



NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Just Imagine...a diverse and strong economy that adapts to stresses and provides all residents and businesses with the opportunity to thrive.



The Natural and Cultural Resource recommendations in this section build on those already described within the 10 Catalytic Projects.

Natural and Cultural Resources Recommendations are based on:

1. Assessment of the existing network of resources
2. Natural and Cultural Resources Guiding Group meetings and input
3. Public input throughout the process

Plan recommendations are listed in the tables along with the estimated costs and time frames. Several key recommendations are described in more detail.

Food and Culinary Culture

Southwest Louisiana's unique food and culinary

traditions form the basis of a cultural identity that attract tourists and new residents interested in participating in the culinary economy. Establishing a constellation of unique experiences, such as catch-and-cook opportunities, kitchen incubators, food truck infrastructure, and enhanced festivals will bring new jobs and people to the region, while enhancing quality of life and cultural experiences for existing residents.

Mardi Gras Museum

The EDA has granted \$1.6 million in American Rescue Plan funds to build a new Mardi Gras Museum in the Nellie Lutcher District along Enterprise Boulevard. In addition to the museum, the redevelopment of Enterprise Boulevard is anticipated to attract related small businesses, including a king cake bakery, decoration and bead shop, and spaces for costume makers and artisans.





Lakefront Amphitheater

The City of Lake Charles has plans to enhance the existing Arcade Amphitheater. Upgrading the facility would allow for indoor and outdoor ticketed performances, enhanced food and beverage service, and the ability to host a wider range of activities and events.

Family-Friendly Environments

In order to retain and attract employees with families, Calcasieu and Cameron parishes must create more family-friendly destinations, entertainment, and environments. These uses include sports and recreation, shopping, indoor and outdoor entertainment options, parks and trail networks, spaces and attractions for teens, arts and creative spaces,

and enhanced educational amenities and opportunities.

Green Infrastructure (GI)

Green infrastructure is applicable to many of the catalytic projects and beyond as a cost-effective way to mitigate flooding and improve water quality. Green infrastructure can also create amenity spaces for residents. To learn more about Green Infrastructure, please reference the following information in appendices:

- Green Infrastructure Center ordinance recommendations related to tree canopy, rain gardens, and chenier restoration
- Best Practice Management (BMP) Library

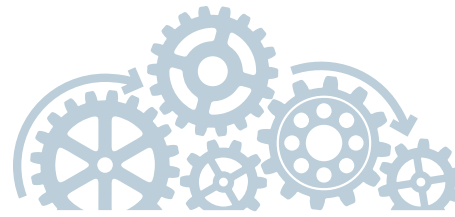
Natural & Cultural Resources

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Southwest Louisiana's spectacular natural resources are a unique draw — access needs to be improved, while also protecting and enhancing the natural resources themselves.
- Calcasieu and Cameron parishes have rich cultures with festivals, cuisines, and music that are unique to the region.



KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL



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PLAN RECOMMENDATION	COST	TIMEFRAME
Food & Culinary Culture		
① Develop a cultural food hub or incubator kitchen for Cajun, Creole, and Acadian food with food truck hook-ups	\$8-14 million	2-5 years
② Establish a Catch & Cook program throughout SWLA	TBD	2-5 years
Cultural Venues & Events		
③ Lease empty spaces at the Central School Arts & Humanities Center to creative entrepreneurs, artists, and makers	n/a	0-2 years
④ Develop the Mardi Gras museum in the Nellie Lutcher Cultural District, including a bakery, shop, and space for costume makers and artisans	\$3-5 million	1-3 years
⑤ Develop the LAVA performing arts center in the Nellie Lutcher Cultural District	\$15+ million	2-5 years
⑥ Build an enhanced amphitheater and music venue on the Lakefront	TBD	2-5 years
⑦ Develop music and food-focused entertainment along waterfronts	TBD	2-5 years
⑧ Develop a SWLA Sportsman Festival	TBD	2-5 years
⑨ Enhance Meet Me at the Market	TBD	1-2 years
⑩ Build new spaces for local musicians to rehearse and record, dedicated to the celebration of Zydeco and Cajun music	TBD	5-10 years



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PLAN RECOMMENDATION	COST	TIMEFRAME
Family-Friendly Entertainment		
11 Expand family-friendly events and programs offered in the region, including arts, recreation, education	TBD	1-5 years
12 Enhance the amenities at the Lake Charles beach to make it more family-friendly (such as restrooms, changing areas, umbrella and chair rentals, etc.)	TBD	1-2 years
13 Enhance beach and lake access in Cameron Parish at Big Lake, Hackberry (lake access), Rutherford Beach, and Holly Beach	TBD	2-5 years
Protection & Enhancement of Natural Resources		
14 Create a common co-working or incubator space for environmental non-profits (explore locating an environmental hub in a Community Resilience Hub in or near Cameron Parish)	TBD	5-10 years
15 Adopt ordinance changes and best practices recommended by the Green Infrastructure Center related to tree canopy, rain gardens, and chenier restoration	TBD	1 year
16 Use the Keep Louisiana Beautiful storm drain art project and other Keep America Beautiful best practices to expand awareness of the impact on natural waterways and wildlife habitats	TBD	1 year
17 Establish long-term curbside municipal and parish recycling programs	TBD	1-5 years
18 Increase the number of trash receptacles in urban areas	TBD	1-5 years
19 Install litter and debris catchment systems to protect bayous and coulees	TBD	2-5 years
19 Fund and support a robust litter management program to keep natural areas clean and beautiful as the number of visitors increases, including the use of incentives	TBD	2-10 years

Litter Management

Community members identified litter and trash management as one of the top challenges facing the region and the Natural and Cultural Resources Guiding Group focused many of its discussions on addressing this issue.

Litter not only harms and detracts from the natural environment, but it also deters investment and future residents from investing in Southwest Louisiana. In the waterways and lateral systems, litter adds to other debris, impeding drainage, and exacerbating flooding.

Solutions must focus on systemic approaches, not only personal responsibility campaigns — establishing curbside municipal and parish recycling programs, installing litter and debris catchment systems to protect bayous and coulees, increasing the number of trash receptacles in urban areas, and funding a robust litter management program in natural areas.