

Public Input Report

Lafitte Greenway Trail Completion

July 16, 2019 | Prepared by Friends of Lafitte Greenway

About the Lafitte Greenway Trail Completion

The City of New Orleans' *2013 Lafitte Greenway Master Plan*--developed with extensive public input--envisioned the Greenway spanning 3.1 miles to connect neighborhoods from Basin Street in the French Quarter to a trailhead at Canal Boulevard. Today, it falls one-half mile short of this vision, ending abruptly at N. Alexander Street in Mid-City.

Complete the Greenway: Demonstration • Libations Event

Friends of Lafitte Greenway--in partnership with the City of New Orleans Office of Transportation, NORD, the Regional Planning Commission, the Regional Transit Authority, Bike Easy, Ride New Orleans, and HousingNOLA--sought community and stakeholder input at the *Complete the Greenway: Demonstrations & Libations* event on June 26, 2019. Through this event, we sought to ground truth and revisit tenets of the 2013 Master Plan today.



Outstanding turnout at the Complete the Greenway event demonstrated high public demand.

Public Participation & Input Exercises Overview

200 Community members attended the event, an extraordinary turnout, and approximately 100 participated in interactive input activities. The event included a pop-up demonstration of the trail section on St. Louis Street, and mapping exercises. Through these interactive exercises, the public responded to the following questions.

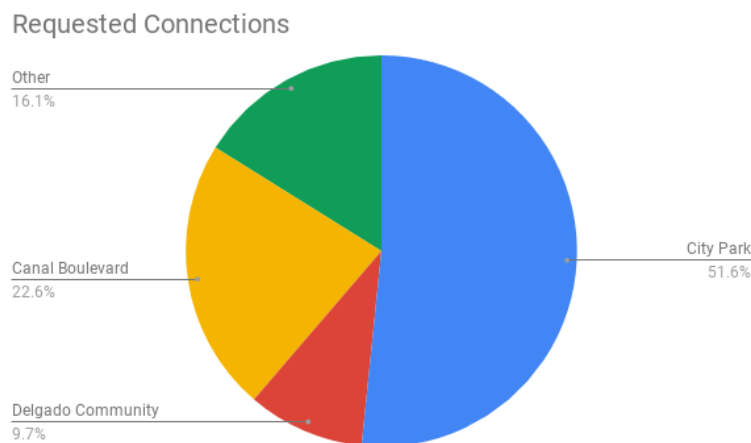
- What are other uses in this area to consider? What should be accommodated?
- What do you know about this neighborhood that we need to know? Flooding? Traffic? Stakeholders? Safety?
- What types of bike infrastructure do you want to see?
- What do you want to see and do here? Programming? Landscaping? Events?
- What should the completed Greenway connect to? Where will you use it to go?

Public input fell into three central themes, as detailed below: (1) Connectivity, (2) Infrastructure, and (3) Amenities.

1. CONNECTIVITY: *Enhance the Greenway's connections to the following locations.*

Three primary demands for connectivity enhancements emerged in public input (percentages shown in the below chart):

1. City Park
2. Canal Boulevard Transit Center
3. Delgado Community College

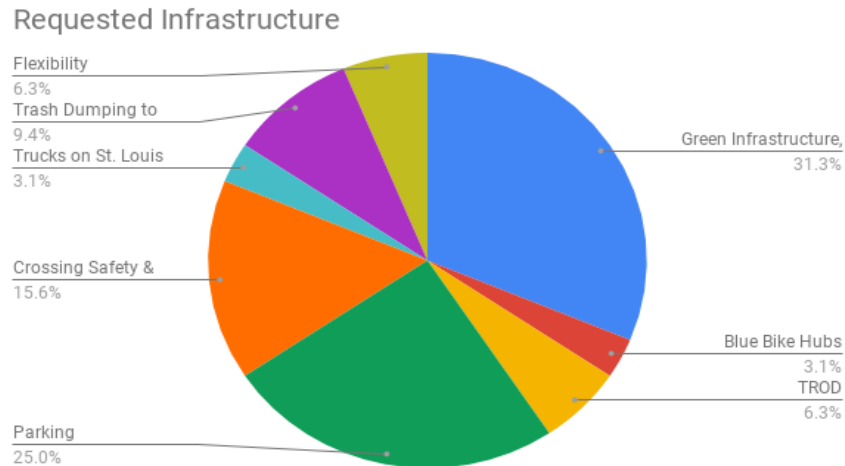


The "other" category with fewer requests included connectivity enhancements to:

