

LAFOURCHE PARISH MEETING 3 SUMMARY











MEETING 3 OVERVIEW

At the third round of meetings, the LA SAFE process moved from the big picture to focus on the specific projects, programs, and policy options that will support the vision.

The meetings centered around three core interactive components. The first was a snap-polling exercise, in which the project team asked the participants multiple choice questions, and collected and reviewed the results instantly.

In the second part of the meeting, the project team presented the vision crafter by the community and project team in the previous meetings. After the project lead discussed each piece of the vision, the participants voted on their level of agreement.

The third component of the meeting focused on the individual projects, programs, and policies that could potentially support the vision. On large table sheets, the residents evaluated ideas organized according to planning category and risk level. Residents placed green dots on the ideas they liked, and red dots on those they did not like. They also added new ideas and commented on the strategies depicted.

This document summarizes the results from the meetings, including all resident voting results and comments. These results will inform how the project team will prioritize projects, programs, and policies within Lafourche Parish as a part of LA SAFE.







ACTIVITY 1A: SNAP POLLING

The first meeting activity included a series of polling questions. Each resident used a clicker to submit their responses, which the project team collected and displayed in real-time. In Lafourche, there were 53 total participants in this activity, but some residents abstained from certain questions. Each chart below lists the number of respondents for the corresponding question.

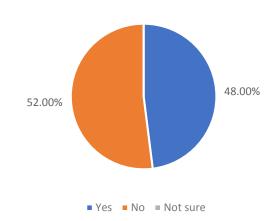
The first few questions establish a baseline of who came to the meetings, followed by planning and project oriented questions. The results from these polling questions will inform the planning recommendations and pilot project selections.

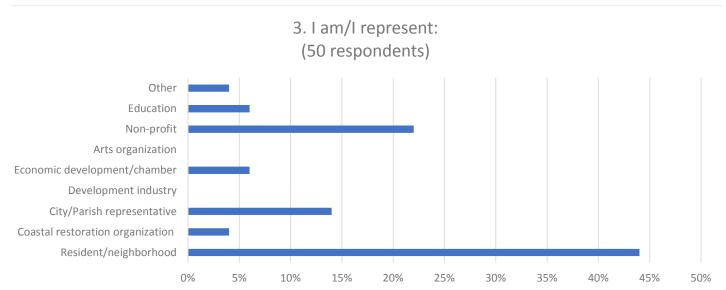


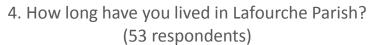
The vast majority of Lafourche residents at the meeting thought improving transportation is very important. Among transportation options, complete streets and transit services were most popular. The majority of residents thought that greater access to jobs and job training is the highest priority for retaining youth in the parish, followed by affordable housing, which is

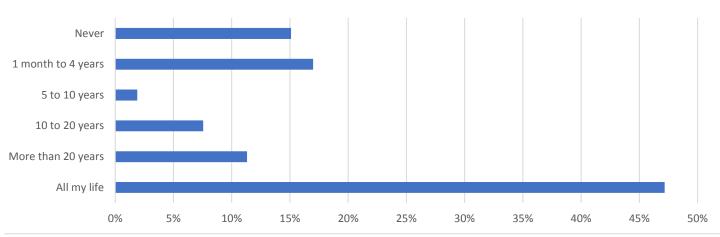
also the type of housing that residents wanted to see more of in the parish. About 80% of residents think mental health is a significant issue in the parish, and 60% said that medical services are the most needed programs to improve quality of life for the elderly. When asked about job opportunities, residents expressed the need to expand healthcare, tourism, and alternative energy sectors. Residents also said new growth should occur in existing communities on high ground with established infrastructure.

2. Have you been to any other LA SAFE meetings? (50 respondents)



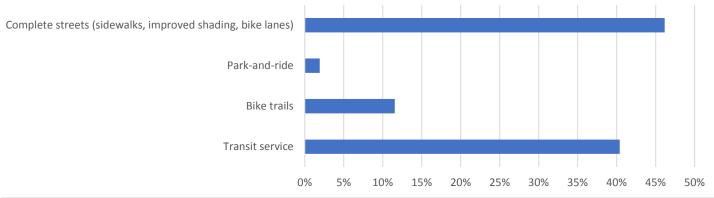






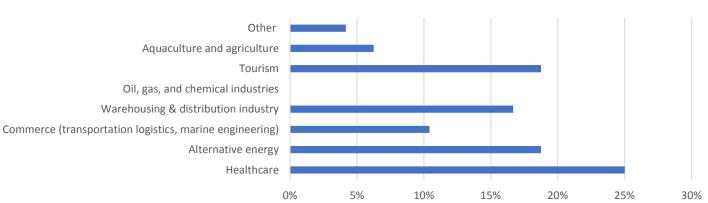
5. If LA SAFE invested in a transportation project, which project would you most like to see funded?



