



CPPPC Takes its Place on the World Wide Web

To better serve residents, developers and others seeking planning information for East Baton Rouge Parish, the City-Parish Planning Commission has established a site on the World Wide Web.

Information seekers can obtain a wealth of planning and development information via their home or office computers. Users of the Internet can visit the Planning Commission site through the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge web site at the following Internet address:

www.brgov.com/dept/planning

From the City-Parish site, web surfers simply need to click the link titled "Directory," and click on the Planning Commission from the list of departments. A new window will then lead visitors to various types of planning information.

History of the Internet

The Internet was established in the 1960s during the "Cold War" so the Defense Department could maintain nationwide communication through a vast network of computers in the event that a major city was destroyed by a bomb. Many of those computers were maintained by universities and research institutes, so the Internet quickly became a tool of academia for exchanging information among researchers and their colleagues.

In the late 1980s, technology was developed to allow the public access to the vast amounts of information on the Internet. By 1993, an estimated 4.3 million users were already online.

The public part of the Internet has become known as the World Wide Web (WWW). Thanks to sophisticated "browsers" and the graphical capabilities of the web, the Internet has quite literally exploded with growth. Estimates are that 750,000 to one million new people get on the Internet every month. By the end of 2007, there were more than a billion Internet users.

A main feature of the World Wide Web is its "hyperlinks." These links provide users with a means to jump to other pages of information at the click of a button, no matter where the pages are located. Each page has its own URL (unique reference locator) that is the equivalent to its electronic address.

Visit us on the web at
www.brgov.com/dept/planning/

Planning Commission Web Site

The City-Parish Planning Commission site on the World Wide Web includes a list of Frequently Asked Questions and general planning information, plus the following information and items:

Maps and Property Information Link to the City-Parish online Parcel Finder Map at gis.brgov.com.

Who We Are These pages describe the City-Parish Planning Commission and its purpose and history.

Planning, What is it? An explanation of what planning is and what it can do for communities. (In PDF format)

Planning Calendar Monthly calendar of important meetings and deadlines for Planning Commission items.

Applications All Planning Commission applications, their procedures and checklists, are available on the web site.

Baton Rouge Facts General statistics and information about Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish are presented.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Initiative Provides information on bicycle and pedestrian transportation in the City-Parish, including the Baton Rouge Bicycle Map.

Brownfields Program This page contains information about the Baton Rouge Brownfields program, incentives for brownfield redevelopment, and how to get involved with the program.

Economic/Demographic Information This portion of the web site offers easy access to census information, as well as business directories, Enterprise Zone information, and an economic profile of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Growth Centers This page includes information on the 2002-07 Growth Center planning program, including maps and photos of the Growth Centers, and associated reports and documents.

Historical Land Development Part of the Planning Commission GIS, this is a display of the history of land development in Baton Rouge. (See Information Bulletin 58 for more details.)

Historic Preservation Information on historic preservation efforts in the City-Parish, including activities of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Horizon Plan These pages provide a review and information from the Ten-Year Update of the Horizon Plan, completed in 2002, as well as the most recently completed semi-annual Horizon Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR).

Information Bulletins The series of Information Bulletins describes the Planning Commission's work, projects and procedures. The bulletins are available for download in PDF format.

Land Development Guide A document which outlines and explains City-Parish regulations and procedures for land use changes such as subdivision or rezoning. (In PDF format)

Meetings Agendas, Calendars, and Schedules Planning Commission Meeting agendas, calendars, and staff reports are available on these pages.

Planning Commission Members The nine members of the Planning Commission are listed.

Neighborhood Survey An ongoing Planning Commission survey which will permit planners to better understand planning and land use issues in your area when proposing future land use amendments.

Ordinances Draft versions of proposed revisions and updates to the City-Parish Unified Development Code.

Quarterly Newsletter The Planning Commission's quarterly newsletter, "Planning News", is presented. These pages require the Adobe Acrobat software.

Staff and Organizational Chart The Staff listing includes current staff members and individual e-mail addresses, as well as the organization of the Planning Commission staff.

Street and Subdivision Listing with Maps Listings and maps of all subdivisions and streets in the City-Parish. Also includes a map of the most current version of the Major Street Plan. (Documents are in PDF format)

Unified Development Code (UDC) The UDC is a single document that includes all of the City-Parish land development regulations and ordinances. A fee is required for purchasing copies of the UDC. The entire document, however, is presented on the Planning Commission's web site, and it is regularly updated as revisions or new ordinances occur.

Wetlands Program Information on the CPPC's ongoing wetlands program. Includes educational and background information on wetlands, and records of recent wetlands workshops.

Communicate with Planners

All of the Planning Commission Staff members have individual e-mail addresses, which are listed in the "Planning Commission Staff" pages of the web site. The Planning Commission also offers a general e-mail site for residents and developers to submit comments, questions, or other information. You may send e-mail to the Planning Commission at:

planning@brgov.com

Geographic Information System Information

A geographic information system (GIS) is a computerized mapping system linked to a large database of various kinds of land and property information. At the touch of a few buttons, a GIS can graphically display requested information (on maps), and it can also sort and tabulate large quantities of data in number or text form. The City-Parish GIS system allows residents to obtain a variety of land-related information over the Internet. By clicking on parcels on electronic maps, or by entering street addresses, residents can receive computerized information such as zoning districts, Horizon Plan land use information, flood information, existing land use information and census tracts.

The Technological Future

The Planning Commission website is only the beginning. The technological future holds some fascinating possibilities for the dissemination and administration of planning and zoning information.

The Planning Commission hopes to offer the following online services in the future:

- **Electronic Case Tracking** When instituted, developers and other applicants will be able to track the status of their case online.

Surfing for Planning Services

The Planning Commission's location on the information highway allows for better and more efficient service for the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish, as well as those outside of the area doing business with the Parish. The Internet represents a valuable resource for the provision of planning services, and the Planning Commission is dedicated to being on the cutting edge of this exciting, developing technology.

For more information contact:

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