Lafayette Consolidated Government

Oasis Community Coterie and Quiet Town Coterie Neighborhood Plans

Community Development and Planning
11-1-2023

Gateway Neighborhood Plan Team

Evangeline Thruway Redevelopment Team
Lafayette Economic Development Authority
Lafayette Consolidated Government
Lafayette Habitat for Humanity
Lafayette Police Department
Oasis Community Coterie
Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Department
Quiet Town Coterie
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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Introduction

The Gateway Neighborhood Plan

The Gateway Neighborhoods Plan is a six-month community engagement process that developed a comprehensive neighborhood plan for the Oasis Coterie and Quiet Town Coterie. These two coteries sit at the intersection of I-49 and I-10, encountering the most transportation activity than any other coterie. Given the development pressures, a neighborhood plan was needed for these coteries to translate community desire for the built environment and nodal activity to land use and development strategies and tactics. The Planning Commission and City-Parish Council endorsed Plan Lafayette (Lafayette 2035) in Summer 2014. Lafayette Consolidated Government's Comprehensive Plan sets out actions across ten elements (land use, community character, housing & neighborhoods, historic & cultural resources, economic development, transportation & mobility, utilities, community facilities & services, recreation & open space, and resource conservation & hazard mitigation). The Gateway Neighborhoods Plan will provide current conditions, vision, and specific outcomes to strive toward, delivering an implementation document that lifts the neighborhood voice and substantially carries Plan Lafayette elements into the Oasis Coterie and Quiet Town Coterie.

Key Positions of the Plan Project

Community

- Safe neighborhoods that provide expanded housing choices
- Quality recreational opportunities, enhancing the quality of life while promoting healthful outdoor activity
- Raising the bar of expectations for communication aesthetics and development quality

People

- Caring place of families, friends, and neighbors who bring a can-do-attitude toward bettering the community
- Youth are our most valuable asset, worthy of deliberate investment.
- Retirees are celebrated and provided opportunities for an active and engaged senior lifestyle.

Economy

- The community is mobilized to take proactive measures to address pockets of poverty and crime by expanding opportunities.
- Workforce readiness is improved with partnerships with key organizations.
- Blight and obsolescence are reversed with targeted initiatives to restore, revitalize, and rebuild along older highway corridors, nodes, and interstate gateways into the community.
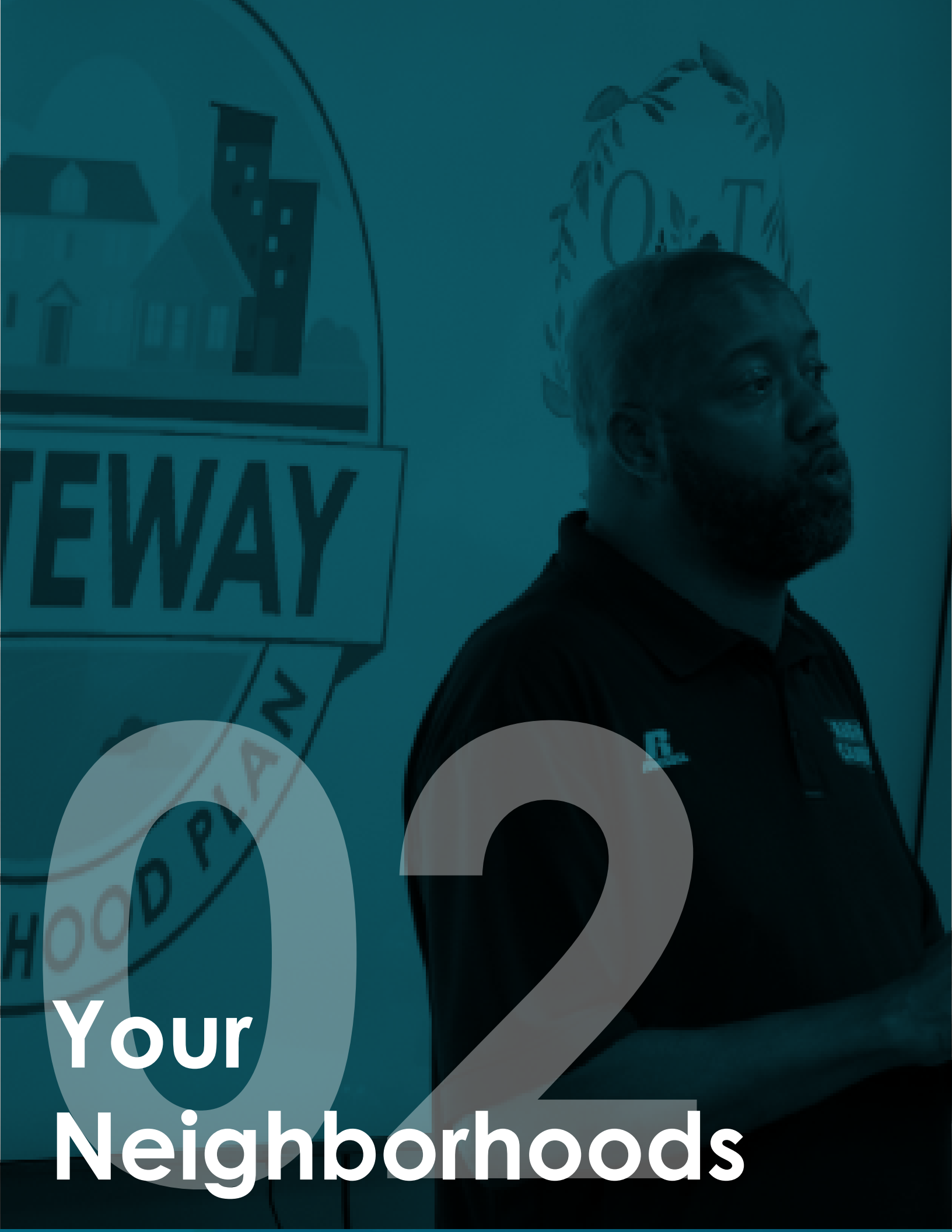
02
Your
Neighborhoods

Welcome to Oasis Community Coterie

With multi-generational living at its core, the neighborhood is commonly referred to as an active area with residents who are committed to the community. With homes dating back to the 1970s, Oasis Community Coterie has experienced development in various parts of the neighborhood for 50 years. The location is just off Interstate 49 and Interstate 10, two major interstates in Louisiana. This transportation corridor frames out the quaint and family-oriented neighborhood. Making it a gateway to the City of Lafayette, Oasis has the unique position of being one of the first areas you see from major cities such as Lake Charles, Shreveport, or even Baton Rouge. Known areas within Oasis Coterie are Trum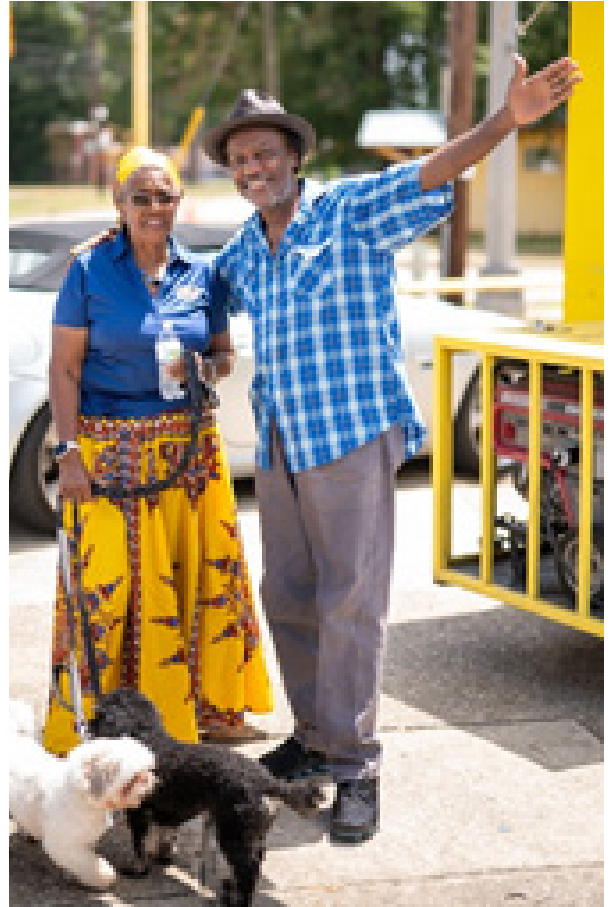an, Bayberry Point, and Richter Park. Martin Luther King Jr Drive is the main artery in Oasis, connecting residents to key locations; Alice Boucher Elementary, Destiny of Faith Church, El Sid O's, Martin Luther King Recreation Center, and Queen of Peace.

Demographics

Population Growth
- In 2023 Oasis Community had 3,970 residents, 3.2% of Lafayette's population.
- Oasis Community's population increased by 3.8% from 2020 to 2023 while the city grew 1.5% in the same time frame.

Diversity
- Oasis Community's population is about 2% Hispanic, 5% white and 90% black.
- Lafayette's population, by comparison is, 6% Hispanic, 57% white and 31% black.

Income
- In 2023, the median household income in Oasis Community was $28,455, as compared to $53,147 in Lafayette.

Median Home Value
- In 2023, the median home value in Oasis Community was $79,621 as compared to $229,589 in Lafayette.

Oasis Community Residents by Age

- 8.4% < 5
- 17.4% 5 to 14
- 17.1% 15 to 24
- 13.3% 25 to 34
- 33.6% 35 to 64
- 9.5% > 65