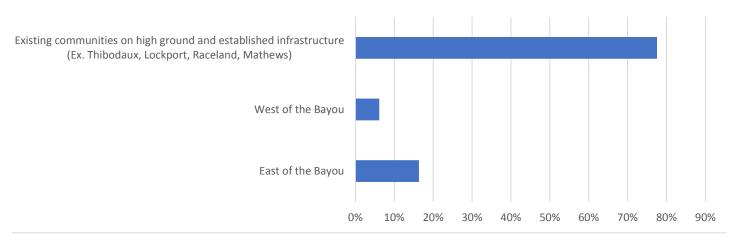


6. Which types of job opportunities would you like to see expanded in your parish?

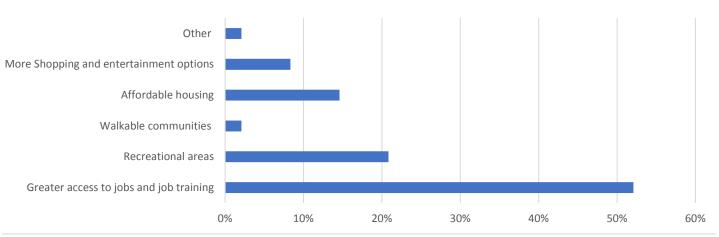
(48 respondents)



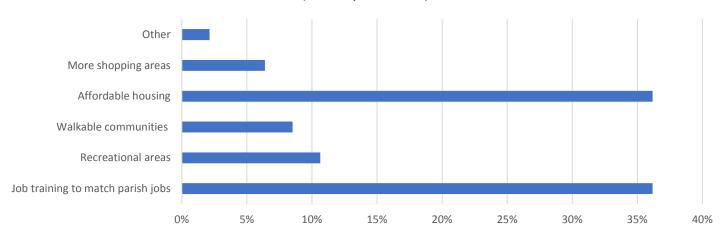
7. Where should growth in the parish occur? (49 respondents)



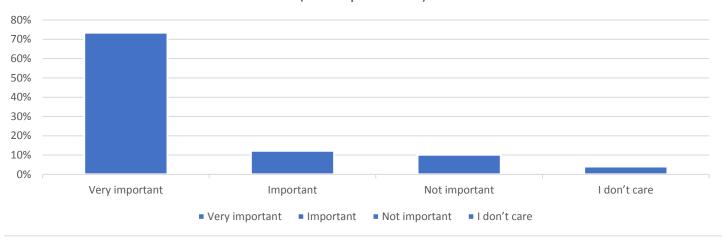
8. What is the highest priority to retain youth in the parish? (48 respondents)



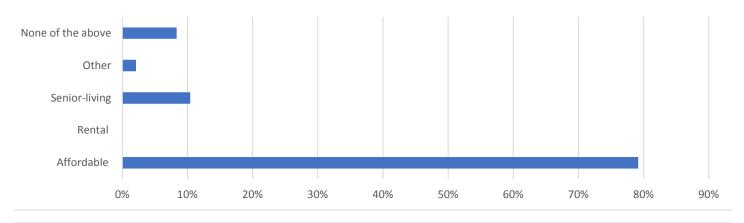
9. What is the second highest priority to retain youth in the parish? (47 respondents)



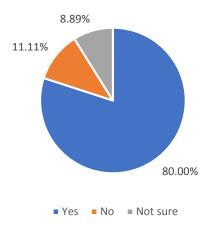
10. How important is improving transportation connectivity in Lafourche? (49 respondents)



11. Which of the following housing types would you most like to see more of in your parish? (48 respondents)

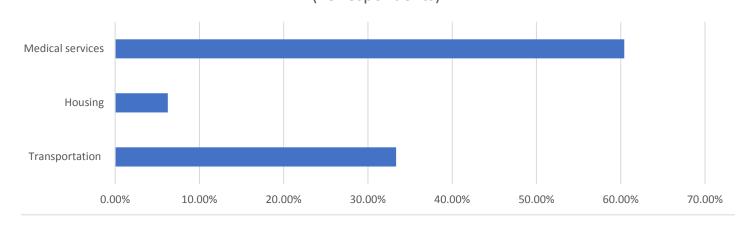


12. Is access to mental health services a significant issue in the parish? (45 respondents)



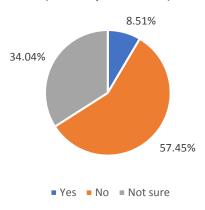
13. What types of programs are most needed to improve quality of life for the elderly?

(48 respondents)



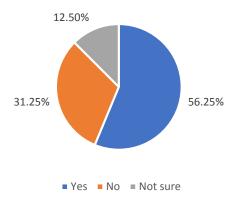
14. Are you aware of alternative forms of flood insurance such as local risk pools?

(47 respondents)



15. Would you choose to purchase a flood insurance policy if not required by a mortgage company or covenant?

(48 respondents)



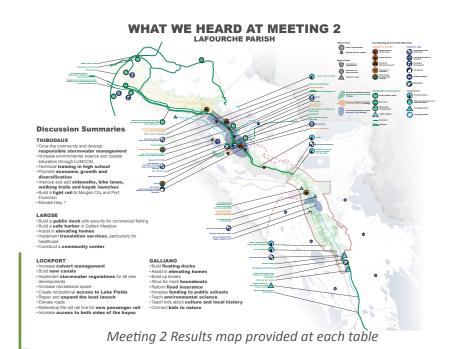
ACTIVITY 1B: EVALUATING THE VISION

After the initial polling, the project team presented a vision for the Parish based on previous meeting results and future flood risk. The vision that the team presented was organized into five planning categories and three risk levels: high risk, moderate risk, and low risk.

