

Plaquemines Parish MASTER PLAN

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President Billy Nungesser

Master Plan Progress

Although it is summer break for many, the Master Plan Steering Committee is still working hard! This coming August the Steering Committee will congregate with the Master Plan project team to define the guiding ideas for the Strategic Framework Summary Document. This document 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. It will provide the answers to the key questions that the parish needs to make, which in turn will guide the implementation program to be formed in the coming months.



PLAQUEMINES PARISH YOUTH NEEDED TO HELP PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

The Master Plan will be reaching out to Plaquemines Parish schools this fall. If you have an idea for engaging Plaquemines youth in planning for the future or would like to help coordinate, please contact us! Or if you are a young Plaquemines Parish resident and you would like to become involved, please contact us!

Possible activities include guest speakers in classrooms, a mini planning workshop, an essay competition, or interactive voting to decide what's important to the community's youth.

Remember - Community participation is the key to the successful implementation of the Master Plan!

The BIG Picture

The key conditions that are essential to the future of Plaquemines Parish, as identified through community input and the review of existing conditions, could be imagined in the shape of a pyramid, with coastal restoration and storm protection as the core need. A robust and healthy economy is the second most important need identified and it builds upon having a protected coast. These two conditions are essential to a high quality of life and ultimately, a sustainable future. Most residents of Plaquemines Parish choose to live here because of the area's high quality of life. Despite threats posed by hurricanes and other environmental conditions, the area's assets – including overall safety, sense of community and access to good schools and recreational activities, and other characteristics – make a desirable case for living in Plaquemines Parish.



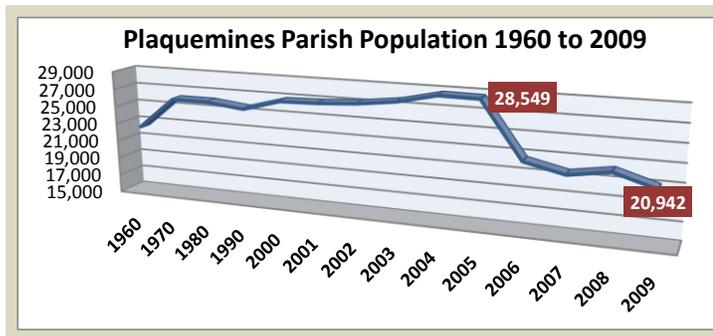
Contact:

Master Plan Hotline
504-849-2153

Public Involvement Coordinator
Charlotte Weber
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Focus on Demographics

Shifts in the characteristics of the Plaquemines Parish population influence the livelihood of the parish and ultimately impact schools, water and sewer service, location of private businesses, and more. Having a thorough understanding of the resident population will help Parish leadership make decisions that improve the quality of life.



Source: (1960-2000) U.S. Census Counts; (2001-2005; 2009) Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Louisiana Counties: July 2000 to July 1, 2009; (2006) 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey; (2007-2008) State of Louisiana Office of the State Treasurer.

Between 2000 and 2006, the percentage of Plaquemines residents with a Bachelor’s degree or higher increased from 10.8% to 18.5%.

- How do the age and education levels of our population impact our housing needs and ability to attract new businesses?
- What will the 2010 Census tell us about our community? How will this influence service provision?
- As our population ages in line with the country, what new or expanded services are needed? Is Plaquemines Parish an accommodating location for the aging population?
- How will the Plaquemines Parish population be impacted by subsidence, rising sea levels, and other environmental uncertainties?

Perspective from the Parish – Dr. Stuart Guey, Council Member District 4

As an elected official, I have come to realize the importance a Comprehensive Master Plan as it relates to our ability to garner funding on both the State and Federal levels. This funding is always difficult to obtain, slow in coming, and it must be diligently pursued. We have been told on numerous occasions that an approved Master Plan is essential in the decision making process when it comes to whether or not any funding requests will be considered. This involves capital outlay appropriations as well as grants. As we crystallize our thoughts, put our plans on paper, debate and finalize them, we are taking steps that will have a profound impact in our ability to move this Parish forward. Realizing that adequate funding sources are needed to improve the quality of life in our parish makes us recognize the importance of this Master Plan and how it plays a significant role in making that happen.

What to Expect

Stay involved and connected!

Check out the project website: www.plaqueminesmasterplan.com

- Subcommittees & Focus Groups** – This summer the project team will be launching a group of Master Plan subcommittees as well as a series of focus groups. If you have specialized knowledge in specific issue area and would like to participate, please contact us through the hotline or email.
- Newsletters** – Sign up to receive your newsletter by emailing: website@plaqueminesparish.com.

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



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