Executive Summary

This community assessment is the product of information gathering by a group of citizens committed to the growth and prosperity of Bogalusa and her people. By using surveys, town hall meetings, and other research methods we have produced this document that describes our community and its strengths and opportunities. We are committed to this being a living document that will evolve as our community evolves. We see ourselves at the beginning of a journey that will result in the building of a better Bogalusa.

Our assets include land for development, an industrial park with and adjacent airport, funding available for development in the industrial park and an eager, committed citizenry and local leadership. Our challenges are many, including improving our school system, rebuilding our infrastructure and putting a face on our community that truly reflects our love of Bogalusa.

Brief Community Description

Bounded on the east by the quiet waters of the Pearl River and sitting just north of the bustling north shore communities, Bogalusa is situated on the eastern border of Washington Parish in the "Florida Parishes" section of Louisiana. It is the chief manufacturing and trading center of the Pearl River valley. It is home to Temple Inland Paper and Box Plants, LSU Regional Medical Center and Northshore Technical and Community College. It has a population of 12,761 (2010 census) and has a population of 42,779 living within 15 miles of its city’s center. There is a 140 acre industrial park and airport, George Carr Memorial Airfield, with a 5002 foot runway.

Small town living and abundant natural resources make Bogalusa an ideal setting for people of all ages. Only an hour and fifteen minutes from New Orleans, an hour and a half from Baton Rouge, an hour from Hattiesburg, MS and an hour and twenty minutes from the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Bogalusa is within an easy drive of many larger cities. Bogalusa is
the perfect place to call home. A home town place; a place where names are known and histories shared. Faith runs deep and churches are pivotal in the dynamics of the community. The people rise to the waving of our country’s flag and send its young adults into military service prideful with real and honest patriotism. The people of this town are Bogalusa’s focus. Men and women from every community and every walk of life come together in religious, civic, economic, and cultural groups to meet needs and determine our future.

In our beautiful city parks, people gather throughout the week and on weekends for family gatherings, museum visits, and special events such as The Festival in the Park and Christmas in the Park.

History

Among Louisiana cities, there perhaps is none whose short history is more interesting and unique than that of the City of Bogalusa. The very name "Bogalusa" is copyrighted. The name "Bogalusa" is derived from the Indian named creek "Bogue Lusa", which flows through the city, the definition of which is smoky or dark waters.

Bogalusa owes its birth to the enterprise of the Goodyear interests of Buffalo, New York, who established the lumber industry here in 1906, and erected the Great Southern Lumber Company plant. This plant became the largest pine sawmill in the world. Today Temple-Inland Inc. ranks as one of the outstanding manufacturers of pulp, paper, boxes, bags and other paper products in the nations.

Reputed to have been the largest un-incorporated community in the nation at that time, Bogalusa was incorporated July 4, 1914, with a commission form of government. Bogalusa was a blueprint city from the start. It had been plotted by architects as to streets, buildings, industrial layouts and company living areas. It became a melting pot where workers were blacks, whites, Irish, Italians, Poles, and Jews, all who flocked to the "Magic City" which was talked about world-wide.

In the mid-1960s, Bogalusa experienced racial tension and became a center of activity for the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Bogalusa was also the center for music production with many national recording artists recording their music at Studio in the Country.
In 1972 the Bogalusa Heart Study was started. The Bogalusa Heart Study is the longest and most detailed study of a biracial (black-white) population of children in the world. The focus is on understanding the early natural history of coronary artery disease and essential hypertension. It is the only major program studying a total and geographically well-defined, biracial, and semi-rural community. The main community of Bogalusa, Louisiana is comparable to many other communities in southeastern United States. Knowledge gained in the Bogalusa Heart Study has been applied to develop, test and evaluate methods for C-V risk intervention.

Throughout the years the parents, children and schools of Bogalusa have enthusiastically and steadfastly supported the program. Thirty-two years after the first feasibility and developmental studies in Franklinton, Louisiana, the Bogalusa Heart Study is still ongoing. With the support of the entire Bogalusa Community, The Bogalusa Heart Study continues to provide significant and useful data for what in the future may be the elimination of America’s number one killer-heart disease.

Perhaps the most devastating event in Bogalusa’s recent history was the direct hit from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Hurricane force winds lasted for eight hours with peak gusts recorded at 127 mph in Bogalusa. Residents and businesses lost electrical power and power was not fully restored for approximately four weeks following the storm. There was significant damage to homes, schools, businesses, and the region’s timber industry. Bogalusa was assisted by many outside groups who came to our aide, but even more telling was the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor that was evident in the days, weeks and months following Katrina.

Bogalusa was what is often referred to as a “company town”. As such its fortunes rose and fell with the fortunes of the largest employer. Bogalusa now enjoys a more diversified economy with the LSU Regional Medical Center, displacing Temple Inland as the City’s largest employer. Bogalusa is home to Northshore Technical and Community College Sullivan Campus. This school is the sixth fastest growing school of its size in the nation.

Bogalusa is set to celebrate its centennial in 2014. A citizen committee with the support of the city administration has an aggressive agenda. Improvements will be seen in the appearance of the community and will culminate in a historic celebration the week of July 4, 2014.

**Demographic and Economic Base Analysis**

Bogalusa is the largest municipality in Washington Parish. The median age of Bogalusa residents is 36.5 years old, a slight decrease from 36.9 years in 2000. (LED Supplied Demographics) The education levels of Bogalusa residents (aged 25+) increased from 1990 to 2010. The percentage of residents with less than a high school diploma decreased
from 38.4% to 31.8%. The percentage of high school graduates increased from 35.5% to 38.1% and the percentage of residents who pursued some level of education beyond high school increased from 26.1% to 29.2%.

Based on the U.S. Census Data for 2009, approximately 26% of families and 28% of individuals in Bogalusa had incomes below the poverty level. The number of individuals living in poverty declined from 33% in 1999. The number of families living in poverty remained the same. Approximately 52% of the families in Bogalusa have an income of less than $25,000.

**Labor**

*Area Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data*

The total civilian labor force (not seasonally adjusted) for Washington Parish, Louisiana in July, 2011 was 15,148 of which 13,552 were employed and 1,596 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 10.5%.

The total number of employees located in Washington Parish, Louisiana in 4th quarter, 2010 was 10,217. The largest major industry sector was Health Care and Social Assistance with 23.6% of the employment, followed by Education Services with 15.6% of the employment, and Retail Trade (44 & 45) with 13.5% of the employment.

Forest products and related industries are still one of the major economic drivers, but in recent years the LSU Medical Center has become a major employer with an economic impact of $145 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bogalusa Louisiana Major Employers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSU-BMC</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple Inland Mill</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogalusa Schools</td>
<td>377</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Bogalusa</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temple Inland Box Plant</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LED Supplied Demographics are available at Appendix A.

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**Economic Development Organizations**

*Roles and Responsibilities*

**Washington Economic Development Foundation**

Business Development in Bogalusa is supported by the Washington Parish Economic Development Foundation. The primary goal of the WEDF is to facilitate an intensive program of economic and industrial development in an effort to create new job opportunities for the people of Washington Parish.

WEDF was established on May 8, 1981, as a private nonprofit, tax-exempt foundation. It is supported by the residents of Washington Parish, Louisiana, through membership subscriptions. WEDF serves as the principal business recruitment and economic development agency for Washington Parish.

The WEDF manages the Bogalusa Industrial Park for the City of Bogalusa. Within the park, there are buildings for lease. Additionally, Bogalusa has an industrial development fund that allows the city to retrofit existing buildings or construct new buildings in the 140 acre park to suit a client’s needs. Lease rates are very competitive and the Industrial Park has acreage for expansion, is in an enterprise zone and adjacent to an airport.

Of course, any business that relocates to Bogalusa is given access and assistance in availing themselves of Louisiana incentives.
Community Assessment Report

Bogalusa Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce gives support to existing and start-up businesses through membership and promotional activities, and its relationship with the Small Business Development Center at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

City of Bogalusa

The City of Bogalusa funds the WEDF and the Chamber of Commerce. The mayor and the staff actively participate in new business recruitment and business retention. In addition, the executive directors of both organizations participate in strategic planning with the City of Bogalusa.

Citizen Committees

The WEDF and the Chamber of Commerce are governed by a volunteer board.

Utility Company

Entergy, the electric power provider in the area is supportive in working through the Louisiana Economic Development to promote business and industrial sites in Bogalusa and elsewhere.

Training

Ryan Seal, Executive Director of the WEDF has extensive training in economic development. City of Bogalusa elected officials and senior staff attend workshops offered by the Louisiana Municipal Association and the National League of Cities.

In addition, The WEDF executive director and a senior staff member of the City of Bogalusa staff are participating in the USDA program, Stronger Economies Together(SET).

