

**BAYOU VERMILION DISTRICT
2024 BOARD OF
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Appointment: Area Mayors

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Council

**THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS
& SUPPORTERS**

Lafayette Consolidated Government

Disc Golf Foundation

Lafayette Convention & Visitors
Commission

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage
Festival and Foundation

Jefferson National Parks Association

The Franco-American Benevolent
Society

Pétanque Lafayette



ENVIRONMENTAL

The **Bayou Vermilion District** manages boat, canoe and kayak launches in addition to public parks along the river in an effort to promote recreation along the Vermilion. The **Bayou Vermilion District** also removes trash and large debris from the Vermilion River in addition to working with local government to monitor water quality and water depth of the Vermilion. The **Bayou Vermilion District** was instrumental in forming the Water Quality Task Force, bringing together governmental and other agencies concerned with the overall health of the river. We also work with the school board to educate Lafayette Parish students about our watershed and their role in helping maintain water quality in the Vermilion.

CULTURAL

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 peoples of African descent in the Attakapas region. Since its opening in 1990, the historic village has become one of Lafayette's premiere tourist attractions welcoming visitors each year from around the world. **Vermilionville** sits on a beautiful tree-covered 23-acre site on the banks of the Bayou Vermilion in the heart of Lafayette, providing a place for history, music, food, cultural exchange, dance, historic architecture and much more.

**BAYOU VERMILION DISTRICT & VERMILIONVILLE LIVING
HISTORY MUSEUM & FOLKLIFE PARK ADMINISTRATION**

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 marks the first full year of my tenure as Executive Director of the Bayou Vermilion District. This past year has been one of growth, direction and development. From our economic and cultural mission to our environmental focus, we remain dedicated to serving our community as a valuable resource and partner.

More than 50,000 visitors came to Vermilionville last year from all over the world. Local students enjoyed educational and fun field trips, French-speaking tourists found a little slice of familiarity, scores of the curious and interested learned about the history of our vibrant culture in Acadiana, and locals enjoyed our weekly music programming. We celebrated the unique story of the region through living history, music, art, foodways, documentary screenings, workshops, volunteer days and special events. Vermilionville was named a Top Ten Living History Museum by USA Today, as well as one of the top three museums in the area as polled by the Lafayette Daily Advertiser.

Our Hospitality Department continues to excel, hosting numerous special events as well as garnering awards for culinary excellence in the community. La Cuisine de Maman is widely recognized as one of the great lunch spots in the region, and our property is highly sought after as a venue for weddings, receptions, parties, conferences and more. La Boutique at Vermilionville has been transformed in the last year and a half, honing our focus on local artists, makers and musicians. Sales have increased exponentially and continue to surge. The gift shop was also recognized as one of the top three in the area in the Lafayette Advertiser poll.

On the environmental side, our Water Quality Task Force continues its partnership, bringing together organizations and agencies who share our concern for the Bayou Vermilion. Environmental science workshops featuring water quality and macroinvertebrate identification were added features and planning continues for an enhanced Watershed Exhibit, Rain Garden and Water Research Park to facilitate more comprehensive experiences for tours and field trips.

As a District, we completed many new projects in 2024. We opened our Pétanque court, installed a disc golf course at Southside Park, and had the official grand opening of the Vermilionville Brewhouse. We installed new lighting in the Performance Center, and floors in the Performance Center and the restaurant were redone. We also welcomed a new hive of bees and put up promotional signage at the Youngsville Sports Complex to extend awareness of our facilities.

We've also initiated development of a new Master Plan for the District to guide our vision for the future and map the progress we anticipate in the next several years.

We pledge to continue to provide quality cultural experiences for local and international visitors as well as environmental excellence for the Lafayette Parish community.

Stephen Broussard
Executive Director
*Bayou Vermilion District/
Vermilionville*
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BAYOU VERMILION DISTRICT 300
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(337) 769-7283



**VERMILIONVILLE LIVING HISTORY
MUSEUM & FOLKLIFE PARK** 300
Fisher Road Lafayette, LA 70508
(337) 233-4077

bayouvermiliondistrict.org



Where conservation is current.



Where history is hands-on.

Annual Report 2024



180
CUBIC YARDS
of trash removed out of the
Band-A-Long trash trap
in Coulee Mine in 2024



143 TREES REMOVED
118 LARGE ITEMS
72 TIRES

1812

BARRELS OF DEBRIS REMOVED



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.



BAYOU OPERATIONS

Trash & Debris
Management

Water Quality Testing
& Reporting

Water Quality Task
Force



EDUCATION

Environmental Science
Field Trips

Community
Presentations

Water Quality
Demonstration Projects



RECREATION

Public Parks

Boat Launches

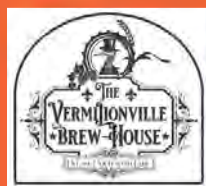
Canoe/Kayak Launches



WHERE TASTE MEETS
TRADITION
HOURS
11 AM - 2 PM
Tuesday - Sunday

46 Events Hosted
11 Weddings
7 seminars
6 Galas / Fundraisers
13 Parties
3 Bake / Taste / Cook Offs

10,200+ Gumbos Served
4635 Sunday Buffets
5239 Plate Lunches Sold
219 Vermilionville Brewhouse
beers sold (first year)
496 Mixed Drinks
718 Domestic & Local Beers
242 Specialty Mocktails
(first year)



By the end of 2024, and after
only starting in May, the
Vermilionville BrewHouse beers
made up a full 25% of total
beer sales in the restaurant! We
offer 3 beers regularly, and
have also offered 3 seasonal
beers this year as well.

VERMILIONVILLE PROGRAMMING - 2024

Over 5,750 people came to dance, eat,
celebrate, and learn at our events.
Over the course of the year, 13,000
people listened and danced to nearly
80 different bands sharing our region's
unique musical style.

Boo Bayou had record-breaking
numbers, and Murder on the Bayou
sold out in record time!



VERMILIONVILLE VISITORS - 2024

TOTAL # OF GUESTS: 50,000+

ADULT TOURS:

176 (2231 GUESTS)

STUDENT TOURS

83 (3831 STUDENTS,
839 ADULTS)

EVENT GUESTS

Courir de Mardi Gras 1180
Earth Day 775
BrewHaha 225
Creole Culture Day 525
Acadian Culture Day 325
Boo Bayou 1200
Murder on the Bayou 162
Native American Culture Day 575
Old Time Winter Traditions 375
New Year's Eve Dance 189

13 SPECIAL EVENTS HOSTED IN 2024



HOURS
10 AM - 4 PM
Tuesday - Sunday

LA BOUTIQUE AT VERMILIONVILLE

Features 56 local
artists, musicians &
makers

26,533 units sold in 2024

148% increase in sales
over 2023



Vermilionville

WHERE HISTORY IS HANDS-ON.

Bayou Vermilion District opened Vermilionville Living History Museum & 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 conversation 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.



LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM – HISTORICAL STRUCTURES
ARTIFACTS – COSTUMED INTERPRETERS – HISTORIC GARDENS
RESTAURANT – GIFT SHOP – MICROBREWERY