



# Bayou La Batre, Alabama

*“Seafood Capital of Alabama”*

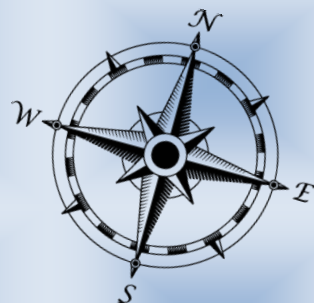
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN ~ 2035



BAYOU LA BATRE PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE OF ADOPTION: NOVEMBER 28, 2016

*AMENDED MARCH 29, 2018*





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This Plan's mission, vision, and goals were developed by the Bayou La Batre Planning Commission and City Council members listed below, with assistance provided from the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC).

*CITY OF BAYOU LA BATRE*

CITY HALL  
13785 SOUTH WINTZELL AVENUE  
BAYOU LA BATRE, AL 36509



WELCOME TO THE BAYOU

ALABAMA'S SEAFOOD CAPITAL



Photo credit: *David Salters Photography*



# CITY OF BAYOU LA BATRE ~ NOVEMBER 2016

## *BAYOU LA BATRE MAYOR*

Terry Downey

## *CITY CLERK*

Marsha Barnes

## *BAYOU LA BATRE CITY COUNCIL*

J.C. Smith ~ Place 1

Kimberlyn Barbour ~ Place 2

George Ramires ~ Place 3

Henry Barnes, Sr. ~ Place 4

Anna Bosarge ~ Place 5

## *BAYOU LA BATRE PLANNING COMMISSION*

Terry Downey ~ Mayor

Lana McGuff ~ Chair

Kimberlyn Barbour ~ Council Representative

Debi Downey

Matthew Place

Deniscia Presley

Debra Jones

Stephanie Godsey

Franklin Williams ~ Building Official

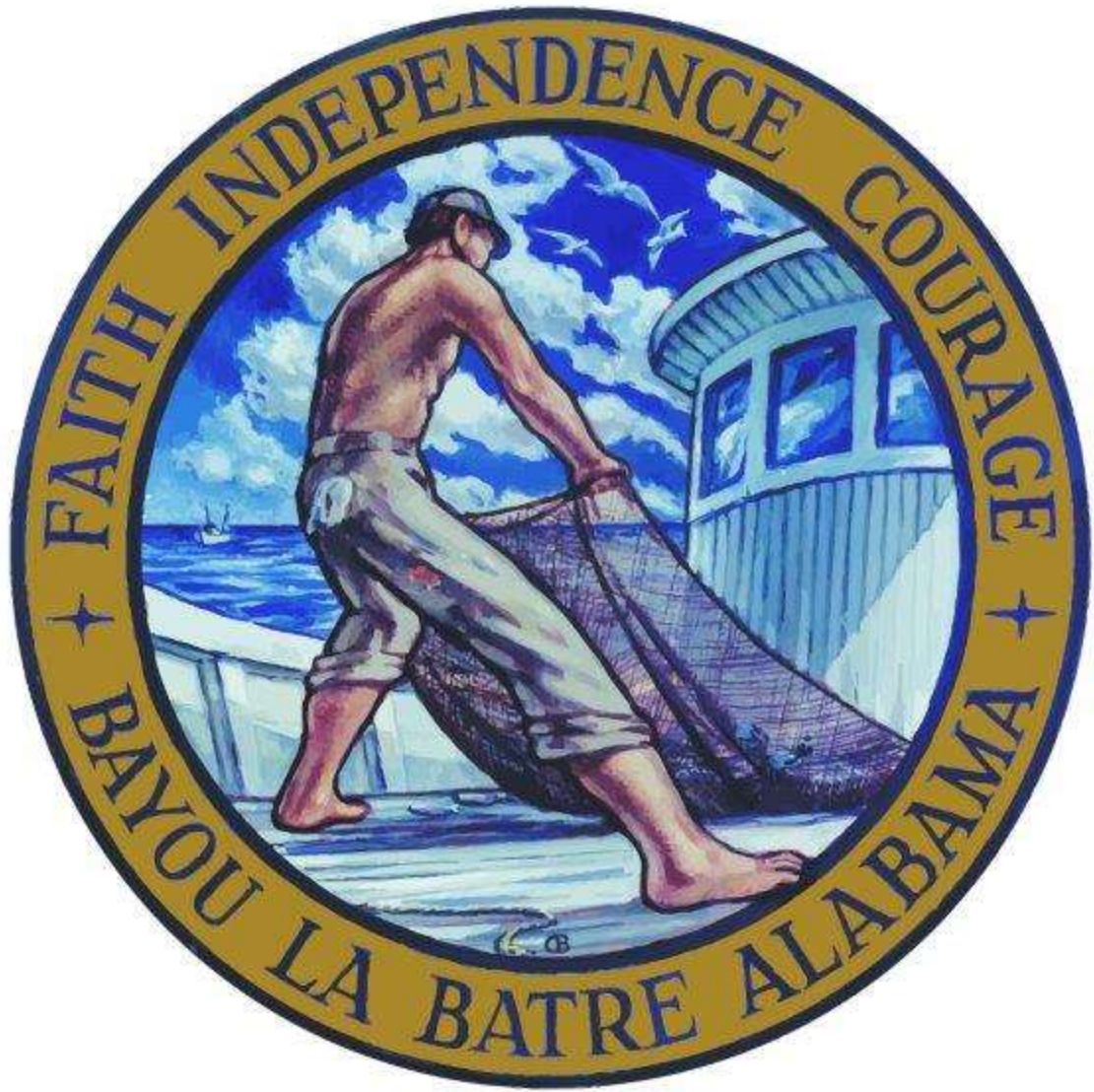
Rita Reese ~ Secretary

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED AND GENEROUSLY  
CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO THE  
CREATION OF THE  
*BAYOU LA BATRE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN 2035*

Special thanks and appreciation for the creation and development of the Bayou La Batre Comprehensive Master Plan 2035 is respectfully given to:

*The Bayou La Batre Planning Commission, current and past members – with special recognition and gratitude to Colonel Roosevelt Lewis-past Planning Commission Chair, Annette Johnson-former Mayor of Bayou La Batre, Ida Mae Coleman-past Council Representative, Nancy McCall, Hulen Owens, Bill Hibberts-past Planning Commission members; Brenda Andrade; all who participated in the planning process through town hall meetings, community surveys, Planning Commission meetings and planning workshops; Bayou La Batre's Historic Commission; Brandi Herrington~ Communications, City of Bayou La Batre*

*This Plan is lovingly dedicated to the memory of John Ladnier*



IN GOD WE TRUST





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Aerial View of Bayou La Batre  
Photo Credit: *City of Bayou La Batre*





# MISSION & PURPOSE

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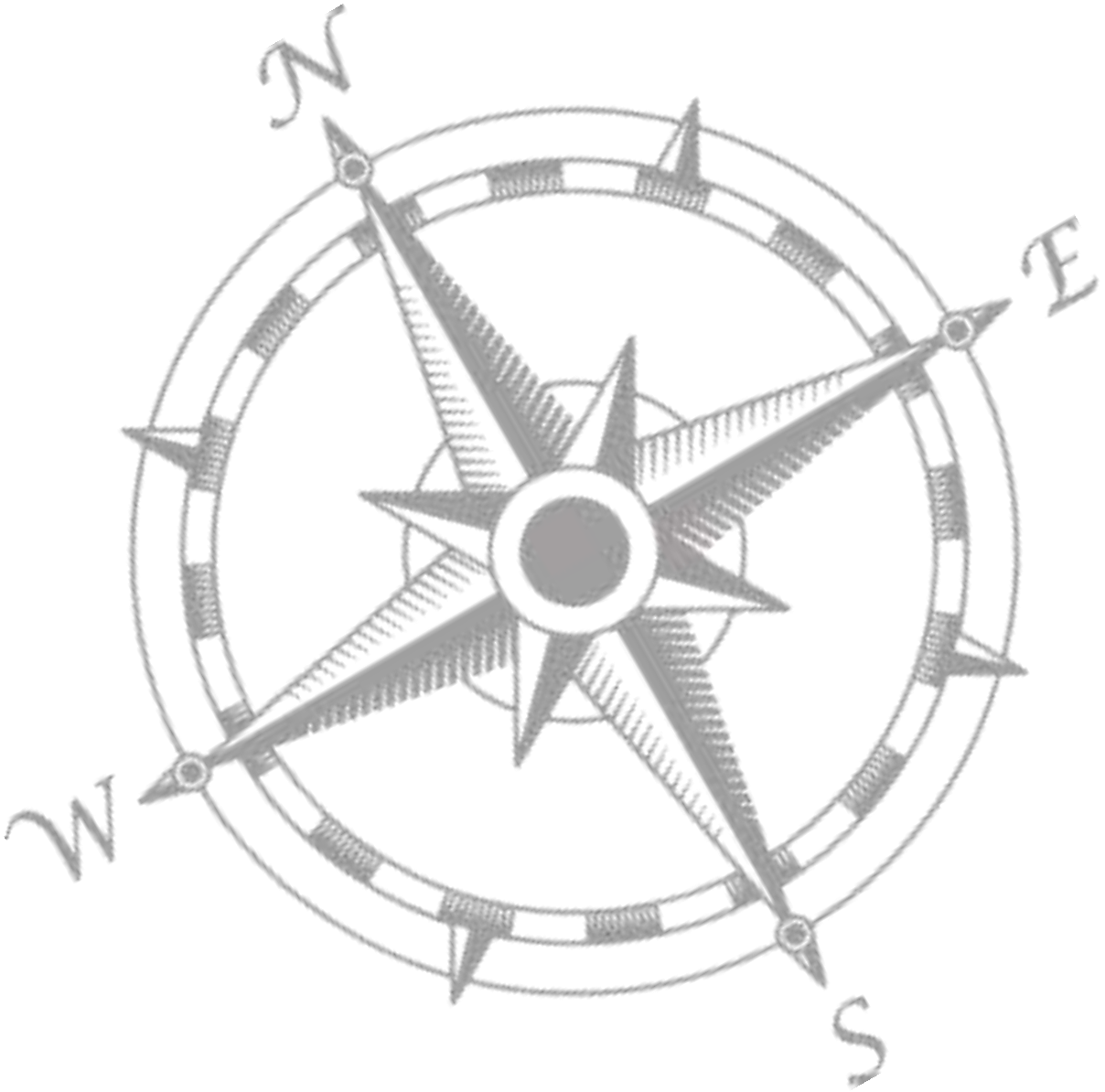
## MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and preserve Bayou La Batre's small town coastal atmosphere and family values; to embrace and enhance the historical heritage and natural resources, while providing adequate services to the citizens and ensuring the highest quality of life for each resident, both current and future; to create a sense of place and identity that distinguishes this city from others throughout the Gulf Coast region; to diversify the local industry and economy; to be a leader in new industry through innovative technology and methods; to promote and develop new business opportunities through eco-tourism, agri-tourism and aquaculture, that will grow and sustain Bayou La Batre's economy for generations to come.

## PURPOSE

The statutory basis for planning is derived from Alabama Planning and Zoning Enabling Legislation, Title 11, Chapter 52, requiring the Planning Commission of an incorporated municipality to create and adopt a Comprehensive Master Plan for the physical development of the municipality. As required by Alabama State Code 11-52-8, this Plan shall be made with the general purpose of providing a comprehensive and progressive vision for the city's future development, while conserving valuable natural resources throughout the city for both current and future residents. The *Bayou La Batre Comprehensive Master Plan 2035* will provide the framework for regulatory planning and developmental actions and guide the coordinated and harmonious growth of Bayou La Batre that will affect the physical, social and economic development of the community. It is intended to promote the health, safety and general welfare that can possibly be provided to the citizens over the next 20 years.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION & COMMUNITY VISION

### LOCATION

Bayou La Batre is a small fishing village located in the southern portion of Mobile County along Alabama's beautiful Gulf Coast. Nestled on an inlet bordering the Mississippi Sound, the coastal city is approximately thirty (30) miles south of Mobile, Alabama and nine (9) miles east of the Mississippi state line. Located in a primarily rural setting, the city is home to 2,646 residents and encompasses approximately 4.2 square miles of land and 6 miles of coastline. Serviced by County Road 39 and Alabama Highway 188, it is easily accessible to Interstate 10 and the city of Mobile. Both of which provide nationwide access to the city, creating a healthy economic base focusing on shipbuilding, seafood processing and eco-tourism. As part of the Mobile Metropolitan Statistical Area, (MSA), the strategic location of Bayou La Batre is in close proximity to the ports of Mobile and Pascagoula, Mississippi. It is considered a major seafood and shipbuilding center on the Gulf Coast that plays a significant role in the overall economic development of the region.



### PLANNING PROCESS

Designated as the *Seafood Capital of Alabama*, Bayou La Batre is one of the most diverse communities in the state, serving a multi-generational, multi-cultural population. Rich in history and pride, the community is full of deep rooted family ties to the Bayou. It is a unique place with an authentic identity



## Chapter 1 ~ Introduction & Vision

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and personality all its own. Characterized by abundant beauty and natural resources that offer a multitude of opportunities to build and develop upon. Bayou residents are hard-working, resilient people who know and appreciate the value of their community. The Bayou has always been, and will remain, an integral part of their lives, defining who they are as a people. Those who have grown up in the Bayou know that *“you can move away, but you never really leave the Bayou. You can never fully wash the mud out from between your toes! You belong to the Bayou”*. It is the desire of the residents to preserve this special sense of place when planning for the future development of their community, and to balance economic and community growth with the conservation and preservation of the natural resources.

### What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is an official public document that provides the framework for long-range planning and decision making in the community. The Plan serves as a guide for the city’s growth and development through the next twenty years by evaluating present conditions, collecting citizen input, identifying community needs and addressing how to respond to the changes needed in order for the city to effectively grow. The Plan is based on community input and suggestions as to what the residents of Bayou La Batre want to see for their community and how they want it to develop over the next twenty years. While it does not explain how to solve problems and resolve every issue facing the city, it does offer ideas and suggests recommendations that city officials can use to make policies that will provide a coordinated approach for the appropriate types of growth that will provide the most benefit to the city. The City shall refer to the Plan as a planning guideline prior to any development approval and/or other planning and budgetary considerations by the Planning Commission, Council, City Departments and others.

### Purpose of the Plan

The main goal of this Plan is to preserve and enhance quality of life, which, in turn, provides a solid base for sustained economic development. “Quality of Life” refers to the combination of various factors associated with urban development, such as education, housing, recreation and employment opportunities. All of which make Bayou La Batre a desirable place to live and work. The role of planning is to coordinate anticipated growth and development with the city’s resources and work toward an optimal land use pattern. The success of these efforts is dependent upon communication and understanding between the public and private sectors, and among the various public agencies. As set forth by Alabama State Code, this Plan shall be made with the general purpose of guiding the future development of the City of Bayou La Batre, which will, in accordance with present and future needs, best promote the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Bayou La Batre, while providing for adequate provisions for light, air and traffic; safety from fire and other hazards;

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promotion of good civic design and arrangement; wise and efficient expenditure of public funds; and adequate use of public utilities and other public requirements.

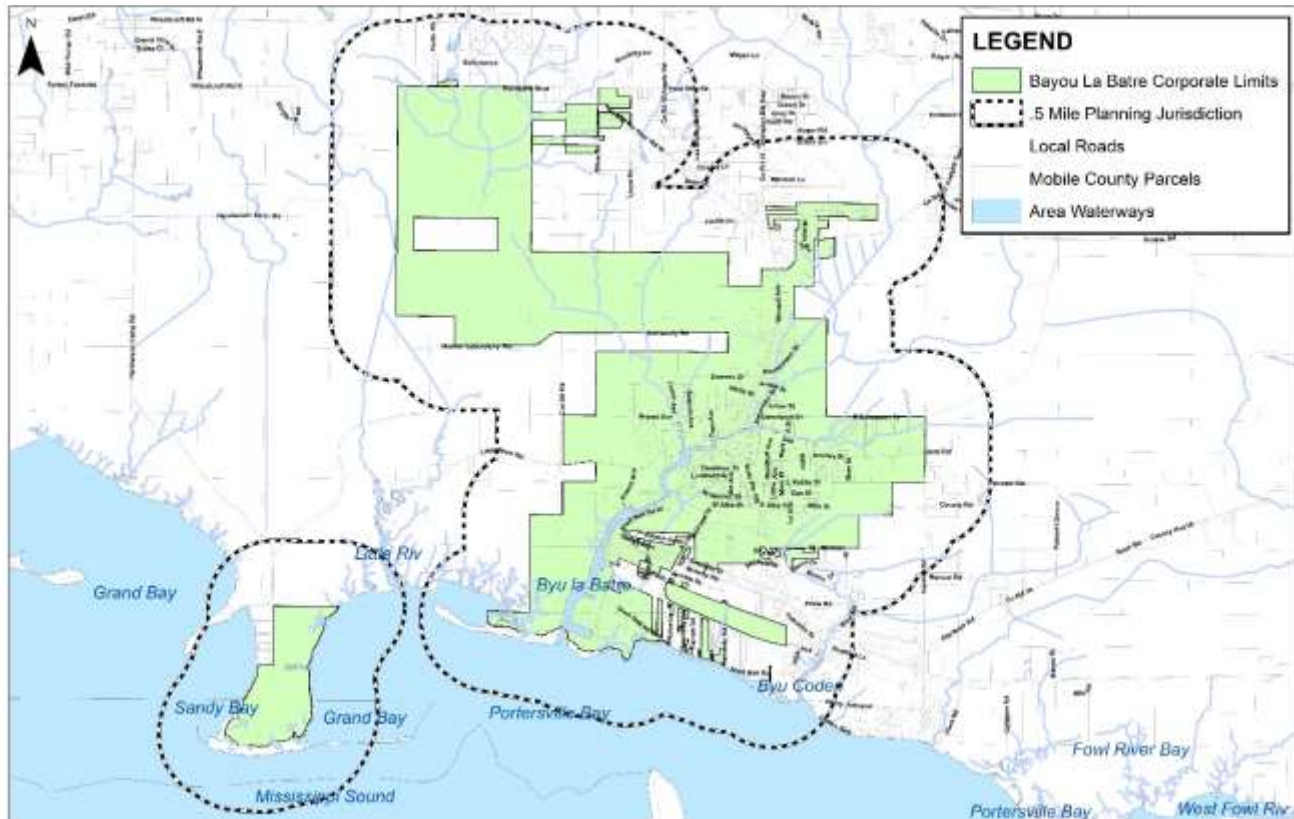
### Why is a Master Plan Needed?

In the past, natural storm events and manmade disasters have forced Bayou La Batre to respond to change *reactively* opposed to planning for change *proactively*. In order to effectively plan for the future growth of the Bayou, a Comprehensive Master Plan must first be in place to guide the physical development of the city. Growth expands the range of economic opportunities available in a community. However, if that growth is not properly planned for, the economic benefits will be overshadowed by the problems associated with land use conflicts and an insufficient supply of infrastructure and services.

### Planning Area

The Plan primarily focuses on a specific geographical “planning area”, which includes the current city limits and land areas adjacent to the city limits boundary, extending out to a mile and a half. The “planning area” is a practical recognition of the fact that the overall area is one physical, social and economic entity. Many of the physical issues that impact the city exist in a larger geographical area

**FIGURE 1**  
**Corporate Limits & Half-Mile Planning Area of Bayou La Batre, 2014**



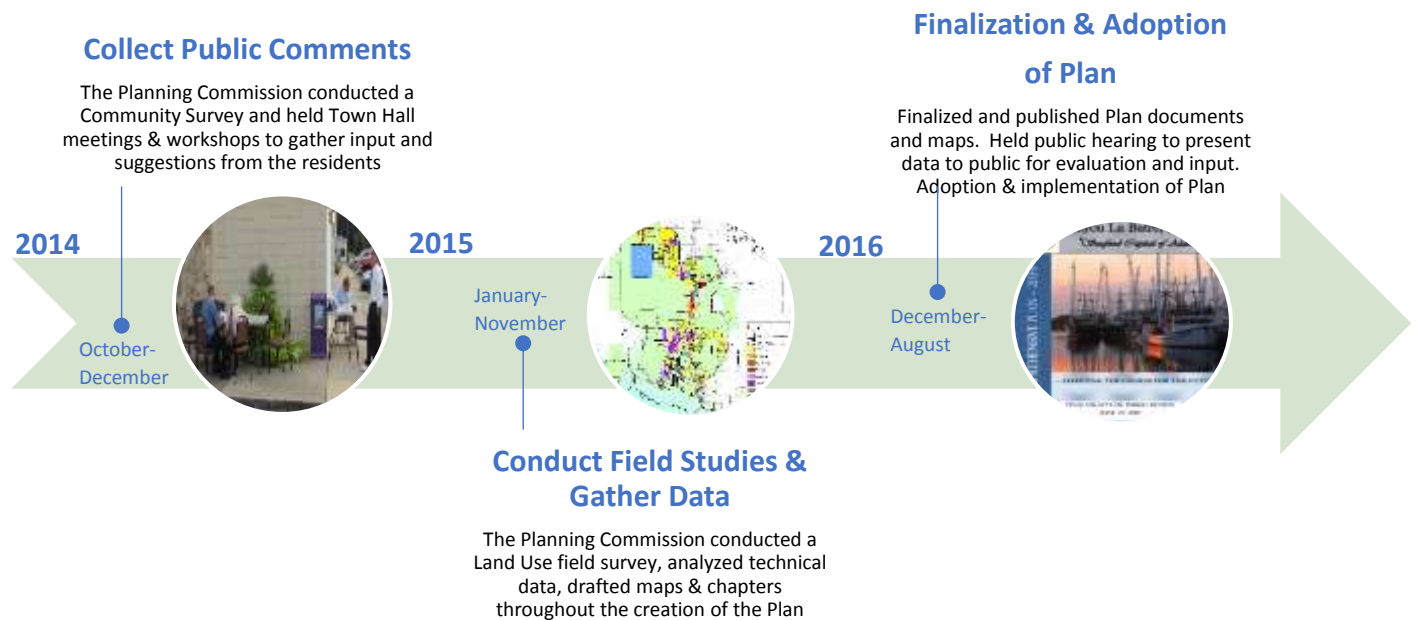
## Chapter 1 ~ Introduction & Vision

that extend beyond the corporate limits where annexations and subdivisions will occur in the future. The map in *Figure 1* indicates the city's current corporate limits and the half-mile planning area.

### How is the Plan Created?

The Planning Commission of Bayou La Batre is tasked with the responsibility of creating and adopting a Master Plan, per the Codes of Alabama, 1975. To ensure that Bayou La Batre's Master Plan reflects the wants and needs of Bayou residents, it is imperative that the community play an active role in the development and implementation of the Plan. Community involvement and participation is essential to ensure the success of the city and it must continue to be an ongoing effort in order to see the proposed projects suggested in the Plan come to fruition.

In fall 2014, the Bayou La Batre Planning Commission, in conjunction with the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), created a *Community Response Survey* for the purposes of collecting input from residents as to how they wish to see the city grow over the next 20 years. The survey was conducted on-line and in-person over a period of two months. Citizen participation was significant, with the survey yielding a 14% return rate, which is overwhelmingly more successful than the average 5% return most surveys produce. The citizens of Bayou La Batre played a vital role in the development of the Plan by offering their input and suggestions. The survey results and public comments collected at community meetings, in combination with technical studies, city policies and commonly accepted planning principles, were used to develop the *Bayou La Batre Master Plan 2035*.



## Funding for the Plan

Funding for the Master Plan was provided by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and administered by the State Lands Division, Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM).

## COMMUNITY VISION

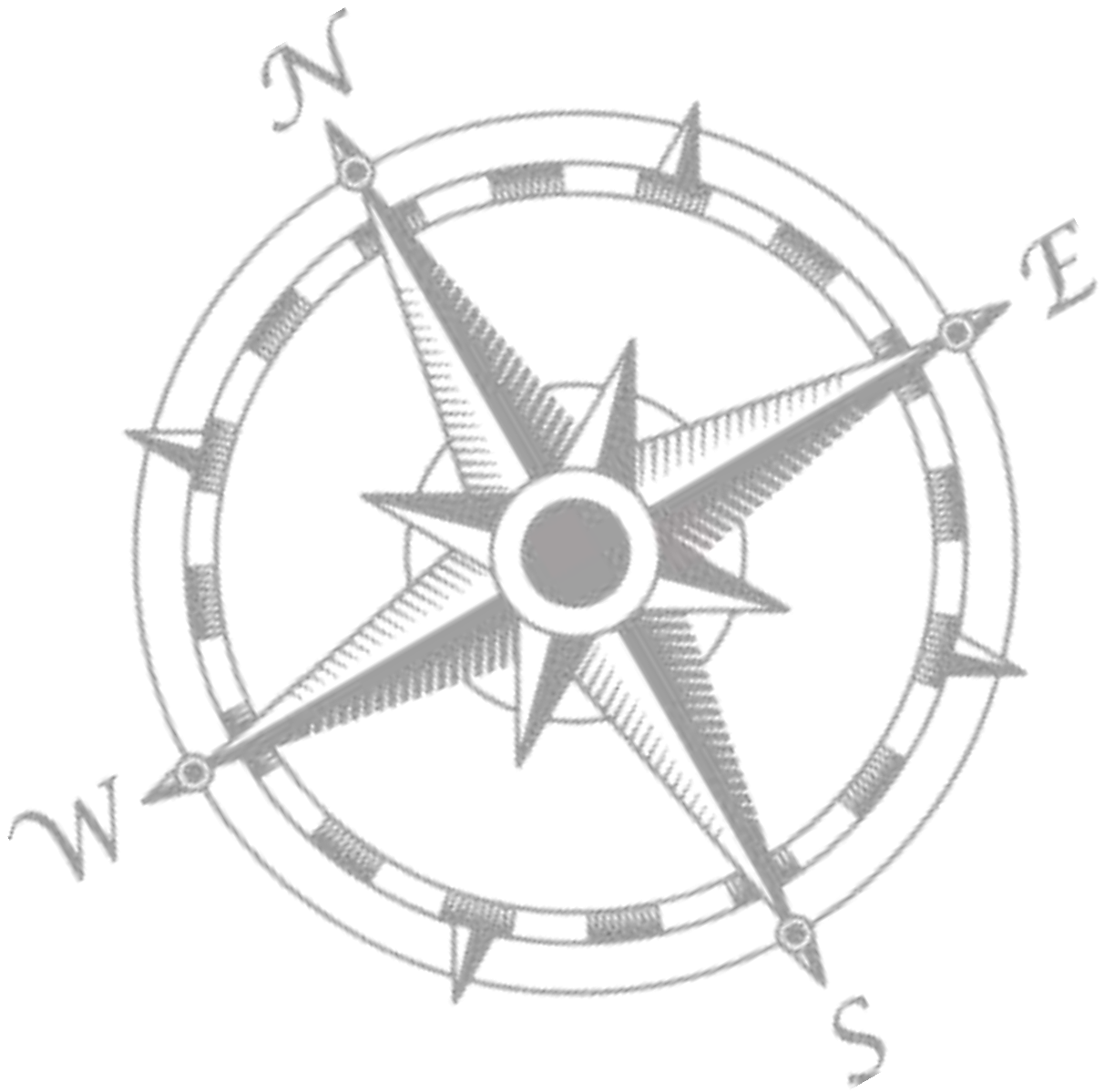
The Bayou La Batre Planning Commission created the following vision statement based on comments they received from community members throughout the planning process. The Bayou is not only a special place physically and geographically, but particularly unique because of the people who make up the Bayou community.

ENCOMPASSED WITHIN THE GRAND BAY SAVANNA AND SURROUNDED BY NUMEROUS BAYS AND BARRIER ISLANDS, BAYOU LA BATRE HOLDS ITS OWN SPECIAL PLACE ALONG THE GULF COAST. THE BAYOU EMBODIES AN ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL BEAUTY JUST WAITING TO BE REVEALED AND DISCOVERED. HER DIVERSE FLORA AND FAUNA PROVIDE CRITICAL HABITAT TO MANY ENDANGERED SPECIES AND SHOREBIRDS. HER INFINITE WATERWAYS AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES PROVIDE UNMATCHED BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES AND OFFER COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES FOR ECO & AGRI-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE A PEOPLE WITH A PASSION FOR THE PAST AND AN EXCITEMENT FOR THE FUTURE; A VISION FOR REVITALIZATION AND A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY; AN ENTHUSIASM TO GROW AND DEVELOP INTO ONE OF THE BEST COMMUNITIES ALONG THE GULF COAST. IT IS THE GOAL OF BAYOU LA BATRE TO PROVIDE SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING; STRENGTHEN AND FLOURISH THE ECONOMY; EXPAND OUR WORLD CLASS SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY; AND LEAD THE NATION IN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY EFFORTS IN THE SEAFOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY.



VISION

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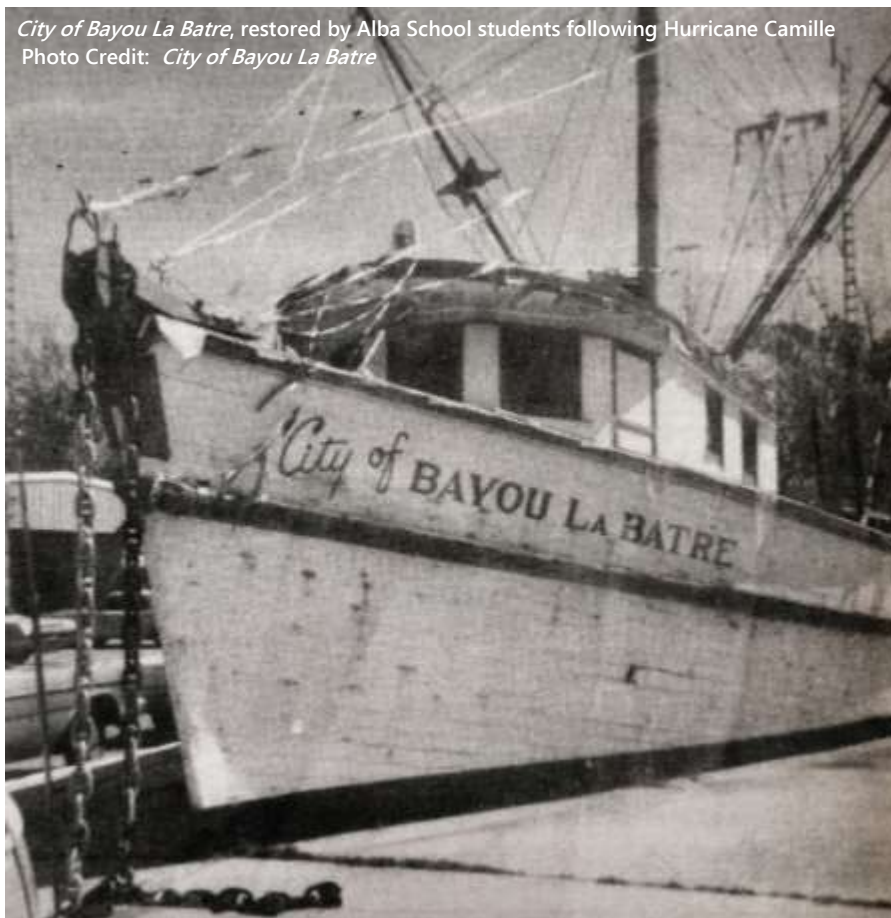


# HISTORY & BACKGROUND

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## THE BAYOU COMMUNITY

Bayou La Batre, or as the natives say, "By-luh-ba-tree", is a special kind of place along the beautiful Alabama Gulf Coast. This 300 year old multi-cultural community is an integral part of the Gulf Coast's rich history and a major contributor to the national seafood, shipbuilding and tourism industries. The warm shallow waters of the Bayou are a good place to drop anchor and moor your boat. The community possesses an unhurried atmosphere, a quaint beauty and an indefinable charm. But perhaps even more intriguing than the Bayou's location and natural beauty is the people that make up the Bayou community. The appeal of Bayou La Batre lies in the people's connection to the sea, their brave acceptance of nature's potential fury, and their happiness and contentment in their Bayou



lifestyle. Most people from the Bayou are considered "farmers of the sea." They are fisher folk who have followed in the footsteps of their ancestors, mastering their fathers' trade and living off the harvest from the sea. Their livelihoods and culture depends on the health and condition of the coastal waters, bays and estuaries that surround the Bayou, making them natural stewards of their sensitive and vulnerable environment. The survival and function of the community is almost completely reliant upon the economic and physical health of the Bayou.

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The people of Bayou La Batre have faced many challenges throughout the Bayou's history, some of which are common to all waterfront communities. They have weathered many storm events of the past and rebuilt their community time after time. The most recent disasters have proven to be a difficult challenge for the community to overcome due to the enormity and severity of the destruction. Hurricane Katrina raged through Bayou La Batre on August 29, 2005 with a vengeance, causing the community to lose a large portion of their industrial infrastructure, over 60 percent of the housing stock, and approximately 80 local fishing vessels. Five years later, disaster struck the community again with BP's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill of April 2010. The economic impact and destruction from both of these tragedies was massive to say the least, and unfortunately, Bayou La Batre was one of the hardest hit communities along the Gulf Coast. Lives, businesses, livelihoods, plans, families and the community as a whole, were changed forever as a result. These events would prove to be a struggle for any community to recover from, however, the people of the Bayou are strong and resilient and it's these challenges, which are part of life in the Bayou, that make them the special type of people that they are. They realize and accept the trials and burdens that come with the territory, but their love and adoration for the Bayou outweighs all the storms they know they'll have to face. They always find a way to remain and endure. They possess a fierce determination to survive and rebuild that is inspiring and an example to all. Proper planning and hard work have paid off in recent years with the establishment of the city's new and innovative water treatment facility and seafood processing plant. Bayou La Batre is a community that will continue to grow and prosper and achieve all that it has the potential to be.

### **LEGENDS & FOLKLORE**

Bayou La Batre is a very old area, shrouded in mystery, legend and folklore. In prehistoric times, her pristine shores along the Mississippi Sound, were lined with huge shell mounds. These mysterious mounds were left behind by the Mississippian Period Native Americans. They consisted of discarded oyster shells, broken pottery, animal and human bones. These prehistoric shell mounds, protected the shore from Hurakan, the Mayan storm god. Once disturbed from his slumber, Hurakan would rise from his watery nest, change form and wreak havoc. Artifacts from these Native Americans can still be found buried in the surrounding land and waters. It is not unheard of for a native fisherman to find a clay image, an effigy, hidden in a cluster of oysters, tonged from the muddy depths or sandy bottoms. Over the years, many a venture into the woods, turned exciting, with shrills of youngsters and adults alike, bounding from the thickets. Hoops and hollers proceeding them, proudly proclaiming their treasure. Opening their tightly closed hands, as not to lose it, they reveal an arrowhead found, hidden 'neath the leaves, just lying on the ground. Many peoples have enjoyed moonlit strolls under her

moss-laden, short trunked, Spanish Oaks. This hodgepodge of souls collected in her webbing of time, include the French, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Mexican, African and European. Buccaneers, scalawags and bilge-rats have roamed across her, looking for places to hide their ill-gotten gains. Some never to return again, in this life. Notice, I did say this life? For at midnight, during full moon, if the Portersville Bay fog, rolls in from the east; the search will begin again. Those born with "the gift," sense seaweed covered salty dogs crawling out of Davy Jones Locker. These not so regarded, dearly departed come from the sea and roam her land, in search of their buried treasure. Should the unsuspecting happen to cross their path, there's a faint smell of rum in the damp, salty air.

### HISTORICAL FACTS OF BAYOU LA BATRE

The Bayou has a vibrant history as a shelter for Native American pirates and smugglers, a bustling fishing village, and a regional resort community.

Historically, the Bayou was settled by Prehistoric and Mississippian Indians. Indian shell mounds, or *middens*, are plentiful in the area. Evidence of Indian pottery and fishing villages from over 8,000 years ago exists in the Bayou. In 1699, Captains for Louis IX, also known as the Sun King Fleet, claimed these shores for France and this area became widely known as the "French Coast."

The original settler of the Bayou La Batre community was Joseph Bosarge (Bouzage), a Frenchman who, in 1786, petitioned Stephen Miro, then the Spanish Governor of Louisiana, for a tract of land on the west bank of the Bayou. He claimed in his petition that he needed, "a home to conceal my misery and the poverty of my family from the world." His petition was granted and he took possession of the property and made improvements. Later, other settlers of French origins joined him. From this humble beginning grew the quiet, resilient, self-reliant and thriving community of today.

Originally, the Bayou was called "River D' Erbane", a name bestowed by Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville, to commemorate the memory of a Frenchman who drowned at its mouth. The stream later acquired its present name, *Bayou La Batre*, because the French maintained a battery of artillery on its west bank. They spoke of the stream as "the Bayou of the Battery", or in French, "Bayou de la Batre". The name Bayou La Batre is therefore a memento of the protection of the French during their rule in this area.

A European influence was indelibly instilled into the quaint settlement. Old France is heard not only in the name of Bayou La Batre, but in most of the family names that inhabit the Bayou such as: Schambeau, Ladnier, Laurendine, Rabby, Girard, Alba, Baptiste, and of course, Bosarge. This is the name that has become synonymous with Bayou La Batre itself. The spoken language, along with the



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growth and cultural evolution of the community, resulted in the area being popularly called the "French Coast".

Later, as other settlers moved into the area, notably Spanish, there was a fusion of French and Spanish influences in a contribution to American architecture, which has come to be known as "Creole". The lack of plentiful native stone in the area and the availability of native yellow pine forests produced "Creole Cottages" throughout the area. The mixing of multiple cultures and the abundance of seafood ultimately produced: French Toast, Seafood Gumbo, Jambalaya, and Court Bouillon. Some of the greatest and proudest possessions from the area are "Family Recipes".

Just prior to the turn of the 20th century, the Bayou was a booming community with multiple canning companies, a growing population, a railroad, and resort hotels along the area's pristine shores. The area became a resort destination, home to renowned hotels, a narrow gauge railroad from Mobile, and riverboat excursions that traveled from as far away as St. Louis, Missouri. Many actors and industrialists visited frequently as well. The seafood industry, canning businesses, and sport fishing all flourished, along with social balls and cotillions of the time.

The community's decline began after devastating hurricanes in 1906, 1916, and 1926 destroyed the resorts and many of the nearby attractions. With the advent of World War I, however, the fishing industry rebounded and a shipbuilding industry emerged. Many residents built ships and worked in the numerous sawmills that opened to aid ship construction in the region.

The Bayou was fortunate to have a versatile economy when the Great Depression of the 1930s hit the nation. The canneries were able to diversify by canning fruit in addition to seafood, allowing residents to survive the turbulent times. The post-Depression that lead up to World War II was not as kind to the Bayou. With the growth of major defense plants at Brookley Air Force Base near Mobile and shipyards in Pascagoula, Mississippi, the economic base shifted as the workforce migrated out of the area and away from the seafood industry.

The community is notable for having a large population of Asian Americans, who immigrated from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia following the Vietnam War to pursue shrimping and fishing. The City absorbed the Vietnamese and Cambodians of the 1970's immigration following the Vietnam War, creating the most diverse community in the State of Alabama. Today, this segment of the population makes up approximately one third of the total population of the Bayou. Asian influences are scattered throughout the Bayou, which defines part of the charm and allure the community embodies today.

The stunning natural beauty and sunsets the Bayou possesses cannot be described, but rather, must be experienced by ones own eyes in order to appreciate. Natural, undeveloped beaches sprawl for

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miles along her coast. Limitless coastal wetlands, seagrass beds, oyster reefs, salt marshes and many other natural resources are encompassed within and protected under the Forever Wild Land Conservation Program. The Bayou is truly a natural treasure that must be protected and properly maintained so future generations can enjoy her. Forrest Gump himself gives a perfect visualization of the Bayou when he describes her by saying: "Just before the sun goes to bed down on the bayou, it's hard to see where heaven stops, and the earth begins".

The future of Bayou La Batre, like its past, is tied to historic seafaring, which includes: fishing, boat and shipbuilding and of course, to the water. To balance the former, the community is poised to expand tourism to further economic development and is excited to build upon and share with the world, the Bayou's natural assets that flourish unconditionally. The Bayou's past was built on tourism and its future will be the same. Eco-tourism is the bright light in the future of Bayou La Batre that will coexist with economic development in the historic seafaring traditions. The future of Bayou La Batre is bright, indeed!

### PHOTO GALLERY



Bayou La Batre circa 1900  
Photo Credit: *City of Bayou La Batre*



### THE ROLSTON HOTEL AND PAVILION

Tourism flourished in the Bayou in the early 1900's. Tourist traveled to the Bayou and Coden area to spend time on Porterville Bay. There were at least seven known large hotels in the greater Portersville Bay area, each of which had its own special features to attract guests. The Bayou La Batre/Coden area, was known in those days as Alabama's Gold Coast. Visitors from across the nation, and even across the globe, traveled to the Gold Coast to see the pristine shores and bathe in the healing water's of the Mississippi Sound. In 1907, cotton broker John Rolston built the Rolston Hotel on 30 acres of land overlooking Portersville Bay. The Rolston Hotel was one of the larger establishments in the greater Portersville Bay area, with the main house on shore, looking out over the Bay. The bay front hotel stood three stories tall. An artesian spring on the property brought water to each pine-paneled room, which also featured gas lighting, a fireplace and a pair of iron bedsteads draped in mosquito netting. Rates for a room ran at \$4 per day or \$25 a week, including meals. Overlooking the lawn and Bay beyond was an open pavilion and dance hall at the end of a long 100 foot pier where dance bands played on Saturday nights. On a chilly, fall morning in 1927, a faulty fireplace sparked a blaze that reduced the rambling landmark to ashes. The family never rebuilt their bay front pleasure palace, and

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the railroad, which had inspired it, would vanish after being reduced to only freight traffic. Soon afterward, the number of train passengers sharply declined and the waterfront hotels and boarding houses slowly shut down. More than 30 years after the fire, John Rolston's son deeded 11 of the original 30 acres to the City of Bayou La Batre for use as a bay front park. A historic marker has been installed at that park to remind visitors of the area's early days as a tourist destination. These photos show just how grand this facility was in its day.

### THE BROMBERG HOTEL ~ LYTHIA SPRINGS

Located on Snake Bayou, and reached by way of Little River Road, the Bromberg Hotel was one part of a larger family-run business that included bottling the highly alkaline local Artesian well water, as well as running a therapeutic spa and bath house. This latter



The Rolston Hotel's open pavilion and dance hall overlooking Portersville Bay in early 1900.  
Photo credit: Sally Fee, BLB-Coden Historical Foundation

operation was known as "Lythia Springs", and was quite popular in the early 1900's health crazes. The house shown here was the private residence of the Bromberg family, and was generally known as "Bromberg House". Future plans for the community's development include a project to repair the Artesian wells and develop a curative spa in efforts to promote tourism to the area.



The Bromberg Hotel and Lythia Springs circa 1900.  
Photo credit: Image courtesy of Bayou la Batre-Coden Historical Foundation

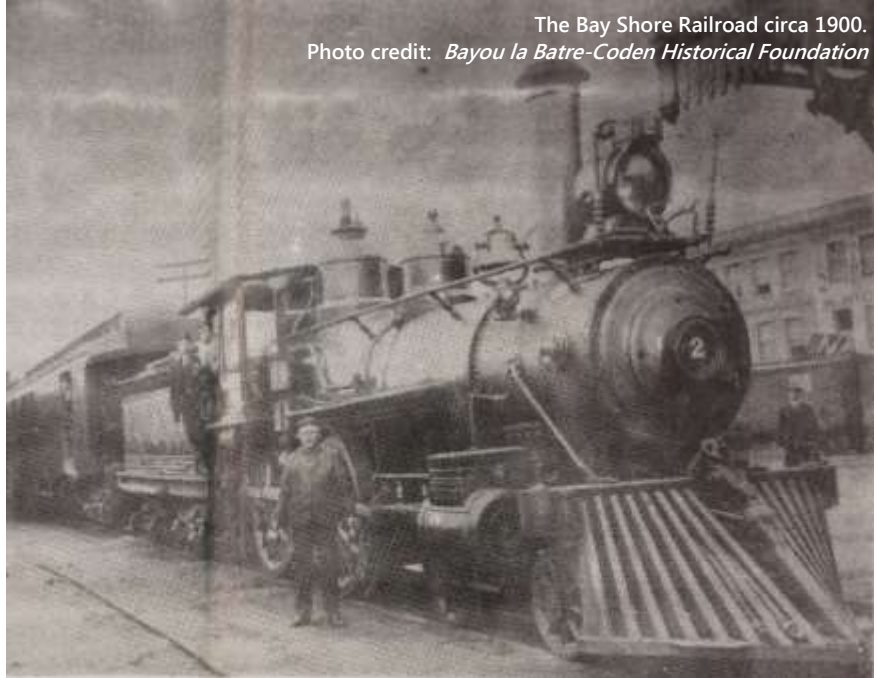
### THE COAST OF CODEN (PORTERSVILLE)

Coden's desirability as a tourist destination had increased in 1899 when the Mobile and Bay Shore Railroad connected the rural area to Mobile. The Mobile elite would travel each weekend by this train to visit the beautiful Coast of Coden that was known as Portersville. The famous Portersville Bay area was known as a favorite refuge for wealthy Mobilians and many others from afar, and was referred to

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as the Gold Coast. Additionally, the railroad created commerce between Mobile and New Orleans, Louisiana, which spurred economic growth for the area.

The photograph below is from the early 1900's. Illustrated are members of the Bosarge, Rabby and Fredrickson families, who are bathing in the clear, shallow waters of Portersville Bay in Coden. They, like many others, frequented these waters due to the Bay's many attributes that



The Bay Shore Railroad circa 1900.  
Photo credit: *Bayou la Batre-Coden Historical Foundation*

attracted visitors. Apparently, the Bay was an ideal swimming and bathing spot for families with small

children due to the pristine clarity of the water, and the shallow depths of the Bay that extended a far distance.



Bathers in Portersville Bay, circa 1900.  
Photo credit: *Bayou la Batre-Coden Historical Foundation*

## Chapter 2 ~ History & Background

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### LIGHTNING POINT ~ STATE DOCKS IN BAYOU LA BATRE

The following illustration is taken from the cover of a development plan created by the Alabama State Docks Department, advertising Bayou La Batre and the future development of Lightning Point.



### ALABAMA CANNING COMPANY

The work day in the Alabama Canning Company started very early in the morning, around 3 or 4 a.m. and would not end until the day's supply of oysters was shucked and processed, which could take until late afternoon, 4 or 5 p.m. Children were paid by the pot, not by the hour and therefore would work

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very hard to earn their pay and help supplement the family income. Children were expected to work up to sixty-six hours a week, eleven-hour days with few or no breaks, exhausting themselves in the process. Their tiny fingers were prying at oyster shells when they should have been learning to write, or playing ball. The child labor laws that were established in Alabama were not enforced in the canneries. They were merely words on paper to satisfy the public, but the harsh reality was that children were allowed to labor from the tender age of five years old. Lewis Hine, a man who fought against child labor practices during this time, describes what it must have been like to be a child working at the Alabama Canning Company in his following quote:

“Come with me to one of these canneries at 3 o’clock in the morning. Here is the crude, shed-like building with a long dock at which the oyster boats unload their cargo. Near the dock is the ever-present shell pile, a monument to the patient work of little fingers. It is cold, damp, dark. The whistle blew some time ago, and the young workers slipped into meager garments, snatched a bite to eat, and hurried to the shucking shed... Boys and girls, six, seven, and eight years old, take their places with the adults and work all day”, – Lewis Hine, quoted in *Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor* by Russell Freedman.



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Children from age 5 and up, worked along side adults in the canneries, picking out oyster shells. They pryed the oysters open with knives and collected the meat into pots or pans. They worked long hours, shucking 6-7 pots of oysters a day. They oyster shells were rough and sharp, and would often cut and irritate little hands and feet. Most children who lived in the area worked in the canneris for many years of their childhhoods.



Children Working Along Side Parents in the Alabama Canning Company, 1911  
Photo credit: [archive.oah.org](http://archive.oah.org)

Immigrants coming to the United States in hopes of finding work and income, were shipped down to the South to work in the canneries. Many people migrated from the northern part of the country from



Alabama Canning Company Housing Settlement in Bayou La Batre, 1911  
Photo credit: [archive.oah.org](http://archive.oah.org)

cities such as Baltimore, Maryland. Most were promised housing and healthy living conditions, but many Southern employers did not accept much responsibility for the living conditions of their labor force, causing their actual housing conditions to be less than desirable. Large groups of people were crowded into filthy shacks with no running water and sometimes infested by rats and

bugs. Families were forced to live with other families in the same house, cramming two families per house, only separated by a common wall. The following photo from 1911, shows a housing settlement in Bayou La Batre, owned by the Alabama Canning Company to house the labor force.



Site of Alabama Canning Company Near Oyster Point  
Photo Credit: [Alabama Canning Company](http://AlabamaCanningCompany.com), 1911



## Chapter 2 ~ History & Background



Oystermen unloading oysters on the dock in Bayou La Batre  
Photo Credit: Alabama Canning Company, 1911



Inside Alabama Canning Company, 1911  
Photo credit: archive.oah.org



Oystermen in Mobile Bay  
Photo Credit: Alabama Canning Company, 1911



Inside Alabama Canning Company, 1911  
Photo credit: archive.oah.org

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### TATE'S HAMMOCK SETTLEMENT

The Tate's Hammock settlement was one of the original settlement colonies of Bayou La Batre. The settlement dates back to the early 1700's.

### HUET PLANTATION

Guillaume Huet established his 1,729 acre plantation along the eastern banks of River D'erbanne (Bayou la Batre River) near Oyster Point around the early 1700's. The large plantation's property extended from the east side of the River D'erbanne all the way to the beach front overlooking the sparkling blue waters of the Portersville Bay. The only evidence left today of the Huet Plantation is an old live oak tree, known locally as "Colonial Oak". This ancient oak, a lonely sentinel, battered by centuries of storms, and minus many of its massive branches, could have been, at one time, a look-out for pirate ships sailing up the River D'erbanne from Portersville Bay.



### SNOW'S QUARTERS

The black community has long been an essential part of the history of Bayou La Batre. These early settlers made significant contributions to the growth and overall development of the bayou community throughout the years. The early settlers worked in the seafood, manufacturing and construction industries and pursued education endeavors. Their hard work and efforts established and sustained the community.

In the early 1900's, Black churches followed a tradition that wherever black people settled, they always set up a place of worship as a top priority. The establishment of these early churches would anchor the new settlements and create a sense of community. These pioneering religious institutions helped galvanize and support these black communities. One example of this that still exists today is Sweet Bethel Church. The early parishioners had come to Mobile County to find work in the turpentine industry. Due to the availability of pine in the Bayou area, turpentine mills sprang up in numerous

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places and blacks worked in the turpentine mills. The parishioners and workers lived along Little River Road in shot gun houses owned by Rufus Snow, which is whom the community, Snow's Quarters is named for.