Marketing and Communications Strategies

Sites are posted on the LED site selection inventory on the website. In addition, economic development officials attend various trade shows to promote Bogalusa as a business or industrial location.

Resources

The City of Bogalusa is currently in the process of becoming a Development Ready Community by participating in the program sponsored by Louisiana Economic Development. This represents a combination of numerous paid and volunteer hours. In addition, officials are part of the Stronger Economies Together program that focuses on regional economic development.
The City collects a tax that funds economic development in the industrial park while rent paid is used to fund various economic development pursuits.

**Sites and Buildings**

![Bogalusa Industrial Park](image)

### Industrial Building

#### Location

- **Building Name:** Industrial Building
- **Address:** 511 Industrial Parkway
- **City:** Bogalusa
- **State:** La
- **Zip Code:** 70427
- **Parish:** Washington
- **Within City Limits:** No
- **Industrial Park:** Yes
- **Enterprise Zone:** Yes
- **Foreign Trade Zone:** Yes

#### Features

- **Lot Size (acres):** 5
- **Additional Acreage:** 0
- **Multi-Tenant Building:** No
- **Number of Buildings:** 3
- **Previous Use:** cabinet shop
- **Parking:** Yes
- **Number of Spaces:** 11-25

#### Availability

- **Sale Price:** 0
- **Lease Price:** 0
- **Total Square Feet:** 30,000
- **Available Square Feet:** 30,000
- **Subdividable:** Yes
### Community Assessment Report

**Floor**
- Materials: concrete
- Reinforced: Yes

**Exterior Walls**
- Materials: Metal
- Insulated: Yes

**Construction Date(s)**
- Original: 1984
- Additions: none

**Air Conditioning**
- Mfg./Whs. Area: No
- Office Area: Yes
- Truck Facilities:  
  - Docks: no
  - Floor Level Doors: yes
  - Wells: no

**Other Specifications**
- Ceiling Ctr. 20
- Clearance:  
- Eave Clearance: 20
- Clear Span: 20
- Sprinklers: Yes
- Cranes: no

### TRANSPORTATION

**Interstates**
- Primary: I-59  
  - Distance (mi): 19.1
- Secondary: I-12  
  - Distance (mi): 29.6

**Highways**
- Primary: LA-21  
  - Distance (mi): 1
- Secondary: LA-10  
  - Distance (mi): 1.6

**Railroads**
- Primary: Canadian National (CN)  
  - Distance (mi): 0.2
  - Spur: Yes
- Secondary: Norfolk Southern Railroad  
  - Distance (mi): 16.4
  - Spur: No

**Airports**
- Primary: Bogalusa Airport  
  - Distance (mi): 0.01
- Secondary: Louis Armstrong New Orleans International (MSY)  
  - Distance (mi): 62

### UTILITIES

- Electricity Supplier: Entergy
- Natural Gas Supplier: Centerpoint
- Water Supplier: City of Bogalusa
- Sewer Supplier: City of Bogalusa
- Telecom Supplier: AT&T
- Fiber Optic Network: AT&T

### COMMENTS

Site includes three buildings. Previous uses include a machine shop, cabinet shop, and a fiberglass manufacturing facility.
Call Center

**LOCATION**

Building Name: Call Center  
Address: 411 Industrial Parkway  
City: Bogalusa  
State: La  
Zip Code: 70427  
Parish: Washington  
Within City Limits: No  
Industrial Park: Yes  
Enterprise Zone: Yes  
Foreign Trade Zone: Yes

**FEATURES**

Lot Size (acres): 5  
Additional Acreage: 5  
Multi-Tenant Building: No  
Number of Buildings: 1  
Previous Use: call center  
Parking: Yes  
Number of Spaces: more than 100

**AVAILABILITY**

Sale Price: TBD  
Lease Price: TBD  
Total Square Feet: 43,736  
Available Square Feet: 43,736  
Subdividable: Yes

**CONSTRUCTION**

Floor  
- Materials: concrete  
- Reinforced: Yes  
- Exterior Walls  
- Materials: Brick and metal  
- Insulated: Yes  
- Construction Date(s): Original: 2001  

Air Conditioning  
- Mfg./Whs. Area: Yes  
- Office Area: Yes  
- Truck Facilities  
- Docks: no  
- Floor Level Doors: no  
- Wells: no

Other Specifications  
- Ceiling Ctr. 12  
- Clearance:  
- Eave Clearance: 18  
- Clear Span: 12  
- Sprinklers: Yes  
- Cranes: no

**TRANSPORTATION**
Community Assessment Report

Interstates

- **Primary:** 10/12  
  Distance (mi): 22
- **Secondary:** 59  
  Distance (mi): 20

Highways

- **Primary:** HWY 21  
  Distance (mi): 1
- **Secondary:** HWY 10  
  Distance (mi): 2

Airports

- **Primary:** Bogalusa Airport  
  Distance (mi): 0.01
- **Secondary:** Louis Armstrong New Orleans International (MSY)  
  Distance (mi): 61.9

Railroads

- **Primary:** Canadian National (CN)  
  Distance (mi): 0.3  
  Spur: Yes
- **Secondary:** Norfolk Southern Railroad  
  Distance (mi): 16.6  
  Spur: No

Ports/Navigable Water

- **Primary:** Port Manchac  
  Distance (mi): 47.3  
  Draft: Shallow
- **Secondary:** Port of New Orleans  
  Distance (mi): 70  
  Draft (ft): Deep

Utilities

- **Electricity Supplier:** Entergy
- **Natural Gas Supplier:** Centerpoint
- **Water Supplier:** City of Bogalusa
- **Sewer Supplier:** City of Bogalusa
- **Telecom Supplier:** AT&T
- **Fiber Optic Network:** AT&T

Bogalusa Business Park

**Location**

- Site Name: Bogalusa Business Park
- Address/Intersection: Industrial Parkway  
  City: Bogalusa  
  State: La.  
  Zip Code: 70427  
  Parish: Washington
- Within City Limits: Yes  
  Industrial Park: Yes  
  Enterprise Zone: Yes  
  Renewal Community: No

**Features**

- Total Acreage: 100  
  Property Type: Industrial
- General Shovel Ready
  Terrain:

**Availability**

- Sale Price: TBD  
  Available Acreage: 25
Community Assessment Report

Lease Price: TBD
Subdividable: Yes

TRANSPORTATION

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<tr>
<th>Interstates</th>
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<td>Primary: I-59</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>Primary: Bogalusa, Carr Memorial Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary: I-12</td>
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<tr>
<th>Highways</th>
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<td>Primary: LA-21</td>
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<td>Primary: Port Manchac</td>
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<td>Secondary: LA-10</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<td>Draft (ft): Shallow</td>
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| Railroads            |                | Secondary: Port of New Orleans    |
|----------------------|----------------|Distance (mi): 70                  |
| Primary: Canadian National (CN) | Distance (mi): 0.2 | Draft (ft): Deep                 |
| Spur: Yes            |                |                                   |
| Secondary: Norfolk Southern Railroad | Distance (mi): 16.3 |                                   |
| Spur: No             |                |                                   |

UTILITIES

| Electricity Supplier: Entergy | Sewer Supplier: City Of Bogalusa |
| Natural Gas Supplier: Centerpoint Energy | Telecom Supplier: AT&T |
| Water Supplier: City Of Bogalusa | Fiber Optic Network: AT&T |

Commercial Properties

322 S. Columbia St.

LOCATION

Building Name: 322 S. Columbia St.
Address: 322 S. Columbia St.
City: Bogalusa
State: LA
Zip Code: 70427
Parish: Washington
Within City Limits: Yes
Industrial Park: No

FEATURES

Lot Size (acres): 0
Previous Use: Law Office
### Community Assessment Report

#### Availability

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#### Construction

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#### Transportation

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<th>Interstates</th>
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<td>Primary: Louis Armstrong New Orleans International (MSY)</td>
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<td>Railroads</td>
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<td>Distance (mi): 0.5</td>
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## Community Assessment Report

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</table>
Community Assessment Report

**S COLUMBIA ST**

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Use: \textbf{COM}  \hspace{1cm} \text{Frontage: 234.920}

Size: 234.92x233.70x286.57x346  \hspace{1cm} \text{Rear: 233.700}

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**S COLUMBIA ST**

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**RIO GRANDE OT**

City: \textbf{Bogalusa}  \hspace{1cm} \$2,500,000
Use: \textbf{COM}  \hspace{1cm} \text{Frontage: 202.000}

Size: 74 acres  \hspace{1cm} \text{Rear: 202.000}

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**MEMORIAL DR**

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Use: \textbf{COM}  \hspace{1cm} \text{Frontage: 9999.000}

Size:  \hspace{1cm} \text{Rear: 9999.000}

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Utilities

Electricity and natural gas systems

Electricity

Electricity is provided by Entergy within the City of Bogalusa. Entergy Louisiana LLC and Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C. serves approximately 1 million electric customers in 58 parishes. Entergy’s energy delivery system moves high voltage bulk electric power across an interconnected grid of wires and substations.