- Delgado/Lakeview Playground
- Navarre neighborhood businesses

2. INFRASTRUCTURE: Incorporate the following infrastructure enhancements.

The public identified the following key infrastructure enhancements to consider or incorporate in the trail completion design.

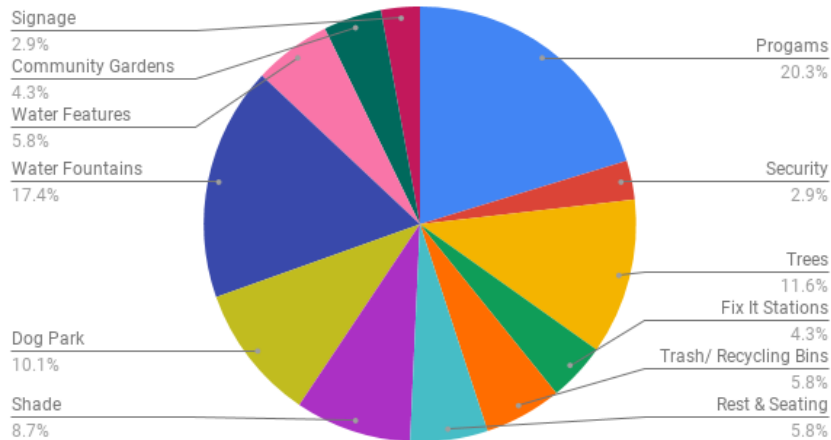


- **Green Infrastructure** - Incorporate flood management and stormwater reclamation elements, trees, native plants, rain gardens, and wildflowers.
- **Crossing Safety & Traffic Calming** - Enhance safety at intersections with pedestrian hybrid beacons and traffic calming measures.
- **Passera Ct. Parking** - Seek to accommodate parking and a turning point for residents of Passera Ct. Residents have limited on-street parking.
- **Trucks on St. Louis Street** - Accommodate the following commercial uses: Plastic's Distributor's trucks, American Luxury Limos, and Class A Trailers on St. Louis Street.
- **Flexibility on Bike Infrastructure Typology** - Many respondents were open to a mixed approach to bike infrastructure typology. A clear preference for off-street trails and protected infrastructure emerged, though many respondents were willing to accept a sharrow or bike lane on a block-by-block basis as needed due to limited space.
- **Blue Bikes Hub** - Install Blue Bikes Hub at new trailhead (consistent with existing Blue Bikes plans).
- **Trash dumping sites transformed to green space** - Neighbors voiced frustration with current use of the St. Louis corridor as a dumping site and space that attracts litter. Respondents saw an opportunity to transform this underutilized space into greenspace. A particular area of opportunity identified is the open green space behind Masonry Products' brickyard.
- **Community-focused trail-oriented development** - Promote trail-oriented development and new businesses that serve and benefit the community.

3. AMENITIES: *Include the following amenities in the trail completion project.*

The public identified the following amenities as possible elements of the trail completion project:

Requested Amenities



- Expand existing Greenway amenities** - The amenities in this category are current elements of the Greenway design that respondents asked to incorporate into future trail completion.
 - Public Programming & Events: live music, pop-ups, bike safety classes, native plant classes, community volunteer days, volleyball.
 - Trees and shade
 - Shade
 - Water fountains for people and pets
 - Educational Signage
 - Safety and Security
 - Rest & Seating - Benches, tables, picnic areas
 - Bike Repair Stations
- Trash/recycling** - Ensure sufficient trash and recycling receptacles.
- Dog park** - Several requests for a dog park at the brickyard lot on the corner of St. Louis St and St. Patrick St as a possible location.
- Water features** - Several requests for water features such as splash pads.
- Community gardens**