# CHAPTER 3

## POPULATION & ECONOMIC ANALYSES

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### CURRENT CONDITIONS

In efforts to accurately plan for the future of Bayou La Batre, the current demographics of the community must be analyzed and understood to ensure the city is providing the essential services required to accommodate the needs of its citizens. This section of the Plan presents the current population and economic conditions of the Bayou through data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau. It examines the changes that have occurred in the community over the past decades and then uses this information to forecast population estimates and economic strategies. Furthermore, it provides an overview of the current condition of existing city services and facilities by detailing the present inventory, identifying needs and discussing possible solutions that may be needed to improve the community. Further discussion and implementation of development projects are detailed in the Goals and Recommendations chapter of this Plan.

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts an official, decennial census every ten (10) years. Additionally, the Census conducts an American Community Survey (ACS), on an annual basis, which provides estimated data for the years between each decennial census. However, some ACS estimates have a high margin of error and the data is not reliable, therefore, for the purposes of this Plan, analyses and projections will mainly be calculated using decennial census data and ACS estimates will be used respectively. Data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau analyzes Bayou demographics, household characteristics, educational attainment and income statistics. Additionally, it identifies the occupational profile of the Bayou's labor force and illustrates the different types of commercial and industrial developments within the community.

### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Bayou La Batre has a current population of approximately 2,646 residents. Historic data from 1960 to 2012 reveals the city has maintained a consistent population over the past several decades, with the exception of a sharp drop after 1970 to 1980, see *Figure 2*. However, the Bayou's population saw an increase of over 14 percent (14%) from 2000 to 2010, growing more than the population trend of the

county as a whole during that same time period.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Historic Population Trends of Bayou La Batre**

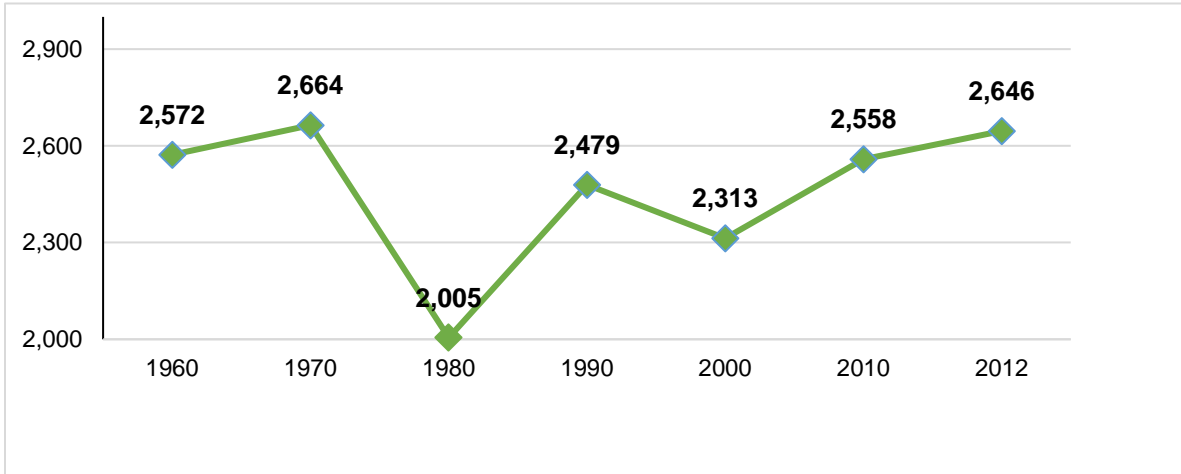


Table 1 compares population trends of other municipalities in Mobile County to that of Bayou La Batre from 2000-2010. The data reveals that Bayou La Batre is one of the five municipalities that has seen a population increase in the region.

**TABLE 1**  
**Population Changes of Mobile County Municipalities From 2000 to 2010**

Municipality	2000 Census Population	2010 Census Population	Population Change	Percent
Bayou La Batre	2,313	2,558	245	10.60%
Dauphin Island	1,371	1,238	-133	-9.70%
Chickasaw	6,364	6,106	-258	-4.40%
Creola	2,002	1,926	-258	-3.80%
Mobile	198,915	195,111	-3,804	-1.90%
Citronelle	3,659	3,905	246	6.70%
Satsuma	5,687	6,168	481	8.50%
Saraland	12,288	13,405	1,117	9.10%
Prichard	28,633	22,659	-5,974	-20.90%
Mount Vernon	844	1,574	730	86.50%
Mobile County	399,843	412,992	13,149	3.29%

## Chapter 3 ~ Population & Economy

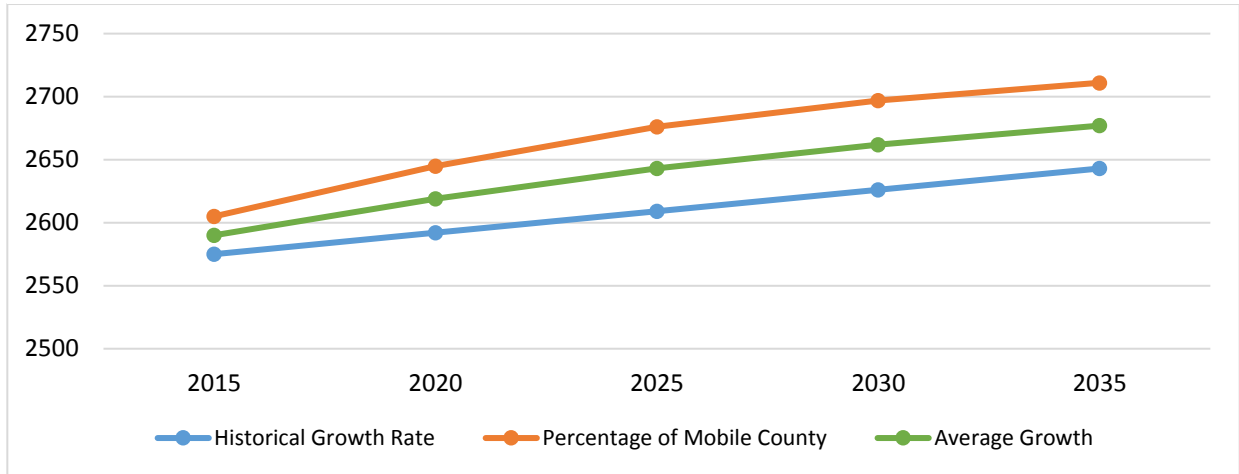
In order to plan for long range growth and meet the needs of future residents, population projections for the next twenty years must be calculated. These projections will be used in other parts of this Plan, to determine impending needs of the Bayou as it grows and changes over the next 20 years. These projections are achieved through methods that analyze the average growth rate of Bayou La Batre over time and compare it with the percentage of Mobile County's population as a whole. Data used in these calculations were obtained from the Census and the University of Alabama's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER). *Table 2* and *Figure 3* show the population projections from the present to 2035 using these methods. Using the U.S. Census populations provided each decade from 1960-2010, a 10-year average growth rate of 1.3% or five-year average growth rate of .65% was calculated. This method provides a conservative projection, estimating that the community will grow by approximately 17 persons every five years. This low estimate may be due to the projection calculating the sharp decrease in population during the 1970's when the Bayou experienced a population decline of over 24%. All projections are ultimately estimates and not exact numbers, but can however, provide useful data for community planning. Economic growth occurring in the region at this time, due in large part to the establishment of Airbus, can have a significant impact on the future of the Bayou.

**TABLE 2**  
**Population Projections for Bayou La Batre**

Methods	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Average Growth Rate Method	2,575	2,592	2,609	2,626	2,643
Percentage of Mobile County Method	2,605	2,645	2,676	2,697	2,711
Average of Methods	2,590	2,619	2,643	2,662	2,677

When using the method of comparing the Bayou's growth to that of Mobile County, the projections show a similar growth rate. In 2010, the population of Bayou La Batre, on average, was approximately 0.62% of the population of Mobile County. When forecasted out to 2035, the Bayou's population is predicted to be 2,711, remaining at 0.62% of Mobile County, which is predicted to be 437,228 in 2035. In summary, these projections show that population growth for the Bayou will be modest, but consistent.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Population Projection Comparisons**



In addition to population statistics, it is also important to know the ethnic and racial make-up of that population. Other factors that may influence the future needs of a city can include age, gender, race, marital status, and persons per household. The Census demographic data reveals that Bayou residents are younger, with a median age of 32 years, and over half being ages 0-44 years, see *Table 3*. The gender ratio is almost equally dispersed between males, comprising 52% of the population and females comprising 48%. Additionally, the data shows that 46% of the community is considered a dependency population, meaning this group of citizens is comprised of the youth population, ages 0-19 and the elderly population, ages 65 and older. These age groups require specific city facilities and services which may include; parks, playgrounds, ball fields, recreation centers, daycares, assisted living housing, public transit and health care providers, in order to ensure their essential needs are

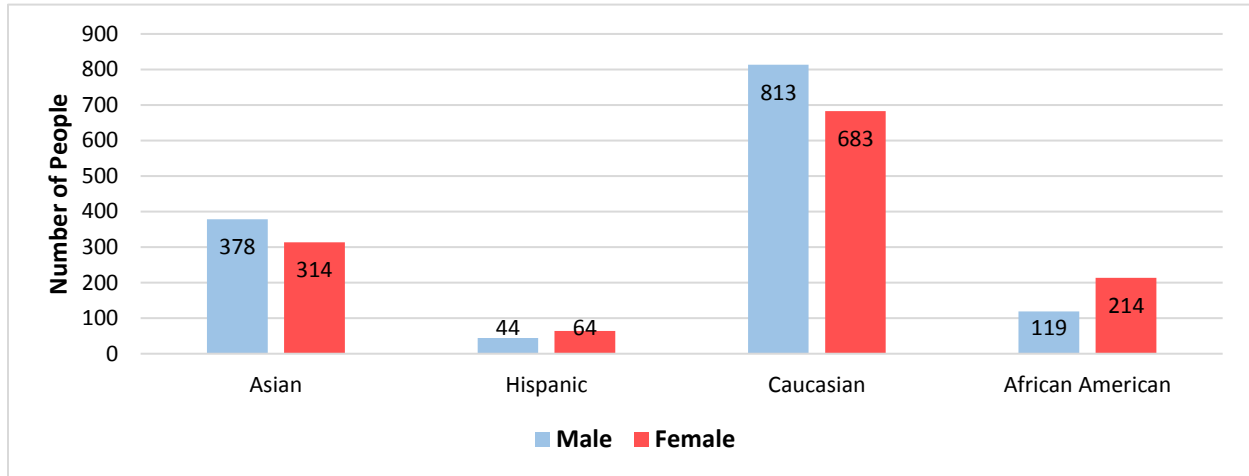
**TABLE 3**  
**Population Demographics in Bayou La Batre, 2014**

Total Population	2,661
Median age of total population in Bayou La Batre	32 years
Male/Female Ratio	1,348 / 1,313
Dependency/Non-dependency ratio	44% / 56%
Percentage of total population aged:	
0-19 years	32%
20-44 years	33%
45-64 years	23%
65 + years	12%
Total households (families)	679
Average persons per household	3.01 people
Percentage of total households with children under 18 years	46%
Percentage of total households with people over 65 years	7%
Marital Status Males/Females, Age 15 and Over:	
-Married	960/1,008
-Never Married	333/247
-Divorced	141/133
-Widowed	21/83

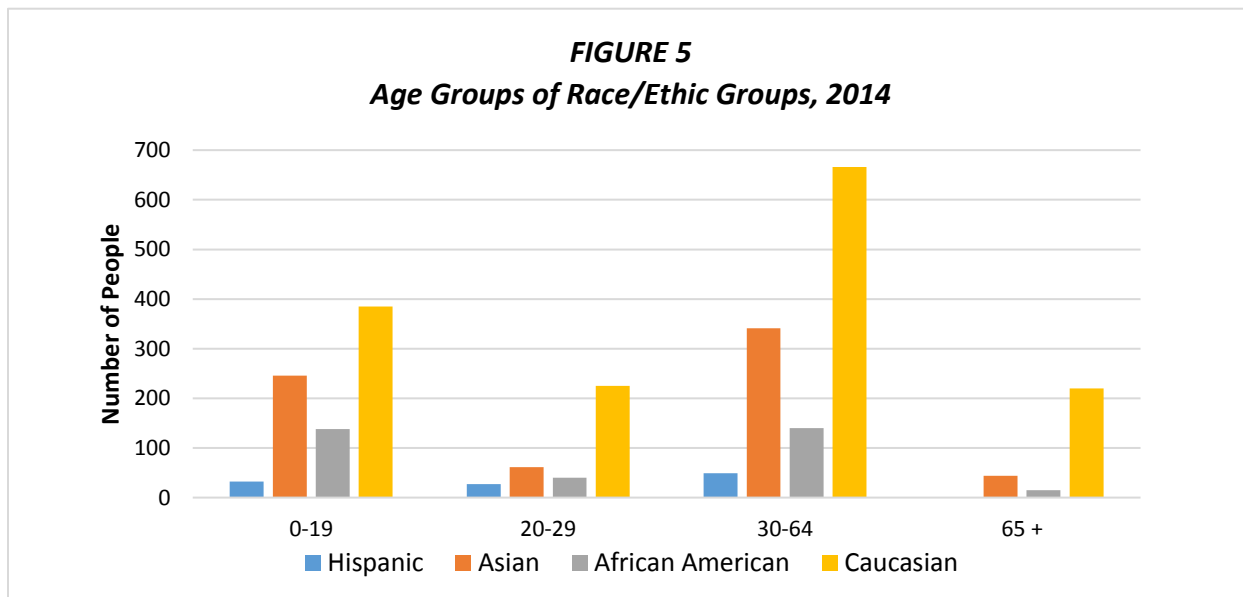
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accommodated. *Figures 4-6* show important population demographics for Bayou La Batre for the year 2014.

**FIGURE 4**  
**Total Population of Race/Ethnic Groups, 2014**



**FIGURE 5**  
**Age Groups of Race/Ethnic Groups, 2014**

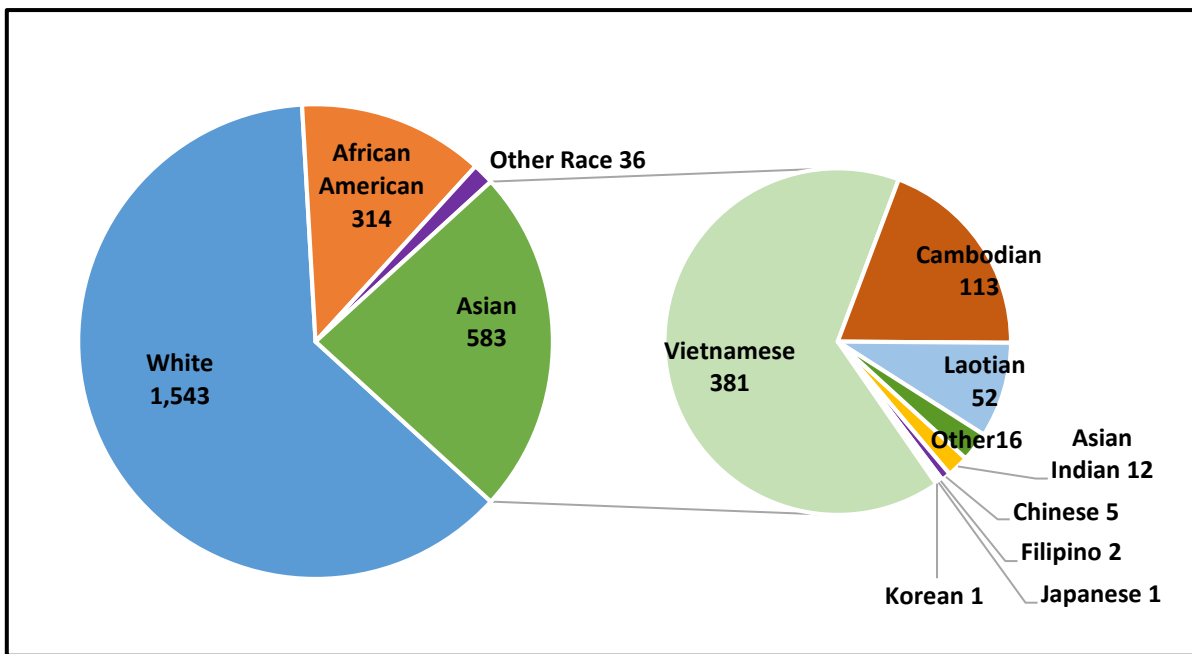




Bayou La Batre is a unique community, home to a diverse, multi-cultural group of citizens who make up of a variety of races and ethnicities, with five (5) different languages spoken among the citizenry. *Figure 6* show's the racial composition of the Bayou in 2012 by number of people, detailing the different ethnic groups within the Asian population of the community.

Due to the Bayou's dynamic cultural make-up, additional services may be required to fulfill the specific needs of these populations.

**FIGURE 6**  
**Asian Ethic Group Makeup, 2014**



### HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

In order to accommodate all socio-economic groups in a community, a city needs to provide a variety of housing types and densities. To ensure the highest quality of life for the citizens and the continued vitality of a community, the housing supply should support the existing housing needs, and



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adapt to meet future demands as the city grows and develops. This sustainability requires effective management of the housing supply which should include maintenance and rehabilitation, as well as demolition and new construction. However, with new growth and development comes the additional responsibility of protecting existing residential areas from encroachment of incompatible land uses, increased traffic congestion, and increased demand on utilities and infrastructure.

The City of Bayou La Batre offers a multiple variety of residential housing options that include: single-family; duplex; multi-family; estate; and mobile homes, see *Table 4*. Most of the housing stock is an equal mix of entry-level to moderate sized homes that have a median housing value of \$103,100, according to 2014 Census data. Additionally, the city offers a fair amount of smaller-sized, multi-family residential housing units. There is a limited amount of estate, duplex and larger-sized multi-family housing options available in the city. Waterfront living is also an option in Bayou La Batre, which is a very attractive recruitment tool to potential home buyers. The city offers waterfront residential opportunity on the shores of the northern section of the Bayou, as well as along the coastline of Portersville Bay. These waterfront living options offers exceptional views and breathtaking sunsets, along with prime wildlife viewing opportunity.

<b>TABLE 4</b>		
<b>Bayou La Batre Housing Stock, 2014</b>		
Type of Dwelling Unit	Number of Units	Percent
Total Housing Units	1,079	100%
Total Single-Family Residential Housing Units	786	72.8%
Total Two-Family (Duplex) Housing Units	19	1.8%
Total Multi-Family Housing Units (3-9 Units)	138	12.8%
Total Multi-Family Housing Units (10-20 Units)	5	0.5%
Total Multi-Family Housing Units (20 or more Units)	26	2.4%
Total Mobile Home Units	91	8.4%
Housing Value	\$0 - \$99,999	240 47.7%
	\$100,000 - \$299,999	251 49.8%
	\$300,000 – or higher	13 0.8%
Median Housing Value	\$103,100	x
Total Occupied Rental Units	303	x
Median Gross Rent	\$616/monthly	x

The 2014 Census data presented in *Table 4* reveals the make up of the housing stock in Bayou La Batre, indicating the majority of homes, 73 percent, are single-family residential, 2 percent are duplex,

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and a larger percentage are multi-family residential units. Most of the multi-family units are smaller, housing between 3-9 units. The lack of duplex and larger apartment complex living availability is evident and should be addressed in order to supply the public need for adequate housing options. This is a need that was indicated from public comments throughout the planning process. The data also indicates that rental costs are affordable, with the majority, or 58% of renters paying between \$500 and \$999 per month. Housing values are an even mix as well, with approximately half, or 47% of homes currently valued at \$99,000 and lower, while 49% are valued at \$100,000-\$299,000. A small percentage of homes (2.6%) are valued at \$300,000 and higher.

Age, condition, and type of housing are important characteristics to consider when planning for future growth. As the housing stock ages, more maintenance is typically required, thus increasing the cost of living expenses. Additionally, the Bayou faces a hurdle that many communities do not ever have to deal with, which is, finding ways to safely live in flood hazard areas. Much of the housing stock in the city is presently located within the floodplain. Many of the homes in Bayou La Batre are paid for and are not covered by flood insurance. This is due in large part to the rising costs of flood insurance rates. The 2014 Census data presented in *Table 5* reveals that there are over one thousand housing units in Bayou La Batre. Of that number, 504 are Owner-occupied units with 183 of them having a mortgage that requires flood insurance. However, 321 housing units do not have a mortgage and many of them may not have flood insurance. This could prove to be disastrous for some when the next flooding event occurs.

Total housing units	1,079
Number of occupied housing units	884
Number of vacant housing units	195
Number of owner-occupied housing units	504
Number of renter-occupied housing units	380
Average persons per household in owner-occupied home	3.17 people
Average persons per household in renter-occupied home	2.80 people
Median housing value	\$103,100
Number of Housing units with a mortgage	183
Number of Housing units without a mortgage	321

While living in a waterfront community provides benefits beyond measure, it is costly to the homeowner to maintain and comes with a variety of unique challenges that Bayou residents are all

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too familiar with. Any type of development around wetlands and flood prone areas is difficult due to additional regulatory permitting and construction expenses. Building code standards and elevation requirements are often times unrealistic and cost prohibitive. These issues, along with expensive insurance premiums can make it difficult for development to occur in these areas. Regardless of flooding events of the past and flood predictions of the future, Bayou La Batre has maintained a consistent population over time. Of the approximate 400 residents who participated in the community survey, including those who attended the public meetings held throughout the planning process for this Plan, the vast majority, 83 percent to be exact, stated they had lived in the Bayou for a period of 20-50 years. Additionally, almost 80 percent of people surveyed stated they plan to live in Bayou La Batre in the future. With numbers like these, the city must find alternative solutions for living in environmentally sensitive and vulnerable areas that are affordable and provide protection to the homeowner.

In efforts to be proactive and prepared for the next flooding event and to help protect housing values, the city should coordinate with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to implement programs and activities that could reduce and help off set the rising cost of flood insurance premiums. Fortunately, many state and federal programs have been established that offer assistance to municipalities that help offset the rising costs of flood insurance rates and provide methods to build a more resilient community. Some of these programs include, but are not limited to: FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)'s Community Rating System (CRS), offered through Alabama's Office of Water Resources; the Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS)'s FORTIFIED HOME Program; and Smart Home America.

It is highly encouraged that city leaders work with these organizations to implement projects and develop new building code standards. These efforts will not only achieve a safer, more flood-resilient community, but also qualify the city to receive discounted insurance rates that can be available to everyone. The establishment of these type of programs could make flood insurance more affordable for property owners, making home ownership more available, which will in turn protect housing values and attract new homeowners and economic developers to the city.



Approximately 5,308 acres of land are currently encompassed within the corporate limits of Bayou La Batre. Of this amount, 3,886 acres, or 73% of the total land mass lies within the current FEMA floodplain boundary, most of which is considered the 100-year flood zone, which is the area the is at

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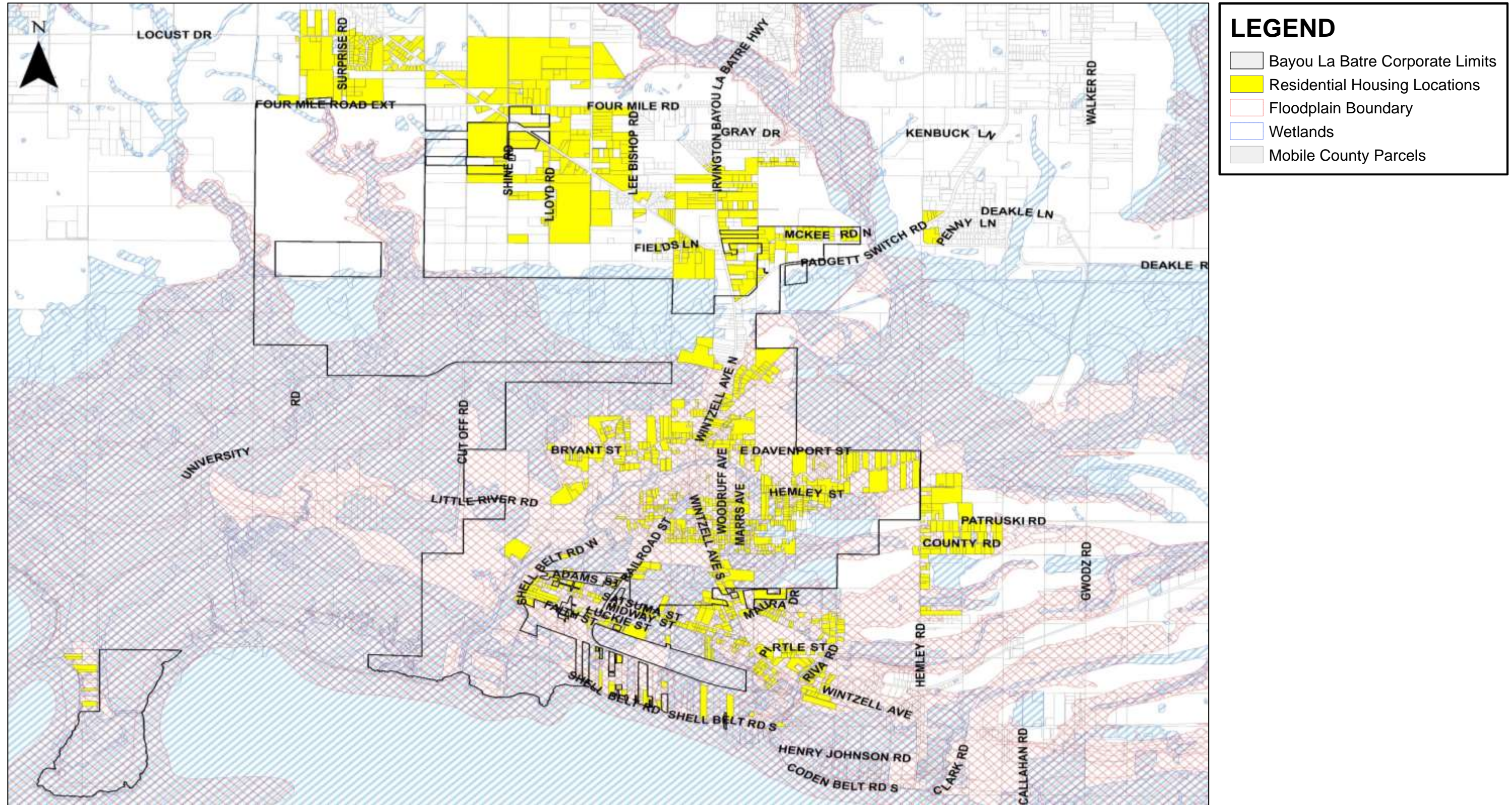
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the greatest risk of flooding. The community is vulnerable to coastal flooding caused by storm surge due to low lying topography that experiences riverine, coastal and flash flooding. Furthermore, FEMA is expected to release updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) panels in the near future, which could possibly reveal an expansion of the floodplain boundary within the city limits and adjacent areas.

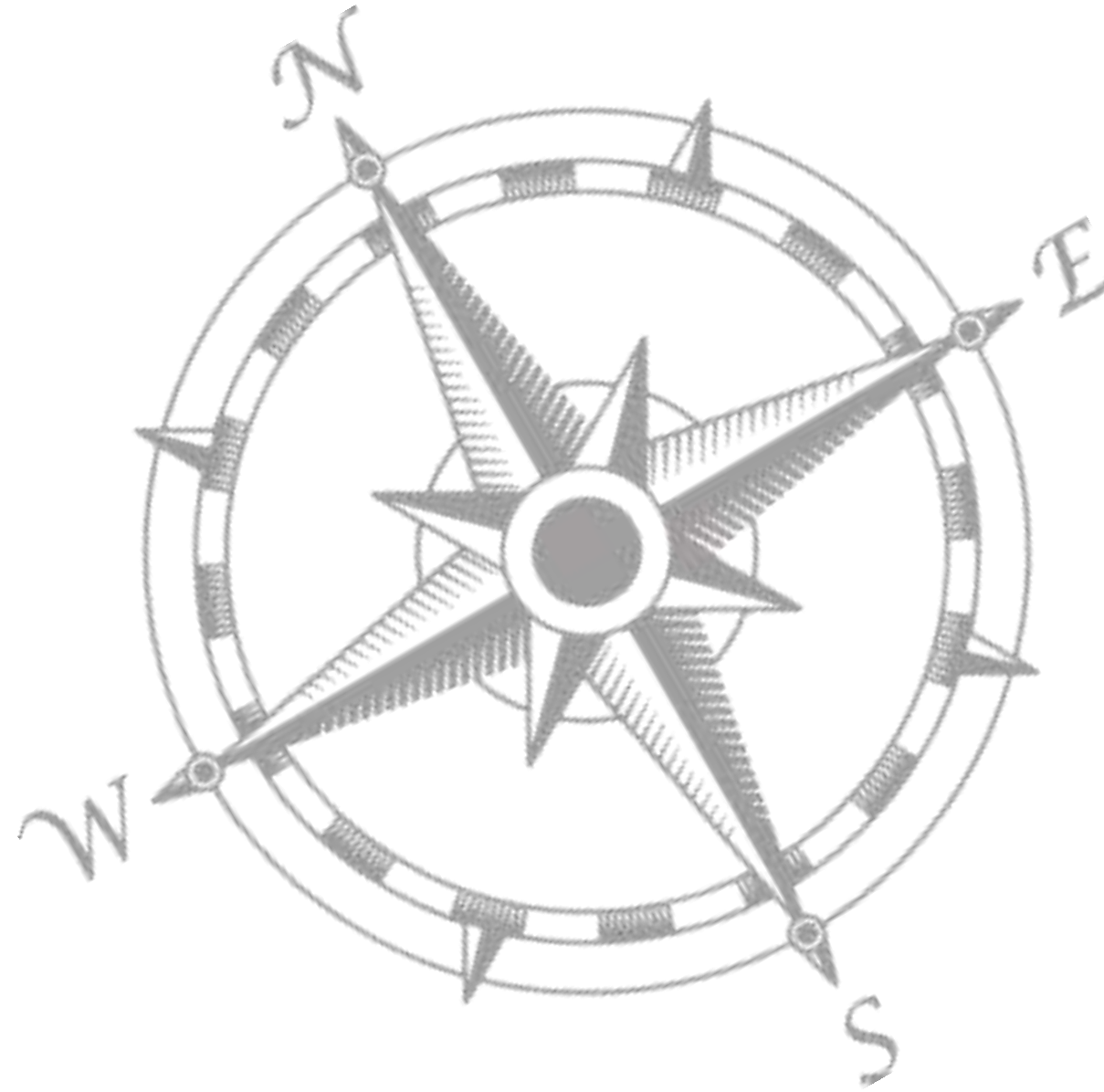
The map in *Figure 7* identifies the current location of all residential properties in and around the city limits, indicating the areas impacted by the current floodplain and wetland boundary. The city should consider implementing a progressive campaign to acquire property located outside of the floodplain and other upland areas in order to provide locations for new housing developments. City officials and planning commissioners must also examine the current layout and location of the city's public safety facilities that are in the flood zone and consider relocating these services to dry, upland areas of the city that are not at risk of flooding. Any new development of parks, ball fields and other land uses that can absorb flood waters should be constructed and located in flood prone areas to help alleviate access storm water run-off and control flooding.

The city is aware of and recognizes these housing issues and is exploring all options, including the possible expansion of the Safe Harbor Subdivision. Presently, the city is working with the U.S.D.A. to acquire and secure funding for the removal and relocation of infrastructure out of the floodplain boundary.

**FIGURE 7**  
Residential Housing Locations, Indicating Wetland and Floodplain Boundary, FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM), 2016



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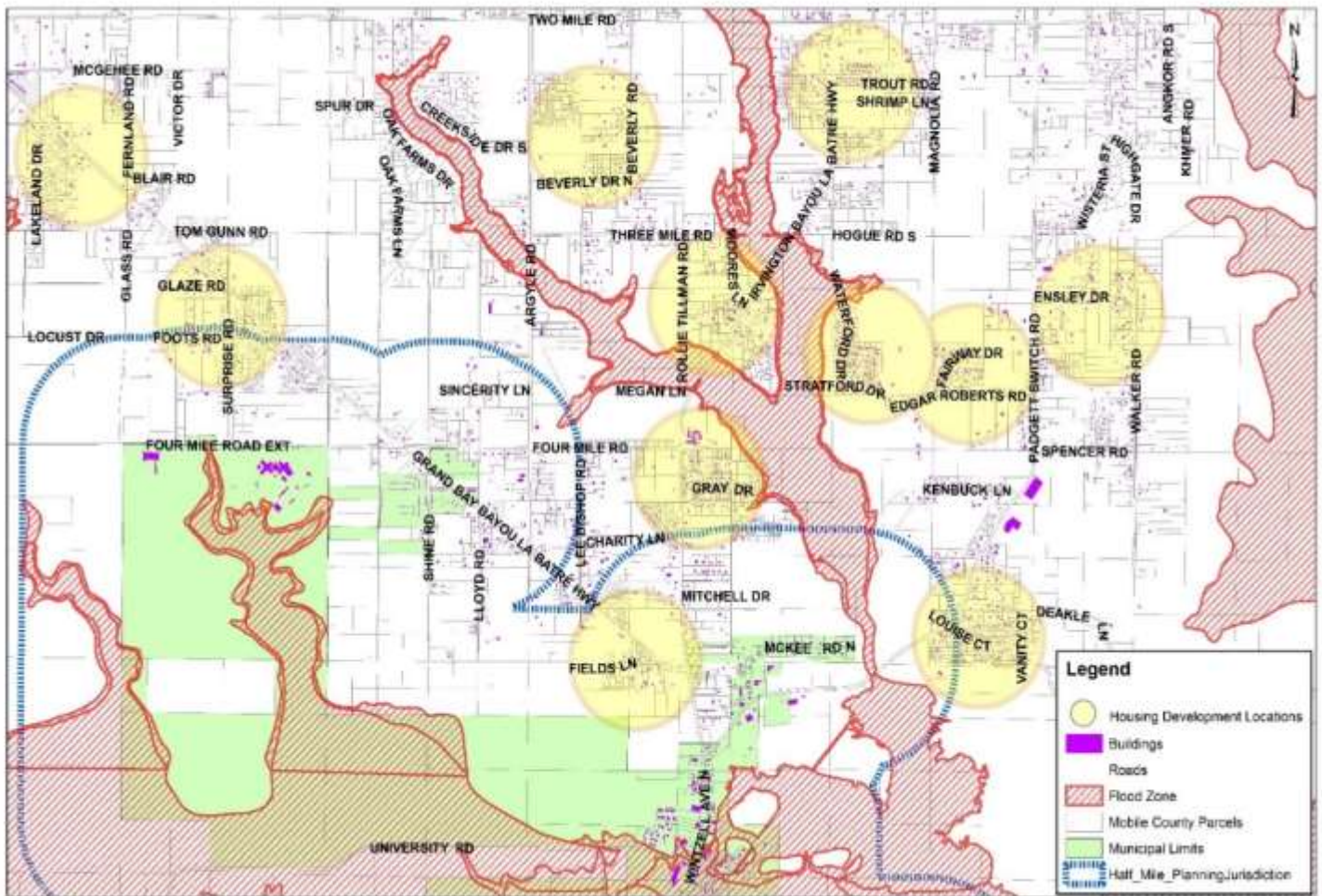


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The map in *Figure 8* focuses on the northern portion of the city to indicate the current city limits and planning area boundary in relation to the current FEMA floodplain boundary. It identifies areas within and adjacent to the city limits that could be considered for additional housing opportunities which include:

- Dixon Corners Property adjacent to Anna Booth Elementary School
- Property near Dixon Elementary
- Hwy 188 near Fields Lane
- Vanity Fair area
- Northern areas of BLB-Irvington Highways
- Heritage Subdivision
- Gray's Subdivision
- Bay Oaks Subdivision
- Northern portion of Padgett Switch Road
- Mark IV Subdivision

**FIGURE 8**  
**Housing Development Areas**





### Safe Harbor Housing Community

Prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, approximately 3,000 Bayou La Batre citizens lived and thrived in the community. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Bayou La Batre was devastated, with many families left homeless or displaced. Safe Harbor was established in 2008 through a FEMA Affordable Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) grant intended to assist the Bayou La Batre community in the wake of Katrina. The initiative was designed to combat homelessness by meeting residents' immediate needs, as well as by providing the opportunity for permanent, affordable housing solutions. It is the only government owned, non-subsidized, non-income based, affordable housing community in the United States. The housing community contains 100 beach



Safe Harbor Housing Community  
Photo credit: *Safe Harbor*

cottage-style modular homes that provide residents with affordable, safe, and community-driven housing, aimed at supporting and improving the lives of Bayou citizens. Safe Harbor has become a reprieve for this once-struggling community and is committed to fulfilling its intended vision of providing affordable, safe housing.



Children's Playground at Safe Harbor Housing Community  
Photo credit: *Safe Harbor*

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The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) conducted a land use survey in 2015, which included an evaluation of housing age and conditions. While the current housing stock appears to be adequate, there are multiple homes and housing developments that are in sub-standard or dilapidated condition. Over 65% of the existing housing units are older, being built before 1989 and earlier. Some structures from Hurricane Katrina still remain and pose a safety hazard threat to neighboring properties. These structures and other threats should be addressed and removed by housing rehabilitation programs offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other agencies. The land use survey overwhelming revealed that the majority of the housing units in Bayou La Batre, approximately 80%, are single family detached, while the second largest type of housing unit is mobile homes, comprising almost 10% of the housing stock. Comments received from the community survey and town hall meetings revealed that citizens want more housing options in order to capture many of the shipyard employees and younger families that might not be living in the city presently due to lack of housing availability and affordability. There is a need in the community for all types of residential housing, including: single-family structures, duplexes, apartments, and townhomes to accommodate the current population and recruit more residents to the city. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) offers multiple programs that encourage home ownership. They offer highly competitive rates and terms that make home ownership possible for low-income families and the elderly population. It is highly recommended that city leaders work with this and other organizations to promote home ownership in the Bayou. Other housing needs and issues that were identified through the planning process are as follows:

- Update Building Code
- Provide more affordable housing options
- Expand Safe Harbor neighborhood
- More duplex and multi-family housing options needed
- Implement programs that will lower homeowner's insurance premiums
- Re-organize layout of city by relocating city parks and other uses to areas that can absorb flooding, and relocate housing areas to upland areas that are out of the floodplain
- Identify greenspace and conservation lands within city limits
- Remove moldy and dilapidated structures that present a safety hazard
- Implement housing programs

## ECONOMIC DATA

The Bayou's economic base and livelihood derives from the seafood and shipbuilding industries. Many shipbuilding manufacturers chose to build vessels in Bayou La Batre due to the availability of a skilled workforce and the close proximity to the water. Ships built in the Bayou are used all over the world and supply an important contribution to the global economy. Additionally, the community is home to many commercial fishing boats that harvest shrimp, oyster,



crabs and other seafood from the local Gulf waters. Bayou La Batre is a significant contributor to the national economy as well, supplying 10 percent of the shrimp and 40 percent of oysters consumed in the United States, earning the Bayou the designation of the *"Seafood Capital of Alabama"*.

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Economic characteristics are important tools when evaluating the economic health of a community and planning for the future. In order to gain insight into Bayou La Batre's present economic situation, it is essential to examine certain population characteristics such as educational attainment, labor force statistics, occupation, incomes and industry. Trends in the community's business environment, the wholesale, retail, service and manufacturing trades, and other indicators of economic activity are discussed and evaluated in this Plan. Current conditions are assessed on the basis of past economic trends of the City.

### *Educational Attainment*

One crucial aspect of Bayou La Batre's economy is the educational attainment of its citizens. This has a direct effect upon the income and type of employment that exist within the city. There is a direct correlation between the location of highly technical industries and a well-educated, highly-paid labor force. An educated workforce and diverse job opportunities usually result in a larger tax base with higher incomes. The 2014 Census data in *Figure 9* shows the educational attainment for 1,620 of the

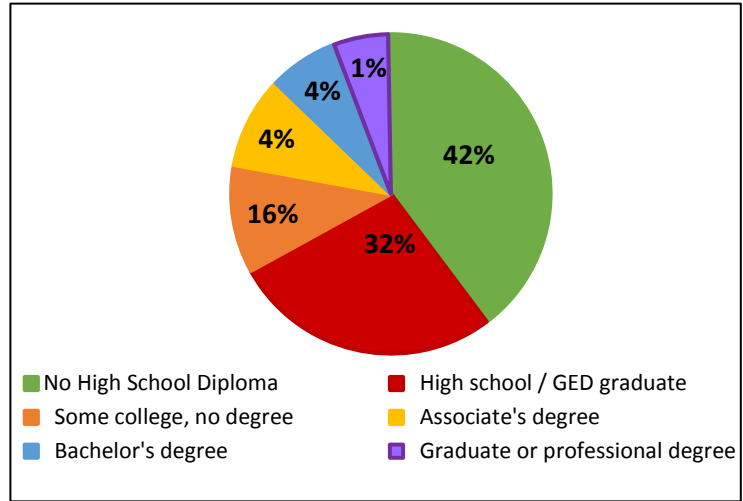
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Bayou’s resident population who are 25 years and older. The data reveals that 58% of citizens are a high school graduate or have obtained a higher degree, while approximately 5% have earned a Bachelor’s or Graduate degree or higher. Additionally, the data indicates that forty two percent of Bayou residents lack a high school diploma.

*Labor Force*

Employment typically generates population growth as well as provides a source of income for the purchase of homes, retail goods and local services. In addition, the businesses that provide employment generate revenues, which support governmental services. The Labor Force statistics from the Census are derived from the employment status of Bayou residents, age 16 years and older that are considered to be in the civilian labor force. In 2014, the total number of Bayou residents who were considered the working aged population of age 16 and older, was 2,008. Of that number, 1,079 or 54 % were working in the civilian labor force. *Table 6* shows important economic and income figures for Bayou La Batre in 2014, including the top five occupations for Bayou residents in the labor force.

**FIGURE 9**  
**Educational Attainment, 2014**



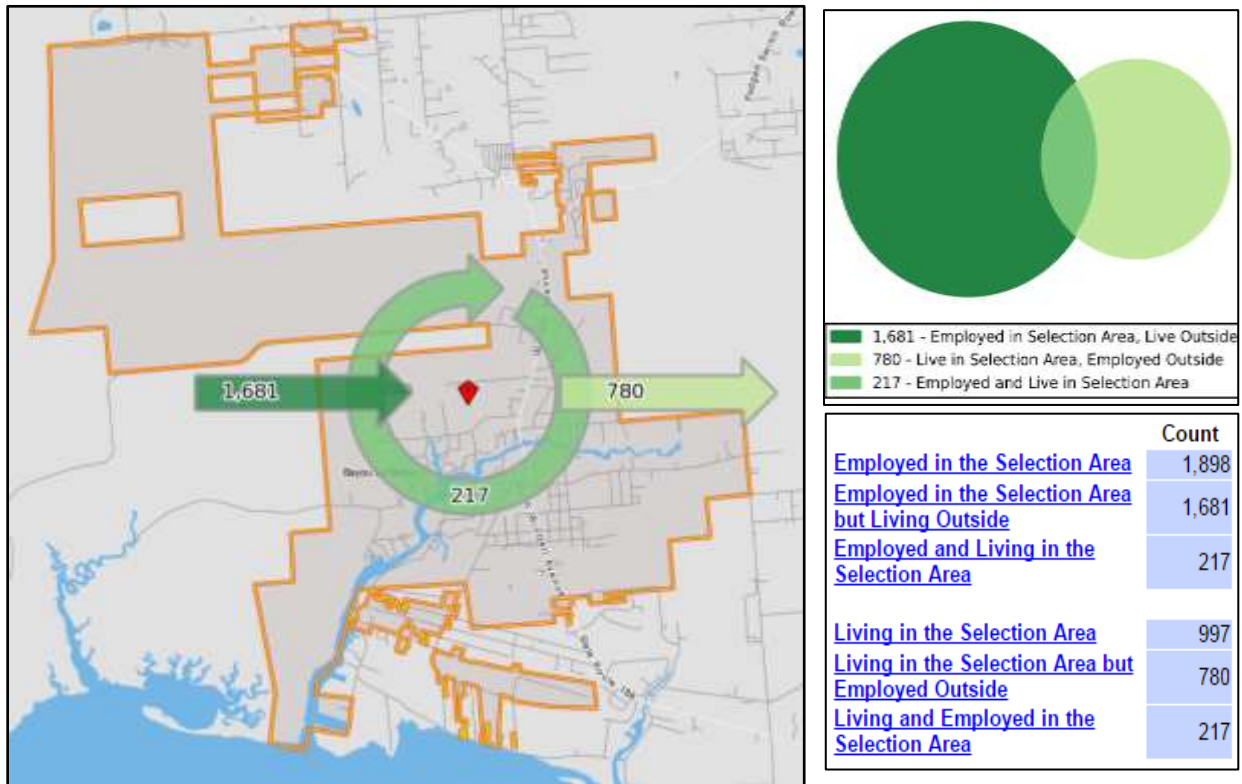
**TABLE 6**  
**Economic Demographics of Bayou La Batre Residents, 2014**

Percentage of population age 25+ with education equivalent to high school diploma/GED or higher	63%
Percentage of population age 16+ in the labor force	54%
Percentage of residents that commute 20+ minutes to work	80%
Top ten occupation industries for employed population aged 16 and older:	
1) Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	41%
2) Management, business, science, and arts occupations	13%
3) Service Occupations	14%
4) Sales and office occupations	16%
5) Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	16%
Percentage of families that live below poverty level income	34.2%
Median Family Income for Bayou La Batre/Mobile County	\$31,173 / \$53,289
Median Household Income for Bayou La Batre/Mobile County	\$31,156 / \$43,844
Per Capita Income for Bayou La Batre/Mobile County	\$13,011 / \$23,009

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The following figures closely examine the labor force within Bayou La Batre for the year 2014. *Figure 10 details* the number of non-resident workers traveling in and out of the city everyday, also known as the daytime population, who are employed in Bayou La Batre, but live outside the city limits. It also illustrates the number of resident workers who live and work in Bayou La Batre, and lastly, residents who travel outside of the city to work everyday.

**FIGURE 10**  
**Workforce Commuting and/or Residing in Bayou La Batre, 2014**



The data from 2014 reveals that almost 2,000 people (1,898) are employed in Bayou La Batre, traveling in and out of the community everyday for their primary job. Of that number, 1,681 people or 89% of them, live elsewhere, while only a small number of them (217), actually live and remain in the community after the work day is over. This means that thousands of dollars each day are being earned in Bayou La Batre, but leaving the community at five 'o clock and being spent elsewhere. Solutions are needed as to how to capture these workers and keep them in the community versus them taking their dollars out of the community everyday. Affordable housing options, quality of schools, safety, retail availability, sense of community and employment opportunities are just some of the crucial variables that Bayou La Batre must offer in order to entice new residents to move to the community and maintain the established resident population.

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Figure 11 illustrates the top ten locations where the approximately 1,000 Bayou residents who are in the labor force, work. Note that over 42% of all jobs are not listed on the figure, but include various locations throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties in Alabama, as well as cities in Mississippi and Florida. The data shows that almost equal number of Bayou residents are working in Bayou La Batre as they are in the city of Mobile. Additionally, the Census stated that 80% of Bayou residents have an approximate commute time of 23 minutes or more to their primary place of employment. These data sets indicate that the community is a viable economic engine for area residents and is capable of sustaining and supporting the local economy. More job creation is needed however to ensure the youth population has more employment opportunities that will increase the likelihood of them remaining Bayou residents rather than moving to an area where they can find employment.

**FIGURE 11**  
**Work Locations of Bayou Residents, 2014**

	Count	Share
All Places (Cities, CDPs, etc.)	997	100.0%
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Bayou La Batre city, AL	217	21.8%
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Mobile city, AL	207	20.8%
<span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span> Dauphin Island town, AL	32	3.2%
<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> Pascagoula city, MS	27	2.7%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Montgomery city, AL	24	2.4%
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Birmingham city, AL	21	2.1%
<span style="color: darkred;">■</span> Belle Fontaine CDP, AL	13	1.3%
<span style="color: darkred;">■</span> Tillmans Corner CDP, AL	11	1.1%
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> Prichard city, AL	10	1.0%
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> Hoover city, AL	9	0.9%
All Other Locations	426	42.7%

### *Income Earnings*

In reviewing Bayou La Batre's economy, we must examine the population's buying power, or its personal wealth. Purchasing power is one of the factors that are usually reflected in improved facilities and living standards. It is also an indicator of the deficiencies in these same units of society.

Personal wealth is one of the major characteristics concerning the socio-economic structure of a community. Decisions on buying land, houses, retail goods and services are dependent upon the income of the populace. Such decisions, in turn, influence the various types of land use, which prevail in a community. Table 7 examines Bayou La Batre's family household incomes for the years 2009-2014 as reported by the U.S. Census. A household by definition is composed of one or more people who occupy a housing unit. The Table compares the number of households that reported working aged people (ages 16-74), who work full time (50-52 weeks/year) to the percentage of people who did not work at all. The data reveals that in 2014, a larger percentage of people were not working and household incomes were at the lowest level within the range of years examined. These figures could be indicative of stagnant wages in the economy, more people being unemployed or the pay

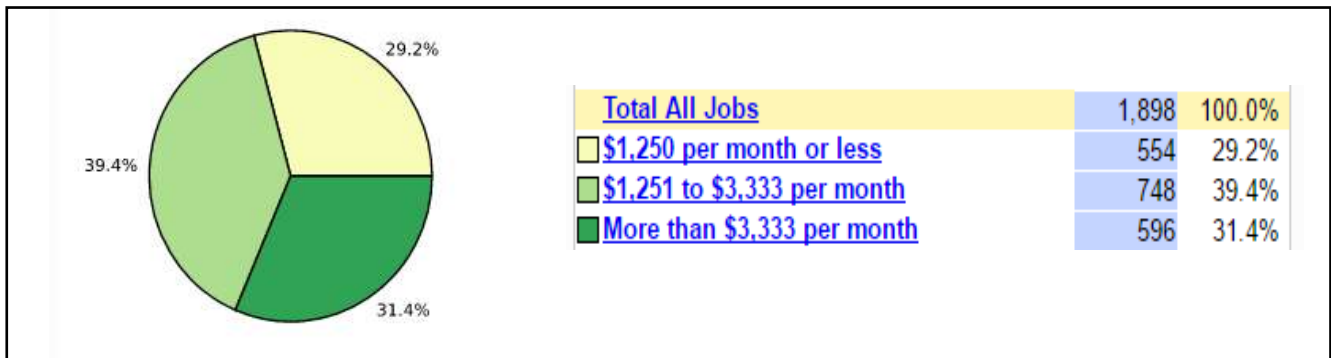
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scales offered at businesses in the regional economy. The data indicates that personal incomes are at their lowest level in the years compared on the Table.