The components of this vision are shown on the following pages. In general, we anticipated lower risk areas growing in population over time, and high risk areas losing population. Strategies for each risk level were tailored to support all areas as change occurs. Residents evaluated the vision for each risk level using their clickers. Therefore, the participants were broadly supportive, with over 70% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the vision

BEST

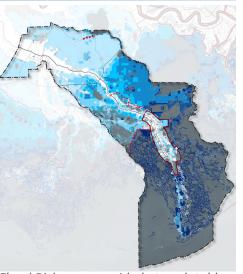
PLANNING PRACTICES



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER VISION

CURRENT & FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS





Flood Risk map provided at each table

HIGH RISK AREAS

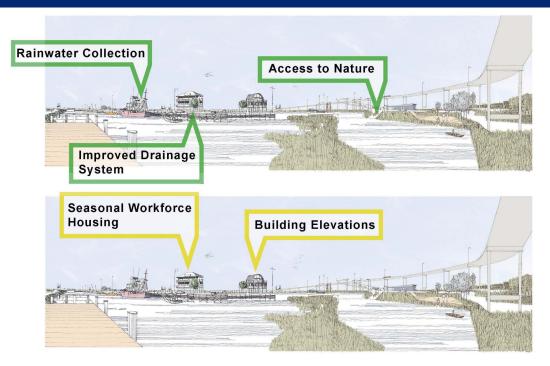
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT
& GREEN SPACE

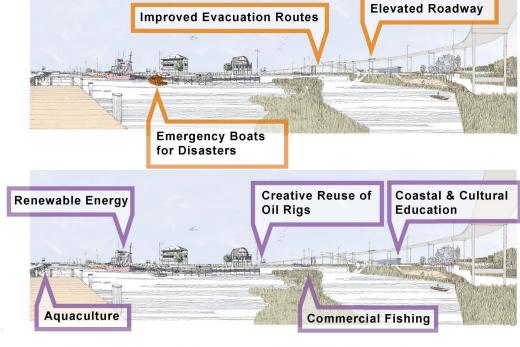
HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION, ECONOMY, & JOBS

CULTURE & RECREATION







HIGH RISK AREAS



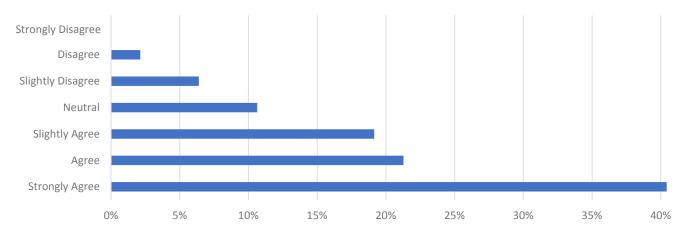


Land loss High flood risk Decline in population

Do you agree with this vision for High Risk Areas?

You described a future with **elevated homes**, **safe evacuation routes**, an expanded **recreational and ecotourism industry**, and infrastructure needed to **support the seafood industry and coastal workers**.

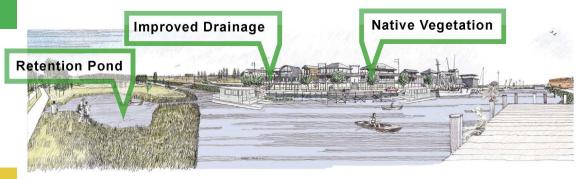




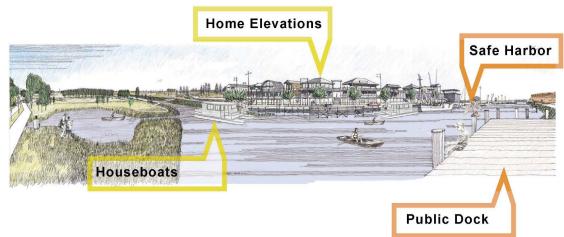
This high risk vision presented a future with greater access to nature, ecotourism, elevated workforce housing, improved evacuation routes, expanded coastal industries and recreational uses. A total of 41% of residents strongly agreed with this vision, and the next 40% agreed or slightly agreed. Less than 10% of residents disagreed or slightly disagreed.

MODERATE RISK AREAS



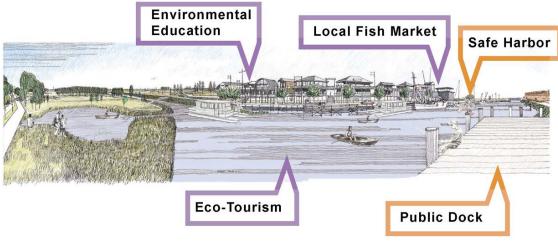


HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

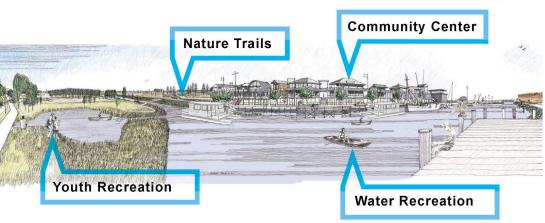


TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION, ECONOMY, & JOBS



CULTURE & RECREATION



MODERATE RISK AREAS



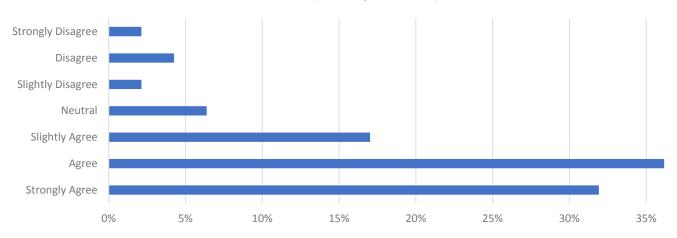


Land loss in surrounding areas Moderate local flood risk Not much change

Do you agree with this vision for Moderate Risk Areas?

