ST. CHARLES PARISH PARKS AND RECREATION

St. Charles Parish **Department of**
Parks and Recreation Department

St. Charles Parish
Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Submitted by

Wallace Roberts & Todd,

WRT

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1. Introduction

St. Charles Parish is a large parish with a small but growing population, located less than 30 miles upriver from downtown New Orleans. While already considered a part of the greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area (Figure 1), the Parish is characterized by a largely rural landscape of wetlands and open country with long vistas of grazing meadows and agricultural fields, narrow two-lane roads, and mostly low density large-lot housing, interspersed with historic riverside plantations. The most developed areas extend linearly, both along the major roadways and outward from the Mississippi River, which bisects the Parish into an East and West Banks. Fourteen distinct communities further define the Parish.

Parks and recreation services are key contributing factors to the Parish's quality of life. Existing park facilities, and an abundance of open space, offer a wealth of recreational opportunities and multiple public benefits ranging from the preservation of invaluable natural resources to the enhancement of the community's physical and social assets. The presence of quality open spaces and parks increases property values, contributes to the economy, and promotes community pride, while access to recreation opportunities improves community health, strengthens families, and lowers crime.

In the last few decades, the Parks and Recreation Department has been effective in upgrading and maintaining its existing facilities, expanding and adapting its programming to serve residents' changing preferences and needs, and securing funding to develop new facilities.

In spite of these successes, the parks and recreation system is at a pivotal point. While the Parish population will continue to grow and change, creating additional and different demands for recreation, a disproportionate maintenance burden is increasingly draining limited resources away from serving those demands. Working primarily in a reactive mode, the Parks and Recreation Department has been hindered from focusing on a long-term planning and capital investment strategy.

Recognizing this weakness, in 2008 the Parish Administration established the goal to "develop a comprehensive parks and recreation program that provides an array of services for all its citizens." To achieve this goal, the Parks and Recreation Department subsequently retained Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC (WRT) to prepare a long-range Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Preparing a master plan is the first step in the right direction. The Master Plan provides:

- A unified vision and clear direction for the development of an interconnected, Parish-wide system of parks, recreational facilities and programs, and public open space.
- A framework for strategic decision-making over the next decade and beyond. The Master Plan inventories existing facilities, analyzes assets and constraints in the system, identifies development standards, determines current and future needs and priorities, and describes the steps to implement the Master Plan.
- A work program and specific actions to deal with both immediate problems and long-range issues.
- Identification of possible funding sources and revenue stream tools.

1.1 Master Plan Organization

The Master Plan document reflects the consultant's methodology, described in the next section. The Plan chapters revolve around specific phases and tasks of the planning process:

Inventory (Chapter 2 and 3)

- Current demographics
- Existing parks and recreational facilities and programs

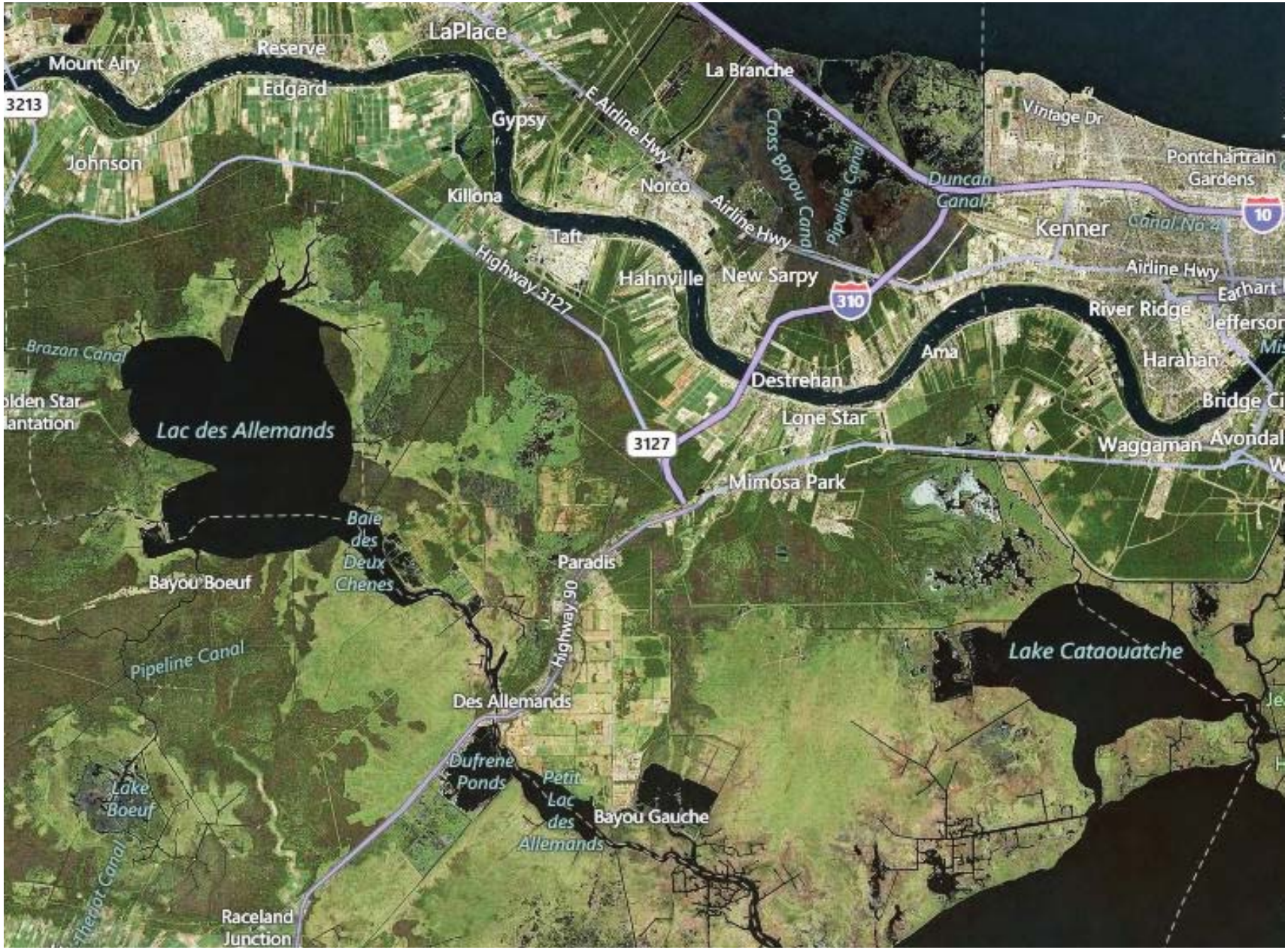


Figure 1: Regional context of St. Charles Parish (Source: Bing.com/Maps)

- Natural and cultural resources
- Land use factors, including zoning and development underway or under review
- Existing park system management and administrative structure
- Existing funding structure

Assessment (Chapter 4)
- Demographic analysis
- Needs analysis
- Park location and level of service analysis
- Administrative and management analysis
- Development of park standards

Policy-Setting (Chapter 5)
- Mission
- Goals

Conceptualization (Chapter 6)
- Projected needs
- Future park opportunities and constraints
- Concept and phasing

Implementation (Chapter 7)
- Implementing actions
- Needs Prioritization
- Funding alternatives
- Administrative and management recommendations

1.2 Plan Process

Figure 2 illustrates the planning process, which includes three major stages or work components. They are:

1. Mobilization: In this phase, the consultant collected available relevant data, toured Parish parks and facilities, and identified ideal outcomes and impediments through meetings with various groups (See Appendices).

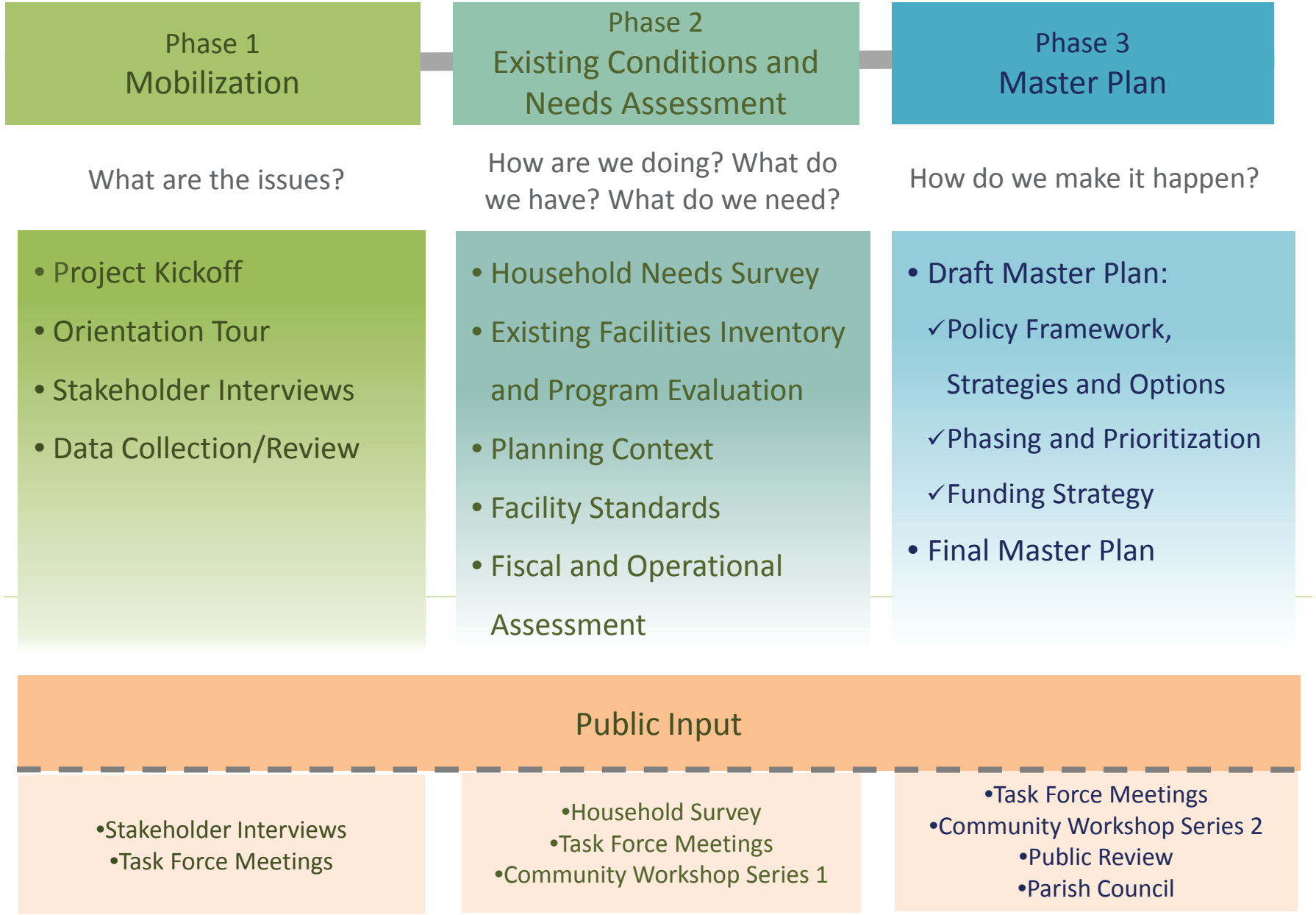


Figure 2: The Planning Process

II. Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment: During this phase, the consultant completed an analysis of existing facilities and programs, an operational and financial assessment, and identified expressed, latent, comparative and normative needs.

III. Master Plan Development: The results of the previous phases, in conjunction with the outcomes of the simultaneous St. Charles Parish 2030 Comprehensive Plan effort, informed the creation of the Master Plan outlining the policy framework, strategies and concepts, and implementation tools.

The Master Plan process included various opportunities for input from citizens, the Parish Council, and the Parks and Recreation Department throughout the planning process, including:

- During the mobilization phase, stakeholder interviews were conducted with key organizations and individuals to understand core values and issues.
- During the preparation of the Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment, an online survey was conducted to identify existing and perceived strengths, weaknesses, needs, and opportunities. Over 500 households participated in the survey.
- The Parish formed an Advisory Task Force to inform and guide the Master plan process. Comprised of representatives from various recreation interests throughout the Parish, the Advisory Task Force offered a broad community perspective throughout the process, providing guidance on key issues, needs, and programmatic goals, and serving as a sounding board to the consultants and the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The consultants leveraged the timing of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan process (which they also led) to present policy and spatial concepts developed for the Parks and Recreation element of that plan to residents at various public events, and encourage input on the topic.
- In the final stages of the master planning process, workshops will be held to allow additional public input before the Master Plan report is revised and presented to the Parish Council.

Once adopted, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will complement the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, serving as a vehicle for implementing parks and recreation goals and objectives, as well as related policy areas.

One of the Comprehensive Plan's recommended actions is, in fact, the preparation and implementation of a parks and recreation master plan.