The Entergy transmission system spans four states, 114,000 square miles and six regulatory jurisdictions (including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission).

The energy delivery function plans, engineers, builds and operates 16,500 miles of 69kV - 500kV transmission lines. As a member of the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council, Entergy is committed to serving its customers reliably across its interconnected grid of wires and substations.

The Camellia Substation serves the City of Bogalusa. Capacity at peak load is given below for various commercial/industrial areas in Bogalusa.

Natural gas

CenterPoint Energy, an electric and natural gas utility company, is headquartered in Houston, Texas, and became a stand-alone company in 2002, its parent company having been formed in 1866. The company's natural gas distribution serves and operates in six
Community Assessment Report

states. The company delivers natural gas to 3.2 million homes and businesses in these states.

CenterPoint Energy prides itself on being a good corporate citizen and working closely with communities to enhance the quality of life through community development, health and human services, and education.

CenterPoint Energy is at the center of the energy chain, serving customers from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes. The City of Bogalusa and surrounding areas are adequately covered by many miles of CenterPoint Energy's distribution system. The employees of CenterPoint Energy maintain a safe and secure system due to their high level of commitment to serve their customers and communities. CenterPoint Energy employees are keeping productivity at industry leading levels; therefore, the company offers some of the most competitive rates in the industry. The efficiency of its employees and the company's system will allow such competitive rates for years into the future.

The reliability of CenterPoint Energy excels in the industry. This reliability was put to the test during Hurricane Katrina with no system outages, proving CenterPoint Energy has the employees and the system to deliver. Improvements are regularly made to the distribution system to maintain a safe and reliable system of delivery. Due to the investments made by CenterPoint Energy, it has the capability of adding significant load demands to our system to accommodate future community growth.

CenterPoint Energy maintains a local work force of twelve employees to serve our population.

Telecommunications capabilities including broadband availability

AT&T is the major telecommunications provider in the area, providing internet, wireless and wired telecommunications services. Broadband and fiber optics are available.

Transportation

Public Transportation

Public transportation is limited in Bogalusa but there are a few cabs in Bogalusa. Louisiana Transit, a not for profit transportation service, provides transportation in Washington Parish at a minimal cost.

Highways

Bogalusa has access to interstate highway via major highways. Only 22 miles to the east, via Louisiana Hwy 10/Mississippi Highway 26 is Interstate 59, a major north south corridor, that intersects with Interstates 10 and 12 to the south and Interstate 20 to the
Community Assessment Report

north. Thirty-two miles to the south, via Highway 21, you can reach Interstate 12 or you can continue south across Lake Pontchartrain to New Orleans.

Community Airport

George Carr Airfield in Bogalusa is a general aviation airport with a 5002 foot runway. Its elevation is 119 feet above sea level. Total airport property is 600 acres with a 140 acre Industrial Park. There is a modern terminal building that provides pilot accommodations, a FBO office, Wi-Fi internet access, and courtesy car. Fuel is available as well as maintenance services. The City of Bogalusa is in the process of acquiring property for expansion, in addition to the 600 acres it already owns.

The vision is for the airport to become a major hub for businesses and business professionals of neighboring states. There are planned improvements such as runway paving, reception center, a taxi way, and additional hangar availability which will facilitate the anticipated increased air traffic. Current projections are to promote a greater utilization of the airport and the ancillary industries that will support and attract a more vibrant business corridor.

Commercial airline service is available at Louis Armstrong International Airport, approximately 72 miles from Bogalusa. Other airports with commercial service within a 90 minute drive include Gulfport, MS and Baton Rouge, LA.

Freight

There are six major freight lines that serve the Bogalusa area.

Railroad

Bogalusa is served by CN Railroad.
Community Assessment Report

Port Facilities

Bogalusa is within 61 miles of the Port of New Orleans and within 66 miles of the closest of the three deepwater ports on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. New Orleans has been a center for international trade since 1718 when it was founded by the French. Today, the Port of New Orleans is at the center of the world's busiest port complex — Louisiana's Lower Mississippi River. Its proximity to the American Midwest via a 14,500-mile inland waterway system makes New Orleans the port of choice for the movement of cargoes. The Port of New Orleans is the only deepwater port in the United States served by six class one railroads. This gives port users direct and economical rail service to or from anywhere in the country.

Business Climate

The business climate in Bogalusa is positive and driven by individual owners, corporate management, community leaders and organizations working to keep networks of opportunity and growth open. WEDF and the Chamber of Commerce are very important and play a key role with the businesses coming into Bogalusa.

The paper mill and the hospital are and have been the top employers in Bogalusa. Dining is also a business that does very well here. There are a lot of locally owned family restaurants. We have several franchise quick service restaurant places to dine, McDonalds being the most recent to join our city last year. We do not have national franchise sit down restaurants. We have plenty of land/space in commercial real estate and welcome them to come in our city.

Bogalusa has had some recent commercial growth and we are presently expecting a local retailer to expand into a new development here in the very near future. We are hopeful that other new business opportunities will arise. Within the last five years we have had several corporate franchise companies come into our city including Tractor Supply Co, CVS, Walgreens, Hibbett Sports, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Rac, Aarons and two Dollar General stores. Washington Parish is called the land of opportunity and Bogalusa has room to expand and is appealing because of the affordability of some properties.

Our city was built around a paper mill almost 100 years ago. We have a lot of history and old buildings still standing. The current city administration is working on cleaning up the properties to help with the appearance. Bogalusa is a great place to live and raise a family. The people here are what set our community apart from others.

Bogalusa is taking steps to build a brighter future. We are undertaking one of the most ambitious economic development plans in our long and storied history. Our goal is simple, attract new business to our city and support for expansion of existing businesses.
Community Assessment Report

Bogalusa has always been about neighbors and businesses building a great community and working together to make it better every day. Bogalusa is a great place to live and work, we have a lot to offer.

Tourism Development

The mission of the Washington Parish Tourism Commission is to promote Washington Parish attractions and events in order to encourage visitors to our area; to increase knowledge of the resources available throughout our community, region, and state; to create an awareness of the impact of tourism on the local, regional, and state economy. The second largest industry in Louisiana is the travel and tourism industry.

The Washington Parish Tourism Commission business office is located at 908 Mill Street in Franklinton. The office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am until 4 pm. Washington Parish holidays are observed. The phone numbers are local: 985-839-5228; toll-free: 1-888-827-7118; fax: 985-839-7950.

The tourism office maintains brochures, flyers, maps, and other informational items from the local area, as well as surrounding parishes and state-wide information such as literature from the Louisiana Office of State Parks, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, etc. Examples of these are Louisiana State highway maps, Washington Parish maps, the official Louisiana Tour Guide, and our own locally-produced brochure, Scenic Byways and Backways. Our local brochure is made available to State Welcome Centers and other visitor’s centers across the state, and it is available through order at the Louisiana Office of Tourism and the local web sites. It is the primary fulfillment piece sent to anyone who requests a visitor’s packet for Washington Parish. Tourism information is also available at the Bogalusa Chamber of Commerce 608 Willis Avenue, and on weekends at the Varnado Store Museum 936 Pearl Street in Franklinton. Through these cooperative agreements, tourism information is available seven days a week in the parish. However, it is the long-range plan of the Tourism Commission to have our own full-service, full-time visitor’s center in the future.

The Washington Parish Tourism Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. In Franklinton the meetings are held at the office on Mill Street. Meeting notices are submitted to both local newspapers to be published in advance of the meeting. Variation in place and/or time of the tourism commission meetings will be noted. The Tourism Commission makes an effort to convene at other locations around the parish in order to allow attendance by those members of the public who may not be able to travel to
Franklinton, and to allow the Tourism Commission to become knowledgeable regarding our local attractions, events, and hospitality-related businesses. As a public body, the State-defined open meeting law must be observed.

Bogalusa's Mardi Gras Celebration “Krewe of MCCA” was started in January 1981. It has 36 floats presently and rolls the streets of Bogalusa the Saturday before Fat Tuesday. It is the greatest show in Bogalusa and by far the biggest attraction to our city.

Bogalusa Chamber’s “Festival in the Park” is held in our local Cassidy Park. Bogalusa artists, Crafters, Commercial, Non-profit and food booths are among some of the booths that are on display.

Cassidy Park is also the place that hosts our “Christmas in the Park” which begins end of November thru December 25. Several locals look forward to their annual trips to drive or walk through the park to see Santa Claus and enjoy the Christmas lights and hear Christmas carols as they stroll through.