You described a future with more **residential and commercial development**, greater **transportation options**, better **stormwater management**, and more **green space**.





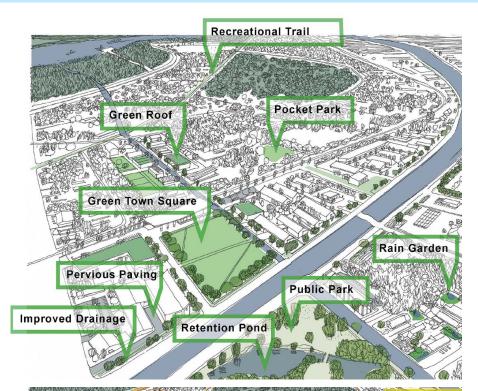
This moderate risk vision presented a future with elevated housing, safe harbors, more transportation options, essential services, access to water and nature, and improved stormwater management. A total of 32% of residents strongly agreed with this vision, and the next 53% agreed or slightly agreed. Less than 10% of residents expressed any level of disagreement.

LOW RISK AREAS

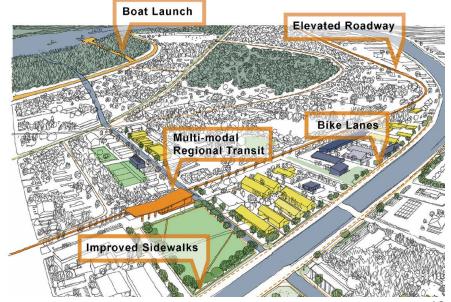
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT
& GREEN SPACE

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

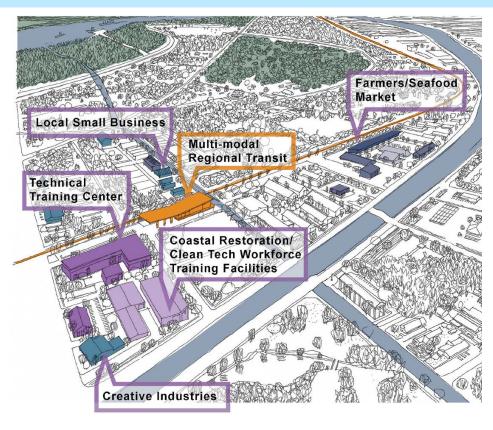




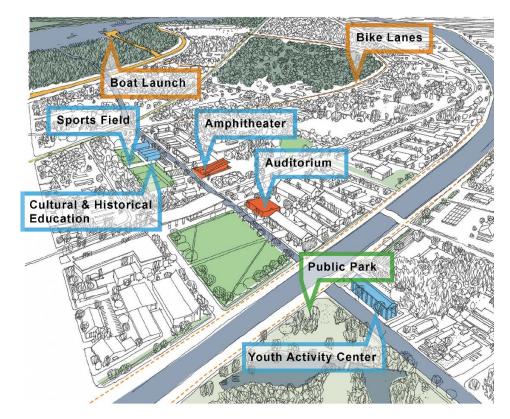


LOW RISK AREAS

EDUCATION, ECONOMY, & JOBS



CULTURE & RECREATION



LOW RISK AREAS



What we expect over 50 years:

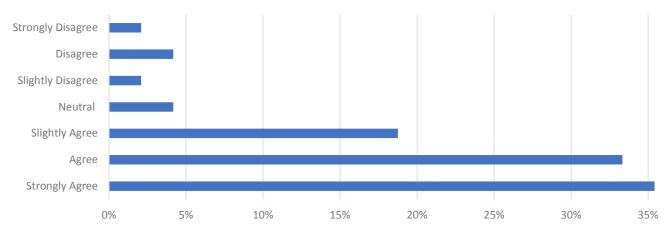
Minimal flood risk Economic growth Population increase



Do you agree with this vision for Low Risk Areas?

You described a future with more **residential and commercial development**, greater **transportation options**, better **stormwater management**, and more **green space**.





The low risk vision presented a future with denser housing and mixed-use commercial development, multi-modal transit options, and stormwater-retaining parks and greenspace. A total of 35% of residents strongly agreed with this vision, and the next 51% agreed or slightly agreed. Less than 10% of residents expressed any level of disagreement.

ACTIVITY 2: STRATEGY PREFERENCES

Activity 2 focused on the range of projects, programs, and policies that LA SAFE could implement. Each table group evaluated 16-20 strategies within three out of the five planning categories. Residents discussed the strategies shown, and placed 8 green stickers on those that were best suited for their parish. They also had 3 optional red stickers to identify programs they thought were bad ideas. Residents added comments and notes to the strategies shown, and also suggested new strategies.

The following pages show the results of Activity 2.