1.3 Summary of Findings and Key Directions

Several challenges emerged during the preparation of Master Plan.

- No citizen advisory board: The process of decision-making about park and recreation issues has been largely reactive and managed directly by the Parish Council. During the stakeholder interviews and the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Visioning Forums, concerns were expressed that this approach eased the potential for outside political views and narrow interests to influence the decision making process.

  Parks and recreation advisory boards represents and interprets the needs of the citizens, works closely with the paid staff and assists in providing guidance for the department. The board does not have policy-making authority, but provides a critical link between the citizens, department staff, the administration, and elected officials.

- No visitor use tracking by facility: Until recently, the Parish monitored participation by organized sport but not facility usage. In 2011, the Parks and Recreation Department began tracking sports field usage. The Parish should adopt a consistent and comprehensive visitor use tracking strategy. Understanding visitor-use patterns is useful in discerning and adjusting to changes in demographics, trip and visit characteristics; evaluating services, programs, facilities, and expen-

ditures; measuring experiential satisfaction by users; and quantifying impacts on facilities and resources under a variety of use levels.

- No established park typology: Lacking a classification or hierarchy system as a means of characterizing park facilities (e.g., regional v. community v. neighborhood), no level of service (LOS) standard was in place to measure need in a systematic way.

  LOS standards are an objective, quantitative expression of the essential facilities that are needed to provide an appropriate level of park and recreation services for a community. LOS standards are usually expressed as ratios such as acres of park per 1,000 residents, or number of ballfields per 1,000 residents. The ratios are useful to quickly assess the quantities and cost of projected needs and should provide for equitable allocation of parks and recreation resources throughout the community.

- Based on proposed LOS, the Parish currently is only moderately underserved as a whole, but localized deficits exist, in some cases severe, for either community or neighborhood parks –and in some cases both. Today, the greatest park needs are in the growing communities of Boutte, St. Rose and Destrehan.

- The biggest challenge the Parish has is not in providing parks or programs, but in ensuring that these parks are integrated into a system that provides equitable recreational access to all of its residents.

Despite these challenges, St. Charles Parish residents envision a future (20 years from now) in which the Parish will provide a full array of recreation opportunities for all its residents and visitors through an outstanding system of conveniently located parks and expanded access to the Parish's waterways and other natural resources.

The 2030 Vision Statement is the touchstone of the Parish's Comprehensive Plan. The Vision Statement provides a broad "picture" of the community's desired future intended to guide decision-makers in the formulation of goals and policies. Goals, on the other hand, are general statements of intent about the quality and character of the community. The goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are:

1. ***Provide equal access to and fair distribution of recreational areas, activities, services and facilities for all residents of the Parish.***

2. ***To the maximum extent possible, coordinate the provision of recreational facilities and services with other public and private providers, to avoid duplications, improve efficiency, and reduce costs.***

3. ***Maximize the lifespan and use of existing and future facilities by ensuring adequate flexibility and adaptability.***

4. ***Continually seek to expand the scope of the Parish's recreation services to include aspects of health, leisure education, and culture.***

5. ***Seek equitable ways to distribute the cost of open space and recreational facilities necessary to serve new development between the private and public sectors.***

The following recommendations are offered in response to the above-referenced issues and goals:

- Establish and appoint a citizen-based Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Board members may be appointed by council or the President, or a combination of both, but they should meet specific "job criteria" in order to qualify for appointment. The Board might also include a student, a staff liaison (such as the Director of Parks and Recreation) and a council member. Both of these positions should be ex-oficio.

- Adopt a set of LOS standards customized for St. Charles Parish based on an examination of national standards as well as those of comparable communities and conditions. National level of service (LOS) standards do not apply well to St. Charles Parish (urban v. rural). Therefore, it is appropriate to create unique Parish standards.

- To address present and future park needs, given limited fiscal resources,the Parish should focus on providing large-scale, strategically located community parks that can also serve neighborhood needs. Community parks can be designed to simultaneously meet community and neighborhood park needs for the neighborhoods around them. However, neighborhood parks can never meet community park needs due to the intrinsic and interrelated constraints of size, facility range, and access that characterize these types of parks.

- This paradigm shift will require moving away from accepting land donations for small neighborhood parks in residential development, requiring instead the payment of fees in lieu through the development process. Such fees may then be used to target and acquire larger properties, strategically located to meet community park needs.

- In addition, the Parish should reduce its operating costs by disposing of low-recreational value properties. The management and maintenance of these undersized, underdeveloped, often isolated neighborhood parks has been a challenge for the Parks and Recreation Department. In this context, "disposition" may mean the discontinuation of leases of low-value properties; or the transfer of ownership/maintenance of such properties to property owners or neighborhood associations.

- The Parish should establish criteria to evaluate all park sites to identify those that have a low-recreation value and pursue opportunities to remove these sites from the Parish's park inventory. A set of criteria for categorizing existing facilities and prioritizing future parkland acquisitions is provided later in this Master Plan.

- Based on estimated current needs, immediately identify at least one (1) candidate sites to develop 10-12 acres of park land devoted to community recreation. This may be accomplished through the following means:

    1. Developing Parish-owned undeveloped sites or expand underutilized sites, or
    2. Acquiring existing recreational sites, or
    3. Acquiring raw land for park development.

- Current opportunities include the development of the Ashton property; expansion of the East Bank Bridge Park, and expansion of IMTT Park.

- Over the next twenty years, the Parish will require approximately 4 to 5 additional large (10+ acres) community parks.

- To achieve the goal of an integrated system of connected community parks and open spaces, the Master Plan proposes the incremental creation of a network of pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails (Figure 3).

- The 2030 Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map identifies existing and emerging "activity nodes" throughout the Parish, where land uses are mixed in compact patterns that allow and encourage walking and biking between destinations.

- Developing a bicycle and pedestrian linkage network throughout St. Charles Parish will be challenging: the only Parishwide trails that exist today are the levee paths; Parish streets are generally narrow and most are bordered by open drainage; and many portions of the Parish have been developed without consideration for linkages, making retrofitting difficult.

- In most instances, however, a "complete streets" approach will serve as a feasible solution to enhance access to destinations. The Parish should encourage LA DOTD to apply a complete streets concept in every roadway improvement project it completes in the Parish over the next two decades, and should require it in Parish-undertaken roadway projects.

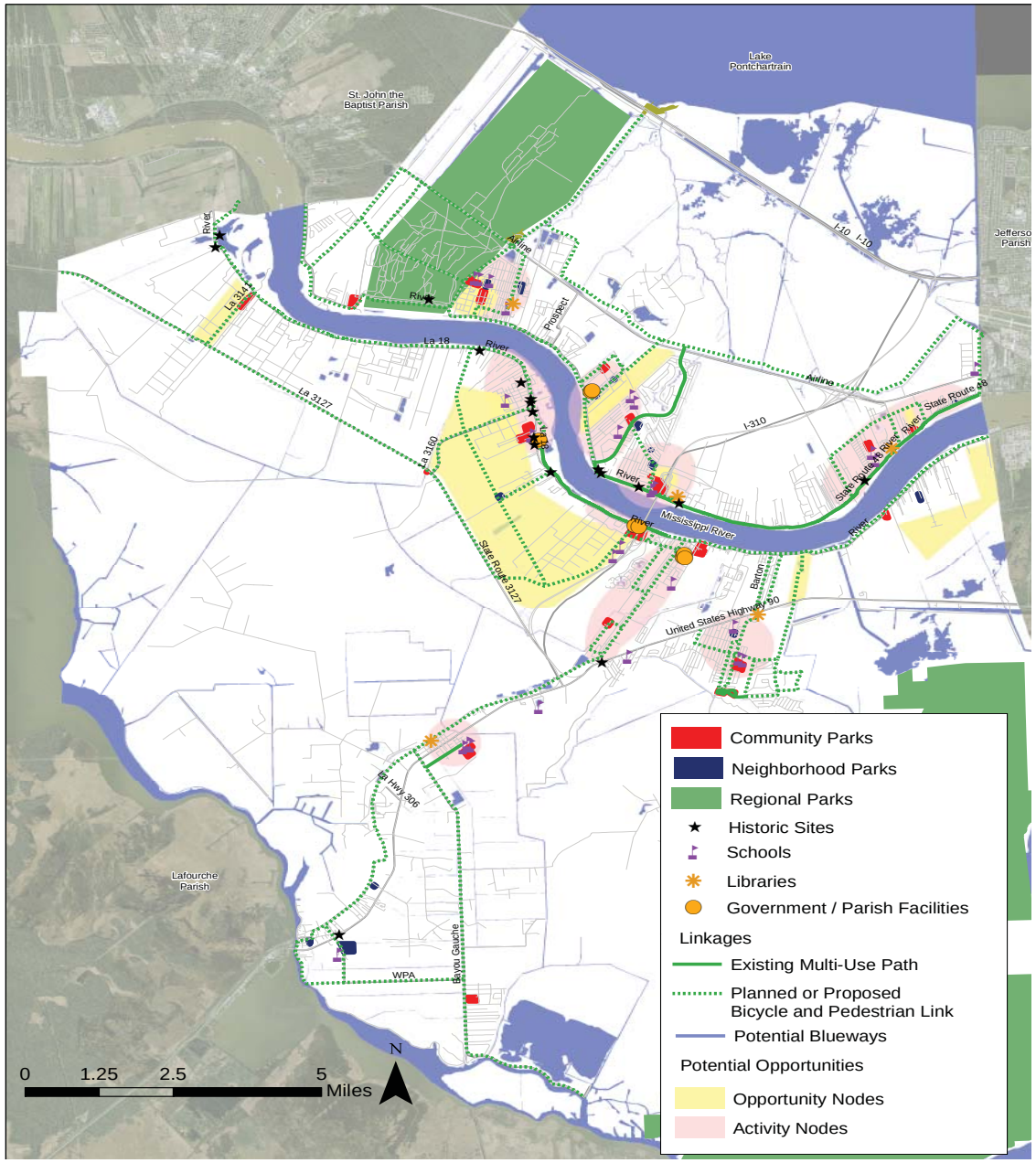


Figure 3: 2030 Integrated Parks and Recreation System with Connected Destination Nodes. (Source: WRT)

2. Inventory and Assessment

2.1 Demographics

Demographic and economic characteristics are important to understanding population trends and public recreation demands over time. Identifying potential shifts in population distribution and demographic composition enables the creation of a parks and recreation framework that both acknowledges and responds to future change.

Population

In addition to age and income within a population, the number of people is a key factor in understanding recreation demands.

Population growth in the Parish was gradual and uneven in the first half of the twentieth century. Growth accelerated in the 1950's, once suburbanization started to take hold – and the Parish grew 58.8 percent in the decade between 1950 and 1960, from 13,363 residents to 21,219. Rapid growth continued through approximately 1980, then moderated somewhat for the remainder of the century (Table 1). The Parish's official 2000 population was 48,072, representing a net increase of approximately 260 percent over 1950. Growth briefly spiked between 2005 and 2006. This was the result of people who were displaced from nearby Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, which were heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The Census Bureau reports a 2010 population of 52,780, a 10 percent increase since 2000 but a slightly lower gain than that seen between 1980 and 2000.

An awareness of the geographic distribution of population and of changes over time also help to inform the decision-making process by identifying areas in need of new or expanded facilities due to growing population, or where consolidation of facilities may be in response to population loss. There are significant differences in the distribution of that population gain throughout the Parish, as shown through a comparison of population by Census Data Place between the years 2000 and 2010. Table 2 shows Boutte, Hahnville, Montz, and St. Rose experienced significant population increases. In contrast, New Sarpy, Norco and Killona have lost some population. In the case of Norco, however, one of the reasons for the loss was the buyout of property in the African American Diamond neighborhood by Shell Chemical. Figure 4 illustrates population distribution by census block in 2010.

Table 1: Decennial Growth, St. Charles Parish and Neighboring Parishes

Year	St. John	St. Charles	Jefferson	Orleans
1900	12,330	9,072	15,321	287,104
1910	14,338	11,207	18,247	339,075
1920	11,896	8,586	21,563	387,219
1930	14,078	12,111	40,032	458,762
1940	14,766	12,321	50,427	494,537
1950	14,861	13,363	103,873	570,445
1960	18,439	21,219	208,769	627,525
1970	23,813	29,550	337,568	593,471
1980	31,924	37,259	454,592	557,515
1990	39,996	42,437	448,306	496,938
2000	43,044	48,072	455,466	484,674
2010	45,924	52,780	432,552	343,829

Source: Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900 to 1990, compiled and edited by Richard L. Forstall, U.S. Census Population Division; population for 2000 and 2010 from the U.S. Census.