<b>TABLE 7</b>					
<b>Household Median Incomes in Bayou La Batre, 2009-2014</b>					
<b>YEAR</b>	<b># OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b># OF WORKING-AGED PEOPLE (AGE 16-64)</b>	<b>% of FULL TIME WORKERS (50-52 WKS/YR)</b>	<b>% DID NOT WORK</b>	<b>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>
2009	836	1739	50.4	31	\$36,719
2010	852	1632	53.6	29	\$34,539
2011	867	1489	49.9	29	\$39,273
2012	822	1573	50.4	29	\$42,273
2013	888	1693	46.8	37	\$33,402
2014	884	1695	46.2	41	\$31,156

The data in *Figures 12 & 13* compare the income earnings in Bayou La Batre to the City of Mobile for the year 2014.

**FIGURE 12**  
**Job Counts by Earnings in Bayou La Batre, 2014**



**FIGURE 13**  
**Job Counts by Earnings in City of Mobile, 2014**



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### *Industry & Manufacturing*

The Census analyzes industry data by grouping occupations into different sectors of industries such as manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade. The following is a list of industries the Bayou La Batre economy supports in 2014 and an explanation of the business activities each one encompasses:

- **Manufacturing sector** - establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. The assembling of component parts of manufactured products is considered manufacturing. Establishments in the Manufacturing sector are often described as plants, factories, or mills and characteristically use power-driven machines and materials-handling equipment.
- **Wholesale Trade sector** - establishments engaged in wholesaling merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise.
- **Retail Trade sector** - establishments engaged in retailing merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise.
- **Accommodation and Food Services sector** - establishments providing customers with lodging and/or preparing meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption. The sector includes both accommodation and food services establishments because the two activities are often combined at the same establishment.





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The Bayou La Batre industry supports the local economy as well as different areas of the Gulf Coast region. *Table 8* illustrates the different types of industries offered in Bayou La Batre. The data lists all industry sectors and the number of jobs held at each one in Bayou La Batre. The data reveals that the city supports almost 2,000 jobs (1,898) to workers that live in the community and surrounding areas, with over half (52.7%) of the jobs engaged in the manufacturing industry.

<b>TABLE 8</b>		
<b>Job Counts for Bayou La Batre Industry Sectors, 2014</b>		
	Count	Percent
<b>Total All Jobs</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	0.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	18	0.9%
Construction	74	3.9%
Manufacturing	1,001	52.7%
Wholesale Trade	88	4.6%
Retail Trade	225	11.9%
Finance & Insurance	36	1.9%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	25	1.3%
Educational Services	167	8.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	0	0%
Accommodation of Food Services	49	2.6%
Public Administration	54	2.8%
Utilities	4	0.2%
Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0%
Information	10	0.5%
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	10	0.5%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	1	0.1%
Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation	7	0.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	108	5.7%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	10	0.5%

### PORT OF BAYOU LA BATRE

The Port of Bayou La Batre is an international industrial port that is located on the Mississippi Sound and the Intracoastal Waterway. It is a full-service deep water port with modern facilities for handling cargo from around the world. It has an open water connection to Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi Sound. The Port is served by air (Mobile Regional Airport), heavy shipping (Alabama State Docks), rail (Amtrak and CSX), by water via the Inter Coastal Waterway (ICW), and road (Exit 10

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from Interstate 10), all of which provide easy and direct access. Because of these multiple modes of transportation that include, air, sea, and land, coupled with an extremely moderate climate, make the Port of Bayou La Batre highly accessible and productive throughout the year. The Port's location is naturally advantageous to importers, exporters and carriers shipping via the Gulf of Mexico.

Vessels that utilize the Port can reach open water within 3-4 hours from the mouth of the Bayou, accessing open waters and cutting their voyage time by a considerable amount. The facility is owned and operated by the City of Bayou La Batre and is part of the port system of the State of Alabama. It handles and processes general bulk cargo and has the capacity to support vessels up to 400 tons.

With property available for commercial or industrial developments, the Port has the potential and ability to grow and expand. The need exist to provide a Safe Harbor for vessels to find refuge and protection during a storm event. This is a critical need for the community that should be addressed and solved in the near future. It is recommended that the city seek funding to acquire property to be used for safe harbor purposes.



### [BAYOU LA BATRE PORT AUTHORITY](#)

The City of Bayou La Batre Port Authority is a business entity and is a domestic, non-profit corporation in accordance with local law. It oversees all operations occurring within the Port and is governed by five (5) officers, made up of several industry professionals from the businesses operating in the Port. They manage the City Docks for the seafood and shipbuilding industries. They maintain all property on the water and create and enforce regulations for Port activities. Officers of the Port participate in many civic events and donate their time and resources to programs that benefit and enhance the community such as the establishment of City Centre Park. They organized a state-funded dredging of the Bayou in 1995. Recently, the City partnered with the Port Authority on a project to remove the derelict vessels within the Bayou's ship channel. The partnership was awarded funding through NOAA and coordinated with professional contractors to remove an estimated 21 derelict vessels and 1 steel tank from the Bayou La Batre ship channel to improve navigation and to mitigate further ecological damage. A marine survey company monitored and documented all vessel removal activities. After

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removal, the City partnered with The Nature Conservancy volunteers and Dauphin Island Sea Lab to actively restore approximately 1,300 square feet of marsh habitat through re-vegetation. This project was a \$150 thousand dollar benefit to the city. Additionally, the City, Port Authority, and partners coordinate routinely to present community meetings to discuss problems and issues occurring in the bayou and the environmental hazards they create. These meetings also accomplish the goals of the group, which are to convene citizen groups, craft targeted messages, develop informative printed materials in multiple languages for dissemination to fishermen, and coordinate with local media to educate the public to these efforts. It is the goal of this proactive group to lead efforts that promote community outreach to prevent future derelict vessels and marine debris in the Bayou.

### BAYOU LA BATRE SHIP CHANNEL

The original ship channel in Bayou La Batre was dredged in 1965 as authorized by the River and Harbor Act. It was developed from the mouth of the bayou to a point approximately 2,800 feet south of the draw bridge. When finished, it encompassed an overall distance of about 33,500 feet, with a depth of 12 feet and a width of 100 feet and a 2.6 acre turn basin. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1990 authorized an improvement of the channel to increase the depth to 18 feet and include a transition to a 14 feet deep by 75 feet wide channel to a point that extends 1,500 feet north of the draw bridge. Other improvements included a channel in Snake Bayou that was 1,300 feet in length, 12-14 feet in depth and 50 feet in width. The total length of the improved channel was approximately 23 miles. The ship channel was recently dredged in 2015 to a current depth of 18 feet, a width of approximately 150 feet and a total length of approximately one mile. There is a need for an adequately sized turn basin to accommodate larger vessels. It is highly recommended the city seek funding to acquire available property to construct a new turn basin of the proper size, revitalizing the Port to a facility that will attract businesses and accommodate existing needs.

### SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY

Bayou La Batre is known as the "*Seafood Capital of Alabama*", but in all actuality, should also be as equally known as the "*Shipbuilding Capital of Alabama*" based on the amount of vessels that are manufactured in the Bayou. The Bayou's Port location along the central Gulf Coast and its proximity to the major ship channels of the open Gulf create a natural import/export terminal on a global scale, particularly for delivery to and from the Caribbean and Central and South America. Local shipyards primarily build commercial cargo vessels that range in sizes from 50 to 250 feet and 35 to 450 tons. These massive, steel vessels handle worldwide cargo and transport for major companies all over the

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world. Oil supply boats, crew boats, barges, shrimp boats, tugs, cruisers and casino vessels are also designed and constructed in Bayou La Batre. Many of the commercial fishing vessels used by Alabama fishermen are constructed in Bayou La Batre. There are currently eight (8) major ship yards in South Mobile County with the capacity to construct yachts and other vessels that are fabricated to custom order. Five of the eight provide a travel lift crane to handle



Vessel built by Horizon Shipbuilding in Bayou La Batre  
Photo credit: *Horizon Shipbuilding*

ship launchings, which constituted a 2-5 million dollar investment for each ship yard. They build everything from seventeen-foot wooden gillnetters to 110-foot super slabs. They also construct many other hull designs, including oil platform crew/supply boats and tow boats. Throughout the years, the Bayou's shipbuilding industry has seen a drastic decline due to the loss of many major contracts from the oil industry and others. The Port was home to as many as 30 ship yards at one time, but that



Vessel launching using travel lift crane  
Photo credit: *Horizon Shipbuilding*

number has declined to 8 due to the state of the local economy. Many have recently diversified in efforts to compete with current boat building supply and demand, by building commercial sightseeing vessels to accommodate the tourism markets. Most Bayou La Batre boat yards provide overhaul, maintenance, repair, and retrofitting services. Additionally, they operate dry dock services with a 670 ton capacity that provide services to the fishing, oil, inland transportation and towing industries.

A recent study conducted for the Corps of Engineers reported that the South Mobile County shipbuilding industry currently constructs an average of 115 vessels per year. Employment in this sector averages between 700 and 1,000 workers. The direct value of vessel construction can be conservatively estimated at an average cost of \$400,000 per vessel, or total vessel construction worth \$46 million annually. This is a direct amount and does not include either vessel repairs or the

substantial indirect multiplier effect that this activity creates.

Companies from all over the world including the United States, South America, and Africa commission the local shipyards to build boats for numerous purposes. Several of the major shipbuilders in the Bayou specialize in the construction of steel, aluminum and fiberglass vessels for commercial, government and international clients. Even Hollywood has connections to the Bayou's ship yards. In 2005, Walt Disney Studios commissioned a pirate ship, *the Black Pearl*, from a local ship builder for the purposes of a major motion picture, "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl". Crews sailed the ship out of the bayou to the Caribbean for the filming of the movie and its sequels. Another ship, the FV Cornelia Marie from the Deadliest Catch series, was built in Bayou La Batre in 1989.

Current shipbuilding activity is considerably below the levels reached in the late 1970s. At that time, nearly 30 boat builders were operating in South Mobile County and employed more than 1,500 workers. These firms ranged in size from "backyard" builders to major firms employing over 700 people. During the mid 1980s, vessel construction declined due to radical changes in the oil and gas industry, changes in the fishing industry, and the increase in the exchange rate of the dollar which gave foreign shipbuilders a cost advantage. However, the mild climate which allows year-round construction, the availability of a skilled work force, and the reputation of Alabama boat builders for quality and affordability provide major growth potential. Under the proper economic conditions, it is probable that Bayou La Batre could once again become the largest producer of fishing and workboats in the world. Additionally, it is highly encouraged that the local shipbuilders advertise their current operations and create public awareness to the highly technical and globally important manufacturing that is occurring in the Bayou. Inviting and welcoming the public to launching events will draw many visitors to the area to experience an event that is unique to the Bayou.

### FISHING INDUSTRY

Bayou La Batre is home port for numerous fishing fleets. These fishing fleets, along with the seafood processing plants, have earned the city the title of the "*Seafood Capital of Alabama*". Local Bayou fishermen catch and process 10 percent of the shrimp and 40 percent of the oysters consumed in the United States. The seafood industry is an \$80 million industry which represents 85% of the local



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economy. Approximately 80% of the seafood consumed in the United States comes from foreign waters and is imported into the U.S. Despite the low percentage of domestic seafood supply, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service, 73% of the nation's domestic shrimp, and approximately 59% of domestic oysters, comes from the Gulf of Mexico. Although Alabama's coastline is relatively small compared to other Gulf States, commercial fishing, seafood processing and related industries play a major role in the economy of the region and the state. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reports that Alabama fishermen land between 25 to 30 million pounds of shrimp, finfish, crabs and oysters annually, and most of these landings originate from Bayou La Batre. The 2014 Commercial Fishery Landings and Value Report from NMFS reported that 21 million pounds of seafood was processed and shipped out of the Port of Bayou La Batre at a value of \$58 million dollars. There are approximately 27 seafood processors and providers in the Bayou area, five of which are located directly on the Bayou. Some of these plants are multi-million dollar facilities that are currently making investments in their facilities through equipment upgrades that include automated processors, which enable them to process more seafood. The Gulf Coast Agriculture and Seafood Co-Op (GCASC) facility in Bayou La Batre is currently developing new and innovative uses for seafood waste products, by creating a new, marketable product from recycled materials, making them a leader in this market, nation-wide. According to the Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce website, "It is estimated that commercial seafood landings in Bayou La Batre have an economic impact on the state that approaches \$80 million annually. Major fishing vessels in the port of Bayou La Batre fish Gulf waters from the Florida Keys to Mexico, to provide some of the best shrimp, oysters, crabs and finfish processed and sold in the world."

To the residents of this community, fishing is not just a job; it's a way of life. It's a tradition that is passed down through the generations, and for some, it's all they know. Although the seafood industry is a major contributor to the local, regional and national economy, it has seen a steady decline over



the last few decades due in part to the increasing cost of fuel and insurance, natural storm and manmade events, and a decrease in workforce availability. Much of today's youth population are choosing to obtain a higher education rather than follow in the family footsteps of the seafood

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business. Many long-time fishermen were hit hard from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and have seen slow recovery, or were forced to shut down and give up on the fishing business completely. To ensure the continued economic development and success of the seafood processing industry in the Bayou, they must implement new fishing and farming methods and examine alternate forms of commerce in efforts to diversify the industry. They must explore and consider options that would utilize the Bayou's natural resources through opportunities such as aquaculture, mari-culture, eco-tourism and agri-tourism. It is highly recommended that the City and Port Authority collaborate with organizations such as Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory and the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama to learn and implement new fishing and farming practices. Additionally, it is highly encouraged that these local entities work with local schools to create programs and internships for high school students in efforts to educate the youth about the fishing industry.

### *Organized Seafood Association of Alabama (OSAA)*

The Organized Seafood Association of Alabama (OSAA) is a non-profit corporation that was established in 2002 for the purposes of promoting, protecting and marketing the seafood industry of Alabama. They support Alabama's fishing families and industries and related activities by emphasizing and educating the public to the importance of buying and eating local seafood. They work with the Alabama legislation to expose problems and solve issues that local fishermen experience to ensure that the local fishing industry is protected and remains active. Over 900 fishermen work in the OSAA at different times to maintain and grow the local fishing and seafood processing industry. The OSAA uses local oystermen to rebuild oyster beds, which they can in turn harvest and sell for profit. This type of project not only gives the fishermen a job while building and harvesting the oyster beds, but it also establishes fresh oysters in Alabama waters, making locally grown seafood available to consumers, which supports the economy as a whole.



## FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Bayou's economy of the past, which was based solely on the seafood and marine industry, is in need of support in efforts to remain sustainable and grow to its fullest potential. To survive and prosper, the Bayou needs to reinvent itself by recognizing its past and using its natural assets to bring life back into the economy. These assets are largely untapped and have the potential to transform the nature of the community and develop the economy into a national competitor. New and alternate

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forms of industry must be examined and considered in order for a community to continue to grow and prosper and adapt to an ever changing economy.

Economically sustainable communities share several core elements that create long-term socially and economically healthy communities. In order for a city to prosper economically and generate revenue, there must be a strong economic base contributing to the city's general fund. When shoppers buy from local commercial businesses, they contribute tax-based revenues to the city. If the city doesn't have enough businesses, or if the citizens aren't buying local, the city will not have enough revenue to pay for operating costs properly, much less grow the community.

This Plan examines the Bayou's present economy and offers recommendations for new economic development. City leaders must investigate ways to attract and recruit economic developers to the city. Economic data proves that people seek out, and will pay dearly to experience nature based activities. Throughout the planning process, many ideas were shared at public meetings as to how to market the Bayou and spur economic development. An extensive list of potential development ideas were brought to the table, revealing the assets the city naturally possesses. While current efforts have been initially successful in attracting visitors to the community, keeping visitors here for a while has been a challenge. It is essential that city and planning leaders recruit businesses to the area that will provide services that will capture tourist and create spending opportunities. More dining and lodging options are some of the severely needed establishments in the Bayou in order to attract and keep visitors in the community. The following is a list of suggestions collected through planning strategies and public comments that address this issue:

- Implement new farming methods
- Provide opportunities to purchase Alabama Gulf Seafood caught by American Fishermen
- Promote Tourism
- Advertise the city
- Develop new eco-tourism and agri-tourism markets
- Diversify existing industry
- Promote Bayou as Seafood Capital and Shipbuilding Capital of Alabama
- Offer public tours inside seafood processing plants
- Open the waterfront to the public
- Expand film industry opportunities
- Publicize ship launching events at local ship yards
- Expand upon creating and selling energy to local cooperatives
- Create a trademark
- Offer support services



- Establish a Land Bank
- Offer a revolving load fund
- Expand recycling processes at the GCASC to produce more products
- Offer discounted land
- Offer incentives through building department
- Create business incubators
- Offer mico-loans
- Hire an economic developer to implement Comprehensive Plan

### NATURE-BASED TOURISM

Eco-tourism is a sustainable form of natural resource-based tourism that involves the exploitation and utilization of natural areas in order to carry out environmentally friendly activities. It provides an educational opportunity by focusing primarily on experiencing and learning about nature, its landscape, flora, fauna and the habitats within.

Tourism and eco-tourism development diversifies the local economy of a community by providing the alternate source of industry and livelihood. A symbiotic and complex relationship between the environment and human activities is possible when careful planning and regulatory polies are established and followed. Nature based tourism developments provide direct benefits that offset pressure from other less sustainable activities that make use of natural and cultural resources. If developed correctly, the nature-based tourism industry can conserve resources, protect biological diversity, and maintain the sustainable use of resources, while gaining economic benefit.

### *ECO-TOURISM, AGRI-TOURISM & AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT*

Eco-tourism is an \$85 billion dollar a year industry. If Bayou La Batre were to capture 1percent of this business at its fingertips, that would translate into \$850 million in revenue for the region. Birders in Alabama alone, spend approximately \$626 million dollars, annually. The city has the potential to build an economy based on its natural assets while coexisting with the current seafood and marine industries to make the community viable through economic diversity.

Bayou La Batre is opened for business and is poised to develop its natural resources to their fullest potential. The Bayou is bursting at the seams with natural assets and beauty just waiting to be revealed and capitalized upon. Natives already know the treasures the Bayou holds, but outsiders who have not had the pleasure of experiencing life in the Bayou, will be amazed when they enter this unique

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part of the world and are exposed to all it has to offer. The Bayou is located within close proximity to a number of established eco-tourist attractions that have diverse ecological features, such as:

- Point aux Pins
- Dauphin Island
- Grand Bay Savanna
- Bellingrath Gardens
- Forever Wild Management Land
- Sand Hill Crane National Wildlife Refuge
- Commercial and recreational fishing,
- Alabama Birding Trail
- Coffee Island & adjacent barrier islands
- The Mobile-Tensaw River Delta

Additionally, the city is a member city of the federally designated scenic byway, Coastal Connection, which brings many visitors to the community each year.

Agri-tourism provides an economic opportunity that involves any agriculturally based operation or activity that brings visitors to a farm or ranch. Examples of agri-tourism include a wide variety of activities, such as buying produce direct from a farm stand, navigating a cornfield maze, chopping down a Christmas tree, picking fresh fruit and vegetables, feeding farm animals, or staying at a bed and breakfast (B&B) on a farm.

Tourism and agriculture each have annual economic impacts of more than \$6 billion for the state of Alabama. The Alabama Agri-Tourism Partnership was formed to promote agri-tourism, the blending of common segments of these two large industries. The partnership has recently developed the Alabama Agri-Tourism Trail to advertise and promote agri-tourism across the state.

As our society evolves into a more health conscience population, people are becoming more interested in where their food comes from and how it is produced. They want to meet farmers and processors and talk with them about what goes into food production. For many people who visit farms, especially children, the visit marks the first time they see the source of their food, be it a dairy cow, an ear of corn growing in a field, a sweet potato growing from a hydroponic source, or a blueberry they can pick right off a bush. Farmers and ranchers use this interest to develop business at their farm or ranch, and interest in the quality of their products and practices, as well as awareness of their products.



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Aquaculture, also known as aqua-farming, is the farming and cultivation of aquatic organisms such as fish, crustaceans, mollusks and aquatic plants. Aquaculture involves cultivating freshwater and saltwater populations under controlled conditions, and can be contrasted with commercial fishing. Mari-culture refers to aquaculture practiced in marine environments and in underwater habitats. Particular kinds of aquaculture include fish farming, shrimp farming, oyster farming, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) farming, mari-culture, and alga-culture such as seaweed farming for the creation of bio-fuels.

As the global economy adapts to a changing environment, the demand for resources will increase. The low-lying terrain and topography of the Bayou provides a perfect environment for these alternate forms of farming and aquaculture methods. Local farmers must investigate these alternate forms of farming and consider integrating these practices in order to diversify their business and compete in the local and global markets as well as to promote environmental sustainability in the Bayou.

In addition to the innovative technology that has been established and is presently occurring in the Bayou, are the efforts lead by Dr. Bill Walton of the Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory on Dauphin Island. Walton and his associates, along with assistance from Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant and funding from National Sea Grant, are working with local residents interested in starting 'off-bottom' oyster farms in the area. In addition, with partners, they have worked to establish oyster farming parks, where a number of farms are clustered together. In addition, they train and advise individuals who are interested in starting up their own oyster farms and work with these independent oyster farmers to implement an off-bottom farming technique that yields some of the finest premium oysters on the Gulf Coast. As a result of these initiatives, some local fishermen are diversifying their fishing business to include oyster farming. One local company, Murder Point Oysters, is reinvigorating the Alabama oyster business. Their company saw an increase in production from 25,000 oysters in 2013 to approximately 800,000.



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These local farmers are creating a distinct *brand* of premium oysters that are specific to the local waters of Porterville Bay, Point Aux Pines, and other nearby waterbodies. Oysters grown right here in the Bayou are shipped all over the country and ending up on tables at high-end eateries, exposing Alabama oysters at a national level.

These innovative farming techniques provide multiple benefits that not only promote and grow the Alabama Gulf Seafood industry as well as the state's economy as a whole, but also provide an environmental benefit by improving water quality. Oyster farms create a nursery for shrimp and all types of fish, while the oysters help clean the water through their filter-feeding capabilities. One oyster cleans about 50 gallons a day.

The possibilities and opportunities that aqua-farming practices offer are limitless. The Bayou has the potential to become a global leader in this innovative industry and the pristine environment that flourishes abundantly here makes it a very real possibility. It is highly recommended that the City and Port Authority collaborate with organizations such as Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory and the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama to continue to learn and implement new fishing and farming practices. Additionally, it is highly encouraged that these local entities work with local schools to create programs and internships for high school students in efforts to educate the youth about the future of the Bayou's fishing industry.

The following is a suggested list of eco-tourism development strategies that could potentially grow and expand the Bayou's economy. It was derived from a combination of citizen comments from the community survey, input gathered at town hall meetings and planning discussions. It is highly encouraged that the city coordinate with different organizations such as the Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce, the South Mobile County Community Development Corporation and the South Mobile County Tourism Authority (SMCTA) to attract and promote eco-tourism to the Bayou.

- Birding trails & observation towers
- Elevated boardwalks for wildlife viewing
- Kayak/canoe/paddle board outfitters & launching sites
- Environmental education center
- Primitive campgrounds
- Barrier island excursions
- Archery/Shooting ranges
- Hunting areas
- Beach development
- Biking, hiking & nature trails
- Scenic overlooks
- Fisherman's markets
- Fishing piers
- Charter fishing/boat rental
- Parks & amphitheater
- Disc golf course/driving range
- U-Pick Farms/pumpkin patch/tree farms

- Zip-line park

*Examples of Eco-Tourism Development*



### BUSINESS INCUBATORS

Traditionally, the role of business incubators has been to support the growth and development of an existing start-up company. Research has shown that incubators can play an even more powerful role in job creation and the overall economic growth of a community by providing broader support at a number of levels. Critical factors that enable them to flourish include mentorship and business skills training, the creation of networks and peer groups, and the provision of a physical space with affordable rent and services.

After Hurricane Katrina in the 1995, cottages were built to house displaced residents of the Gulf Coast. Years later, the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi used these “Katrina Cottages” to create a business incubator development in the city to spur economic growth. The development is called Anchor Square. It is a city-managed small business incubator located on the waterfront in Pascagoula. It is a collection of 16 “Katrina Cottages” arranged around a charming boardwalk and town green. The cottages are home to an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, galleries, and studios. It is recommended that city leaders investigate this economic opportunity to assist entrepreneurs in their businesses endeavors and to develop more business opportunities for the city.



### FILM INDUSTRY

Cities along the Gulf Coast are increasingly being selected by Hollywood filmmakers for set locations. The Bayou’s environmental setting provides prime locations for film making opportunities. It is recommended that city leaders work with the Alabama Film Institute to exploit the Bayou to filmmakers in efforts to recruit the film industry to the area and create economic development.

In summary, Bayou La Batre is a city that provides jobs to approximately 2,000 people a day. These workers depend on the Bayou for their employment and primary source of income. Of this large number, approximately 1,700 of them do not live in the community. With this many additional people in the city each day, there is a tremendous opportunity to capture their dollars with the establishment

of more dining, shopping, lodging and housing opportunities. There is much potential lying in the foundation of the economy as well. City leaders, community leaders, business owners, fishermen, farmers, and entrepreneurs alike, must investigate novel and alternate methods that will grow and diversify the existing economy to grow new industries and new business opportunities for the Bayou.

### RECYCLING & TECHNOLOGY

Bayou La Batre has made a national name for itself due in part to the innovative and ground breaking recycling efforts currently underway at the Gulf Coast Agriculture and Seafood CO-OP (GCASC). The GCASC is a leader in new methods of recycling that many other similar industries are learning from and modeling their technology after. The GCASC is projected to be a major, cutting-edge industry in the future. Expansion plans are in the works to include additional products manufactured and educational programs for high school students. The initiatives in the Plan chart a course to demonstrate the potential of Bayou La Batre as a city where technology fuels innovation, opportunity, diversity, engagement and inclusion for everyone. The goal is to choose multiple technologies that can grow and change with the city and that supports strategic objectives. Technology based strategies that will accelerate economic growth, build an educated and digitally engaged community and workforce, improve government services and reduce costs. Plans and opportunities for partnering with private companies, Universities and other organizations should be explored in efforts to build world class digital platforms that increase revenues across the city, nation and internationally. Technology Internships with local high schools should be established to cultivate the potential and talent of the local youth, who will ultimately be our future leaders.

# CHAPTER 4

## COMMUNITY INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

### EXISTING INVENTORY

A community requires a wide variety of services and facilities to function properly and to ensure that the basic health and safety needs of residents are met. New developments and increasing populations can strain roads, city utilities, infrastructure and public safety capacities. It is essential that a city provide sufficient services and adequate facilities to accommodate all age groups of the existing and future populations of the city. This will promote a high quality of life and a safe, sustainable, and desirable community in which people will want to reside. This section of the Plan examines the existing condition of the fundamental components encompassed within the city. It also provides a current inventory of all existing city services and facilities available to the citizens and offers an assessment of their present conditions.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Population growth and development place considerable strains on infrastructure in a community. City leaders focus much of their energies on the repair and replacement of aging infrastructure and are responsible for creating infrastructures such as transportation, communication, water and drainage networks to foster economic growth, improve public health systems and maintain the community. Infrastructure development is a vital component in encouraging a city's economic growth. Developing infrastructure enhances a city's productivity, resulting in more competitive businesses and industries and boosting a region's economy. Not only does infrastructure in itself enhance the efficiency of production, transportation, and communication, but the quality of infrastructure in a city will entice and recruit economic developers. Some of the existing infrastructure needs in Bayou La Batre that





should be addressed in the near future are as follows:

- Extension of the effluent force main outfall line to be increased to a distance of an additional 2-4 miles in Portersville Bay
- Reduce iron and manganese concentration levels in Shine Well
- Increase water flow rates to lower ISO rating, resulting in lower homeowner's insurance
- Upgrade distribution system with installation of larger lines and looping system
- Upgrade lift stations within current collection system with larger pumps and new structures
- Improve drainage throughout city

### TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

The transportation network in a community is important because it connects residents and businesses to their region. The type, quality and location of these transportation networks influence the quality of life and the overall health of the community. As a result, an adequate transportation system that provides safe and efficient movement of persons and goods is vital to the growth of a community and its economy. This section will identify and evaluate the existing transportation elements, examine current deficiencies, and look at future transportation needs based on projected growth and development. Alternative modes of transportation, such as walking trails, bike paths, and public transportation will also be explored and further discussed in the Goals and Recommendations chapter of this Plan.

The main hub of Bayou La Batre has developed along the north-south axis of Alabama Highway 188, extending from Grand Bay and running throughout the main section of the city as Wintzell Avenue, and continuing east toward Coden. The city is accessible by several other transportation routes that are made up of arterial roads, collector roads and local streets. Bayou La Batre's geographic location in the southernmost portion of Mobile County, amidst extensive waterways and wetlands and the vast expanse of undeveloped land present a challenge for transportation.

The existing transportation network for the city provides an adequate means of transportation throughout the community and linkages to adjacent communities. However, Wintzell Avenue or Highway 188 is at full capacity due to the increase in traffic volume and the number of heavy duty supply vehicles traveling on it during the daytime hours to access the shipyards. This roadway and others throughout the network are showing signs of age and stress, which will continue to be an ongoing problem as the city grows and develops. As the shipbuilding industry grows in the Bayou, so do the traffic issues. These issues were a common topic of conversation and concern that were heard from the public during the planning process. The overcrowding of Wintzell causes major traffic congestion and delays, and the 18-wheeler trucks plowing down small residential roads compromise

the integrity of the surrounding neighborhoods and present a danger to the residents. Citizens of the Bayou understand that workers and suppliers have to access the shipyards, but not at the expense of overtaking the local roadways and creating a daily traffic nuisance. The city must work with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to create an alternate transportation route for shipyard access. See the *Proposed Future Transportation Map* in *Chapter 5, Land Use & Growth Management* chapter of this Plan, which identifies possible locations for industrial access routes to supply the shipyards that would not disturb the residential neighborhoods or interfere with local traffic routes that residents utilize on a daily basis. It also illustrates new roads that are needed for proper connectivity and access throughout the city. Other problems identified with the existing transportation network include:

- Many roads are in poor condition and in need of resurfacing
- Several routes do not properly connect with adjoining routes to provide alternative access in and out of city
- Many roads are in need of extensions to provide proper ingress and egress for public safety vehicles
- Multiple curb cuts along Wintzell Ave. which interfere with the flow of traffic
- No public transportation system
- Not enough sidewalk and pedestrian system connection various areas of the city
- Need for additional signage and wayfinding to businesses and points of interest
- Service road is needed along Wintzell for easier access to adjacent business and Wintzell

Road Access

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) provides a functional classification system that categorizes streets by a hierarchical system based on street function. The purpose of this system is to

State Route 188 (Wintzell Ave)	Minor Arterial
County Road 23-Padgett-Switch Rd.	Minor Arterial
County Road 19-BLB-Irvington Hwy	Major Collector
Deakle Road	Minor Collector

Source: ALDOT

balance traffic flow and accessibility. The corporate limits of Bayou La Batre contain several different roadways that include Minor Arterials, Major and Minor Collectors and Local Roads. The functional classification of roads in Bayou La Batre are listed in *Table 9* See map in *Figure 14* for traffic counter locations.

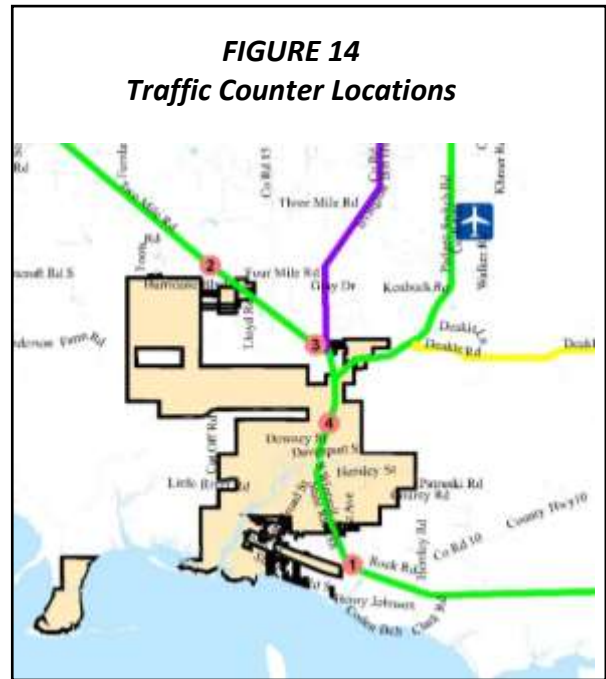
Average Daily Traffic Volumes

Average daily traffic counts for the city were obtained from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). *Table 10* displays nine ALDOT traffic count locations from 2009 – 2013.

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These counts represent average daily traffic volumes at particular locations within the city’s corporate limits and surrounding area.

The table also identifies the roadways’ Level of Service (LOS) rating. ALDOT assigns volume capacities to roadways in order to determine the performance of a transportation facility within a network. Daily traffic volumes are assessed to determine the road’s LOS rating. There are six LOS categories, A through F, with A being the least congested and most desirable, and F being the most congested and least desirable. A review of this model determined that the Bayou’s transportation corridors are currently operating at a LOS of A and C.



**FIGURE 14**  
**Traffic Counter Locations**

<b>TABLE 10</b>									
<b>Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts Around Bayou La Batre, 2009-2014</b>									
	<b>Traffic Counter Location</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>LOS</b>
<b>1</b>	AL188 in Coden, NW of Rabby St.	4,560	4,630	4,540	3,430	3,460	3,730	-18.2%	A
<b>2</b>	AL188 between CR15 and Lee Bishop Rd.	6,530	6,440	6,343	5,670	5,840	6,310	-3.4%	A
<b>3</b>	AL 188 north of Padgett Switch Rd.	12,500	12,710	12,300	10,010	9,770	11,200	-10.4%	A
<b>4</b>	Wintzell Ave. south of University Rd.	14,560	14,810	14,587	11,380	12,780	13,920	-4.4%	C

*Source: ALDOT and Mobile County*

### PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of Bayou La Batre has a total area of 4.2 square miles of which 4 square miles is land, and 0.2 square miles (3.59%), is water. The current population of Bayou La Batre is approximately 2,646, but the City’s police and fire departments serve an additional population of approximately 4,000 people who reside outside the city limits. The Bayou La Batre Police and Fire Departments are lead by strong, experienced leaders that provide area residents with quality care and superior protection. Overall confidence in the public safety departments is high amongst Bayou residents, which was proven

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through comments received from the Community Survey, that overwhelmingly indicated that 80-90 percent of the citizens feel both departments provide excellent response times and feel their city is a safe and secure community.

City leaders know that one of the most important factors in attracting new residents and businesses to Bayou La Batre is the ability to provide quality public safety services and in order to develop the community over the next twenty years, it is crucial that the public safety departments are prepared to grow, respond and expand their services by equipping them with proper equipment and sufficient manpower in order to provide professional and reliable fire and police services to the community. They also recognize the public safety departments have always been forced to meet a high demand load on limited resources, and they are committed to solving the daily issues and challenges that both departments continually face. The City initiated and funded a Public Safety Needs Assessment study in January of 2015 to identify the needs and expose deficiencies currently plaguing the city's police and fire departments by analyzing the present status of both departments in terms of administration, facilities, human resources, finances, equipment, technology and community relations. The study revealed the strengths among both departments were similar in qualities such as:

- Provide rapid response times for fire, rescue and EMS service calls
- The internal chain of command is effective
- Communications and relationships with the city and residents is good
- Internal communications are open and responsive
- Relationships with neighboring departments are strong
- Employees are committed and accountable

The study also revealed the most pressing needs of both departments that are presently plaguing and hindering their efforts to service the community to the best of their abilities. A comprehensive list of recommendations to remedy these needs are listed in the Goals and Recommendations Chapter of this Plan. Most of the current needs and vulnerabilities are related to:

- Outdated and sub-standard facilities and equipment
- Insufficient number of personnel
- Design and relocate a new public safety complex, that includes the FD, PD and jail, outside of the flood zone
- Develop a dedicated website for both departments
- Upgrade and install surveillance and security systems
- Upgrade and acquire new technology
- Prepare and Update strategic plans and procedures manuals

- Conduct annual performance reports
- Provide more training
- Limit language barriers
- Provide proper ingress and egress points to access the department
- Diversification needed among personnel

### Police Department

The Bayou La Batre Police Department staff provides police protection to a jurisdiction that encompasses the city limits and communities that lie within three miles outside the city limits. The PD is located at 8725 Delcambre Street and presently employs a Chief, Lieutenant, five (5) dispatchers and fifteen (15) sworn officers. Of the



Of the fifteen officers, eleven (11) are patrol officers and two (2) work criminal investigations. The department operates on a 24-hour police patrol, with 2 to 3 officers patrolling a 12 hour shift. They maintain a fleet inventory of seventeen (17) vehicles, eleven of which are marked patrol cars. Officers consistently achieve a response time of 2-3 minutes, on average. All officers and dispatchers are required to attend annual trainings and obtain re-certification status. The city's new jail facility is located inside the Bayou La Batre PD. The Public Safety Needs Assessment indicated the PD currently supplies a satisfactory inventory of personal protection gear, weapons and special purpose vehicles for the officers. Additionally it indicated that although the police station, lacks visibility and sufficient security measures, it contains adequate space for all critical functions for a department of its size. Additional needs revealed through the study are as follows (a comprehensive list can be found in the Public Safety Needs Assessment document):

- Replace the older, aging patrol vehicles in the patrol fleet
- Establish water surveillance patrols to ensure the safety of the port and bayou
- Purchase basic supplies and equipment for day-to-day operations of department
- Install and upgrade computers and software
- Install directional signage to indicate location of PD
- Provide proper ingress and egress points to access department
- Install and replace window glass throughout department with bullet-proof glass

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- Replace interior doors
- Update and review all inmate processing protocols
- Install appropriate security, surveillance and alarm systems throughout the department
- Review police salary schedule annually
- Seek funding opportunities for additional staff, equipment, facilities and supplies
- Create employee assistance program
- Provide additional training for officers and dispatchers
- Implement a fleet rotation plan
- Eliminate language barriers
- Employ more minority officers
- Find affordable options to improve communications with BLBFD

Public comments received from the Community Survey revealed that most residents, 73 percent, feel that Bayou La Batre is a safe community. All segments of the community commented positively with regards to police patrol visibility, response times and community outreach, according to the Public Safety Needs Assessment. Crime report data obtained from the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) is listed in *Table 11* from 2003 thru 2013, which indicates the number of thefts, robberies, assaults and other crimes that have occurred in Bayou La Batre. The table reveals the number of all forms of crimes dropped significantly in 2013, compared to prior years.

<b>TABLE 11</b>											
<b>Uniform Crime Report Data, Bayou La Batre, 2003-2013</b>											
CRIME	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	4	4	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Robbery	8	6	3	5	4	10	3	0	3	5	0
Assault	22	17	16	9	20	11	48	22	25	42	5
Burglary	149	141	54	69	70	73	52	62	75	77	10
Larceny (Theft)	255	289	143	171	229	184	114	90	107	124	21
Motor Vehicle Theft	25	39	21	34	26	18	21	20	25	28	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>38</b>

*Source: Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC): Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC)*

This data is evaluated by federal and state funding agencies to determine eligibility for law enforcement grant awards. It can also be useful in identifying growing crime rates, types of crime, and specific crime trends within the community.

### Fire Department

The Bayou La Batre Fire Department provides fire protection, prevention and emergency medical services to the City of Bayou La Batre and approximately 10 square miles of rural communities outside of the city limits. The Fire Department responds to emergencies through a dispatch system distributed by the Mobile County Central 911 Emergency System. Volunteers respond to structural fires, motor vehicle fires, wood fires, search and rescue and motor vehicle accidents. They also provide assistance with emergency ambulance service when needed and assist with CPR calls. The Department has a mutual aid agreement between itself and several local fire departments in the neighboring communities of Theodore, St. Elmo, Fowl River, Alabama Port, and Grand Bay. Support from any of these fire departments will be dispatched if the emergency situation requires their services.

The department is located at 13785 South Wintzell Avenue. It is staffed with a crew of nine (9) full time paid firefighters, including a Chief and an Assistant Chief, and six to ten (6-10) volunteer firefighters who are unpaid. The FD relies heavily on these volunteers to supplement the paid employees. They have mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments should any of them need assistance and additional back up during a fire event. The Fire Department also provides back up power for the city in the event of a power outage.

The quality of fire services is directly proportional to the availability of water via fire hydrants and water lines. Residential and commercial customers depend on a consistent supply of municipal water for normal consumption as well as for fire protection. Homeowner's insurance rates are affected by the quality of fire services in a community as well. Insurance companies use a uniform system called an ISO, on which to base their insurance premiums. ISO stands for Insurance Service Organization, which is a group of trained, professional evaluators that assess almost every fire department in the U.S. ISO uses a consistent set of guidelines to evaluate a fire department and base the fire department's rating on many factors including the number of personnel on duty, training level of personnel (paid or volunteer), the amount of water the fire department can get to a fire, and the amount and quality of equipment used (such as fire engines and hand tools). They use a ranking system of 1 thru 10, with a 1 being the best and 10 being the worst. The higher the quality control in a fire department will yield a lower ISO rating, creating lower rates for homeowner's insurance that can be passed on directly to every homeowner in the community. Presently, the ISO rating for the Bayou La Batre FD within the city limits is six (6) and within the extra territorial jurisdiction is nine (9).

The Public Safety Needs Assessment indicated that most citizens feel the Bayou La Batre FD provides

a superior quality of service, including emergency management services, however, much of the fire department's resources are spent on responding to EMS calls located outside the city limits. Although the FD is presently located in a flood prone area, the site provides maximum visibility for the department. Most citizens surveyed commented how much they appreciate the public access and approachability the FD provides to the public, giving them a feeling of safety and security.

The FD currently maintains a fleet of seven trucks and vehicles, but is in need of many other vehicle and equipment replacements. Both tanker/pumper trucks are old and have reached the end of their serviceability. Most if not all of the personal protective equipment is beyond serviceability and should be retired. The study revealed a lack of water rescue operations, training or equipment by FD personnel. Given the Bayou's close proximity to the waterfront, the absence of this service should be remedied soon as possible. The following is a list of additional needs and vulnerabilities the FD is currently confronting and attempting to resolve. They are as follows ( a comprehensive list can be found in the Public Safety Needs Assessment document):

- Replace trucks and vehicles
- Replace all protective equipment and EMS equipment
- Purchase Biochemical hazard gear and Communications equipment
- Work with the National Fire Protection Association to lower ISO rating
- Relocate facility and combine with Police Department to develop a new public safety complex
- Establish location for new Fire Department Annex
- Establish an agreement with neighboring fire departments to ensure dispatch protocols are clarified
- Determine extent of problems occurring presently with FD structure
- Review firefighter salary schedule annually
- Implement fire protection fee for EMS calls outside of city limits
- Seek funding opportunities for additional personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities
- Establish and implement water rescue operations
- Establish a community-wide notification system

### **PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

The Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) is the largest school system in Alabama, serving 59,000 students in 90 schools. It is also the largest employer in Mobile County with 7,600 employees. The school system has 12 Blue Ribbon schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and four of Alabama's six Torchbearer schools. Anna Booth Elementary School, which services the community of Bayou La Batre, has earned both of these highly regarded distinctions, and most



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recently earned a B+ rating, for overall quality performance. MCPSS provides state of the art infrastructure for technology, offering wireless Internet in all of its schools to support students using digital devices daily including laptops and tablets. All classrooms have interactive SMART boards for instruction and students are being encouraged through a district-wide digital literacy program to use technology to research and complete projects and classroom activities. Signature Academies are offered and housed in all twelve (12) high schools throughout the district, all of which specialize and provide education and training in the following fields of study:

- Aviation and Aerospace
- Manufacturing, Industry and Technology
- Health
- Teaching and Learning
- Coastal Studies (Offered at Alma Bryant High School, servicing Bayou La Batre community)
- International Studies
- Industry and Engineering
- Maritime, Engineering and Entrepreneurship

The City of Bayou La Batre is served by the Mobile County Public School System. Within the city limits and surrounding area, there are presently two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. These schools receive and educate students from Bayou La Batre and the neighboring areas of Coden, Grand Bay, Irvington, St. Elmo, Alabama Port and Dauphin Island and they area as follows:

### ANNA F. BOOTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Named after longtime educator, Anna Booth, the new six million dollar facility can accommodate a capacity of 600 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The school is located adjacent to Alma Bryant High School at 17001 Hurricane Boulevard in Irvington. It has a current enrollment of 557 students and according to state standards, 96% of the students are considered



proficient in math and/or reading. The school has a faculty of approximately 50 teachers and support staff. It offers a variety of academic programs, and has earned many distinguished honors, titles and awards, including being named a *Torchbearer School*, the with most recent award of being designated as a *Blue Ribbon School*. The U.S. Department of Education describes Blue Ribbon Schools as “models for other schools throughout the nation,” as they are considered high performing schools.

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### DIXON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dixon School was established in 1900 as the Dixon Corner School and was destroyed by a hurricane in 1906. The present main building was established in 1968. It is located at 8650 Four Mile Road in Irvington. It services students in grades Pre-Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade and has a current enrollment of 440 students and employs approximately 42 teachers and support staff. It offers a wide range of academic programs and extracurricular activities.

### PETER F. ALBA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Located at 14180 South Wintzell in Bayou La Batre, Alba Middle School services 717 area children in grades 6 thru 8. The original school building was built in 1918. A new addition to the school was constructed in 1962 that provided a library, marine technology classes and additional classrooms. The student population has grown over 20 percent over the last five years. The school employs approximately 42 teachers and support staff and maintains a student/teacher ratio of 18 to 1.

### ALMA BRYANT HIGH SCHOOL

Bryant High School was established in 1998 with the joining of Alba High School in Bayou La Batre and Grand Bay High School. It is named after Alma Bryant, an influential educator in south Mobile County. Located at 14001 Hurricane Boulevard off of Highway 188, approximately half way between Grand Bay, Alabama and the city of Bayou La Batre. The school employs a full-time teaching staff of over 100 educators, many of which are award winning teachers, and 22 administrative and support staff. It has a current enrollment of 1,700 students in grades 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>. It offers the Signature Academy of Coastal Studies that offers five different training programs in Coastal Environmental Science that include: environmental management, aquaculture, maritime and industrial technology, and tourism.



Alma Bryant High School is proud to have recently increased their graduation rate to 86 percent and even more recently, has been awarded Cambridge International School status by Cambridge International Examinations. The partnership between Alma Bryant and Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge in England, makes Bryant High School the first school in Alabama to offer the prestigious academic program that provides specialized classes to students that are recognized and valued by universities and employers around the world.

### EDUCATIONAL & TRAINING FACILITIES

Bayou La Batre is home to two other educational facilities that offer continuing adult educational opportunities and they are:

- [BOAT PEOPLE SOS \(BPSOS\)](#)
- [SEA SCHOOL](#)

### BOAT PEOPLE SOS (BPSOS)

This program was established in 2006 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to respond to the disaster and recovery needs of the community. Since the hurricane, BPSOS has extended their services to the refugee and immigrant families and residents with programs that educate and equip them with the tools and skills they need to be more self sufficient and successful in the community. They are located at 11457 Wintzell Avenue in Bayou La Batre.

### SEA SCHOOL

Sea School is a unique facility that offers over 52 U.S. Coast Guard approved maritime training courses. With over 36 years experience in Coast Guard licensing, regulations and maritime education, the facility is considered to be the premier maritime training school in the country. Bayou La Batre is home to one of the nine branches the school offers throughout the United States and Caribbean. It is located at 9180 Little River Road and is opened five days a week.



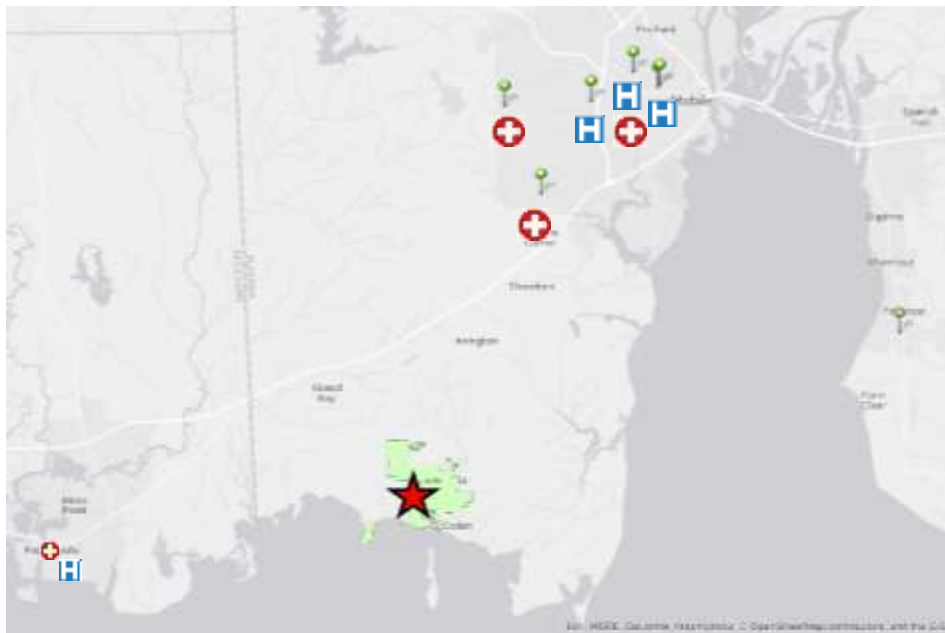
### HEALTHCARE FACILITIES & SERVICES

Bayou La Batre offers a wide variety of health care services to area residents that employ highly-trained doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals who are committed to providing quality medical services and care to everyone in need. They range from general family medical practice to mental healthcare, dental care services, pediatric and women's healthcare to prescription services. Offering state of the art technology, all of the healthcare facilities throughout the Bayou are accessible and affordable and can provide medical attention in an emergency situation. The following is a comprehensive list of the names and locations of the numerous medical centers and clinics, dental centers, pharmacies and medical programs available throughout the Bayou.