ACTIVITY 2 RESULTS OVERVIEW

Lafourche residents prioritized strategies aimed at intelligent, conscientious development of local infrastructure.

Among their top priorities were drainage requirements for new developments, restoring old properties, and culvert/ditch maintenance. Residents also focused on road elevations "complete" streets, and improved street lighting as strategies to improve transportation within the parish.

Additionally, the participants spoke of their desire to preserve their way of life while also preparing for their changing future. They were drawn to educational playgrounds to teach about living with water, nature trails for recreation, and culturally-focused camps to retain and share their history. They envisioned a future with job opportunities in renewable energy and coastal restoration, and business incubators to promote entrepreneurship.

The list on the right shows the highest ranked strategies from each category sheet at the meeting. Full results for each category on are the following pages.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & GREENSPACE

- Culvert/Ditch Maintenance
- Dredge Canals, Drains, & Culverts
- Parks that Temporarily Hold Stormwater
- Create a Full-Time Drain Maintenance Department
- Green Levees
- Improved Parish Drainage System
- Cross-Parish Stormwater Management Strategy

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

- Drainage Requirements for New Developments
- Programs to Restore Abandoned Property to Natural Condition
- Increased Affordable Housing Options
- Outdoor Spaces for Large Community Events
- Recreational Destinations with Access to Water
- Recreational Town Square

TRANSPORTATION

- Complete Streets
- Improve Street Lights on Major Corridors
- Elevate Key Transportation & Evacuation Routes
- Increase Walkability & Sustainable Street-Scape
- Elevated Multi-Modal Roadways
- Public Boat Docks

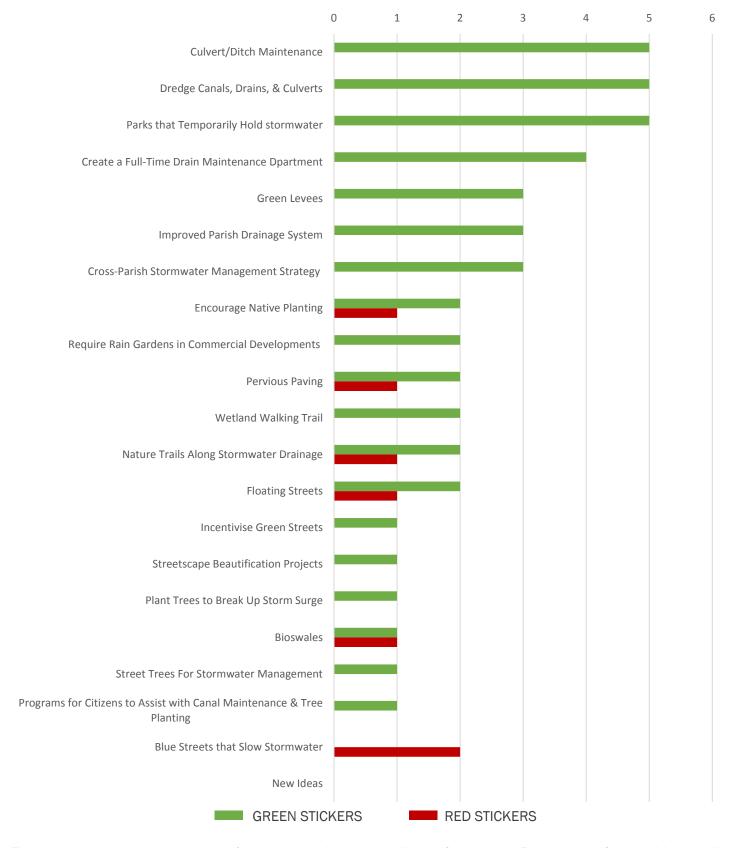
EDUCATION, ECONOMY, & JOBS

- Job Opportunities in Renewable Energy
- Business Incubator to Help Residents Start New Businesses
- Coastal Restoration Construction Jobs & Training
- Provide Incentives to Retain & Attract Good Teachers
- Hands-On Environmental Curriculum & Field Trips
- Commercial Fishing

