











ROUND 1 MEETINGS OVERVIEW

The first round of LA SAFE meetings kicked off the planning process. At these meetings, the project team presented data focused on land loss, flood risk, population movements, and economic change (see appendix). This information provided the groundwork for the community conversations. During these conversations, the participants discussed the goals and values that LA SAFE should pursue going forward.

The majority of the meetings centered on two small-group activities, which focused on 3 general aspects of the project: Community & Culture, Environment & Sustainability, and Economy & Jobs. The first activity asked residents to describe the changes and challenges that they have seen over the last 50 years in their communities. This activity included a map that depicted current and future land loss and population shifts between 2000 and 2010.

The second activity asked what aspects of those three categories are important to protect and preserve, and how they can be strengthened, improved, or expanded. The project team organized the feedback from this meeting into 3 categories: Strengths, Opportunities, and Challenges.

At the meeting, the residents sat at round tables. Each table group had a table host and a table scribe. The table host facilitated the conversation and helped capture the residents' ideas. The table scribe documented the conversation.



WHAT DOES CHANGE MEAN TO YOU?



Activity 1 table sheet. See appendix for larger image. Below: Activity 2 table sheet and residents participating.



MEETING RESULTS

The following pages illustrate the full meeting results. The graphic on the right depicts all of the ideas grouped by similarity. The project team designed the groupings using an emergent thematic coding technique. The team grouped similar ideas into sub-groups, and then arranged the sub-groups into major categories.

The size of the circles in the graphic reflects the frequency of comments within that topic. The larger circles show the most commonly discussed topics, while the smaller circles show topics discussed less often.



The project team transcribed all of the comments below directly from the table sheet activities at Meeting 1. Bolded comments represent the ideas that community members prioritized using sticker dots during the activity. The sizes of the subcategory circles correspond to the number of ideas within the suggestion. The subcategories are then organized under major categories, separated by dotted lines. See the key on page 25 for more information.

ACCESS TO WATER & GREEN SPACES



- Natural resources.
- Nature.
- Green habitat.
- Natural environment.
- Trees.
- Greenways.
- Forestry.
- Habitats.
- Appreciation of natural environment.
- Access to nature.
- Free access to nature and outdoors.
- Public beauty.
- The grandchildren, joy in seeing birds, ducks, and all the beauty of nature.
- Abundant wildlife and natural settings.
- Environments: sunsets, birds, wildlife, trees.
- Wildlife.
- Birds.
- Wildlife.
- Bird watching.
- Wildlife. The way of Life. Food, family, fishing, hunting.
- Access to wetlands and public boat launches.
- Public lands & waterways.
- Access to river and waterways.
- Being on the water.
- Boating.
- Love living on the water.
- I love the waterway and the lifestyle.
- The access to the lake.
- Living with and on the water, Indian Village.
- Wetlands, marshes, flood plains & trees.



- Fishing, crabbing, boating.
- Love hunting, fishing, bird watching.
- That I can fish & crab in my back yard.
- Fishing/boating.
- Fishing.
- Hunting.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

WATERWAYS

WETLANDS

- Green spaces, outdoor activities.
- Tammany Trace.
- Activities for families and children.
- Hiking.
 - Biking.
 - Easy to access recreation, coast, etc.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

- Fish, crab.
- Commercial fisherman, catfish, crabs, garfish.



Water related economy.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



- Easy access to healthcare.
- Safe, low, good medical care.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



QUALITY OF LIFE

PEACE & SAFETY



- Safety (low crime).
- Low crime rate.
- Low crime rate.
- Safety.
- I moved from NO East to feel safe. I do feel safe but protected from flood.
- Safety, lack of crime.
- Safety.
- Quiet life on the water.
- Safety, close community, safety.
- Community, safety culture, food, friendly people, warmer access. Louisiana culture & marsh/wildlife/fishing/ watersports.
- Safe, peaceful, quiet.
- It's so peaceful and safe.
- Peace & quiet.
- Fine homes, and serene and tranquil lifestyle.
- What I value: Quality of life and proximity to nature.
- Great community for retired citizens.
- PEOPLE. My neighborhood, my way of life, my job.
- Property values are going up.
- Good quality of life.
- Northshore way of life education, environment, economic opportunity.
- Quality of life, recreational opportunities, fishing, boating, people with common interests.
- Maintain quality of life.
- Quality of life.
- Quality of life.
- Value neighbors, schools, healthcare, shopping.
- Changes in parish here have not been an issue to date.