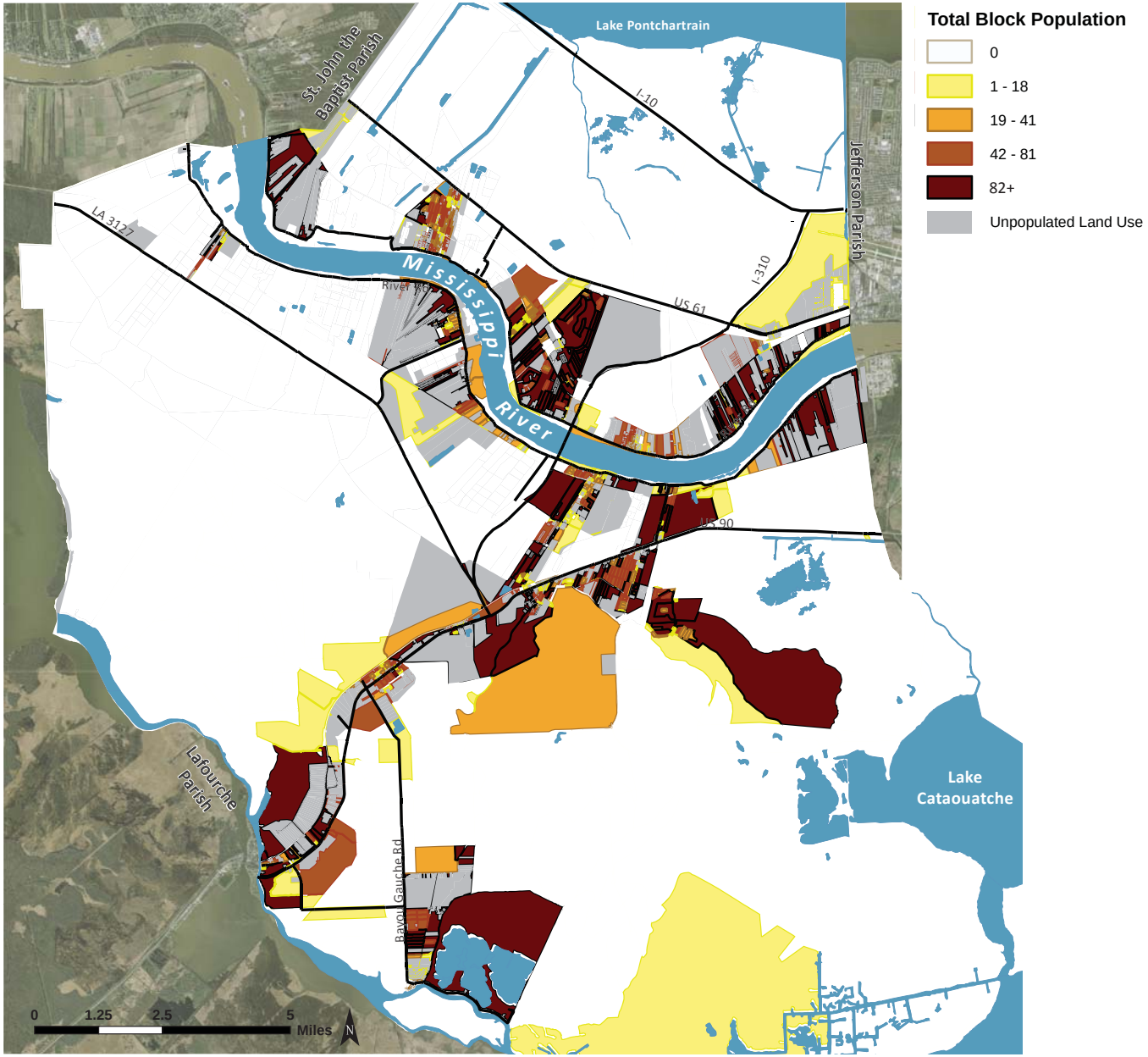


Figure 4: 2010 Population Distribution by Census Block (Source: U.S. Census. Unpopulated places derived from existing land use, prepared by WRT).

Table 2: Population Distribution by Planning Community, 2000-2010

CDP Community	2000	2010	Total % Change
Ama	1,285	1,316	2
Bayou Gauche	1,750	1,770	17
Boutte	2,528	3,075	41
Des Allemands	2,026	2,505	2
Destrehan	10,998	11,535	2
Hahnville	2,665	2,792	20
Killona	797	793	-1
Luling	11,585	12,119	5
Montz	1,120	1,918	71
New Sarpy	1,676	1,464	-7
Norco	3,690	3,074	-14
Paradis	1,290	1,298	4
St. Rose	6,597	8,122	4.3
TOTAL:	48,072	52,780	10

Source: U.S. Census.

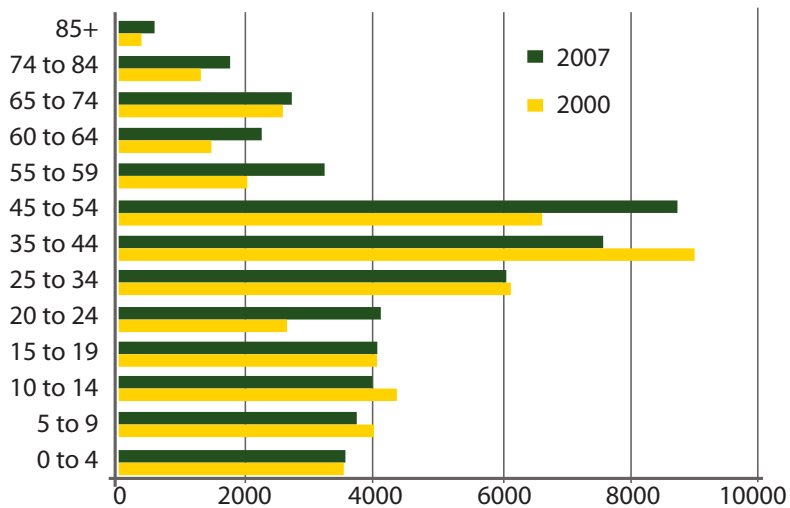


Figure 5: Change in Population Age, 2000-2007

(Source: U.S. Census 2000, ACS 2005-2007)

Age

Although the U.S. Census has not yet released complete 2010 information on population characteristics, figures from 2000 and the 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS) indicate that the Parish's population is aging (Figure 4). The median age has increased from 34.1 years in 2000, to 35.8 in 2008 (estimated). This is consistent with national trends of Baby Boomers (those persons born from 1946 to 1964) continuing to concentrate population growth within the cohorts into which they age.

The Baby Boom cohort, which accounts for approximately one-fourth of the Parish's population, is beginning to reach age 65. At the same time, the number of children (0-18 years) is decreasing as a share of the population. Related changes in household structure could dramatically impact decisions involving parks and other services provided by the Parish.

Shifts in the needs and interests of residents resulting from these demographic changes will also have material implications on the provision of parks and recreation programming, facility types, transportation and access, to name a few.

Household Income

Studies have shown that lower-income people are less able financially to choose recreation-friendly alternatives such as purchasing services (e.g., childcare or housecleaning) that afford time for recreation and physical activities, purchasing a health club membership, or paying a fee to visit a community pool or recreation center. Therefore, household income is a factor in planning for the location of and access to recreational facilities and programs.

The U.S. Census has not released complete 2010 information on income or housing characteristics, but the Parish median household income (MHI) was estimated at $58,126 in 2008, according to the 2005-2009 ACS. However, there are significant variations in MHI distribution across the Parish that also need to be considered (Table 3).

In terms of poverty levels, thirteen percent of the total population and over eleven percent of families lived below the poverty level in 2007. Seventeen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 14 percent of people 65 years old and over.

Health Characteristics

In recent years, the public health, planning, and design communities have begun to more closely examine the link between socioeconomic and geographic determinants, the built environment, and the impact of these factors on community health disparities. Such factors (including those described in the previous paragraphs, as well as race, location, education and others) have a tremendous influence on the choices available to us for housing, transportation, diet, and our overall ability to lead healthy lives.

Federal initiatives such as the *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* program highlight the increasingly significant role of parks and public spaces in addressing health issues.

While the most recent *County Health Rankings* [2] places St. Charles Parish fourth among the five healthiest parishes in the state of Louisiana, significant local health issues remain:

- approximately 18% of the population is in poor or just fair health;
- approximately 11% of the population is afflicted by diabetes;
- 20% of adults are smokers;
- 33% of adults are obese;
- 29% of adults are physically inactive.

[2] The *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps* project is a collaboration of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The Rankings look at a variety of measures that affect health and are based on the latest data publically available for each county. The 2012 Rankings for St. Charles Parish, as well as additional information, are available at http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/#app/Louisiana/2012/st.-Charles/county/1/overall

The parish also scores significantly lower than the national benchmarks for many of these measures. For example, although the share of residents in poor or fair health is one percent point lower than the state's score, it is eight percent points higher than the national. The percentage of obese adults in St. Charles Parish is also eight points higher than the national, as is the percentage of physically inactive adults.

A 2010 research paper by Geoffrey Godbey and Andrew Mowen, published by the National Recreation and Park Association stresses that "... *[p]ublic park and recreation services are becoming part of the healthcare system of the United States and are now recognized as such...To an amazing extent, the role of parks and recreation in providing physical activity health benefits was ignored by the health community until recently, but that has changed. The state of knowledge is now such that park and recreation services must be planned and funded based on the known physical activity health benefits they provide. Close-to-home park and recreation resources result in more physical activity and better health for citizens...*

Recent studies support the notion that the supply of park and recreation resources is directly related to the amount of physical activty by people of all ages.

In an era of economic downturn, surveys show that people are more dependent on public park and recreation services for physical activity. A study in 2009 suggests the economic downturn has spurred a sharp increase in public park and playground use among families with kids, especially those with children younger than 6. Among minority groups, park and recreation services have been identified as the most important outlet for physical activity, in spite of inequities of supply and access. In the fight to make communities more physically active, then, park and recreation services have a critical role to play."

2.2 Parks and Facilities

The inventory of existing parks and facilities encompasses approximately 317 acres of land. Many of these parks are found within neighborhoods—the result of a developer's land dedication or recreation obligation— but others serve larger communities as well as the Parish as a whole. Many of these facilities offer residents opportunities for both passive and active recreation.

Currently, the parks system includes 50 sites. Of these, 28 sites (56 percent) owned by the Parish and 22 sites (44 percent) are leased from the St. Charles Parish School District, local civic organizations, the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans and private companies. The Parish maintains all the facilities it leases.

The parks inventory includes a variety of facilities and recreation types. The sites also vary greatly in size and character. A record of the complete inventory is provided in Tables 4-7, and shown graphically in Figures 6 and 7.

While the majority of the parkland owned by the Parish has been developed to some extent, four sites are considered undeveloped: the 9-acre Ashton Plantation park site in Luling[3]; the small South Destrehan and Panther Run sites in Destrehan; and a 3-acre site in Montz (Brougere Tract).

3 Under consideration for the development of soccer fields and community-serving facilities.

Table 3: Median Household Income by Planning Community, 2000 and 2008

Community	2000	2008 (Est.)
Ama	$ 41,691	$ 55,191
Bayou Gauche	$ 51,667	$ 72,083
Boutte	$ 27,132	$ 36,210
Des Allemands	$ 27,908	$ 38,939
Destrehan	$ 63,425	$ 84,175
Hahnville	$ 39,405	$ 52,347
Killona	$ 16,659	$ 27,427
Luling	$ 56,114	$ 74,280
Montz	$ 43,388	$ 65,218
New Sarpy	$ 27,679	$ 36,718
Norco	$ 37,270	$ 49,347
Paradis	$ 36,912	$ 49,144
St. Rose	$ 34,704	$ 45,969

Source: US Census, WRT, City-Data.com

In addition to sites and facilities owned or operated by the Parish, there are several important regional and state resources available to the community and its visitors. The Bonnet Carré Spillway–the main function of which is as a safety valve to prevent the Mississippi River from flooding downstream–is a tremendous recreational asset not just for the Parish, but for the entire region, and includes fishing, boat ramps, camping, wildlife viewing opportunities, walking, mountain bike, and ATV trails.

Wetland Watchers Park occupies 28 acres in the LaBranche Wetlands fronting on Lake Pontchartrain, on the eastern edge of the Spillway. The land was donated to the Parish and the civic group Wetland Watchers by the Pontchartrain Levee Board. This recently completed park includes an outdoor classroom, elevated walkways, a fishing pier, a canoe and kayak launch, a nature trail, one large and 7 small pavilions, and parking.

Another important asset are the multi-use paths atop the Mississippi River Levees. The path on the East Bank runs from Jefferson Parish to St. John the Baptist Parish, with construction funded by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD).

