ENVIRONMENTAL

On the environmental side of our mission, the Bayou Vermilion District manages boat, cane and kayak launch sites in addition to public rights along the river in an effort to provide recreation along the Vermilion. The Bayou Vermilion District also removes trash and large debris from the Vermilion River in an effort to promote recreation along the Vermilion District, providing a place for Vermilion residents, tourism, food, cultural exchange, dedication, architectural and much more.

CULTURAL

On the cultural side of our mission, the Bayou Vermilion District opened the Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park as a way to preserve and represent the Acadian, Creole, Native American cultures and people of our area. In addition, Vermilionville is a beautiful town center that is also a place to celebrate the historic village has become one of Lafayette’s premier tourist attractions welcoming over 100,000 visitors each year from around the world. Vermilionville sits as a beautiful tree-covered 25-acre site in the Bayou Vermilion in the heart of Lafayette, providing a place to celebrate the history and culture of the area.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Thirty years ago, on April 1, 1990, Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park, as an integral part of the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District’s vision and mission to thank the public for the last time. Since that year, a million visitors from all fifty states and dozens of countries have come through our doors. Vermilionville has been beloved by many as the antithesis of our region’s cultural tourism industry that has flourished into a vital part of the overall economy.

The last thirty years have not been without their challenges. Vermilionville is making great strides to include the many voices who open their hearts to tell the story of the region in a multifaceted and multidisciplinary manner. The arts and culture community is unique in the sense that it is not just about making money. We are an essential part of the community and are a form of cultural therapy to those who seek it, and our mission is to make sure that Vermilionville is a healthy, vibrant way to ensure that Vermilionville is a healthy, vibrant way to ensure that everyone has access to it.

As we work to make Vermilionville as inclusive as possible, we have run into a formidable obstacle: the COVID-19 pandemic. Museums, restaurants, and large public gatherings have been shut down. Under these unprecedented circumstances, there is much uncertainty as to what the future holds. However, our strategic planning process has put us in a good position moving forward.

Our strategic plan for Vermilionville includes three main goals and how we plan to achieve them. They are: 1) Museum Excellence, 2) Broadening Community Support, and 3) Organizational Effectiveness. On the Bayou Operations side, we continue to collect the equivalent of over a thousand 55-gallon drums’ worth of trash each year, in addition to numerous trees, livestock and pets, hundreds of tires, and various and sundry appliances, furniture and sporting equipment.

Our plan takes into account several outside factors that either will directly or indirectly affect Vermilionville. The biggest long-term project is to the plan for a proposed Interstate 49 (I-49) Connector, which will likely have a large impact on the community. In the short term, in 2019 we began the process to construct a new Water Quality Lab and Watershed Exhibit on our campus. The proposed Interstate 49 Connector will most likely have an impact on Vermilionville. As we work to make Vermilionville as accessible as possible, we will run into a formidable obstacle: the COVID-19 pandemic. Museums, restaurants, and large public gatherings have been shut down. Under these unprecedented circumstances, there is much uncertainty as to what the future holds. However, our strategic planning process has put us in a good position moving forward.

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Bayou Vermilion District’s mission is to improve the water quality in the Bayou Vermilion, to maintain its riparian facilities and installations, to empower its recreational users, and to engage the public in a greater awareness of our cultural and natural resources.

WHERE CONSERVATION IS CURRENT.

Bayou Vermilion District opened Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park in 1990. Our mission is to increase appreciation for the history, culture, and natural resources of the Native Americans, Acadians, Creoles, and peoples of African descent in the Attakapas region through the end of the 1800s. Through historic interpretation and conservation along the Bayou Vermilion, we strive to educate guests on the interactions of these groups and the connections between past and contemporary folklife, thus empowering guests to apply these lessons from our shared histories.

WHERE HISTORY IS HANDS-ON.

Vermilionville 2019 Programs and Attendance Numbers

PROGRAMS
- Courir de Mardi Gras: 853
- Créole Culture Day: 850
- Acadian Culture Day: 863
- Boo Bayou: 1170
- Native American Culture Day: 771
- Old Time Winter Family Day: 645
- AcadiaNevita: 172
- 3 Sensory Friendly Visits: 167
- Earth Day: 350
- First Friday French Tables: 213
- Smithsonian Museum Day: 94
- Les Vues Film Series: 196

TOTAL # GUESTS: 55,628
- Domestic 7196
- International 5862
- Francophone 4541
- Louisiana 2702

Statistics:
- Accuracy of On-Site Sewer System Inspections: 29%
- Pass: 71%
- Fail: 29%

On-Site Sewer System Inspections

PERFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER QUALITY IN 2019

The Folklife Teen Advisory Council has taken part in a wide range of arts activities in the community.

6156.5 Volunteer Hours 2019

3 Free Culture Days held annually.

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The Gift Shop at Vermilionville

HOURS:
- Monday – Saturday: 10AM - 6PM
- Sunday: 11AM - 3PM

Lafayette Public Library Museum Passes Program

FOR OVER 350 PEOPLE

Folklife Teen Advisory Council

6th Annual Vermilionville Festival & Boat Parade

Bayou Operations

Trash and Debris Management
- Water Quality Testing and Reporting
- Education
  - Year-round Watershed Education
  - Environmental Science Field Trips
  - Community Presentations
  - Water Quality Demonstration Projects
- Recreations
  - Public Parks
  - Boat Launches
  - Canoe/Kayak Launches

Folklife Teen Advisory Council has taken part in a wide range of arts activities in the community.


218 Barrels of debris removed.

13,060 Visitors explored BVD’s Watershed Exhibit

included over 224 boats, canoes, kayaks, paddlesboards, watercraft enjoying the day on Bayou Vermilion.

BVD provided free admission to Vermilionville on the first full year (2019) of the gift shop at Vermilionville.

Bayou Operations

WHERE CONSERVATION IS CURRENT.

Bayou Vermilion District’s mission is to improve the water quality in the Bayou Vermilion, to maintain its riparian facilities and installations, to empower its recreational users, and to engage the public in a greater awareness of our cultural and natural resources.

Trash and Debris Management
- Water Quality Testing and Reporting

Bayou Operations

Trash and Debris Management
- Water Quality Testing and Reporting

ON-SITE SEWER SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

PERFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER QUALITY IN 2019

INITIAL 71% 71%

FINAL 29% 29%

PASS 29%

FAIL 71%