

# Plaquemines Parish MASTER PLAN

ISSUE 4

June 2010



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President Billy Nungesser

## Master Plan Progress

June 2010 is a transitional time for the Master Plan. While the Parish will continue to collect input for the Master Plan from the community during the summer of 2010, the project team will also begin assessing what the data collected thus far means. Existing conditions data gathered in early 2010 along with input received at the Public Visioning Workshops has begun to lay out the blueprint for the Comprehensive Master Plan. The results from these two efforts will be compiled into two concise documents: the Community Assessment and the Strategic Framework Summary Report.

The Community Assessment is technical in nature, looking back at what past trends and existing circumstances can tell us about issues and opportunities for the future. The Strategic Framework Summary Report is forward thinking – based on the Community Assessment and community input – it will outline the Parish-wide vision – including the big ideas, big decisions, goals and strategies to provide the structure for future growth, development, and investments in the parish. Later in the planning process, a more detailed implementation program will be created.

## Call for Further Input & CMP Volunteers

Community participation is the **key** to the successful implementation of the Master Plan.

### Virtual Workshop

Did you miss the May and June visioning workshops? No sweat! The visioning process will be open for the next several weeks. A Virtual Visioning Workshop will remain on the project website throughout the months of June and July. This Virtual Workshop offers those community members that could not attend the workshops in person an opportunity to review the information that was presented at the May/June workshops and also provide feedback. Be sure to visit the website for details, including documents, PowerPoint presentations, and maps. You can find us at [www.plaqueminesmasterplan.com](http://www.plaqueminesmasterplan.com) then click on the “**Virtual Workshop**” tab.

### Subcommittees & Focus Groups

This summer the project team will be launching a group of Master Plan subcommittees and focus groups. If you have specialized knowledge in a particular field or would just like to participate in one of the groups when formed, please contact us (see contact information on back). *The specific focus group topics have not been finalized – check the website in July for more details.*

### JLUS Study

Did you know that there is another very important planning process going on while Plaquemines Parish completes its Master Plan? The Military and Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes are currently involved in a cooperative planning effort called a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The study examines how the NAS JRB New Orleans operates as well as how this operation may be impacted by growth in population and development in the surrounding community. The Parish is working closely with its partners to ensure that the recommendations of the JLUS are coordinated with the Comprehensive Master Plan. You can visit the JLUS website at <http://jlusneworleans.com/default.htm>.

## DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL DISASTER

The past several weeks have been a difficult time for the people of Plaquemines Parish. The Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf has disrupted the minds, hearts, and the livelihood of many of the citizens in the area. Now is the time for citizens, Parish officials/staff, and professional planners to work together to find creative ways to make Plaquemines Parish stronger, smarter, and safer for its future.

*For Questions or to Volunteer to help  
with the oil disaster:*

Get updates on the oil spill in the Gulf  
of Mexico at:  
<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/>

Oil Spill Hotline: 1-800-755-5175

Deepwater Horizon Response  
Volunteer Request Line:  
1-866-448-5816 or  
<http://oilspillvolunteers.com/>

## Highlights from the Visioning Workshops

East bank to west bank, north and south – the Master Plan project team was there over the last month to get input from community members. Participants were asked to share their view of the individual community assets and then worked to identify needs for the future.

**Quality of Life** was voted very high, as a reason that people live, work and play in Plaquemines Parish with participants stating “safe,” “friendly,” “clean,” “best fishing in the world,” and more. This high quality of life was seen as a major part of what the future of Plaquemines Parish should be. The Master Plan’s goal is to evaluate and identify policies and guidance to maintain and enhance Plaquemines Parish for its citizens today, tomorrow, and beyond.

When asked what the highest priority was for the Parish to focus on in the future, an overwhelming majority of citizens in every meeting stated that **Coastal Restoration** has to be addressed first. “Without coastal restoration, we will not be.” Other high priority items identified were **Economic Development and Job Creation** and solving the big **Transportation** problem of Hwy 23 in Belle Chasse.

*Want to add your two cents?* You still can, please visit the **Virtual Workshop** on the project website at [www.plaqueminesmasterplan.com](http://www.plaqueminesmasterplan.com) to share your ideas.

### Perspective from the Parish – Diana Alfortish, Steering Committee Member

*The residents of this parish have so many urgent, important issues facing them today as a result of the BP spill and the pending offshore drilling moratorium. Issues that affect if they’ll be able to put food on their table, so it is difficult for many to take the time to help plan what their communities will look like in 2, 5 or 10 years. Nonetheless, it is vital that we take whatever time we can to plan the future of our parish. We have never had a comprehensive plan put together by the residents that our elected officials can follow when making decisions. By participating in the process of creating a comprehensive master plan, each resident has an opportunity to help mold the future of the place we call home. The residents will be able to have a voice in determining what will be the short term and long term goals of their community and the parish. A plan will provide our elected officials with a “guide book” to follow. A plan allows the residents to hold the officials accountable when they decide to deviate from the “guide book.” We can no longer operate on a day to day basis reacting after someone else acts. We need a game plan to effectively build a parish that will not only survive but flourish. Recently it came to my attention that the first question that is asked when applying for grants is whether our parish has a master plan. Without a master plan, the organizations are hesitant to provide grants. This is one more reason that we need to prepare our master plan today. We need a game plan. With a game plan we can win at making Plaquemines Parish the best place to live and raise our families!*

## What to Expect *Stay involved and connected!*

Check out the project website: [www.plaqueminesmasterplan.com](http://www.plaqueminesmasterplan.com)

- **Project Website** – The project website contains facts, maps, pertinent documents, contact information, and comment forms.
- **Newsletters** - Sign up to receive your newsletter by emailing: [website@plaqueminesparish.com](mailto:website@plaqueminesparish.com).
- If have a special interest or expertise from the list of topics covered in the Master Plan, please contact our project team to discuss how you can help.
- An online **questionnaire** (paper copies will also be available) will be available Fall 2010. Please be on the lookout for it as it is another opportunity to voice your opinion on the direction of the Master Plan.
- **School Involvement** – The Master Plan will be reaching out to Parish schools this fall. If you would like to help coordinate, please contact us!

For questions or more information, please contact:  
Charlotte Weber, Public Involvement Coordinator:

[charlotte.weber@jig.com](mailto:charlotte.weber@jig.com)

**Master Plan Hotline 504-849-2153**

## Project Milestones and Anticipated Dates



### Beginning of 2010

Begin Project and Collect Data

### May/June 2010

Hold Community Visioning Workshops

### Summer 2010

Complete Community Assessment

### End of 2010

Draft Community Agenda;  
Begin Action Planning Process

### Winter/Spring 2011

Complete Action Planning;  
Hold Public Hearings; Adopt Master Plan

**\*More details on the Website**