Educational Attainment

	Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma, GED, or Some College, No Degree	Associate's Degree or Higher
Oasis Community	25.7%	62.7%	11.7%
Lafayette	9.5%	44.6%	45.9%
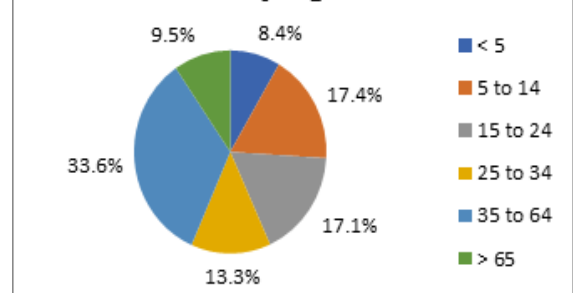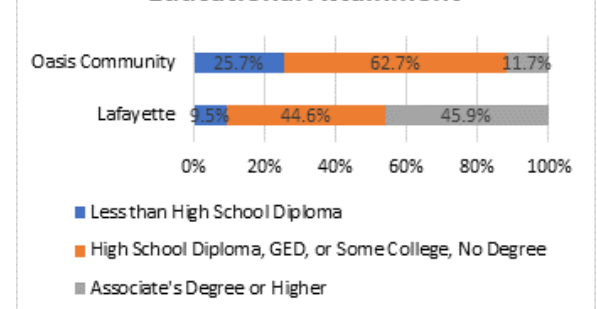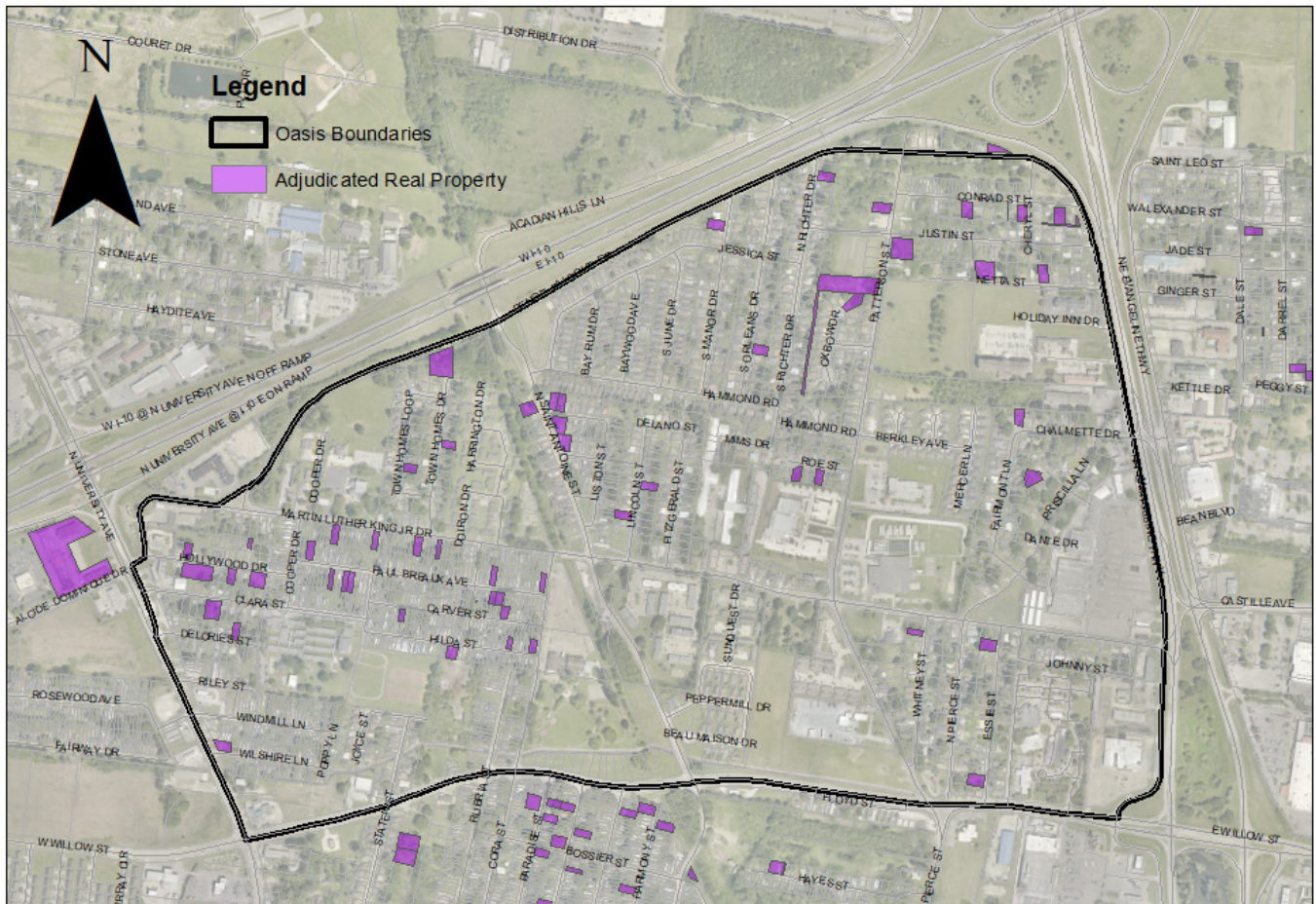
Oasis Community Coterie had 57 adjudicated properties in 2023. 20 of those are vacant parcels with remaining having structures present.

The Community Development and Planning Department is the designated administrator of the Lafayette Consolidated Government disposition effort. In November of 2015, LCG adopted a process by which parties may apply for the disposition of these adjudicated properties.

An adjudicated property is a property which the owner has failed to pay property taxes and hasn't been bid on at a tax title sale. The property becomes adjudicated to local government; however, it is still in fact owned by the property owner. State law allows local governments to facilitate the conveyance of these properties to a new owner. This transaction results in a non-warranty title and Lafayette Consolidated Government holds no obligation to guarantee the clarity of the title.

Oasis should maintain engagement with the adjudicated properties process by communicating current properties to the coterie on a regular basis and connecting interested residents, businesses, and organizations with the Planning Division. Learn more at https://lafayettela.gov/DP/PlanningRezoning/Adjudicated.

Oasis Community Coterie - Zoning
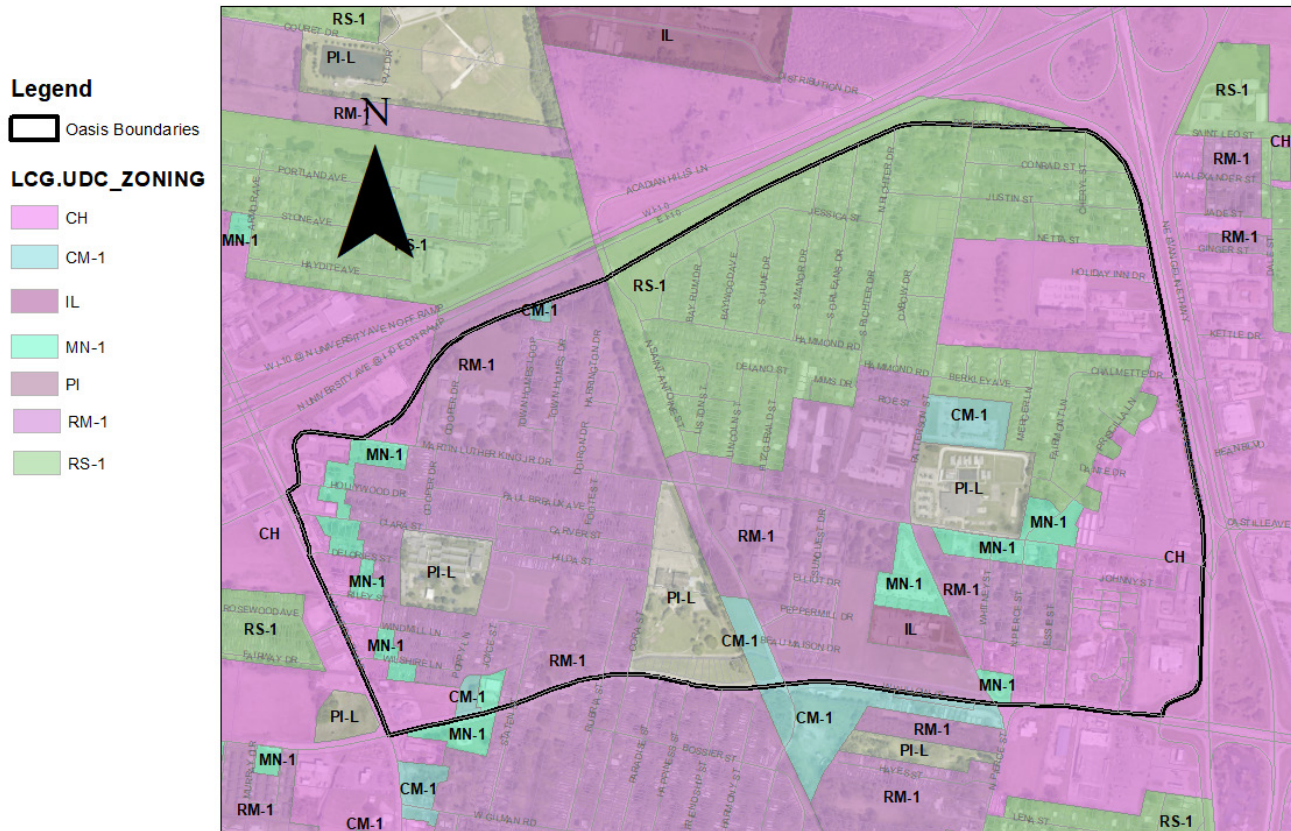
To promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community, the City of Lafayette is divided into districts. Seven zoning districts are present in Oasis Community Coterie.

"RS" Residential Single-Family – The "RS" districts implement the Residential future land use category of PlanLafayette by providing for predominantly detached, single family neighborhoods. The dimensional standards accommodate a variety of densities and lot sizes.

"RM" Residential – The "RM" districts implement the Mixed Residential and Residential future land use categories of PlanLafayette by providing for a wide range of housing types, from single-family detached units to apartments. The dimensional standards accommodate a variety of densities and lot sizes.

"MN" Mixed Use Neighborhood – The "MN" districts implements the Transitional Mixed-Use future land use category of PlanLafayette, provides an opportunity to establish neighborhood retail, convenience, service, office, and institutional uses in the Residential and Mixed Residential categories, provides a transition between residential areas and more intense commercial corridors, and provides opportunities for pedestrian access between residential and commercial areas.

"CM" Commercial-Mixed– The "CM" district implements the Commercial/Office future land use category of PlanLafayette. This district provides for compact development patterns and pedestrian friendly design features.

"CH" Commercial-Heavy– The "CH" district implements the Commercial/Office future land use category of PlanLafayette. This district allows compact development patterns, but provides flexibility for front parking, loading, and building design features for heavy commercial or service-oriented uses (such as large format retailers, auto dealerships, and repair services).

"IL" Industrial-Light– The "IL" district implements the Office/Industrial future land use category of PlanLafayette by accommodating existing light industrial uses, and encouraging new light industrial or office park employment uses in locations designated in the plan.

"PI" Public/Institutional– The "PI" district is appropriate in any PlanLafayette land use category, and specifically implements the Public Park category. These standards provide flexibility for the wide range of potential public or institutional facilities.

