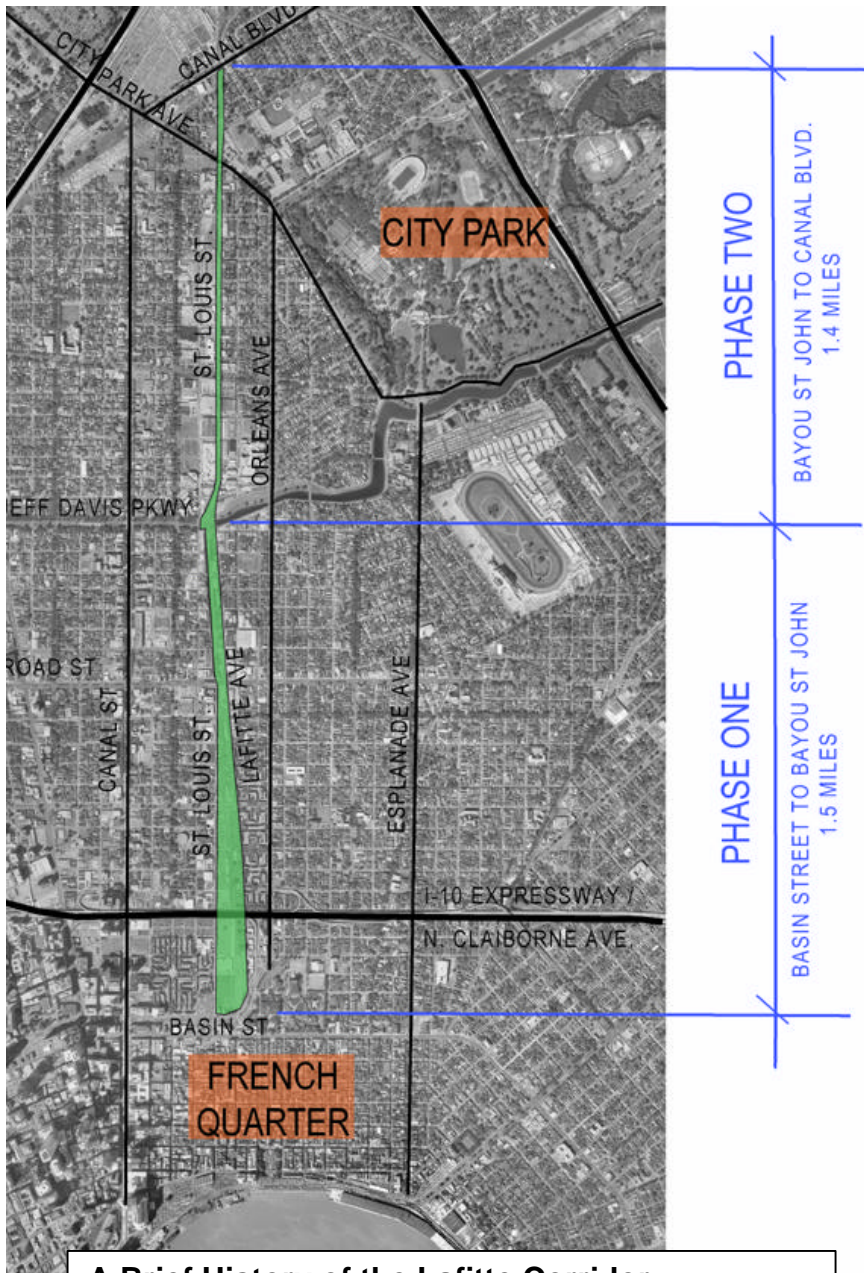


Lafitte Corridor

Preserving our history. Rebuilding our neighborhoods.



A Brief History of the Lafitte Corridor

The Lafitte Corridor has been a historically significant transportation route since the founding of New Orleans. In 1794 the Carondelet Canal was completed (located in the stretch of the Lafitte Corridor from Bayou St. John to Basin Street) to provide a small but critical waterway for commercial ships to reach the back of the French Quarter near Congo Square. Later when the canal was filled in and railroad tracks were installed, the Lafitte Corridor remained an important path for the delivery of mail and other non-passenger freight. It is not by accident that Storyville formed on Basin Street between the Lafitte Corridor and Canal Street where the passenger terminal was located in the late 1800s. Today the land is largely abandoned and there is pressure to develop it from many private interests and the City.

What is Lafitte Corridor?

The Lafitte Corridor is the largely derelict strip of land along the old Norfolk Southern Rail Line from Basin Street to Canal Boulevard next to St. Louis Avenue. Residents in the surrounding neighborhoods have been working to preserve this open space by creating a trail and park network in the corridor.

The long-term vision for the corridor is to develop a trail and park system that spans from the French Quarter to the Cemeteries. Immediate work will focus on securing right-of-way and constructing a trail and park corridor between Basin Street and Jeff Davis Boulevard.

Who's leading this project?

A group of neighbors called Friends of Lafitte Corridor (FOLC) has been leading the efforts to persuade the City and other entities to make this vision a reality. They've been meeting with neighbors, other community organizations and government officials to discuss the future of the corridor.

Project Phases

The project is divided into two phases based on immediate threats and opportunities regarding the land in the corridor. Phase One is composed of both private and City lands, including one parcel that was just recently sold by the City and another that is currently in the early stages of redevelopment. Phase Two is largely owned by railroads.

Do you live or work nearby?

FOLC wants this project to reflect the needs and desires of all the communities directly surrounding the corridor and is actively seeking input from residents of Tremé, Lafitte, Iberville, Mid City, Tulane/Gravier, and Faubourg St. John. For questions or to find out about the next meeting time and place email b@rox.com or sign up for the yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/folc/>



Phase One: Proposed Park and Trail Alignment in Lafitte Corridor

Current and future land uses

- ❶ Future Louisiana Institute for Film Technology Building (architectural drawing provided by the developer)
- ❷ Sojourner Truth Community Center and Tennis Courts
- ❸ Brake tag station

Buildings highlighted in red, yellow and orange are potential destinations for trail users including schools, employment centers, hospitals, cultural attractions and businesses.

Why Develop a Trail and Park in the Lafitte Corridor?

- Greater access to bike paths and walking trails serves the neighbors and general public by expanding transportation options, increasing public health and providing much-needed open space in neighborhoods that often lack parks and other recreation facilities.
- The location of the corridor is critical. There is no other direct route between Mid-City and Tremé, the Quarter and the CBD that is publicly-owned and generally undeveloped.
- Access to trails can provide alternative routes to school for children. There are six reopened schools located within ¼ mile of the trail.
- Walking paths provide safe places for people to exercise and meet friends and neighborhoods.
- Bike paths provide safe routes for commuters on bike.



Lafitte Corridor today



Vision of Lafitte Corridor with trail and parks

Produced by University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Support The Lafitte Corridor!

- Join the Friends of Lafitte Corridor listserv <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/folc/>
- Come to a FOLC meeting (email b@rox.com or join the listserv to get meeting time and dates)
- Talk to your neighbors about the project
- Email us your thoughts or questions b@rox.com