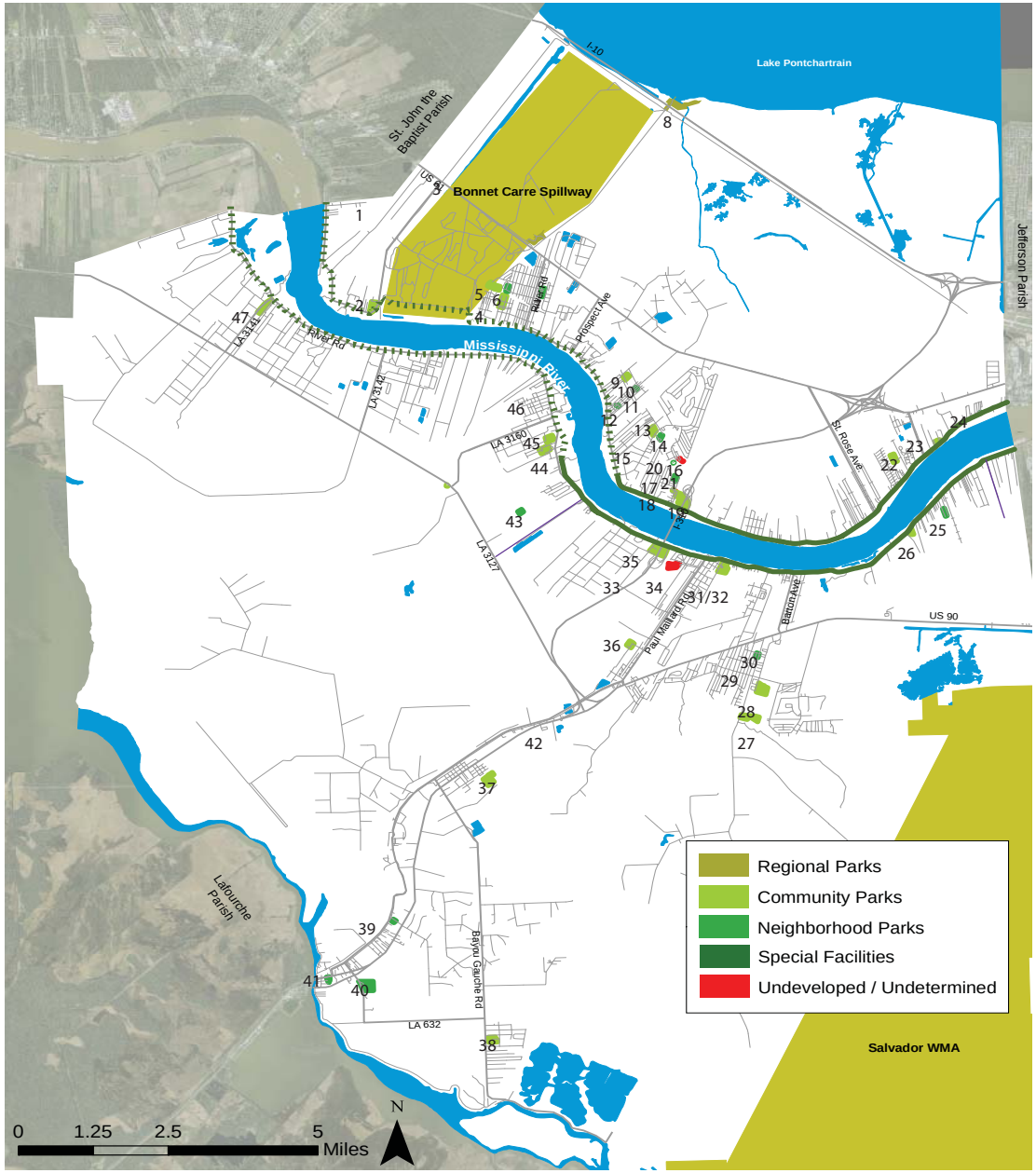


Figure 6: Location of Park and Facility Resources (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, WRT)

1. Montz/Brougere Tract (undev.)
2. Montz Park
3. Bonnet Carré Spillway Park
4. Bethune Park
5. Norco Elementary School
6. Sacred Heart Elementary School
7. 5th & Goodhope Park
8. Wetlands Watcher Park
9. New Sarpy Park
10. East Harding Park (Collins)
11. East Harding Park (Whitehall)
12. West Harding Park
13. Shriner's Field
14. Ormond Community Park
15. Destrehan High School
16. South Destrehan
17. Red Church Park
18. Harry Hurst Middle School
19. East Bank Bridge Park
20. Nottaway Park
21. Panther Run Park
22. Albert Cammon Middle School
23. IMTT Park
24. Fairfield Park
25. St. Mark's Park
26. Ama Grain
27. Rathborne Park
28. Lakewood Elementary School
29. Mimosa Park
30. Lagatutta Field
31. Monsanto Bicentennial Park
32. Monsanto Park
33. RK Smith Middle School
34. Ashton Plantation Parkland (undev.)
35. West Bank Bridge Park
36. Boutte Community Park
37. RJ Vial Elem./JB Martin Middle School
38. Bayou Gauche Park
39. JB Green Park
40. American Legion Field
41. Des Allemands Walking Park
42. Hahnville High School
43. Fashion Plantation Park
44. Eual J. Landry Alt. Programs Center
45. Holy Rosary Park
46. Carver Elementary School
47. Killona Park

Table 4: Parkland Inventory, with Tenure Status (2012)

Map Key	Park	Location	Acreage	Tenure
26	Ama Grain	AMA	3.8	L
25	St. Marks	AMA	2.7	0
38	Bayou Gauche Park	BAYOU GAUCHE	7.3	0
36	Boutte Community Park	BOUTTE	4.0	0
39	JB Green Park	DES ALLEMANDS	1.8	0
40	American Legion Field	DES ALLEMANDS	9.4	L
41	Des Allemands Walking Park	DES ALLEMANDS	1.8	0
13	Shriners Field	DESTREHAN	5.0	L
14	Ormond Community Park	DESTREHAN	5.1	0
15	Destrehan High School	DESTREHAN	5.0	L
16	South Destrehan	DESTREHAN	0.6	0
17	Red Church Park	DESTREHAN	2.7	0
18	Harry Hurst Middle School	DESTREHAN	8.1	L
19	East Bank Bridge Park	DESTREHAN	11.5	L
20	Nottaway Park	DESTREHAN	0.2	0
21	Panther Run Park	DESTREHAN	0.9	0
42	Hahnville High School	HAHNVILLE	6.0	L
43	Fashion Plantation Park	HAHNVILLE	2.9	0
44	Eual J. Landry Middle School	HAHNVILLE	8.6	L
45	Holy Rosary Park	HAHNVILLE	7.3	L
46	Carver Elementary School	HAHNVILLE	5.5	L
47	Killona Park	KILLONA	7.3	0
27	Rathborne Park	LULING	12.0	0
28	Lakewood Elementary Park	LULING	15.5	L
29	Mimosa Elementary	LULING	0.5	L
30	Lagattuta Field	LULING	2.2	0
31	Monsanto Bi-centennial Park	LULING	4.6	0
32	Monsanto Park	LULING	9.1	0
33	R K Smith Middle School	LULING	4.2	L
34	Ashton Plantation	LULING	9.0	0
35	West Bank Bridge Park	LULING	28.7	L
1	Montz/Brougere Tract	MONTZ	3.2	0
2	Montz Park	MONTZ	11.7	0
9	New Sarpy Park	NEW SARPY	4.1	0
10	East Harding Park (Collins Park)	NEW SARPY	0.4	0
11	East Harding Park (Whitehall)	NEW SARPY	0.7	0
12	West Harding Park	NEW SARPY	0.8	0
3	Bonnet Carre Spillway	NORCO	23.1	L
4	Bethune Park	NORCO	11.3	0
5	Norco Elementary School	NORCO	11.1	L
6	Sacred Heart Elementary School	NORCO	3.1	L
7	5th and Goodhope Park	NORCO	3.6	0
8	Wetland Watchers Park	NORCO	28.3	0
37	RJ Vial Elem/JB Martin Middle School	PARADIS	13.6	L
22	Albert Cammon Middle School	ST. ROSE	2.7	L
23	IMMT Park	ST. ROSE	3.9	L
24	Fairfield Playground	ST. ROSE	1.3	0
		Subtotal Land Leased (L)	**176.6**	
		Subtotal Land Owned (0)	**139.7**	
	TOTAL PARKLAND	**50**	**316.2**	

Table 5: Boat and Canoe/Kayak Access Sites, with Tenure Status (2012)

Map Key	Facility	Location	Acreage	Tenure
A	Bonnet Carre Spillway (Upper Levee G	NORCO	0.3	L
B	Bonnet Carre Spillway (Lower Levee G	NORCO	**	L
C	East Guide Levee	NORCO	3.1	L
D	Wetland Watchers Park	NORCO	**	L
E	Hahnville Boat Launch	HAHNVILLE	0.2	L
F	Paradis Boat Launch	PARADIS	0.4	L
G	Des Allemands Boat Launch	DES ALLEMANDS	0.2	0

* Canoe/kayak launch

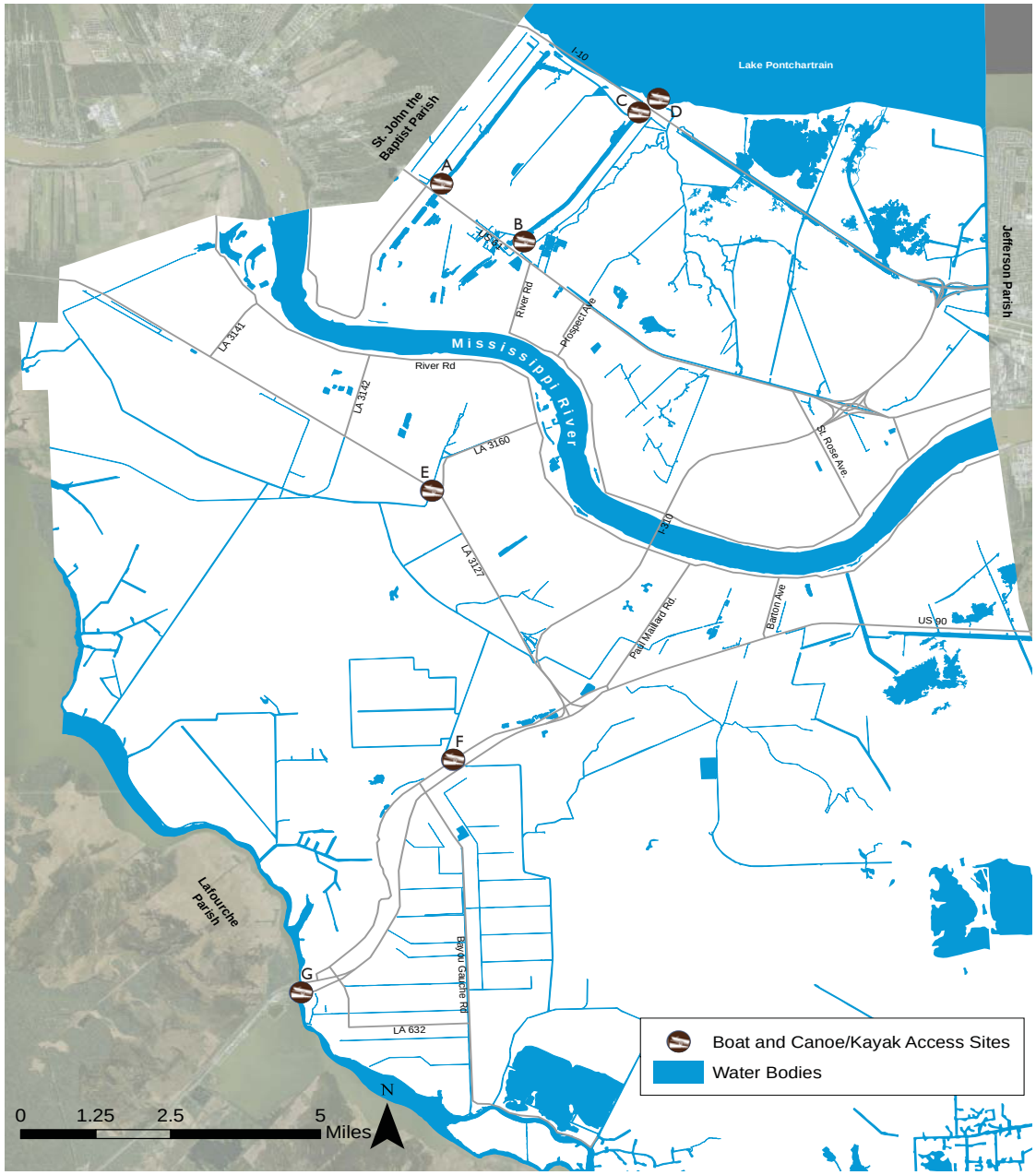
** Included in other park acreage. See Table 8.

