

City of Broussard

Community Assessment Report

Prepared for
Mayor Ray Bourque &
Broussard City Council

Prepared by
LED Louisiana Development Ready Community
Committee
Chaired by Stacy Romero, Broussard Chamber

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Text highlighted in yellow are
updates since assessment
completed as of 2/16/2022

LDRC Committee 2020

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Describe the local government governing body.

Governing body consists of a Mayor and City Council consisting of 7 elected members, all serving a 4-year terms.

Describe the major capital improvement projects that have occurred over the last several years and those planned for short and long term.

- \$6 million budgeted for new Police/Fire municipal complex
- Approximately \$4 million S. Bernard Rd. expansion (new 4-lane highway, connecting 3 main arteries)
- \$2 million budgeted for Phase 1 Main Street improvements, including major drainage work and improvements such as walking/biking paths, entry gateway/structure, lighting, trees and landscaping, commemorative markers, signage, benches, water fountains, artistic panels
- Approximately \$2 million on water and sewage upgrades and improvements
- Parks and Recreation capital outlay: pavilions, playgrounds, tennis office and restrooms, disc golf

What is the annual community budget?

- Estimated \$22,562,960 total operating expenses for 2021

Ordinance Governance – Is there a zoning ordinance in place? If so, please explain for residential, commercial, and industrial.

Yes, there is a zoning ordinance in place, and the entirety is available at

<https://www.cityofbroussard.com/home/showpublisheddocument/14/637368151653230000>

- The Residential Districts are established as Zoning Districts in which the principal use of the land will be for family dwellings also allowing the conditional use of lands for educational, recreational, and religious, fraternal and nonprofit or club facilities. The development of attractive neighborhood living will be encouraged. Residential Districts are intended to: A. Preserve a high-quality residential community with a diverse range of housing designed to meet the needs of residents of all ages. Residential Zoning Districts: Single Family Residential, Multi-Family Residential (4-plex or less), Multi-Family Residential (greater than 4-plex), Mobile/Manufactured Home
- Commercial Districts are established to implement the applicable comprehensive plans for a general business and commercial districts to which the public requires frequent and convenient access and to promote concentration of commercial development for the mutual advantage of the public and the merchant. Commercial Zoning Districts: Neighborhood Commercial District, Community Commercial District, Ambassador Caffery District, Office Commercial District

Industrial Zoning Districts: The Light Industrial and General Industrial Districts are established to provide industrial-based districts inside areas of the city to minimize impacts to other districts and to implement the applicable comprehensive plans for appropriate zoning districts in which the principal use of the land is for industrial purposes that may involve materials or wastes commonly associated with industrial activities. These districts are intended to provide separate and distinct allowed uses based on the availability of urban services, the surrounding land uses, and the applicable comprehensive plan designation for the area. **Does the city have a**

business permitting process in place? Please describe.

Yes. Permits are required for new commercial construction as is an Occupational License. Previously, these applications are completed in person at City Hall. However, we have worked to bring this process online for ease of use. All permit information can be found at <https://www.cityofbroussard.com/doing-business/permitting-licensing>. Building permits require a complete set of plans be submitted to the Louisiana State Fire Marshal and to the City of Broussard, and all contractors must be licensed in the State of Louisiana.

Is there an emergency communications and preparedness plan in place? -Describe the plan in a few sentences including facilities, evacuation routes, and staff trained to assist. -Has the public been informed about the emergency plan and how?

- The City uses SwiftReach 911 to alert citizens via text, email, and telephone calls with emergency notifications

Sanitation

Describe the regular sanitation services provided by the community to include standing water control, trash removal, recycling programs, and any other.

The city controls standing water by continual maintenance of ditches and coulees. \$1.1 million Ridgeview Outfall Drainage project was recently completed, improving drainage in our historic downtown. The city also provides garbage and recycling pickup through Waste Management.