Cassidy Park also is the home to our Pioneer Museum and the Museum of Native American Culture. The Park hosts many activities and functions throughout the year. The current city administration is currently working to make future improvements.

Annual Santa Parade “Parade of Lights” is something the locals seem to enjoy. It is Bogalusa’s lighted night parade during the Christmas season.

Bogalusa’s Birthday, July 4, Independence Day activities which include a parade in the morning and closes with a firework spectacular in the evening. A Paper Queen Ball is held at the American Legion Home to begin the activities.

Sheridan Rayburn Memorial Tri State Rodeo is an event that is held at the Bogalusa Community Arena.

Washington Parish Free Fair is the biggest attraction for Washington Parish. We are celebrating our Centennial Fair this year, 100 years old, 1911-2011. It is held at the fairgrounds in Franklinton always in October. It is the second oldest fair in the state of Louisiana and believed to be the largest free fair in the United States. Fair activities include a Pageant, Parade, livestock and exhibits, Professional Rodeo, Historic displays and events, midway full of rides and games, and numerous concerts by local, regional and national talent.

Mile Branch Settlement located on the Fairgrounds, is a historic collection of period structures from across Washington Parish gathered to re-create an early Washington Parish settlement and commemorate the pioneers who settled the parish.
Community Assessment Report

Bogue Chitto State Park is one of the newest and most impressive state parks in Louisiana. The 1,786 acre site includes small streams, cypress tupelo swamps, a hardwood forest, upland forests and a rolling landscape. Overnight visitors will find accommodations from tent camping to RV camping to cabins overlooking the bluffs. The park offers a group camp and a conference room for larger groups and family reunions. The park is fourteen miles of equestrian trails that wind through some of the most interesting topography of southern Louisiana, with the trailhead located near Fricke’s Cave. A day trip to Bogue Chitto will be a full one with a river perfect for canoeing or kayaking, eleven lakes stocked with a variety of freshwater fish, a water playground, numerous picnic pavilions and an outdoor classroom.

Poole’s Bluff Recreation Area is located on the Pearl River Navigational Canal southeast of Bogalusa, it is a popular recreation location and launching site for anglers and boaters to access the Canal and the West Pearl River. Marine Cpl. David “Bear” Stewart/ Veterans Memorial is located on the PBRA grounds.

Bogalusa’s Centennial “1914-2014” is being planned as a big attraction and is already underway with plans to start for the Birthday Bash in 1914.

Community Facilities

The City of Bogalusa regular sanitation services provided to the community include residential municipal solid waste pickup once a week. The contractor who picks up municipal solid waste also performs the dead animal removal services as needed.

The City of Bogalusa has a mosquito control team that provides regular spraying five days a week as well as treatment of standing water on the same schedule. When standing water is an issue the City of Bogalusa attempts to ascertain the root cause and make the necessary corrections. The same is true of rodent and fly control.

City of Bogalusa crews pick up curbside debris on a call in basis. There is no formal recycling program; however, a local non-profit, Nellie Byers Training Center, accepts paper products such as newspaper and magazines for recycling.

The City of Bogalusa meets all State and Federal guidelines for sanitary sewer, solid waste management, and potable water systems and has appropriate ordinances in place.

Approximately 98 percent of the City of Bogalusa is covered by the city water and wastewater system.

Health permitting is handled by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health through the Washington Parish Public Health Unit. The City of Bogalusa works closely with the Health Unit to insure public safety.
Water is provided by the City of Bogalusa. Clean, fresh drinking water is provided from five deep water wells within the city limits that draw from the Amite aquifer. Total current capacity is 7.6 million gallons a day. The average usage is 3.1 million gallons a day, leaving plenty of capacity for growth. The average pressure is 60 pounds per square inch. Long range plans call for adding a sixth well on the west side of Bogalusa to accommodate expected growth in the area.

The City of Bogalusa Sewer System has a peak capacity of 6 million gallons a day and currently treats about 2.8 million gallons a day; therefore there is capacity for expansion.

Quality of Life
Small town living and abundant natural resources make Bogalusa an ideal setting for people of all ages. In our beautiful city parks, people gather throughout the week and on weekends for family gatherings, museum visits and special events such as Festival in the Park and Christmas in the Park.

Housing is available and it is a buyer’s market in Bogalusa. Cost of living is very reasonable in Bogalusa and the housing is no exception.

Medical care in Bogalusa is exceptional for a city of its size. Due to the growing LSU hospital numerous specialties are available and quality of care is high.

There is a variety of retail that you see in every small town such as Wal-Mart, CVS, Walgreens, but the real charm of the Bogalusa retail scene is in its privately owned shops and boutiques. From the Green Goat to the Cuckoo’s Nest, there is always something new to discover in Bogalusa.

Healthcare
Bogalusa is serviced by two inpatient medical facilities within a 20 minute drive time.

*LSU Bogalusa Medical Center, Bogalusa LA*

Louisiana State University Hospitals Healthcare Services Division/Bogalusa Medical Center is located in Bogalusa. The hospital has a budget of more than $65 million and is a major economic driver in the local economy. The hospital employs over 635 team members.
Recent expansions have included a $6 million, state of the art birthing unit and a $5 million expansion of the Family Medicine Clinic. The next major capital project is a $5 million Emergency Room Expansion.

It is home to the LSU Rural Family Medicine Residency Program and has 15 doctors enrolled. Because of the investment in the hospital, Bogalusa is becoming a regional center for health care.

The ninety-eight bed acute care public hospital, Bogalusa Medical Center (BMC) has a medical staff of primary and specialty physicians and multiple facilities to meet the healthcare needs of its patients. The BMC surgery team is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and providing services to several thousand patients annually. Special Beginnings Family Center, BMC's new state-of-the-art labor and delivery unit, has an estimated 200 births annually. BMC has services in psychiatry, ophthalmology, imaging, pediatrics, and pathology. It is a cytology processing center for other LSU hospitals. BMC participated in the LSU Disease Management Program, which manages chronic diseases according to nationally accepted, evidence based guidelines. The BMC Memphis Street Outpatient Clinic has recognition status as a Physician Practice Connections – Patient Centered Medical Home by the National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA). Having meet rigorous NCQA requirements to receive this recognition, the clinic provides ongoing preventative and early intervention healthcare to patients and coordinates specialized care with BMC when patients require it.

Riverside Medical Center, Franklinton LA

Riverside Medical Center (RMC) is a 25 bed critical access hospital. RMC provides a wide range of healthcare services important to the health of families. RMC is listened by the State of Louisiana by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. RMC offers services in: Anesthesia, Cardiopulmonary, Chemotherapy, Diabetes Education, Emergency Services, Intensive Care, Infection Control, Radiology, REHAB Rural Health Clinic, and Surgery.

Availability of beds

The total number of beds between BMC and RMC is 123. The 2010 Census of Bogalusa population is 12,232. That is roughly 10 beds per every 1000 residences. When only the number of beds at the BMC are used, that ratio drops to approximately 7.7 beds for every 1000 citizens, and is more than twice the national average of 3.1 beds per 1000 residences, according to World Health Organizations’ 2011 report on World Health Statistics.
Public Health Care

In Washington Parish there are two Public Health Units which are part of the Region Nine Office of Public Health for the State of Louisiana. The Bogalusa Health Unit is located at 626 Carolina Ave and can be reached by telephone at (985) 732-6615. The Franklinton Health Unit is located at 120 11th St in Franklinton and can be reached at (985) 839-5646. Each of the units provides services to include: Women Child and Infant (WIC), Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Immunizations, Family Planning, Tuberculosis Medication, Vital Records, and Environmental Services.

VA Outpatient Clinic

The Bogalusa VA Outpatient Clinic provides primary care services for veterans in Washington Parish and surrounding areas. Services available include:

- Behavioral Health Services
- General mental health (depression, PTSD, anxiety, psychosis, etc.)
- OIF/OEF services
- Specialty care services - specialty care referrals to New Orleans Outpatient Clinic
- Laboratory: blood drawing services available
- Pharmacy: pharmacists are available on site. Pharmacy is equipped to dispense a 7-day emergency supply of medications to our veterans.

The clinic is handicapped accessible for full and easy access for all Veterans.

Trained Healthcare Workers

According to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing there 424 RN’s residing in Washington Parish. According to the Louisiana Board of Practical Nurses there are 432 LPN's residing in Washington Parish.

Physicians and specialties

Within Bogalusa the vast majority of physicians (64) are employed by the LSU Medical Center and the Bogalusa Family Practice Clinic. However there are approximately 20 physicians in private practice that service the city. There are number of specialties that are provided by the hospital and private sector which include: Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Cardiology, Podiatry, Psychiatry, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Urology, Pulmonology, OB/GYN, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Neurology, Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, an Otolaryngology.
Community Assessment Report

_Dental care_

There are five dentists in Bogalusa and additional five within a twenty minute drive.

