Bienvenue, mes amis!
Welcome to Lafayette, Louisiana's Historic Azalea Trail!
www.azaleatrail.org

A springtime bouquet of floral splendor since the 1930's, the Azalea Trail currently meanders through approximately 20 miles of the city's urban core. Mid-century, it was estimated that over 40,000 visitors drove the trail in one year! In the 80's, Southern Living magazine named the trail as a "Top 20 Tourist Destination in the South". In 2015, Scenic Lafayette, a non-profit beautification organization, selected as its inaugural beautification project, the revitalization of the historic trail. The next year, the Azalea Society of America certified Lafayette, Louisiana as an Official Azalea City; one of only 15 in the USA! Visit: www.azaleas.org

While driving, biking or strolling down the trail, one will encounter the many varieties of both the large Southern Indica azaleas and the smaller repeat blooming azaleas. The most common Southern Indica varieties found along the trail are the Formosas, George L. Tabor, Judge Solomon, Mrs. G.G. Gerbing and Pride of Mobile. The fuchsia colored Formosa was so prevalent in the early 20th century landscape that city leaders christened it "The General Lafayette", to honor the Marquis de Lafayette. The popular Encore brand of repeat blooming azaleas was created right here in Louisiana!

Notable along the trail are the following points of interest: Sterling Grove historic homes, the downtown arts district, entertainment, shops and restaurants, the Romanesque architecture of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 100 year old church and its 500 year old live oak, Robert Dufford Acadian Murals at City Hall, decades old azaleas on St. Mary and Myrtle Boulevards, University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Cypress Lake with alligators and birds, Hilliard Museum, Mouton Gardens Mall Boulevard, Oil Center Coulidge Boulevard business and retail district, beautiful riverside homes of Bendel Gardens and Greenbrier neighborhoods, and the 100 acre Moncus Park. Year around, the trail's residential gardens and grand boulevards showcase stately live oaks, colorful crepe myrtles, giant southern magnolias, pines and native cypress. Keep your eyes open too for the growing number of landscapes that highlight Louisiana native plants.

Speaking of native, while you are here, please note Lafayette's world-famous Cajun Créole French music, dance and food culture. After mingling with the locals, you will see why Lafayette was acknowledged as "The Happiest City in America"! Our community is pleased that you came to our Azalea City.

Begin your trail tour at Lafayette Convention and Visitors Center at 1400 NW Evangeline Thoroughway to explore the cypress swamp and boardwalk, Louisiana purple iris, and azalea varieties.