Table 6: Regional Trails (2012)

Map Key	Facility	Location	Length
EBP	East Bank Multi-Use Path	PARISHWIDE	15.18 mi.
WBP	West Bank Multi-Use Path	PARISHWIDE	10.61 mi.
		TOTAL LINEAR MILES	**25.79 mi.**

Note: L = leased; O = owned

Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department, WRT



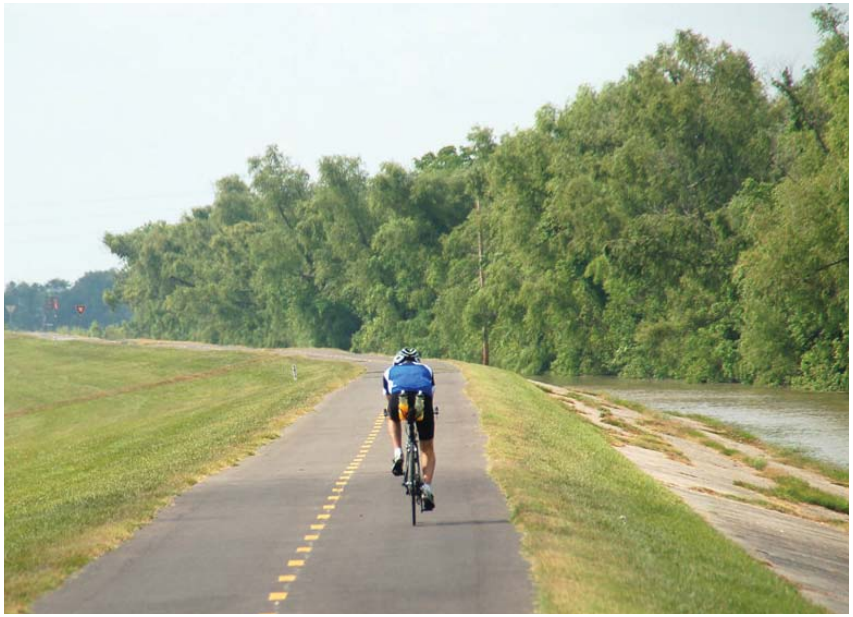
A. Bonnet Carre Spillway Boat Launch (Upper Levee Guide)
B. Bonnet Carre Spillway Boat Launch (Lower Levee Guide)
C. East Levee Guide Boat Launch
D. Wetland Watchers Park (Canoe/Kayak Launch)
E. Hahnville Boat Launch
F. Paradis Boat launch
G. Des Allemands Boat Launch

Figure 7: Water Access Points (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, WRT)

Table 7: Facilities Inventory (2012)

Map Key	Park	# of Baseball Fields	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Multi-Purpose Fields	Basketball Gym	Outdoor Basketball Court	Covered Basketball Court	Boating / Fishing	Camping	Lighted Fields	Restrooms	Port-o-lets	Concession Stands	Batting Cages	Playground Equipment	Picnic Table	Pavillion	Volleyball Court	Tennis Court	Walking/Hiking Trails	Biking/ATV Trails	Equestrian Trails	Remote Car Track
26	Ama Grain	1					1				1	x	x	1	1			1						
25	St. Marks	1			1								x			1	2	2						
38	Bayou Gauche Park	1			1								x			1	3	2			.4 Miles			
36	Boutte Community Park	1				x	1					x			1	1	3	3						
39	JB Green Park	1					1						x											
40	American Legion Field	10			2						1	x	x	1	3	1	3	1						
41	Des Allemands Walking Park												x								.153 Miles			
13	Shriners Field			2							2		x											
14	Ormond Community Park	4									4	x		1	3	1	2	2						
15	Destrehan High School	2	1			2					1	x		1										
16	South Destrehan																							
17	Red Church Park	1											x			1	1	1						
18	Harry Hurst Middle School	4	1			1	2				1	x	x	1										
19	East Bank Bridge Park	2					1				2	x		1	2	1	9	6	1	2	.45 Miles			x
20	Nottaway Park															1								
21	Panther Run Park																							
42	Hahnville High School	2	1	1		2					1	x		1	2									
43	Fashion Plantation Park				1								x			1	2							
44	Eual J. Landry Middle School		1			1	2				1	x		1		1	2	1						
45	Holy Rosary Park	3			1								x		1									
46	Carver Elementary School					1																		
47	Killona Park	2			1		2					x		1	1	1	6	5						
27	Rathborne Park	1					1					x				1	1		1		.84 Miles			
28	Lakewood Elementary Park	7		x	1	1	2					x			3	1								
29	Mimosa Elementary				1			2								1								
30	Lagattuta Field	2			1								x											
31	Monsanto Bi-centennial Park				1							x				1	3	3		4				
32	Monsanto Park	2			1						1	x		1	1		1	1	1					
33	R K Smith Middle School	2	1			1	3																	
34	Ashton Plantation																							
35	West Bank Bridge Park	6			2						5	x		2	5	1	10	7	1	2	.86 Miles			
1	Montz/Brougere Tract																							
2	Montz Park	2			1		2						x		1	1	2	3			.28 miles			
9	New Sarpy Park	1						2			1	x		1		1	4	3						
10	East Harding Park (Collins Park)											x				1								
11	East Harding Park (Whitehall)						1						x					1						
12	West Harding Park				1											1	1	1						
3	Bonnet Carre Spillway								x	x		x	x			1	4	1			6.0 miles	x	x	
4	Bethune Park	2			1		2				1	x	x			1	2	3						
5	Norco Elementary School	7						2			1	x		1	2	1								
6	Sacred Heart Elementary School	2				1										1								
7	5th and Goodhope Park											x				1	8	3			.3 Miles			
8	Wetland Watchers Park								x	x			x				8	8						
37	RJ Vial Elem/JB Martin Middle School	1		10	1	1		2			2	x	x											
22	Albert Cammon Middle School	1	1		1	1																		
23	IMMT Park	3			1						2	x		1	2	1	3							
24	Fairfield Playground															1								
		74	**6**	**13**	**20**	**12**	**21**	**8**		**2**	**27**			**15**	**28**	**27**	**80**	**58**	**4**	**8**	**0**			

Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department, WRT



St. Charles Parish provides a wide variety of recreational facilities and opportunities.

Table 7: Facilities Inventory (Continued)

Map Key	Facility	Launches
A	Bonnet Carre Spillway (Upper Levee Guide)	1
B	Bonnet Carre Spillway (Lower Levee Guide)	1
C	East Guide Levee	1
D	Wetland Watchers Park	1*
E	Hahnville Boat Launch	1
F	Paradis Boat Launch	1
G	Des Allemands Boat Launch	1

* Canoe/kayak launch

** These facilities part of other park acreage

Map Key	Facility
EBP	East Bank Multi-Use Path
WBP	West Bank Multi-Use Path

Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department

On the West Bank, the Parish and LA DOTD have completed a 10.7 mile stretch of path, extending from Elm Street to the Jefferson Parish line. The Parish continues to seek grant funding to complete the remaining segments (from Elm Street to Killona on the West Bank).

Ultimately, the path will span from East Baton Rouge to Audubon Park in New Orleans. The trail (originally part of a plan for trails all the way around Lake Pontchartrain) accommodates walkers, in-line skaters and joggers in addition to bicyclists.

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department manages six boat launches throughout the Parish (refer to Table 7 above and Figure 7). One of the locations (Des Allemands) is owned by the Parish. The rest of them are leased but maintained by the Parish, including three from the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Bonnet Carré Spillway, as well as a canoe and kayak launch at Wetland Watchers Park. Long-term plans continue for the development of additional boat launches.

Although the Department steadily continues to improve and expand boat access, input received at the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Visioning Forums in 2009, indicate a strong-held general perception among the public that the number and location of boat launch facilities in the Parish is inadequate and that those that exist lack adequate parking and other amenities.

Although this perception is accurate on a location-by-location basis, acceptable level of service standards for number of boat ramp lanes (with adequate parking) vary widely across the country, ranging between 1 per 5,000 and 1 per 40,000 people, with such standards typically based on seasonal population.

St. Charles Parish likely falls in the middle of that range. However, boat registration and visitor usage data should be collected and used to measure true demand. In the meantime, parking shortages in particular, as well as other amenity deficiencies, need to be addressed as soon as possible to provide relief.

While the Parish is working to expand and improve boat access, the general public perception is that the number, location, and quality of boat launch facilities is inadequate.

2.3 Recreation Programs

The Department of Parks and Recreation exists to provide recreation programs, activities, parks, and facilities for all Parish citizens. Programs currently available to residents, by user group, include:

Youth Activities

- Football
- Basketball
- Baseball
- All Stars
- Fall Baseball
- Soccer
- Cheerleading
- Softball
- T-Ball (Boys & Girls)
- Summer Camp
- Volleyball
- Track, Picnics, etc.

Adult Activities

- Basketball
- Independent and Industrial Softball Leagues
- Women Softball
- Radio control Racetrack
- Picnics
- Multi-use Track at East and West Bank Levee
- Walking Track

Senior Citizen Activities

- Bowling
- Softball
- Senior Olympics
- Arts & Crafts
- Game Sporting Activities
- Mardi Gras Ball
- Fishing Rodeo
- Horseshoes
- Sketching & Oil Painting Classes
- Casino Trips
- Field Trips

Special Athletes Activities

- Softball
- T-Ball
- Volleyball
- Track & Field
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Swimming
- Picnics
- Challenger Program
- Shooting Stars

While attendance records do not exist for all parks programs, 2009 participation figures (Table 8) indicate the most highly attended programs are youth baseball, youth football, soccer (ages 4-19), and summer camp.

These figures indicate that over the past five years the general trend is toward consolidation in the number of teams in some activities, with general increases in the levels of participation in girls' and women's softball, men's softball, boys' basketball, girls' volleyball and boys' football.

In recent years, the Parish has placed particular emphasis on expanding its program offerings, particularly of special athletics for youth and activities geared towards older adults. The special athletics program encourages young people with physical and intellectual disabilities to stay physically fit and socially active. The older adults activities include both active (health and fitness, sports and athletics) and passive recreation (creative outlet classes), as well as group outings for socialization.

Special Events

The Department of Parks and Recreation hosts several special events each year which attract residents throughout the Parish and visitors from the surrounding areas. Events include: the Alligator Festival, Battle of the Paddle, Christmas Tree Lighting, 5K Bridge Run, etc. Special events are typically a joint effort between the Parish and non-profit organizations.

Table 8: Programs and Participation, 2004-2009

Sport	2004 Teams	2004 Participants	2006 Teams	2006 Participants	2007 Teams	2007 Participants	2008 Teams	2008 Participants	2009 Teams	2009 Participants
Baseball boys youth (incl. T-ball)	134	1,742	119	1,665	119	1,665	114	1,487	112	1,464
Softball girls youth	41	533	45	630	45	630	41	538	44	572
Fall baseball	12	145	12	166	11	144	13	154	12	183
Softball adult industrial	12	227	10	152	10	152	12	160	12	195
Softball adult independent	7	100	8	120	8	120	11	165	9	142
Softball adult women	8	145	10	155	10	155	9	135	9	139
Basketball boys youth	60	600	112	1,344	203	1,043	105	1,062	-	-
Basketball girls youth	12	120	17	207	28	207	24	242	-	-
Basketball adult industrial	11	165	10	148	20	148	11	165	16	
Football youth	21	657	21	646	32	646	31	732	40	
Football - flag adult	10	150	10	143	20	143	15	224	*	*
Cheerleading	EST.	315	EST.	285	8	285	9	250	10	250
Soccer ages 4-19		1,000		1,100		est. 1100		est. 1000		est. 900
Track		115	EST.	125	1	98	1	98		80
Senior Olympics		750		815		815		1,000		950
Special Olympics		350		330		330		250		250
Summer camp		115		150	2 camps	150	3 camps	352	4 camps	459
Park rentals/Clean up	30		43			47		-		
Spillway camping permit (no charge)	138		150			158		-		
Fast pitch (new league) women							6	108	*	*
Volleyball league girls							7	40	18	180
Challenger T-ball							2	75	2	75
Shooting Stars							2	75	2	75

Notes:
- Information not available
* Program/Sport eliminated

Source: Parks and Recreation Department

2.4 Other Resources

Federal and State Facilities

There are several significant federal and state-owned recreational facilities within the Parish boundaries. These serve as regional recreational attractions, and are tremendous assets to the Parish.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway, owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), comprises over 7,700 acres. The Spillway is located on the East Bank of the Mississippi, and extends from river to Lake Pontchartrain. Although the primary function of the Spillway is flood control, the site is extensively used for recreation. The USACOE has reported in the past that visitation may well exceed 500,000 annually.

In 2009, the USACOE completed an update of the existing master plan for the Spillway, which includes expanded recreational use of the spillway for horseback riding, ATVs, bird watching and wildlife viewing and photography, etc. (Figure 8).

The Salvador and Timken Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) cover much of the southeastern part of the Parish, generally north and west of Lake Salvador and Lake Cataouatche, and include approximately 33,000 acres combined. These WMAs are operated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and provide an abundance of sport fishing opportunities (commercial fishing is prohibited).

Physical Resources

Parks are only one facet of the recreation puzzle. The Parish has vast extensions of privately-owned, managed (farmland) and environmentally sensitive lands (wetlands) and other open space resources. While these are not generally open for public use, they are nevertheless part of the Parish's open space system.

