

AZALEAS, ENCORE!

Scenic Lafayette proudly announces the return of the Historic Azalea Trail!

Our trail started as a beautification project by the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in the 1930s and with the hard work and dedication of the Lafayette Garden Club, it became a great success and a cherished annual pilgrimage for locals and tourists. A 1940s revitalization estimated that 40,000 people visited the trail. Eventually, the trail winded its way through 22 miles of Lafayette's loveliest neighborhoods and was a top 20 tourist destination according to Southern Living Magazine.

Mass plantings of azaleas along the trail are more than 50 years old and produce stunning displays, usually peaking from mid-March to mid-April. Traditionally, a self-guided driving trail, our new map suggests loops for walking and biking for a more interactive experience. An official Azalea Day Kickoff on March 19, 2016 promises more fun and surprises for the whole family.

The Azalea Trail starts with a great display along with water features and a board walk at the Lafayette Visitors Center, where you can get your map. The main spine of the trail is St. Mary Boulevard with beautiful displays in the charming neighborhoods on each end. The Jefferson Street spine features cypress trees and azaleas for a shaded walk through the heart of Lafayette and into historic Sterling Subdivision. The Bendel Gardens and West Bayou Parkway subdivision loops feature a show of both azaleas and large beautiful homes.

In French Louisiana there is a term used to describe "wanting more"—Encore! A term, ironically, that was coined a few years ago by a Louisiana hybridizer to describe his new variety of repeat blooming azaleas!

Any way that you look at it, driving, biking or walking, you're sure to be delighted!

Please follow our growing success on Facebook at Scenic Lafayette.

To learn more about the grassroots effort to revitalize the Lafayette Azalea Trail or to donate funds to promote public plantings, visit:

www.facebook.com/sceniclafayette or
www.scenic.org/sceniclafayette



The Azalea Trail
Lafayette, Louisiana



Scenic Lafayette



The Azalea Trail

Lafayette, Louisiana



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission - Get your printed maps Here! Gardens, water features, sculptures, and info.
- 2 Lafayette Regional Airport
- 3 Alexandre Mouton House / Lafayette Museum
- 4 Downtown Lafayette
- 5 University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- 6 Girard Park
- 7 Lafayette Central Park at the Horse Farm
- 8 Vermilionville / Acadiana Cultural Center
- 9 Sterling Grove Historic District

TRAIL LOOPS

- A Saint Streets / Myrtle Loop
- B Bendel Gardens Loop
- C Mall Loop
- D Future Freetown Loop

TRAIL CORRIDORS

- E St. Mary Boulevard
- F Jefferson Street
- G Coolidge Street
- H West Bayou Parkway

PEDESTRIAN LOOPS

DOWNTOWN JEFFERSON STREET LOOP - Trail Head: Alexandre Mouton House / 1122 Lafayette St., Lee Ave. to Evangeline Thwy *0.5 MILES*

STERLING GROVE HISTORIC DISTRICT - Trail Head: Greenhouse Senior Center *1.8 MILES*

BICYCLE LOOPS

BENDEL GARDENS LOOP - Trail Head: Cafe Vermilionville 1304 W. Pinhook Rd., Beverly Dr. Ci. *1.8 MILES*

ST. MARY LOOP - Trail Head: Many public parking spaces.

Mouton Gardens (Mall Loop) *0.5 MILES*

St. Mary Blvd. (Congress St. to Pinhook Rd.) *1.7 MILES*

White Subdivision (Congress St. to the end of St. Mary and back) *1.7 MILES*

WEST BAYOU PARKWAY LOOP - Trail Head: Rotary Point Boat Launch on W. Bayou Pkwy, West Bayou Subdivision *1.8 MILES*