Sanitary sewer, solid waste management, and water systems:

1-Describe each system.

Solid Waste Management – Our sanitary sewer system consists of gravity flow systems that pump to our 80-acre sewer pond. Our solid waste is contracted out to Waste Management
Water Systems – Our water is provided by two different systems: City of Broussard Garber Well System and the Lafayette Utility Systems (LUS) Purchase Water System.

Are there system issues? No Does the city have ordinances in place that meet state and federal guidelines? Yes Is the city in compliance with all regulations? Yes

2-Approximately what percentage of the community is covered by each system?

Approximately 80% of our city is served by our sewer system. 100% of the city is serviced by Waste Management. Water is approximately 60% LUS Purchased Water, 40% Garber Well

Fire Protection

Describe protection system/code, class and rating, facilities, equipment, and maintenance plan.

The Broussard Fire Department is a Combination department staffed by both part-time personnel who work shifts 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It is also staffed by volunteers who receive a stipend for calls when they respond to any emergency. We are equipped with 3 stations spaced out as needed through the city. The Broussard Fire Department responds with Class A pumping apparatus, an aerial device and Tankers as needed for structure related emergencies. The Broussard Fire Department is also equipped to respond to wrecks both with extrication and without, grass fires, gas leaks, medical emergencies, and many other types of incidents that our services are needed. We have a vast variety of equipment that is needed to

handle any task. Our Firefighters are trained up to NFPA standards and are encouraged to take certification tests by our state training agency. The Broussard Fire Department is very active in the community, conducting safety talks in schools, community events, and any other chance when we can teach fire safety. We have recently acquired a facility dalmatian (Ember) that is used during safety talks as well as an emotional support for incidents that there are children involved.

The Broussard Fire Department is a Class 3 within the City limits of Broussard by PIAL standards. The areas outside the city limits, which is known as the Parish of Lafayette Fire District 1 area, is a Class 6. This Class 6 has a lot to do with limited water supply along with all of the District 1 areas being strictly volunteer. The Broussard Fire Department continues to make the necessary changes to better our PIAL insurance rating.

Broussard Fire Department has an average response time of just above 4 minutes, where highly trained, qualified personnel arrive on scene ready to take care of the task at hand.

We rely on automatic aid agreements with surrounding areas for additional help with staffing during large scale incidents.

The residents of the City of Broussard and Broussard's parish fire response area are well protected for any emergency that may occur.

Police Protection

Describe the police protection in place.

The Broussard Police Department strives to provide the most adequate professional police protection to all citizens as well as to all the people that visit the city for work or for pleasure. Officers are provided the most up to date technology to combat crime in the area. We have a low crime rate with most incidents being theft related.

Broussard Police Department has 35 sworn officers protecting the city with specialized assignments that focus on specific areas such as:

- Patrol
- Traffic
- Investigations
- Power
- School Resource Officers
- Park Officers

Additionally, our team has a subdivision patrol program that requires a minimum of two extra patrols per day outside of normal calls for service. Our team focuses on target areas and conducts surveillance, radar enforcement, foot patrols, financial institution protection, and community-oriented services. In addition to specialized training offered, our officers are required to attend annual continuing education training in order to maintain their status as certified police officers.

Are there citizen participation campaigns in the community? (i.e., neighborhood watch, crime stoppers, etc.)

Many neighborhoods use interactive platforms to collaborate with the police such as Nextdoor and Facebook. These two serve as modern-day neighborhood watch programs. The Chief and Command level personnel also attend subdivision HOA meetings within the city. Broussard Police does utilize Crime Stoppers on certain crimes that require enhanced public involvement. Annually, Broussard Police participates in National Night Out where the community is invited to socialize with the entire police force in a non-intrusive environment with static police equipment displays, food and drinks served at no cost to the public. Twice per year, Broussard Police participates in the National Prescription Drug Take Back event where people can deliver unused, expired, or unidentifiable prescriptions for proper disposal without questions asked, as well as a drop box at the police department that the public can drop into during business hours. On several occasions, Broussard Police has participated in local invitations to events such as Coffee in Broussard. Finally, Broussard Police often allows for tours of the facility for elementary and daycare schools. Kids are given badge stickers and often have their picture taken.

