



Conservation and Environmental Resources Element

The Horizon Plan was adopted by the Metropolitan Council in 1992 as the comprehensive land use and development plan for City of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish. The plan includes numerous Goals, Objectives and Policies within seven different areas of emphasis, called "elements."

The Horizon Plan includes the following seven elements: Land Use; Transportation; Wastewater, Solid Waste and Drainage; Conservation and Environmental Resources; Recreation and Open Space; Housing; and Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services. This Information Bulletin examines the Conservation and Environmental Resources Element of the Horizon Plan.

The purpose of the Horizon Plan's Conservation and Environmental Resources Element is to provide the template and strategies for continued protecting and enhancing the environmental resources important to the quality of life in the City-Parish while maintaining sustainable development. This Element is designed to promote responsible and accountable land use practices, including development strategies to mitigate man's adverse effect on the environment while anticipating and planning for the environmental impacts of development.

Development of the Conservation and Environmental Resources Element involved an extensive public participation process to obtain information for the citizens, City-Parish officials, and state and federal agencies. The public participation process ensured the development of a responsive program which maintained consistency with goals and values of the community.

Two neighborhood planning meetings were held in each of the sixteen planning districts established for the Horizon Plan. These meetings provided an opportunity for citizens to state their con-



cerns and identify issues relating to conservation and environmental resources in their district, as well as parish wide. The issues identified at the neighborhood planning meetings Additionally, they provided the basis for formulating the goals, objectives and recommendations of the Horizon Plan Conservation and Environmental Resources Element.

Goals, Objectives and Action Items

Goals are broad and general statements of desired future conditions that aid and guide the decision-making process.

Objectives are specific statements about future conditions or results that should be achieved in order to attain the Goals that have been set. Objectives are worded so that their achievement can be measured. Action Items are specific recommendations, plans and standards that are used in making decisions about future actions and programs. Action Items become the specific guidelines for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

The Conservation and Environmental Resources Element involves seven related but distinct topics, each of which includes a stated Goal for addressing the approach to successfully involving the community in each issue. These topics and their Goals are as follows:

Air Quality

Goal E1: Achieve and maintain air quality that meets or exceeds National Ambient Air Quality Standards to promote the overall health of people and the environment.

Water Quality

Goal E2: Improve and protect the quality and quantity of surface water and ground water, and provide for appropriate management of water resources.

Goal E3: To protect and maintain the quality and quantity of the Baton Rouge Aquifer as part of the Southern Hills Regional Aquifer system as well as smaller local aquifers.

Land Resources

Goal E4: Encourage and increase conservation and effective use of land resources.

Sensory/Aesthetics

Goal E5: Promote public health and welfare through beautification and enhancement of the landscape for human use.

Goal E6: Minimize noise levels in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport vicinity, industrial areas, and other areas of high intensity land use that are adjacent to residential areas.

Preservation of Rare and Endangered Plants and Wildlife

Goal E7: Maintain, restore, and enhance wildlife populations and plant communities.

Hazardous Wastes

Goal E8: Minimize the risks associated with the generation, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes and materials.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Goal E9: Promote intra and inter-governmental coordination among agencies responsible for the protection of environmental resources.

Goal E10: Promote the development and maintenance of a healthy, safe, enjoyable, and economically secure community.

Action Items

Action Items serve as strategies for implementation of the Elements of the comprehensive plan. They are assigned to various City-Parish Lead Agencies that use them as a method for addressing the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Horizon Plan.

There are 62 Action Items within the Conservation Element. To give an illustration, an example from each topic within the Conservation Element is listed below along with the number of Action Items within each category and the Lead Agencies responsible for them.

Air Quality

- Eleven Action Items
- 6 Lead Agencies: Capital Region Planning Commission, Department of Public Works, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Mayor-President's Office, Louisiana Department of Natural resource, and Planning Commission.
- Action E1.E: Support strict compliance and effective enforcement for federal and state air pollution controls, including LDEQ's air quality monitoring and enforcement programs. (Policy E1.2.B and E1.2.C)

Water Resources

- Nineteen Action Items
- 4 Lead Agencies: Department of Public Works, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health and Hospitals, Planning Commission.
- Action E2.B: Support LPDES. Support continued monitoring and enforcement of Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) requirements for wastewater treatment in parish. (Policy E1.2.A)

Land Resources

- Thirteen Action Items
- 2 Lead Agencies: Planning Commission, Department of Public Works.
- Action E4.C: Architectural Guidelines. The Neighborhood and Subarea Planning Program and Urban Design Program of the Planning Commission should include development of architectural guidelines and restrictions for commercial and residential development and redevelopment in areas of the city and parish defined to have historical or aesthetic significance. (Policies E4.1.A and E5.2.A)

Preservation of Rare and Endangered Plants and Wildlife

- Ten Action Items
- 5 Lead Agencies: Capital Region Planning Commission, Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission, Department of Public Works, City Parish Planning Commission, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.
- Action E5.B: Subarea Plans Sensitive. Neighborhood and Subarea Planning Programs should include identification and consideration of preservation and management of prime agricultural land and significant natural areas, including wetlands.

Hazardous Wastes

- Five Action Items
- 4 Lead Agencies: Louisiana Department of Environment Quality, Department of Public Works, OHSEP, and Mayor-President's Office
- Action E6.A: On-site Practices. Support establishment of on-site practices that reduce, avoid or eliminate generation of hazardous waste in commercial, industrial, etc. facilities. (Policy E8.1.A)

Intergovernmental Coordination

- Four Action Items
- 4 Lead Agencies: Capital Region Planning Commission, Mayor-President's Office, Department of Public Works, and Planning Commission.
- Action E7.A: Establish Intergovt. Co-ord. Establish inter-Parish coordination for multi-parish environmental programs and issues, under the auspices of the Capital Region Planning Commission. (Policy E9.1.B)

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