_Health screenings and educational programs_

The Bogalusa Medical Center offers a variety of health screenings and educational programs throughout the year. The list of health screening is very long and includes but is not limited to: Colonoscopy, PSA, Mammogram, OBGYN, Immunizations, Weight Prevention, etc. The Hospital also provides educational programs to the public which include: Healthy Heart, Diabetes, Smoking Cessation, Nutrition, Weight Loss, Asthma, Newborn Care, Breast Feeding, and Labor. The Hospital also sponsors two support groups, one for Diabetes and another for HIV. Along with services listed above, the Hospital also operates two School Based Health Centers (SBHC), one in the Bogalusa High School and another in the Bogalusa Middle School. The SBCH’s provide comprehensive medical exams, screenings, and crisis counseling.

In addition, health screenings for scoliosis and vision are performed in the school system with the assistance of volunteers from the Civic Leage, a local women’s organization that assists the community through its hours of volunteer service to civic causes. The Civic League also performs blood pressure screenings at the Bogalusa Senior Center operated by the Washington Parish Council on Aging.

The Bee-Fit Health Fair is a widely anticipated annual event sponsored by the Bogalusa School System and the LSU Bogalusa Medical Center. At this event, held in November, health screenings and educational information is available at no cost to the public.

_Voluntary Health Agency_

Bogalusa has one voluntary health agency. The Hospital Ladies Auxiliary is an organization created in the early 1950’s to give women of the community an opportunity to volunteer their services to the local medical facility in various ways. Today the Auxiliaries members volunteer at the information desk and operating a small gift shop. The gift shop donates its proceeds to purchase items and equipment the hospitals operating funds cannot purchase. The volunteers are also called upon to help various departments in the hospital when they go into the community for educational purposes. The Ladies Auxiliary volunteers thousands of hours of service to the hospital each year.
Emergency Services

Fire

The Bogalusa Fire Department operates three strategically located stations within the city limits. The department is manned by 37 fire fighters operating on three shifts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each shift consists of a District Fire Chief, three Captains, three driver/operators and 2 firefighters. The Department operates four Pump Trucks, one Ladder Truck, one Rescue Truck, and two Support Vehicles.

Police

The Bogalusa Police Department is manned by 40 officers working two twelve hour shifts. Each shift consists of a Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, two patrolmen, and a radio operator. The Department’s Command structure consists of a Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, and a Major for each Division. The Department is split into three divisions, which are: Patrol Division, Detective Division, and Jail Operations. The Bogalusa Police Department operates 31 patrol vehicles equipped with 700 MHz radios and has at its disposal two Emergency Response Mobile Command Units.

Emergency Transportation

The City of Bogalusa and the surrounding Fire Districts are serviced by a privately owned ambulance service, Northshore EMS. Northshore EMS is manned by 34 State or Nationally Certified medics ranging in certification from Paramedic (13), EMT-I (2), EMT basic (11), or First Responder (3). Northshore EMS operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week with rotating shifts that include five to six fully equipped and State Certified units staffed by a Paramedic and an EMT or First Responder. The Company operates 9 DHH and DOT certified units equipped for critical care response or multiple casualty events and a fully equipped Sprint Vehicle. Each unit is equipped with modern portable vents, 12 lead cardiac monitors, IV pumps, I/O drills and a video screen laryngoscope. The units utilize GPS, Cell Phone, and 700 MHz radios for communication.
Community Assessment Report

Community Appearance

The Bogalusa Garden Guild and its associated Garden Clubs have worked tirelessly for the beautification, preservation and appearance of Bogalusa. In addition there is a Keep Washington Parish Beautiful organization. The City has recently begun increased enforcement of codes which require properties to be maintained. The need for public involvement in beautification projects is of great concern and being actively addressed by the City Council and the Mayor’s Office.

Parks and Recreation

Parks

Bogalusa is home to twenty nine parks, ranging from baseball complexes, to a native preserve, to thirteen community parks/playgrounds/garden spots that have been set aside for the enjoyment of its citizens, young and old. Whatever brings pleasure to our citizens, whether organized sports, family get together, or just a quiet moment to enjoy nature, all these things can be found in our parks.

The largest park is Cassidy Park which fronts Willis Avenue. This park encompasses more than thirty acres and Bogue Lusa Creek runs through it. It has five pavilions and two separate restroom facilities, which are located on each side of the park. The pavilions are in constant use throughout the year for birthday parties and family reunions. Because of their popularity, reservations are needed to use the pavilions.
Community Assessment Report

A children’s playground is situated near the entrance to the park. This playground is in constant use. It has swings and other playground equipment which includes climbing activities for children. Benches are scattered on the edge of this area. Behind the playground are the two tennis courts which are open to the public without reservations. A blacktopped road meanders through the park, and a blacktopped bike trail parallels the main road. Walkers in the morning and evening utilize both the road and the bike path daily. There is some fishing along the creek. This park has a full time employee who maintains the grounds.

Cassidy Park is the home of two museums with free admission. The Pioneer Museum focuses on the parish and city history while the Indian Museum has displays about the southeastern Indians. Both museums are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 PM or by appointment. There is a concession building which Friends of Cassidy Park Museums use as a classroom during the week and on weekends. Additionally, the park has a bandstand which is used for bands, beauty pageants, Christmas choirs, and other events. It has rows of permanent benches in front of it. Near the bandstand is a small Cajun cabin used for storage.

Many organizations have used Cassidy Park to hold fundraisers: Friends of Cassidy Park Museums, Friends of the Washington Parish Libraries, and the Magnolia Chapter of the Humane Society. Additionally, the park is the site for Festival in the Park each spring, Christmas in the Park in November and December, and for the second year The Antique Car Show in September. For these events the park has water and electrical facilities available.

Goodyear Park is the other park, but it is much smaller than Cassidy Park. Goodyear Park is located in front of the LSU Bogalusa Medical Center, and it is bounded by Avenue B, W Fifth Street, and Plaza. It takes up approximately two-thirds of the block. A walking path winds through this park, and many people walk through the park during the day for exercise. The hospital uses this park during Employees Recognition Week. Each spring the Annunciation Catholic School holds its Mother Goose Parade in the park and announces the king and queen of the Children’s Coronation. Annunciation Catholic School also uses the park for its physical education classes. Goodyear Park is also the site of the Relay for Life fundraiser for cancer in the spring.

Ruth Babington Parkway, situated on Austin Street between the roadway and the railroad track, is a beautiful landscaped garden. The Triangle, situated at the corner of Louisiana Avenue and N. Columbia Street, includes a gazebo and is beautifully landscaped. These gardens are maintained by the City.
Lake Vista is a park with a natural wooded area that includes fish-stocked lakes. The park contains use in excess of ten acres and is located on Louisiana Avenue. A building for meetings is found on the site. This building is home to a local Boy Scout Troop, as well as being used as a voting precinct, home to an Alcoholics Anonymous group, and may be booked for other gatherings. In addition, Bogalusa is also home to thirteen community parks/playgrounds, which have various on-site facilities for public use.

Recreational Facilities

Aside from the parks, Bogalusa has four recreational sports facilities: Airport Park Baseball Field, Avenue B Sports Complex, and the Bogalusa Arena. All four facilities are owned by the city which oversees and mows the sports fields and the rodeo arena grounds. The Airport Park Baseball Field, which is approximately five acres next to the airport, is managed by the Bogalusa Sports Association and its volunteers. The Association schedules games and supplies officials for the games. It has four baseball fields and is open from April until September. The Bogalusa Sports Association oversees T-ball, softball, and baseball games for children ranging from three years old to twelve years old. It has a working concession which is maintained by the Bogalusa Sports Association.

The Avenue B Sports Complex is located at the south end of Avenue B. It is a multi-use facility, for it has three softball, baseball, or T-ball fields which overlap with two soccer fields. The smallest soccer field is for the younger children while the larger soccer field is for the older children. At the front of this facility is a football field. Children and adults use this park, and it is used throughout the year for seasonal sports. The Bogalusa High School softball team uses the Avenue B Complex for practice. However, the concession, which was up-to-date, is nonfunctioning because of vandalism.

Davis Street baseball field includes a concession and grandstands on site. This field is mostly used by adults for league and tournament competition.