Emergency Services - Describe the emergency services available in the community. (EMS, etc.)

In addition to excellent police services offered, our officers are all CPR trained as well as some with higher medical training up to Paramedic. We also have partnered with and implemented the Narcan program with the assistance of the Louisiana Attorney General to help with opioid overdose problems. Broussard has an active fire department with three stations throughout the city. Acadian Ambulance has a substation in Broussard as well as a contract to provide the best response time possible.

Emergency Communications and Planning system and plan in place. How are emergency communications provided to the public?

Broussard Police utilizes several different communication platforms to get messages out to the public. A few examples are Facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, Nixle, our website, press releases, media interviews, Blackboard Connect and we have access to the city's Swift 911 notification system.

Are there any organizations in the community focusing on beautification, preservation and appearance? -What activities and events focus on beautification? -Provide some examples of beautification projects conducted in the community, what organization completed them, and how they were funded.

Broussard has joined with the nonprofit Parish Proud to be the first municipality in Lafayette Parish to pass a resolution to partner with them for a cleaner city. Through their funding, anti-litter signage has been applied to the backs of existing speed-limit signs. We have also partnered with them and our local Kiwanis group to host two litter pickup events and plan to hold more. We have also partnered with our local Kiwanis group to brighten up the equipment at our city parks by hosting paint days with them and plan to work with them and other organizations to continue sprucing up our public places. On March 15, 2022, we entered into a contract with the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office for litter removal services.

Parks/Recreation

Describe the public parks and recreation facilities, staffing, activities, and funding for the community. -What kind of organized sports and recreation activities are organized in the community? -Does the community have a community center to host activities?

Arceneaux Park

- 31 acres
- Tennis courts
- Basketball court
- 5 lighted ball fields

- Batting cages
- Covered picnic areas
- Restrooms
- Children's playground
- Concessions

Ida Benoit Crouchet Memorial Park

- 6 acres
- 1 basketball court
- 5 pavilions with picnic
- Restrooms
- Children's playground
- 3 swing sets
- 1 merry-go-round
- 1/4-mile asphalt walking trail
- **Dirt baseball field**

Broussard Sports Complex at St. Julien Park

- 122 acres
- 2 basketball courts
- 2 batting cage locations
- 1 amphitheater used for public concerts
- 5 grass soccer fields
- 1 synthetic turf football/soccer field
- 9 pavilions
- 1.75-mile walking trail
- 2 stocked ponds
- 3 playgrounds
- 1 splashpad
- 11 baseball/softball fields with synthetic turf
- 8 tennis courts
- **36-hole** PDGA disc golf course
- 4 restroom facilities

- 3 concession stands
- attracts more than 200,000 visitors/year

Arts & Culture

List the arts and cultural assets and initiatives in your community – museums, cultural centers, historical sites, arts programs, tourist centers, etc. Describe each in a few words.

The City of Broussard is home to a Main Street Historic District, which comprises five properties dating c. 1890 to c. 1910: Andre Billeaud House (ca. 1903), Bernard Building (ca. 1902), Young’s Restaurant (ca. 1910), Paul Billeaud Home (ca. 1911), Old Comeaux Home (ca. 1910). This District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 14, 1983. There are also 10 other structures in Broussard listed on the National Historic Register: Alesia House, Billeaud House, Martial Billeaud Jr. House, Valsin Broussard House, Comeaux House, Ducrest Building, Janin Store, Roy-LeBlanc House, St. Cecilia School, St. Julien House

The City of Broussard has recently purchased the Valsin Broussard House and is developing it into a Visitors’ Center and a Community Gathering Place.