Source: Lafayette Consolidated Government

Oasis Community Coterie - Contours and Elevations
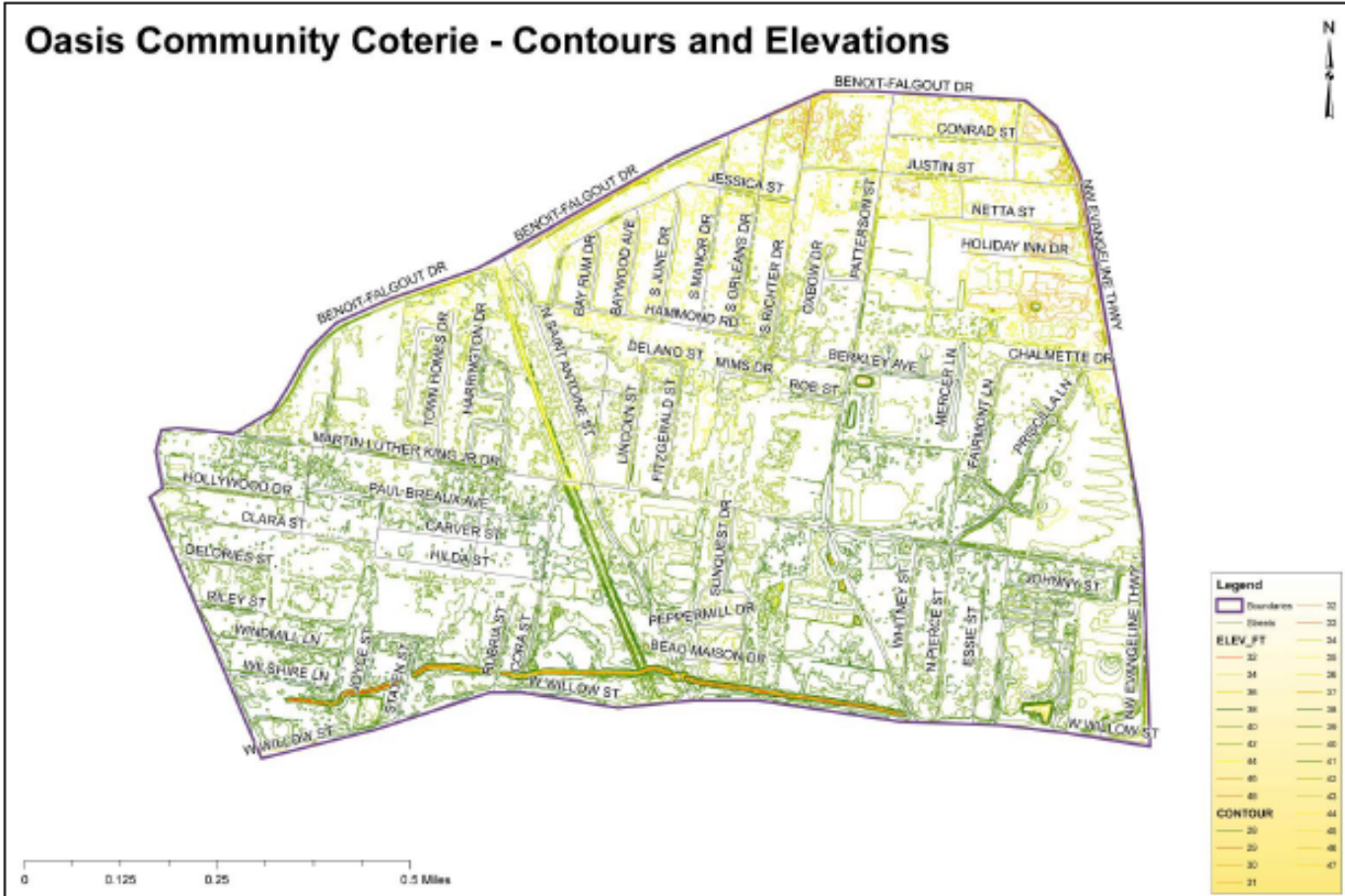
Oasis Community Coterie - Bike Infrastructure
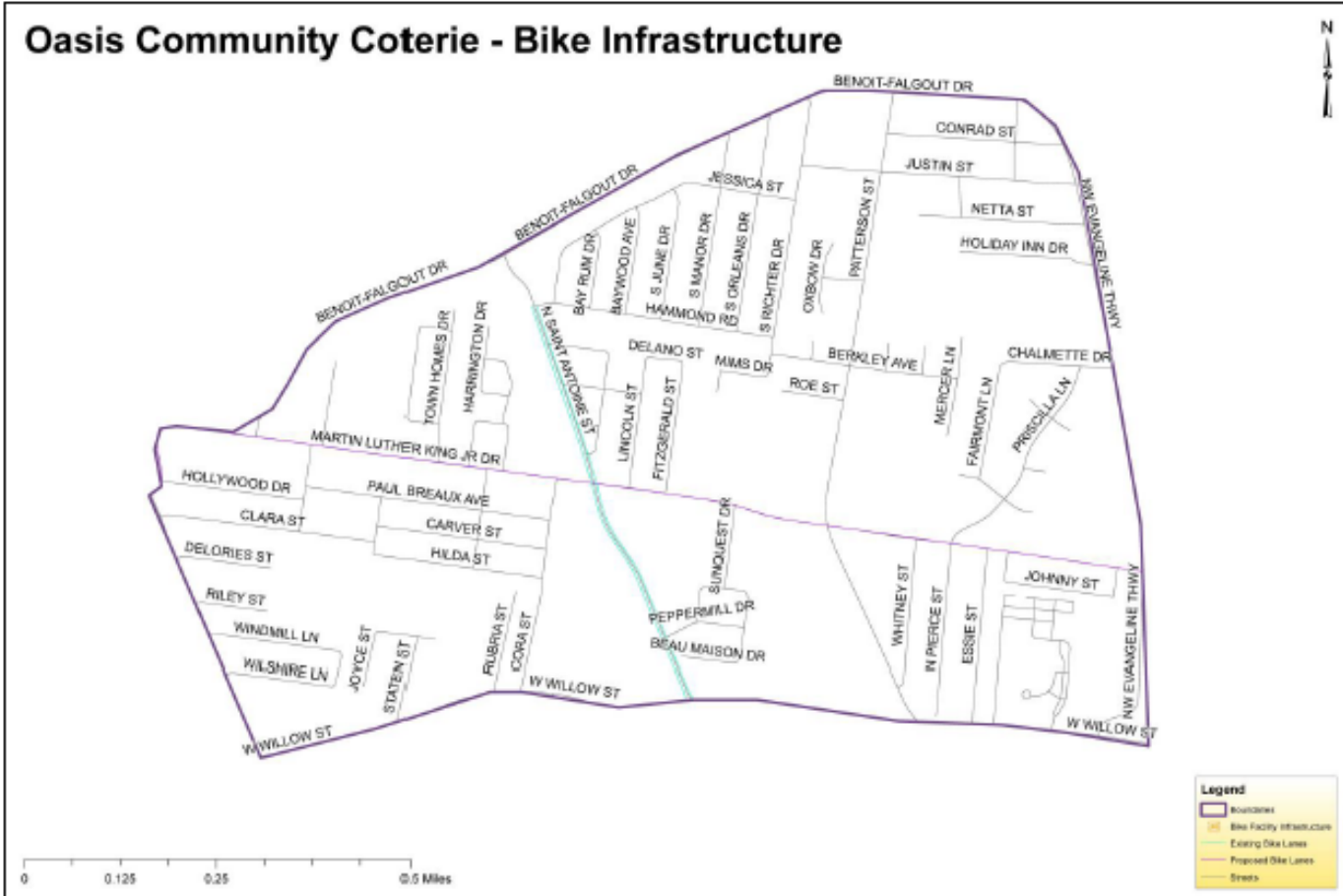
Source: *Lafayette Consolidated Government*

Welcome to Quiet Town Coterie

The neighborhood rests west of Moss Street from West Pine Street (Northgate Mall) to East Alexander Street. With several generations represented, this neighborhood seeks to develop an excellent quality of life for its residents through cleanliness, beautification, and education. Critical locations within the coterie are; Pizza Village, Sts: Leo-Seton Catholic School, R. Martin's Hair Studio, and Waffle House. This coterie aims to recruit residents to engage in the beautification, restoration and uplifting of the neighborhood.

Demographics

Population Growth

- In 2023, Quiet Town had 863 residents, which is 0.6% of Lafayette's population.
- Quiet Town's population increased by 4.4% from 2020 to 2023, while the city grew by 1.5% in that same time frame.

Diversity

- Quiet Town's population is 2.3% Hispanic, 18.8% white and 74.3% black.
- Lafayette's population, by comparison is, 6% Hispanic, 57% white and 31% black.

Income

- In 2023, the median household income in Quiet Town was $29,350, as compared to $53,147 in Lafayette.

Median Home Value

- In 2023, the median home value in Oasis Community was $74,432 as compared to $229,589 in Lafayette.

QUIET TOWN COMMUNITY COTERIE

Quiet Town Residents by Age

- 5.4% < 5
- 11.0% 5 to 14
- 13.0% 15 to 24
- 14.4% 25 to 34
- 38.1% 35 to 64
- 18.2% > 65

Educational Attainment

	Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma, GED, or Some College, No Degree	Associate's Degree of Higher
Quiet Town	25.2%	68.7%	6.1%
Lafayette	9.5%	44.6%	45.9%
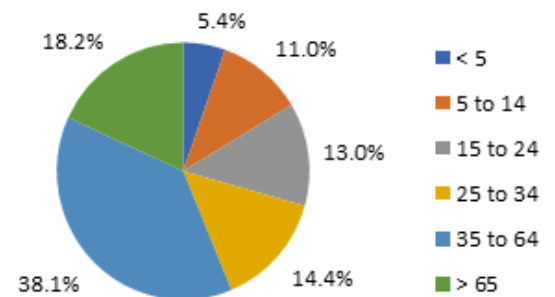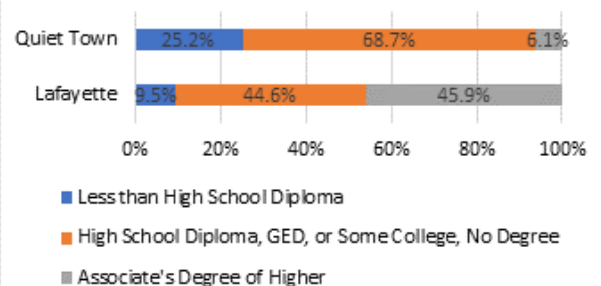
Quiet Town Coterie had 16 adjudicated properties in 2023.

The Community Development and Planning Department is the designated administrator of the Lafayette Consolidated Government disposition effort. In November of 2015, LCG adopted a process by which parties may apply for the disposition of these adjudicated properties.

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Quiet Town should maintain engagement with the adjudicated properties process by communicating current properties to the coterie on a regular basis and connecting interested residents, businesses, and organizations with the Planning Division. Learn more at https://lafayettela.gov/DP/PlanningRezoning/Adjudicated.

Source: Lafayette Parish Asssessor

Quiet Town Coterie - Zoning
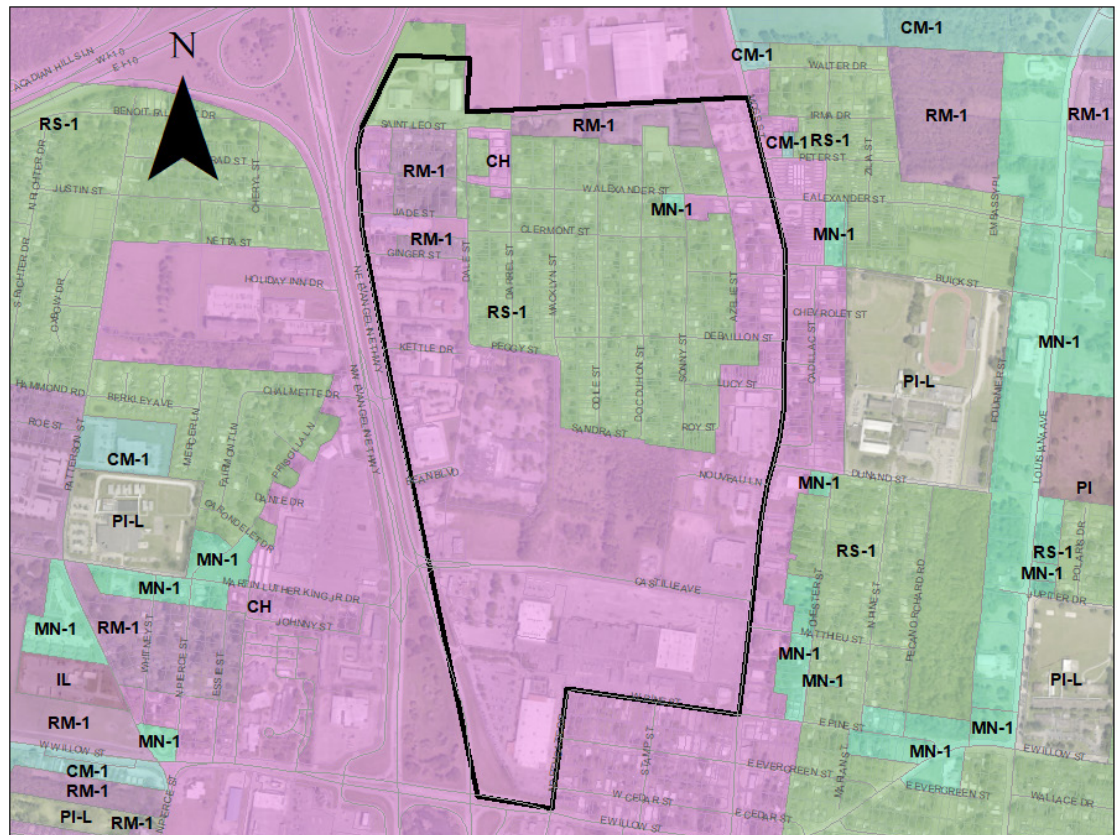
To promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community, the City of Lafayette is divided into districts. Four zoning districts are present in Quiet Town Coterie.

"RS" Residential Single-Family – The "RS" districts implement the Residential future land use category of Plan-Lafayette by providing for predominantly detached, single family neighborhoods. The dimensional standards accommodate a variety of densities and lot sizes.

"RM" Residential – The "RM" districts implement the Mixed Residential and Residential future land use categories of PlanLafayette by providing for a wide range of housing types, from single-family detached units to apartments. The dimensional standards accommodate a variety of densities and lot sizes.

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Quiet Town Coterie - Contours and Elevations

Quiet Town Coterie - Bike Infrastructure

Community Voices

Residents discussed the need for a vibrant community that is welcoming to all and takes care of children and the elderly is important. Inconsistent lighting throughout the neighborhood, incomplete sidewalk networks, and lack of safe access to recreation for all residents were key areas of concern.