- Mostellar Medical Center
- Bayou Clinic
- Mostellar Dental Center
- Altapointe Psychiatric Health Systems
- Providence Hospital Bus
- Life South Bloodmobile
- Franklin Dental Express
- Bayou Pharmacy
- Lloyd's Pharmacy
- CVS Pharmacy
- Fred's Pharmacy
- Pregnancy Counseling Services

There is a need for a helicopter landing pad, or a helipad landing in Bayou La Batre to serve as an air ambulance in order to transport trauma patients to the nearby hospitals located throughout the Mobile area. The closest full service hospital facility to Bayou La Batre is Springhill Hospital, located in Mobile, and Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, Mississippi, both of which are an approximate 30 minute commute from the Bayou. There are numerous hospitals throughout the greater Mobile metropolitan area, all of which are more than a 30 minute drive from Bayou La Batre. The map in *Figure 15* indicates the locations of the closest hospitals and urgent care facilities to Bayou La Batre and throughout the area.

**FIGURE 15**  
**Location of Area Hospital and Urgent Care Facilities**  
**Near Bayou La Batre**



## COMMUNITY BUILDINGS & SERVICES

The following list of community buildings and services presents a brief inventory and analyses of existing public facilities and services offered to the citizens of Bayou La Batre and neighboring communities.

### City Hall

The Bayou La Batre City Hall was built in 1980 and is located at 13785 South Wintzell Avenue. It houses the city offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, Assistant City Clerk, Court Magistrate, Building Official, and other Administration where the daily operations of the city are administered.



### City Government

The City of Bayou La Batre was incorporated in 1955 and is currently classified as a Class 8 municipality in Alabama. The city's government operates under a Mayor-Council form of government. The governing body is composed of a mayor and five council members whom are elected at-large. The City Council meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

The City's Planning Commission is made up of nine members who consists of the Mayor, or the Mayor's appointed representative, a Council member, an administrative official, and six volunteer citizens. The Planning Commission meets once a month and is responsible for creating and administering the planning and regulatory documents for the city that include, the Comprehensive Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. The Commission reviews all subdivisions and zoning matters and oversees the overall growth and development of the city.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is an appellate board responsible for hearing and ruling on zoning matters dealing with administrative appeals, special exceptions and variances. They are a five member board and meet on an as-needed basis.

### Municipal Court

Court sessions are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Bayou La Batre Community Center located at 12745 Padgett Switch Road.

### Community Center

The Bayou La Batre Community Center provides a gathering place for community members to meet and participate in a variety of activities and programs . It serves as the community's post-disaster response emergency center. It is home to many of the community services, including the Senior Citizens Center and the Chamber of Commerce. The Center is opened five days a week and is located at 12745 Padgett Switch Road. The large facility was built in 1984 and is well equipped with a full-sized gymnasium, a 1,200-seat auditorium, concession area, industrial kitchen, screened outdoor cooking area, as well as banquet and conference rooms, all of which are available for rent. Numerous programs and classes are offered to all members of the community and all ages that include:



- Fitness Classes-Boot Camp, Yoga
- Martial Arts- Taekwondo
- GED Classes
- Archery
- Basketball
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes

### Senior Citizens Center

The Bayou La Batre Senior Center is provided to all area residents, age sixty and older and serves as the hub for local services, programs and activities for the elderly population. It is opened five days a week and is located inside the Bayou La Batre Community Center at 12745 Padgett Switch Road. The staff is committed to facilitating the social, physical and emotional well-being of their clients and offers a wide variety of programs and services that include:



- Transportation
- Meals on Wheels
- Daily Lunches
- Field trips
- Arts & Crafts
- Exercise classes
- Bingo
- Devotional
- Games, movies and other activities

### Chamber of Commerce

The Bayou La Batre Area Chamber of Commerce unites businesses, corporations and individuals of the greater Bayou La Batre area. The Chamber is committed to investing in the community and establishing business connections throughout the area. Located inside the Bayou La Batre Community Center, the Chamber holds a monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss development initiatives, schedule community events and create economic development strategies in efforts to recruit more business and tourism opportunity to Bayou La Batre.

### Public Works Department

The city's public works department strives to maintain and provide the best service possible to the citizens of Bayou La Batre. The department is located at 8330 East Rabby Street and employs twelve (12) full time employees. They currently have a fleet of over forty vehicles and equipment to service and maintain. The department is responsible for the service and maintenance for the following within the city limits of Bayou La Batre:

- Drainage
- Mowing
- Roads & ditches
- Vehicle maintenance
- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Parks and recreation maintenance & mowing
- Trash collection

### Utility Board

The Utilities Board of the City of Bayou La Batre administrative offices are located at 13321 Wintzell Avenue. The company currently maintains thirteen employees and is governed by a 5 member Board that is appointed by the City Council. The City of Bayou La Batre purchased the public water system in 1958 to supply the Bayou La Batre, Coden, and Irvington areas of south Mobile County. The company provides municipal water service to 100 percent of the population within the city limits and portions of the area within the planning area of Bayou La Batre. The current water works system consist of two wells, two elevated tanks, one ground storage tank and approximately thirty miles of water mains. The name was changed to the Utilities Board of the City of Bayou La Batre in 1986. The Board owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant, which was originally constructed in 1974 but replaced with a new wastewater treatment facility in 2011 that went online and became



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available to customers in October 2012. The new sewer system is permitted for 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and an average daily design flow with a peak of 9 MGD. The facility normally sees an average wet weather flow of 2 MGD and dry weather flow of 1 MGD. In 2012, the systems served approximately 2,696 customers, 2,435 residential users, 195 commercial users and 66 industrial users. This number is expected to increase in the future. In 2014 the City of Bayou La Batre received a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to provide sanitary sewer services to residents and small businesses east of Bayou La Batre in the unincorporated area of Coden. As a result of this grant, approximately 240 homes in this area were tied into the new sewer system, discontinuing the use of septic tanks, which greatly improved the water quality and surrounding environment.

### Water System

The facilities are owned, operated and maintained by the Board in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and contain the following inventory:

- 2 wells with a combined capacity of 1,200 gallons per minute (GPM)
- 3 water storage tanks
- (1) 500,000 gallon elevated water storage tank
- (1) 300,000 gallon elevated storage tank
- (1) 1,000,000 gallon ground storage tank with hydraulic level of 3,082 ft. above sea level

Well No. 1 pumps 750 GPM and Well No. 2 pumps 450 GPM. Routine treatment for both wells consists of the addition of lime for pH balance, Aqua Gold for corrosion control and chlorine for disinfection.

The distribution system is approximately 30 miles in length and consists of 22 miles of cast/ductile iron pipe and 8 miles of PVC pipe. The main lines are 6", 8", and 12" with smaller pipe feeding minor streets.

The water storage facilities consist of elevated steel water tanks as follows:

Tank	Size/Gallon	Style	Location	Over Flow
1	1,000,000	Ground	Fields Road	167 ft.
2	300,000	Elevated	Vanity Fair	193 ft.
3	500,000	Elevated	Shine Road	210 ft.



### *Sewer System*

The Utility Board provides municipal sewer service to 100 percent of the population within the city limits and portions of the area within the planning area of Bayou La Batre. The sewer system consists of the following inventory, approximately:

- 21 miles of 4 inch to 18 inch collector, interceptor and outfall sewer lines
- 16 lift stations with total capacity of 3.0 MGD
- (1) 3.0 MGD treatment plant
- Manholes
- (1) bayou crossing

Demand and increase in services is expected to rise in the future. In 2014 the City of Bayou La Batre received a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to provide sanitary sewer services to residents and small businesses to areas in southern Mobile County, east of Bayou La Batre in the unincorporated area of Coden. New sewer services will replace failing on-site septic systems in the area that could possibly turn into an environmental hazard if not replaced accordingly.

### *Drainage*

The City is located on the Mississippi Sound and surrounded by numerous other bodies of water. In addition to the surrounding hydrology, the topography of the area is characterized by low-lying, flat lands at or just above sea level in much of the area incorporated within the city limits. These geographical circumstances cause the city to understandably be subject to storm surge and riverine flooding. A Watershed Management Plan is currently being developed to help identify sources of flooding and methods to maintain and manage flood waters. Drainage systems within the City consist of open drainage ditches with culverts that will alleviate surface water run-off from heavy rainfall. Additional infrastructure and drainage methods are needed to control and manage surface waters.

### *Natural Gas*

Bayou La Batre residents receive natural gas services from Mobile Gas. Billing for the utility is administered through the Utilities Board.



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### *Electric Utilities*

Electricity services are provided to Bayou residents by Alabama Power Company.

### *Solid Waste*

The City provides trash services for solid waste disposal. Solid waste services are administered by the Public Works Department. Citizens indicated through the community survey that they would like the City to establish a recycling program.

### Gulf Coast Emergency Response Center

The Coastal Response Center is located at 7385 Highway 188 in Coden. The facility is an 8,000 square foot building that serves as a post-disaster response center, in addition to the Bayou La Batre Community Center, providing a distribution center for Coden, Bayou La Batre and all other neighboring communities. It is home to the administrative offices of South Bay Communities Alliance (SBCA), whose advocacy repaired and renovated the building after Hurricane Katrina. The all-volunteer group advocates for Alabama's coastal communities, which have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina the BP oil spill disaster. They are one of the few facilities in Alabama to provide clean energy by means of solar panels that produce 25,000 kilowatts of solar power, making it one of Alabama's largest solar powered systems in the state. The facility can generate enough power to provide for itself and sell the access to Alabama Power Company.

### Library

The Bayou La Batre Public Library offers numerous educational programs, including translation services and a summer reading program for area children. In accordance with State Code for the establishment of public libraries in the state, the Bayou La Batre Public Library operates under the direction of a five member Board of



Directors. It currently provides approximately 22,000 publications available for rent to registered members of the library and has an annual circulation of approximately 2,000 books and non-books. The library is located at 12747 Padgett Switch Road and is opened five days a week.

[Welcome Center/Museum/Historic Commission](#)

Built in 1933, the Bayou La Batre Historic Commission serves as the city's welcome center, historic commission and museum. It is located at 13885 South Wintzell Avenue and opened weekly, Monday-Thursday. The log cabin building, which was the former library for the city, was severely damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Through various grants totaling \$93,000, the old library building was renovated and restored to the clean, quaint, hardwood-floored jewel it now is. The museum's walls are arrayed with centuries-old Indian artifacts and items from more recent times of the 20th century, such as a giant starfish and other objects related to the city's Gulf Coast heritage and fishing industry.



[Post Office](#)

The U.S. Post Office that serves the community of Bayou La Batre is located at 8761 West Rabby Street, directly behind Regions Bank. It was constructed in 1985 and contains approximately 850 post office boxes. The facility is opened Monday-Saturday.

[Gulf Coast Agricultural and Seafood CO-OP \(GCASC\)](#)

The Gulf Coast Agricultural and Seafood Co-Op (GCASC) is a non-profit Cooperative (Co-Op) located in Bayou La Batre. It is the first of its kind, state of the art, "green" manufacturing facility that enables the local seafood industry to recycle their processing waste into a marketable product. This innovative facility was created and formed by 23 local shrimp and crab companies, whose pioneering efforts are



leading the nation in finding alternative uses for seafood waste. Some of the many products the plant produces include, valuable fertilizer, livestock feed and pharmaceutical supplies. The five million dollar facility is made

completely of recycled materials, and received LEED Gold certification from incorporating numerous environmentally beneficial features, including being powered by self-generated methane biogas and solar energy. The facility has the capacity to process more than 10,000 tons of seafood processing waste annually. By redirecting this much waste from local landfills each year, the facility is providing a huge environmental benefit to the area by improving water quality and reducing pollution in area waterways. Additionally, these recycling processes create 2,500 tons of output per year, which greatly reduces processing waste expenses and provides additional revenues for Co-Op members. The GCASC facility is located at 9450 Little River Road and employs 82 full-time positions at full capacity and maintains 364 full-time employees related to CO-OP members.

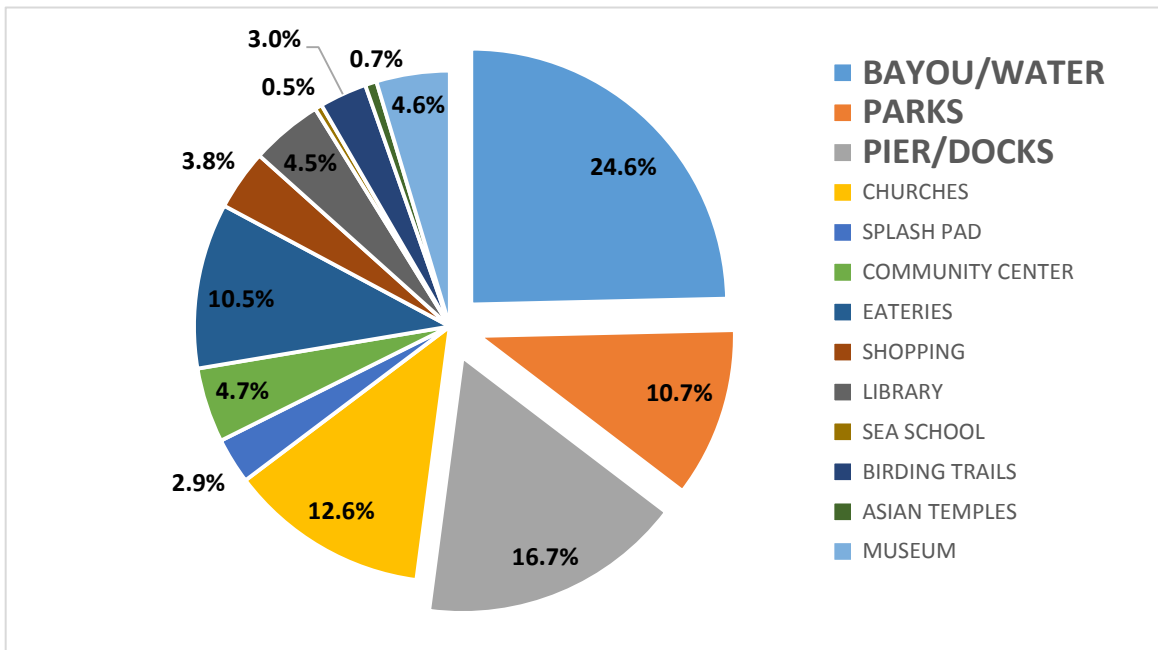
### PARKS, PUBLIC SPACES & WATER ACCESS

Adequate parks, open space and recreation opportunities are all necessary components of a healthy, thriving and active community. Parks are complex components of a city that contribute to the overall health and quality of life in a community and should be accessible and equally distributed throughout a community. They define and characterize a community and the neighborhoods within. Studies prove that residents will utilize outdoor recreation facilities when they are present within their community. Traditional park area standards set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) suggest 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Presently, the City of Bayou La Batre has approximately 60 acres of lands designated for parkland uses and miles of recreational trails. This amount fulfills and far exceeds the NRPA requirement for the city's present and projected population. The city's park and trail systems provide key sports facilities for the youth population.

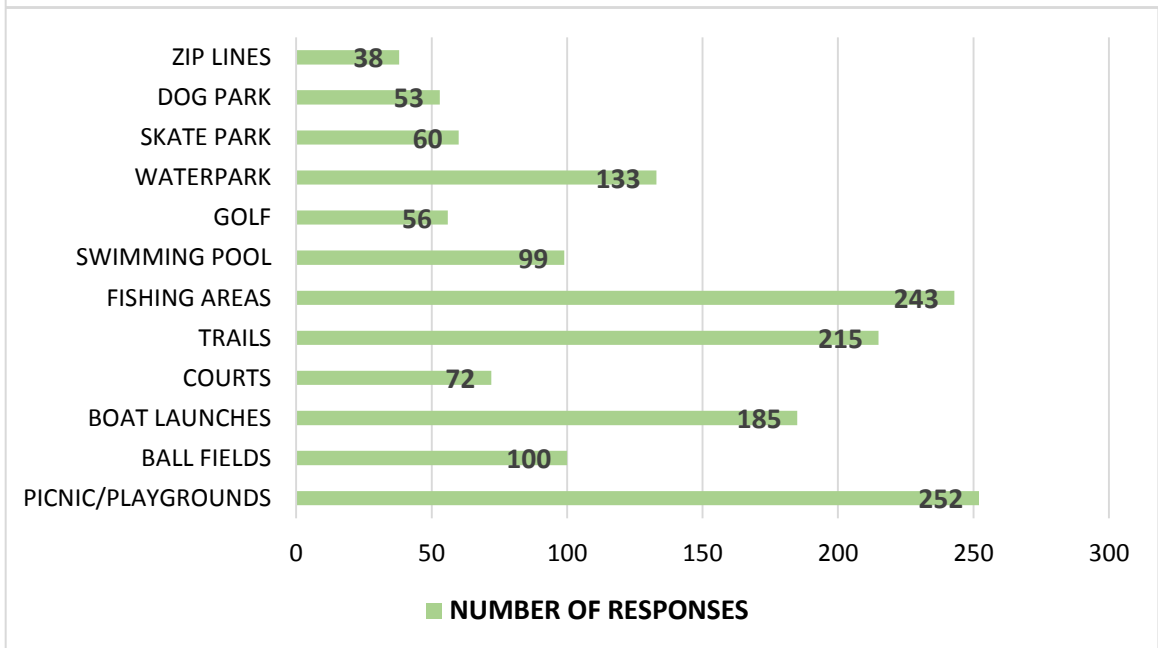
Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Bayou La Batre's current population is age 0-65, with 46 percent considered to be of the dependency population, meaning this group of citizens is comprised of the youth population, ages 0-19 and the elderly population, ages 65 and older. These age groups require specific amenities and services such as parks, playgrounds, ball fields, trails, recreation centers, etc. to meet their specific needs they require for proper development and quality of life.

Through the Community Survey, nearly 60 percent of residents surveyed indicated their favorite places in the Bayou were outdoor venues. Outdoor recreation and facilities are clearly an important part of people's lives in Bayou La Batre. When asked what types of recreational facilities were most needed, citizens overwhelmingly indicated parks, trails, playgrounds and picnic areas, see *Figures 16 & 17* below for survey results.

**FIGURE 16**  
**Community Response to Favorite Place in the City**



**FIGURE 17**  
**Recreational Facilities Most Needed**



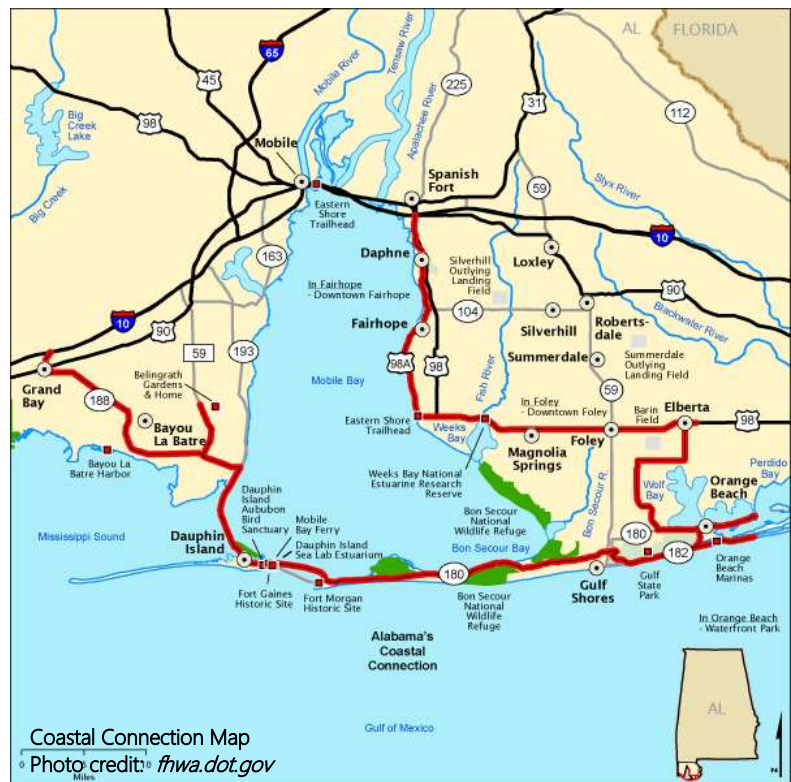
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In addition to offering an attractive setting to spend leisure time, promoting social interaction and providing health benefits, parks create and promote the following:

- **SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS-** *residential areas adjacent to parks and green spaces have lower crime rates*
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-** *enhance property values, increase municipal revenues and attract homebuyers and sports enthusiasts*
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT-** *provides a social gathering place for neighbors and city leaders to interact and communicate*
- **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE-** *ecologically conserves natural resources and ensures ecosystem function and health, sustains clear air and water*
- **TOURISM-** *promote offerings and attractions to target groups seeking out eco-tourism activities and events*
- **PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION-** *outdoor classrooms and learning centers provide hands-on, interactive education opportunity*
- **SENITIVE LANDS-** *utilize environmentally sensitive lands that can't support all types of development and work as natural buffers and filters for habitats and storm protection*
- **SMART GROWTH-** *define the layout, real estate value, traffic flow, public events, and the civic culture of a community, and reveal the natural beauty of a place*

### Parks, Trails & Public Spaces

The City of Bayou La Batre currently owns and operates eight (8) public parks, a splash pad and several playgrounds. In addition to the numerous parks and amount of open space located throughout the city, there are also many trails and scenic routes that run throughout the community, some of which are known and traveled on a national level, including Coastal Connection. The city is a member city of the federally designated scenic byway, Coastal Connection, which brings many visitors to the community each year, along with many other Alabama state



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trails that include; AL Civil War Trail, AL Birding Trail, AL Biking Trail, AL Oyster Trail, and the U.S. Bicycling Route System. All of the city parks and outdoor recreation facilities are maintained by the city's Public Works Department. Presently, there is not an established Parks & Recreation Board in place to oversee park management, however, the city is working to re-establish this service to the community. Additionally, the city is working to include Rolston Park into the Coastal Connection route, exposing this wonderful waterfront park to all who visit the scenic byway. Residents who participated in the Community Survey overwhelmingly indicated there was a need for the development of more parks, walking trails, picnic areas and playgrounds throughout the city. It is highly encouraged that the city seek funding through agencies such as Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and the National Park and Recreation Association (NPRA) to fund additional trails and other outdoor recreational facilities to promote exercise and improve the overall health and quality of life for residents of the Bayou.



### Alabama Coastal Birding Trail

Bayou La Batre provides critical habitat for hundreds of bird species, from the Endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker to the now flourishing Bald Eagle. Interest in wildlife observation continues to grow, and more and more people want to explore the area's amazing biodiversity. The Alabama Birding Trails highlight the best public locations for bird watching year-round. The eight Alabama Birding Trails unify existing and potential birding sites into a series of cohesive trails and loops that are collectively marketed as part of a state-wide system. The trail offers 270 sites along the various trails, which are visited and



being used by thousands of birders and other visitors annually. Bayou La Batre is home to several of the sites on the trail. Some of the bird species that can be found on the Dauphin Island-Bayou La Batre Loop are: Whimbrel, whose flock sizes can grow into the hundreds, making the Bayou one of the premier places in coastal Alabama to observe this species during migration.

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Also found are: American Kestrel, Loggerhead Shrike, Field Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Painted Bunting, Swallow-tailed Kite, and many others. The Birding Trails project provides a major attraction for nature-loving tourists, while offering exciting birding opportunities for Alabama's school groups, families, and seasoned birders. It is highly encouraged that the city explore ways to expose and capitalize upon the birding industry in the Bayou.

### Water Access

The amount of waterfront encompassed within the corporate limits of Bayou La Batre is approximately 6 miles of coastline. While the majority of this area is native beach, swamp and salt marsh, there are coastal areas that have the potential for development. Bayou La Batre is a coastal city that is not utilizing most of its waterfront opportunity to its fullest potential. The waterfront in the Bayou is

primarily dominated by privately owned and operated seafood processing plants, commercial offloading docks, and shipyards. While this industry is the life-line for the Bayou's economy, a huge economic opportunity is being overlooked due to the lack of commercial and tourism development along the shores of the



Bayou and adjacent coastline. Survey respondents indicated more water access points throughout the city are needed, for all citizens to access and enjoy the waterfront. Through town hall meetings and planning workshops, the majority of residents expressed their desire to see the waterfront in the Bayou developed in a fashion that would open it up to the public, possibly by means of an elevated boardwalk. People from all walks of life will flock to attractive areas that offer waterfront access. The city has the potential to greatly capitalize upon this type of development. It is highly encouraged that funding is secured to acquire and develop this limited amount of space for commercial and eco-tourism development for all to enjoy.

Presently, the only public water access points available are the boat launch located at Lightning Point and the pier at Rolston Park. The launch at Lightning Point has one boat ramp and two courtesy docks. The mouth of the Bayou offers prime fishing opportunity, however, the existing fishing pier is not substantial enough to accommodate the needs of the residents. It is in need of repair and expansion. An additional pier is needed to access the water front in other locations within the city.



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Survey respondents indicated there is a considerable need for another boat launch, more areas for fishing opportunity, and more water access points throughout the city, so all citizens can enjoy the waterfront. Additionally, residents expressed their desire to see a new public beach developed along the coast line of Bayou La Batre with access to the adjacent nearshore waters of Portersville Bay. The existing boat launch at the State Docks is in need of expansion, as well as in need of additionally parking and dockage. It is highly recommended that the city seek funding to acquire property for the



Boat launch at Lightning Point  
Photo credit: City of Bayou La Batre

development and expansion of Lightning Point, to offer full-service marina services and accommodations, and to investigate areas for proper water access locations and seek funding to acquire and develop these areas as well.

### Beautification Committee

There is an established Beautification Committee within the community. The Beautification Committee is responsible for many community development projects that occur in the city. Residents who volunteer on the committee coordinate with local businesses to promote the cleanliness and beautification of the community, and create community development projects that will enhance the city's appearance and aesthetics.

*Table 12* provides a comprehensive list of each park, playground and trail within the Bayou La Batre and Coden area, including the physical address, the facilities offered and number of acres each park contains. The map in *Figure 18* identifies the location of each park, trail and water access point available to the citizens of the Bayou area.

The Bayou La Batre Planning Commission conducted many work sessions, town hall meetings and surveys throughout the planning process and asked citizens for park development ideas. The following is a list of additional comments and suggestions collected from the public throughout the planning process, and they are as follows:

- Create a new kayak launch
- Provide better water access at Rolston Park

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- Rebuild and extend pier at Rolston Park
- Create a new fishing pier at Lightning Point
- Develop a full-service\_marina at Lightning Point
- Build more playgrounds
- Build more walking and bike trails
- Develop campgrounds to offer primitive camping opportunity
- Create a public beach and swimming area along Portersville Bay
- Open up Bayou waterfront to public through the construction of a city boardwalk
- Develop more paddle trails and establish a kayak rental facility
- Create a park around old Artesian Wells to attract tourism
- Combine Leroy Cain Park, John Thomas Park, and adjacent undeveloped lands to develop larger park space for community: "Heritage Park" to include Black History Trail, Asian Culture Center, Amphitheatre, Interpretive museum, softball, soccer, and other multi-purpose fields.



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**TABLE 12**  
**Bayou La Batre's Existing Park & Trail Inventory**

PARK NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	AMENITIES & FACILITIES
Lucille Zirlott Park	Padgett Switch Road	23	Lighted baseball, football, soccer fields, concessions, restrooms
Bosarge Park	Railroad Street	2	Soccer field
Leroy Cain Park	8331 E. Rabby Street	5	
Rolston Park	7880 Coden Belt	11	Playground equipment, picnic tables, pavilions, pier, water access
Maritime Park	13765 So. Wintzell Ave.	< 1	Splash Pad
John Thomas Park	East Alba Street	< .5	
Lightning Point Park	14945 City Docks Road	13	State docks, fishing piers, boat launch
City Centre Park	13805 Shellbelt Road	< .5	Park benches, Sharon Darlene fishing vessel monument, Oyster Shell kiosk
Oyster Trail	Throughout Mobile & Baldwin Counties		26 Informative kiosks offering educational opportunity
Alabama Coastal Connection	Statewide		Nationally designated scenic byway indicating location & providing connections to local beaches, downtowns, wildlife preserves, historical site, restaurants
AL Birding Trail	Statewide	200 miles	Six birding loops offering regional assemblages of migratory & native bird species
Forever Wild Birding Trail/Boardwalk	Marine Laboratory Road	900 feet	Birding trail and boardwalk, access to Sandy Bay
Civil War Trail	Statewide		Highlighting local historic battlegrounds of the Civil War
Motorcycle Trail	Statewide		
Alabama Bicycle Trail	Statewide		
Safe Harbor Park	Neighborhood Park	<.5	Playground equipment

ALABAMA OYSTER TRAIL



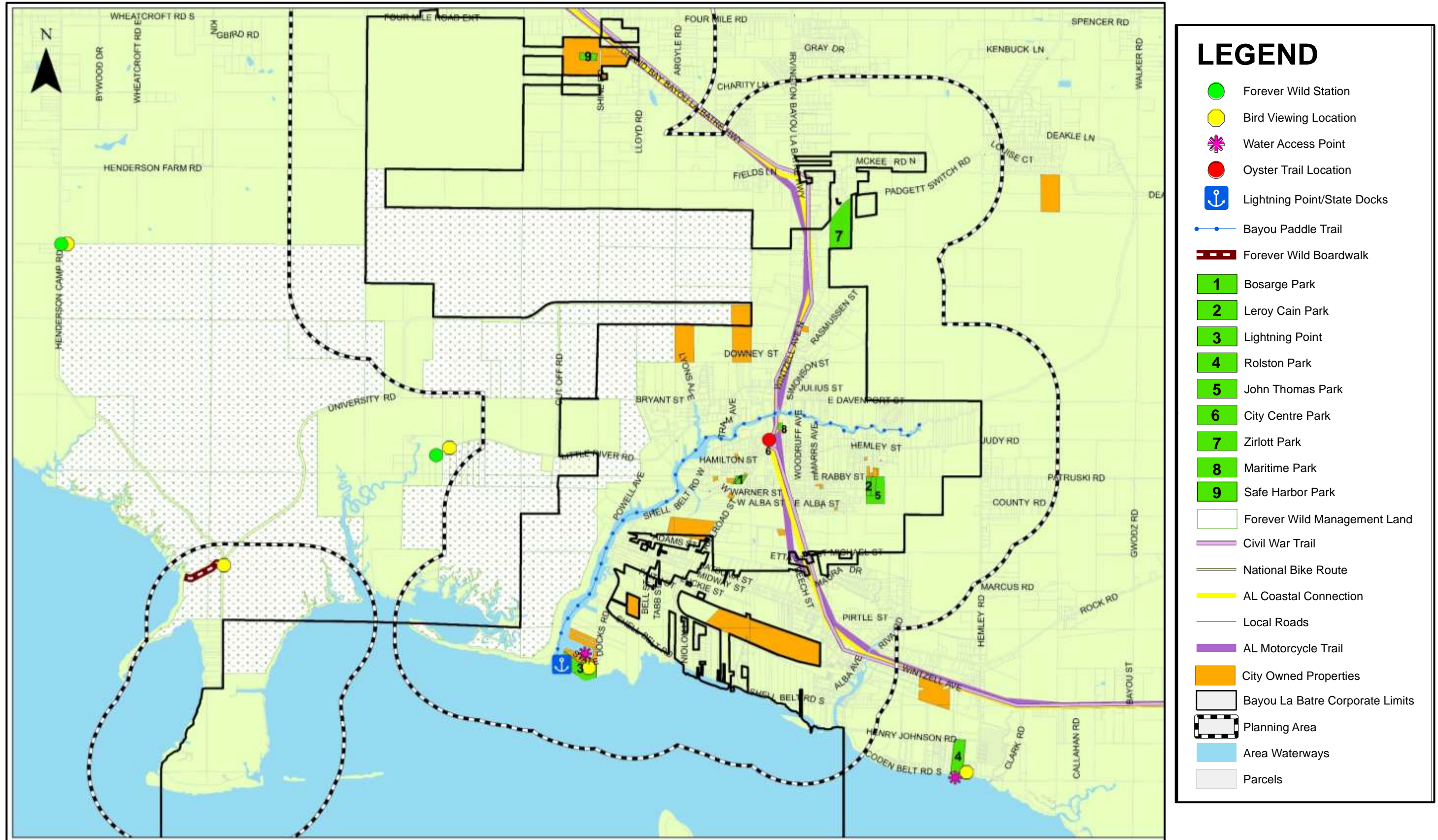
***Rolston Park ~ Bayou La Batre's Premier Waterfront Park & Amenities***



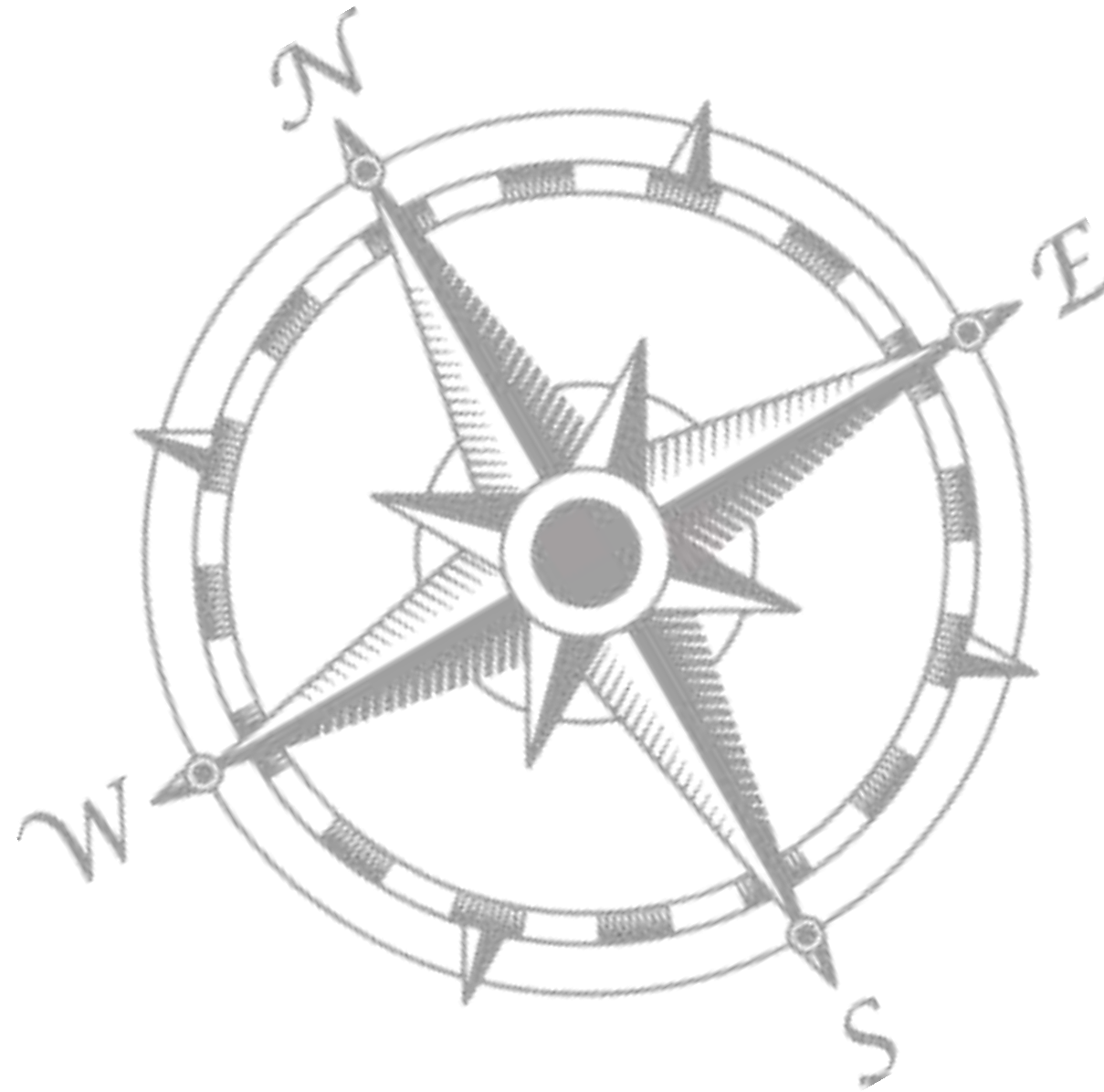
Community Parks, Playgrounds & Open Space



**FIGURE 18**  
Parks & Trails Located in Bayou La Batre



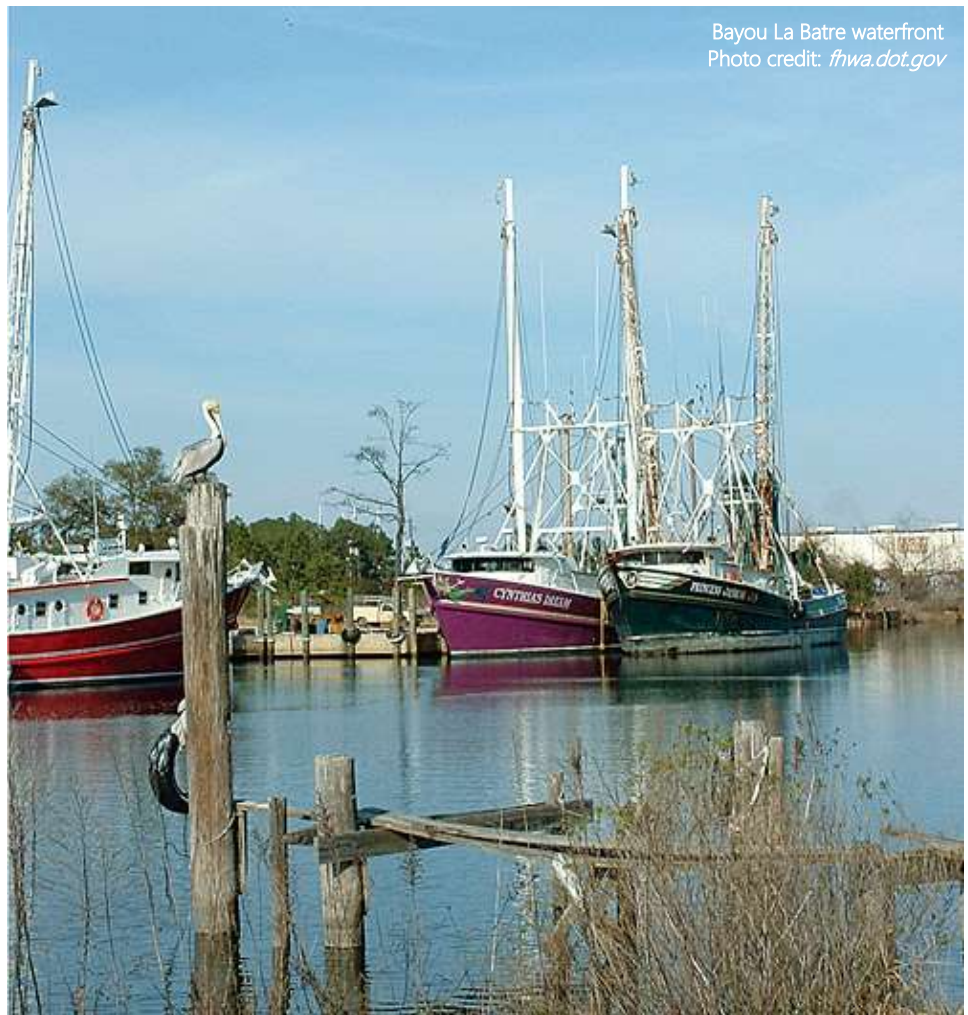
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## NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources are dynamic, environmental functions, which provide critical habitat, clean air and water, along with fertile soils. They are as important economically as they are ecologically by offering a variety of agriculture, aquaculture and eco-tourism opportunities that provide a competitive advantage for future growth and prosperity. Encompassed in and around the Bayou is some of the most ecologically diverse and pristine habitat found along the Gulf Coast. The Alabama's coastal landscape offers four diverse ecosystems, all uniquely located within one area. These ecosystems include an ancient maritime live oak forest, wet longleaf pine savanna, fresh water marsh and small stream swamp forest. The flora and fauna embodied within the Bayou, contains an immeasurable amount of valuable ecosystems and wildlife, which include a variety of water bodies, wetlands, salt marshes, savannahs, barrier islands, oyster reefs, natural beaches, seagrass beds and maritime forests. The community borders the Mississippi Sound, a vast, environmentally thriving ecosystem that contains the largest, relatively undisturbed tracts of coastal pine savannah and salt marsh in Alabama and along the Gulf Coast. The Mississippi Sound consists of sensitive marsh lands and wetland habitats that serve as the nurseries and breeding grounds for many aquatic and terrestrial animals. These salt marshes, tidal flats, and maritime forests house the Gulf Coast's oysters, shrimps, crabs, and mussels that support the local and national seafood industry as well as provide food for larger sea life and coastal animals.

Given the high level of importance these critical habitats possess, along with their vulnerability to storms





and other natural and man-made hazards, it is essential that city leaders establish and adopt protective measures to provide proper water quality protection and ensure best development and storm water management practices are achieved. A healthy community cannot be achieved with an unhealthy environment. Regulating these ecologically important resources through the creation and enforcement of local ordinances, subdivision regulations and management plans, will prove to be the best defense in efforts to prevent nonpoint source pollution and adverse impacts to these resources throughout the community and Gulf Coast region. This includes methods and practices such as requiring property developers to apply Low Impact Development techniques during construction and limit the creation of impervious surfaces within the development. Additionally, the city must upgrade and improve existing infrastructure to ensure compliance with current codes and regulations, and to protect the welfare of the surrounding environment. In 2014 the City of Bayou La Batre received a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to provide sanitary sewer services to residents and small businesses east of Bayou La Batre in the unincorporated area of Coden. As a result of this grant, approximately 240 homes in this area were tied into the new sewer system, discontinuing the use of septic tanks, which greatly improved the water quality and surrounding environment. Conservation and preservation of these sensitive lands, waterways, and other significant natural features are critical for the ecological survival of the Bayou.

### CLIMATE & TOPOGRAPHY

Bayou La Batre has a humid subtropical climate, characterized by hot, humid summers and generally mild to cool winters. Monthly mean maximum temperatures range from 91 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in July to 60.9°F in January. Annual rainfall amounts total 65 inches. The topography of Bayou La Batre is characterized by an extremely flat terrain along the coast that is at, or slightly above sea level. It is typical of the low marshland of the Mississippi Sound area, characterized by a flat to very gently rolling terrain. Slopes of over two to five percent are rare, except where severe erosion has occurred. Elevation ranges from two feet above mean sea level to approximately 14 feet above mean sea level. The elevation increase to approximately 90 feet above sealevel around Four Mile Road. The terrain has a slope of less than 5% in all areas south of Padgett Switch Road and does not exceed an appreciable slope greater than 10% anywhere in the city.

### HYDROLOGY

Hydrology refers to the distribution of water on the surface of the land, in soil underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere. Creeks, streams, and other water bodies ultimately flow to drainage paths within

a specific watershed. The City of Bayou La Batre is located in two watersheds areas; Bayou La Batre watershed and the West Fowl River watershed.

### WETLANDS

Wetlands represent the interface between aquatic and terrestrial environments. Wetlands provide a variety of ecologically important functions which include: filtering excess nutrients and contaminants from runoff before they enter surface waters; providing temporary storage for flood waters; providing erosion control through coastal stabilization and shoreline protection; providing habitat for water-dependent and upland plants and animals, some endangered; and serving as nursery areas for aquatic and terrestrial fauna. Most of the wetland inventory in the Bayou consist of freshwater and coastal wetlands that are predominately Estuarine (Intertidal and Emergent) and Palustrine, Forested wetland habitat systems.

Wetlands also provide an array of recreational and educational resources and have become economic assets to communities that depend on the aesthetics for passive forms of recreational attraction. Local residents also value and enjoy these natural habitats for wildlife viewing, fishing, shrimping, crabbing, and kayaking/canoeing. In efforts to preserve wetlands and to ensure proper development practices are achieved as the Bayou grows, it is highly encouraged that the city implement a Wetlands Ordinance. Recent wetlands studies indicate that the Bayou’s wetlands are not holding water correctly and are in need of maintenance.

### BARRIER ISLANDS & WATER RESOURCES

Encompassed within the city limits and planning area of Bayou La Batre is an abundance of water bodies and barrier islands that provide a wide variety of species and coastal habitats. The barrier islands provide a protective boundary to the mainland from coastal storms. Additionally, they provide critical habitat and nesting grounds for wildlife. It is highly encouraged that city leaders implement protective measures to ensure the integrity of these natural resources, while finding ways to carefully expose the area to visitors. Providing day excursions to the barrier islands will educate the public to the importance of protecting these fragile resources while spurring economic development. They include the following inventory that is comprised of bayous, barriers islands, swamps and bays:

- Bayou La Batre
- Bayou Coden
- Bayou Como
- Bayou Sullivan
- Carl’s Creek
- Little River Swamp
- Grand Bay Swamp
- Grande Batture Islands
- Isle Aux Dames
- Isle Aux Herbes
- Cat Island
- Lady Island
- Raccoon Island
- Little Bay Island

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- 
- Marsh Island
  - South Island
  - Rigolets
  - Terrapin Island
  - Point Aux Pins
  - Point Caddy
  - Bayou Caddy
  - Grand Bay
  - Grand Bayou
  - Little Bay
  - Portersville Bay
  - Sandy Bay

### GRAND BAY SAVANNA

The Forever Wild Land Trust's Grand Bay Savannah Nature Preserve is the largest relatively undisturbed tracts of coastal wet pine savanna remaining along the Gulf Coast. This vast ecosystem encompassing approximately 26,900 acres, provides habitat to wildlife such as alligators, deer, wild hogs, as well as numerous species of birds, insects, and plants. The varied parts of the refuge provide suitable habitat for many migrant and resident species of bird. The savanna protects the natural environment, and allows for public access and recreational and educational opportunities. The biological productivity of these botanically rich habitats is among the highest in the country, with an overall biomass supporting the nation's second largest fisheries. The biological diversity and complexity of natural community assemblages represented at the Savannah are among the nation's finest. At least 20 natural community types and 31 rare and imperiled species are found in the refuge,



including 21 plant species, 4 crayfish species and 4 turtle species. A new elevated boardwalk has recently been installed inside the city's corporate limits and offers prime birding and wildlife viewing opportunity. It is located at the junction of Marine Laboratory Road and Henderson Camp Road and parking is available. The elevated path winds throughout the savanna and opens up into Grand Bay, revealing stunning views of Marsh Island and other bayous, as well as providing an opportunity to view a remarkable sunset that south Alabama is famous for.

### SALT MARSH, SWAMPS & INTERTIDAL FLATS

Alabama's most extensive black needle rush marshes are located within Mississippi Sound on Mon Louis Island, Point aux Pins and secondary barrier islands scattered across the Sound. The southern end of Mon Louis Island is home to 9,000 acres of coastal salt marsh, the largest undeveloped contiguous tract in the state. An immeasurable amount of salt marshes in Alabama were either completely destroyed or highly compromised due to the Deepwater Horizon spill of 2010. Critical marsh lands were exposed to oil, dispersant, and response activities undertaken to prevent, minimize, or remediate oiling from the disastrous Spill. As such, a marsh restoration project is one of Alabama's priorities for early restoration. The goal of the Marsh Creation Project is to create a structurally robust, emergent salt marsh in Portersville Bay, designed to provide maximum salt marsh ecological benefits as soon as practicable. Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Marsh Creation Project involves the creation of salt marsh in the Portersville Bay portion of Mississippi Sound, Alabama. This project would add approximately 50 acres of salt marsh to the existing 24 acres of Marsh Island, through the construction of a permeable segmented breakwater, the placement of sediments and the planting of native marsh vegetation. Additionally, this project would protect the existing salt marshes of Marsh Island, which have been experiencing significant losses due to chronic erosion. Ecological services gained by the created marsh would help compensate for salt marsh injuries and losses incurred from the Spill.

### MARITIME FORRESTS

The coastal forest in and around Bayou La Batre is a complex ecosystem comprised of slash and loblolly pine, live oak, magnolia, cabbage palm, dwarf palmetto, and red bay. The extensive maritime forest network provides a wind break during storm events, sediment stability and sheltered habitat to a diversity of wildlife, particularly neo-tropical migratory birds during the spring and fall migrations. Additionally, they serve as a recharge to groundwater aquifers and enhance the natural beauty of the Bayou. These forests face threats from invasive species and clear cutting for development and as development progresses in the Bayou, careful attention and planning must be given to preserving and maintaining these maritime forests, the understory, and the integrity of these ecosystems.



## WILDLIFE

Coastal Alabama is teeming with a vast amount of natural diversity that provides critical habitat for a countless number and variety of wildlife. The state of Alabama is ranked in the top five states overall for biodiversity of plants and animals, with a total of more than 4,500 different species. This incredible species richness includes 144 organisms found only in the state of Alabama, with 100 species deemed globally rare. Alabama's aquatic biodiversity is second to none with more species of freshwater fish, mussels, turtles, snails and crayfish than any other state. Loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles use the coastal beaches for nesting grounds. Approximately 20 species of whale and dolphin and one species of manatee (West Indian Manatee) live in the Gulf of Mexico. Bottlenose dolphins and manatees use area bays and bayous for nursing, feeding and breeding grounds. The West Indian Manatee migrates hundreds of miles each spring to find refuge and seasonal habitat in the protected waters of the Bayou and surrounding waterways. The banks of the northern Mississippi Sound, especially Cat and Coffee Islands, contain critical habitat for migratory shore, wading birds and neo-tropical bird species. There are 400 species of birds in the state of Alabama, many of which migrate through the area via the Mississippi Flyway. The Bayou supports the largest congregation of nesting wading birds and is historically one of the only nesting site for Reddish Egrets along the Alabama coast. The following species listed use the Bayou as seasonal and primary habitat. They are listed as endangered (E), threatened (T), candidate species (C) or rare (R) and are as follows:



- Alabama red-bellied turtle (E)
- Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (E)
- West Indian manatee (T)
- Gopher tortoise (T)
- Green sea turtle (T)
- Gulf sturgeon (T)
- Loggerhead sea turtle (T)
- Piping Plover (T)
- Black pine snake (C)
- American Oyster Catcher (R)
- Black Rail (R)
- Clapper Rail (R)
- Gulf saltmarsh snake (R)
- Gull-billed Tern (R)
- Mississippi diamondback terrapin (R)
- Mottled Duck (R)
- Reddish Egret (R)

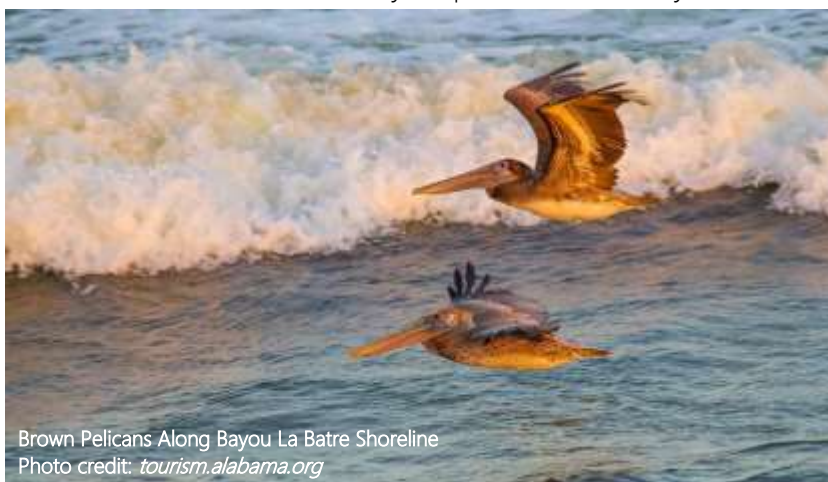
## NATURAL BEACH ECOSYSTEM

The natural beach systems found throughout the Bayou contain a network of established root systems (creepers, grasses and palms) that provide an effective coastal defense as they absorb wave action,

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trap sand particles, and contain rainwater, all of which allows other plant species to become established. Beaches provide a filter for storm water runoff from the coastal plain. If the runoff is naturally dispersed along the beach, water borne silt and organic matter will be retained on the land and will feed the flora in the coastal area. The abundance of migratory and native bird species is an indicator of the wealth of wildlife that inhabits the coastal ecosystems found in the Bayou. Even mudflats and tide pools are incredibly productive, providing a veritable feast for the many marine predators which move in at high tide to feast on rich invertebrate prey.