Housing

Is there an adequate amount of housing for all market segments – executive housing, middle to low-income housing, rental properties, apartments, etc.

Yes, there is adequate housing for all market segments. 2021 statistics show owner-occupied housing to be 73.4%, Median value of owner-occupied housing is \$228,465, there are 4,600 households, and the housing cost index is 67.2, lower than the national average.

Describe shelters for the homeless and include information on their capacities – waiting lists or other issues.

Homelessness is not as much of an issue in the City of Broussard as it is in the larger City of Lafayette. Local nonprofits who provide shelter and help to those experiencing homelessness are Catholic Charities, Family Promise of Acadiana, SMILE Community Action Agency

Describe housing specifically designed for the elderly – what is being done to address increasing demand for elder housing?

Broussard currently has two assisted living facilities and a Senior Citizen Center. There are plans for a third development that will be a retirement community adjacent to one of the existing assisted living facilities.

Describe vacant residences and dilapidated/blighted housing and how the city is addressing this issue.

As with all communities, dilapidated/blighted housing is an issue that we are actively working to address. The city’s code enforcement works with property owners to resolve issues, and our city council votes to take action to condemn properties that do not meet code requirements. We have recently added a feature on our website for residents to report code violations.

Healthcare

Describe the healthcare services/facilities available in and/or around your community? Are they adequate? What services are missing that might be viable for your community, such as medi-quick units, clinics, etc.?

Lafayette Parish, where the City of Broussard is located, is the medical hub of the region because of superior healthcare facilities with a pool of talented professionals and staff, as well as local innovation and research. The City of Broussard is served by Lourdes Urgent Care as well as a number of clinics, pharmacies, dentists, chiropractors, and even acupuncture

- Lafayette Parish is home to 12 medical facilities with more than 1,200 beds
- There are more than 400 physicians in the parish and more than 800 in the region, covering more than 33 specialties
- Twenty-five nursing homes are located in Lafayette Parish, with more than 1,000 beds
- There are more than 160 dentists in the region, including General Dentistry, Endodontists, Orthodontists, Oral Surgeons, Pediatric Dentists, and Periodontists

Education & Workforce Development

Describe the public education system in your community in terms of quality of education, facilities, curriculum, and services offered.

List the schools in the k-12 public school system including enrollment and teaching faculty.

School	Grades Served	Enrollment	Teachers	Student/Teacher Ratio	Avg test score	State Comparison
Katharine Drexel Elementary	Grades PreK-5th	679 students	38 full time teachers	18 to 1	64.12	ranks better than 59.9% of other elementary schools in LA
Martial F. Billeaud Elementary School	Grades PreK-5th					
Broussard Middle School	Grades 5th-8th	556 students	31 teachers	18 to 1	60.8	ranks better than 57% of other middle schools in LA
Ovey Comeaux High School	Grades 9th-12th	1,381 students	64 full time teachers	22 to 1	50.54	ranks worse than 51.8% of other high schools in LA
Southside High School	Grades 9th-12th	1,225 students	48 full time teachers	26 to 1	71.61	ranks better than 76% of other high schools in LA
St. Cecilia School	Grades PreK-8th	490 students	20 full time teachers	25 to 1		

Considering the current and future population, is the education system adequate? Are facilities adequately equipped with: -Library services and materials -Science and Computer labs, auditoriums, theater, and assembly areas. -School sponsored music and art programs. -School sponsored sports programs.

Lafayette Parish School System has recently added capacity of public schools that serve the Broussard community in order to accommodate population growth of the area. Southside High School was a brand-new high school added in 2016, and in 2018, Comeaux High School and Katherine Drexel Elementary received facility wing expansions that included updated technology for those facilities. A new elementary school was built within Broussard to serve the growing population with Martial Billeaud Elementary opening the fall of 2019.