Access to quality retail, restaurants, and other services found in lifestyle centers is a desire for this community. Residents communicated they must travel away from their area of town too often and would like to see more coffee shops, healthy food options, clothing, fine dining, and other amenities nearby.

"Bus access need to be improved. As well as the fiber glass on bus stops because of vandalism."

"Although public bus service is in my neighborhood, it doesn't come close enough to my home where I feel safe to walk."

"Lighting poor on roads. Especially for elderly, they're scared."

"We have enough gas stations and car washes in my area."

"We want homeowners and landlords in community taking better care of property. More economic development such as restaurants, better job opportunities, and decent housing."

"We want nice stores as those on the Southside – fine dining, Sam's Club, a dog park."

"Quality housing options, green spaces, technology hub/workspace."

Community Survey

To uncover more insights into neighborhood identity and resident experience, Oasis Coterie and Quiet Town Coterie conducted the Gateway Neighborhoods Planning Questionnaire. This allowed them to meet digitally and in person with 101 residents about the area's current conditions and future opportunities. Parks and recreation were selected as the neighborhood's greatest strength with housing and economic development being the area's greatest weakness.

Community Challenges

- Land Use – Improper zoning

- Neighborhood Identity & Character – Low appreciation of history

- Economic Development – Lack of business diversity (coffee shop, fine dining, bank)

- Housing – Lack of quality housing diversity in price range

- Parks and Recreation – Deficiency in walk-to parks

- Transportation – Sidewalk gaps

- Public Spaces – Lack of green gathering spaces

- Safety – Poor lighting

Community Planning

The Gateway Neighborhood Plan is based on the experiences and desires of neighborhood residents. After a three-month pre-planning period (November 2022-January 2023) with 41 Lafayette residents, the Gateway Neighborhoods Planning effort commenced for two of our coteries, Oasis and Quiet Town. The Gateway Neighborhoods Plan is a six-month community engagement process that developed a comprehensive neighborhood plan for the Oasis Coterie and Quiet Town Coterie. These two coteries sit at the intersection of I-49 and I-10 encountering more transportation activity than any other neighborhood. During Black History month (February 2023), 101 residents participated in a sample population study about the strengths and weaknesses of their neighborhood resulting in the establishment of three key positions of the Plan – community, people, and economy.

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, Planning Division staff, PARC Department, Lafayette Police Department, Lafayette Habitat for Humanity, Lafayette Economic Development Authority, and University of Louisiana at Lafayette facilitated a community charrette with 80 residents from Oasis and Quiet Town Coterie. This event featured a welcome from Coterie chairs, Josh Edmond and Alzina Dural, an update on community efforts from Lafayette Police Department, the release of the results from the sample population study survey, and a community art contest with 100 art students from Alice Boucher Elementary. The Gateway Neighborhood Plan team listened to the residents and identified Economic Development, Housing, and Neighborhood Identity as priority sections in the plan and even selected a 4th Grader's artwork to be converted to a community art installation for the neighborhood. Community Development and Planning convened stakeholders over the next three months, developing objectives and goals.

03
Neighborhood Opportunities

Strengths

Oasis and Quiet Town are precious welcoming areas to Lafayette, characterized by its commercial offerings and services, which range from big-box retailers and strip malls to hospitality. This commercial appeal has historically been disjointed from the adjacent neighborhoods. The opportunity to take advantage of these commercial zones and integrate them with the residential fabric is a valuable asset to expand upon. Apart from definable commercial activity, the Gateway area also contains critical civic uses like the Clifton Chenier Center and Public Library, which also houses LCG's Community Development and Planning Department, and cultural touchstones like the existing Lafayette Visitor's Center. The Gateway District lacks clearly defined recreational open space. Yet, there are potentially available land parcels for strategic positioning of recreational use. Cohesive strategies for these underused assets could ignite culturally relevant economic opportunities.

Strategies

Economic Development

1. **Support and participate in Lafayette Fresh Foods initiative to increase access to fresh and healthy foods.**

   Why it's important: Accessing fresh and healthy foods is a cornerstone of community health and well-being. By supporting the Lafayette Fresh Foods initiative, the neighborhood promotes healthier lifestyles and potentially reduces health disparities often seen in disinvested communities.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Support United Way of Acadiana Lafayette Initiative for Food Equity Committee
   - Partner with local property owners and vendors to host weekly or monthly fresh food markets in the neighborhood.
   - Offer incentives to local businesses that provide fresh produce and healthy food options.
   - Organize community workshops on nutrition and cooking with fresh ingredients.

2. **Attract new, living-wage job opportunities.**

   Why it's important: Living-wage jobs are essential for a community's economic stability and growth. They ensure that residents can afford basic necessities without financial strain, leading to a more prosperous and cohesive neighborhood.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Collaborate with the Lafayette Economic Development Authority to identify industries and businesses that can be attracted to the area.
   - Advocate for tax incentives or grants to businesses that provide living-wage jobs.
   - Organize job fairs and training programs to prepare residents for these job opportunities.

3. **Grow family wealth through providing quality, affordable banking in the community and facilitating financial empowerment classes.**

   Why it's important: Financial literacy and access to quality banking services are foundational for wealth accumulation and economic mobility. By promoting these, families can make informed financial decisions, save for the future, and invest in their community.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Partner with local banks or credit unions to establish branches or Fee-Free ATMs in the neighborhood.
   - Organize regular financial literacy workshops and classes, possibly collaborating with CDP Human Services and banks operating near the neighborhood (Cadence, Chase, First Horizon, and Hancock Whitney).
   - Encourage banks to offer special savings or loan programs tailored to the community's needs.

4. **Develop quality of life position summary.**

Why it's important: A quality-of-life position summary clearly benchmarks the community's current state and desired future. It serves as a guide for development initiatives and ensures that the community's values and priorities are at the forefront of planning efforts.

Ways to accomplish:
- Conduct quality-of-life surveys and focus groups with residents to gather input on their concerns and aspirations.
- Collaborate with local stakeholders to draft the summary.
- Regularly update the summary based on resident feedback and changes.

5. **Recruit diverse businesses.**

Why it's important: Diverse businesses bring a range of products, services, and job opportunities to a community. They also reflect and cater to the diverse needs and preferences of the residents, fostering a vibrant and inclusive local economy.

Ways to accomplish:
- Host business networking events to attract entrepreneurs from various backgrounds.
- Develop incentives for minority-owned and women-owned businesses to set up in the neighborhood.
- Collaborate with business incubators and accelerators to support diverse startups.
- Support more housing choice to create demand for diverse businesses.

6. **Identify and plan redevelopment opportunities.**

Why it's important: Redevelopment can transform underutilized or deteriorating areas into vibrant spaces that benefit the community. It can also attract investment, create jobs, and enhance the neighborhood's overall appeal.

Ways to accomplish:
- Conduct a comprehensive land and building inventory to identify potential redevelopment sites.
- Engage with community members to gather ideas and preferences for redevelopment projects.
- Partner with land owners, developers, architects, and urban planners to create feasible, community-centric redevelopment plans.
- Advocate for a robust, funded, and staffed redevelopment authority.
- Inventory adjudicated property sites and encourage applications for LCG disposition process (i.e. adjoining property owners)

Health

1. **Expand and improve health education and information for people of all ages.**

   Why it's important: Health education is the foundation for a community's well-being. By ensuring that residents, regardless of age, have access to health information, they can make informed decisions about their health, leading to better outcomes and a healthier community overall.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Collaborate with local schools, community centers, and health organizations to offer regular health workshops and seminars.
   - Design and distribute health information pamphlets and materials at community events, local businesses, and public spaces throughout the neighborhood.
   - Utilize digital platforms, such as community websites or social media, to share health tips, news, and resources.
   - Build relationship with Clifton Chenier Center Public Health Unity.

2. **Identify and expand access to mental health services for residents.**

   Why it's important: Mental health is as crucial as physical health. Mental health services can be scarce or stigmatized in many communities, especially disinvested ones. Ensuring easy access to these services can lead to improved well-being, reduced stress, and a more cohesive community.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Partner with local mental health organizations and professionals to host pop-up clinics or counseling centers within the neighborhood.
   - Organize regular mental health awareness events to reduce stigma and educate residents about available resources.
   - Offer telehealth or virtual counseling options, especially if in-person services are limited.

3. **Identify and expand access to substance abuse treatment programs for residents.**

   Why it's important: Substance abuse can have devastating effects on individuals, families, and the broader community. By providing access to treatment programs, the community can support recovery, reduce crime and health issues related to substance abuse, and foster a safer and healthier environment for all residents.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Collaborate with local health departments and organizations specializing in substance abuse treatment to bring programs to the neighborhood or ensure transportation to existing facilities (i.e. bus, shuttle).
   - Raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse through community campaigns and educational events.
   - Establish support groups within the community for individuals in recovery or those seeking help, creating a network of support, and understanding.

4. **Develop Health Equity Programming.**

   Why it's important: Health equity ensures that every individual has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible, regardless of their socioeconomic status, race, or background. In disinvested communities, significant health disparities are often due to a lack of resources, information, and access to care. By focusing on health equity, the community can address these disparities head-on, ensuring that all residents have equal access to health resources and opportunities.

   Ways to accomplish:

   - Needs Assessment: Review and share existing hospital information. Conduct comprehensive assessment to identify the community's specific health disparities and needs. This can involve surveys, focus groups, and data analysis. Identify the gaps in services.
   - Collaboration: Partner with local health organizations, clinics, and advocacy groups with health equity expertise. Their insights and resources can be invaluable in shaping effective programs.
   - Education and Outreach: Organize workshops, seminars, and campaigns focused on health equity topics. This can include information on nutrition, preventive care, and understanding health rights.
   - Access to Care: Work to establish or enhance community health centers that provide affordable care to residents. Ensure that these centers are equipped to address the specific health needs identified in the community assessment.
   - Cultural Competency: Ensure that health equity programs are culturally sensitive and tailored to the community's diverse needs. This can involve training for healthcare providers and creating materials in multiple languages.
   - Monitoring and Evaluation: Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of health equity programs. Gather feedback from residents and use data to measure outcomes. Adjust the programs as needed based on these evaluations.

Education

1. **Provide college and career readiness programs for residents and area students.**

   Why it's important: Preparing residents and students for post-secondary education and career opportunities is crucial for individual success and community advancement. Such programs can empower individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to pursue higher education or enter the workforce effectively.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Partnerships: Collaborate with South Louisiana Community College, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and local vocational schools to offer workshops, seminars, and mentorship programs.
   - Resource Centers: Establish designated spaces within schools or LCG PARC Centers where students can access college applications, scholarships, and career planning resources.
   - Skill Development: Organize skill-building workshops, such as resume writing, interview techniques, and financial literacy for college.
   - Work with zoned high schools (Carencro High School and Northside High School) to support existing college and career readiness efforts.

2. **Promote quality early childhood education to residents.**

   Why it's important: Early childhood education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and success. Quality early education can significantly impact cognitive and social development, leading children to academic achievement and personal growth.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Awareness Campaigns: Launch campaigns to educate parents about the importance of early childhood education and available programs.
   - Subsidies and Scholarships: Work with United Way of Acadiana to develop a financial assistance guide for families who cannot afford early education programs.
   - Quality Standards: Collaborate with early childhood educators to ensure that programs meet high-quality standards and are culturally relevant.

3. **Develop strong school-coterie partnerships through increasing communication between schools, parents, and non-profit and private partners to enhance student success.**

   Why it's important: A collaborative approach to education involving all stakeholders can create a supportive environment for students. By fostering strong partnerships, schools can tap into community resources, and parents can be more engaged in their children's education, leading to better student outcomes.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Regular Meetings: Organize regular meetings between school representatives, Lafayette Parish CAFEs, coterie leaders, parents, and community partners to discuss student needs, share resources, and plan collaborative initiatives.
   - Communication Platforms: Establish digital platforms or newsletters to keep all stakeholders informed about school events, updates, and opportunities for involvement.
   - Community Involvement: Encourage community members and businesses to participate in school events, offer internships, or provide resources (like books or technology) to enhance the learning experience.
   - Parent Workshops: Organize workshops for parents on topics like understanding the school curriculum, effective home study techniques, and ways to support their child's academic journey.