- No pollution.
- Clean air.
- Clean air.
- Away from industry.
- I love the natural beauty of the area! I love the people & the thing that LA stands for.

COMMUNITY CLOSENESS

- Restaurants, variety and diversity.Good people.
- Like the small town feel of Slidell.
- Love the people. Have lived in Eden Isles for 32 years. My neighbors are now like family.
- I like living in a small town.
- The community in which I live is great. Great people.
- Small town atmosphere, location (Eden Isles) close to city but still small.
- Value education, marriages last.
 Respect race and genders and faith and family.

FAMILY

- Culture and sense of home, family comfort.
- Family community.
- Family community.

TRADITIONS & CULTURE



- Art scene is active.
- Music/food culture of area.
- My heritage & home.
- Cultural events, proximity to NOLA, schools.
- Numerous and cultural social events.
- Maintain culture.



- Carnival, free concerts, festivals, food.
- Good non-toxic seafood.



CREATE PUBLIC GREENSPACE/CENTER

- CREATE PUBLIC GREENSPACE / CENTER
- We need public gardens with access to free produce.
 - Create public gardens.
 - State Park, better dog park.
 - We need public access to the water.
 - New parks to keep up with growing population.
 - Protection of green space, value clean air and water, outdoor activities, biking, fishing, Trace, small town feel.
 - Buy more greenspace.
 - Community center for entire city use at the same time.
 - Public square to unite the neighborhoods.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION & (ECO)TOURISM



- Art museum, children's museum.
- Art museums, other museums, resident music groups.
- Ecotourism brings \$ into parish.
- Create education & research centers for oceanography, hydrology, etc. Build a sea base.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND (ECO) TOURISM

IMPROVE EDUCATION



- We need tech colleges, children's museum.
- More technical colleges and education.



Adult education opportunities.

ADULT EDUCATION



Increase citizen knowledge of biological intervention. What to plant? How to support wildlife?

DIVERSIFY & DEVELOP ECONOMY......



IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE...... PROVIDE SOCIAL SERVICES



- General Investment, haven't had infrastructure fixed in 28 years (road resurface).
- Traffic congestion.

protection.



- Need services in low risk areas.
- Address poverty and homeless issues.

IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDE SOCIAL SERVICES

LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT ..







- Canals so they can handle the amount of water flow out.
- Establish parish wide drainage plan.
- Better drainage.
- Drainage.
- Better storm water management.
- Less impervious areas.
- Improve drainage canals and improve storm protection, lower Flood Insurance Rates.
- House drainage system problems.
- More retention ponds needed in areas.
- Parish project: retention pond behind Ochsner (tenet pond) widen French Branch. W-14/15 big business.
- Drainage flooding.
- Improve drainage.
- Environment planning and drainage planning that is multi parish.
- Tidal Surge Protection (Ringlets).
- Inflatable berms.
- Surge protection will protect property values, retain and spur economic opportunities, encourage families to stay.
- Surge Protection.
- Build berms: close ringlets to Pontchatrain with berms/ NOW! Not 2050.
- Slidell adaptation use bulkheads in open ditches.
- Bulkhead open ditch road (shown in drawing) collaboration w/ State.
- New/less expensive mitigation strategies are needed (berms).
- Homeowner, bulkhead contractors.
- More storage areas.
- St. Tammany will become a wasteland like St. Bernard Parish without surge protection. The Dutch did it, why can't we?
- We need more policing of the things that damage our environment, pollution etc.
- Limit development along waterways.
- Controlled development that respects the Wetlands Act, not sidestepping it, as is so often done currently.
- Only let people build where there is no flooding or adapted to the environment.
- Protect investment, my house, keep insurance down. Stricter rules pertaining to growth rate.
- Low awareness of growth impacts on environment, cut trees loose soil, fill rivers quicker flooding; and stop approving sub-division that infill wetlands.
- Restricting growth (managing growth).
- Stop infill.
- Impact fees for development, depends on where you live if you benefit.
- Buy homes, you can't build a home without a foundation.

LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT.....



MANAGEMENT

- Maintain rivers, bayous, dredging.
- Protect wildlife/waterways.
- Preserve marshes and build more!
- If we don't save the home for ducks, we won't have homes for
- more people in SE LA. Maintain drainage and
- accessibility of our waterways.
- More levees is not the answer, wetlands mitigate floods.
- Protect our scenic rivers.
- Lower risk of flooding from Pearl River.
- Prevent future flooding.
- Immediate flood protection, cannot wait until 2067- we will be dead by then.
- Flood plain management.
- Flood protection, improved dredging of Doubloon Bayou and the West Pearl River.
- Flood protection for all.

PLAN & BUILD FOR FUTURE CONDITIONS.....



• Urban planning.

- Targeted solutions to address acute local needs on local plans.
- Important that this does not negatively impact areas of slightly higher risk.
- Long term metropolitan deliberate planning.
- Provide long-term disaster protocol and recovery efforts. Northshore disaster recovery.
- New innovative ways of building that adapts to the climate & topography.
- Building in ways that fit into, not fight, the environment.
- Develop better ways to flood proof homes and businesses.
- Cement is fine underwater, need engineering experts.
- Financial wherewithal to adapt.



PREPARE FOR

POPULATION

MOVEMENT

DREDGING

IMPROVE

WATER

Non-profit management. How to make high land ready to receive.
Elderly population - relocate,

Dredge the Pearl River.

Pearl needs dredging.

Problem sandbars, sandbar in

Better management of water

supply.

- protect women & children.
 Future Goals: 55+ Housing
- Communities above I-12.
- Control population growth.

REGULATIONS & POLICY.....

- MAINTAIN **INTEGRITY&** PUBLIC TRUST
- Equity reprioritization of benefits.
 - Don't ignore science.
 - Trust my political representative. Where are our parish leaders tonight?
 - Hire some real planners instead of politically directed development at the hands of Brister and Cronies.
 - Try to utilize some of the \$42M to produce something aside a white paper, which will collect dust after the life blood of the taxpayer has been extracted.
 - Spend our taxes more effectively.
 - What has the planning process been?



- Action.
- More things done on a local basis, less talk by govt.
- Less government to address issues.







- Different agencies need to work together.
 - Need more unified vision for the parish rather than "West" and "East" sides of parish.
- Limit city & parish projects, too many silos.
- We are worried that groups are not working together- rob Peter to pay Paul.
- We should be working with Mississippi on how to resolve the ringlets - not against each other.
- Use tax dollars for master drainage plan instead of children's museum or cultural arts center.
- We need political action so we don't get screwed on levee protection.
- Be careful where soils are removed from, some areas are moved to others. Pollutants shouldn't be spread.

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TRANSPORTATION





- Cycling paths.
- Pedestrian opportunities.
- Mass transit to get some cars off the road.
- Safer bicycle paths for commuting.
- Alternative transportation, smart growth.
- Decrease traffic. Increase bike and pedestrian areas.
- Comprehensive urban planning for entire parish. Sidewalks, bike paths.
- Walking communities.
- Commuter trains, public transportation, jobs!
- Help cross Lake Ponchatrain without so many one person cars.
- **Development of mass transportation options. Reduce** need for increased transportation infrastructure.
- Public transit.
- Public transportation to South shore.
- Pedestrian bridges.
- Bike paths to connect the cool things that are here (Old Town, farmers market, that do not have great parking).
- Transportation options
- More convenient parking in old town Slidell and more parking period.
- New street lights.
- Good secondary roads in Slidell.
- Better transportation.
- Continued road improvement. Improve mobility and transportation.
- Public transportation "IN" Slidell, not to get across the lake, but to re-use existing railroads.
- Roadway elevation, construction.
- Transportation infrastructure.