These coastal habitats also serve a vital function in the marine food chain and wider environment, providing feeding, spawning and nursery areas for many species. Countless migrating fish and birds, whose natural range extends over thousands of miles, seasonally depend on the Bayou's coastal habitats for their first feed after a long journey. The Bayou is part of the Mississippi Flyway, which is a major migration corridor that hundreds of species of fowl travel through annually. The Brown Pelican is one of the waterfowl species that relies on the Bayou's native shoreline to find refuge and seasonal habitat.



Presently, beach re-nourishment programs are underway as part of the restoration efforts funded from the BP Oil Spill. The programs are the Shell Belt and Coden Belt Roads Living Shoreline project and the Point aux Pins Living Shoreline project. Both are located in the Portersville Bay portion of the Mississippi Sound. Both projects, which total \$12 million dollars, promote the use of Living Shorelines techniques, which restore and protect eroding estuarine shorelines while providing critical habitat and



create benthic secondary production in the aquatic ecosystems of coastal Alabama. This project is part of a larger effort being undertaken in Alabama and around the Gulf Coast to promote living shorelines as an alternative to bulkheads and similar shoreline erosion abatement structures. The Point aux Pins Living Shoreline project will stabilize shoreline located near Point aux Pins which has shown evidence of erosion over time. In addition to protecting shorelines, the Shell Belt and Coden Belt Road Living Shoreline project will enhance the growth of planted native marsh vegetation. The projects will not only accomplish the task of conserving habitats in the Gulf region, but also support restoration of water quality through reduced shoreline erosion/sedimentation and enhance community resilience by increasing shoreline protection from flooding events.

### NATIVE VEGETATION

The major vegetation habitats and land cover within the Bayou include swamps, mixed bottomland forests, savannahs, brackish-mixed marsh, and man-made areas of fill. The native vegetation found throughout the Bayou is an essential component in preserving and protecting the landscape. Its natural beauty provides an aesthetical function while it's real purpose and primary function is to act as an anchor, holding the loose soils and sands in place that would erode easily if not protected. The majority of vegetation found naturally and abundantly throughout the Bayou area consist primarily of loblolly pines, sea oats, palms, broom sedge, sand spurs, and beach sage. The majority of the vegetated inland area consists of maritime forest complex with slash and loblolly pine, live oak, magnolia, cabbage palm, dwarf palmetto, and red bay. The coastal wetlands and tidal marsh lands are a mixture of cord grass, needle rush, yaupon, and sea myrtle.

### OYSTER REEFS & SEAGRASS BEDS

Oyster reefs are the foundation of healthy bays and estuaries around the world. They serve a number of ecologically important roles in coastal ecosystems. Submerged oyster beds provide food and habitat for birds and marine life, buffer shorelines from waves and boat action, and improve water quality and clarity by filtering impurities from the water, helping to improve water quality and enhancing the viability of seagrass meadows and salt marshes, essential habitats for juvenile fish and invertebrates.

The oyster reefs in the Bayou that once flourished abundantly have suffered from decades of damage from hurricanes, harvest, increased disease, falling salinity due to the increased runoff that accompanies increased impervious surface, and increased sedimentation from runoff and storm

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events. Oyster reef restoration projects have been established in Portersville Bay and continue today. In July 2009, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded the Nature Conservancy's Mobile Bay Coastal Restoration project a 2-year grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to restore coastal habitats in south Mobile County, Alabama. Working in collaboration with partners, the Conservancy is using the funding to create a living shoreline oyster project along two stretches of eroding shoreline in Mobile Bay and Portersville Bay. The project protects approximately 2 miles of adjacent shoreline and creates about 3 acres of oyster reefs. The project also promotes the growth and sustainability of about 30 acres of seagrass habitat. Using natural methods to promote the growth of oyster reefs, this project is creating an estimated 2,250 meters of submerged breakwater reefs. These reefs will absorb the impact of wave energy from storms and boat activity, thereby protecting the shoreline from erosion while enhancing habitat for fish, birds and invertebrates.



### WATERSHED

A watershed is defined as any area of land that water flows across or through. Simply stated, all lands are considered part of a watershed. During a rainfall event, gravity and water flow cause excess storm waters from a watershed to migrate and flow toward a common nearby body of water, such as a stream, bayou, river, bay, gulf, etcetera. Essentially, watersheds capture water, store it and eventually release it farther downhill. Runoff from fields, lawns, and pavement can carry potentially harmful materials from the watersheds to nearby bodies of water. It is important to consider land use activities occurring in a watershed when planning for a community's development and zoning classifications, because it is frequently impossible to separate down stream effects from upstream causes. The watershed approach to planning is an understanding and appreciation of the impacts that land activities will have on other resources in and connected to the watershed. Run-off from any watershed areas north of the city will eventually drain into Bayou La Batre, the Gulf of Mexico, and other local waterbodies. Proper land use planning can determine the health and condition of the watershed and ensure the protection of the water bodies they drain in to. As a city develops and converts open space and undeveloped parcels into more intensive land uses, development can have a negative effect on



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the watershed. Open and/or space, such as forested and vegetated areas, can significantly reduce impacts on water quality from land development. Vegetated land cover protects water quality by reducing velocity and volume of runoff, filtering pollutants before reaching groundwater and streams, in conjunction with providing habitat for plants and animals. Regulatory planning plays an important role in the protection of water resources that border a watershed. Protective measures included in subdivision and zoning regulations, can properly manage where development can occur within a city and regulate the type and intensity level of the development. Analyzing these factors, along with examination of land distribution uses, land cover, and census data, will all determine where more intense development should occur and identify sensitive lands that are best utilized for low impact development.

A Watershed Management Plan is an essential first step in preserving water quality in a relatively pristine, tidally-influenced watershed and mitigating the impacts of future development pressures. The watershed planning process uses a series of cooperative, interactive steps to characterize existing conditions, identify and prioritize problems, define management objectives, and develop and implement protection or remediation strategies as necessary.

The city limits of Bayou La Batre border three different watersheds, and several sub-watersheds. They include the Bayou La Batre Watershed, West Fowl River Watershed, and the Bayou Heron-Grand Bay Swamp Watershed. These watersheds serve an ecological important function by providing large areas of piney flatwoods and maritime forest habitat that dominate the natural cover within the watershed



and provide shelter for an array of reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. The City of Bayou La Batre is the source of the urban component of these watersheds. Most of the city limits, however are contained within the Bayou La Batre Watershed, which covers over 19,500 acres in south Mobile County and flows southwesterly into Portersville Bay and Mississippi Sound. The total land use encompassed within the watershed is broken down by the following percentages: 13% urban lands, 32% agricultural lands, 51% forested lands, 2% water/wetlands.

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) recently published a Watershed Management Plan for the Fowl River Watershed. Presently, Watershed Management Plans for Bayou La Batre and West

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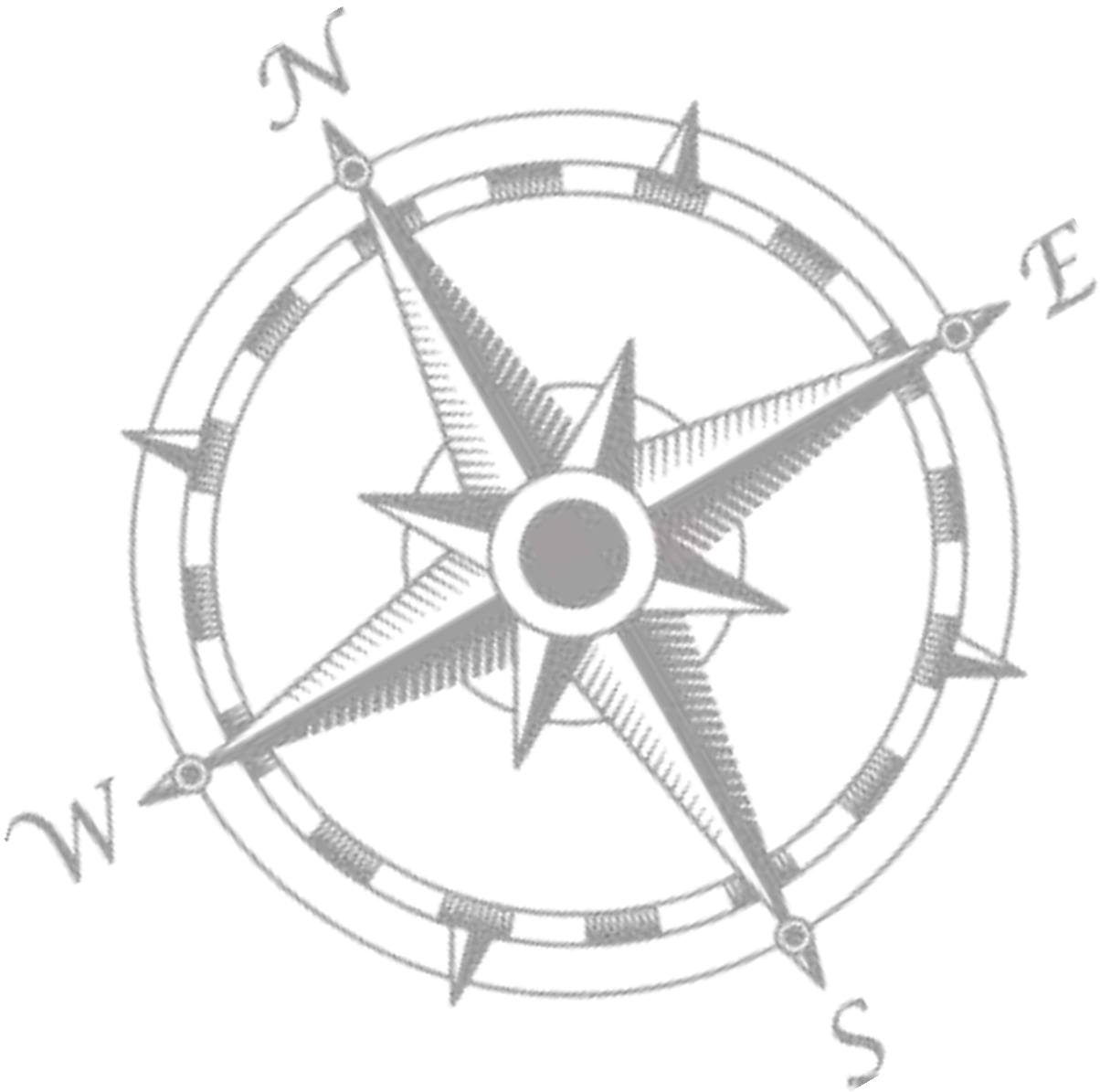
Fowl River Watersheds are currently in development. These management plans will prove to be an essential tool in implementing protective projects and practices within the city's regulatory planning documents in efforts to maintain the watershed and manage local development. It is recommended that the Bayou La Batre Planning Commission and City Council amend the city's current Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to include the suggested provisions and implement projects from the recently published watershed management plans.

These plans and studies were funded through a grant from the National Wildlife Foundation (NWF). This Comprehensive Plan will be amended in the future to include the Bayou La Batre Watershed Management Plan once the project is completed and the document is published. See map in *Figure 19* that identifies the majority of the natural resources found throughout the Bayou area.

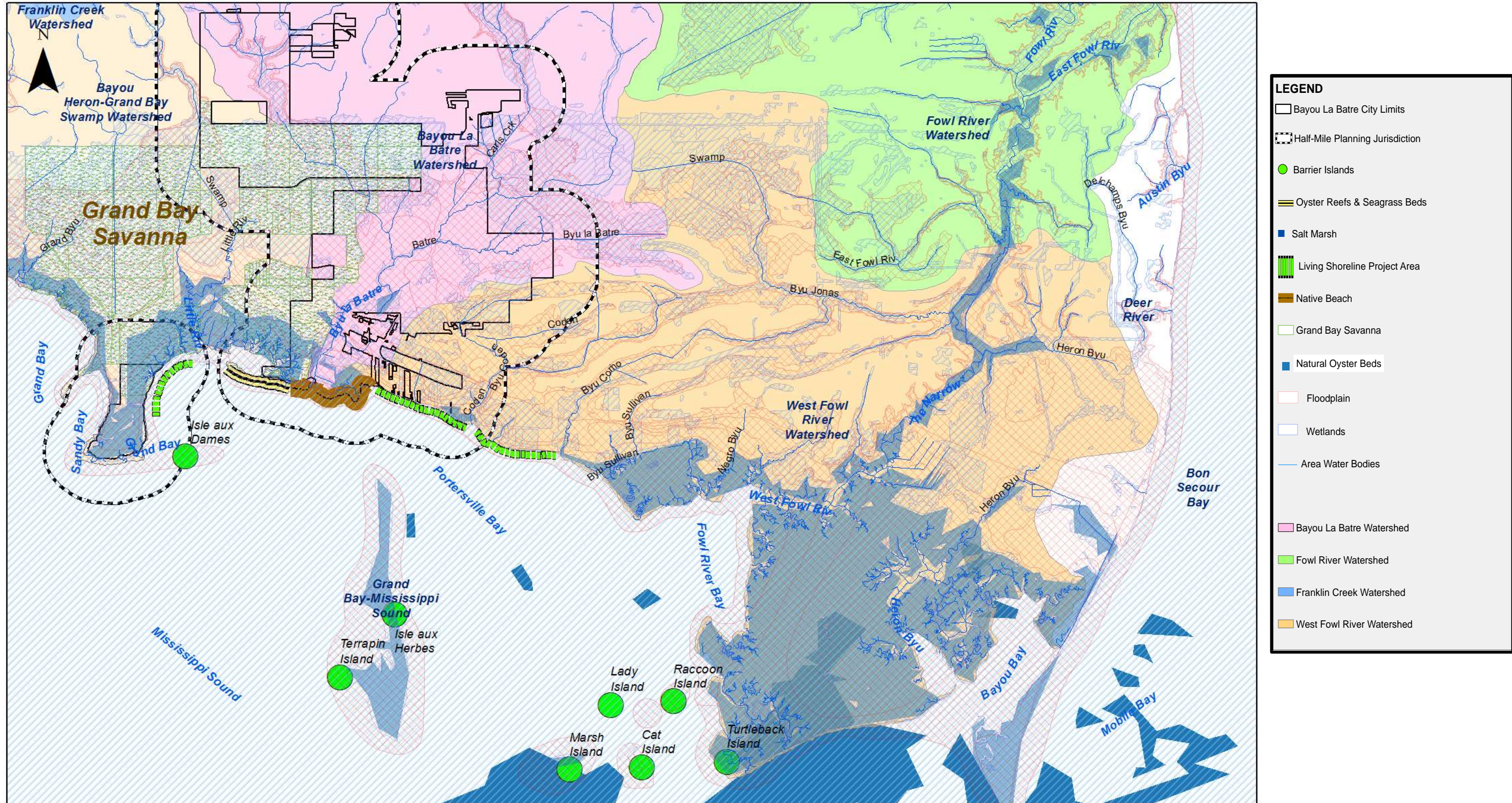


Critical habitat along Coden Belt Road  
Source: SARPC

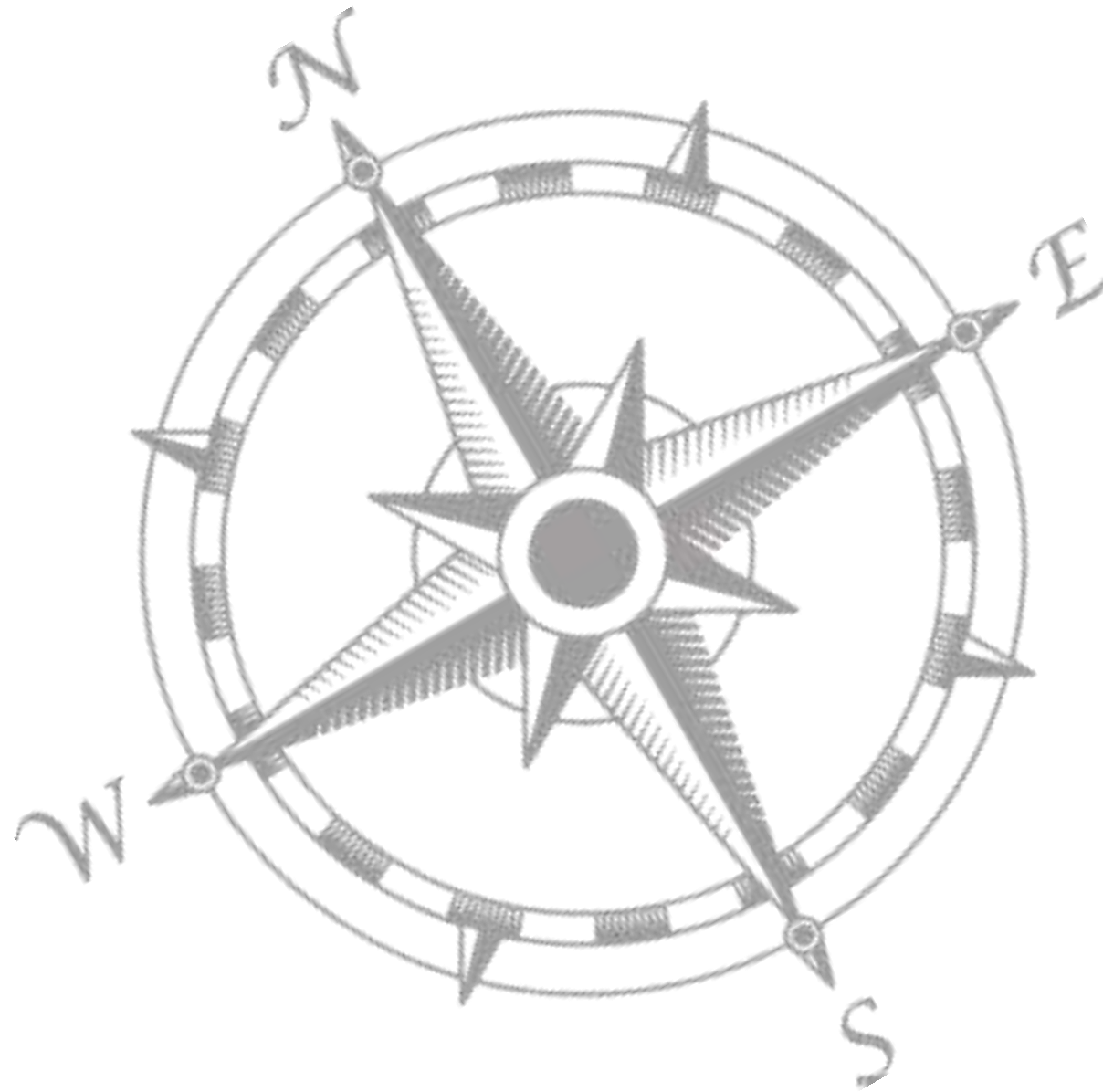
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**FIGURE 19**  
**Natural Resources Located Throughout the Bayou La Batre Area**



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### Coastal Hazards

Emergencies and disasters that cause death or leave people injured or displaced create significant damage to our communities, businesses, public infrastructure and environment. The costs can be tremendous in terms of response and recovery dollars and economic loss, and as these costs increase, so does the importance of identifying effective ways to reduce vulnerability to disasters. Hazard mitigation reduces or eliminates these types of losses of life and property. After disasters, repairs and reconstruction are often completed in such a way as to simply restore to pre-disaster conditions. Such efforts expedite a return to normalcy; however, the replication of pre-disaster conditions results in a cycle of damage, reconstruction and repeated damage. Hazard mitigation ensures that such cycles are broken and that post-disaster repairs and reconstruction result in a reduction in hazard vulnerability. While disasters cannot be prevented, their effects can be reduced or eliminated through preparedness, mitigation and public awareness efforts. For those hazards which cannot be fully mitigated, we must be prepared to provide efficient and effective response and recovery.

The Bayou's community has suffered immensely from storms from the past and most recently, during the early 2000's from Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Property damage, especially along the bayou and neighboring wetlands and salt marshes, was significant. Due to the city's close proximity to coastal waterways, along with the low-lying elevations of the region, the community will remain susceptible to coastal hazards such as hurricanes and tropical storms. It is highly recommended that the City continue efforts to be pro-active and investigate programs that help protect against heavy damages linked to coastal hazards. Additional recommendations include:

- Integrate principles and practices set forth in the Mobile County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Update local building code to establish wind load requirements in efforts to mitigate high wind risks from hurricanes and other natural storm events
- Develop and enforce floodplain management regulations to mitigate coastal and riverine flooding hazards.



Sunset on the Bayou  
Photo Credit: *Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce*

# LAND USE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY DESIGN

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## OVERVIEW

Land use planning is the orderly disposition of land, resources, facilities, and services with the intent to secure the physical, economic, and social efficiency, health and well-being of communities. The purpose of the Land Use section of the Plan is to provide the most effective and constructive use of land by examining the existing physical layout of the city, establishing appropriate locations for future development and designating specific land uses to guide the future growth of the Bayou over the next twenty years.

Each parcel of land within the city limits has a designated land use classification of how the land is currently being used. The Land Use Chapter will identify and assess the current types and densities of land uses within the community, such as residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, government, and recreational. It will set forth a vision and future land use plan that will provide the city with a basis for establishing criteria that will guide future land use management, standards and regulations that will ensure proper development of the community, increase property values and enhance overall quality of life for Bayou citizens. Lastly, this chapter will identify recommendations and strategies that will guide the City in achieving their desired future land use goals.

The future land use plan is conceptual in nature, rather than exact, and it is meant to serve as a general guide rather than a precise formula. The plan should also be fluid and is expected to change or be modified over time to accommodate changes in the community.

## EXISTING LAND USE

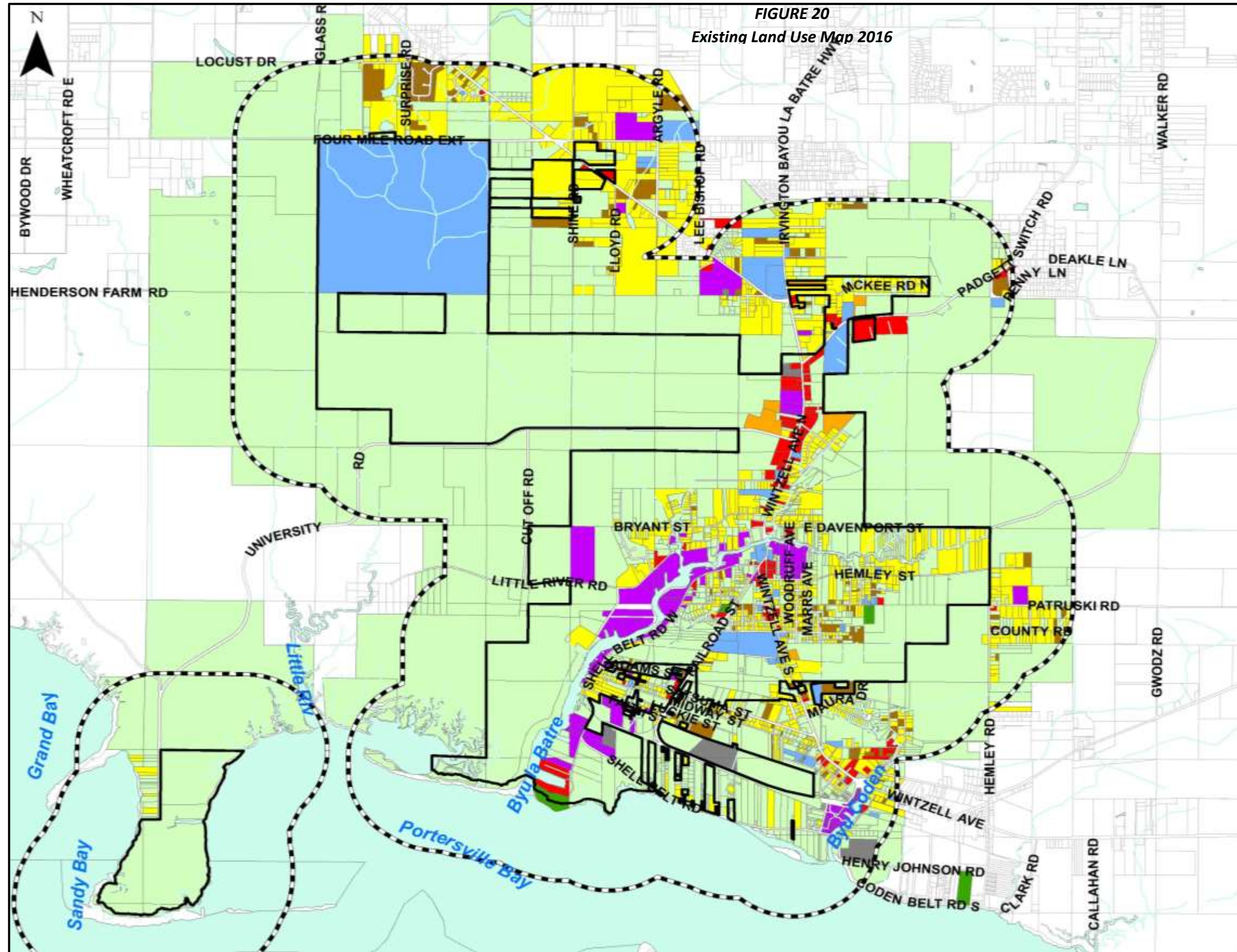
The first step in creating a future land use plan is to look at the existing land uses in a community and observe any existing trends or patterns. To achieve this, a field survey conducted by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) in mid-2015 was done by identifying the current land use activity on each parcel encompassed within the municipal limits of the city and the half-mile planning jurisdiction. This included approximately 4,300 parcels and 12,744 acres of land, some of which extended beyond the planning jurisdiction due to the large size of some of the parcels. For comparison, acreage encompassed within the city limits boundary is 5,308 acres. This field data was then converted to a GIS database and used to create the current and future land use maps in this chapter. The data was then cross-referenced with the Mobile County Revenue Commission 2015



parcel data for accuracy. The current land use development patterns are illustrated on *Table 12* and on the map in *Figure 20*. The table separates the existing land use activities into categories, and includes the amount of acreage associated with each use, while the map illustrates the location of each land use.

**TABLE 12**  
**Total Acreage of Existing Land Uses**

<b>Land Use Category</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Undeveloped: All parcels that do not have structures and are not used for agriculture	9,624	75.52%
Single-Family Residential: All parcels that have single-family structures (1 dwelling unit per lot)	1,549	12.15%
Multi-Family Residential: All parcels that have 2 or more dwelling units per lot	41	.32%
Mobile/Manufactured Home: All parcels that have mobile or manufactured homes	203	1.59%
Parks and Recreation: All parcels with parks, open space, trails, or other recreational facilities	21	.16%
Public/Semi-public: All parcels occupied by educational and governmental facilities or land that is owned by federal, state, or local units of government, or parcels occupied by privately-owned facilities that are generally open to the public, such as lodges, churches and cemeteries	839	6.58%
Utility: All parcels used to provide the public with electricity, gas, heat, steam, communication, transportation, water, sewage collection or other similar service	56	.44%
Commercial: All parcels, with or without buildings, where goods and services are distributed and/or personal services are provided	162	1.27%
Industrial/Manufacturing: all parcels, with or without buildings, where semi-finished or rough material is further processed, fabricated or manufactured, including warehousing and wholesaling establishments engaged in storage and non-retail sales	249	1.95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,744</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Source: SARPC</i>		



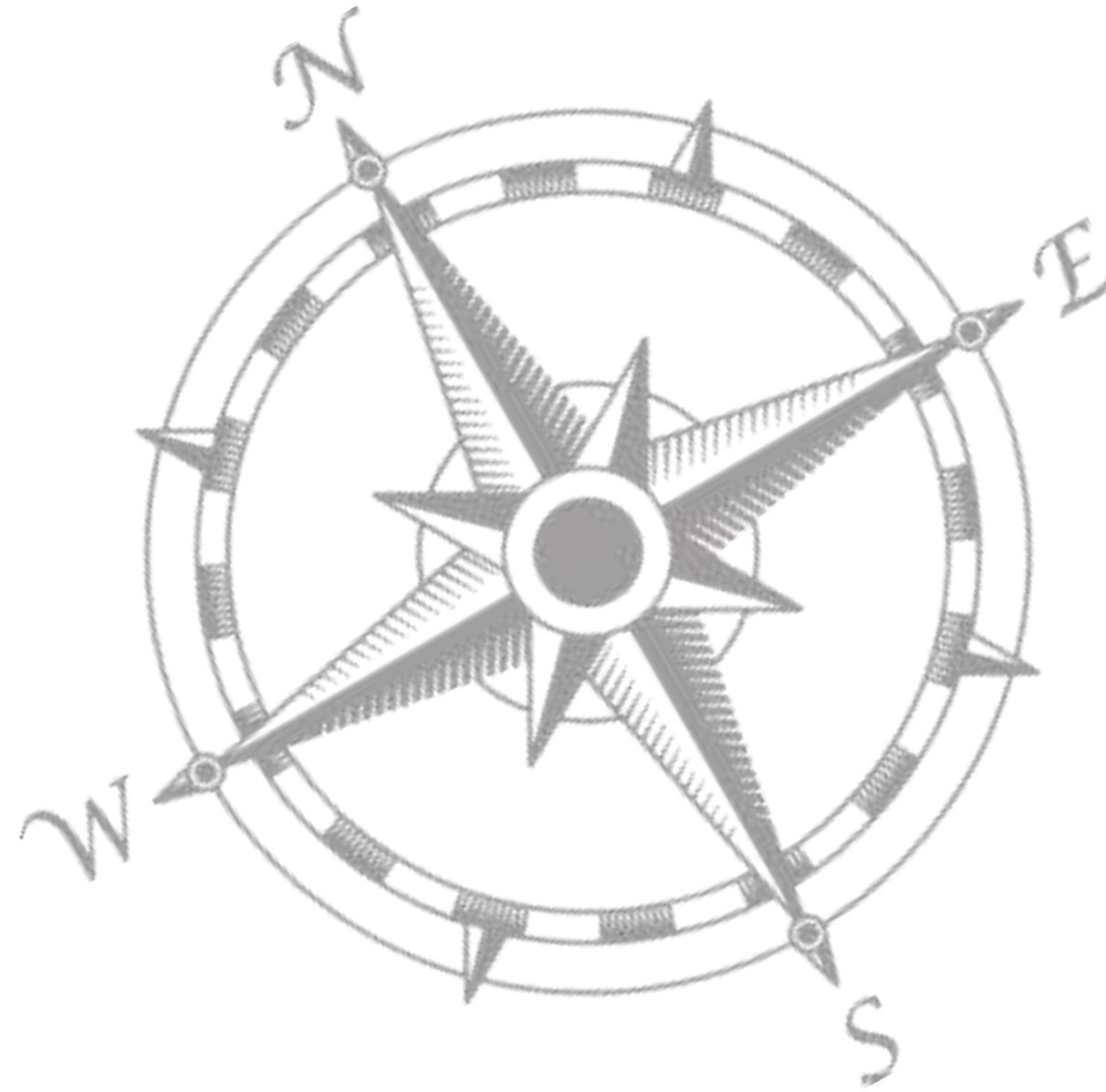
**FIGURE 20**  
Existing Land Use Map 2016

## Existing Land Use Map City of Bayou La Batre 2016

### Legend

- Bayou La Batre Corporate Limits
- Half Mile Planning Jurisdiction
- Residential
- Multi-Family
- Mobile Home
- Commercial
- Public/Semi-public
- Industrial/Manufacturing
- Utility
- Park/Recreation
- Undeveloped
- Mobile County Parcel

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## **FUTURE LAND USE**

The vision of Bayou La Batre emphasizes the importance of protecting the natural resources while carefully utilizing them to their fullest to create new economic opportunities through eco-tourism and agri-tourism development. The corporate limits of Bayou La Batre are rather large, as compared to the existing population, which has resulted in a somewhat low density overall. This is due to the existence of large tracts of land that are either used for conservation purposes or undeveloped. The existing land use map shows that a majority of these large tracts of land are located in areas of the city that are not easily accessible and lie within flood hazard zones and wetland areas. However, this does not mean these lands are unusable and not able to be developed. In contrast, the majority of residential and commercial development has occurred along Wintzell Avenue in a linear fashion, which has created a rather dense area with smaller parcels of land.

Much of this concentrated area of the city lies within the 100-year floodplain and is not considered protected from future flooding events. The city sits at a very low elevation along the coast and is highly susceptible to flooding associated with storm surge and heavy rains. Because of these circumstances, Bayou La Batre faces the challenge of providing areas for housing and commercial development that are protected from the flood zone. The City should consider annexing upland areas for housing and commercial development, as well as, relocating critical city facilities to uplands. Development in these new areas would most likely be much more affordable, since elevation of structures above flood levels may not be required. Additionally, the City should consider re-organizing the overall layout of the community by locating residential areas and critical city services to upland areas and developing parks and open spaces to low-lying areas that can tolerate and even control increased water levels during flooding events.

## **ASSETS-BASED PLANNING**

Assets-based planning provides for community and economic development by building upon resources that are naturally occurring in an area. The diverse and exponential amount of natural resources found in the Bayou are assets the city must recognize and focus on when planning for the future of the Bayou's community and economic development. The Bayou contains some of the most pristine property along the Gulf Coast and the residents embrace this unique gift. With proper planning practices and protective measures, the city can benefit financially from these resources by revealing their beauty and all they have to offer for everyone to appreciate and enjoy. There is an intrinsic value in preserving the "sense of place" an area holds and through a variety of development guidelines, that goal can be achieved.

## FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

The future land use plan was created based on Bayou La Batre's vision statement, which focuses on enhancing the unique environment of the Bayou, while expanding upon existing industry, diversifying the economy, and creating innovative technology. To accomplish this vision, the Bayou La Batre Planning Commission evaluated studies and reports from city leaders and professionals, along with citizen comments, to formulate a future land use map that illustrates how the city plans to look in twenty years. Identification of floodplains, wetlands and uplands were considered and evaluated in the creation of the new districts. The future land use map is essentially a road map the city can use to guide development by identifying the proper placement of land use activities that are appropriate to the area. It correlates with the zoning map in efforts to implement the strategies listed throughout the Plan. New zoning districts will be established to allow for new land use activities and development, that will in turn, create a functional and sustainable community. Implementation of these resources will protect property owners, housing values and natural resources over time. See the Future Land Use Map in *Figure 22* for an illustrated layout of the new land use district locations. The new districts and description of each are as follows:

<b>CITY CENTRE</b>
The purpose of the City Centre is to create a vibrant and walkable town center. It will contain a variety of uses, including parks, commercial, residential, and civic uses. Commercial should be limited to those that are smaller in nature and pedestrian friendly, such as specialty retail and personal services. Civic uses should include city hall, library, post office, police/fire complex, etc. and other streetscaping elements such as fountains or parks to serve as a community gathering place.
<b>WORKING WATERFRONT</b>
The Working Waterfront will be developed around the bayou. It will provide public access to the waterfront and expose a new commercial waterfront opportunity to the city. A wide variety of land uses will be allowed, including commercial, industrial, residential, mixed-use developments aquaculture and ecotourism. The majority of the commercial uses should be water oriented and/or support water oriented uses. Special attention should be given to design guidelines to help create a harbor-like setting in efforts to promote tourism and establish a civic identity for the Bayou.
<b>COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS</b>
The purpose of Commercial Corridors is to manage development along the major thoroughfares throughout the city and create an official entry, or gateway, into the community. Land uses along these corridors should consist of larger commercial uses that would not be appropriate for the smaller downtown area. Sidewalks, crosswalks and other pedestrian-friendly features should be

encouraged to allow for more foot and bicycle traffic. Medians and other traffic calming measures should be added as well to ensure pedestrian safety. Special attention should be given to creating “entrances” to the city and creating a “sense of place” by adding cohesive streetscape features such as welcome and directional signage, lighting, flags, and street furniture.

## BAYOU NEIGHBORHOODS NORTH

The purpose of the Bayou Neighborhoods North Area is to provide a variety of housing options in appropriate areas that are protected from the floodplain. It will encourage the future development of safe neighborhoods that incorporate characteristics such as sidewalks, proper setbacks to allow for ample yard sizes, minimum lot area and width to determine density and other design details. Many of these areas are not currently incorporated in the city limits, and should be considered when developing an annexation plan for the city.

## ECO-TOURISM AND AGRI-TOURISM

These areas will allow for development in an environmentally sensitive area and create opportunities that will utilize the city’s natural resources and green/open spaces. Land uses will be limited to those that encourage outdoor recreation, such as kayaking, canoeing, boating, fishing, birding, bicycling, walking, hiking, swimming, farming, etc., but will also include residential and aquaculture. Boardwalks and other structures with pervious surfacing will be required, along with environmentally sensitive construction materials and methods. Informational kiosks, proper lighting, and directional signage should be included as well.

## AQUACULTURE

The purpose of creating an Aquaculture Development Area is to designate an area specifically for aquaculture farming practices such as oyster, shrimp and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) farming. Allowable land uses will be limited to those that will preserve and enhance the environment and valuable natural resources. Development in this district will utilize areas of the city that are not suitable for any other type of development, while creating exposure to alternative farming methods and offering an educational opportunity to the public.

## BAYOU NEIGHBORHOODS CENTRAL

The purpose of creating the Bayou Neighborhoods Central area is to establish and maintain the integrity of the neighborhood areas along Davenport and Hemley Streets, which are adjacent to the bayou. It will offer low-density, single-family housing opportunities on the waterfront. Land uses will be restricted to Estate Residential, requiring larger lot areas and square footage standards, along with protective setbacks and elevation requirements. This district will create an exclusive residential area that will increase property values within the city and offer an exclusive housing opportunity.

## BAYOU NEIGHBORHOODS SOUTH

The Bayou Neighborhoods South Area consists of environmentally sensitive lands that are vulnerable to flooding. In efforts to reduce the threat of potential property damage and hazards to life, new construction in this area may require low impact development and adhere to elevation requirements and regulations implemented by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Land uses allowed will include residential and parks and recreation. Open and green space developments will be encouraged as well. The intent of this area is to comply with the ICC codes and promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the residential community by encouraging the utilization of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize flood damage in the future; minimize danger to public health by protecting water supply and natural drainage; reduce financial burdens imposed by preventing excessive development in areas subject to flooding; and comply with federal and state floodplain management requirements.

## CONSERVATION LANDS

Conservation lands are used for the purpose of providing green/open space for drainage, filtration, and protection to other neighboring developed lands. Land uses and activities will be very limited due to the fragile nature of the landscape. Incentives such as conservation easements should be considered in this district. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers flood insurance discounts to municipalities that designate and protect conservation lands in the incorporated area.

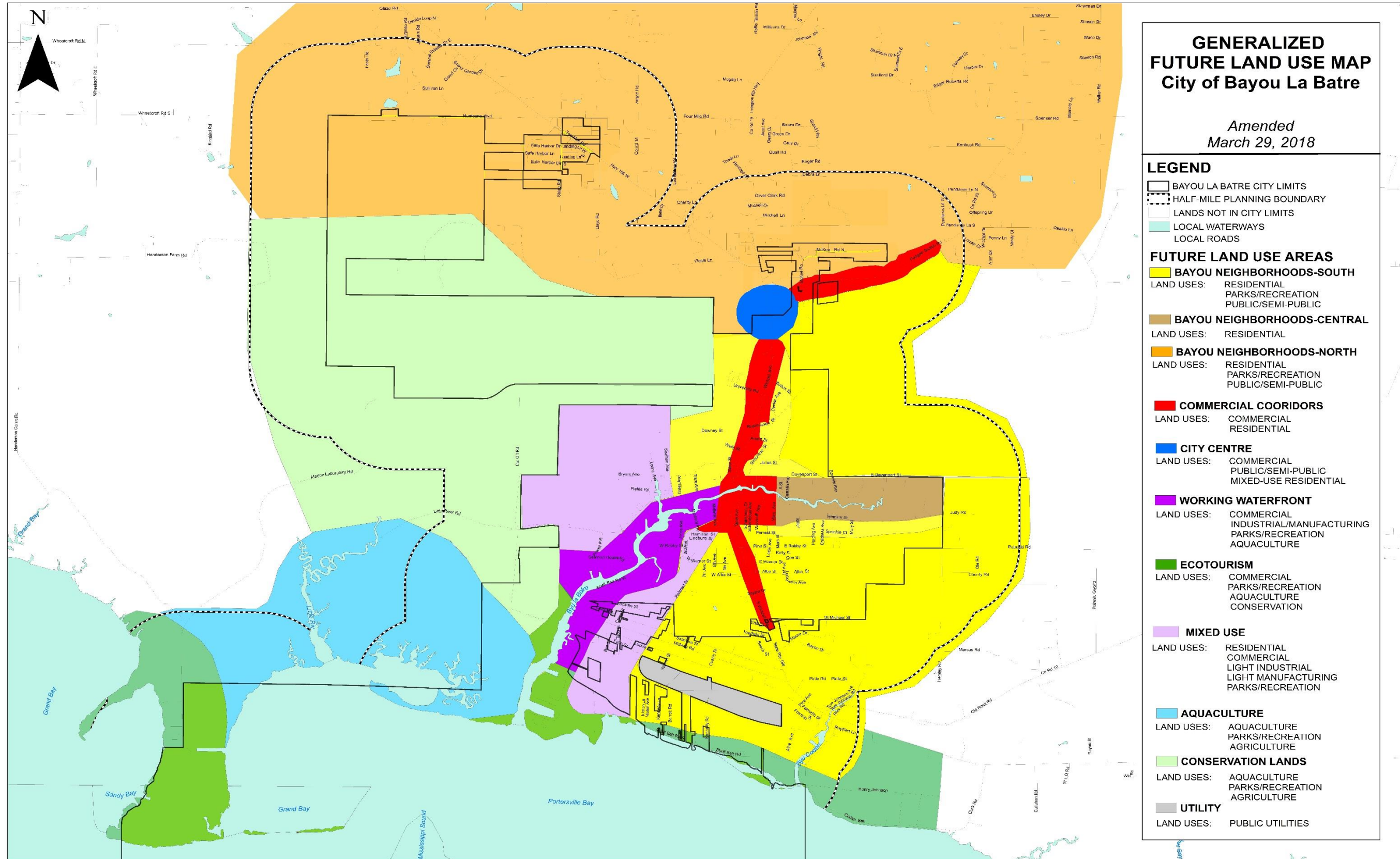
## BAYOU MIXED-USE

The Bayou Mixed-Use District (BMU) is established to allow for light industrial and commercial activities to be integrated with residential uses. Mixed use developments allow for more than one single use on a parcel of land. It's a combination of compatible and integrated land uses such as residential, personal service, light commercial, institutional, or entertainment uses in multiple functions within the same building or the same general area. The intent of the district is to allow a variety of light commercial and light industrial activities to be combined with residential uses. Mixed-use development can take the form of a single building, a city block, or an entire neighborhood. This variety of uses allows for people to live, work, play, and shop in one place. It's typically categorized as either A) vertical mixed-use buildings; B) horizontal mixed-use blocks; or C) mixed-use walkable neighborhoods.

## UTILITY/INDUSTRIAL-MANUFACTURING

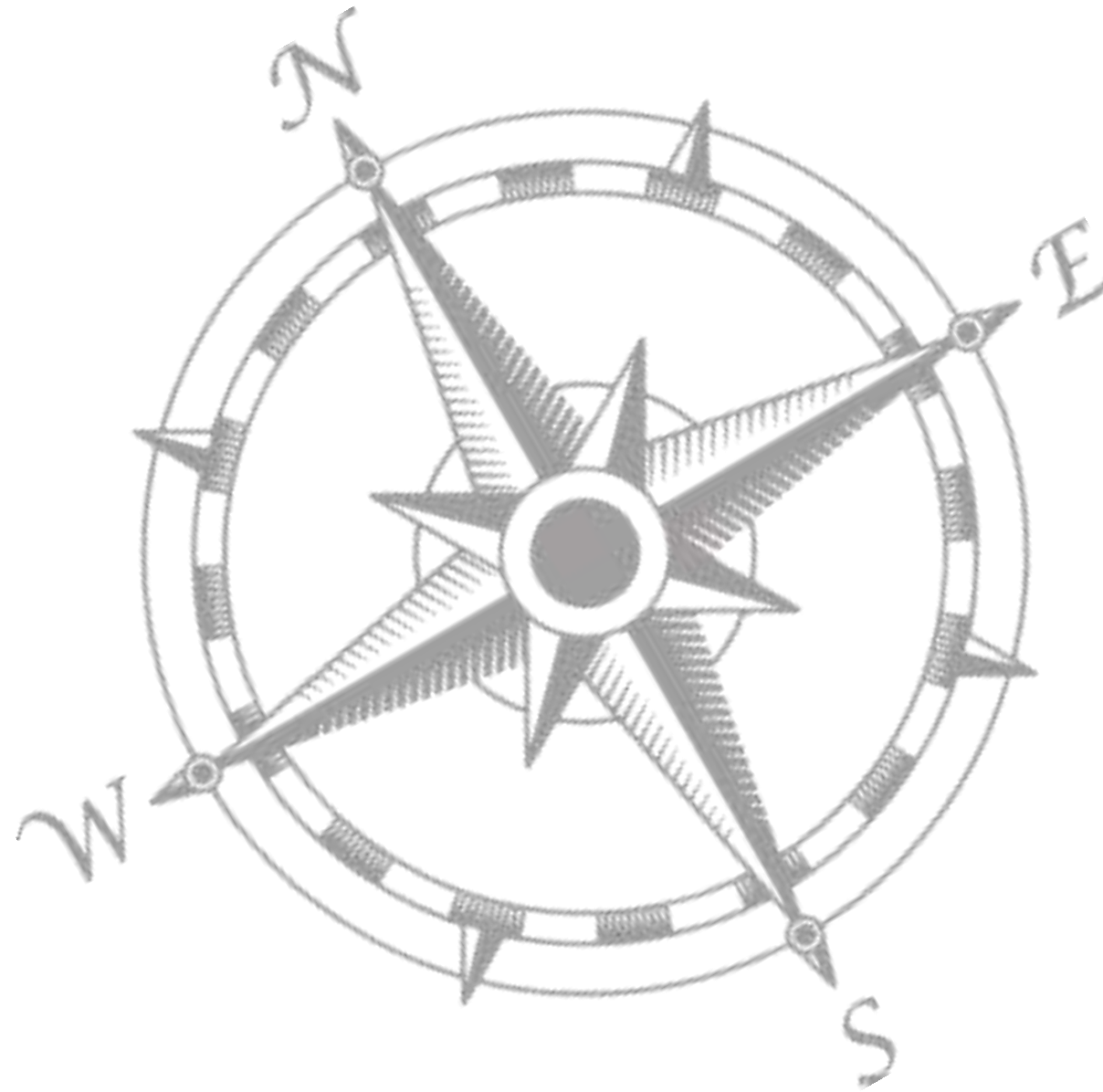
This area is established and intended to accommodate city utilities as well as heavy industrial uses that are large-scale or generally involve greater potential for off-site adverse impacts on the environment and surrounding uses (e.g., from dust, fumes, smoke, odors, noise, vibration or due to extensive exterior movement of vehicles, materials, and goods). Allowable uses include heavy manufacturing, assembly, fabrication, processing, and research and development uses, as well as functionally related distribution, storage, and industrial service uses.

**FIGURE 22**  
**Generalized Future Land Use Map**





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## COMMUNITY DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

Community design is defined as the discipline concerned with functional and visual relationships between people and their physical environment. It also examines ways in which these relationships can be enhanced, therefore it is directly involved with several significant areas of community planning. The underlying assumption in the practice of community design is that the physical environment can be desirably formed, using design techniques and methods specific to the city that will create an overall civic identity for the community. The character of a community is established by the design and aesthetics of its features and the design of individual elements provides an impression of a community. Combined, these factors create a “sense of place” and give a community a unique identity that sets them apart from others. There are many variables that play a role in a community’s design, such as welcoming gateways, street and sidewalk design, lighting design and intensity, way-finding and directional signage, landscaping and beautification of public and private spaces, pedestrian-friendly features, utility placement and historic preservation.



### *Streetscaping*

An important concept and element of community design is streetscaping. Streetscaping includes street furniture, lamp post lighting, trees and vegetation, signage, curbing, paving materials, awnings and canopies, and other aesthetically pleasing corridor improvements. A successful streetscape provides visual interest, and creates social meeting places for community interaction. A positive, harmonious streetscape can foster a positive overall impression of the community.

### Street Design & Traffic Flow

“Complete Streets” is a design concept that provides a safe and properly installed transportation network that can accommodate and provide for vehicular lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, street parking, while providing aesthetically pleasing features like landscaping and street furniture as well. “Complete Streets” provide access for multiple modes of transportation, which overall, relieves vehicle congestion and creates better connectivity throughout the city. It offers many benefits to the community by providing more opportunity for exercise and mobility through foot and bicycle travel, while keeping pedestrians protected from motorist by way of wide medians and curbs. Traffic circles and roundabouts can safely and effectively control and alleviate traffic at intersections, while enhancing a community’s aesthetics. They are an alternative to other types of intersection traffic controls, such as stop signs or traffic signals. Their function is to calm traffic and increase pedestrian safety. Funding for these type of projects is available through state programs such as ALDOT’s *Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)*.



### Gateways

Gateways provide an opportunity to make a positive first impression to welcome people entering the city by establishing an arrival point or destination. A “sense of place” can be experienced even before entering the geographic boundaries of a city. A city’s entrance gateway should be a reflection of the city’s character and define the community’s identity. New and updated welcoming gateways are needed at entry points along the main roadways throughout Bayou La Batre. They should include improvements such as decorative lighting and landscaping.