03 Neighborhood Opportunities

Housing

1. **Encourage the upkeep of ill-maintained and blighted properties.**

   Why it's important: Well-maintained properties enhance the overall aesthetic appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, address safety of residents, and foster a sense of community pride. Addressing blight can also reduce potential safety hazards and deter criminal activity.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Incentive Programs: Offer grants to homeowners who invest in property improvements. (i.e. landscaping, painting, tree trimming, mailbox, fence, sodding grass, etc)
   - Awareness Campaigns: Educate residents about the benefits of property upkeep through workshops and community meetings.
   - Reporting System: Create a process whereby residents can report blighted properties, ensuring timely interventions.
   - Be mindful that all owners may not be able to afford renovations.

2. **Create a cooperative work group to assist in the maintenance of homes whose owners may be unable.**

   Why it's important: Supporting vulnerable residents in maintaining their homes ensures that they can live in safe, dignified conditions.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Volunteer Drives: Organize community volunteer days where residents help with home repairs and maintenance.
   - Partnerships: Collaborate with Lafayette Community Tool Library, Parish Proud, local businesses, and organizations to donate materials or services.
   - Training Workshops: Offer "Fix-It Cafes" or basic home repair and maintenance training for residents interested in assisting others.

3. **Collaborate with realtors to promote the Oasis Community Coterie and Quiet Town Coterie.**

   Why it's important: Promotion can attract new residents and investments, leading to community growth and revitalization. Ensuring unique attributes of the coteries are highlighted, drawing families that align with the community's values.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Marketing Materials: Develop brochures, videos, and online content showcasing the community's amenities, history, and future plans.
   - Realtor Tours: Organize tours for realtors learn the area and its selling points.
   - Community Events: Invite realtors to community events to experience the neighborhood's culture.

4. **Address the impact of semi-truck noise on residential properties.**

   Why it's important: Excessive noise can disrupt residents' quality of life, affecting sleep, relaxation, and overall well-being. Addressing this issue ensures a peaceful living environment and reduces potential conflicts between residents and businesses.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Noise Control Signs: Install signs in key areas reminding truck drivers of noise ordinances and residential zones.
   - Ordinance Creation: Work with local government to draft and enforce an ordinance addressing semi-truck noise in residential areas.
   - Alternative Routes: Collaborate with transportation departments to identify and promote alternative routes for trucks that bypass residential zones.

5. **Retain firm for housing market analysis, needs assessment, and strategy/action plan.**

   Why it's important: A comprehensive analysis provides insights into current housing trends, future projections, and areas of need. This data-driven approach ensures that housing strategies are effective, targeted, and sustainable. This can also enable robust funding opportunities.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - RFP Process: Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to attract experienced firms specializing in housing market analysis.
   - Community Input: Ensure that the analysis includes resident feedback.
   - Engage CDBG office with plan.
   - Regular Updates: Schedule updates to stay current with changing dynamics once the initial analysis is done.

6. **Grow local community builders.**

   Why it's important: Local community builders deeply understand the area's needs, culture, and aspirations. By nurturing and supporting them, the community ensures that development initiatives are grounded in local values and priorities.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Training Programs: Offer workshops and courses on community development, leadership, and project management.
   - Mentorship: Connect budding community builders with experienced mentors for guidance and support.
   - Grants and Funding: Advocate for a grant program to fund community-led housing and development projects.
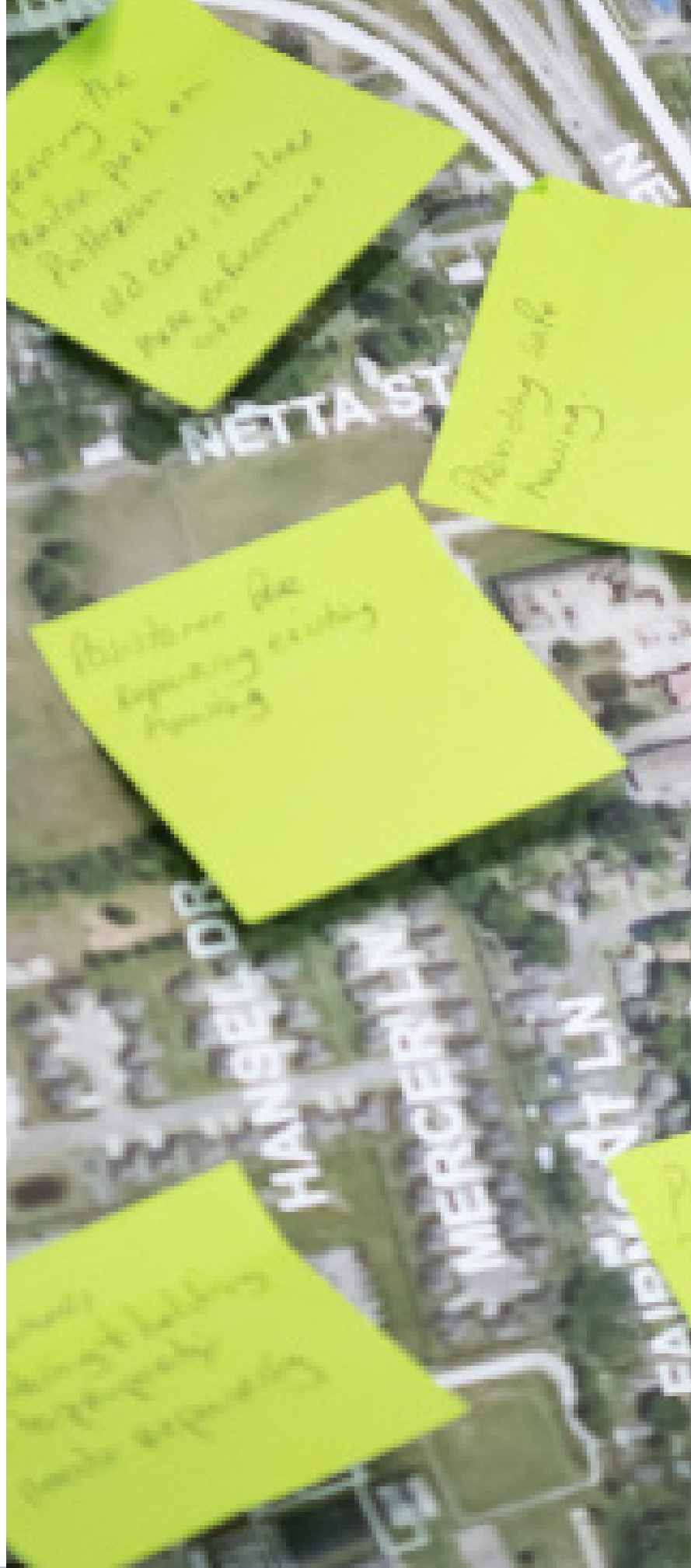
Neighborhood Identity and Character

1. **Consider the placement of neighborhood welcome signs.**

    Why it's important: Welcome signs demarcate neighborhood boundaries and instill a sense of pride and belonging among residents. They serve as a visual representation of the community's identity and can make a strong first impression on visitors.

    Ways to accomplish:
    *   Community Input: Engage residents in the design process to ensure the sign includes culturally relevant elements.
    *   Location Analysis: Identify strategic locations at entry points to maximize visibility and impact.
    *   Collaboration: Partner with Lafayette Consolidated Government and Acadiana Center for the Arts to ensure the effective design and placement of welcome signs as they are funded and produced.

2. **Prepare a wayfinding signage plan.**

    Why it's important: Wayfinding signs help residents and visitors easily navigate the neighborhood. They can highlight key landmarks, community centers, and other points of interest, enhancing the overall experience of the area.

    Ways to accomplish:
    *   Mapping: Conduct a comprehensive mapping of the neighborhood to identify key locations and routes.
    *   Design Consistency: Ensure that wayfinding signs have a consistent design that aligns with the neighborhood's identity and follows the city's wayfinding plan.
    *   Maintenance Plan: Establish a plan for regular maintenance and updates to the signage as the neighborhood evolves.

3. **Document history.**

    Why it's important: Understanding and preserving the neighborhood's history enriches its identity and provides residents with a sense of continuity and connection to their roots. It also serves as an educational tool for new residents and future generations.

    Ways to accomplish:
    *   Meet with Historic Preservation Planner in Planning Division share goals.
    *   Oral Histories: Interview long-time residents to capture personal stories and experiences.
    *   Archival Research: Collaborate with local leaders, residents, and other historical organizations to gather historical documents, photos, and artifacts.
    *   Digital Archive: Create an online platform where residents can access and contribute to the neighborhood's historical documentation.

4. **Celebrate African-American heritage with art and beautification projects.**

    Why it's important: Celebrating African-American heritage honors the contributions and experiences of a significant portion of the community. Art and beautification projects serve as visual reminders of this rich history, fostering community pride and unity.

    Ways to accomplish:
    *   Public Murals: Commission local artists to create murals depicting significant events or African-American figures.
    *   Sculptures and Installations: Dedicate public spaces for art installations that celebrate African-American culture and achievements.
    *   Community Events: Organize events, workshops, and festivals that showcase African-American art, music, dance, and traditions. Collaborate with schools, cultural organizations, and artists to ensure diverse and authentic representations.
    *   Support implementation of African-American heritage trail.

Land Use

1. Conduct future land use planning.

Why it's important: Future land use planning is pivotal in shaping a neighborhood's development trajectory. It provides a roadmap for the community's growth, ensuring that land use aligns with the neighborhood's values, needs, and aspirations. Such planning also helps in making informed decisions about infrastructure, housing, commercial spaces, and recreational areas, ensuring a balanced and sustainable development.

Ways to accomplish:

- Community Engagement: Organize a workshop to confirm input from residents about their vision for the neighborhood's future. This ensures that the land use plan is rooted in the community's desires.
- Collaboration with Experts: Engage urban planners, environmental experts, and architects to provide insights into sustainable and efficient land use practices.
- Zoning Review: Examine current zoning regulations to identify any constraints or opportunities for the desired land use. Advoacate LCG for administrative rezoning assistance if necessary to align with the future land use plan.
- Environmental Considerations: Conduct environmental impact assessments to ensure that future land use does not harm natural ecosystem services. This includes considerations for green spaces and watersheds.
- Infrastructure Planning: Based on the future land use plan, determine the infrastructure needs, such as roads, public transportation, utilities, and public amenities. This ensures that as the neighborhood develops, it remains accessible and well-serviced.
- Regular Updates: Land use planning should not be static. Regularly review and update the plan to account for changing circumstances, new technologies, and evolving community needs. This ensures that the plan remains relevant and effective in guiding the neighborhood's growth.

Parks, Recreation, and Public Spaces

1. **Expand out-of-school programming at Martin Luther King Recreation Center and Dorsey-Donlon Park.**

   Why it's important: Out-of-school programs provide youth with essential recreational, educational, and social opportunities. They foster community engagement, reduce idle time that can lead to negative behaviors, and offer enriching experiences that contribute to personal growth.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Stakeholder Meetings: Regularly meet with the relevant LCG departments to discuss program needs.
   - Neighborhood Input: Gather feedback from residents about the types of programs they'd like to see.
   - Partnerships: Connect the PARC department with local organizations, artists, and educators to diversify program offerings.

2. **Develop a Pocket Park in Quiet Town Coterie.**

   Why it's important: Pocket parks are small urban green spaces that offer residents a place to relax, socialize, and engage in recreational activities. They enhance the urban landscape and improve air quality.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Land Identification: Work with LCG to identify suitable plots for the pocket park (could be adjudicated property).
   - Design Workshops: Engage the community in the design process to ensure the park meets their needs and preferences.
   - Establish maintainence plan that includes resident involvement.
   - Planning: Explore partnerships to advance the park's funding, development, and launch.