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OPPORTUNITIES

PROTECTION & RESTORATION......



RECREATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS



- Minor league baseball team and stadium. New baseball and soccer fields.
- Amphitheater for outdoor concerts.
- We need bike paths
- "Positive" cost benefit ratio for all public recreation projects.



- Programs to support New Orleans students in Tammany schools.
- Avoid reinforcing prejudice for under trained kids.

LOSS OF

WILDLIFE &

HABITAT

CONTINUED LAND LOSS & DYING ECOSYSTEM

- Full marsh restoration, fill in the Fritchie marsh, flooding packs and cost lowers marsh level.
- Land loss at North shore, 1000s of acres, land loss in wildlife refugees.
- Loss of natural forested areas and canopy.
- Loss of environment to development.
- Trees- giant oaks dying.
- My soil is slop. All my trees are dying.
- A lot more wildlife before than what you see now.
- Still fishing but hunting has decreased.
- No one will address the algae in the bayou- killing the fish and turtles.
- More mosquitos.
- More deer everywhere.

FEAR & HOPELESSNESS



- Won't live on waterfront, live north of I-12, don't know where next flood will be- frightening.
- Psychological stress and insecurity about getting flooded again.
- They increase flood risk and add stress to my life.
- People are tired of being continuously bombarded.
- Concern re: next event like Katrina.
- Personal hardship and economic loss due to flood activity.

HOME DAMAGES/ CHANGES.....



- House is settling faster.
- More foundation repairs and piling repairs.
- People avoiding taking out another loss on insurance after flooding.
- Increasing height of water table.

LOSS OF WETLANDS & WATERWAYS .



- Loss of natural wetlands (storage) strain on parish.
- Pearl River is no longer a navigable river due to Scenic River Act. Completely surrounded by March 2016 flood in River Oaks.



- Development + soil erosion.
- Land loss on coast.



MORE CHANGES TO

WATER SALINITY

- Salt water intrusion, more upstream flooding.
- Saltwater intrusion.



- False sense of choice? Or ability to influence planning and decision making?
- Boo on you; boo on you.



- House in my neighborhood raised
- More houses elevated since Katrina.
- Lives in elevated house, no choice. Not everyone got to lift house.
- More home elevations in last year.
- Doubloon Bayou is no longer navigable, property values diminished.
- No pier and my bayou is no longer boat worthy.
- Trade off of sediment diversions on seafood - on flooding.

30 ft.

ELEVATING HOMES

DEFORESTATION/ FLOODING ...

RISK OF MAJOR FLOODING

- The ditch engineer said "keep the ocean out of the lake, and you keep the lake out of your bedroom." 2 gates, Regales & Chef Pass.
- Dr. area of Slidell, only remedy would be flood gates at Regales.
- Concern over ringlets/ Ponchartrain levee & pump project causing flooding on other areas. Concerns over water going around Fritchie marsh and into lower Pearl River neighborhood.
- Water higher when it floods.
- Levees changing water flow.
- Low lying areas in Slidell are now threatened.
- Increased flooding since 1991- no issues at that time, after much development, now there are many issues. Ringlet Chef water "up" floods everything from E. Pearl river to I-10.
- Change vegetation roads, more water erosion. Pier is underwater. Floods every May. Gators in backyard. Suffocating.
- Fear of wind flooding from the lake. Now, with erosions, we have flooded twice from hurricanes.
- More water faster.
- Flooding Avery Estates, street.
- Hurricane Katrina flooded marina.
- Flooding from new directions.
- More flooding when it rains.
- More water even on dry days.
- Once levee is overlapped you will have a bowl.
- What does a new flood wall mean? We know it will flood someday.
- Gauge as gravel 2- lane, River Rd. old neighborhood.
- It's critical or else people are going to default and abandon this place. If we flood again, people won't come back. And that will hurt the parish to lose their taxpayers.