The final sports facility is the Bogalusa Arena, which is operated by the Bogalusa Rodeo Commission. The Arena takes up approximately eight acres and is located in the woods near the airport. It has a working concession, a water tank for watering the arena, an old tractor for grading the arena floor, and twenty camper hookups. The City donated the land for the arena and mows the grounds around the arena, but the Bogalusa Rodeo Commission cleared the land and built the open-air arena with donations, money from fundraisers, and Commission membership dues. Each spring they host the Louisiana Western Festival. This festival includes a rodeo, vendors, entertainment, and a Rodeo Queen pageant. In addition to the festival, the Bogalusa Rodeo Commission hosts approximately twelve horseshows each year. The Bogalusa Arena was created and is maintained by the Commission and its volunteers.
**Community Assessment Report**

**Housing**

Newcomers to Bogalusa can rely on the Chamber of Commerce and local real estate agents to help them find appropriate housing in Bogalusa. Local agents in the area are listed below.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartzog Realty</td>
<td>60017 Long Leaf Circle, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-732-4444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fane Properties</td>
<td>123 Carolina Avenue, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-730-7307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Catherline Real Estate</td>
<td>605 West 5th Street, Bogalusa, LA 70427-3611</td>
<td>985-735-9902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latter &amp; Blum Classic Homes &amp; Properties-Kim Wagner</td>
<td>903 West Oak Street, Amite, LA 70422</td>
<td>985-516-5095 985-748-7601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of local and regional banks along with local credit unions and individual finance companies offer long term financing on homes.

A list of lending institutions with offices in Bogalusa is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bogalusa Credit Inc.</td>
<td>322 Austin St, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-735-5540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital One</td>
<td>346 N Columbia St, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-732-3633 985-732-6361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Savings Bank</td>
<td>1725 Sullivan Drive, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-735-6555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Financial Svc Inc.</td>
<td>414 S Columbia St, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-735-8203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Programs for first-time home buyers and repeat buyers are the same. Everything depends on each individual buyer’s financial/credit situation. Rural development loans provide buyers with 100% financing, FHA loans require a minimum 3.5% down payment, and most conventional loans require a 20% down payment. Rural development loans have income limits and other criteria that buyers must meet and are currently the most widely used type of loans in the area for first time home buyers because they require the least amount of money up front.

Neighborhood Housing Services has an office in Bogalusa and offers training and education on credit, money management and preparation for home ownership. This non-profit also assists first time homebuyers in their application process. They offer foreclosure prevention counseling and also assist in finding funding for home repairs.

Low income residents can contact the Bogalusa Housing Authority and the Washington Habitat for Humanity Inc. for assistance in seeking adequate housing.

Currently there are no homeless shelters in Bogalusa.

There are adequate amounts of housing in all areas except apartments.

Residential new construction is minimal to nonexistent due to the oversupply of available housing that is either for rent or sale.

Currently there is no housing specifically designed for the elderly, however there are two apartment complexes and a Rest Home that cater to the elderly within Bogalusa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APARTMENTS/HOME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westminster Woods Apt.</td>
<td>1600 Ave F, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-735-5007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogalusa Manor</td>
<td>Apt. 119 Old Superior Ave, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-735-8306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resthaven Living Center</td>
<td>1301 Harrison St, Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-732-3909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Assessment Report

For the elderly who wish to stay in their own home, there are six home health agencies that operate offices within the city.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ameracare Home Health</td>
<td>824 Louisiana Ave Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-732-4904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camellia Home Health</td>
<td>1616 S Columbia St #D Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-732-1770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egan Health Care</td>
<td>213 Shenandoah St #B Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-730-4382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Home Health Agency</td>
<td>520 Willis Ave Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-732-4892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omni Home Care</td>
<td>305 Ave B Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-730-6645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast LA Home Health</td>
<td>1406 Ave F Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-732-7104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vital Link A Home Care</td>
<td>219 South Border Drive Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-735-1115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The problem of limited housing designed for the elderly has been addressed by the city with the enforcement of the Building Code of Washington Parish which is based on the 2006 International Residential Code. All new home construction and construction permits for remodeling that exceed a certain percentage must adhere to the new codes which make homes more accessible to the elderly.

The effects of Hurricane Katrina left Bogalusa with an inordinate number of abandoned, vacant and damaged homes. The city of Bogalusa has taken proactive stance toward blight in recent years and has taken huge strides to addressing the issue. However, there are still numerous vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties throughout the city. Most recently the city has adopted a street by street, block by block strategy to improve the appearance of the city through awareness, pride and code enforcement.

**Streets**

Within the Central Business District street lighting, curbing and sidewalks are uniformly available. The availability of sidewalks and curbing makes the CBD very accessible to pedestrians and somewhat compensates for the lack of parking. The city is aware of the parking limitations and is actively working on a solution. In most cases the major thoroughfares within the city limits have good lighting, curbing and sidewalks, however, the distances involved between neighborhoods, shopping centers, and the CBD make walking a challenge.
The city of Bogalusa maintains 121 miles of roads in the City of Bogalusa. The decisions on road maintenance are made between the Office of Public Works and the City Council.

**Communication**

*Public forums/town meetings*

Citizens of the city of Bogalusa have five opportunities to participate in public forums each month with varying focuses. The Bogalusa City Council meets at 5:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and focuses on the city government. The City Council meets at the Bogalusa City Hall located at 202 Arkansas Ave. Bogalusa, LA 70427. The Bogalusa School Board meets on the last Monday and Thursday of the month at 5:30pm in the Bogalusa School Board Office located at 1705 Sullivan Dr. Bogalusa, LA 70427. The Washington Parish Commission on Human Services meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10am in the YWCA located at 409 Plaza St. Bogalusa, LA 70427. The Commission focuses on the social service needs of the community.

*Telephone*

Cellular phone service is reliably available to Bogalusa by two contract service providers and three non-contract service providers. AT&T offers both contract and non-contract service to the City of Bogalusa through AT&T Wireless and Go-Phone respectively. Sprint offers a contract service. Boost and Virgin are additional non-contract service providers.

Landline communication is available through AT&T, Charter Communications, and the non-contract phone service provider dpi.

*Local Radio and T.V.*

There are two AM radio stations that service the Bogalusa area:

- WIKC 1490 AM/504-732-4190/Gospel Music Format
- WBOX 920AM/504-732-4288/Country Music Format

There are no television stations that specifically service Bogalusa; however, regionally there are four major networks that broadcast from New Orleans and cover the Bogalusa area:

- WWL Channel 4 (CBS)/ 504-529-4444
- WDSU Channel 6(NBC)/ 504-679-0607
- WGNO Channel 26(ABC)/ 504-525-3838
Community Assessment Report

- WVUE Channel 8(FOX)/ 504-486-6161

Cable and Satellite Television

There are several cable and satellite providers that service this area:

- Charter Communications/ Cable and Internet
- AT&T U-Verse/ Cable and Internet
- Direct TV/ Satellite
- Dish Network/ Satellite

Daily local and/or regional newspaper delivery

There is one local paper and one regional paper available to the Bogalusa area:

- Bogalusa Daily News/ Published on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday
- Times Picayune/ Daily/ New Orleans, LA with limited distribution

Internet Providers/access

Bogalusa has fiber optic capabilities as well as a variety of broadband providers and options.

- AT&T Internet
- AT&T U-Verse
- Charter Communications

Emergency Communications and Planning

Emergency communications are provided to the public through the Washington Parish, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness website, the City of Bogalusa website, Facebook, local media, and, in the near future, by an Emergency Notification System that is in the process of being implemented.

Disaster preparedness

The City of Bogalusa and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) have a city and parish wide emergency preparedness plan in place. All parish and city first responders and emergency work teams are made familiar with the plan and are trained in responses to various hazards. The public has not been systematically trained on
the emergency response plan but training is available through the OHSEP office located in Franklinton, LA.

The Parish government in conjunction with the OHSEP will operate four shelters in the parish in the event of a disaster. There are also numerous resources available through the OHSDS on how to prepare to shelter in place. The vast majority of people will chose to evacuate in the event of a disaster and the parish evacuation routes are marked with signage. Evacuation route pamphlets are also available through the OHSEP office in Franklinton, LA.

Other amenities in Bogalusa include at YMCA, YWCA and a modern Senior Center.

EDUCATION

The City of Bogalusa is well positioned to meet the global demands of a well-educated and highly trained workforce. From early childhood development facilities through high school to the community and technical college level, Bogalusa offers numerous educational and job training opportunities.

There are four Class A Early Childhood Development facilities in the City of Bogalusa in addition to one Class A Head Start Facility. In addition, Northshore Technical Community College located in Bogalusa delivers an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Care and Development of Young Children. Students in the program participate in clinical rotations at all child care facilities in the City of Bogalusa.

Bogalusa City Schools: The City of Bogalusa maintains an independent public school district. The Bogalusa City School System has one high school with a total of 433 students enrolled (2010). The total enrollment of the Bogalusa City School System grades K-12 is 2,234. Of the total enrolled, 93.2% of the students are on free and reduced lunch. Current per pupil expenditures total $12,359.00 and the current student teacher ratio is 10.5 to 1. The 2010 school district performance score is 75.4 in comparison to the state average of 91.8. Annunciation and Ben’s Ford are two private schools serving students in Bogalusa and surrounding towns.