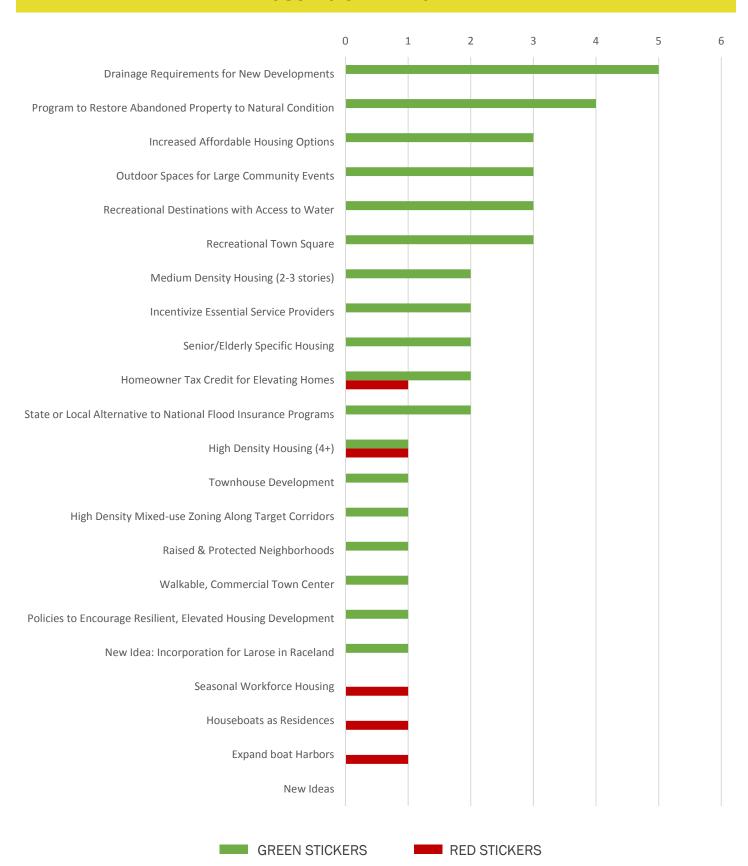
CULTURE & RECREATION

- Playgrounds that Teach About Living with Water
- Hike & Bike Nature Trails
- Support Culturally Focused Camps & After School Programs
- Community Gathering & Market Spaces
- Pavilion Amenities in Recreation
- Water-Based Recreation
- Healthy-Living Programs & Activities

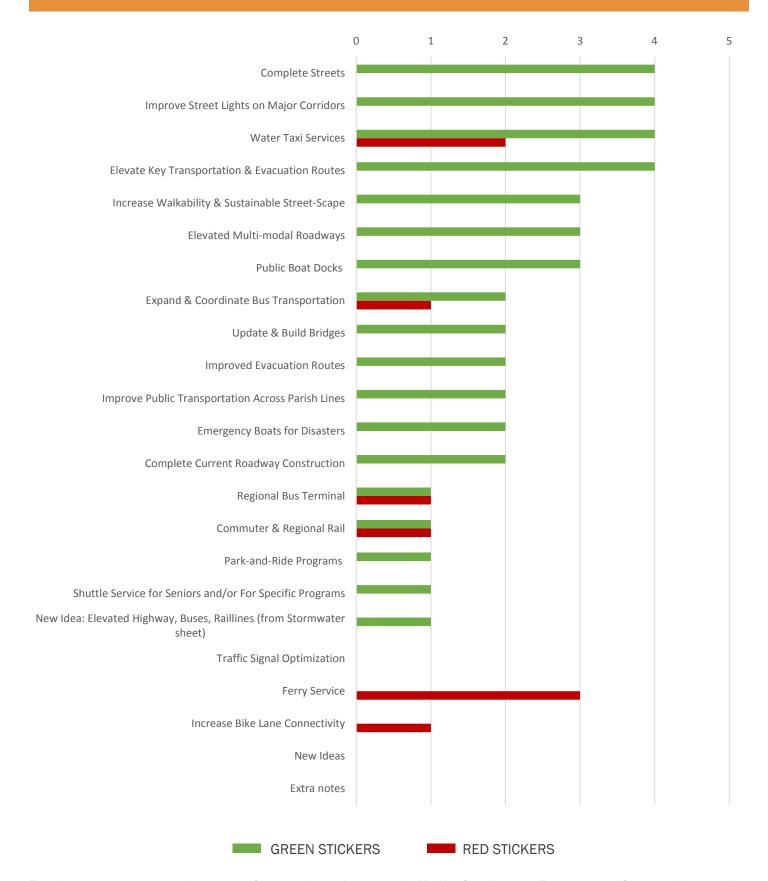
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & GREEN SPACE



HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT









CULTURE & RECREATION



COMMENTS: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & GREEN SPACE

New Ideas

- We should use the bayou as drainage more
- There should be requirements for engineers and workers to better understand the needs of the local areas in reference to flooding, climate, etc.
- Upkeep programs for these plans
- Parish-wide, Thibodaux to Fourchon
- Challenge: how national flood insurance rates will change is important to all at table

Culvert/Ditch Maintenance

- The City should have a sludge fund for this because it's too expensive
- Bad drainage because in terrible condition (unclean)

Dredge Canals, Drains, & Culverts

- Cleanliness of these is a priority
- Tie in with "Culvert/Ditch Maintenance"

Parks that Temporarily Hold Stormwater

Retention ponds open to public access

Create a Full-Time Drainage Maintenance Department

Doing this in the wrong areas.
 Flooding around Thibodaux on St.
 Charles, canal on the boulevard,
 Schriever, Civic Center Rd. Need to manage better.

Green Levees

- Public access to levees would create wetland walking trails
- FEMA won't address these levees.
 Why do I have to elevate my house 8 feet if I'm right by the levee?
- Levees that can have a dual function, not just big ugly walls

- Walkways
- No infrastructure

Improved Parish Drainage System

Cross-Parish Stormwater Management

 This is a big problem with Terrebonne and Lafourche. One pushes water this way, the other that way.