### Sidewalks & Trails

Sidewalks are an important community design element because they provide many benefits including safety, mobility, and healthier communities. They promote walkability and provide the basis for and

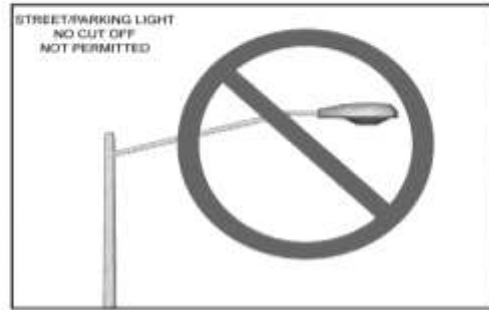
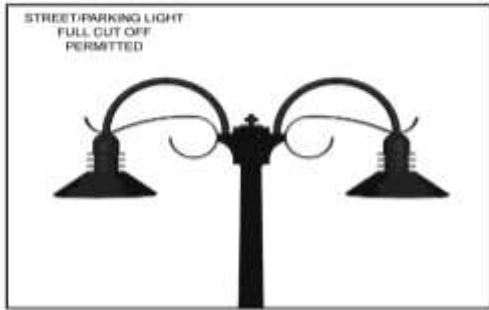
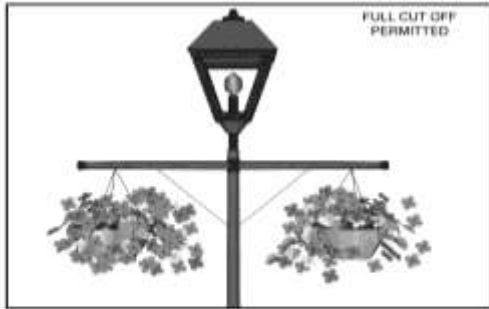


support of the use of street furniture. The use of a foot path, bike trail, low-level lighting, decorative fountain, information kiosk, bike rack or bus shelter are linked to a defined pedestrian transportation network. Sidewalks should be plentiful in all communities and provide for various types of transportation. Additionally, they should be installed with a protective median or barrier that effectively separates the pedestrian from motorists. The lack of sidewalks and other pedestrian

accommodations is a major concern amongst citizens who participated in the community survey, along with a need for crosswalks, boardwalks and other measures that provide pedestrian safety and accessibility. It is strongly encouraged that the city coordinate with organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), to conduct a walkability assessment of the community to determine and identify areas in need of sidewalk additions and rehabilitation.

### Lighting

Lighting is an important element of community design and a key streetscape element. City lighting should offer high illumination, security and safety, but also be environmentally friendly by consuming little energy. Night lighting can dominate the mood and focus of a streetscape. Supporting structures for light fixtures (e.g. light poles) are part of the overall “street\_furniture” associated with public and private streets. As such, these structures can set the tone for streetscape and establish a civic identity. Low-level street lighting offers the most pleasing community design, along with proper safety function.



### Landscaping & Beautification

Landscaping provides a welcoming and attractive appearance to a community. Decorating a yard or business through landscaping can encourage a better “sense of place” by promoting outdoor activities such as gardening. An overwhelming number of survey respondents stated the city is in need of landscaping and beautification improvements and would support efforts that would provide for a cleaner city and waterfront. The Bayou is teeming with waterways, majestic trees and lush vegetation. Because of this, it is recommended that city leaders establish protective and sustainable ordinances, such as landscape, tree protection and clear-cutting ordinances. These types of regulations encourage low-impact development and sustainable landscaping in efforts to protect the environment and

enhance the community. Sustainable Landscaping is comprised of numerous “green” practices that address environmental issues related to the design, construction, implementation, and management of residential and commercial landscapes. The implementation of sustainable landscaping practices



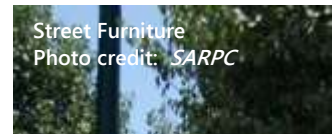
Sustainable Landscaping  
Photo credit: SARPC

not only beautifies a community, but is environmentally friendly and beneficial. It requires less maintenance, reduces environmental harm, benefits wildlife, provides seasonal interest, utilizes native plants, and encourages the use of local, renewable, and recyclable materials. It recognizes the importance of native plants, which have adapted to the climate of a geographic area, making them naturally hardy. Local wildlife in turn has evolved,

using them for food, cover and shelter. Other programs that support a properly landscaped community include collaboration with the city’s Beautification Committee to establish Garden Clubs, which support “Yard of the Month” initiatives and other community enhancement programs. It is highly recommended that the city develop a landscape and tree ordinance to ensure the protection of trees and safeguard against the destruction and removal of native vegetation that is essential for the protection of the Bayou from flooding and storm events.

### Street Furniture

Street elements such as streetlights, traffic signals, directional and way-finding signage, bus shelters, fire hydrants, information kiosks, drinking or decorative fountains, litter baskets and street benches can all be termed street furniture. Streetscapes are, in large measure, defined and enhanced by the orderly and disciplined installation of street furniture. Street furniture gives character and quality to a streetscape, while making the area more attractive to the pedestrian. It acts to convert a harsh street scene to a more sensitive human/pedestrian scale. It is recommended that the city identify areas throughout the community that are in need of street furniture and work with local businesses to sponsor city beautification programs that would provide these features for the community.



Street Furniture  
Photo credit: SARPC



Street Furniture  
Photo credit: SARPC

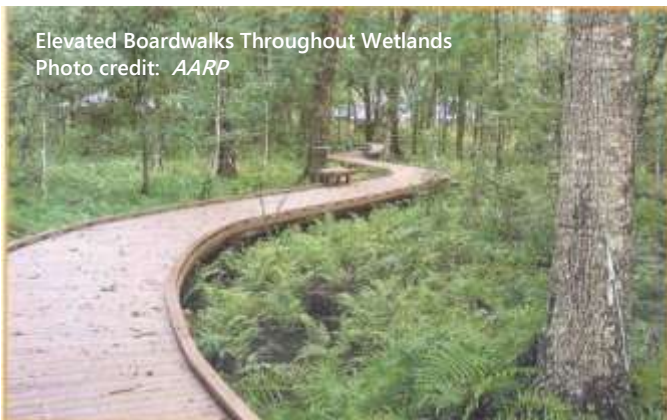


[Boardwalks & Other Pedestrian Enhancements](#)

The Bayou is unique due to its abundance of wetlands in the region. Wetlands attract visitors such as birders and naturalists who support conservation efforts and who help build a strong lobby for carefully managed development. Elevated boardwalks are an environmentally friendly way to provide community walking and birding trails, while maintaining the integrity of the wetland system. They can be constructed in wetland areas that prohibit any other type of construction, allowing for this space to be exposed and utilized for scenic tourism and economic development opportunities.

It is encouraged that these type of options be explored in efforts to protect essential wetland ecosystems and other natural resources as a means to manage development and maintain the natural environment.

Other pedestrian enhancements include improved crosswalks and a pedestrian bridge. These features promote walkability in the community and provide for pedestrian safety at busy street crossings throughout the city.



*Community Development Projects*



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The following is a list of suggested community development projects that will grow and enhance the city. It includes family entertainment opportunities, youth and senior services, and economic development projects. The list was derived from a combination of citizen comments collected from the community survey and town hall meetings, and planning discussions. The map in *Figure 23* identifies some of the community development projects listed below and their proposed location. It is highly encouraged that the city coordinate with the Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce and other tourism development organizations to attract and promote eco-tourism to the Bayou.





## Chapter 5 ~ Land Use & Community Design

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- Archery/Shooting ranges
- Asian markets
- Barrier island day-trip excursions
- Beach development
- Bed & Breakfasts
- Bike lanes and trails
- Birding trails & observation towers
- Boat launch
- Boat rental
- Bookstore
- Bowling alley
- Charter fishing services
- Charter fishing
- Community garden
- Community swimming pool
- Create fisherman's CO-OP
- Create more playgrounds
- Cultural center
- Develop Lightning Point
- Develop oyster & horticulture nursery
- Disc golf course
- Dog park
- Drive-Inn theatre
- Driving range
- Elevated boardwalks for wildlife viewing
- Environmental education center/outdoor classrooms
- Establish Heritage Park
- Family style restaurants
- Farmer's & Fisherman's markets
- Fishing pier
- Ghost tours
- Golf course/mini-golf
- Hiking, walking & nature trails
- Hunting areas
- Install welcoming gateways
- Kayak/canoe/paddle board outfitters & launching sites
- Lighthouse replica
- Lodging opportunity
- Marina development
- More landscaping
- Museum-Replica of Black Pearl
- Open air artisan markets
- Parks & amphitheater
- Pirate ship cruise
- Playgrounds
- Primitive campgrounds
- Provide free public transit (trolley)
- Rebuild city docks
- Recreation center/YMCA
- Recycling program
- Re-establish Parks & Recreation Board
- Restore Artesian wells and develop a curative spa
- Revitalize Port
- Riverboat dinner cruise
- RV Parks
- Safe harbor
- Scenic overlooks
- Scuba diving services & excursions
- Seafood markets & sales
- Seafood processing plant tours/fieldtrips
- Shipyard vessel launching events
- Showcase historical homes & churches
- Sidewalks/boardwalks
- Skate park
- Turn Basin
- U-Pick Farms/pumpkin patch/tree farms
- Water taxi service to beach/barrier islands
- Waterfront dining
- Zip-line park

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## Working Waterfront

Working Waterfronts are defined as waterfront lands, waterfront infrastructure, and waterways that are used for water-dependent activities, such as ports, small recreational boat harbors and fishing docks. Essentially, a Working Waterfront is a developed area created for diverse uses that depend on access to the water, such as commercial fishing, boat building, kayaking and other eco-tourism activities. They include businesses that complement the industry such as bait and tackle shops, boat repair, gift shops, restaurants, etcetera.

The *Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition* is a local program offered through the Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant Consortium that provides information about Working Waterfronts. They educate waterfront communities and businesses about the importance of Working Waterfronts, environmentally and economically, and the role they play in sustaining a community's economy. The *National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN)* is the federal organization that supplies information and support for financing and planning for future Working Waterfront developments to municipalities.



Example of a Working Waterfront  
Photo credit: NWWN

Cities such as Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores are some local communities in the region that have established Working Waterfront Districts. It is highly encouraged that the City and Port Authority



Bayou La Batre Waterfront  
Photo credit: SARPC

coordinate with the local Working Waterfront Coalition to research and explore future development opportunities for the bayou's waterfront. Bayou La Batre is a waterfront community, rich in maritime history, that has survived and sustained for many years due to the industrialism encompassed in and around the waterfront. While industrial uses are vitally important to the future of the Bayou, the waterfront should not just be limited to

industrial activities. The Bayou has the potential to develop the remaining amount of waterfront into

a diversified center of activity for all to enjoy. Making the waterfront accessible and available to the public will create public awareness, attract tourism and recruit economic development.

### Tree City USA

*Tree City U.S.A.* is a national program sponsored by the *Arbor Day Foundation* that provides the framework for community forestry management and inspires communities to plant, nurture and preserve trees. The program provides many benefits through membership, such as education, promoting community pride, creating publicity and a positive public image, and initiating community improvement efforts. The program also offers funding opportunities for tree plantings and landscape design along with the opportunity to earn the distinction of being a Tree City, U.S.A.



### Main Street Alabama

The *Main Street Alabama Program* is a proven, powerful tool for small town economic development. It is a highly focused, long-term, incremental program that capitalizes on the unique character of historic downtowns. Created and trademarked by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Main Street Program has over 25 years of success in more than 2,000 communities nationwide. Many



Alabama communities are currently implementing the Main Street Four Points Approach to invest in existing infrastructure, create new jobs and retain and attract businesses. They are turning abandoned, vacant buildings into the revitalized, tax-generating businesses once again and bringing shoppers back to the downtowns across Alabama. Moreover, the program engages local citizens in creating stronger communities by offering many educational and training opportunities for Main Street communities and those interested in exploring the Main Street Four Points Approach to rebuild their downtown areas.

### Town Center

The existing City Hall, Police and Fire Departments of Bayou La Batre are presently located in areas of the city that are encompassed within the current floodplain boundary. Because of their location, their ability to dispatch emergency vehicles is compromised if and when a flooding event occurs. This was a major concern of many residents who participated in the Community Survey who expressed the need for these facilities to be relocated due to their accessibility in the event of a storm. It is highly recommended that the city combine these services into one municipal complex facility and relocate

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these critical public service facilities to a location outside of the floodplain boundary to ensure the safety of Bayou residents. The Future Land Use Map in *Figure 22* suggest creating a new “Town Center” at the confluence of Wintzell Avenue, BLB-Irvington Highway and Padgett Switch Road. This development will provide a safer and more appropriate location for a municipal complex, and also develop a new civic hub or downtown gathering place for the community. A new “Town Center” will



provide a place for citizens to congregate for both civic and social events and festivities in addition to creating a more pedestrian-friendly area for the community.

This area can also serve as the location of the Emergency Command Center and tie into the existing city facilities that include the library and community center. The “Town Center” will also allow for land uses such as retail, professional, residential and

mixed-use developments, creating a charming and centralized downtown for the community with a variety of uses. Realignment of streets and the addition of a new traffic circle will create a better way to navigate through the city, providing safer streets and alleviating traffic congestion.

## COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Bayou La Batre is well known for their abundance of churches. The Bayou La Batre area is home to over fourteen churches, offering over seven different denominations located throughout the community, including several Asian Temples. The community provides a place of worship for almost every religious denomination. Additionally, the community offers a unique worship opportunity that’s not typically found in most city’s in the U.S. The Bayou has a large Asian population and is home to numerous Buddhist Congregations, each with their own Temple, including two (2) Vietnamese Temples.



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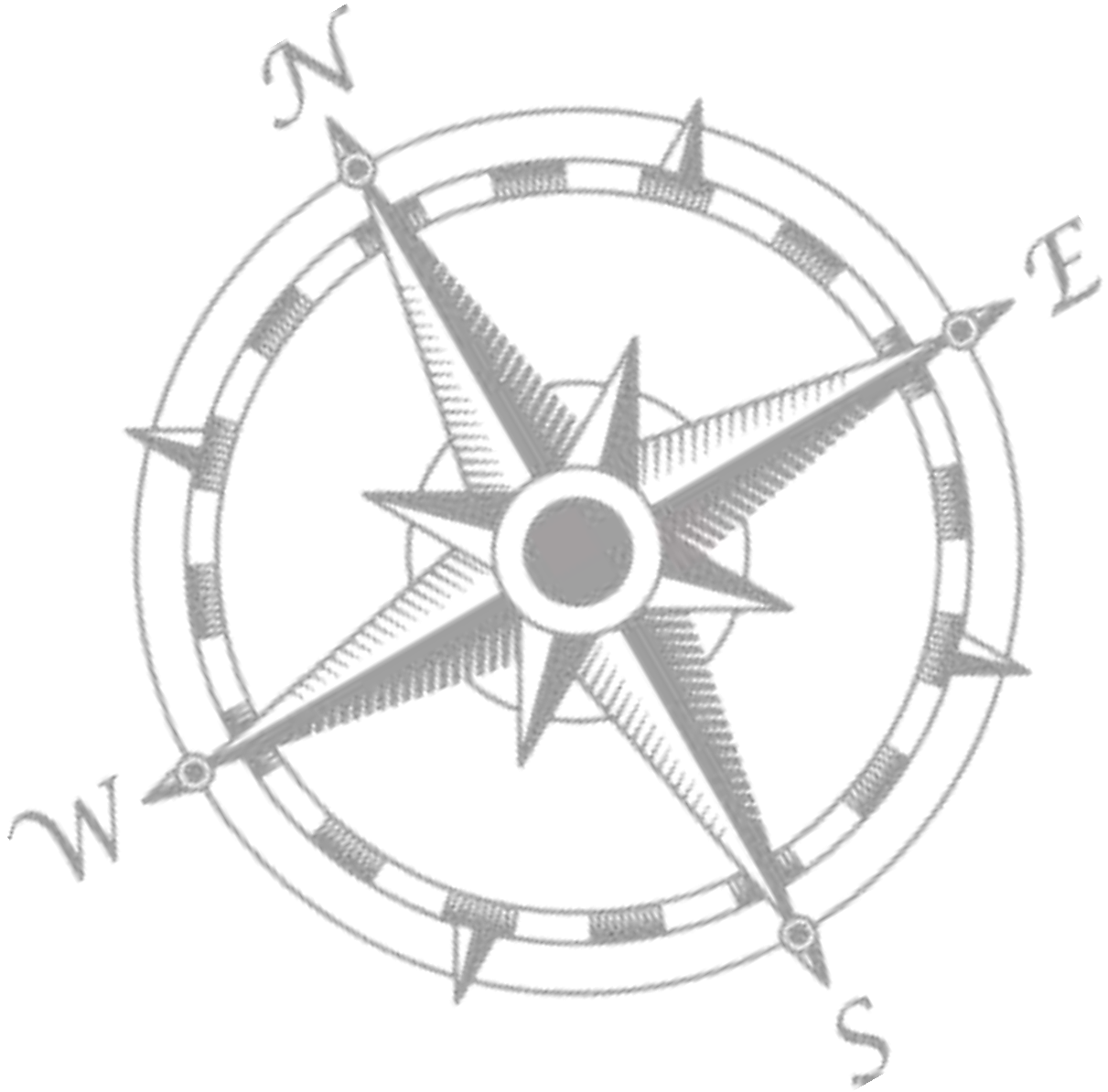
Bayou churches have always been, and will continue to be, an integral part of the society, serving and supplying the community in numerous ways through programs such as vacation bible schools, senior and youth activities, social services and community food banks. The following is a list of churches found throughout the Bayou La Batre community.

- Anchor Assembly of God
- Bayou La Batre Church Of God
- Church of God of Prophecy
- Coden Bible Church
- Coden United Methodist Church
- Evangelical Methodist Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Family Church Of South Alabama
- First Baptist Church
- Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
- Gospel Way Church
- First Evangelical Methodist
- Freewater Baptist Church
- Hemley Road Church Of Christ
- Higher Ground Baptist Church
- Independent Church Of God
- Perfect Alternative Baptist
- St Margaret's Church
- Sweet Bethel Baptist Church
- Wesleyan Church

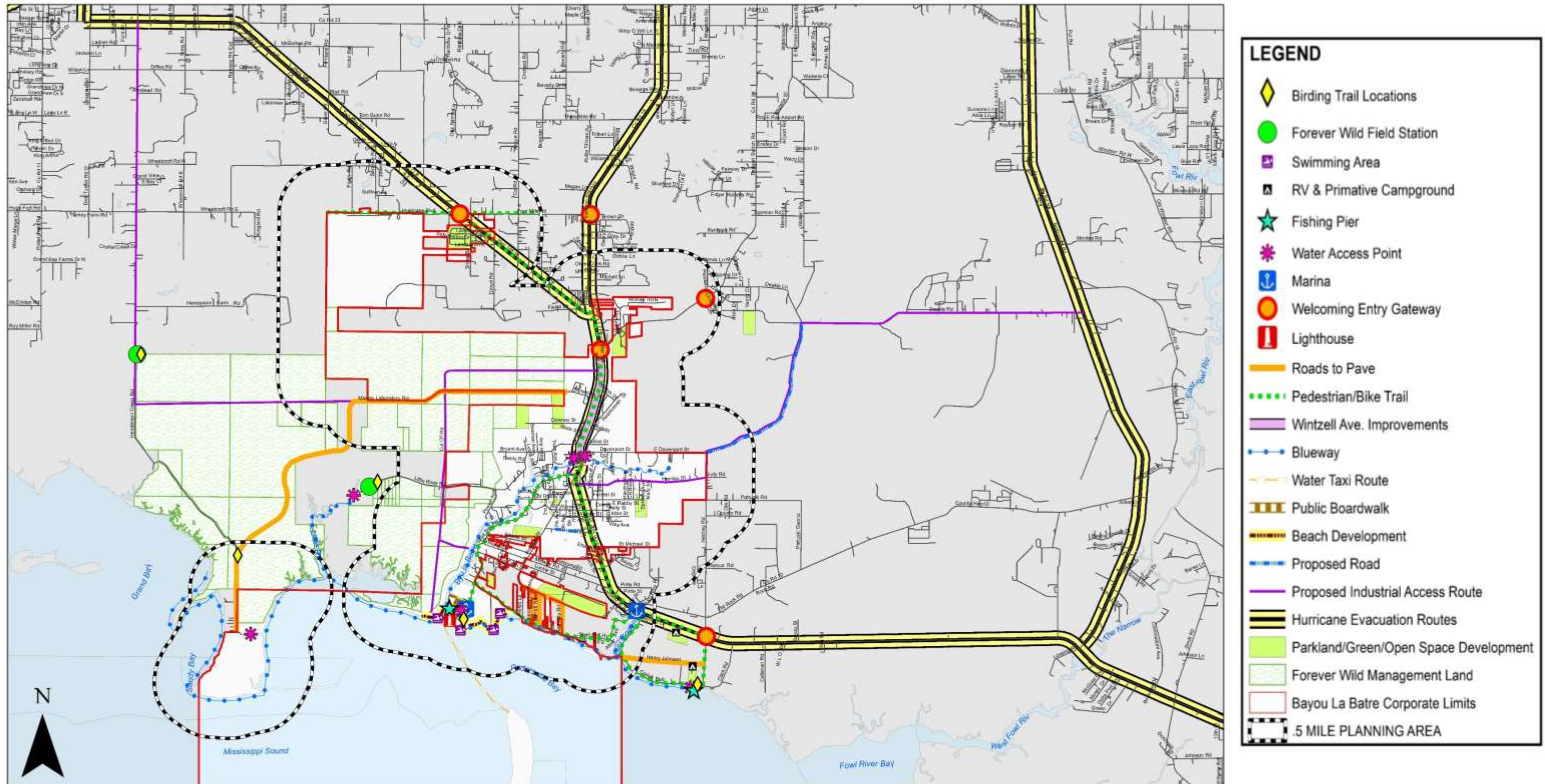




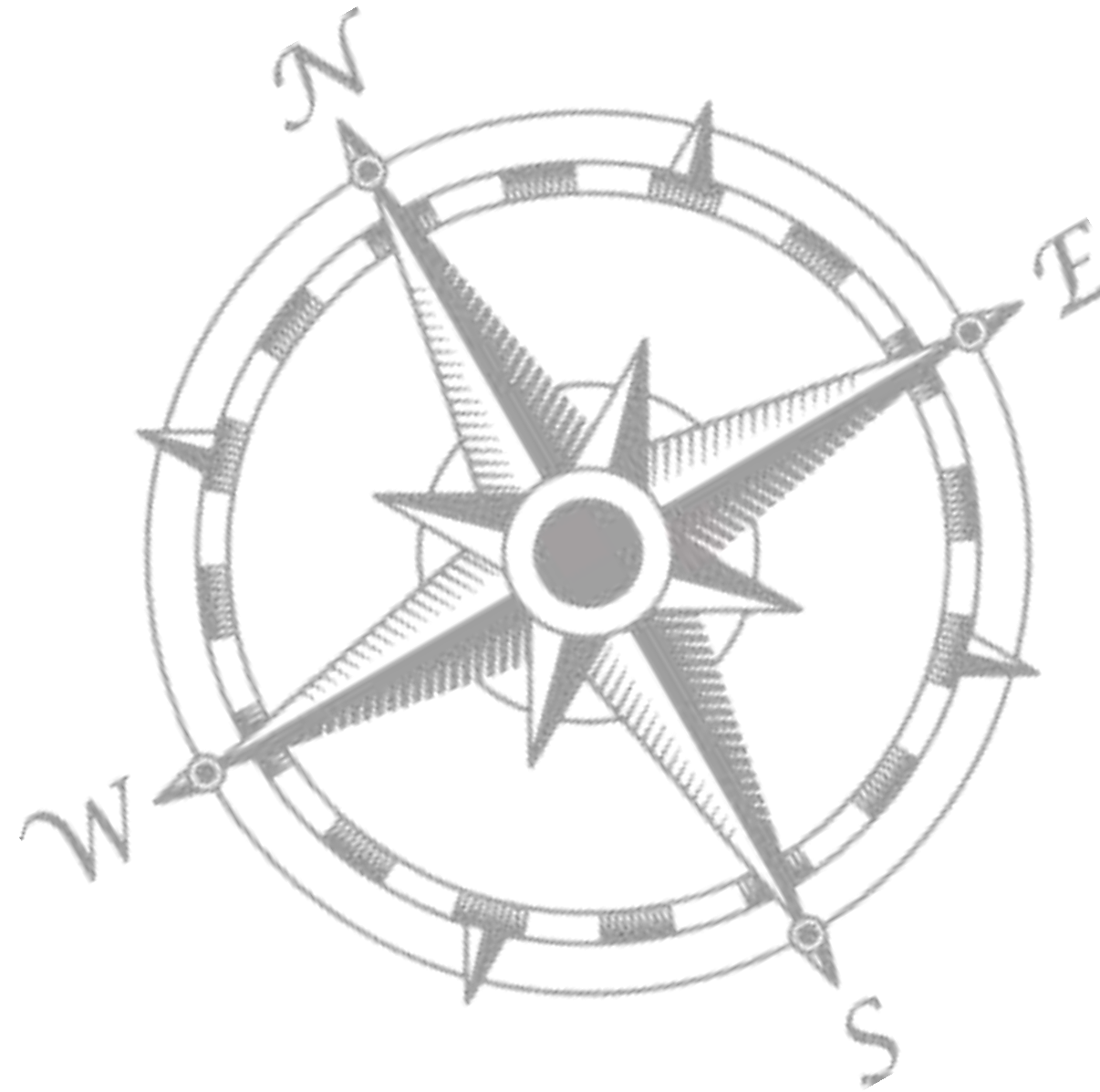
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**FIGURE 23**  
Community Development Projects



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## ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Bayou La Batre City Council, Planning Commission and city leaders recognize the importance and significance of community events to promote tourism and create exposure to the Bayou. They are making a concerted effort to coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce in efforts to market the community and organize social events for the city each month. Comments received from Town Hall meetings and the Community Survey revealed the residents would like to see more city wide events in efforts to unify the community and create exposure to the Bayou. The following is a list of proposed ideas and suggested events that was collected from public comments during the planning process and they are as follows:

- Birdfest
- Ship Launchings
- Lighted Boat Christmas Parade on the Bayou (Christmas on the Bayou)
- Mardi Gras Parade
- Artisans in Park
- Cemetery Tours
- Bayou Clean Up Day
- Community Picnic
- Movie Nights in the Park (Summer)
- Youth Fishing Tournament
- Fun Run
- Haunted Ghost Tours
- Historic Church/Homes Tour
- Bayou Discovery Day
- Seafood Appreciation Day
- Gumbo Cook-Off
- Oyster/Shrimp Discovery Day
- Forrest Gump Day/Shrimp Festival
- Pirate Festival
- Asian Culture Celebration Day
- Bounty on the Bayou

The following is a list of annual communitiy events the city and Chamber currently sponsor and participate in.

### St. Margaret's Blessing of the Fleet

The custom of the Blessing of the Fleet can be traced back to Old World European fishing communities where God was publicly acknowledged and asked for a bountiful harvest and the safety of the men at sea. In 1949, St. Margaret's held its first Blessing of the Fleet envisioned by a parishioner, Clarence Mallet, who moved to Bayou La Batre from Louisiana in 1925 with a strong belief that God's blessings were



Saint Margaret's Blessing of the Fleet  
Photo credit: *City of Bayou La Batre*

## Chapter 5 ~ Land Use & Community Design

essential to a good harvest from the sea. With this conviction, he convinced Father Alex O'Neill to hold the first Blessing of the Fleet. St. Margaret's Blessing of the Fleet is held annually and has grown to include Vietnamese Cuisine, a Gumbo Cook-off, an Arts & Crafts Show, a Decorated Boat Contest, Boat Cruises, Bingo, and more. It offers shrimp, oysters and fish along with a full Vietnamese menu prepared by "the locals". It is a tourist attraction and a community event that people of Bayou La Batre look forward to each year. Even though the Fleet Blessing event has changed over the last 67 years, the purpose and mission has not; the men of the sea still come each year to have their boats blessed and prayers said for their bountiful harvest and protection against the perils of the sea. The event is held each May at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Bayou La Batre

### Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic

The Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic Fishing Tournament is held each August along the coastline of Bayou La Batre and the Mississippi Sound. Kayak fishermen from all over the Gulf Coast come to the Bayou each year to participate. This popular and well attended event begins at 6 am with a shotgun start, with anglers competing for over 33 different awards including Master and Junior Angler divisional titles. Junior anglers are allowed to fish from pier and land as well as kayaks. This annual event is in its third year of success and has an average of 200 participants. Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, the BLB Kayak Classic offers a full day of festivities including live music, fresh food, cold spirits and tons of fun. Tournament headquarters are located at the Bayou La Batre City Docks.



Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic  
Photo credit: Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce

### Paddle Bayou



Paddle Bayou  
Photo credit: Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce

This annual event is held each October in Bayou La Batre for kayakers and other paddlers to get an up close and personal view of the natural beauty of the Bayou. It is a paddle experience that provides beautiful scenic views and an opportunity to explore parts of the Bayou most don't even know exists! This leisure, self-guided tour begins at the City Docks and continues all the way up through the Bayou. Stops

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are located at St. Margaret's dock and areas north of the draw bridge. Paddle Bayou is a popular event with families and is enjoyed by all who attend. It is sponsored by the Chamber and last year, the event proved to be a success, bringing in over 100 paddlers to the Bayou for the day.

### Taste of the Bayou

Held at the Bayou La Batre Community Center in early fall, this annual seafood tasting event features 30-plus booths with succulent dishes prepared by local and professional chefs, along with music and celebrity guests. Teams compete for the "Taste of the Bayou" Title with locally prepared seafood dishes using Bayou Seafood. Teams can compete in 4 categories, which are:



- General Seafood Dish – Restaurant
- General Seafood Dish -Non-Restaurant
- Gumbo
- Dessert

Professional chefs and amateur cooks are invited to participate, providing they use fresh Gulf Coast seafood from the state of Alabama. Attendees get to sample everything from fried seafood to gumbo to a variety of desserts.

### Bounty on the Bayou

*Bounty on the Bayou* is a new event that was recently established to attract tourism to the Bayou. It is held each October to celebrate the Bayou's legendary pirate history. This fun event includes a Pirates' Treasure Hunt along the shores of the Bayou. Bounty on the Bayou is a one day event, held at the State Docks and is sponsored by the City. Treasure chests filled with prizes are hidden along the Bayou and can be hunted by foot or boat. Participants race through this treasure hunt to see who can find the most buried treasure and locate the grand prize, the keys to Davy Jones Locker! This fun-filled day event is held in conjunction with the annual arrival of the Columbus Ships to the Bayou.



### Columbus Ships Tours

Pirates and Land Lubbers alike are sure to get a bounty full of pirate and maritime history while attending this event. Visitors can tour these floating museums that are historically accurate replicas of the ships on which Columbus sailed across the Atlantic on his three voyages of discovery to the new world beginning in 1492. This popular and well-loved event is held annually in October at St. Margaret's Catholic Church Dock.



Columbus Ships Tours  
Photo credit: *City of Bayou La Batre*

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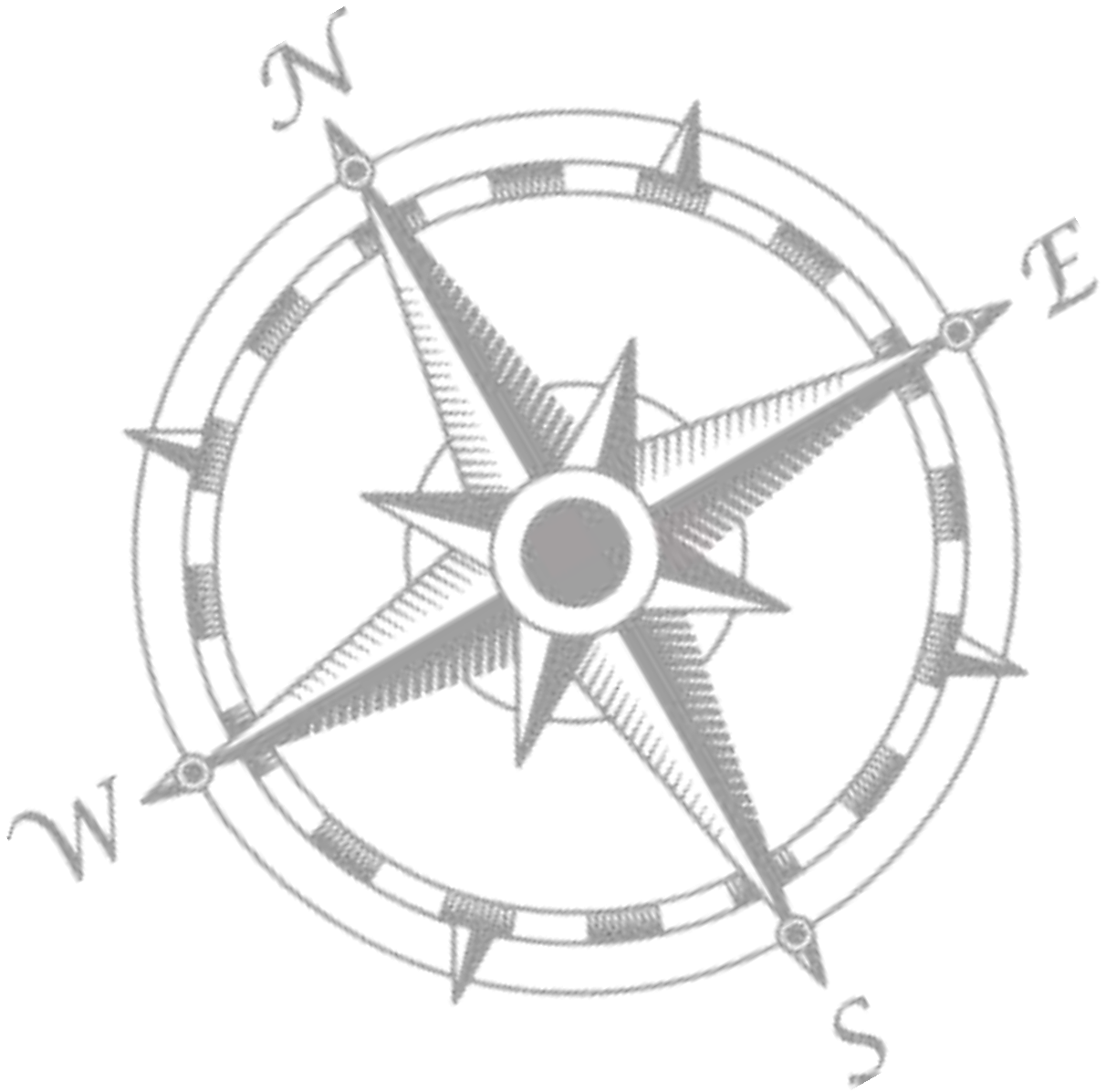
The following is a list of annual community events which are currently held throughout the year. The City works with the Chamber of Commerce to schedule and host these events and continually adds events to the list. If you have an idea for a new event or would like to add to the current schedule, please contact the City of Bayou La Batre or the Chamber of Commerce:

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- JANUARY**
- *Dr. Martin Luther King Remembrance & Community Prayer Service*
  - *Vietnamese New Year Celebration*
- FEBRUARY**
- *Black History Month Celebration*
  - *Alma Bryant High School Archery Regionals*
- MARCH**
- *Bayou Community Clean-Up*
- APRIL**
- *Laotian & Cambodian New Year Celebrations*
  - *Relay for Life*
  - *Jr. ROTC 5K Run*
- MAY**
- *Saint Margaret's Blessing of the Fleet*
- JUNE**
- *Distinguished Young Women of Mobile County*
- JULY**
- *Fourth of July at the City Docks*
  - *Fishing Tournament*
- AUGUST**
- *Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic*
- SEPTEMBER**
- *Taste of the Bayou*
  - *Alabama Coastal Clean-Up*
- OCTOBER**
- *Bounty on the Bayou*
  - *Columbus Ship Tours*
  - *Paddle Bayou*
  - *Nita Cain Breast Cancer Awareness Walk*
- NOVEMBER**
- *Veteran's Day Recognition & Ceremony*
- DECEMBER**
- *Annual Christmas Parade & Breakfast with Santa*



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# GOALS, RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation refers to the means of applying and executing a plan, along with the process of monitoring the plan’s status and progress. The following Implementation Schedule is a list of goals and recommendations formulated by the Bayou La Batre Planning Commission for the purposes of establishing the framework for future development. The foundation for developing these goals and recommendations within the *Bayou La Batre Comprehensive Master Plan 2035* was taken from a variety of sources, including the Community Input Survey, Town Hall Meetings and the on-going work the Planning Commission has done throughout the planning process. It is the responsibility of the Planning Commission to review this schedule on an annual basis to ensure these suggested projects are being executed properly and in a timely manner. By implementing the recommendations and strategies below, the City will achieve the goals identified by the citizens and will be closer to obtaining the vision Bayou La Batre has for the future. The schedule is categorized by planning topics with estimated timelines for completion. While this schedule is intended to provide easy reference for city staff, officials, developers and residents, it must be understood that most successful planning strategies are not entirely defined or planned in advance. Therefore, the suggested projects, as well as timelines listed in this schedule may need to be adapted and modified over time in order to be feasible for the city to complete.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>COMMUNITY VISION</b>			
<i>Goal: To preserve Bayou La Batre's history and create a community identity that showcases the history.</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand upon designation and branding as the “Seafood Capital of Alabama”</li> </ul>	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertise city with terms such as “American Fisherman” &amp; “Local-Wild Caught Seafood”</li> </ul>	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep identity and preserve history by establishing a maritime and/or history museum.</li> </ul>	✓		

## Chapter 6 ~ Goals, Recommendations & Implementation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Showcase unique maritime history by housing museum in vessel built in local shipyards to attract tourism.</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build upon fishing and shipbuilding history/theme to create a trademark and symbol for the city. Include throughout community through streetscaping elements, commemorative fountains and/or statues, flags, signs, monuments, etc.</li> </ul>	✓		
		<b>TIMELINE (YEARS)</b>	
		0-5	5-10
		10-20	
<b>HOUSING</b>			
<i>Goal: To improve safety from flooding and other natural disasters.</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate new housing development sites out of the floodplain</li> </ul>		✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocate public safety facilities from flood prone areas to dry, upland areas.</li> </ul>		✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create new parks and outdoor recreation facilities in lower-lying areas that can absorb access flood waters and stormwater run off</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade existing Building Code to integrate methods and suggested recommendations from the Mobile County Hazard Mitigation Plan</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt new building codes from the International Code Council (ICC) that include construction requirements from Fortified Homes, Smart Home America and the INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS AND HOME SAFETY (IBHS) to ensure the safety and resiliency of all construction practices</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire full-time Code Enforcement Officer</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and remove dilapidated and molded structures throughout the city</li> </ul>	✓		
<i>Goal: To improve housing affordability and create more housing options.</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annex and acquire property outside of city limits and identify areas for more housing development locations</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create more housing types such as: single-family, duplex, townhouse, apartments, garden homes, courtyard homes and condominiums to provide housing opportunity for young adults, retirees and the elderly</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for mixed-use development in specific areas of the city where housing and commercial uses can exist on same parcel</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage home ownership by offering incentives to first time buyers</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer more rental homes to capture employees of local businesses and industries in the city</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to finance low-interest,</li> </ul>	✓		

## Chapter 6 ~ Goals, Recommendations & Implementation

long-term loans to promote home ownership and housing rehab			
	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>HOUSING (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate housing rehabilitation programs offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), and other federal, state and local agencies</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand existing Safe Harbor neighborhood to offer more affordable housing options that are income-based</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement home improvement methods and energy saving retrofits from AlabamaWise.org</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement programs to reduce homeowner's insurance costs</li> </ul>		✓	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
<i>Goal: To improve street conditions and expand street network for safety and access purposes.</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resurface deteriorating streets and pave dirt roads</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend Delcambre Street through to Railroad Street to provide alternate entry/exit to Police Department</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an alternate route to divert industrial shipyard traffic from the primarily residential Little River Road</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect Marine Laboratory Road to Henderson Camp Road to provide alternate route in and out of city and to provide an industrial access route for shipyard traffic and a new hurricane evacuation route</li> </ul>			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pave Marine Laboratory Road</li> </ul>			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend Cut Off Road to continue south to the Bayou to access the waterfront and provide industrial access vehicles alternate route to shipyards</li> </ul>			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pave Cut Off Road through Pay As You Go Paving Program</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pave Railroad Street, Kennedy Lane, Kennedy Street and Barrett Road to provide better access to waterfront</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect Davenport and Hemley Streets to create an industrial access route for shipyard traffic to access east side of bayou</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen Padgett-Switch Road in efforts to provide a more accommodating emergency evacuation route for the residents of Bayou La Batre and neighboring communities</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend Davenport Road to Bellingrath Road via Deakle Road to</li> </ul>		✓	

## Chapter 6 ~ Goals, Recommendations & Implementation

provide a second entry/exit into city and to provide an alternate evacuation route			
	<b>TIMELINE (YEARS)</b>		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>TRANSPORTATION (CONTINUED)</b>			
<i>Goal: To improve accessibility, connectivity and way-finding throughout the community</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create free public transportation opportunities for residents and visitors</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve pedestrian accessibility and connectivity throughout the city by creating walking trails, sidewalks, crosswalks and boardwalks</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install traffic circle at difficult intersections, such as the confluence of Wintzell Ave., Padgett Switch Road and BLB-Irvington Highway to alleviate traffic congestion and aid traffic flow</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start a bike rental program with bike racks throughout the community</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create parking for Maritime Park</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more boat trailer parking at State Docks</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install directional signage and way-finding signage throughout the city for important destinations and points of interest</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve traffic flow on Wintzell Ave. with the installation of additional traffic lanes and/or access roads</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust hours of drawbridge to alleviate traffic on Wintzell Avenue</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install public boardwalks along waterfront areas throughout the city to provide public access and promote tourism</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the "Complete Streets" design concept to provide pedestrian and cycling access to city streets and to accommodate all modes of transportation in efforts to create a more walkable community</li> </ul>			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and implement an Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan to ensure all public transportation access is ADA compliant</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire public easements and waterfront property for public boardwalk system</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pave Henry Johnson Road to better access Rolston Park</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install bike lanes on existing streets and roads</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create biking, walking and paddling trails throughout city &amp; in existing parks</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new blueway trails for more kayaking and boating opportunity</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a ferry/water taxi route from state docks to west side of bayou</li> </ul>	✓		

## Chapter 6 ~ Goals, Recommendations & Implementation

and to barrier islands in efforts to access these areas of the city and promote tourism			
	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>			
<i>Goal: To construct new and maintain existing infrastructure throughout the city in efforts to stabilize and better access city streets, bridges, waterways, sewers, drainage, etc.</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove debris and regularly maintain all waterways throughout city to absorb stormwater run off and control flooding during rainfall events</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install guard railing on bridges that cross waterways on Rasmussen Street to provide motorist safety and make more attractive</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a Safe Harbor for vessel protection and storage during storm events</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address sewer flooding and draining issues occurring along Alba Street</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install heli-pad site for emergencies</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjust hours of drawbridge to alleviate traffic on Wintzell Avenue</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create additional port services in Mississippi Sound to recruit and capture more International Vessel Traffic</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Industrial Access Route to transport Port cargo to Interstate 10 and beyond</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire property to create a larger turn basin in Bayou La Batre waterway to accommodate larger vessel traffic</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Alabama Power to install utility lines underground</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to schedule routine dredging and maintenance on ship channel</li> </ul>	✓		
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM</b>			
<i>Goal: To support and expand upon existing business and industry to create a diverse economy</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade and rebuild state docks to provide more water access opportunity to the public through the installation of fishing piers, boat launches and boat slips</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire long-term lease to restore Lightning Point to provide a full-service marina and offer marina services</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install advertisement signage on Interstate 10 to capture tourist</li> </ul>	✓		

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	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create business incubator model such as Anchor Square “cottage and boardwalk style” in Pascagoula, MS to promote and foster entrepreneurship opportunity</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise city through television, local newspapers and publications, billboards, social media, websites, magazines and tourist brochures that circulate throughout the entire gulf coast region</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide access to and open up waterfront to public to draw visitors</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish fresh seafood markets to provide Gulf Seafood Markets</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer more unique eating establishments and waterfront dining opportunities</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with the Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce to schedule and advertise local community events and festivals to recruit visitors to the city</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a tourism board to develop a trademark for Bayou La Batre, advertisement brochures, and other publications to attract tourism</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer incentives to businesses that include entrepreneurship and diversification</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand upon recycling initiatives through the Gulf Coast Agriculture and Seafood CO-OP (GCASC) to recruit new enterprise and diversity into the Bayou economy</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Auburn Shellfish Laboratory and Organized Seafood Association of Alabama to establish education programs through Bryant High School for education and training in aquaculture, mariculture and other alternative forms of farming</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install dockage space and fuel stations at mouth of the bayou</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-establish Port Authority and schedule regular public meetings</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer tax incentives and initiatives to oyster farmers and nurseries</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and support business incubators</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Chamber of Commerce and local/state legislators to recruit new business and industry</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an aquaculture industry in Portersville Bay to include oyster, shrimp and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) farming initiatives, along with mariculture farming and other alternative farming methods</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand upon seafood waste recycling efforts within the pharmaceutical and medical industries</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a diesel fuel subsidy program with local commercial</li> </ul>	✓		

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fishermen			
	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM (CONTINUED)</b>			
• Work with Alabama Film Office to recruit film makers to area		✓	
• Implement and enforce environmental protection measures to shipbuilding and seafood industries to ensure the integrity of the bayou		✓	✓
• Install wayfinding signage that identifies local businesses and other points of interest	✓		
• Coordinate with local Organized Seafood Association of Alabama (OSAA) to support and advertise “American Fisherman Caught Seafood” and create a marketing plan to advertise local seafood	✓		
• Identify and establish a site for an Industrial Park	✓		
• Provide incentives for businesses and industries that utilize solar and bio forms of energy	✓		
• Create advertisement brochure and distribute at new welcome center on Interstate 10 at MS/AL state line and other venues that receive heavy tourist traffic	✓		
• Create a Citizens Board to identify issues, solve problems and present requests to City Council	✓		
• Offer Charter Fishing excursions out of bayou	✓		
• Establish a driving range and golf course	✓		
• Establish Ghost Tours to attract tourism	✓		
• Establish a marketing committee to recruit and work with economic developers	✓		
<i>Goal: To create new industry through nature-based tourism opportunities.</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
• Revitalize Port and waterfront to include city docks, boat launches, fishing pier, marina, boat slips, restaurants, hotel, housing options		✓	✓
• Develop beaches on Coden Belt Road and Shell Belt Road to provide waterfront accessibility	✓	✓	
• Support local artisans and vendors through outdoor markets	✓		
• Construct new fishing pier at Rolston Park		✓	
• Create a committee to establish an advertising campaign for the city	✓		
• Develop hydroponic and aquaculture farming opportunities that are opened to the public	✓		
• Establish U-PIK Farms to promote agri-tourism opportunities	✓		
• Market and advertise ship launching events at local shipyards	✓		



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	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and fund a Community Economic Development (CED) staff position to implement the Comprehensive Master Plan and to seek and apply for grant funds.</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replicate Disney's <i>Black Pearl</i> to house a maritime museum</li> </ul>			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand upon and market birding opportunity the Bayou has to offer through advertisement, birding tours and hosting of bird-fest events</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install directional signage to advertise Forever Wild Boardwalk and other areas of interest throughout city to recruit tourism</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop more outdoor recreation opportunity such as disc golf, soccer fields, birding trails, boating, beaches, fishing, charters, etc.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop tourism opportunities through Seafood Processing Plant tours, Gulf Coast Agriculture and Seafood CO-OP tours, island excursions, fishing charters, public fishing pier, boat rental, kayak outfitter, Asian temple tours</li> </ul>	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize Forever Wild properties and other natural resources to promote eco-tourism such as kayaking, birding, fishing and boating</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Riverboat Dining Opportunity in the Mississippi Sound</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a venue for outdoor Seafood Markets to enable local fishermen to sell their products to the public at a centralized, highly-visible and easily accessible location in efforts to promote seafood sales, support local fishermen and market Bayou La Batre as the Seafood Capital of Alabama</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Alabama Film Office and other organizations within the Film Industry to recruit film producers to area and expose and expand upon existing filming locations along Cut Off Road</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire property around drawbridge to develop a welcome center and look-out point for the city to promote tourism and advertise the city</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore artesian wells and develop a curative spa</li> </ul>	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Sea School officials to promote and advertise services in efforts to build up fishermen/watermen industry and to expose people to the area</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expose and advertise cultural heritage of community through events such as Asian Temple Tours</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with local shipbuilders to provide shipyard tours and advertise vessel launching events in efforts to create public awareness</li> </ul>	✓		

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to the shipbuilding industry and expose and promote city			
	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer tours at the Gulf Coast Agricultural and Seafood CO-OP recycling center to create public awareness and education</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer more lodging opportunities through the development of waterfront hotels and Bed &amp; Breakfasts</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer tax incentives to property owners in exchange for access to waterfront and undeveloped properties for development of linear greenways and other park systems</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosts sporting events and activities for leagues and tournaments</li> </ul>	✓		
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>			
<i>Goal: To create a safe and attractive community that creates a unique sense of place and distinct identity</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a centralized city center to develop a “downtown”</li> </ul>		✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install new welcoming/exiting gateways at various entry points into the city limits</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an educational enrichment program for community schools to offer support services and increase graduation rates and student achievement</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with Austal, Airbus and other major employers in region to provide more vocational training and internship opportunities to community schools</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate archery, marksmanship and disc golf into Physical Education program at community schools</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install “Share the Road” signage and other informational/educational signage throughout city</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas for firehouse substations/annexation</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with SARPC’s Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Medicare services to alleviate 911 calls to Fire Department</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire property adjacent to Bayou La Batre Community Center to construct municipal complex to expand city services and facilities</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install multi-use, decorative trash receptacles throughout community to promote cleanliness and beautification</li> </ul>	✓		

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	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expose and advertise historical structures throughout community through events such as Historical Homes and Churches Tours</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with neighboring communities to coordinate on regional projects; Work with city leaders in Mobile on regional plans and projects</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build upon Forest Gump popularity by recruiting Bubba Gump Shrimp Company to open a restaurant; by installing a commemorative statue; by creating a replica from the motion picture</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a committee to work with local business and industry leaders to fund community improvement projects</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with local and state legislators to fund and provide community improvement projects and recruit more business and industry to the city</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with the Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce to better advertise existing community events; to schedule a different community event each month to attract tourist to the community; and to establish annual events such as Lighted Christmas Boat Parade on the Bayou and Mardi Gras Boat Parade on the Bayou</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer more activities and events for the youth and elderly population of the community</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build upon pirate history and theme with the construction of a pirate ship for hire</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a community development committee to advertise the city through the creation of community newsletters, flyers, brochures, websites, commercials, etc.</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with SARPC's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the University of South Alabama (USA) to provide translator and community services to the non-English speaking population of the community</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilized undeveloped lands within the corporate limits of Bayou La Batre through the creation of an archery range/shooting range/hunting opportunity/motocross and/or go-kart park</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a festival that celebrates the oyster history in Bayou La Batre</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct a municipal complex, located outside of the floodplain, to house fire department, police department, city hall offices, and all other public safety offices</li> </ul>		✓	✓

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	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an easy and cost efficient recycling service</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide yard waste removal service</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop outdoor recreational opportunities through the creation of: sidewalks; boardwalks; birding, hiking, hiking, paddling and walking trails; boat and kayak launches; fishing piers, paddle trails and kayak outfitters; disc golf course and linear park trails and exercise stations</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install basketball courts</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish family entertainment and retail services such as: restaurants, grocery stores, theaters, skating rinks, bowling alleys, retail, fast-food dining options, miniature golf, community swimming pool with small scale waterpark, etc.</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an outdoor amphitheater to provide a community gathering place for civic events and community festivities</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide locations for waterfront dining opportunities</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a waterfront music festival</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a community garden and offer outdoor classrooms opportunities for community schools and environmental education centers for the public</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sink a decommissioned vessel to create an artificial reef to provide more habitat for fisheries and to create an off-shore diving opportunity to attract tourism</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install sidewalks, boardwalks, crosswalks and other pedestrian accommodating structures throughout city to encourage more foot travel, promote a walkable community and provide pedestrian safety</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate Emergency Command Center to area out of flood zone</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and provide a 24-hour "Urgent Care" medical facility</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install streetscaping elements such as fountains, clock towers, decorative trash receptacles, landscaping, lighting and street furniture to provide a more aesthetically pleasing streetscape and safer community</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine Leroy Cain Park and John Thomas Park, and acquire adjacent property to create a larger community "Heritage Park" to include Black History Trail, Asian Culture Center, Amphitheatre, Interpretive museum, softball, soccer, and other multi-purpose fields</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annex city-owned properties that are currently outside the corporate limits into the city limits</li> </ul>	✓		

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	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a Junior City Council in efforts to promote youth education and involvement in city government</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce police jurisdiction to 1.5miles to save BLBPD money and resources in efforts to increase police force and offer more competitive salaries</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire a full time Code Enforcement Officer</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design community to attract new families to the city</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop new parks that offer activities such as skate park, zip lines, dog park, etc.</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a performing arts center and/or cultural arts center</li> </ul>			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish more park lands to provide more picnic/pavilion and playground opportunity</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer multiple locations to purchase Fresh, Local and Affordable Seafood</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start a "Buy Local" initiative that educates the public to the importance of supporting local businesses and contributing to the city's tax base</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-establish rail service from Mobile to Portersville Bay to offer day trip excursions to the Bayou</li> </ul>			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertise when the Black Pearl is in BLB each year for routine maintenance as a tourist event</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to seek grant funds and to implement the Four P's of Marketing to advertise the city: Price/Product/Promotion/Place</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join the Main Street Alabama Program to build the community</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a faux lighthouse at Lightning Point to promote tourism and create community symbol</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build upon fishing and shipbuilding history/theme to create a trademark and symbol for the city. Include throughout community through streetscaping elements, commemorative fountains and/or statues, flags, signs, monuments, etc.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become a member of Tree City USA</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide interpreter to assist with enforcement and emergency situations</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open a fitness center and/or YMCA to promote health and wellness in the community</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a message marquee sign at City Hall to promote better</li> </ul>	✓		

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communication between City and citizens			
	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire property near drawbridge on Simeson Creek to create a community park and kayak launch</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconfigure corporate limits to make more uniform and contiguous in efforts to manage city services and control costs</li> </ul>	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjust hours of drawbridge to alleviate traffic on Wintzell Avenue</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with Beautification Committee to promote community cleanliness initiative and plan more community-wide clean-up events</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire a director and re-establish a recreation board to oversee the city's recreation department in efforts to expand upon existing programs, promote new sports, fields and tournaments to the area, and maintain all outdoor recreation venues throughout community</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use natural corridors to create linear parks and connecting bike trails throughout community to connect existing parks in efforts to provide more walking and biking modes of transportation throughout city</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) Program to become an ACE designated community</li> </ul>		✓	
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>			
<i>Goal: To preserve and build upon the natural resources that are abundant; to create public awareness of the pristine natural habitats; and to sensibly utilize and develop new industry.</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify green space and conservation land parcels within city limits to develop parks and open/green space areas for public enjoyment</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a Harbor Patrol to control pollution occurring in bayou and enforce environmental protection laws</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a committee to monitor environmental conditions and overall health of the bayou and neighboring waterways</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and promote environmental sustainability through alternative forms of farming that include hydroponic and vertical farming methods</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove pollution and perform regular maintenance on wetlands to ensure the integrity and function of all wetlands in the area</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend city's Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance to implement Low Impact Development Practices</li> </ul>	✓		

Chapter 6 ~ Goals, Recommendations & Implementation

	TIMELINE (YEARS)		
	0-5	5-10	10-20
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION (CONTINUED)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend city's Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance to implement development practices and sustainable projects suggested in the Watershed Management Plans to ensure the integrity of salt marshes, intertidal flats, freshwater wetlands, rivers, streams and bayous and all other natural resources</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an aquaculture/horticulture nursery and educational center at Point Aux Pins and/or along Portersville Bay</li> </ul>		✓	
<i>Goal: To create public awareness to and provide protection from storm and flooding events and other natural disasters</i>			
<i>Recommendations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)'s Office of Water Resources (OWR) to establish floodplain management regulations to manage and mitigate coastal and riverine flooding events</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)'s Community Rating System (CRS) to create and implement projects and programs that will offer reduced rates on flood insurance premiums</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement and enforce Mobile County Hazard Mitigation Plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and adopt a Wetlands Ordinance to ensure the integrity of classified wetlands in area</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement "Living Shorelines" development practices along city's waterfront to control erosion and mitigate flooding</li> </ul>		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue vessel removal program provided through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to remove derelict vessels and other marine debris from Bayou La Batre waterway and other neighboring waterways and wetlands and to prevent pollution into the waterways</li> </ul>	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue and expand upon beach restoration programs currently underway in Porterville Bay to build additional natural beach lands and provide shoreline stabilization</li> </ul>	✓		



# APPENDIX A

## SURVEY OVERVIEW & COMMUNITY COMMENTS

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### SURVEY OVERVIEW

The Bayou La Batre Planning Commission, in conjunction with the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), created and administered a Community Response Survey during the fall of 2014 in efforts to capture citizen's opinions of current city conditions and collect input on how the residents want to see the city develop in the future. A paper survey and on-line version was created and made available on the city's website, and distributed at numerous city facilities, such as the library, Boat People SOS, City Hall and the Community Center. Planning Commissioners were on hand at the Community Center on Election Day 2014 to distribute surveys, and hand-delivered surveys to assisted-living facilities in efforts to reach as many citizens as possible. Additionally, the City coordinated with Boat People SOS to provide a Vietnamese translated survey in efforts to include the wants and needs of the Asian-speaking population of the community. A total of six (6) Vietnamese translated surveys were collected.