At Bogalusa High School, students may enroll in the New Tech High School which is project based learning. Use of technology is embedded in every subject and students work together to solve real life problems. There is also a New Tech Middle School based on the same educational concept. Additionally students at Bogalusa High School can be co-enrolled in the Northshore Technical and Community College.

Mission of the Bogalusa City School System: The mission of the Bogalusa City School System, in partnership with families and the community at large, shall provide to all
students a broad-based education and to maximize their academic excellence, social responsibility, and good citizenship to prepare them to be fully productive in an ever-changing world.

### BOGALUSA CITY SCHOOLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bogalusa New Tech High</td>
<td>100 M. J. Israel Drive Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-281-2180</td>
<td>Don McDaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogalusa Middle School</td>
<td>1403 North Avenue Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-281-2232</td>
<td>Tonja Seal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Tech. Middle School</td>
<td>517 Mississippi Ave. Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-281-2201</td>
<td>April King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byrd Avenue Elementary School</td>
<td>1600 Byrd Avenue Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-281-2190</td>
<td>Pam Ard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Hill Elementary School</td>
<td>725 Avenue C Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-281-2201</td>
<td>Sheila Lawrence Co-Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara Greely Co-Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior Avenue Elementary</td>
<td>625 Superior Avenue Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-281-2170</td>
<td>Melessa Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denhamtown Elementary School</td>
<td>1102 Avenue M Bogalusa, LA 70427</td>
<td>985-281-2194</td>
<td>Phlesher Mingo – Preschool Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adult Education**

Adult Education is facilitated in partnership between the Washington Parish School System and the Bogalusa City School System. The program operates one full-time day program in Franklinton and one part-time day location in Bogalusa. Part-time evening locations in Bogalusa are on Monday and Tuesday evenings. On an annual average, the program completes 121 GED’s averaging 140 students served.

Northshore Technical Community College
1710 Sullivan Drive
Community Assessment Report

Bogalusa, LA 70427
1800-732-6640
www.NorthshoreCollege.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>FALL 2010</th>
<th>ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>BY GENDER</th>
<th>AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</td>
<td>3,531</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth Build Bogalusa (A Program of NTCC Sullivan Campus)
1242 Austin Street
Bogalusa, LA 70427
985-732.6878

YouthBuild Bogalusa is an education program for youth ages 16-24 that have not completed high school. YouthBuild Bogalusa offers opportunities in GED, Carpentry, and Life Skills. Fall 2011 Enrollment: 29 students. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Central to providing a competent workforce is the role of technical education and training. Relevant training programs in alignment with high skilled in demand jobs will contribute to the overall success of securing sites for advanced employment opportunities.

Mission of Northshore Technical Community College
Northshore Technical Community College is committed to providing quality workforce
training and transfer opportunities to students seeking a competitive edge in today’s global economy.

**Accreditation**
Each Northshore Technical Community College campus is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE). This accreditation means that nationwide this college is recognized as meeting standards of training acceptable for accreditation.

**Workforce Development Program Inventory**
NTCC offers twenty-six different program areas and programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate of Applied Science Degrees (AAS)</th>
<th>Technical Diplomas (TD)</th>
<th>Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS)</th>
<th>Technical Competency Area (TCA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care and Development of Young Children</td>
<td>Air Conditioning and Refrigeration</td>
<td>Medical Assistant</td>
<td>Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-Basic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Automotive Technology</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>Nurse Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT: Computer Programmer</td>
<td>Building Technology Specialist</td>
<td>Patient Care Technician</td>
<td>Outdoor Power Equipment Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT: Computer/Network Support</td>
<td>Care and Development of Young Children</td>
<td>Veterinary Assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT: Computer Specialist</td>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journeyman Industrial</td>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Technology</td>
<td>Culinary Arts and Occupations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Office Administration</td>
<td>Diesel Powered Equipment Technology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electrician</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electric Line Technician</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drafting and Design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ICT: Computer Programmer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Online opportunities are blended within each curriculum. On-line programs include Criminal Justice, Veterinary Technology, Customer Service, Computer Networking, Web Design and Business. Additional on-line courses are available through our noncredit workforce division and include health and management, leadership, computer information, and leisure learning.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSTSECONDARY</th>
<th>Total Completion Rate</th>
<th>Total Placement Rate</th>
<th>Licensure Exam Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan Main Campus (306600)</td>
<td>65.53</td>
<td>71.10</td>
<td>92.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammond Area Branch Campus (306602)</td>
<td>59.14</td>
<td>65.53</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB &quot;Sixty&quot; Rayburn Correctional Center (306603)</td>
<td>86.05</td>
<td>95.24</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covington Educational Service Center (306604)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Parishes Branch Campus (306605)</td>
<td>65.69</td>
<td>69.32</td>
<td>83.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slidell Educational Service Center (306607)</td>
<td>62.50</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northshore Technical College</td>
<td>63.68</td>
<td>70.05</td>
<td>93.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATIONAL AVERAGE OF LIKE INSTITUTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVERAGE Institutional Percentages</th>
<th>72.49</th>
<th>78.58</th>
<th>94.83</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable Range</td>
<td>59.97</td>
<td>65.69</td>
<td>89.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Workforce Development Services Provided by NTCC Include:

*Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP)* – The Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP) is a partnership between the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), business and industry, and training providers. The IWTP is designed to benefit business and industry by assisting in the skill development of existing employees and thereby increasing employee productivity and the growth of the company. These improvements are expected to result in the creation of new jobs, the retention of jobs that otherwise may have been eliminated, and an increase in wages for trained workers. The program is funded by a portion of Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax contributions dedicated solely for customized training.

[www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net)

*On-line Short Term And Long Term Career Training* – NTCC offers a wide range of highly interactive courses in partnership with Cengage Learning that you can take entirely over
Community Assessment Report

the Internet. All of our courses are led by expert instructors, many of whom are nationally known authors. Our online courses are affordable, fun, fast, convenient, and geared just for you.

http://www.ed2go.com/ntc/

WIA – Our purpose is to advance the economic well-being of the region by:

- Developing and maintaining a quality workforce
- Serving as the focal point for local and regional work development initiatives
- Providing an integrated, effective system of employment, education, training, support, and economic development services for job seekers, workers and employers

http://www.lwia20.org/

Workforce Training Rapid Response Fund

It is deemed an important responsibility of the state to promote workforce development and provide significant opportunity for business and labor to assist in the development and delivery of workforce education and workforce training policy, programs, and performance standards. Carrying out this responsibility requires the development of strategies that will upgrade the skills of our existing workforce and prepare new workers with the skills for a constantly changing economy. Institutions of higher education play a vital role in providing an education that will augment workforce development, and the legislature hereby declares its intent to provide a mechanism to provide supplemental funding for workforce training. The entity to manage and control the Workforce Training Rapid Response Fund shall be the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. (Rapid Response Legislation: Regular Session, 2008 ACT No. 890).

http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=504835

Northshore Technical Community College is the Workforce Development point of contact for the Greater Northshore. Carrying out this responsibility requires the development of strategies that will upgrade the skills of our existing workforce and prepare new workers with the skills for a constantly changing economy. This initiative should supplement the cost of high demand workforce training programs in order to fill urgent market needs, as determined by economic and employment projections. This initiative should be in accordance with a strategic plan for workforce education and assist individual(s) in ability to function as an adequate employee in a workplace, including:

- Education directed at refining or developing literacy or other basic education skills
Community Assessment Report

- Programs directed at lifelong learning or continuing education
- Job readiness training
- Vocational, technical, or occupation education
- Worker or workplace education
- Articulated career path programs and constituent courses of such programs that lead to initial or continuing licensure, certification, or associate degree level of accreditation
- And other education programs whose purpose is to assist citizens to improve their employment opportunities.

Government Services and Organizations

Form of Government

Bogalusa operates via the “Home Rule Charter” wherein it is authorized to exercise any power to manage its local affairs; as is outlined in the city charter (p. 1). The form of government is the “strong mayor-council” form of government. Bogalusa is authorized to exercise general police powers, pass all ordinances that impact the city. The mayor, according to the charter, has the authority to appoint and suspend or remove for just cause all city employees and appointive administrative officers provided for, by or under the charter, (p. 14). The City Attorney, Director of Administration, Chief of Police, Director of Personnel (this position is responsible for the recruiting, hiring, training, and development of hires), and Fire Chief are all appointed by the mayor and are amenable to the mayor, (pp. 16-19). All appointments must be confirmed by vote of the City Council.

The City Council is the legislative branch of city government. The responsibilities of the council include approving the budget, enacting ordinances. There are seven members of the council, five of whom represent districts A-E within the city and two who serve “at-large.”

The City of Bogalusa also operates the Bogalusa City Court where misdemeanor issues and civil issues affecting residents of the 4th Ward of Washington Parish are heard.