Open space, in any form, protects the water supply, lessens flood hazards, promotes diversity of plants and wildlife, and preserves an interconnected system of natural and cultural resources. Understanding the key elements of the Parish's natural setting serves as the basis for identifying lands that may in the future need to be targeted for conservation or enhanced for recreation in partnership with a landowner and/or governmental partners at the local, state, and federal levels.

Hydrological System and Features

Covering 31 percent of the Parish, the presence of water is one of the Parish's most significant natural features. Major bodies of water include the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Salvador, and Lake Cataouatche.

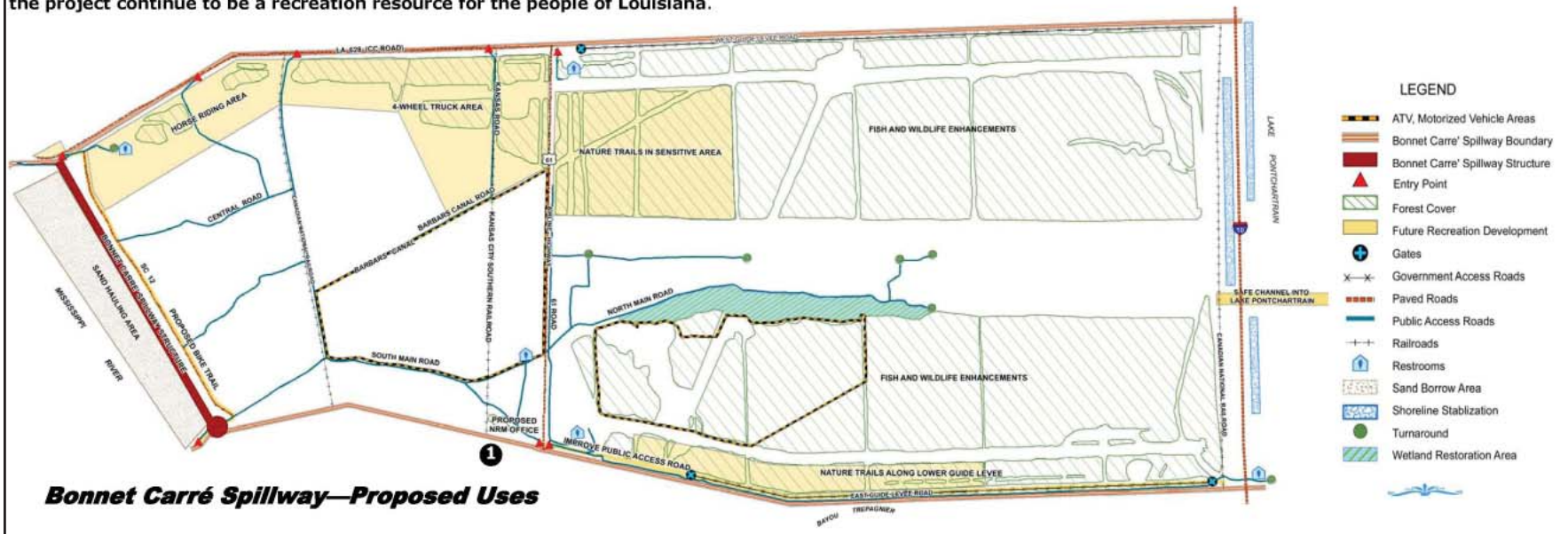
The Parish is also dotted by smaller ponds and lakes, and criss-crossed by numerous natural and man-made water channels (bayous) and canals (Figure 9). These canals were built primarily for utilitarian purposes (providing stormwater runoff control, or access to and material for levee construction), but they also provide unparalleled opportunities for boating and angling.

The Mississippi River bisects the Parish. Historically, the river has been (and continues to be) crucial to the region's economy as a transportation corridor and a scenic and recreational amenity. Levees constructed on both banks reflect the Parish's historic vulnerability to flooding associated with the Mississippi, but today they also represent a tremendous recreational opportunity for the ongoing construction of a regional multi-use path system.

Lake Pontchartrain, the second-largest brackish lake in the United States, borders the Parish's northern boundary. Fresh water mixes with Gulf waters to create a shallow estuary that supports a diverse habitat of forest, swamps, marshes, and bayous. The lake is a major stormwater drainage basin for the East Bank, provides recreational opportunities, and supports a diverse habitat for fish and wildlife.

Lakes Cataouatche and Salvador, located in the southeastern corner of the Parish, provide recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing. Partially located in both St. Charles and Jefferson Parishes, Lake Cataouatche is increasingly popular among bass fishers and provides opportunities for fishing, boating, bird watching, camping, and hiking. Lake Cataouatche connects to Lake Salvador via Bayou Couba and

In 1998, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District developed the first Bonnet Carré Spillway Master Plan which included extensive involvement and input from the Bonnet Carré Citizen's Advisory Board Committee. The Corps is updating the project's master plan to facilitate further improvements that will help the project continue to be a recreation resource for the people of Louisiana.



Recommended improvements to the Bonnet Carré Spillway include:

(1) New Administration Building for Park Ranger Staff and Visitor Information - The project would advance the natural resources management program by constructing a new administrative building – one that will improve the effectiveness of the project staff and will also better serve the visiting public.

(2) Improved Restroom Facilities - At present, restroom facilities at the project consist of portable restrooms at numerous sites around the project. These basic facilities should be replaced with vault restrooms at strategic locations of high visitor use and access.

(3) Project Road and Access Plan - A reliable road network is essential for project maintenance, surveillance of project resources and control of public activities. Public use of the project's roadways is incidental to the purpose of the roads but provides valuable recreational benefits. The master plan recommends instituting some controls over vehicular access into project lands.

(4) Sand Hauling Permit Program - The informal annual permitting program will be replaced with a real estate leasing program that awards sand excavation and hauling privileges through an open and competitive process. The leasing program will employ reasonable lease conditions that are designed to set high standards for the sand mining activities.

(5) Vegetation Management Plan - An overall vegetation management plan should be developed to balance the various needs of the project.

(6) Management of Clay Borrow Activities - With the increase in clay borrow activity at the project in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season, the project staff must remain involved in planning for clay borrow sites at the spillway.

(7) Outreach Program - The project has been effective in educating project visitors on the rules and regulations in force at the project. Efforts in the areas of water safety education, telling the project story, and environmental education will be enhanced.

(8) Landscape Improvements - Project aesthetics have benefited greatly from implementation of the natural resources management program. Illegal trash dumping has been greatly reduced and responses to eyesores in the project's landscape have been a priority, there are still opportunities to improve portions of the project's landscape.

(9) Limited Expansion of ATV Use - The limited allowance of ATV use outside the designated riding areas should be continued for special purposes and people with disabilities. Management should include the use of special use permits to ensure appropriate control, limitations on speed and access areas, and require safety equipment for riders.

Figure 8: Bonnet Carré Spillway Master Plan (Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, 2009 Master Plan brochure)

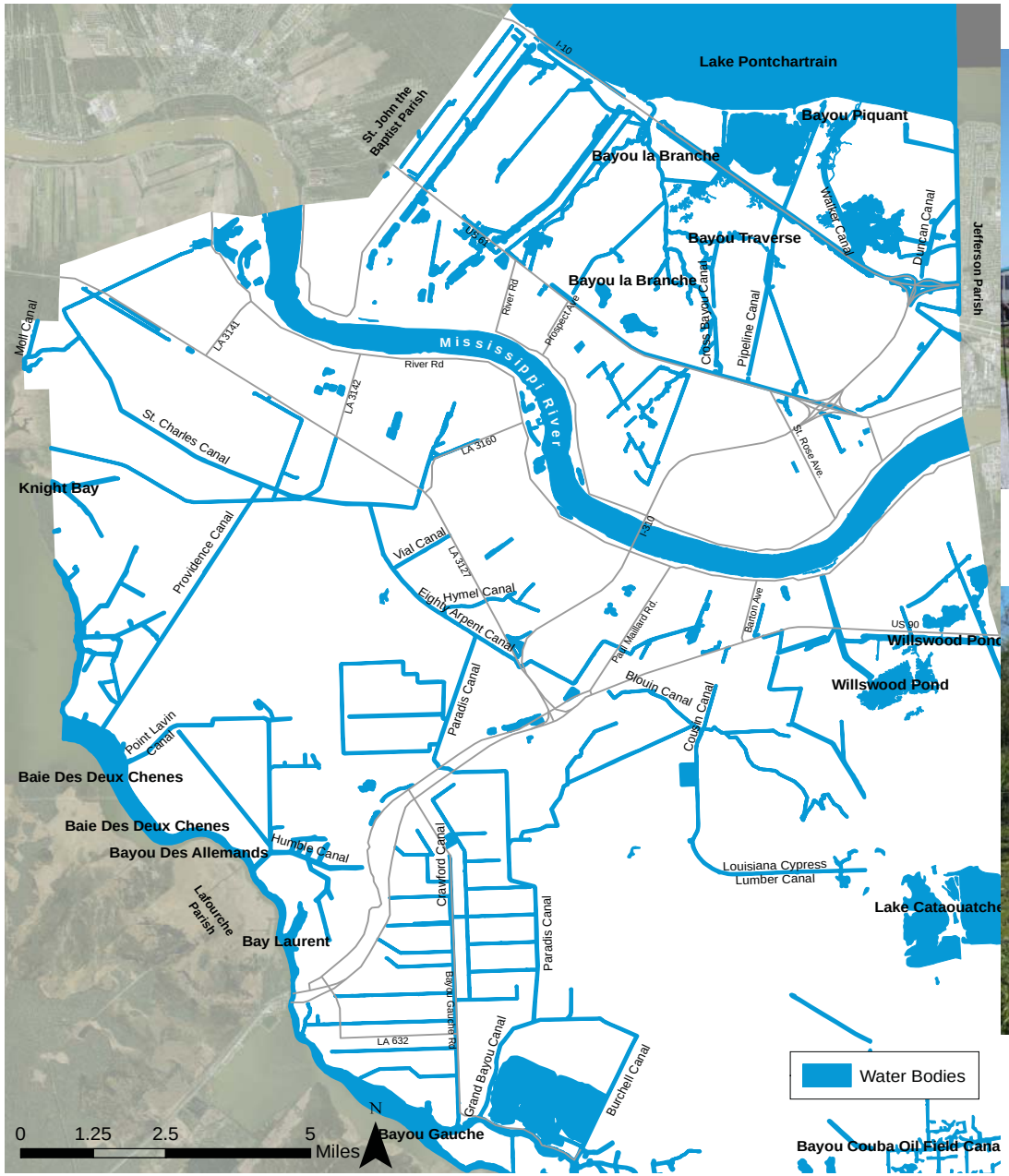


Figure 9: Hydrological System and Features (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS)

Bayou Bardeaux. Lake Salvador is bordered on the northwest by the Salvador Wildlife Management Area. The lake is popular among recreational fishers because it supports an abundance of freshwater aquatic life such as bass, bream, crappie, and garfish.

Wetlands

Federal agencies, states, and scientists vary in the way in which they define wetlands. Generally, wetlands are lands on which water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year.

Wetlands encompass 49 percent of the Parish (Figure 10). Three major types of wetlands can be found there: forested wetland communities, which are subject to occasional flooding by tides and include a variety of hardwoods; shrub/scrub swamp communities, which hold water and have woody vegetation such as Cypress and Tupelo-gum; and marsh communities, which can hold freshwater, brackish water, or saltwater and each serves as habitat for a diversity of plant and animal species.

