to abandon. One resident stated that they are waiting for the government to pay people to move.

Residents discussed many ideas related to education. They pointed out the decreasing opportunities in the schools (lost AP classes), and lack of engagement with the coast and culture. Many suggested teaching kids environmental science so that they can better understand what is happening across the coast. Others recommended teaching Cajun culture and local history, so that their culture is not lost. Whether in school or through other programs, many residents said that kids should continue to connect with nature through hunting, fishing, and being outdoors, as technology is causing a disconnect between kids and their heritage.

Larose (Vietnamese) Summary

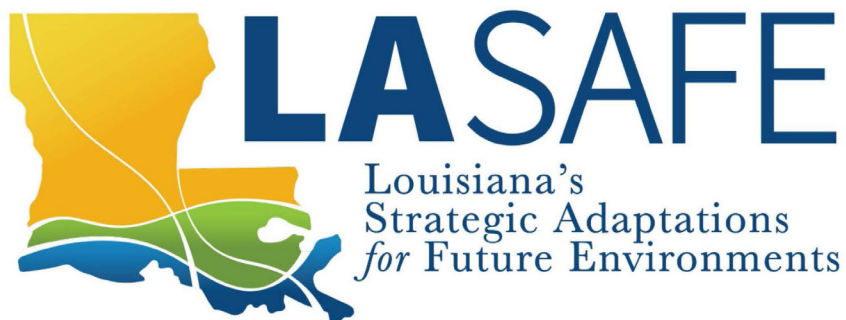


Residents at the Larose meeting discussed ideas to support their community into the future. Their economic development conversation focused on docks as the center for their jobs and community. The residents recommended a public dock for commercial fishing, with security and a safe harbor in Golden Meadow. Like other fishing communities, the participants suggested an increase in fish and shrimp prices, and limits on cheap imports.

Residents further recommended land and drain maintenance, as well as home elevations. They also discussed the need for translation services, particularly for healthcare, and the need to preserve Vietnamese culture through a community center and/or healthy living options like Tai Chi and Karate classes.

NEXT STEPS

After the second round of LA SAFE meetings, the project team reviewed all of the results and conducted outreach with key stakeholders. The team designed the activities and questions for the third round of meetings based on the projects, programs, and policy recommendations from this round.



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