What training and other education programs are available to help citizens acquire job skills so they can be employable? (Workforce Investment Board, faith-based, non-profit, Sheriff's Office, on-the-job training, LA Dept of Corrections, etc.). Describe what services these programs provide and how effective are they at helping citizens obtain skills and work.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette, South Louisiana Community College, Acadiana Workforce Solutions services and programs

Economic Development

Is there a zoning ordinance in place? If so, please explain for residential, commercial and industrial. Is zoning up-to-date and relevant to today's operating environment?

Yes, at least 90% of the city zoning has been completed as this is a new initiative of the city. Zoning includes residential, commercial, and industrial districts.

Describe the main business base in your community – retail, manufacturing, logistics, etc.

Other Services, Retail, Oil & Gas Services, Construction, and Manufacturing are the City of Broussard's key industries by the number of firms and employment.

What business development and expansion activities, staffing and funding do you have in your community? Are they adequate or are enhancements needed to make your community more competitive?

Economic Development officials at the regional, Parish, and local community level actively work with prospects for new businesses entering the area as well as existing businesses to expand. We have two industrial projects currently in active status (SafeSource Direct). Additionally, we have worked with several smaller local businesses who have or are in the process of expanding their operations, including a dental office that is tripling their facility and adding 5 new jobs. Local economic development professionals were able to advise the business owner on incentives and assist them in starting the process of applying for those tax credits. Broussard officials and allies have a great working relationship to offer relevant business development services and bring city officials in on projects as needed.

What business incentives are in place to help supplement business investment?

Broussard doesn't have any city property taxes, and the entire city was declared an Economic Development Zone, making it easier for businesses to use state incentives such as the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit. Broussard also has a Downtown Development District and several Economic Development Districts, allowing businesses in those areas to take advantage of incentives such as the state Restoration Tax Abatement Program as well as other financial incentives. State incentives administered by Louisiana Economic Development (LED), workforce programs administered by Louisiana Workforce Commission, and local and regional economic development professionals who advise and assist businesses in taking advantage of these resources.

Sites/Buildings

Develop a list of the top quality, available and “marketable” sites, business or industrial parks, and buildings (retail, commercial and industrial) including data: location/address, size, lease or sale price, terms, access to utilities, and ownership contact information.

BEDC has started engaging with landowners to identify suitable sites for commercial and industrial development in Broussard. Broussard's first site was certified in 2020, and 3 more were certified in 2021 with several more in the pipeline to be considered. Broussard also has several commercial buildings and industrial parks being marketed through LACDB and Louisiana's Site Selection Database.

Transportation

Inventory all public transportation services.

None

Describe the community’s airport and services including: -Runways (#, dimensions, weight bearing capacity) -Terminal building (size, staffing, hours) -Hanger service (#, size, lease fees) -Fuel and maintenance service (# of fixed base operators, hours of operation) -Charter service (availability and costs) -Commercial airline services (carriers, fly-to locations) -Zoning around airport (commercial, industrial, residential?) -Expansion capabilities (how much land could possibly be available?) - Describe available freight services (provider and services)

Air Service

Lafayette Regional Airport

- Located six miles west of Broussard
 - Three runways; the longest is 8,001 feet
 - Serviced by: American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airline with 18 departures daily
- Acadiana Regional Airport
- Located nine miles southeast of Broussard in New Iberia, Louisiana
 - Two runways; the longest is 8,002 feet

Describe available railroad services (mainline, branch line, or short line length and provider)

Railways

- Direct rail access, including an open-source spur 2.7 miles away at Branch Warehousing
- Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co.; Union Pacific Railroad Co.; Louisiana & Delta Railroad, Inc. (L & D)

Describe active port facilities (location, water depth, facilities)

Waterways

Port of Greater Baton Rouge

- Located 60 miles east of Broussard, at the convergence of the Mississippi River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

Port of Lake Charles

- Located 70 miles west of Broussard

Port of Iberia

- 23 miles southeast of Broussard