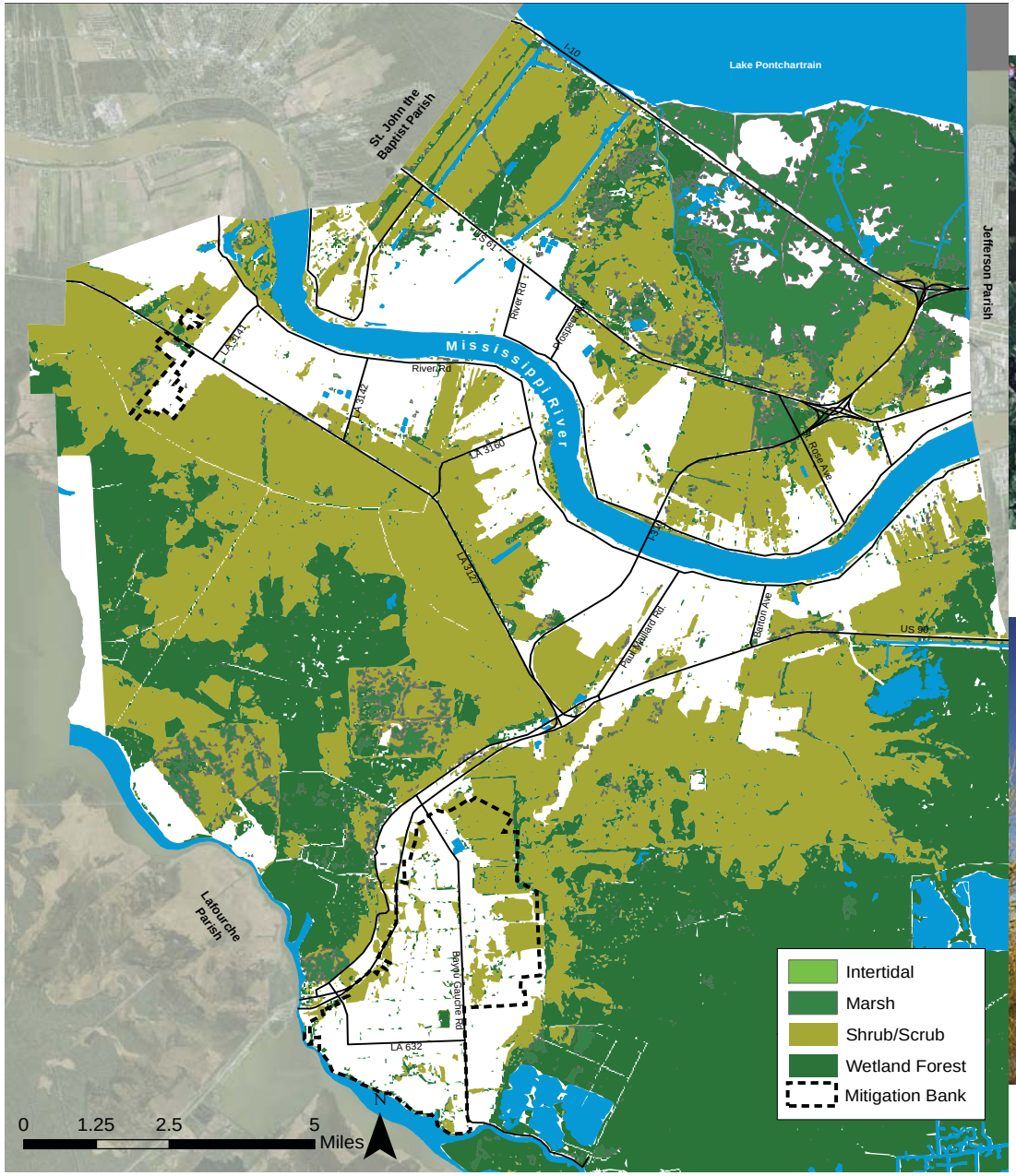
While wetlands can be a constraint to development (due to construction considerations, as well as the regulatory restrictions posed by federal jurisdiction), they are critical to the health of the Parish's ecosystems, reducing coastal land loss, protecting developed areas, and providing important habitat.

Wetlands provide wildlife habitat and nursery grounds for aquatic life communities year round. Groundwater discharge through wetlands can enhance these communities in downstream areas. At the intersection of the Mississippi River and Central flyways, St. Charles Parish wetlands also provide important habitat for large populations of migrating birds. Many species of endangered and threatened plants and animals are found in wetland areas.

Wetlands provide educational and scientific research opportunities due to their unique combination of terrestrial and aquatic life and physical/chemical processes. St. Charles Parish has some of the most functional and scenic wetlands in the region, but the area offers comparatively limited access to allow people to enjoy them.

Despite the abundance of water resources in the St. Charles Parish in the form of lakes and ponds, bayous, streams, and canals, public access to the water is perceived by many residents to be limited. The Parks and Recreation Department operates six boat launches throughout the Parish.

The new Wetland Watchers Park features a boardwalk and nature trail, wetlands overlooks, and outdoor classrooms.



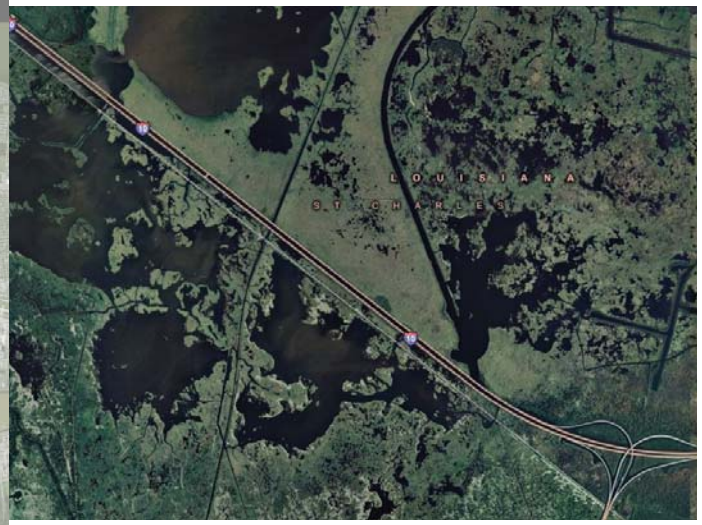


Figure 10: Wetlands (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS)

The new Wetland Watchers Park, on which the Parish collaborated with the LaBranche Wetland Watcher service-learning project, is starting to rectify this situation, providing unique access to the LaBranche Wetlands through an elevated boardwalk, overlooks, and two outdoor classrooms, as well as a fishing jetty and ADA compliant fishing pier. The LaBranche Wetlands comprise approximately 20,000 acres of privately owned, mostly cypress swamp, intermediate marsh and shallow open water ponds.

Wetlands also present numerous benefits as they filter pollution, control erosion, store water during high rainfall and release the water slowly during low rainfall, provide a buffer zone during storms, and absorb waters from storm surges.

Cultural and Historical Resources

St. Charles Parish has a long, rich, and interesting history. The community possesses a diversity of historic structures and sites, although most of them are in private ownership (Figure 11). Identifying existing historical and cultural resources as a potential part of the Parish's overall recreational system recognizes the value of these resources to the community's economic development and quality of life. Parks and cultural resources can emphasize and enhance one another to create a series of distinct user experiences throughout the Parish. The integration and connection of these resources establishes a parks system providing diverse recreational opportunities and experiences.

National Register of Historic Places Listings

Cultural resources are destinations reflecting St. Charles Parish's distinct character. Within the Parish there are six structures currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historically and culturally significant, these sites may be integrated into the city's park systems.

- Ormond Plantation House at 13786 River Road in Destrehan, dating from approximately 1787, was listed on the National Register on November 8, 1990. Currently, Ormond Plantation hosts the German Coast Farmer's Market, functions as a bed and breakfast, provides tours and hosts private events.
- LaBranche Plantation Dependency is located at 11244 River Road in St. Rose. Added to the National Register on October 18, 1974, this site includes historic tours.
- Destrehan Plantation is located at 13034 River Road in Destrehan, and has been listed on the National Register since March 20, 1973. Tours, festivals and private events are offered. The site's historic significance is largely derived from hosting the St. Charles Parish Tribunal, in which 18 slaves were executed for their involvement in the 1811 German Coast Uprising, the largest slave revolt in American history.
- The Dorvin Home, on River Road northwest of Hahnville, was built in the 1840s. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 1990 based on its architectural significance. It originally stood about 50 feet from River Road on property immediately adjacent to its present site. However, it was relocated by a few hundred feet in the 1970s after it was purchased by Shell Chemical. This was done by the Mollere family, which has given the structure its alternative name, the Mollere House. The structure is an example of the transitional houses of Louisiana after American architectural styles began to influence the French traditions. Specifically, it combines features from the French Creole and American Federal and Greek Revival styles.
- Homeplace Plantation House (also known as Keller Plantation) has been on the National Historic Register since April 15, 1970. It is located on River Road in Hahnville, and was erected between 1787 and 1791. It is considered an excellent example of a French Colonial, two-story, raised cottage. The house suffered considerable damage from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and is unoccupied.
- The Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries Archeological District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 18, 1984, consists of two discontiguous, but historically associated, Black burial plots in Norco, dating from the early 1800s to 1929. According to oral histories, both cemeteries were dedicated burial plots on the back side of their respective plantations. At present the sites are

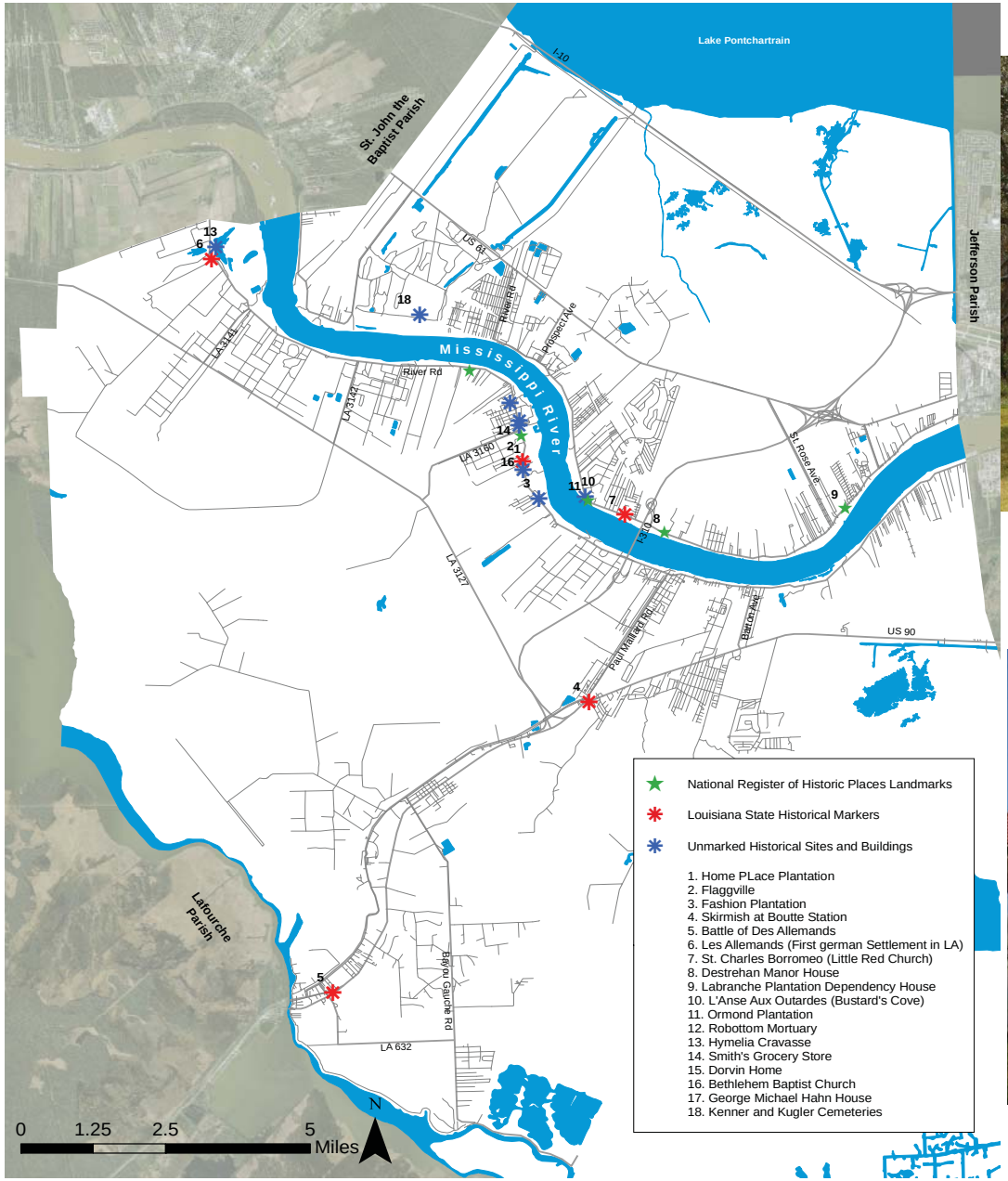


Figure 11: Historic Resources (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, St. Charles Parish Planning Department, WRT)

indistinguishable from the surrounding landscape. This is due to the extensive landscape modification that has taken place since construction of the Bonnet Carre Spillway. The site areas have been subjected to scour and sediment deposition during several spillway openings and extensive sand dredging after such openings. Both sites were partially damaged during trench excavations in 1975. However, the 1986 archeological research revealed that both retain a high degree of archeological integrity.

In addition to these National Register sites, the following locations are, or at one time were, posted with state historical markers:

Battle of Des Allemands

General Location: Des Allemands, Highway 90;

Description: "Le district des Allemands, settled by Germans about 1720, the scene of numerous skirmish resulted in capture of an entire detachment of Union soldiers on September 4, 1862."

Fashion Plantation

General Location: Hahnville, Highway 18;

Description: "Home of General Richard Taylor, son of Zachary Taylor, Louisiana Statesman, and member of 1861 Secession Convetion. Commanded Louisiana district, 1862-64; defeated Banks at battle of Mansfield, 1864. Federals plundered home in 1862."