The survey consisted of 20 questions, many of which were multiple questions/answers. The main objective of the survey was to collect citizen's comments and opinions of the city, which enabled the Planning Commission to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and assessment that identified the wants and needs of the citizens. Survey results were used to develop the *Bayou La Batre Comprehensive Master Plan 2035* for the city, with the intent being that the Plan would be a reflection of what residents desire for the community and how they wish to see the city evolve over the next 20 years.

As a result, roughly 413 surveys were completed, with the majority being paper copies. A total of 82 on-line surveys were completed and submitted through the city's website. The survey was deemed as success. Based on the city's population of 2,646, the survey received a 16% return rate, yielding an above average return rate when compared with the average return rate of 5%.

### SURVEY RESPONDENTS

To summarize, a profile of the survey respondents revealed them to be:

- 30% Male / 54% Female
- Ages 20-49=107 respondents / Ages 50-80+=215 respondents / 78 Did not respond
- 61% Homeowners / 12% Renters
- 82% Live in Single-Family Housing / 11% Live in Mobile/Manufactured Housing



## *Appendix A ~ Community Survey Summary*

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- 66 Lived in Bayou La Batre 0-10 Years / 200 Lived in BLB 11-50 Years / 101 Lived in BLB over 50 Years
- 75% Plan to live in BLB in the future
- 138 are retired / 208 are in workforce (56 work in BLB / 111 work in Mobile and/or Mobile County)

### **SURVEY SUMMARY**

When evaluating these survey results, it's important to consider the demographic groups who participated in the survey, keeping in mind that not all citizens of Bayou La Batre answered the survey. The following overall survey summary reflects the opinions of only those individuals who took part in the community survey.

#### SEAFOOD & FISHING

- The majority of survey respondents wish to see the city build upon and expand the existing industry.
- Forty percent (40%) believe the seafood industry is currently declining.

#### WATER ACCESS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Approximately sixty percent (60%) stated their favorite places in Bayou La Batre were either on the waterfront or included some type of outdoor recreation or water-related activity (25% Bayou/waterfront; 11% Parks; 17% Piers/Docks; 3% Splash pad; 3% Birding Trails)
- The majority of survey respondents stated the most needed recreational facilities were picnic areas/playgrounds; fishing areas; trails; boat launches
- The majority think new development should occur around and focus on the waterfront areas of the community
- Most would like to see public beach and waterfront attractions be developed, along with more dining opportunities and community festivals.

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- The majority stated the most needed business developments were restaurants and grocery stores

#### CITY SERVICES

Half of residents indicated they did not believe the city was prepared for another disaster.

The majority stated that the most needed city services were:

- Sidewalks
- Beautification & Cleanliness
- Lighting
- Parks
- Bike Lanes

## *Appendix A ~ Community Survey Summary*

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Survey respondents rated the following community facilities and services either Good, Fair or Poor. Overall, most of the facilities and services were rated as Fair.

### GOOD

- Electric & Gas Utilities
- Fire Protection & Response Time
- Police Protection & Response Time (41% Good / 44% Fair)
- Library Facility & Services (42% Good / 48% Fair)

### FAIR

- Water & Sewer Utility
- Drainage (46% Fair / 43% Poor)
- City Hall Facilities & Services
- Roads & Streets
- School System
- Hospital/Healthcare Facilities
- Garbage/Trash Pick-up Services
- Housing Availability
- Housing Affordability
- Ball Fields & Other Sports Facilities
- Facilities & Services for the Youth
- Facilities & Services for the Elderly
- Facilities & Services for Ethnic Cultures
- Beautification & Cleanliness
- Economic/business/industry Activity
- Housing & Business Conditions
- Marina & Water Access
- City Leadership
- Library Facility & Services
- Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Efforts
- Civic Events & Festivities
- Overall Quality of Life

### POOR

- Transportation System & Traffic Flow
- Drainage
- Pedestrian Access & Walking Opportunity (Sidewalks/Crosswalks/Walkability- 64%)
- Employment Opportunity
- Parks, Trails, Picnic Areas & Open Space (48% Poor / 45% Fair)

## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

The following is a copy of the Public Opinion Survey distributed to the residents of Bayou La Batre followed by the overall survey results.



## City of Bayou La Batre Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey ~ 2014

**Y**our help is needed! Please take time to complete this short survey because your opinion matters! The City of Bayou La Batre is developing a Comprehensive Plan (CP) that establishes a common vision of how the City will grow & develop over the next 20 years. The CP is a planning tool used to guide community development for a variety of issues that directly affect the quality of life for residents living in and around Bayou La Batre. Public involvement in the development of the plan will ensure that the CP reflects the needs and desires of the citizens of Bayou La Batre.

**Thank You for your time and interest in YOUR future!**

**\*\* THIS SURVEY SHOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 5 TO 10 MINUTES TO COMPLETE**

**Please only complete one survey per person. Turn in completed survey to City Hall on or before  
Tuesday, December 23, 2014.**

(Copies of survey are available at City Hall, Utility Dept., Library, Community Center, BPSOS and on City's Website)

Gender: M / F

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Are you a \_\_\_\_\_?** (Circle/select all that apply)

- A. Home Owner
- B. Land Owner
- C. Business Owner
- D. Renter
- E. Land owner living outside of the City

**2. Which of the following best describes the type of housing in which you reside?**

- A. Single-family house
- B. Two-family house (duplex)
- C. Apartment building (Multi-family)
- D. Manufactured/ Mobile home
- E. Garage apartment/cottage/fish camp

**3. How long have you lived in the Bayou La Batre area?**

- A. 5 years or less
- B. 5-10 years
- C. 11-20 years
- D. 21-35 years
- E. 36-50 years
- F. Over 50 years

**4. What are the main reasons you chose to live in the Bayou La Batre area?** (Circle/select all that apply)

- A. Born and raised here/ surrounding area
- B. Close to relatives or friends
- C. Rural community/small town atmosphere
- D. Schools/quality education
- E. Good place to raise a family/safe community
- F. Near employment
- G. Affordable housing
- H. Access to water
- I. Own a business here
- J. City services and facilities

**5. Do you plan to live in the Bayou La Batre area in the future?**

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Undecided

**6. What is your present household size?**

## Appendix A ~ Community Survey Summary

- A. 1 person                      C. 3 persons                      E. 5 persons or more  
 B. 2 persons                      D. 4 persons

**7. Where do you work?**

- A. City of Bayou La Batre                      D. Baldwin County, AL                      G. I am retired  
 B. City of Mobile employed                      E. Jackson County, MS                      H. I am self-  
 C. Mobile County, AL                      F. I am unemployed                      I. Other

**8. Where do you mainly shop?**

- A. City of Bayou La Batre                      D. Outside of Mobile County  
 B. City of Mobile                      E. Other  
 C. Elsewhere in south Mobile County

**9. Which of the following are the reasons you shop outside of Bayou La Batre? (Circle/select all that apply)**

- A. More convenient                      C. Quality of products                      E. Better selection of merchandise  
 B. Lower prices                      D. Availability                      F. Better service

**10. As we plan our future, what theme(s) should be built upon? (Circle/select all that apply)**

- A. Industrial based                      D. Commercial business development                      G. Historic Downtown/Village Style  
 B. Seafood/Fishing based                      E. Neighborhood development                      H. Apartments/Condo development  
 C. Recreational/Entertainment                      F. Tourism/Cultural based

**11. What are your favorite places in Bayou La Batre? (Circle/select all that apply)**

- A. Bayou/Waterfront                      D. Churches                      G. Eating places                      J. Sea School                      M. Historical  
 B. Parks                      E. Splash pad                      H. Shopping places                      K. Birding Trails  
 Commission  
 C. Fishing pier/docks/launches                      F. Community Center                      I. Library                      L. Asian Temples                      Museum

**12. If parkland were to be developed, what types of recreational facilities do you feel are most needed?**

- A. Picnic Pavilions/gazebo/playgrounds                      E. Trails (hiking, biking, walking, birding, kayak)                      I. Waterpark  
 B. Ball Fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)                      F. Fishing areas (docks, piers)                      J. Skate park  
 C. Boat launches                      G. Swimming Pool                      K. Dog Park  
 D. Courts (Tennis/Basketball, etc.)                      H. Golf course/Driving range                      L. Zip Lines

(Circle/select your top 5 choices)

**13. What kinds of attractions would you like to see developed? (Circle/select your top 5 choices)**

- A. Festivals (music, seafood, cultural, etc.)                      G. Fitness/Rec. center (karate, basketball, yoga, etc.)                      M. Charter Fishing  
 B. Performing Arts/Cultural Center                      H. Outdoor Recreation(kayak rental, zip lines)                      N. Museum/Art gallery  
 C. Farmers market/community garden                      I. Family entertainment(bowling, mini-golf, theaters)                      O. Marina/Lighthouse  
 D. Restaurants/waterfront dining                      J. Dinner theater/Drive-inn/Amphitheatre                      P. Shopping center/mall  
 E. Development of waterfront & Beach                      K. Seafood processing plant tours  
 F. Eco-Tourism Opportunities                      L. Shipbuilding facility tours/ship launchings

**14. What area of the City would you like to see developed or re-developed. (Rank 1-5: 1 = top choice; 5 = last choice)**

- A. Waterfront \_\_\_\_\_ B. Downtown \_\_\_\_\_ C. Padgett-Switch Road area \_\_\_\_\_ D. Lightning Point/State Docks \_\_\_\_\_ E. Bryant HS area \_\_\_\_\_



SURVEY RESULTS

# THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN....

The BLB Planning Commission conducted a Public Opinion Survey, on-line and paper form, to collect citizen input for the Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commission members conducted the survey in person on voting day at the Community Center. Many citizens participated overall. Survey results are available on the City's website and paper copies are available at City Hall.

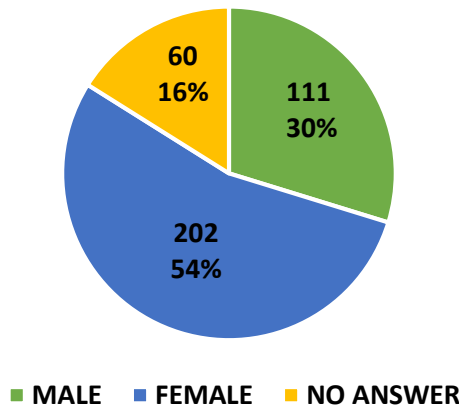
**291 PAPER SURVEYS RECEIVED**  
**82 ON-LINE SURVEYS RECEIVED**

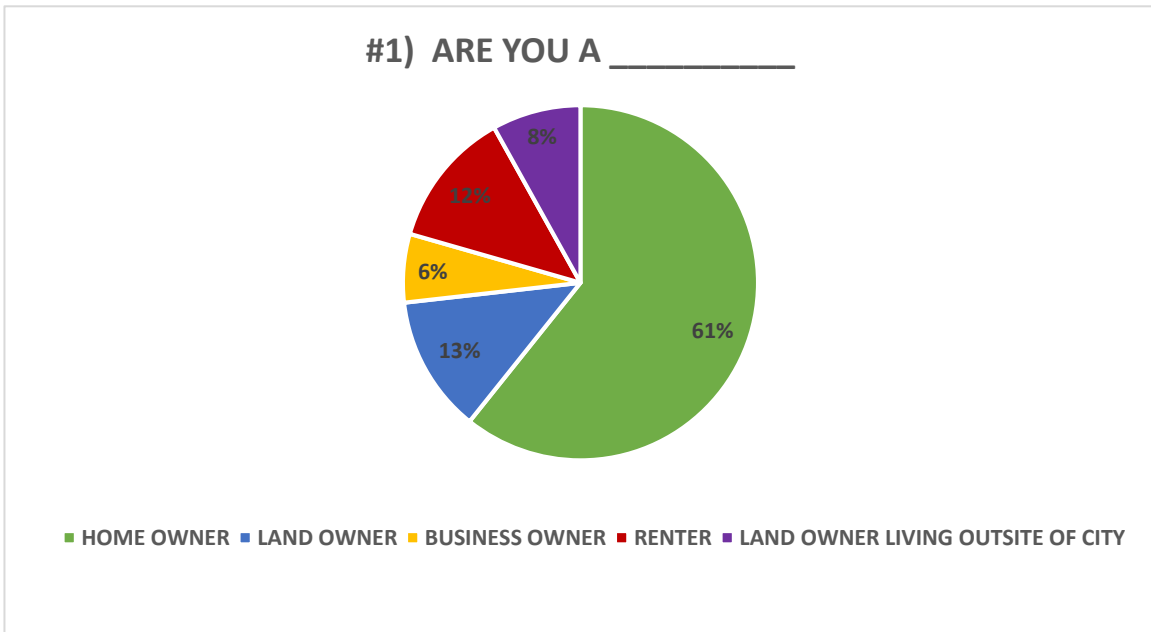
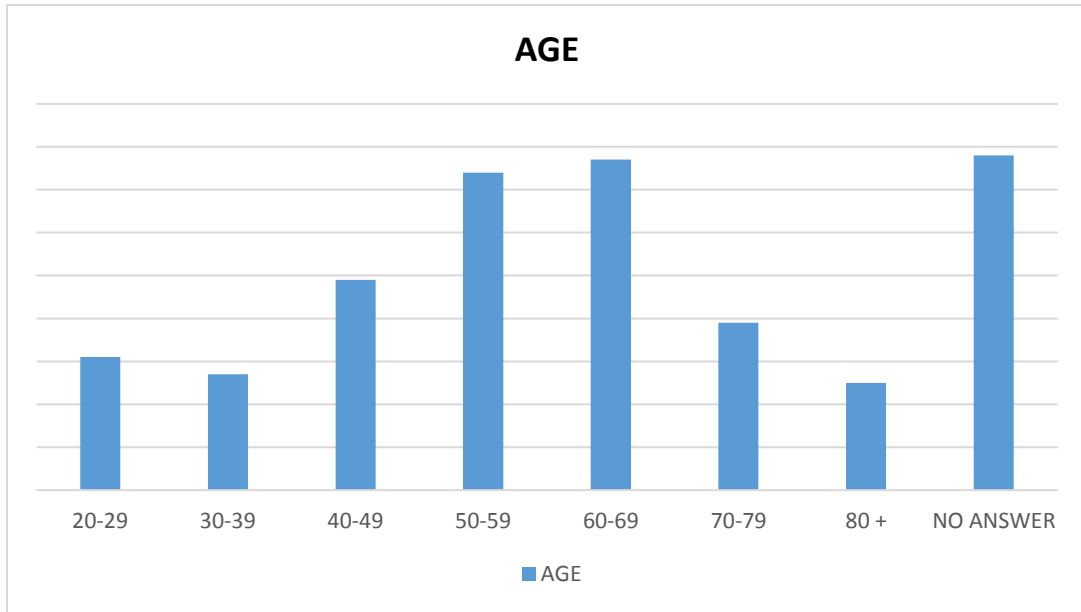


**373 TOTAL**

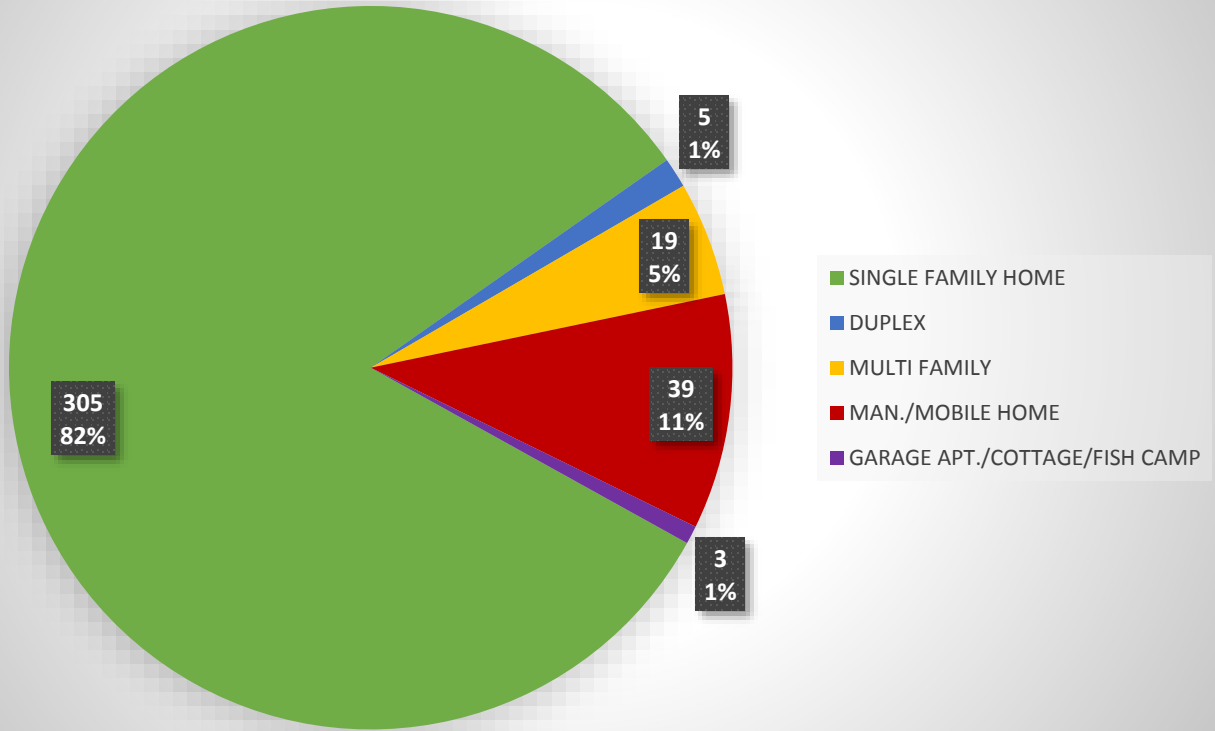
- **14%** return rate!
- Average is 6%
- **THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!**

### GENDER

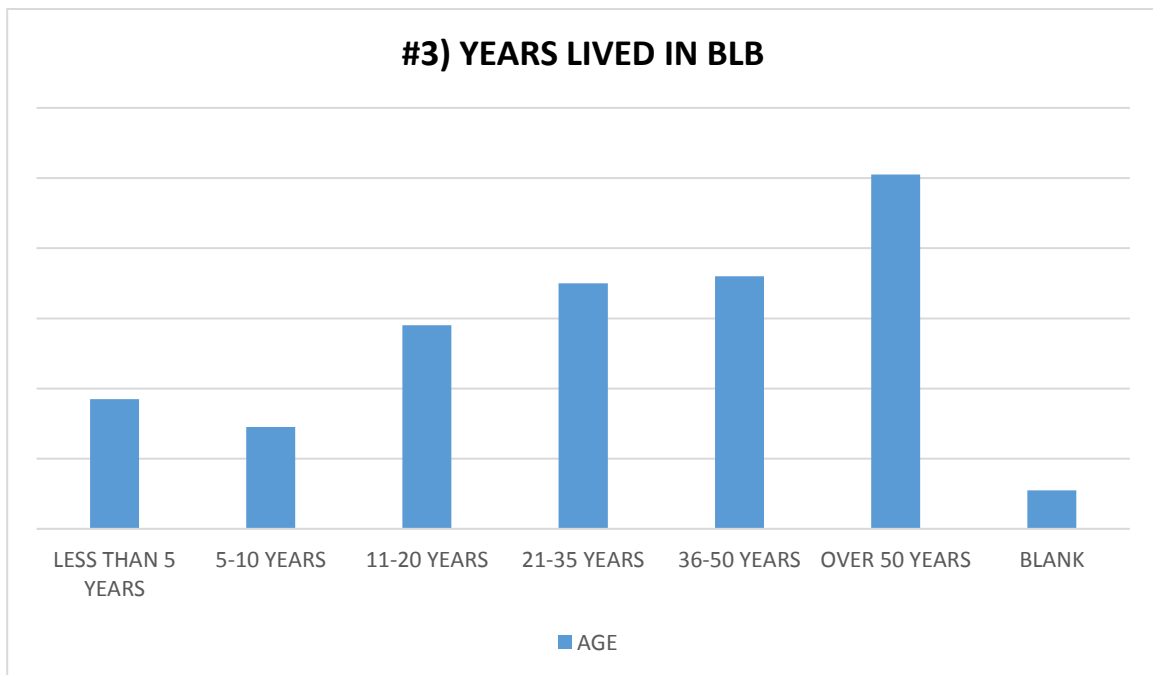




### #2) TYPE OF HOUSING

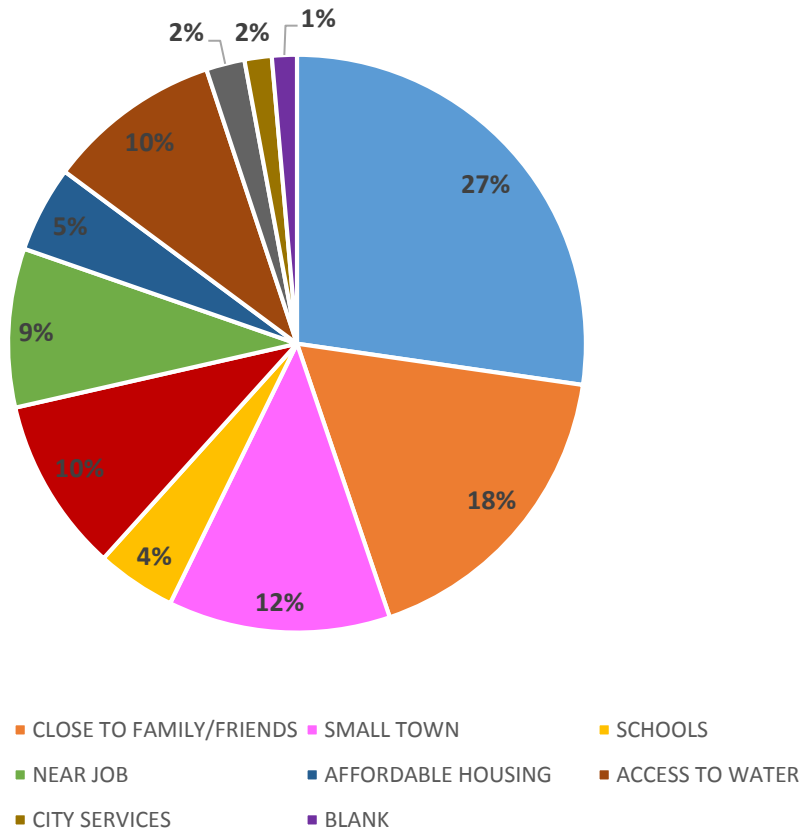


### #3) YEARS LIVED IN BLB

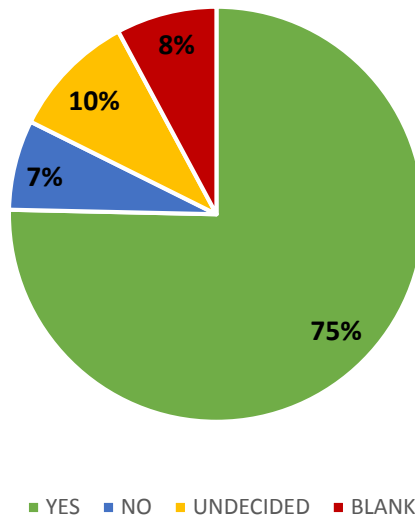


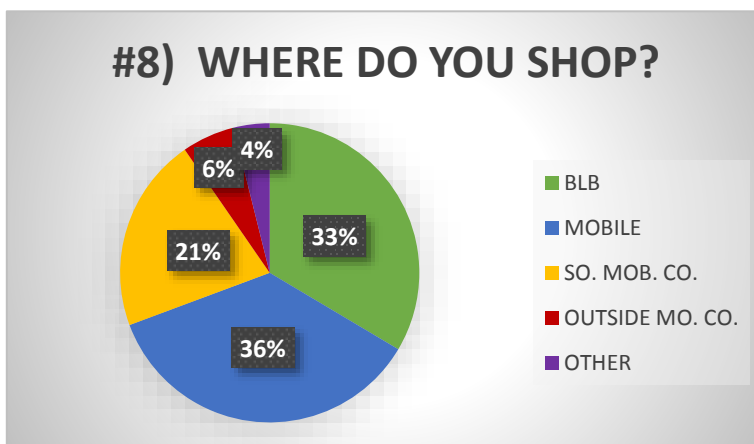
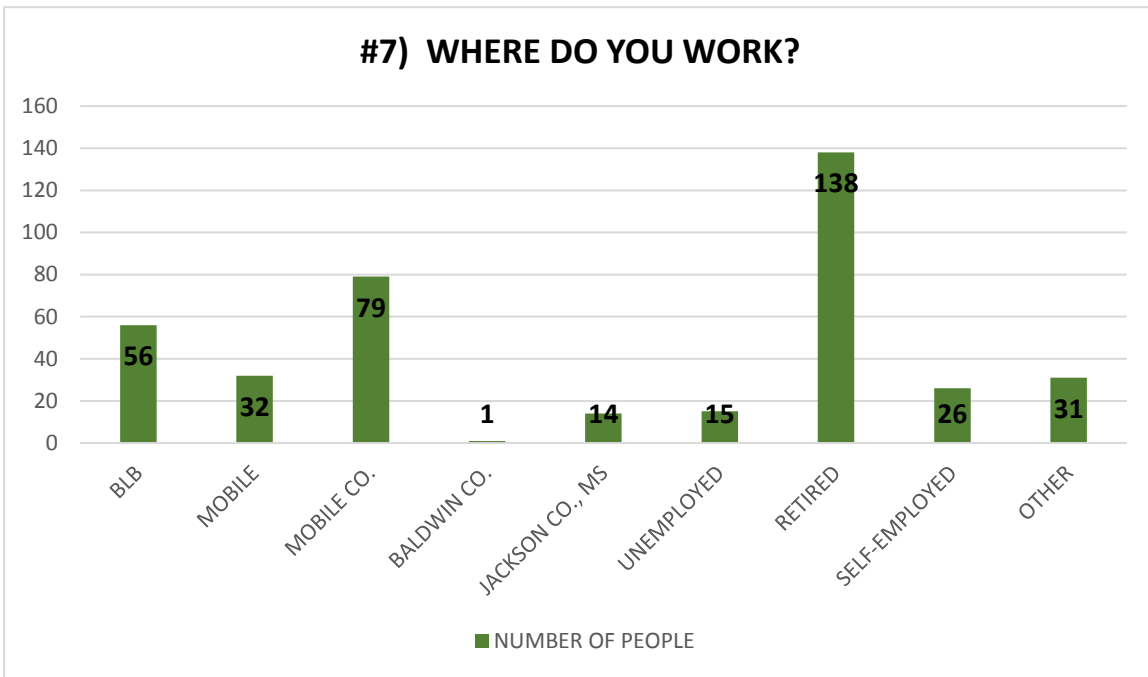
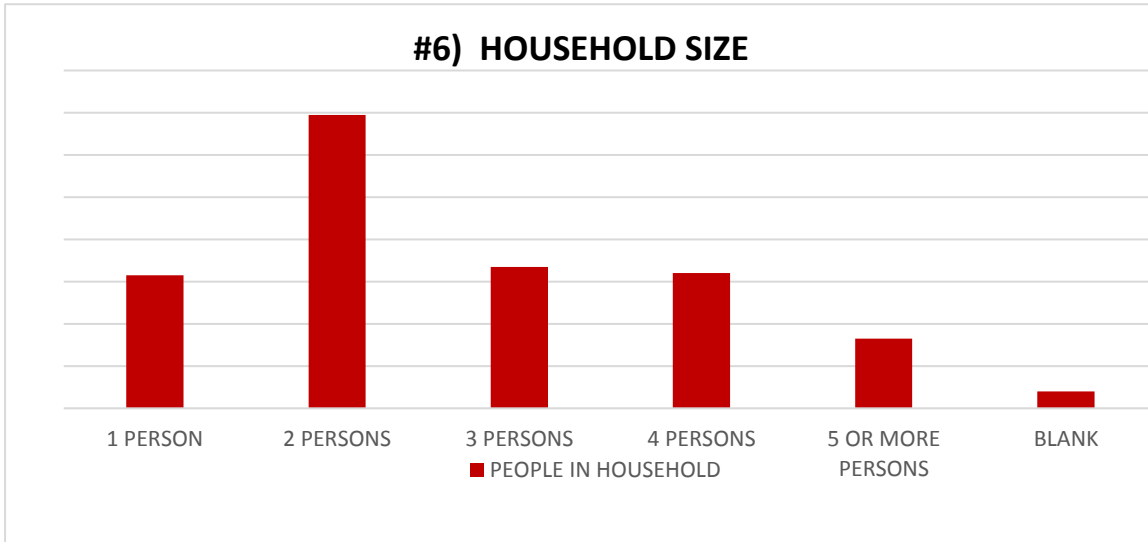


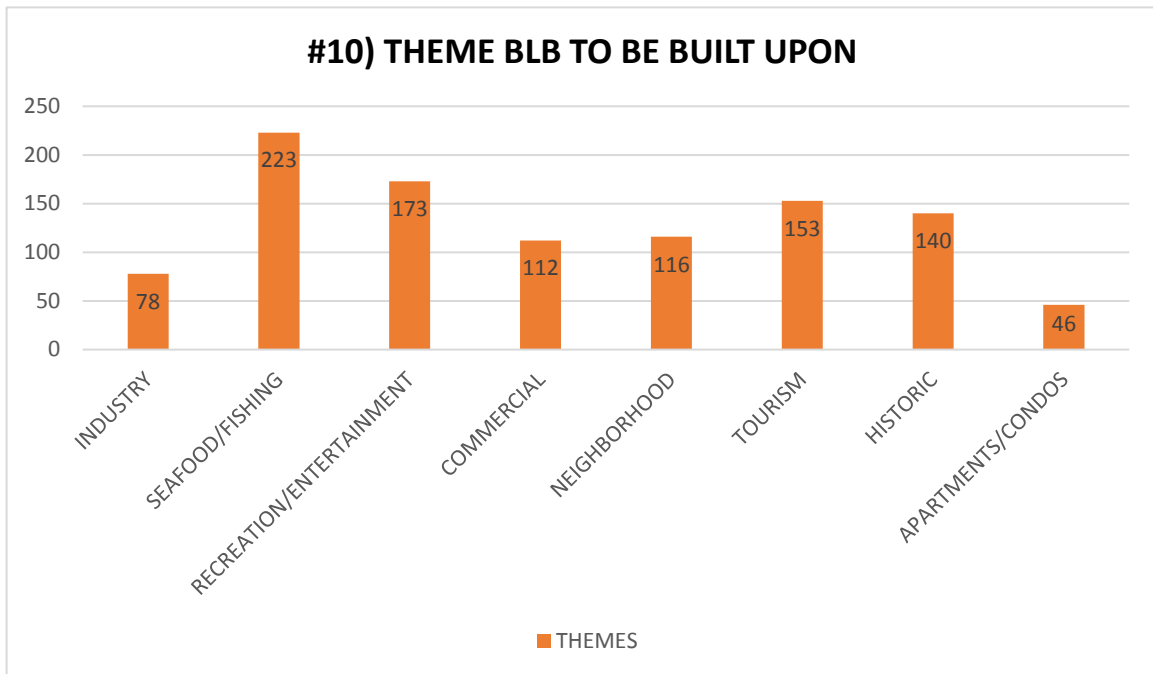
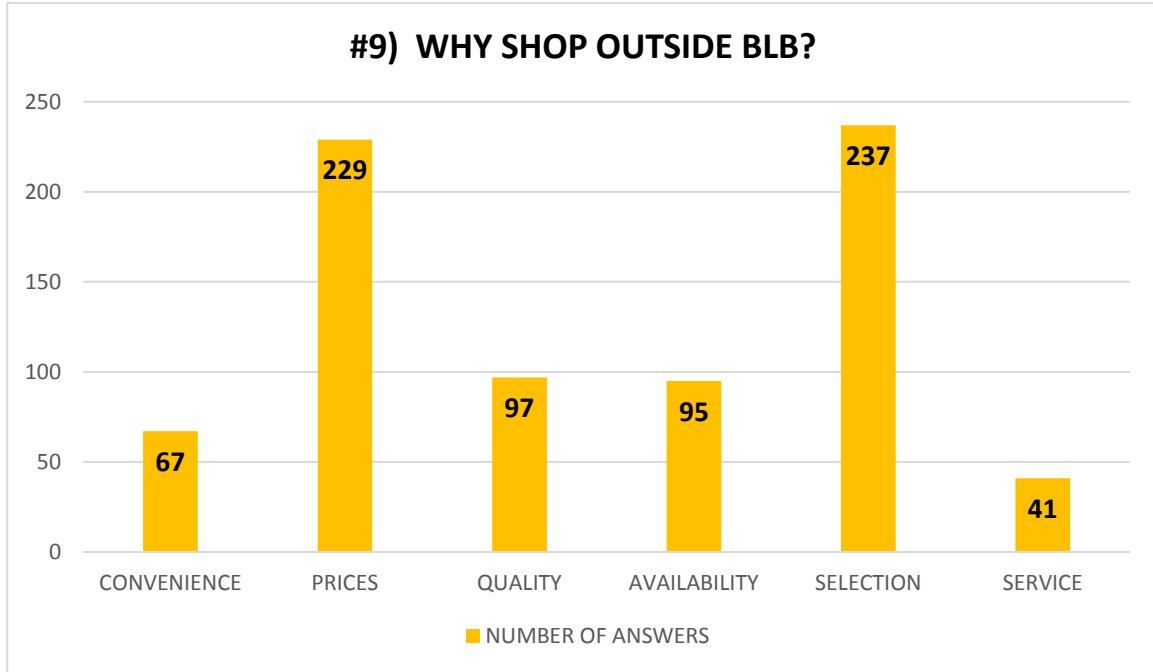
**#4) REASONS TO LIVE IN BLB**



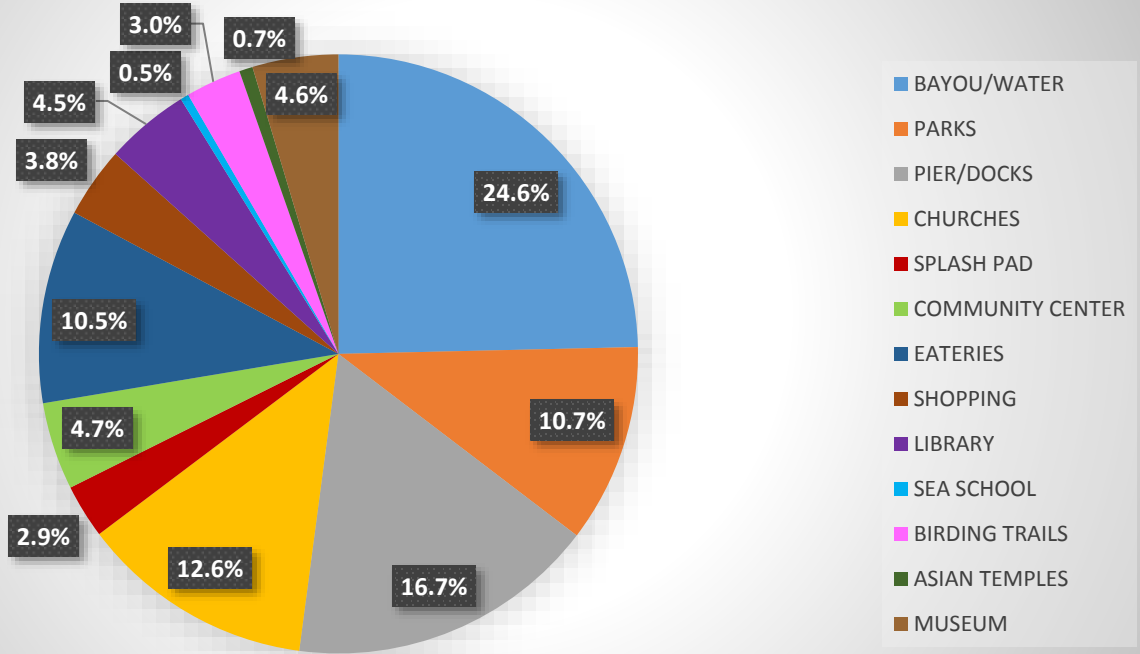
**#5) DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE IN BLB IN FUTURE?**



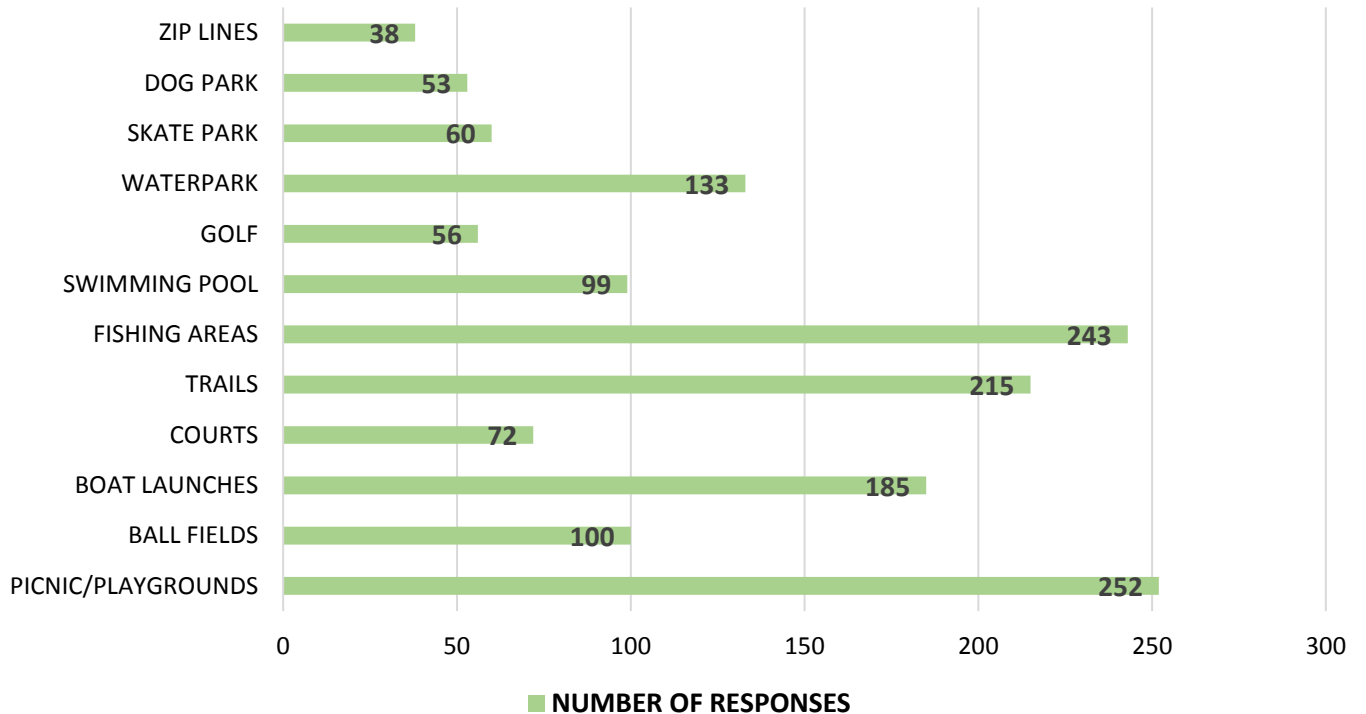


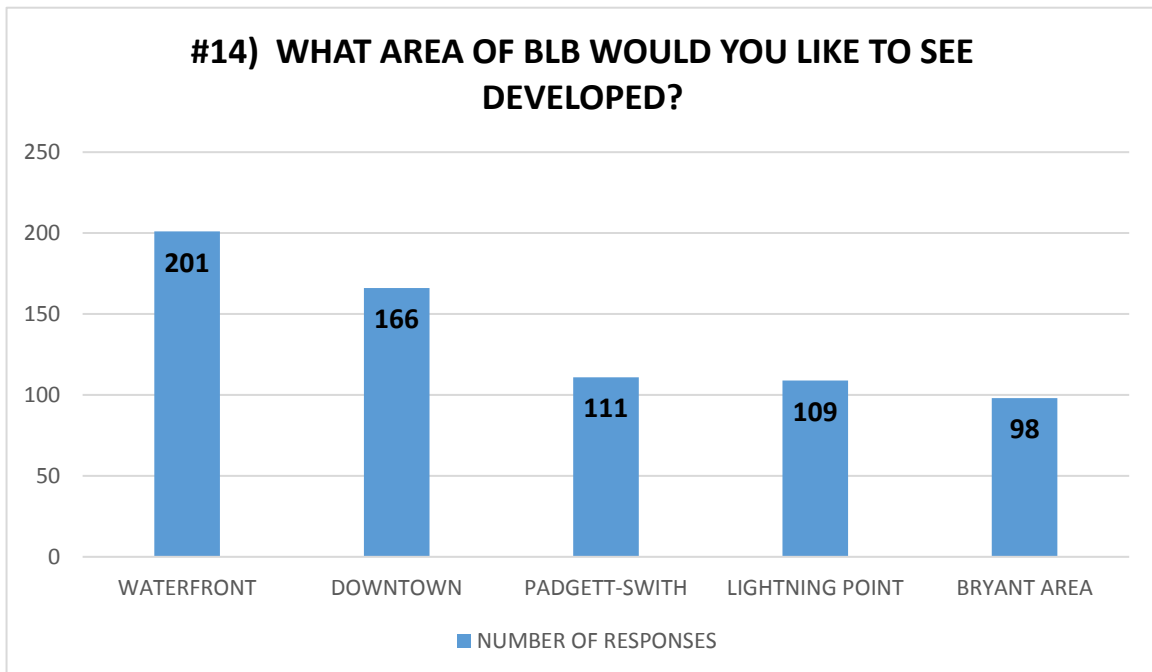
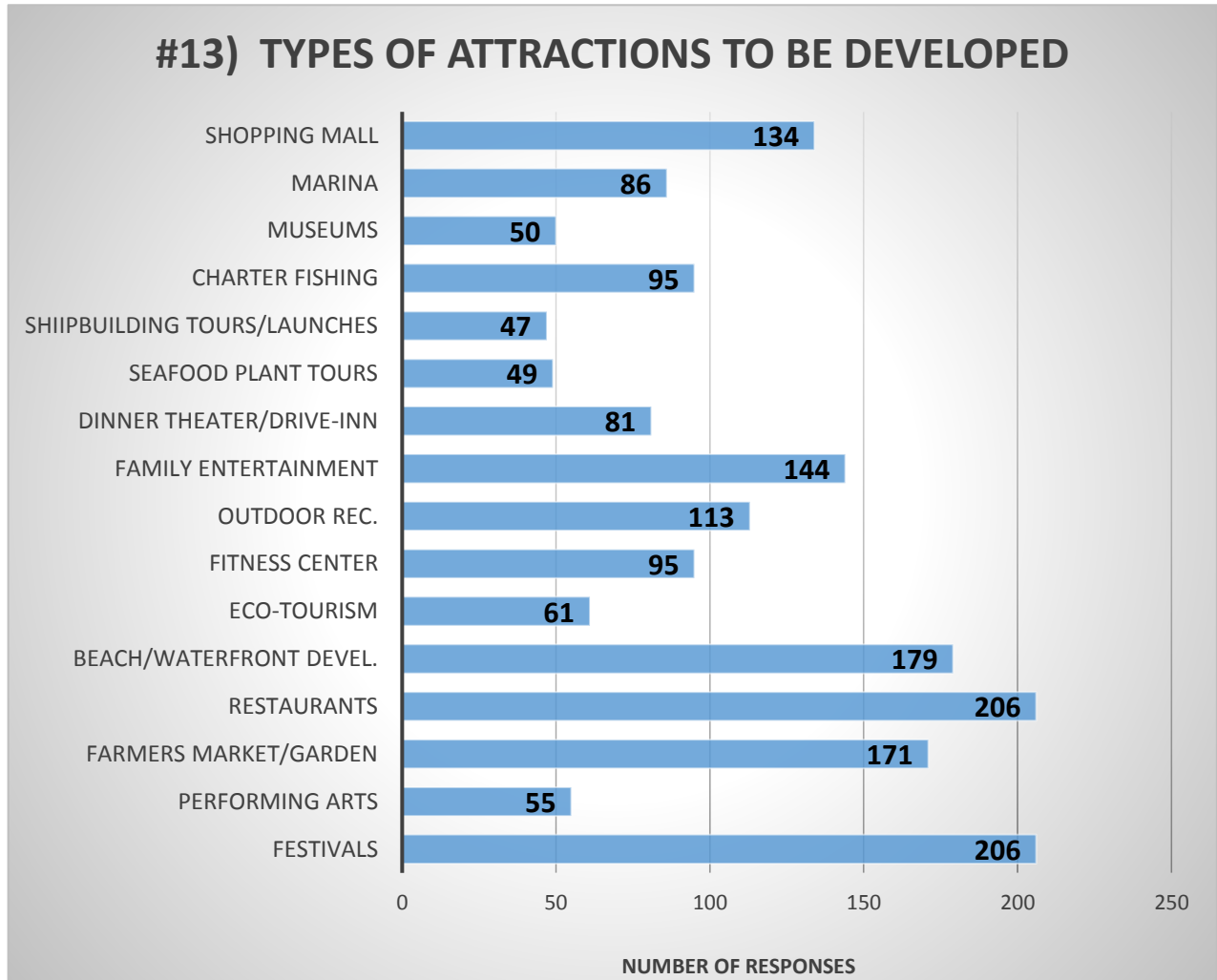