City employees are governed by local personnel and departmental policies and union contracts. In addition fire and police department employees are members of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service system.
Community Assessment Report

Capital Improvements

In the long term, capital improvements include roadway repairs, Cassidy Park expansion, improved sewer and water services, enhanced fire department via construction of a new station (this will positively affect the fire department’s rating), among other quality of life projects such as replacing existing city hall complex with a new facility, creating a museum from the former site.

Short term capital improvements include installation of new information technology system, adjudication of properties that are in violation of city codes or abandoned, upgrade access roads to accommodate the construction of a major corporate partner, with the inducement to attract other such entities, which bring employment opportunities, and emergency repairs to the sewer system.

Indebtedness, bond rating and budget

The total indebtedness for 2011 is projected to be $10,000,000.
Current bond rating is BBB-.
Total municipal budget is $12 million.

Reports including financial statements and other reports are public record and are provided to the City Council members and are available to be reviewed by the public. Plans call for this information to also be available on the City of Bogalusa website.

Code Authority

The city adheres to the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council; which embodies all of the applicable International Codes with the exception of plumbing and electrical. The electrical standard setting entity is the National Electrical Code. For the plumbing standard Bogalusa is guided by the Louisiana State Plumbing Code.

The city, in an effort to keep unsightly, detracting, and unsafe materials from accumulating on public or private property, has enforceable codes and ordinances that address the beautification of the city: a) Weed Control, b) Litter/Junk Control, c) Removal of Hazardous/Unsafe Buildings, and d) Tree Trimming and/or removal. Additionally, because Bogalusa is a quasi-rural city there is the Livestock Ordinance which also addresses the control of animals that may pose a threat to the citizenry. These and other codes/ordinances are charged to the Code Enforcement Officer. A copy may be obtained from that office.
Fire Protection

The Fire Department is guided in its function by the Louisiana State Fire Marshall’s Office. The La. Fire Marshall’s Office adheres to the code of the National Fire Protection Association. As the department continues to improve its rating from a class 4 in 2009 to class a 3 in 2011 the efficacy is noted in the inspection records of the State and National entities. All fire personnel are required to complete training in fire skills. The much needed updating is held in abeyance currently due to budgetary constraints. Those constraints aside the fire department is adamant about being better at its ability to effectively combat fires. The Bogalusa Fire Department utilizes trained senior fire fighters to in turn share their training with other fire fighters. Despite the challenges, the department continues to improve in its duty to maintain the safety of the citizenry.

Police/Sheriff Protection

The Police Department has an ongoing collaboration with the FBI, Washington Parish Sheriff’s Department, New Orleans Police Department, and neighboring police agencies. The collaborations have enhanced the police agency’s effective work in the battle against criminal activity in the city. The officers are required to complete a thirteen (13) week basic training academy. Officers are also trained in the proper use of chemical weapons (mace), Taser, and intoxilyzer/standardized DWI field sobriety. After the training and weapons
efficiency, officers are allowed to request specialization into areas of criminal combat; such as drugs, computer fraud, sex crimes, and domestic violence.
The track for promotion begins with taking the civil service test for the next level of police service. The ratio of officers to population is 1 per 403 residents. The department has seventeen (17) marked units all units are radio equipped. In order to maintain and reduce unit cost the department sells older vehicles and purchases two new vehicles annually. This program reduces the maintenance of older used units.
The police department is a strong advocate of the Neighborhood Watch Program with continuous community updating. In addition to that effort Bogalusa’s police department collaborates with the New Orleans Crime Stoppers organization.

Planning

Bogalusa has a Planning and Zoning Commission that is created by ordinance. This commission is appointed by the Mayor and has authority to hear requests for zoning variances and make recommendations to the City Council. The City of Bogalusa is a member of the Capital Region Planning Commission, which provides technical assistance to the city and the commission.

Currently the City of Bogalusa is participating in Strategic Planning and have introduced a Master Plan for Cassidy Park. To support the implementation of the Cassidy Park Master Plan, the City is reorganizing and appointing members to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.
Appendix I is located on the LADRC website under Bogalusa Documents.
Summary of Community Survey

The Bogalusa Community Survey was launched on July 4, 2011 and completed on July 30, 2011. Over 600 responses were received. The survey was available online and links appeared on the City of Bogalusa webpage, MyWPNewsblog, Facebook and Bogalusa Daily News. In addition, emails were sent to groups and individuals in the community. Paper surveys were distributed at meetings of civic groups and were available for pickup at City Hall and the Bogalusa Daily News.

The following areas were considered by the respondents and a summary of the results reveal strengths and weaknesses:

**Quality of Life:**

**Strengths:** Availability of hospital facilities and adequate local clinics and health care professionals for basic health care.

**Weaknesses:** Cultural activities and facilities, recreational opportunities and facilities for adults and youth, air quality, racial harmony and general appearance of the community.

**Local Education:**

**Strengths:** There were no perceived strengths in the area of local education.

**Weaknesses:** Quality of local and secondary education, involvement of local residents and parents in schools, involvement of businesses in elementary and secondary schools and availability of choice for local elementary and secondary schools.

**Local Government:**

**Strengths:** Adequacy of local fire protection and adequacy of trash pickup and waste disposal.

**Weaknesses:** Enforcement of existing building codes.

**Local Leadership:**

**Strengths:** There were no perceived strengths in the area of local leadership.

**Weaknesses:** Level of awareness of community regarding local economic and community development programs and level of funding for local community and economic development programs.
Quality of Jobs and Training:

Strengths: There were no perceived strengths in the area of quality of jobs and training.

Weaknesses: Availability of quality jobs for the workforce residing in the community and level of wages and salaries paid locally.

Local Transportation:

Strengths: None identified

Weaknesses: Local major highways, condition and maintenance of local streets and roads, and availability of public transportation.

Local utilities:

Strengths: Availability and quality of electricity and availability of natural gas.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Local Market:

Strengths: None identified.

Weaknesses: Appearance of downtown for attracting business and shopping activity, appearance of highway oriented retail/commercial areas for attracting business and shopping, availability of a range of retail stores and goods in the community, availability of adequate hotels and motels and availability of conference and meeting facilities.
Summary of Business Survey

The Bogalusa Business Survey was launched on July 4, 2011 and completed on July 30, 2011. Over 100 responses were received. The survey was available online and links appeared on the City of Bogalusa webpage, MyWPNewsblog, Facebook and Bogalusa Daily News. In addition, emails were sent to groups and individuals in the community. Paper surveys were distributed at meetings of civic groups and were available for pickup at City Hall and the Bogalusa Daily News.

The following areas were considered by the respondents and a summary of the results reveal strengths and weaknesses:

Quality of Place

Strengths: Availability of sites for business expansion for new buildings, availability of moderate cost housing, cost of housing overall, availability of adequate hospital facilities, and adequate local clinics and health care professional for basic health care.

Weaknesses: Cultural activities and facilities, recreational opportunities and facilities, presence of major sporting events, air quality, general attractiveness of the community, rate of population growth and racial and ethnic group harmony.

Local Education and Workforce Training:

Strengths: There were no strengths identified by respondents.

Weaknesses: Quality of elementary and secondary education, and involvement of local residents and businesses in the local school districts.

Local Government:

Strengths: Adequacy of local fire protection and adequacy of trash pickup and waste disposal.

Weakness: Long-range planning for municipal improvements and capital building.

Local Leadership:

Strengths: There were no strengths identified.

Weaknesses: Level of communication and cooperation between various organizations involved in community and economic development programs of the community, level of
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awareness of business regarding local community and economic development programs, and level of funding for local community and economic development programs.

**Local Workforce:**

Strengths: There were no strengths identified.

Weaknesses: Availability of technicians and professionals, availability of quality jobs for the workforce residing in the community, and level of wages and salaries paid locally.

**Local Transportation:**

Strengths: There were no strengths identified.

Weaknesses: Local major highways, condition and maintenance of local streets and roads, availability of public transportation and availability of commercial air passenger service.

**Local Utilities:**

Strengths: Availability and quality of electricity, availability of natural gas, and availability and quality of water.

Weakness: Availability of access to broadband internet service.

**Local Market**

Strengths: There were no strengths identified.

Weaknesses: Location of the community for serving foreign markets, appearance of downtown for attracting business activity, appearance of highway oriented retail/commercial areas for attracting business, availability of a range of retail stores and goods in the community, availability of adequate hotels and motels, availability of adequate conference and meeting facilities, adequacy of local industrial marketing programs, adequacy of local programs to attract new retail and commercial business to the community, adequacy of the marketing program to attract tourists, impact of the tourism industry on the community, the range of attractions for expanded tourism, and availability of funding to support tourism development.
Appendix IV

Bogalusa Market Study can be found on the LADRC website in Bogalusa documents.