3. **Enhance and activate green spaces throughout the neighborhood.**

   Why it's important: Activated green spaces are hubs of community activity, fostering social interactions and offering recreational opportunities. They also serve as green infrastructure, improving environmental quality and resilience.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Landscaping: Invest in landscaping to make green spaces more inviting and functional.
   - Programming: Organize regular events, such as farmers' markets, concerts, food truck pop-ups, and fitness classes, to draw residents to these spaces.
   - Eco-friendly Features: Incorporate features like rain gardens and permeable pavements to enhance the environmental benefits of these spaces.
   - Work with nonprofits like Trees Acadiana for the increase in native plantings.

4. **Update the Martin Luther King Recreation Center.**

   Why it's important: Modern and well-equipped recreation centers cater to a broader range of community needs, from fitness and education to social gatherings and cultural events.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Needs Assessment: Survey residents to determine what additional amenities and features they'd like to see.
   - Technology Integration: Equip the center with computers, Wi-Fi (indoor and outdoor), and other tech resources to cater to today's digital age.
   - Infrastructure Upgrades: Support and advocate for the renovation and retrofit of indoor and outdoor spaces, ensuring they are accessible, functional, and beautiful. Including a walking trail that spans the entire property and parking lot improvement to address urban heat island effects and stormwater managment.

5. **Program the Dorsey-Donlon Park and other public spaces with pedestrian connectivity and neighborhood events.**

   Why it's important: Regular events that are easy to access foster community cohesion, offer entertainment and learning opportunities, and maximize the utilization of public spaces.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Develop bike trails and multi-use paths that are safe, comfortable, and well lit that connect the park and other public spaces with nearby residents.
   - Event Calendar: Develop a calendar of events, including a mix of cultural and educational activities.
   - Community Collaboration: Engage artists, performers, and organizations to contribute to event programming.
   - Promotion: Use local media, social media, and community networks to promote upcoming events and boost attendance.

6. **Expand public space amenities.**

   Why it's important: A diverse range of amenities ensures that public spaces cater to the varied interests and needs of the community, making them vibrant treats along neighborhood paths.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Public Space Upgrades: Add amenities like kid-focused furniture, benches, art, pedestrian lighting, and water features where deemed appropriate.
   - Feedback Loops: Regularly solicit feedback from residents to ensure that amenities align with their preferences and needs.

Transportation

1. **Perform a walkability study to determine where safety improvements can be made.**

   Why it's important: Walkability studies provide insights into how pedestrian-friendly an area is. By identifying areas of concern, communities can make targeted improvements, ensuring that residents can walk safely and comfortably.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Expert Collaboration: Engage Community Development and Planning to conduct the study.
   - Community Feedback: Gather input from residents about their walking experiences, challenges, and areas they perceive as poorly maintained, inaccessible, or unsafe.
   - Data Analysis: Use tools like GIS mapping to visualize pedestrian traffic patterns, accident hotspots, and areas lacking pedestrian infrastructure.

2. **Improve sidewalk conditions in areas of disrepair.**

   Why it's important: Well-maintained sidewalks are essential for pedestrian safety and accessibility. They prevent tripping hazards, improve the overall aesthetic of the neighborhood, and encourage walking as a mode of transportation.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Regular Inspections: Conduct periodic inspections to identify areas of disrepair.
   - Prioritization: Based on the walkability study and inspection results, prioritize areas that need immediate attention.
   - Community Engagement: Organize community clean-up or repair days where residents can volunteer to help fix minor sidewalk issues.

3. **Develop a preferred list of features and pedestrian amenities along neighborhood corridors.**

   Why it's important: Pedestrian amenities enhance the walking experience, making it more enjoyable, safe, and convenient. They can include things like benches, shade structures, lighting, and signage, all of which contribute to a more vibrant and user-friendly streetscape.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Community Surveys: Ask residents about the types of amenities they'd like to see along their walking routes.
   - Best Practices: Research other cities or neighborhoods known for their pedestrian-friendly designs to gather ideas.
   - Collaborative Design: Work with local government and landscape architects to create a cohesive plan for the placement and design of amenities.
   - Funding: Explore grants, partnerships with local businesses, community fundraising initiatives, and philanthropy to finance the installation of these amenities.

Maintenance and Safety

1. **Adopt Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards.**

   Why it's important: CPTED is a proactive approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design. By adopting these standards, neighborhoods can enhance safety, reduce opportunities for crime, address speeding, and foster a sense of security among residents.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Training Workshops: Organize workshops for community members, local businesses, and property owners on CPTED principles.
   - Collaboration: Work with local law enforcement and LCG to integrate CPTED standards into neighborhood planning and regulations.
   - Regular Reviews: Periodically review and adjust the neighborhood's strategy based on crime data and CPTED best practices.

2. **Start an Oasis Coterie and Quiet Town Coterie neighborhood webpage where the group can post and discuss concerns.**

   Why it's important: A dedicated webpage fosters communication, transparency, and community engagement. It provides a platform for residents to voice concerns, share information, and collaborate on neighborhood initiatives.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Platform Selection: Choose a user-friendly platform that allows for easy posting and discussion.
   - Content Management: Assign community members to manage and update the webpage regularly.
   - Promotion: Ensure all residents are aware of the webpage and encourage its use through community meetings, flyers, group messaging applications (GroupMe or Next Door), and social media.

3. **Create a list of general maintenance guidelines for property owners.**

   Why it's important: Clear maintenance guidelines help property owners understand their responsibilities and the benefits of upkeep. This can lead to a more cohesive and aesthetically pleasing neighborhood environment.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Collaborative Development: Engage residents, property owners, and local experts in creating the guidelines.
   - Distribution: Make the guidelines easily accessible through the neighborhood webpage, community centers, and local events.
   - Awareness Campaigns: Organize workshops and meetings to educate property owners about the guidelines and their benefits.
   - Guideline Implementation: Offer microgrants towards the implementation of guidelines throughout the neighborhood.

4. **Initiate property clean-up initiatives.**

   Why it's important: Well-maintained properties contribute to a neighborhood's visual appeal, safety, and overall sense of pride. Clean-up initiatives can foster community collaboration and improve the overall living environment.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Clean-up Days: Organize regular community clean-up days where residents volunteer to clean public spaces and assist neighbors.
   - Incentive Programs: Offer rewards or recognition for well-maintained properties or significant property improvements.
   - Partnerships: Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to develop ongoing "Clean-Up" sponsors and supply donations.
   - Storage: Secure building for storage of clean-up supplies and other neighborhood maintenance tools and inventory.

5. **Consider a program for citizen code inspectors.**

   Why it's important: Citizen code inspectors can play a vital role in ensuring that properties adhere to local codes and standards. This grassroots approach can be more responsive and foster a sense of community responsibility.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Training: Provide comprehensive training for volunteers on code regulations, inspection procedures, and reporting mechanisms.
   - Collaboration: Work closely with local government and law enforcement to ensure that citizen inspectors have the necessary support and resources.
   - Feedback Mechanism: Establish a system for residents to provide feedback on the program and suggest improvements.

6. **Consider sub-area maintenance plans for distinctive blocks throughout Oasis and Quiet Town.**

   Why it's important: Sub-area plans recognize the unique characteristics and needs of specific parts of the neighborhood. They allow for more tailored strategies, ensuring that each area's cultural, historical, and social attributes are preserved and taken care of.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Community Engagement: Engage residents of each sub-area in the planning process to capture their commitment and buy-in on area maintenance initiatives.
   - Historical Research: Document each sub-area's cultural and historical significance to inform the maintenance process.
   - Regular Reviews: Periodically review and update sub-area plans to reflect changing circumstances and community feedback.

7. **Nurture leaders through training and capacity building.**

   Why it's important: Strong leadership is the backbone of any thriving neighborhood. By nurturing leaders, the neighborhood ensures that there are individuals equipped with the skills, knowledge, and passion to drive community initiatives and address challenges.

   Ways to accomplish:
   - Leadership Workshops: Conduct civic leadership, community organizing, and conflict resolution workshops.
   - Mentorship Programs: Connect emerging leaders with experienced community figures for guidance and support.
   - Youth Engagement: Organize programs and events that encourage youth to take on leadership roles, ensuring a new generation of community leaders.
   - Training: Allocate resources to send residents and stakeholders to workshops and conferences relevant to the Gateway Neighborhood Plan
   - Coterie Meetings: Facilitate regularly scheduled (monthly) and publicly accessible coterie meetings that operate with an agenda and action items.
   - Operations and Maintenance (O+M) Fund: Adopt an O+M budget that allocates the funding from Community Development and Planning to various elements of the Gateway Neighborhood Plan subject to approved eligible activities.

04

Catalyst
Projects

What are Catalyst Projects?

Catalyst projects are pivotal initiatives within a neighborhood plan that have the potential to drive significant positive change and spur further development. These projects are designed to have a ripple effect, meaning that their successful implementation can lead to a series of subsequent improvements and developments in the area. They are often strategically chosen based on their potential to address multiple community needs and goals simultaneously.

Community Driven Preferred Design Solutions

During this process, residents of Oasis and Quiet Town were surveyed and interviewed, about the types of solutions that resonates the most with their community. The following images are examples of what residents would like to see more in their coterie.

Green Infrastructure Preferred Solutions

Stormwater Planters

Stormwater Swales

Intersection & Crossings Preferred Solutions

Bike Lane Markings

RRFB

Water Preferred Solutions

RUNNEL

FALLING WATER CURTAIN

Lighting Preferred Solutions

WATER-WALL BACK LIGHTING

OVERHEAD FAIRY LIGHTS

Plantings Preferred Solutions

FLOWERING VINES

Art Preferred Solutions

SCULPTURAL WALL

LOCAL ARTIST MURAL

Seating Preferred Solutions

CREATIVE ARTFUL SEATING

MOVEABLE/MODULAR OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Paving Preferred Solutions

BRICK PAVERS

CONCRETE PAVERS, GRAVEL

WOODEN PERMEABLE PAVERS

Image of installed crosswalk

Alice Boucher Crosswalk

Overview

The Alice Boucher Crosswalk Catalyst Project is a community-driven initiative aimed at enhancing neighborhood identity, promoting pedestrian safety, and celebrating local talent. Stemming from a competition at Alice Boucher Elementary, a fourth grader's artwork was chosen by the community to be transformed into a vibrant crosswalk art installation. This project not only beautifies the neighborhood but also serves as a testament to the creativity and spirit of its young residents.

Ways to Accomplish

1. Community Collaboration: Engage with Acadiana Center for the Arts and LCG and to transform the selected artwork into a feasible crosswalk design.

2. Safety Protocols: Collaborate with LCG to ensure that the art installation adheres to safety regulations. This includes ensuring visibility and considering factors like weather resistance.

3. Funding: Explore potential funding sources, including neighborhood funding and grants.

4. Promotion & Awareness: Raise awareness about the project. Use local media and social media to spread the word.

5. Installation & Maintenance: Organize a community installation day, inviting residents, especially students from Alice Boucher Elementary, to participate in bringing the artwork to life. Establish a maintenance plan to ensure the crosswalk remains vibrant and in good condition over time.

6. Community Engagement: Host event to celebrate the completion of the crosswalk art installation. This celebrates local talent and reinforces the importance of pedestrian safety.