Encourage Native Planting

More vegetables, community garden

Require Rain Gardens in Commercial Developments

- They have to show before they do a subdivision that it won't affect somebody else.
- Tie in with "Streetscape Beautification Projects" and "Pervious Paving"

Pervious Paving

- Too much money
- Tie in with "Require Rain Gardens" and "Streetscape Beautification Projects"

Wetland Walking Trail

- One in Lakeport but [not?] getting enough attention
- We already have these because drains are clogged. Accidental? But we like it. Need to make it better

Nature Trails as Drainage

- We have one in Lockport and no one maintains it. It's not that these are bad ideas, but who's going to keep it up?"
- Chackbay area needs this

Floating Streets

- This sounds expensive. You gotta look at the price tag
- Water won't go in your house. The water under the streets will help it not flood

Incentivize Green Streets

Streetscape Beautification Projects

- Tie in with "Incentivize Green Streets and Streetscapes," "Rain Gardens," and "Street Trees"
- Communities do this on their own
- Tie in with "Require Rain Gardens" and "Pervious Paving"

Plant Trees to Break Up Storm Surge

Bioswales

- No, this would get overgrown and slow water too much. Homeowners want water out fast, not slow
- Rocks get clogged, need better maintenance

Street Trees for Stormwater Management

 We need more throughout the parish, and deeper

Programs for Citizens to Assist with Canal Maintenance & Tree Planting

Blue Streets that Slow Stormwater

Mosquito breeding

Debris Removal from Inland Waterways

COMMENTS: HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

New Ideas

- Hire locals. Give priority reserve job opportunities for locals
- Want more strip malls
- Incorporation for Larose in Raceland

Drainage Requirements for New Developments

 Water and sewer are backed up and have wildlife living in it that stops it up with trash

Program to Restore Abandoned Property to Natural Condition

- Put community garden there, we could build a new affordable house
- Homeless people go stay in there, and with the drugs they have running through there with the noisy traffic drug busts and crime and shooting
- Brings down property value and is a fire hazard

Increased Affordable-Housing Options

- Affordable for low-income
- Cheap solar panels, water reuse
- Tie in with "Program to Restore Abandoned Property to Natural Condition"
- Tie in with "High Density Mixed Use Zoning Along Target Corridors"

Outdoor Spaces for Large Community Events

 Tie in with "Walkable Commercial Town Center," "Recreational Town Square," and "Outdoor Space for Large Community Events"

Recreational Destinations with Access to Water

Recreational Town Square

Swimming pool would be better

 Making one in Thibodaux. Want to see waterslide (something different than MLK). Need affordable prices for activities in the square.

Medium Density Housing (2-3 stories)

- Could complement the university
- Income-based

Incentivize Essential Service Providers

- Need services to travel to get to people in the area. Think about post-storm.
- Post-storm access to medication
- For example, Rouses, family-run business

Senior/Elderly Specific Housing

 Better things for elderly to walk onramps, ADA accessible

Homeowner Tax Credit for Elevating Homes

 Too many stairs to walk up, elderly need elevators, like that your furniture stays dry

State or Local Alternative to National Flood Insurance Programs

 If you want young people to settle here, buy houses here, they need affordable flood insurance

High Density Housing (4+ stories)

Too expensive to develop

Townhouse Development

 No on the bayou because when students are done with school they leave

High Density Mixed Use Zoning Along Target Corridors

• Tie in with "Recreational Town Square"

Raised & Protected Neighborhoods

Walkable, Commercial Town Center

- Have a park, restaurant, daycare, extra school, community/rec center, basketball court, mini golf, football field
- More places to walk without cars, good for tourism

Policies to Encourage Resilient, Elevated Housing Development

- If someone lives in a high-risk area, his/her property value will be lower, and this property would be less desirable. How will he/she move if the property won't sell? There should be some sort of assistance. Government purchases of the property, Government assistance in marketing the property to companies/ people who are interested, relocation grant
- Already enforced. Over-regulating is an issue. Policies we have are enough.

Less Dense Development

Residences on Water

Seasonal Workforce Housing

Houseboats as Residences

- Regulations to manage insurances and evacuation
- Can travel and always come home
- Houseboats—will there be regulations, such as the floating homes must be operational for evacuation purposes? Floating homes will not survive some of the storm surges. How will insurance cost be managed? What will be educational options in these environments? (from Education/Economy sheet, "Floating Service/Businesses")

Expand Boat Harbors

COMMENTS: TRANSPORTATION

New Ideas

Zoning in parish

Complete Streets

- Improve sidewalks
- Need this at church in Thibodaux
- Shoulders

Improve Street Lights on Major Corridors

LA-1, 308, all main thoroughfares;
 "Once you see trees it goes dark"

Water Taxi Services

- The younger kids like the idea but some think it's a waste of money
- Everyone down there already has a boat

Elevate Key Transportation & Evacuation Routes

From Port Fourchon to Grand Isle

Increase Walkability & Sustainable Streescapes

• Increase safety for pedestrians

Elevated Multimodal Roadways

Public Boat Docks

Eco-tourism

Expand and Coordinate Bus Transportation

- Diversify
- This is good, a mother has to take her children because her car insurance is too high
- This will help with people with kids or in school
- More buses and city buses in Thibodaux. Also more buses going up and down the bayou

- Don't need to spend more money on bus transportation
- Tie in with "Regional Terminal" and "Commuter Rail"

Update & Build Bridges

Improved Evacuation Routes

Improve Public Transportation Across Parish Lines

Number 1 priority

Emergency Boats for Disasters

Complete Current Roadway Construction

Regional Bus Terminal

Commuter & Regional Rail

- Railroad into monorail (from Culture & Recreation sheet)
- Rails to trails bike path (from Culture & Recreation sheet)