### #11) FAVORITE PLACES IN BLB

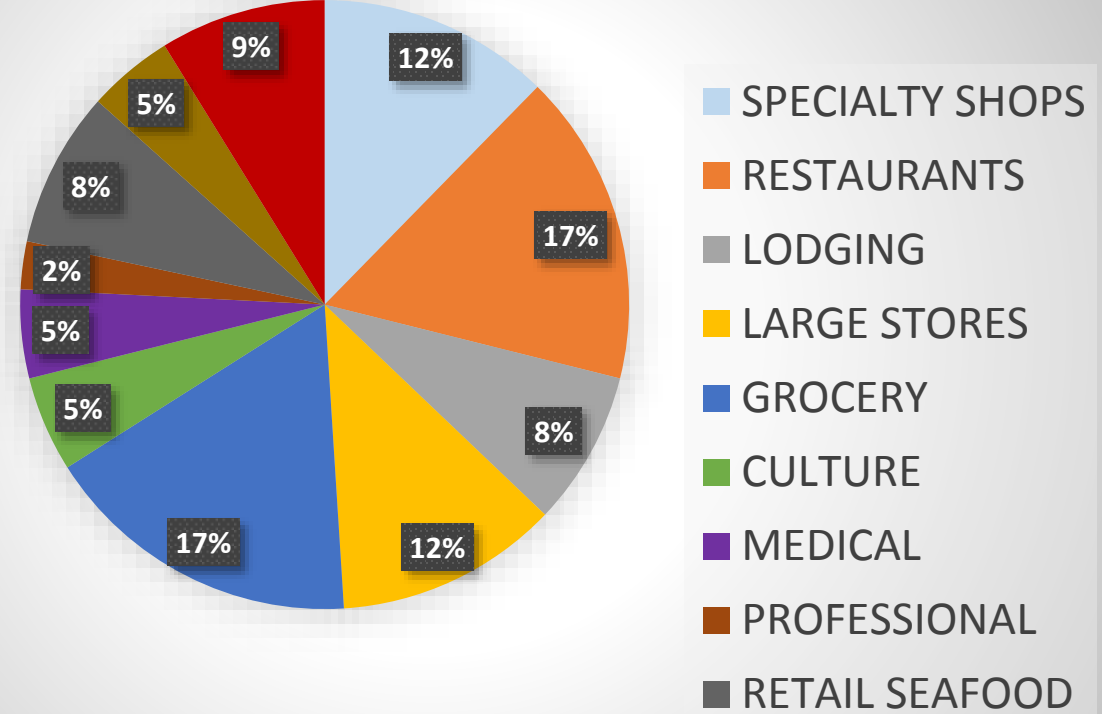


### #12) TYPES OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES MOST NEEDED

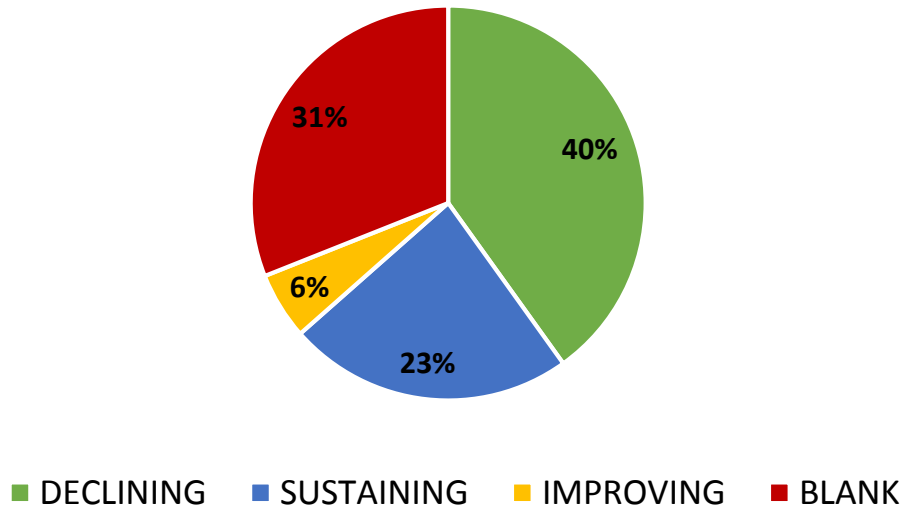


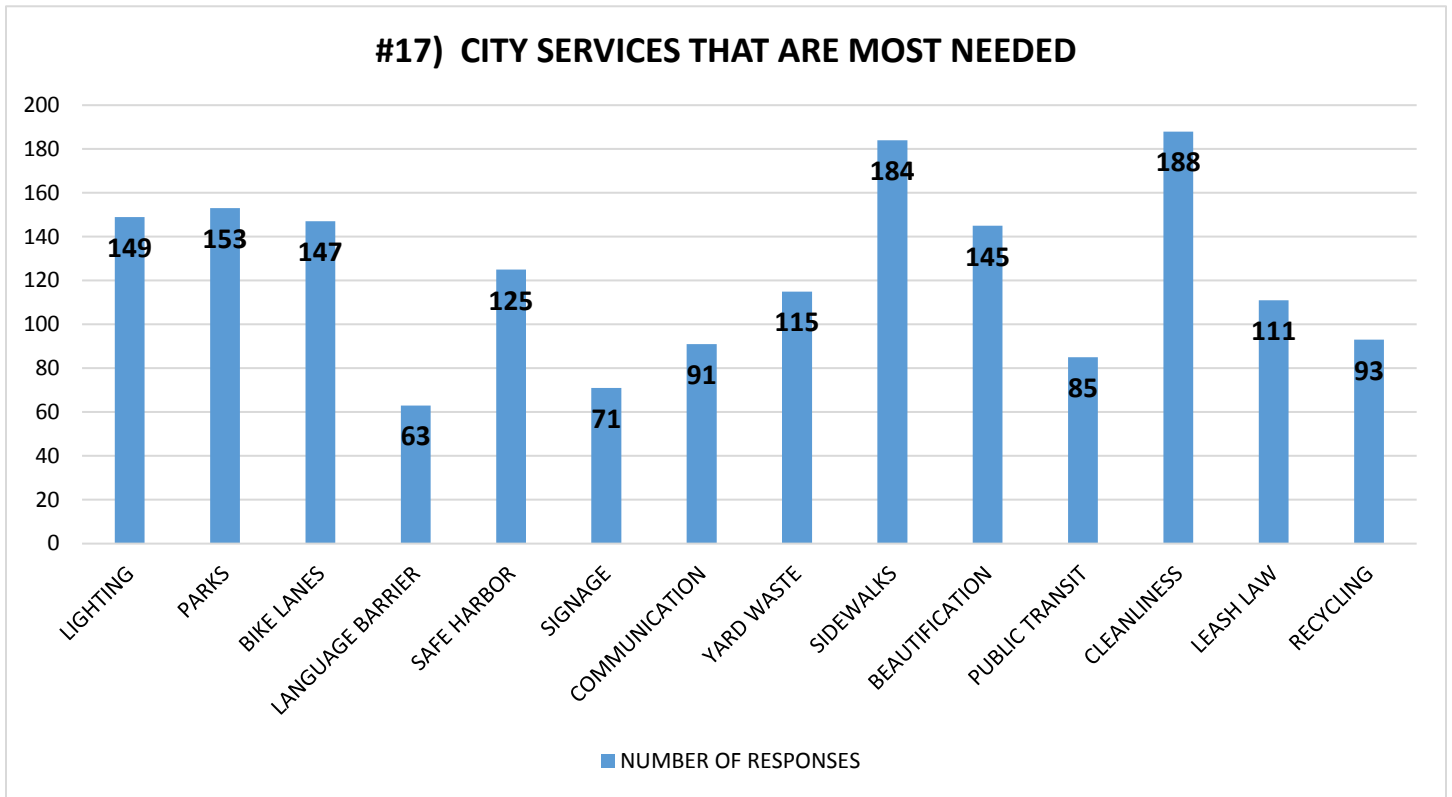


**#15) WHAT TYPES OF BUSINESS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED?**



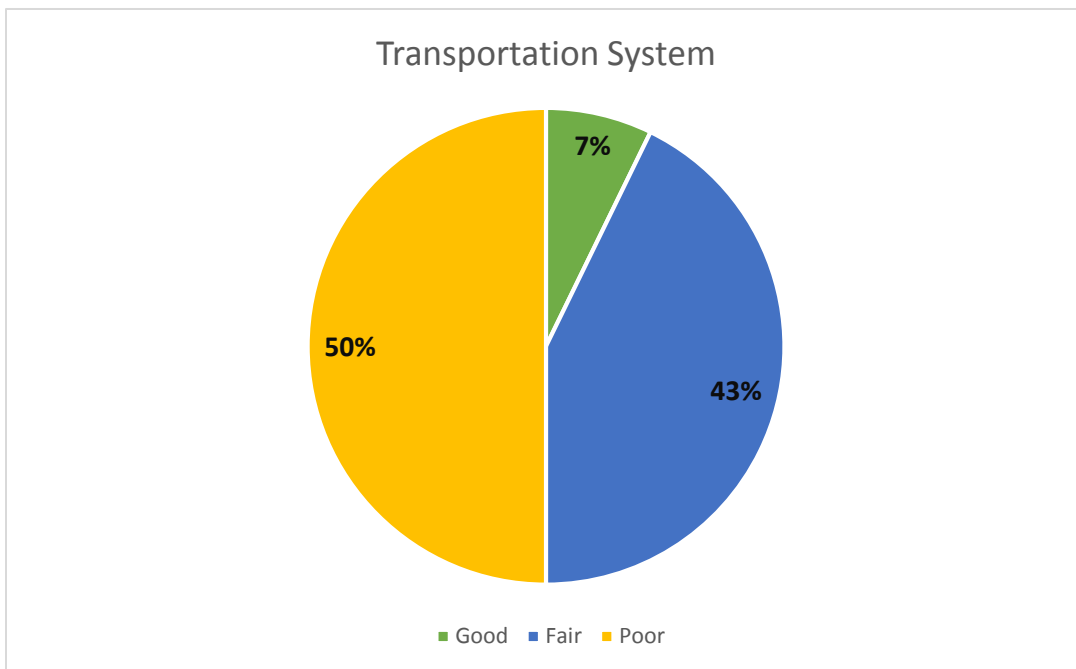
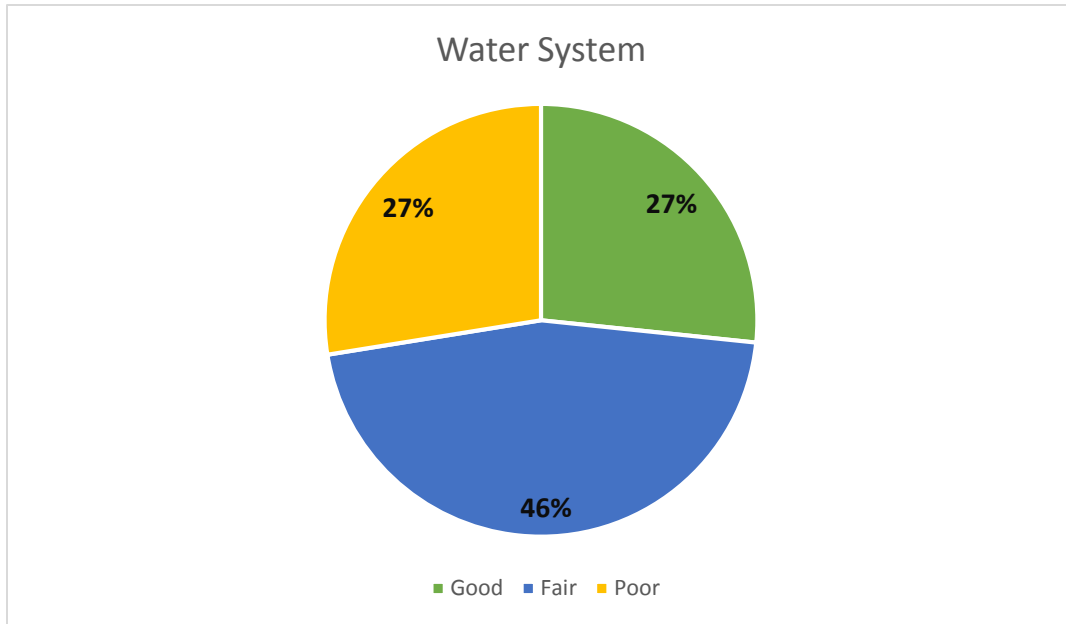
**#16) DO YOU THINK THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY IS.....**



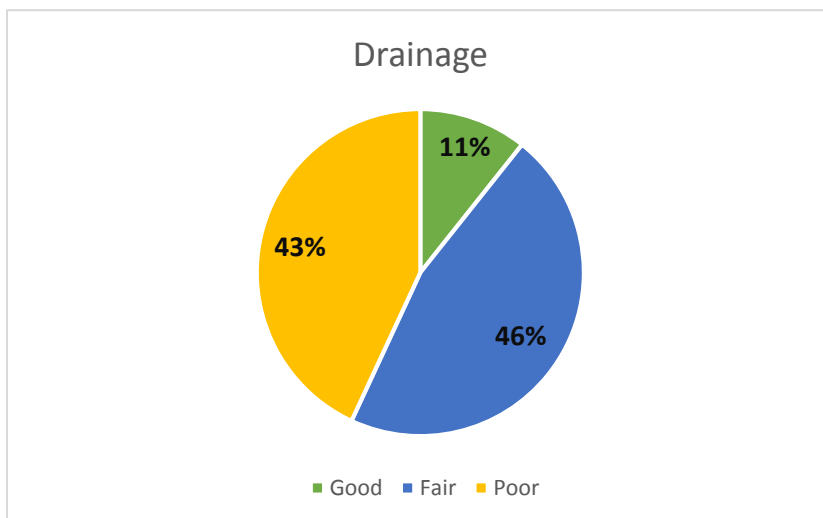
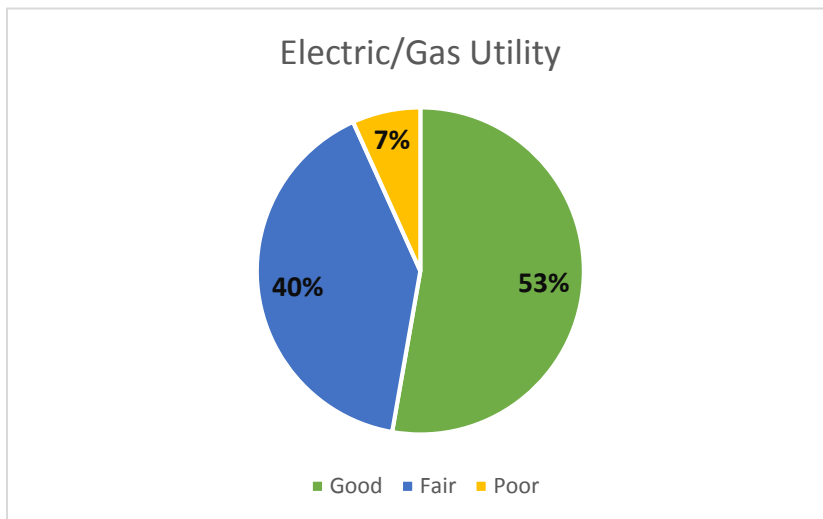
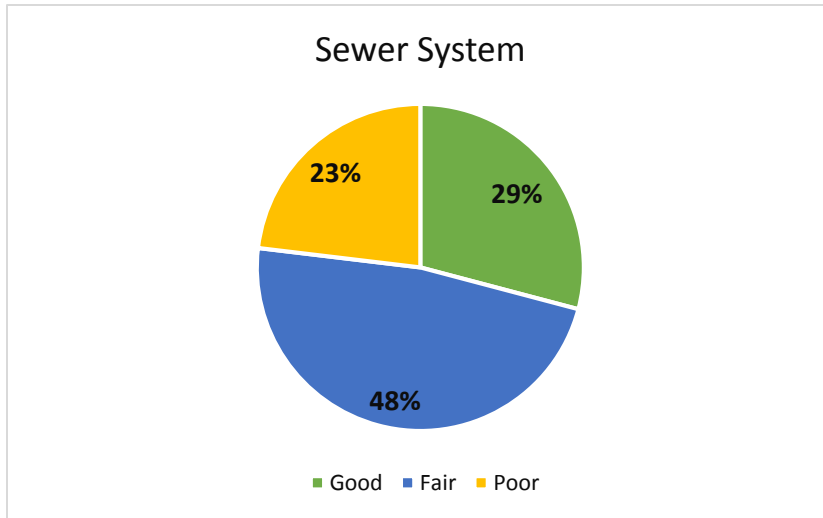


**#18) RATE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES:**

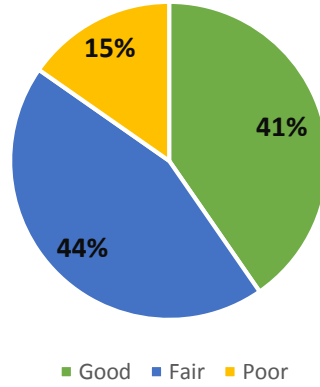
**GOOD/FAIR/POOR**



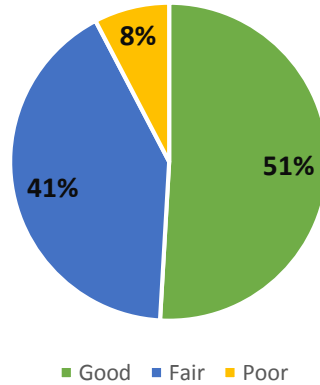




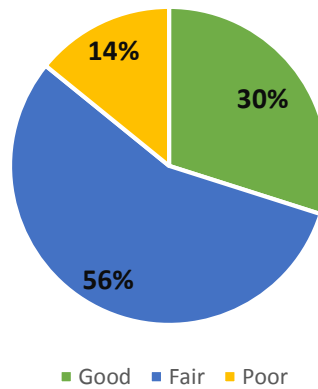
Police Protection and Response Time



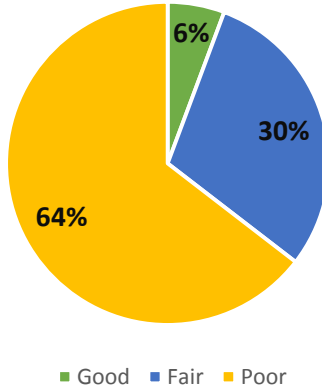
Fire Protection and Response Time



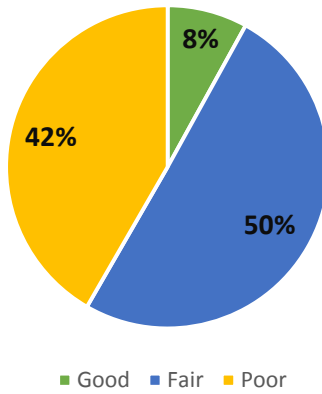
City Hall Facilities and Services



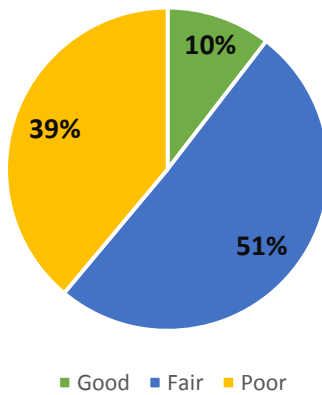
Sidewalks/Crosswalks/Walkability



Roads and Streets

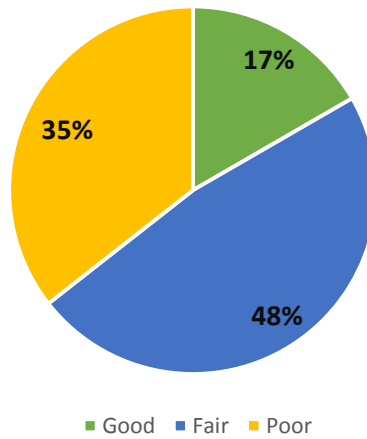


Marina and Water Access

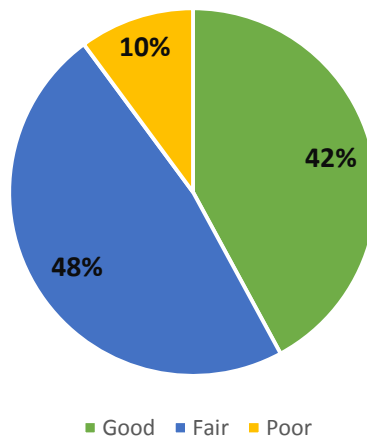


## Appendix A ~ Community Survey Summary

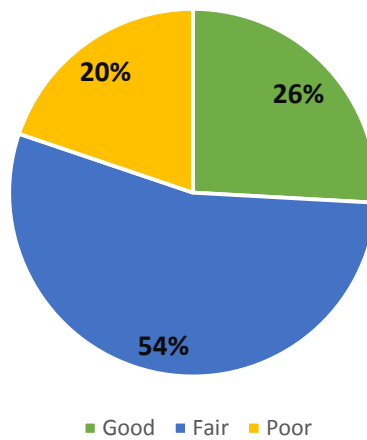
### Facilities and Services for the Elderly



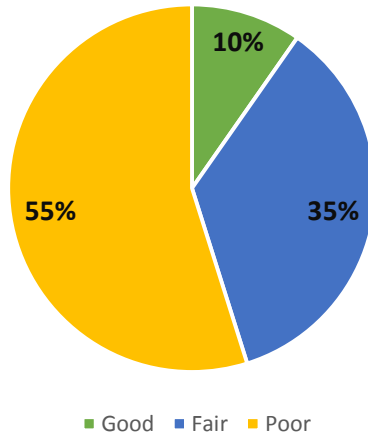
### Library Services



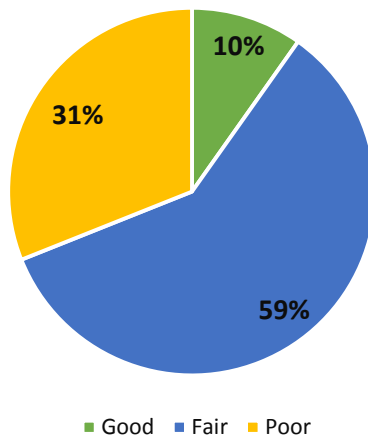
### Leadership of City Leaders and Elected Officials



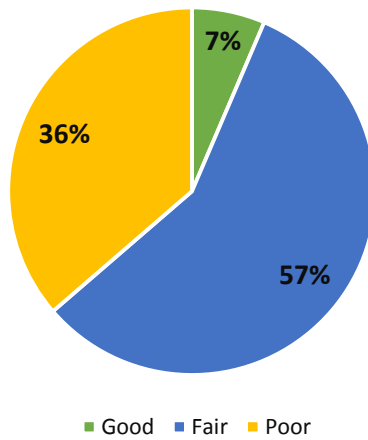
Employment Opportunities



Business/Economic/Industrial Activity

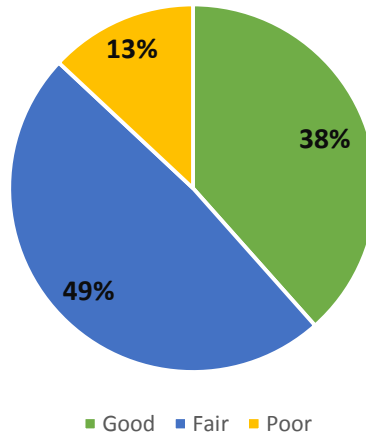


Housing and Business Conditions

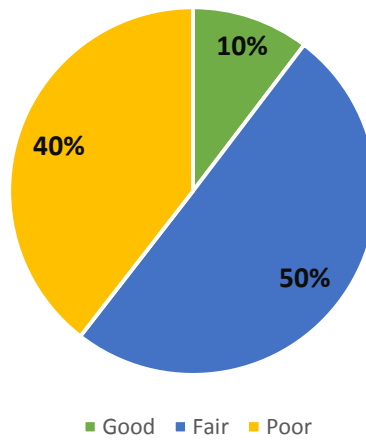


Appendix A ~ Community Survey Summary

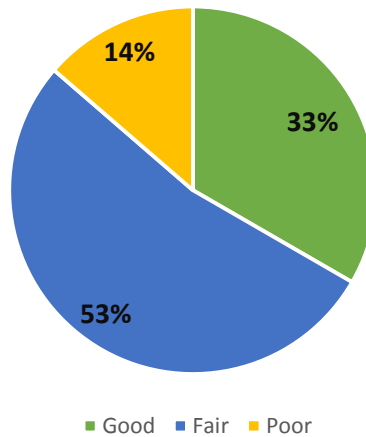
School System



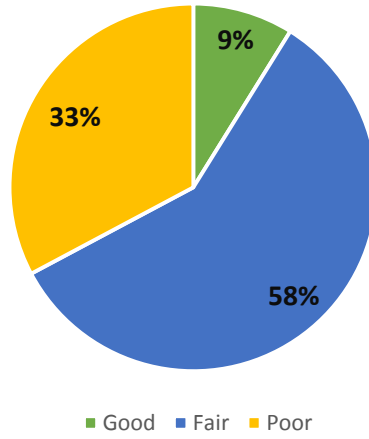
Hospital/Health Care Facilities



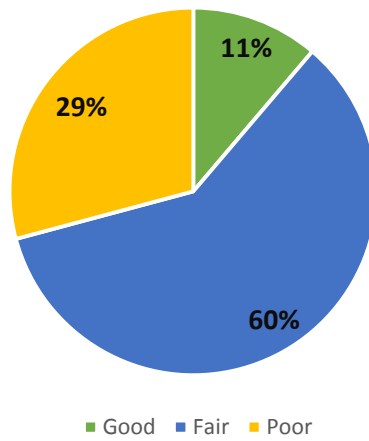
Garbage/Trash Collection and Disposal



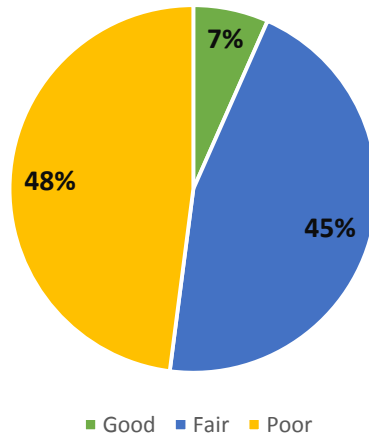
Housing Availability



Protection of Environment & Natural Resources

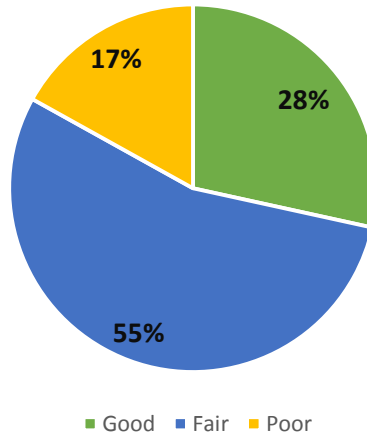


Parks/Trails/Picnic Areas/Open Spaces

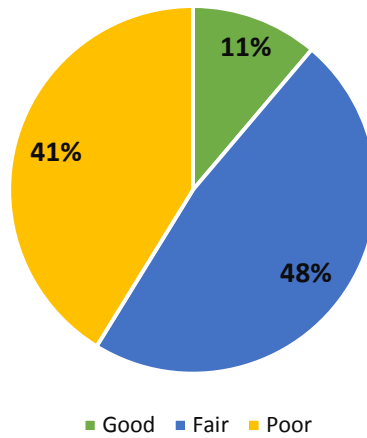


*Appendix A ~ Community Survey Summary*

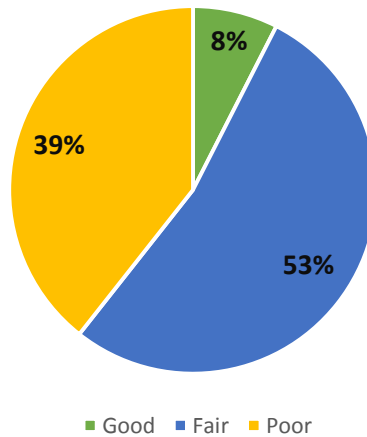
Ball Fields/Courts/Sports Facilities



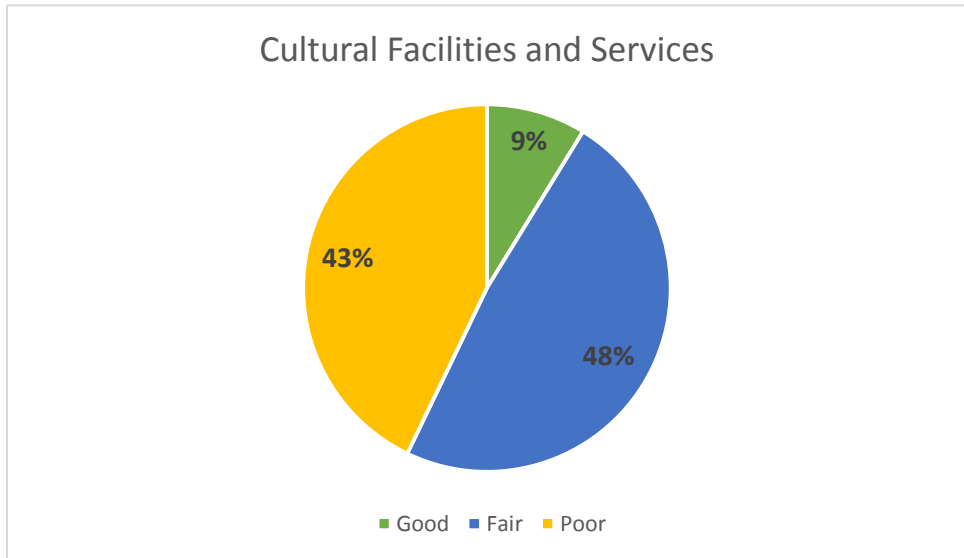
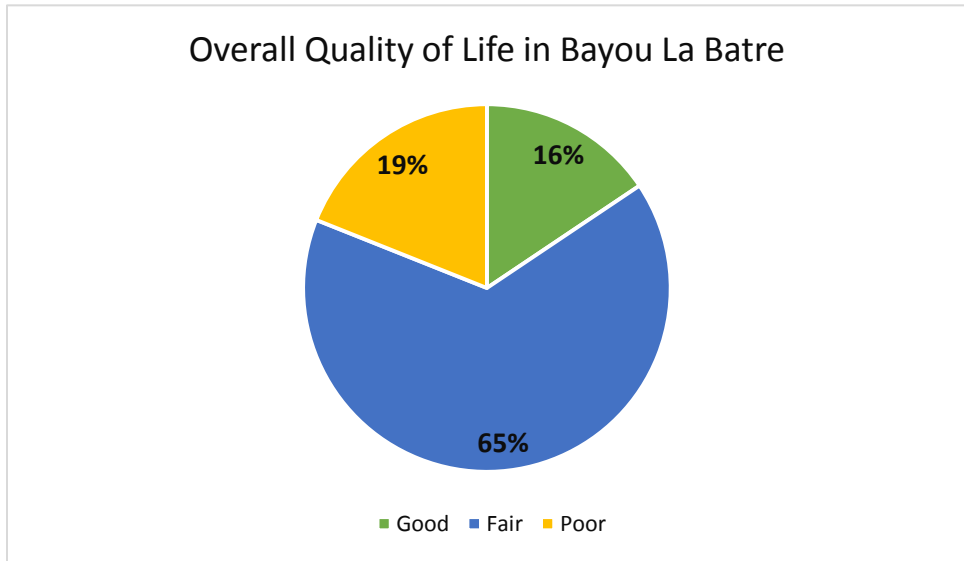
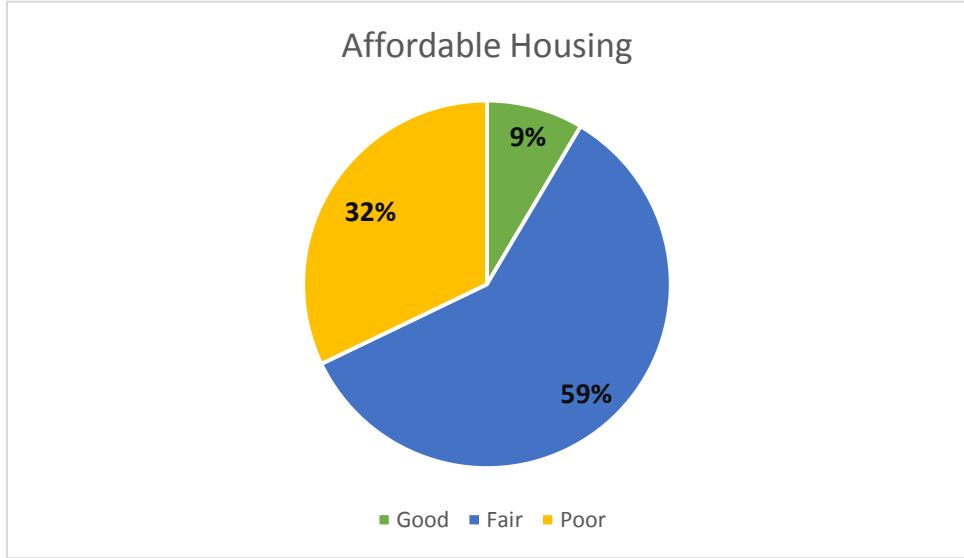
Facilities and Services for the Youth

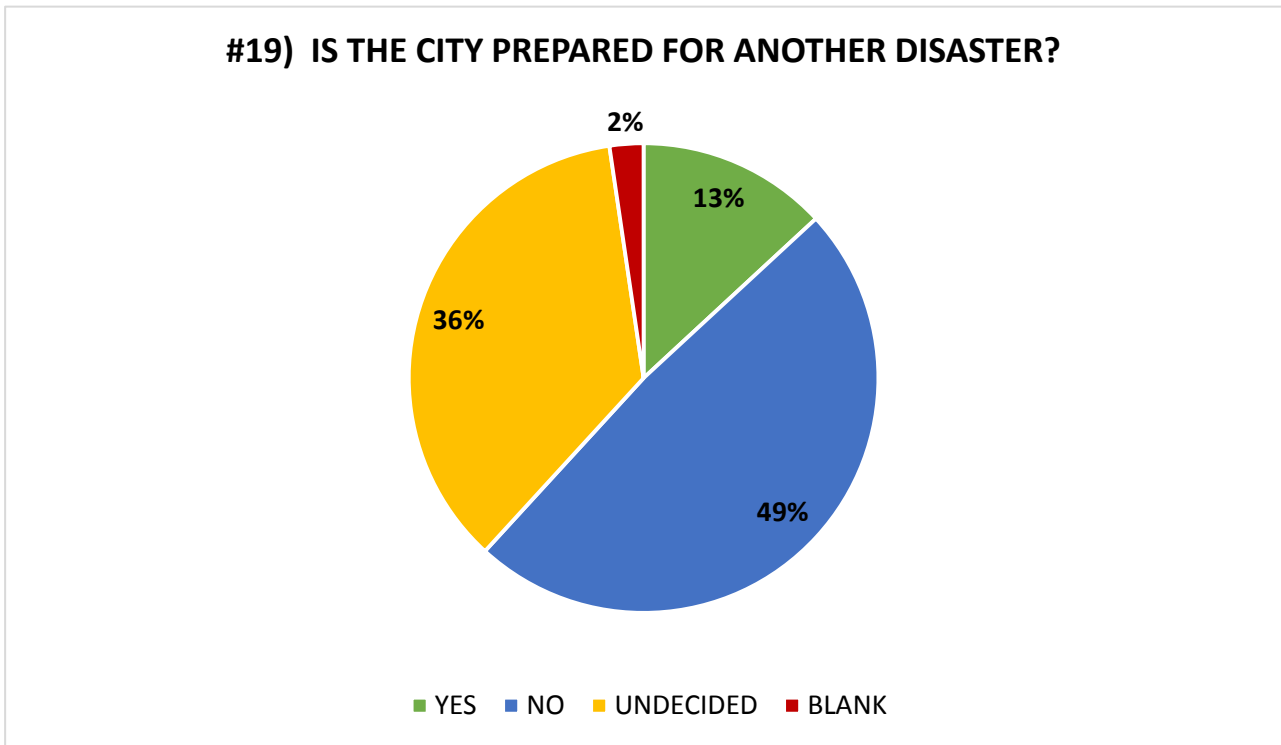
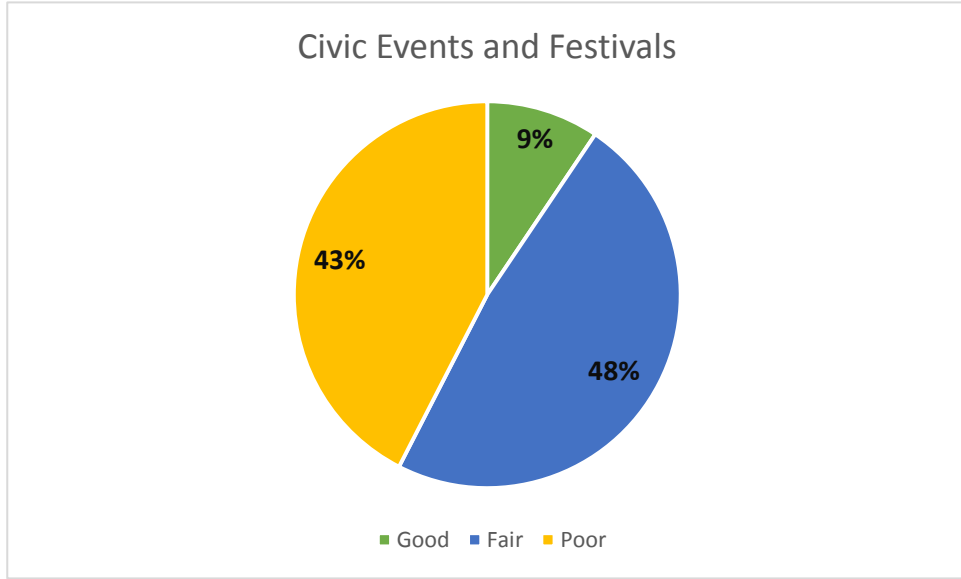


Beautification/Landscaping/Cleanliness









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# APPENDIX B

## FUNDING RESOURCES

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The following is a list of funding resources and organizations who offer grants and loan programs that support many of the projects suggested throughout the Comprehensive Master Plan.

### Historical Preservation Programs & Granting Organizations

- *Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)*  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/public-lands/stateLands/landsCoastal/CIAP/>
- *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*  
<http://www.epa.gov/>
- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*  
[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)
- *Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)*  
<http://www.adem.state.al.us/default.cnt>
- *National Registry of Historic Places*  
[www.nps.gov/NR/](http://www.nps.gov/NR/)
- *State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)/ Alabama Historical Commission*  
<http://www.preserveala.org/>
- *National Park Service*  
[www.doi.gov/](http://www.doi.gov/)

### Economic Development Programs & Granting Organizations

- *The University of Alabama's Department of Economic Development*  
<http://www.uaced.ua.edu/>
- *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)*  
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/ced/cdp/Pages/CDBG.aspx>
- *Economic Development Partnerships of Alabama ~ New Market Program Tax Incentives*  
<http://www.edpa.org/>
- *U.S. Department of Labor*  
[www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)

## Appendix B ~ Funding Resources

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### Assisting Resources:

- *The University of Alabama's Department of Economic Development*  
<http://www.uaced.ua.edu/>
- *Sister City Partnership*  
<http://www.sister-cities.org/>
- *The City of Birmingham's "The Plan: Using our Past to Build our Future"*  
<http://www.birminghamcomprehensiveplan.com/>
- *Holistic Revitalization in Small Post-Industrial Cities: Tools for Urban Housing Development- Jeffery Beam*  
<http://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/58661>

## Housing Programs & Granting Organizations

- *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)*  
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/ced/cdp/Pages/CDBG.aspx>
- *United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA)*  
<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-guaranteed-loan-program>
- *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*  
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD>
- *HOME Grant Programs provided by the Mobile County Consortium*  
[http://www.mobilecounty.al.gov/government/govt\\_grants.html](http://www.mobilecounty.al.gov/government/govt_grants.html)
- *National Historic Registry of Historic Places*  
[www.nps.gov/nR/](http://www.nps.gov/nR/)
- *State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)/ Alabama Historical Commission*  
<http://www.preserveala.org/>
- *FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program*  
<https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>
- *Alabama Wise*  
<http://www.alabamawise.org/>
- *Single-Family Mortgage Asset Recovery Technology (SMART) Program*  
[www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)
- *Institute For Business and Home Safety (IBHS)/FORTIFIED HOMES*  
<https://disastersafety.org/fortified/>
- *Smart Home America*  
<http://www.smarthomeamerica.org/>
- *Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)*  
[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg)

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### Assisting Resources:

- *National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) FloodSmart.Gov*  
[https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/about/nfip\\_overview.jsp](https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/about/nfip_overview.jsp)
- *ADECA's OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES (OWR)*  
<http://adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/owr/Pages/default.aspx>
- *The City of Birmingham's "The Plan: Using our Past to Build our Future"*  
<http://www.birminghamcomprehensiveplan.com/>
- *Holistic Revitalization in Small Post-Industrial Cities: Tools for Urban Housing Development- Jeffery Beam*  
<http://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/58661>
- *Neighborhoods In Bloom (NiB) Program*  
<http://www.richmondgov.com/neighborhoods/index.aspx>

## Transportation Programs & Granting Organizations

- *U.S. Department of Transportation*  
<https://www.transportation.gov/>
- *Alabama Department of Transportation, Industrial Access Road Funds ~ ALDOT*  
<http://www.dot.state.al.us/>
- *Federal Highway Department*  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- *Mobile MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization)*  
<http://www.mobilempo.org/>
- *Transportation Enhancement Grants (TE) ~ ALDOT*
- <http://www.dot.state.al.us/>
- *Wave Transit System*  
<http://www.thewavetransit.com/>
- *ADECA Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)*  
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/ced/cdp/Pages/CDBG.aspx>
- *Adventure Cycling Association*  
<http://www.adventurecycling.org/>
- *Bedsore Foundation*  
<http://www.jlbedsolefoundation.org/>
- *Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) ~ALDOT*  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>
- *Safe Routes to School Program ~ Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)*  
<http://www.adph.org/srts/>

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- *Walkable and Livable Communities Institute*  
<http://www.walklive.org/>
- *American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)*  
<http://www.aarp.org/>
- *Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP)*  
<https://www.dot.state.al.us/adweb/ATRIP.html>
- *Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)*  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/>
- *Mobile County Consortium*  
[http://www.mobilecountyal.gov/government/govt\\_grants.html](http://www.mobilecountyal.gov/government/govt_grants.html)
- *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) ~ Federal Highway Dept.*  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/)
- *TIGER Grants ~ ALDOT*  
<http://www.dot.gov/tiger>

### Land Use Programs & Granting Organizations

- *Single-Family Mortgage Asset Recovery Technology (SMART) Program*  
[www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)
- *The Arbor Day Foundation*  
<http://www2.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm>
- *Bedsore Foundation*  
<http://www.jlbedsolefoundation.org/>
- *Main Street Alabama*  
<http://www.mainstreetalabama.org/>
- *Mobile County Commission*  
<http://www.mobilecountyal.gov/>
- *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*  
[www.usda.gov/](http://www.usda.gov/)
- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*  
[www.noaa.gov/](http://www.noaa.gov/)
- *American Community Gardening Association (ACGA)*  
[www.communitygarden.org/](http://www.communitygarden.org/)
- *Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)*  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/>
- *Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs (ADECA)*  
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

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- *Alabama Coastal Birding Trail*  
<http://www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com/>
- *Surface Transportation Program (STP)*  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/stp.htm>
- *Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition*
- <http://workingwaterfrontcoalition.com/>
- *National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN)*  
<http://workingwaterfronts.ning.com/photo/albums/first-alabama-working-waterfront-exhibit>

### Parks and Recreation/Natural Resource Protection Programs & Granting Organizations

- *The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*  
<http://www.epa.gov/>
- *National Estuary Program (NEP) ~ EPA*  
<https://www.epa.gov/nep>
- *Restore Act ~ U.S. Department of the Treasury*  
<https://www.treasury.gov/services/restore-act/Pages/home.aspx>
- *American Veteran and Vietnam Veteran Organization*  
<http://www.vva.org/>
- *Bedsore Foundation*  
<http://www.jlbedsolefoundation.org/>
- *Alabama Coastal Birding Trail*  
<http://www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com/>
- *Mobile County Commission*  
<http://www.mobilecountyal.gov/>
- *Signs Grant ~ Mobile County*  
<http://www.mobilecountyal.gov/>
- *Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)*  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/>
- *Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs, Land & Water Conservation Fund (ADECA)*  
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*  
[www.usda.gov/](http://www.usda.gov/)
- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*  
[www.noaa.gov/](http://www.noaa.gov/)



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- *American Community Gardening Association (ACGA)*  
[www.communitygarden.org/](http://www.communitygarden.org/)
- *Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) offered through ADCNR*  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/public-lands/stateLands/landsCoastal/CIAP/>
- *Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)*  
<http://www.adem.state.al.us/default.cnt>
- *Brownfields Program ~ (ADEM)*  
<http://www.adem.state.al.us/programs/land/brownfields.cnt>
- *Gulf of Mexico Environmental Assessment*  
[boem.gov/Environmental.../Environmental-Assessment/](http://boem.gov/Environmental.../Environmental-Assessment/)
- *US Army Corps of Engineers*  
<http://www.usace.army.mil/>
- *The Daniel Foundation*  
[http://danielfoundationofalabama.com/apply\\_for\\_a\\_grant.htm](http://danielfoundationofalabama.com/apply_for_a_grant.htm)
- *US Forest Service*  
[www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/)
- *Alabama Forestry Association*  
[www.alaforestry.org/](http://www.alaforestry.org/)
- *Alabama Forestry Commission*  
<http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/>
- *Gulf Coast Resource, Conservation and Development Council (Gulf Coast RC & D)*  
<http://www.gulfcoastrcd.org/>
- *The Nature Conservancy (TNC)*  
<http://www.nature.org/>
- *Tree City USA*  
<http://www2.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm>

## Community Development Programs & Other Granting Organizations

- *Military Surplus Equipment 1033 Program*  
[https://www.justnet.org/other/1033\\_program.html](https://www.justnet.org/other/1033_program.html)
- *City Block Grants*  
[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs)
- *Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)*  
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- *Alabama Scenic Blue way Trail*

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- <http://www.alabamascenicrivertrail.com/>
- *Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)*  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/>
- *Alabama State Arts Council*  
<http://www.arts.state.al.us/>
- *Mobile County Public Library*  
<http://www.mplonline.org/>
- *Institute of Museum and Library Services*  
<http://www.ims.gov/>
- *ADECA Law Enforcement and Safety Service (LETS) Program*  
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/lets/Pages/default.aspx>
- *Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)*  
<http://www.adem.state.al.us/default.cnt>

### *Assisting Resources:*

- *Piedmont City Schools*  
<http://www.piedmontcity.org/cityschools.htm>
- *Thomasville City Schools*  
<http://www.thomasvilleschools.org/>
- *Brewton School System*  
<http://www.brewtoncityschools.org/>
- *Alabama German Partnership*  
<http://alabamagermany.org/>
- *Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)*  
<http://www.dot.state.al.us/default.html>
- *American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)*  
<http://www.aarp.org/>
- *Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)*  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>
- *Surface Transportation Program (STP)*  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/stp.htm>
- *Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition*  
<http://www.aces.edu/dept/fisheries/aumerc/extension/WorkingWaterfronts.php>
- *National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN)*  
<http://workingwaterfronts.ning.com/photo/albums/first-alabama-working-waterfront-exhibit>
- *The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*  
<http://www.epa.gov/>
- *Alabama Power*

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- <http://www.alabamapower.com/>
- *Arbor Day Foundation*  
<http://www.arborday.org/>
- *Community Transformation Grant (CTG)*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation/>
- *Historic Preservation*  
<http://www.preservationnation.org>
- *Main Street Alabama*  
<http://www.mainstreetalabama.org/>
- *Gulf Coast Resource, Conservation and Development Council (Gulf Coast RC & D)*  
<http://www.gulfcoastrcd.org/>
- *Sister City Partnership*  
<http://www.sister-cities.org/>
- *The City of Birmingham's "The Plan: Using our Past to Build our Future"*  
<http://www.birminghamcomprehensiveplan.com/>
- *Holistic Revitalization in Small Post-Industrial Cities: Tools for Urban Housing Development- Jeffery Beam*  
<http://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/58661>

### Tax Incentives & Credits

- *New Markets Tax Credits ~ U.S. Department of the Treasury*  
<https://www.cdfifund.gov/programs-training/Programs/new-markets-tax-credit/Pages/default.aspx>
- *Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits ~ National Park Service*  
<https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>
- *Tax Increment Financing (TIF) ~ Smart Home America*  
<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/>
- *Low-Income Housing Tax Credits ~ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*  
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/lihtc.html>



APPENDIX C  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT  
PLANS & PRACTICES

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