

What is a Greenway?

A Greenway is a bicycle and pedestrian trail or road along a strip of undeveloped land. These are often located near an urban area and set aside for recreational use or environmental protection.

Why Build Greenways?

- **Create Value and Generate Economic Activity** – Bicyclist and pedestrian facilities increase quality of life for citizens by attracting more business and increasing economic development activity. Greenways and trails consistently remain the number one community amenity sought by prospective homeowners, according to the National Association of Homebuilders.
- **Improve Public Safety** – In 2015, Baton Rouge was designated a “focus city” by the Federal Highway Administration, due to its high rate of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and injuries. The EBR Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan was developed to create a network of paths that provides a safe way for cyclists and pedestrians to navigate the city. Greenways also encourage greater outdoor activity, which provides additional eyes and surveillance in neighborhoods, which deters crime.
- **Improve Health through Active Living** – Exercise, such as biking and walking, has numerous benefits to physical and mental health and lowers the risk of chronic illnesses and death.
- **Protect Natural Resources and Wildlife** – Biking and walking results in decreased usage and dependency on motor vehicles and nonrenewable resources. This reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.
- **Protect People and Property from Flood Damage** – Preserving greenspace and integrating stormwater management practices when planning Greenways mitigates flooding. Because Greenways are designed to flood, they reduce the potential for property damage.
- **Enhance Cultural Awareness, Community Identity, and Equity** – Greenways provide access to parks and neighborhood amenities, and they help to preserve local heritage and historic places by providing access to them.

Baton Rouge Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans / Initiatives

East Baton Rouge Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan – This plan was developed to create a safe, comfortable, and connected off-road and on-street bicycling and walking network. It was adopted by BREC and EBR City-Parish in the summer of 2020.

BREC Greenway and Trail Initiative – BREC’s Imagine Your Parks Plan revealed trails as a top priority, and citizen engagement and has informed the implementation of approximately 60 miles of off-road bicycle and/or pedestrian trails within or connecting to parks.

MOVEBR – The East Baton Rouge City Parish MOVEBR Program will invest more than \$1 billion to help reduce traffic congestion, build sidewalks, and manage traffic signals throughout East Baton Rouge Parish.

Have more Questions?

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