Oasis Coterie Chair, Josh Edmond, lifting child with Tehmi Chaisson at crosswalk installation

Josh Edmond coloring with child at crosswalk installation

1. New pedestrian scale sidewalk lighting enhances street safety and contributes to creating a sense of place.

2. Widened paved sidewalks with furniture enhances pedestrian walkability and overall experiences.

3. New street trees a buffer creates a he walkable environm and plantings prov and ecological ben

Imageof Concept from Catalyst Prage in ECI Gateway District Design Manual
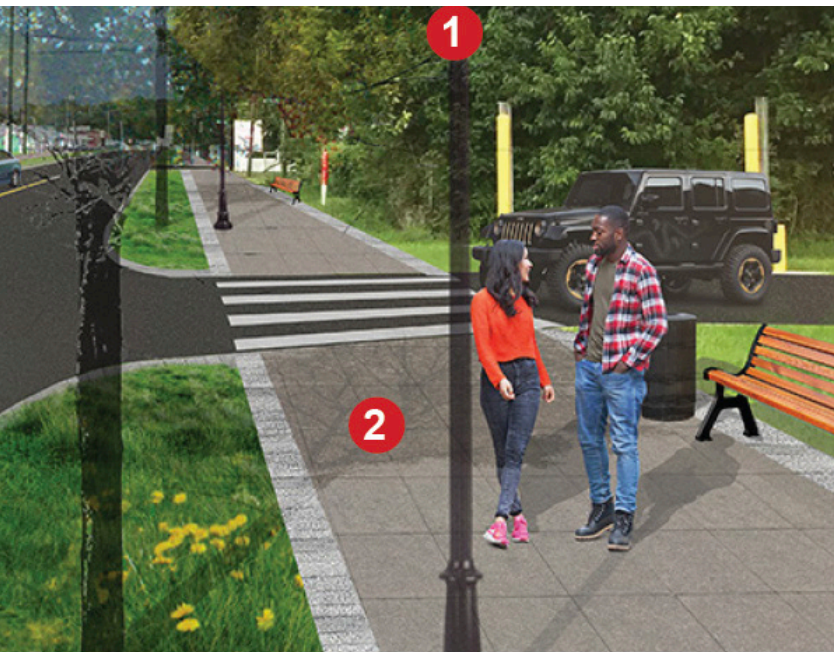
Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Streetscape

Overview

The Martin Luther King Jr Drive Catalyst Project is a transformative initiative aimed at revitalizing one of the neighborhood's primary thoroughfares. Stretching from St Antoine to the I-49 Frontage Road, this project focuses on enhancing pedestrian safety, beautifying the streetscape, and laying the groundwork for future modernization efforts. By introducing a complete sidewalk network, street trees, and lighting, the project aims to create a safer, more inviting, and aesthetically pleasing environment for residents and visitors alike. This initiative serves as a precursor to more comprehensive streetscape enhancements that will incorporate advanced stormwater management, street furniture, and other pedestrian-friendly amenities.

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efits.

4 New iron fencing improves the schoolyard perimeter and contributes to a complete sidewalk aesthetic.

Street lighting image from Willow Street Plan

Ways to Accomplish

1. Sidewalk Network Expansion: Collaborate with LCG to implement a continuous sidewalk network.

2. Street Trees Planting: Work with LCG to select native and resilient tree species. Strategically place these trees to provide shade, improve air quality, and enhance the street's appeal.

3. Engage LUS to ensure adequate functioning of all streetlights.

4. Community Engagement: Incorporate Evangeline Corridor Initiative Plan to include resident desires that were expressed. Organize community planting days or workshops to foster a sense of ownership.

5. Future Funding: Explore various funding avenues, including LCG, philanthropy, and grants for future interventions.

6. Future Planning: Begin planning for future interventions. This includes researching best practices for stormwater management, street furniture, and pedestrian amenities.

7. Maintenance & Upkeep: Establish a regular maintenance schedule for the newly installed sidewalks and trees. Consider forming a community stewardship group to assist with upkeep and report any issues.
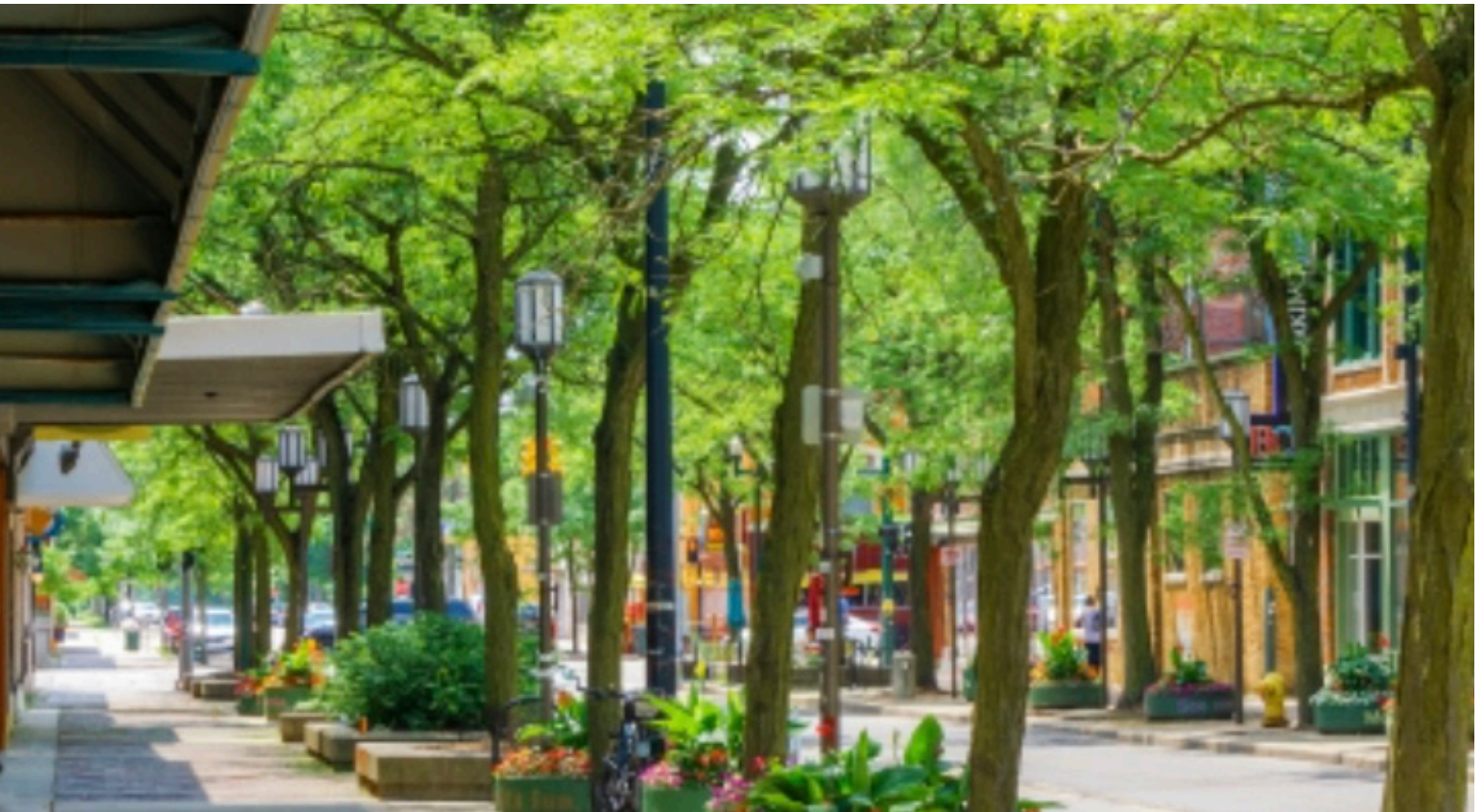
Street tree example from Willow Street Plan

Willow Street Streetscape

Overview

The Willow Street Catalyst Project is an ambitious endeavor aimed at transforming Willow Street from a high-speed traffic corridor to a holistic, resident-friendly complete street. Spanning from Core Street to Moss Street, the project's vision is to rejuvenate Willow Street in a way that not only prioritizes pedestrian safety and accessibility but also reconnects the Washington Heights community to Truman. By integrating modern urban planning elements such as protected bike lanes, vegetated medians, green infrastructure, and coulee naturalization, the project seeks to create a harmonious balance between urban development and environmental sustainability, ultimately fostering a vibrant, connected, and green urban corridor.

Street Topology from Willow Street Plan

Ways to Accomplish

1. Contracting a Planning Firm: LCG engages a reputable urban planning firm that will conduct a comprehensive study of Willow Street and recommend tailored interventions to achieve the project's goals.

2. Vegetated Medians: Introduce green medians that not only beautify the street but also serve as traffic calming measures. These medians can be planted with native vegetation, reducing the urban heat island effect and improving air quality.

3. Green Infrastructure Planning: Incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems, permeable pavements, and rain gardens to manage stormwater effectively, reduce flooding, and enhance the street's ecological value.

4. Community Engagement: Incorporate Evangeline Corridor Initiative Plan to include resident desires that were expressed.

5. Advocate for engineering and construction funding from LCG and grant sources.

6. Maintenance & Stewardship: Establish a resident-involved maintenance plan for the newly developed infrastructure and green spaces.
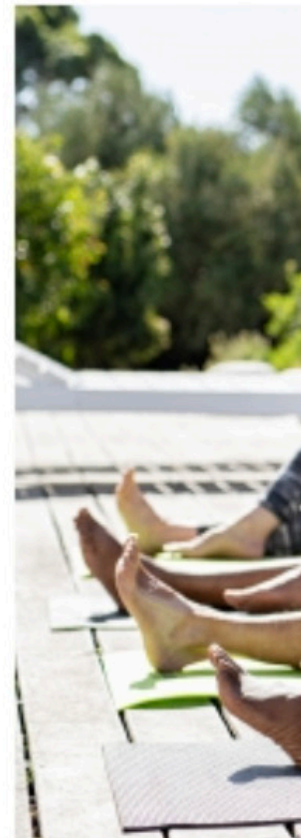
Placemaking images from Castille Avenue Plan

Castille Avenue Streetscape

Overview

The Castille Avenue Catalyst Project is a visionary initiative focused on revitalizing Castille Avenue from I-49 Frontage Road to Moss Street. The primary objective is to enhance the avenue in a manner that not only reconnects Quiet Town residents to essential goods and services but also amplifies recreational and economic activities, especially around key sites like the Northgate Mall. By integrating state-of-the-art urban design elements such as protected bike lanes, vegetated medians, green infrastructure, and business site retrofits, the project aspires to create a bustling, green, and pedestrian-friendly corridor. While the neighborhood is keen on advocating for this transformation, the actual engineering and implementation will be pursued as and when economic development justifies the need.

Ways to Accomplish

1. Contracting a Planning Firm: LCG engages a renowned urban planning firm to conduct a thorough assessment of Castille Avenue and propose interventions that align with the project's vision and the community's needs.

2. Business Site Retrofits: Envision site retrofits of nearby parcels, especially those around the Northgate Mall. This can include traffic network, outparcels, and the addition of pedestrian-friendly amenities.

3. Community Engagement: Incorporate Evangeline Corridor Initiative Plan to include resident desires that were expressed. .

4. Share the plan with the Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) and the Economic Development District. Their expertise can be invaluable in refining the project.

5. Phased Implementation: Adopt a phased approach. Begin with smaller interventions and scale up as development opportunities arise.

6. Advocacy & Support: The neighborhood plays a crucial role in advocating. Engage stakeholder and champion the project to investors, stakeholders, and city officials.