Park-and-Ride Programs

Shuttle Service for Seniors and/or Specific Programming

- We have this but it needs to be improved—more frequent shuttles
- We already have this but it could be more often

Local Tram System

Additional Transportation Corridors

Traffic Signal Optimization

Ferry Service

- Where are you going to dock?
- A ferry service would be a waste

Increase Bike Lane Connectivity

Extra Notes

- We need sidewalks, we don't have any sidewalks here
- "They took up all our railroad, why not put in a new one?"
- "Not going on an elevated railroad, hell no"
- "We need some more water fountains at the park"
- "Where are the parks?"
- We need a bus line; the city didn't want to fund (from Stormwater sheet)
- Rail line from port to elevated highway (from Stormwater sheet)
- Complete the elevated highway from Golden Meadow to Leeville (from Stormwater sheet)
- Elevated highway, buses, rail lines (from Stormwater sheet)
- Improve current roads; fix streets (from Stormwater sheet)

COMMENTS: EDUCATION, ECONOMY, & JOBS

New Ideas

 Promote seafood in NY with the link to travel to Louisiana to catch some fish.

Job Opportunities in Renewable Energy

 Floating solar farms; massive solar panel farms on the water to harvest energy in high and moderate risk areas

Business Incubator to Help Residents Start New Businesses

 Small business to feed the hungry that don't have a meal every day

Provide Incentives to Retain & Attract Good Teachers

Pay teachers more

Coastal Restoration Construction Jobs & Training

- Fletcher
- It should be more local people getting these jobs

Hands-On Environmental Curriculum & Field Trips

Commercial Fishing

 Commercial fishing companies often bring in work from outside of the community and don't produce as much work for the community as we would hope

Farmers & Seafood Market

Ecotourism Jobs

Tie in with "Ecotourism Attractions"

Job Training Programs

Support Aquaculture

Increase Access to Libraries

- Transportation
- Already have enough libraries

Support Growth in Creative Industries & Info. Econ.

- Solar programs; tie in with "Job Opportunities in Renewable Energy"
- Creative and tech industries are growing; Thibodaux is a little slower to catch up, so this should be pushed there

Create Parish-Specific Curriculum in Schools

 They should have more than one day of cultural class, like a semester or a month

Floating Service/Businesses

 Houseboats—will there be regulations, such as the floating homes must be operational for evacuation purposes?
 Floating homes will not survive some of the storm surges. How will insurance cost be managed? What will be educational options in these environments?

Certify, Label, & Promote Authentic La. Seafood

Real Louisiana fish and shrimp

Local Financial Assistance & Loans for Fishermen

Coordinated Regional Tourism Effort

 There is much more to see than New Orleans

ESL Classes & Services

Ecotourism Attractions

- Grand Isle Migration building
- Transportation to

Creative Reuse of Oil Rigs as Ecotourism Destinations

Extra Ideas

- Business incubator
- We need teachers- provide incentives to return
- Increases access to libraries.
- "I don't think coastal restoration is worthy and it's hard because we don't know where the coast is gonna be"
- Support aquaculture
- "I don't think you could pay me to get into that water"
- I don't think floating services is appropriate for our parish.
- Put those gamblers on the abandoned rigs and let them gamble at those
- "If you quit school you should be forced to go to job training"

COMMENTS: CULTURE & RECREATION

New Ideas

- Big harbor for big cruise ships
- Water fountains at the parks
- Fishing piers along bayous and canals
- A lot of the options are similar and connected (bikes/tourism) Differentiate between existing and proposed. Camps for example, improve and expand what we have
- Coordinate with BTNEP for programs/ecotourism
- Use assets and don't reinvent the wheel
- More summer camps, sport camps, hunting
- Is all of this really important to the grand scheme?

Playgrounds that Teach about Living with Water

- Instead of splash zones
- Can learn about water and make friends

Hike & Bike Nature Trails

- Go hiking in the woods—learn about nature
- This is more of a Covington thing. When they did something similar here, it was a waste of money

Support Culturally Focused Camps & Afterschool Programs

• A lot of afterschool programs are done

Community Gathering & Market Spaces

- Tie in with "Tourism Center" and "Public Recreation and Sports Facilities"
- Important that we come together and help each other

Pavilion Amenities in Recreation

- MLK Park has no pavilion, no seating or shelter for when it rains
- Benefits everyone

Water-Based Recreation

• Tie in with "Recreational Lodging"

Healthy-Living Programs & Activities

 Can do activities with family and friends (soccer, swimming, etc.)

Attract Recreational & Entertainment Establishments

- North and Central Lafourche
- Thibodaux, there's not a lot of recreation

Public Recreation & Sports Facilities

- Need to identify available property
- More in low-income areas

Recreation Options on Existing Levees

- Be considerate in how you implement, so as not to impact the ability to maintain/upgrade levees
- Like idea of bike lanes on top of levees
- For a specific demographic—young and rich—not me
- All good ideas except for paving the tops of levees
- No bike paths on levees, in case you need to lift the levee

Community Gardens and Planting Programs

 Help clean up, some people don't care and this is how people can learn what it does

Swimming Destinations

- Clean bayous
- Thibodaux already has a swimming pool
- The towns that don't have one should
- Every community should have one