



DRAFT FOCUS SHEET PARKS AND RECREATION

President Billy Nungesser

PURPOSE STATEMENT: *Plaquemines Parish has an on-going demand for recreation programming and a growing need to expand and improve existing parks and recreational facilities. The purpose of this component is to identify opportunities and strengths and coordinate the expansion of programs and facilities with the needs of the community.*

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Fifteen Parish park sites, including sports fields, community centers, and playgrounds, totaling approximately 400 acres
- Organized programs include football, basketball, baseball, and softball
- Plaquemines Parish has a partnership with the Naval Air Station for soccer facilities
- Existing park facilities in need of repair and maintenance programs



(above) The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base is an important partner in meeting recreational needs.

- Linear nature of parish and limited access between east and west banks impacts connectivity of recreational facilities
- Park facilities are not equally accessible to residents from every community due to the unique geography of the Parish.
- Shortage of suitable land for future facility development

INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES*

Football	2	Fields
Basketball	2	Courts
Baseball/Softball	19	Fields
Soccer**	0	Fields
Tennis	10	Courts
Multipurpose	1	Field
Playgrounds	3	
Walking	4	Trails
Nature Trail	13	Miles
Pool	1	
Historic/Monument	3	Sites

*Inventory based on interviews and GIS data.

**Soccer facilities shared with Military Base.

PLANNED INVESTMENTS

- Additional gymnasium space
- Expansion of existing parks and acquisition of land for new parks
- Expansion of programming to include adult and senior citizen program activities
- New playgrounds; new skatepark
- Needs assessment for recreation facilities
- Parish specific guidelines for open space
- Lower Mississippi Wetlands Discovery Center
- Develop regulation sports complex near military base

- *Preservation of historic Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip as parks and cultural resources has been actively pursued either as a part of the National Park Service or as a local park.*
- *Fishing has been an important recreational activity in the parish that also generates significant annual revenue. How will it be impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Disaster and how soon will it recover?*

**National Recreation and Park Association
Guidelines for Open Space,
Recreation, and Facilities**

Currently the Parish has approximately 402 acres of recreation land for 20,942 residents, or 19.2 acres per 1,000 residents. This exceeds the NRPA recommended range of 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

The current level of service provided by the Parish typically exceeds the below NRPA guidelines.

2010 Min Level of Service for Parish Facilities

Open Space:	131-220	Acres
Football:	1.0	Field
Ball Fields:	4.2	Fields
Tennis:	10.5	Courts
Basketball:	4.2	Courts

Based on NRPA Guidelines and Current Population

Parish-specific guidelines and an accurate inventory and assessment of existing facilities are needed to determine whether the Parish will meet future recreation goals.

(below) Recreation programming has been important to building strong high school teams.



Plaquemines Parish
MASTER PLAN



What parks and recreation programs and resources are missing in Plaquemines Parish, and how will related decisions impact fellow community members and me?

Big Ideas

- Implement a plan that makes efficient use of tax payer dollars to broaden the current scope of recreation to include more programming for children and adults.
- Incorporate sustainable design that can reduce operating costs.
- Establish passive recreation component including greenways.
- Coordinate trail and park access with regional transportation planning.
- Expand programming to include adult and senior programs.
- Create a suitability study prioritizing land acquisition for park expansion and additional facilities.
- Promote tourism through interpretative programs of regionally significant resources: cultural and historical; natural systems; and mineral resources.
- Consider developing community-built playgrounds.
- Map public water ways.
- Maintain equitable distribution of facilities.



(above) A new playground in Plaquemines Parish

Big Decisions & Questions

- How does the Parish inform residents and visitors of recreation opportunities?
- What recreation elements might be connected by a parish-wide trail?
- How can local parks and recreation facilities directly benefit tourism?
- What areas of the parish have the greatest demand for recreational programs?
- What elements are expected in the neighborhood/community park?
- What potential activities might serve adults and seniors in the community?

Related Big Issues

- ❖ Awareness of ecological restoration issues via interpretive programs to educate park visitors and residents
- ❖ Economic impact of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster on tourism and the recreational fishing industry
- ❖ Recreational facilities can increase connectivity within the parish
- ❖ Safety awareness, coordinate with Hurricane Preparedness Program
- ❖ Sustainable design practices reduce cost of operations and impact on natural resources

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