Street Topolgy from Castill Avenue Plan
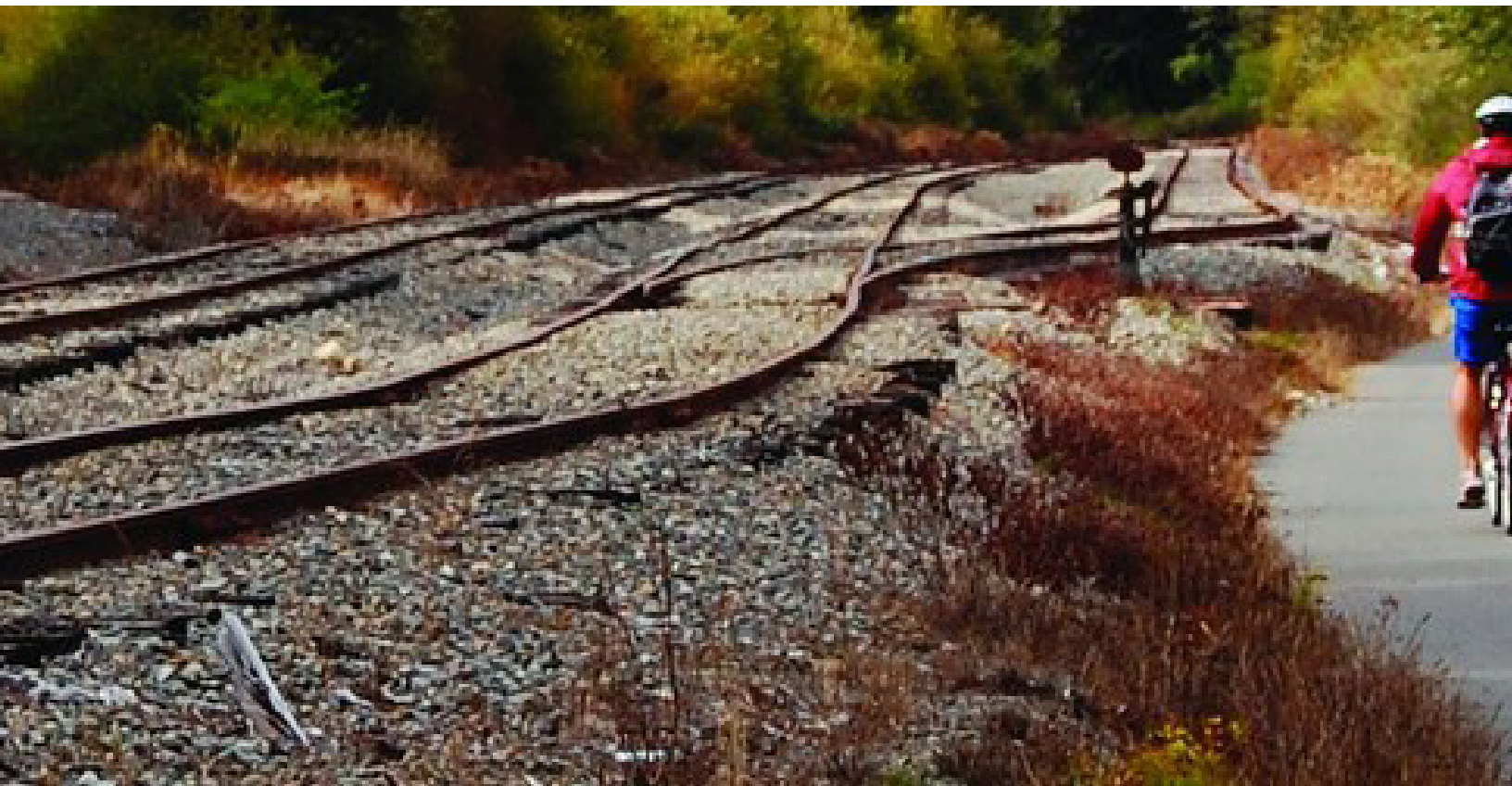
Image from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Rails to Trails

Overview

The Rails-to-Trails Catalyst Project is an innovative initiative aimed at transforming an abandoned railbed stretching from Willow Street to Pont Des Mouton into a multi-use path for the community. By repurposing this underutilized space, the project seeks to provide residents with a safe, accessible, and green corridor for recreation and pedestrian mobility. Adjacent to an existing park, this trail not only enhances the local green space but also lays the foundation for future connections, bridging the neighborhood to Washington Heights, LaPlace, Fightinville, and even extending to Downtown. This project embodies the vision of sustainable urban development, fostering community connectivity, and promoting active lifestyles.

Ways to Accomplish

1. Assessment & Planning: Engage Designing Women of Acadiana to recommend designs for a multi-use path that caters to pedestrians, cyclists, and other users. Involve residents in the planning process to ensure the trail's design aligns with community aspirations.

2. Safety Measures: Ensure the trail is well-lit, has clear signage, and incorporates safety features.

3. Park Integration: Seamlessly integrate the trail with the adjacent park.

4. Future Connectivity Planning: Design the trail with future extensions in mind. Ensure there are potential connection points to neighborhoods like Washington Heights, LaPlace, Fightinville, and routes leading to Downtown.

5. Explore funding sources. Collaborate with LCG to leverage resources and expertise.

6. Establish a maintenance plan to ensure the trail remains in good condition.

7. Launch a promotional campaign to raise awareness about the new trail. Organize inaugural events, guided walks, and community rides to introduce residents to the trail.

I-10 Ingress/Egress Ramps image from University Gateway report

University Avenue

Overview

The University Gateway Advocacy Catalyst Project focuses on the beautification and enhancement of University Avenue, stretching from Interstate 10 to University Avenue. Recognized as a high-traffic road and a significant gateway to both the city and the adjacent neighborhood, this project aims to elevate the avenue's aesthetic and functional appeal. While this initiative is not directly a neighborhood project, its proximity and importance to the community make it essential for the neighborhood to monitor its progress. By actively advocating for interventions that enhance the neighborhood's gateway, the community can ensure that the avenue's transformation aligns with their vision and aspirations

Strategy and example image from University Gateway Report

Image of Public Meeting Sign from University Gateway Report

Cover Image from University Gateway Report

Ways to Accomplish

1. Establish a neighborhood committee or liaison group dedicated to monitoring the University Gateway project.

2. Advocacy Efforts: Actively advocate for design elements and interventions that enhance the neighborhood's gateway. This can include landscaping, public art installations, pedestrian-friendly amenities, and traffic calming measures.

3. Collaborative Partnerships: Build partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and institutions located along or near University Avenue. Their support and collaboration can amplify the neighborhood's advocacy efforts.

4. Regular Monitoring: Stay updated on the project's milestones, timelines, and any proposed changes.

5. Celebration & Recognition: Once the project reaches significant milestones or upon its completion, organize community events to celebrate the transformed gateway. Recognize and appreciate the efforts of community members, partners, and stakeholders who played a role in advocating for the neighborhood's interests.

A digital rendering from the Lamar Johnson Collective shows POP! Heights Park in Roseland Neighborhood, Chicago, IL
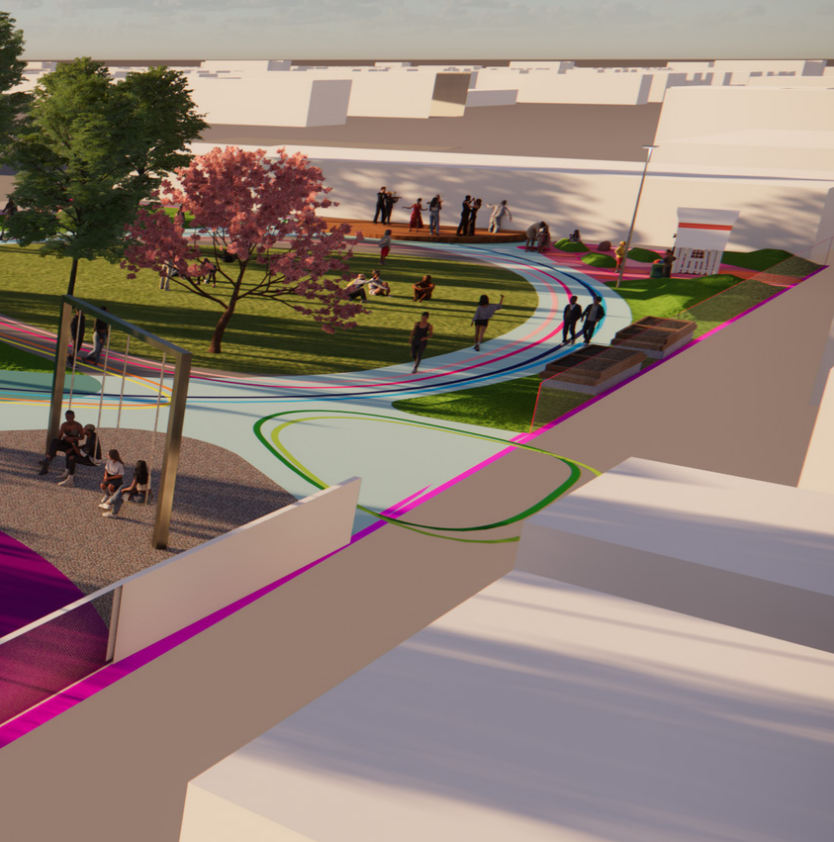
Quiet Town Pocket Park

Overview

The Quiet Town Pocket Park Catalyst Project is a community-driven initiative aimed at creating a recreational haven within the heart of the Quiet Town Coterie. Recognizing the need for a dedicated space where residents, both young and old, can relax, play, and connect with nature, this project envisions transforming an underutilized space into a vibrant pocket park. This green oasis will not only enhance the neighborhood's aesthetic appeal but also provide a safe and welcoming environment for residents to engage in recreational activities, foster community bonds, and improve overall well-being.

McComb Veazey Pocket Park

Ways to Accomplish

1. Site Selection & Assessment: Identify a suitable location within the Quiet Town Coterie that can be transformed into a pocket park. Conduct an assessment to understand the site's potential and challenges.

2. Community Engagement: Involve residents in the planning and design process. Organize community meetings to gather feedback, preferences, and ideas for the park's amenities.

3. Landscape Design: Collaborate with LCG to design a park that caters to the needs of all residents. This includes play areas, seating zones, walking paths, and green spaces.

4. Sustainable Features: Integrate sustainable elements such as native plantings and permeable surfaces to ensure the park is environmentally friendly and requires minimal maintenance.

5. Safety Measures: Ensure the park is well-lit and incorporates safety features.

6. Funding & Partnerships: Explore various funding sources.

7. Maintenance & Stewardship: Establish a maintenance plan. Consider forming a community stewardship group where residents take an active role in the park's upkeep and organize community events.

Identifying and Implementing Future Catalyst Projects

Process for Identifying Future Catalyst Projects

1. Community Workshops: Organize regular community workshops where residents can discuss neighborhood needs, aspirations, and potential projects.
2. Feedback Mechanism: Establish a continuous feedback system, such as online portals, suggestion boxes, or community bulletin boards, where residents can propose and support potential catalyst projects.
3. Neighborhood Surveys: Conduct periodic surveys to gauge residents' priorities, preferences, and concerns, which can guide the identification of new projects.
4. Research & Analysis: Stay updated on urban development trends, best practices, and successful projects in other communities to gather inspiration and ideas.
5. Collaboration with Local Organizations: Engage with local organizations, businesses, and institutions to identify potential partnership opportunities and gather insights on feasible projects.
6. Project Evaluation: Once potential projects are identified, evaluate them based on feasibility, community impact, sustainability, and alignment with neighborhood goals.

Role of Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) in Implementation

7. Funding Support: LCG can provide financial support through grants, subsidies, or allocations specifically dedicated to community development and enhancement projects.
8. Technical Assistance: Offer expertise and guidance in areas such as urban planning, engineering, environmental assessments, and legal considerations.
9. Permitting & Approvals: Streamline the permitting and approval process for identified catalyst projects, ensuring timely and efficient project commencement.
10. Community Engagement: Collaborate with the neighborhood in organizing community engagement events, ensuring that the wider community is informed and involved in the project's development.
11. Infrastructure & Resources: Provide necessary infrastructure, equipment, and resources, especially for large-scale projects that require significant logistical support.
12. Monitoring & Evaluation: Assist in monitoring the progress of the project and evaluating its impact post-implementation, ensuring that the project's objectives are met and identifying areas for improvement.
13. Partnership Opportunities: Facilitate partnerships between the neighborhood and other governmental agencies, private sector entities, and non-profit organizations that can contribute to the project's success.
14. Continuous Support: Offer ongoing support even after the project's completion, ensuring its sustainability and addressing any challenges or issues that arise.

www.lafayettela.gov/GatewayNeighborhoodsPlan