- Disappearance of barrier island, growing surge.
- Leveeing of South shore Lake P. traps and now exacerbates storm surge.
- Fewer brims.



- No "sponges" for rainwater, land shouldn't be concrete.
 Corp. of engineers filling in 300
- Corp. of engineers filling in 300 acres of marsh, negatively affects quality of life (flooding) by Avery Estates. Don't fill in marsh.

LACK OF SOCIAL RESOURCES



- When hospital between Mandeville and Lacomb shut down it devastated people.
- Further from hospitals, health related facilities, people cant afford travel and it becomes a power issue.
- Aunt, mom, worked in medical facility, shut down and hurt family. Local areas for employment and health were disbanded, now bussing people to Jackson.
- Some hospitals closing, some opening.
- Overburdened Slidell Mem. Hospital because of hospital closure.



- No pools for neighborhood.
- No access to waterways.

POOR DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

STREET FLOODING & POOR DRAINAGE



- Drainage in low buildings.
- Drainage issues, takes a lot longer to drain.
- Drainage still diverting back into river.
- Water standing in ditches wasn't before, no drainage.
- No dirt allowed for fill because we're being used for drainage king.
- Development of flood plains and loss of natural drainage systems.
- Drainage problems backup.
- Drainage infrastructure severely challenged.
- From Lacomb Katrina devastated everyone back when grandparents were around, didn't have to worry about flooding, now drainage issues after heavy rains.
- Flooding from minor rain events. Drainage issue?
- Storm water wet-offs.
- Property soggy and sinking.
- Our waterways not being maintained, we need these to drain!
- Causeway height.
- Slidell doesn't drain well, not properly developed with necessary infrastructure. Grew too fast.
- Corp. of engineers has not responded.
- Water backing up b/c Pearl River filling in.
- Increased development, less forested land.
- Deforestation and destruction of rivers and floodplains = flooding. I read a study: 5% reforestation = 29% reduction in downstream flooding. Yet you are bulldozing and building all over those areas.
- Not fixing marshes, not fixing roads, W14/15 canals, Zytocofo Project, Avery Estates.
- Building w/o regard to natural watersheds, built in dry years.
- Concern anytime you mess with Mother Nature, the corp. of engineers levee systems infill of wetlands messes up and effects the land and water extrusion.
- Not allowed to lay soil on landfill.

LOSS OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY.....



- When you move businesses out, its difficult to keep these places alive!
- North Shore Mall almost empty (existing).
- We've seen businesses move from Eden 156/South Slidell to West Slidell– especially post Katrina.



- We can't do anything without money.
- Lower job qualities.

HOME VALUES DECLINING/ COSTS INCREASING.....



- Property values.
- Roads, veg. flooding, house loss value.
- We worry that with the present situations, our home values are going to decrease.
- Decrease property values.
- House is worth less!
- Have become much more cautious about investing in home/property. Home is no longer considered good investment.
- I lose soil, lost money on my home.
- Real estate values decreased, risk of being unable to sell at all.
- Property values potential decreases, waterways challenged, access to water is important to property.
- Our property value was more than cut in half. How can we move and sell our homes?
- Population: move to stop lots of rentals, decreases value of homeowners, increases traffic and stress, decreases quality of life.



COST OF LIVING

- Less homeowners, more renters, can't afford flood insurance, can't sell (Edin Isles).
- Property damage because had no flood insurance (twice).
- Insurance premiums are outrageous.

INCREASING COSTS OF LIVING & INSURANCE



- High cost of flood insurance.
- Insurance rates are through the roof (6200 flood insurance for 2000sq ft.).
- Insurance costs, availability.
- Better flood risk reduction and affordable insurance.
- Better flood insurance rates & info process.
- Develop a plan to reduce insurance rates for homeowners.
- Deal with insurance rates rising.
- Insurance is sky high, assigned risk.
- Flood and hazard insurance premiums have steadily increased. We were well outside of the 500 yr. flood plain in 1989– now the flood maps show the plains only feet from our home.
- Flood insurance going up.
- Increase in flood insurance cost, increased elevation requirements for new constructions. Fritchie Marsh, Avery Estates, 90, Doubloon Bayou, sand bar, all blocked.
- Increase tax and insurance, less insurance coverage.
- Nobody listens! Real estate taxes obscene! Tax bill itemized list. Obligation of parish officials to fight for us.
- Flood insurance numbers are skewed more loss than calculated.

More housing developments coming in, more younger

Loss of old neighbors due to move after flooding. Majority of new neighbors have been from Chalmette

post Katrina- previously, it was transplants coming from

Communities are being broken apart by development. From Lake Charles, had industrial boom, surrounded by

Chevron - a lot of people working away from where they

New development not walkable,

Only 1/3 live and work in Tammany. 20% increase in

More free lunch students in our schools. I moved - too many people (moved where more

Many people moving in through out.

Seems to be balanced populations shifts.

Population influx into Slidell after Katrina.

have to drive.

community infrastructure). Hoping to sell and move.

Madisonville growing.

Post-K moving relocation.

CHALLENGES

POPULATION LOSS, GROWTH, & MOVEMENT



- My neighbors are older and stuck where they are.
- at ck OVERCROWDED SCHOOLS
- More people, more kids in schools.

สรถานติเป็นเคือ.



building permits.

people.

out of state.

refineries.

live.

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 New friends, more traffic, stress on infrastructure.



- Population growth subdivisions, randomly and quickly established in 1960's & 1970's, decreased drainage and the flooding throughout Slidell.
 Recent waterway project either postponed or eliminated due to funding.
- Much Slidell development, not always good.

APPENDIX

The appendix follows this page. It includes maps and graphs shown during the first St. Tammany Parish LA SAFE meeting. The appendix illustrates land loss, flood risk, population shifts, and economic activity in the parish. Larger examples of the table sheets used at the meeting follow the maps and graphs.



STAY CONNECTED!

Website: lasafe.la.gov Facebook.com/livelasafe Twitter: @livelasafe Instragram: @livelasafe Email: info@livelasafe.org

GET IN TOUCH!

LA SAFE point of contact: St. Tammany Parish Seth Magden smagden@gcrincorporated.com 504.304.0706

LAND LOSS OVER TIME



FLOOD RISK All shown with Coastal Master Plan





This data was provided by CPRA and were originally produced to inform the development of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

POPULATION CHANGES IN ST. TAMMANY COMMUNITIES 2000-2010



Data prepared by ESRI, sourced from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 and Census 2010 Summary File 1.

POPULATION CHANGE SINCE 1970



POPULATION BY AGE, 2000 - 2015





Source: The Data Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the decennial census.

MAJOR EMPLOYMENT CENTERS



HOUSING TRENDS IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Renters with severe cost burden

Source: The Data Center Analysis of U.S. Census Data; Notes: Estimates of % Owner Occupied Housing for Plaquemines and St. John the Baptist are from 2015 ACS Supplemental Estimates. Estimates from a range of years (2006-2010 or 2011-2015) represent an average across the listed years.



Homeowners with severe cost burden (>50% of income on housing)



Median Gross Monthly Rent (2015)



Median Monthly Housing costs for Homeowners with Mortgages (2015)



Source: The Data Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the decennial census.

PARISH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

2015-2016 District Report Card

Source: Concordia analysis of "2015-2016 School District Report Cards," Accessed April 2017, http://www.louisianabelieves.com/data/reportcards/2016/



PARISH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Source: Data Center analysis of "Multiple Statistics By Site For Total Reported Students" Tables from the Louisiana Department of Education, Accessed April 2017, http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/enrollment-counts



ACTIVITY 1 TABLE SHEET





ADAPTATION GOALS