Flagville

General Location: Hahnville, Highway 18;

Description: "Named for O.J. Flagg, 1870. Now a part of Hahnville. Letter left here by Tonti, 1686 with Quinipissi Chief for LaSalle. Taensa Village, 1713. De Meuve, French Concession, 1718. Site included grant to Joseph Roi De Villere, 1765."

Destrehan Manor House

General Location: Destrehan, 9999 River Road;

Description: "Constructed 1789-1790 for Robert de Logny. Inherited by Jean Noel d'Estrehan 1800. Bought from hiers of Pierre A. Rost in 1914 by Mexican Petroleum Co. Donated 1972 to River Road Historical Society by American Oil Co."

Les Allemands

General Location: Killona, five miles above Hahnville on the West Bank of the Mississippi River;

Description: "Akanca Indian land prior Karlstein. Site of first German villages 1719-1722 and St. Jean des Allemands Chapel. Settlers joined in 1768 revolt against Spain. Leaders, Chevalier Karl d'Arensbourg and Captain Joseph Roi de Villere who was first martyr in 1769."

Also, there are a number of historic buildings and sites that remain unmarked, including the following:

- Bustard's Cove;
- Robottom Mortary;
- Smith's Grocery Store;
- Timber Mill on Bayou Gauche;
- Timber Mill on Counsin's Canal;
- Michael Hahn House;
- Bethlehem Baptist Church; and,
- Hymelia Crevasse.

There have been recent efforts to recognize the Parish's past. In October 2009, the Parish dedicated a monument at the East Bank Bridge Park to the 77 victims of the Luling Ferry Crash in 1976. The new St. Charles Museum, which recounts the history of the petroleum industry in the Parish, opened on October 28, 2009 on the site of the Destrehan Plantation House.

The lack of local historic designations and preservation programs places the integrity and continued existence of historically and architecturally significant features throughout the Parish at risk. Protocols need to be established to support and promote the protection and continued existence of these resources. Creating direct or indirect linkages through partner-

ships between Parish parks and the managing entities of these historic resources may be one way to protect these resources, while expanding the range of recreational opportunities available to both residents and visitors.

2.5 Classification System and Standards

A useful way to look at parks is to categorize them according to specific characteristics. Recognizing the similarities and differences between various facilities establishes the basis for a system-wide assessment, and for the creation of associated standards for planning purposes.

Park typologies can be based on location, service area (e.g., distance or population density), use or function, the socioeconomic character of the surrounding neighborhood (e.g., age distribution or income levels), or other criteria. Often, a community uses a combination of a several of these factors in establishing its own taxonomy and hierarchy.

The Parish has never used any categorization system or hierarchization of park typologies. This is not uncommon in smaller or rural communities, which often do not have a need to establish levels of service until they reach a certain threshold of population and/or urbanization, or until they face service provision challenges from unplanned growth.

Although the Parish is not facing significant growth pressures now or in the projected future, it will see changes in its demographic composition over the next two decades, which have potentially significant implications for the provision of recreational facilities and services.

In addition, the Parish government seeks to rationalize needs and priorities for the provision, operation, and maintenance of parks, recreational facilities, and recreational programs and activities, as well as its budget expenditure on these activities.

For these reasons, a simple system of park typologies is proposed as a starting point to assess deficiencies and needs, and to develop appropriate level of services standards to use in the master plan. The proposed typologies are based on characteristics of facility function and service area (distance from population served). The resulting hierarchy will also take into consideration facility tenure (i.e., owned versus leased), location, and to some extent the income levels of communities served by each facility, to address issues of accessibility.

The proposed classifications include:

- Regional/Conservation Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Special Facilities

Following are general descriptions of each one of these typologies, with examples of level of service (LOS) guidelines provided by two national organizations: the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

The ratios that the Parish ultimately adopts for future park facilities planning should be aspirational, but also appropriate for the particular characteristics of the Parish, and reasonable for the resources that its government may be able to devote in terms of funding, staff, etc.

2.5.1 Regional Parks/Open Space Natural Areas

Regional parks are major destination parks that attract visitors from throughout a community and beyond its boundaries. They provide a balance of active and passive spaces and activities, and can incorporate special event facilities

Typical features and activities found in regional parks include but are not limited to:

- Nature centers
- Interpretive or education center
- Interpretive/education trails

- Unique or rare ecosystems
- Habitat viewing
- Historic or cultural features
- Picnic, camping, fishing or boating (where water access exists)
- Limited active recreation such as hiking or biking.

NRPA recommends regional parks be provided at an average of 10 acres per 1,000 people served. ULI, on the other hand, recommends 15 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 of population. However, in communities across the nation, the standard for regional parks varies from 5-20 or more acres per 1,000 persons, and sometimes includes a minimum acreage standard for this type of facility (e.g., 100-250 acres).

The typical population served by a regional park also has a wide range between 50,000 and 100,000+ persons. The service area of a regional park varies between 8 miles and 20 miles or more, but depending on the park's uniqueness, its service area may exceed one hour driving time.

Similar in size and service area, natural areas are important features of the park system and are created and managed by either local, state, or federal entities, often in collaboration, as a way of protecting important natural resources.

In St. Charles Parish, there are two natural areas that serve as open space parks, with regional park functions and facilities: the Salvador/Timken Wildlife Management Areas and the Bonnet Carré Spillway. While the primary purpose of these facilities is not recreation, both provide significant recreational opportunities and attract visitors from around the region and beyond.

Two other facilities classified as regional in function–the Spillway Park (Front/Levee Guide) and the Wetland Watchers Park–are actually smaller Parish park sites that are located within the overall boundaries of the Spillway, and therefore have similar functional and visitation characteristics.

2.5.2 Community Parks

Community parks provide extensive facilities accommodating large numbers of persons in all age groups. Although community parks usually serve residents within a planning community, these facilities often attract users from beyond that area's boundaries. Typical community park facilities may include:

- Sports fields
- Basketball, tennis, or volleyball courts
- Open play fields
- Playgrounds
- Running Tracks
- Walking Trails
- Picnic Areas

Community parks typically require large land areas to accommodate the extensive facilities provided, including parking. A desirable land area for a community park ranges from 5-50 acres. The NRPA recommends five to eight acres per 1,000 people served. Similarly, ULI recommends 5.5 acres of community parks per 1,000 persons. In some communities, the ratio can be lower, about 3 acres per 1,000 persons.

Community parks have a 1/2-mile to 3-mile service radius around the park but, depending on the range of facilities provided, their service area may extend across an entire city or county. In St. Charles Parish, many of the facilities classified as community parks are actually athletic/sports facilities located in Parish schools, the use of which the Parish government has secured through a lease or interlocal agreement with the School District. Therefore, there may be conditions and limitations to the use of these facilities.

Adequate levels of access by a variety of transportation modes are important. Although these parks are typically accessed by vehicle, visitors from within the community should be able to choose to bike or, if close enough, to walk to these facilities.

2.5.3 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve the immediate recreational needs of residents within a particular neighborhood. In addition to ball fields and play equipment, neighborhood parks typically provide recreational opportunities for children and open space for spontaneous activities. Neighborhood parks typically feature:

- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Walking trails
- Basketball, tennis or volleyball courts
- Open play fields
- Practice or limited sports fields

Neighborhood parks require less land than community parks (typically 1-5 acres) because of the smaller populations they serve (500 to 1,000 persons), as well as the fact that they are mostly accessed on foot or by bicycle, with a service radius of 1/4- to 1/2 mile. For this reason, safety should be a key consideration in the design of linkages to neighborhood parks. The NRPA advises 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 people, whereas ULI recommends 5 acres per 1,000 people.

2.5.4 Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities are those that do not fit neatly into one of the other categories. They often accommodate unique social, cultural, educational, and physical activities of particular interest to the entire community, and which may go beyond the conventional definition of "recreation."

The land area, population served, and service area of such facilities may vary greatly depending on the size, design and mix of the facilities that are offered. In some instances, these types of facilities may be integrated into other park types. Such facilities include, but are not limited to:

- Lighted ballfield complexes: service area of 10 miles or more; typically designed in clusters of 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and up to 16 fields per site.
- Family swimming facilities/aquatic complexes: service area of 5 miles
- Multi-generational community centers: service area of 3-5 miles
- Dog parks: service area of 1-2 miles
- Skate parks: service area varies
- Golf courses: service area varies
- Museums, zoos, botanical gardens and other historic or cultural sites of local interest: n/s
- Community gardens: service area of 1/4-1/2 mile

Most of these types of facilities are not part of St. Charles Parish's parks and recreation system today. However, some will soon come to exist (e.g., community center) and, as the Parish grows, others may eventually be desirable elements and become part of the recreation system through future development or acquisition (e.g., golf courses or swimming pools) or through partnerships and collaborations (e.g., historic sites).

Existing and future boat ramps are included in this facility category because they provide access to the Parish's unique water resources. The regional multi-use paths that are being developed on the Mississippi River bank levees are also included in this category.

2.5.5 Local Typologies and Facility Classification

Table 9 categorizes existing Parish recreational facilities according to the proposed typologies. The basis for categorization is function. The determination of function was arrived to by consultation with the Parks and Recreation Department staff, as well as by an analysis of the combination of facilities offered at each location. Population served was the other criterion applied, although the national guidelines for service area were adjusted for the size, population distribution and low-density development characteristics of St. Charles Parish.

Figure 12 depicts estimated service areas for each facility by type: 1/2-mile maximum for neighborhood parks and 3 miles for community parks. Regional facilities were assumed to serve the entire community and beyond (20+ miles). Figure 13 shows population within a 1/2-mile and a 3-mile distance from each facility.

Table 9: Typologies and Facility Classification

Map Key	Regional Parks	Ownership	Acreage
3	Bonnet Carre Spillway Park (Front)	Federal	23.1
8	Wetland Watchers Park	Parish	28.3
	Timken WMA	State	3,000
	Bonnet Carre Spillway	Federal	7,700
	Salvador WMA	State	30,000
Total Regional Parks			**40,751.4**

Map Key	Community Parks	Tenure	Acreage
2	Montz Park	owned	11.7
4	Bethune Park	leased	11.3
5	Norco Elementary School	leased	11.1
9	New Sarpy Park	owned	4.1
14	Ormond Community Park	owned	5.1
15	Destrehan High School	leased	5.0
18	Harry Hurst Middle School	leased	8.1
19	East Bank Bridge Park	leased	11.5
22	Albert Cammon Middle School	leased	2.7
23	IMMT Park	leased	3.9
26	Ama Grain	leased	3.8
27	Rathborne Park	owned	12.0
28	Lakewood Elementary Park	leased	15.5
32	Monsanto Park	leased	9.1
33	RK Smith Middle School	leased	4.2
34	Ashton Plantation	owned	9
35	West Bank Bridge Park	leased	28.7
36	Boutte Community Park	owned	4.0
37	RJ Vial Elem/JB Martin Middle School	leased	13.6
38	Bayou Gauche Park	owned	7.3
40	American Legion Field	leased	9.4
42	Hahnville High School	leased	6.0
44	Eual J. Landry Middle School	leased	8.6
45	Holy Rosary Park	leased	7.3
46	Carver Elementary School	leased	5.5
47	Killona Park	owned	7.3
Total Community Parks			**225.8**

Map Key	Neighborhood Parks	Tenure	Acreage
1	Montz (Brugere Tract)	owned	3.2
6	Sacred Heart Elementary School	leased	3.1
7	5th and Goodhope	owned	3.6
10	East Harding Park (Colins)	owned	0.4
11	East Harding Park (Whitehall)	owned	0.7
12	West Harding Park	owned	0.8
13	Shriners Field	leased	5
16	South Destrehan	owned	0.6
17	Red Church Park	owned	2.7
20	Nottaway-Ormond	owned	0.2
21	Panther Run Ormond	owned	0.9
24	Fairfield Playground	owned	1.3
25	St. Marks	owned	2.7
29	Mimosa Elementary School	leased	0.5
30	Lagattuta Park	owned	2.2
31	Monsanto Bi-centennial Park	owned	4.6
39	JB Green Park	owned	1.8
41	Des Allemands Walking Park	owned	1.8
43	Fashion Plantation Park	owned	2.9
Total Neighborhood Parks			**39.0**

Map Key	Special Facilities		
	Levee Multi-Use Paths	**Linear Miles**	
	East Bank	15.18	
	West Bank	10.61	
	Boat and Canoe/Kayak Water Access Site	**Tenure**	**Acreage**
A	Bonnet Carre Spillway (Upper Levee Guide)	leased	0.3
B	Bonnet Carre Spillway (Lower Levee Guide)	leased	*
C	East Guide Levee Boat Launch	leased	3.1
D	Wetland Watchers park	leased	*
E	Hahnville Boat Launch	leased	0.2
F	Paradis Boat Launch	leased	0.4
G	Des Allemands Boat Launch	leased	0.2
Total Special Facilities			**4.2**

*included in other facility acreage

Note: Map Key numbers refer to Figure 5.

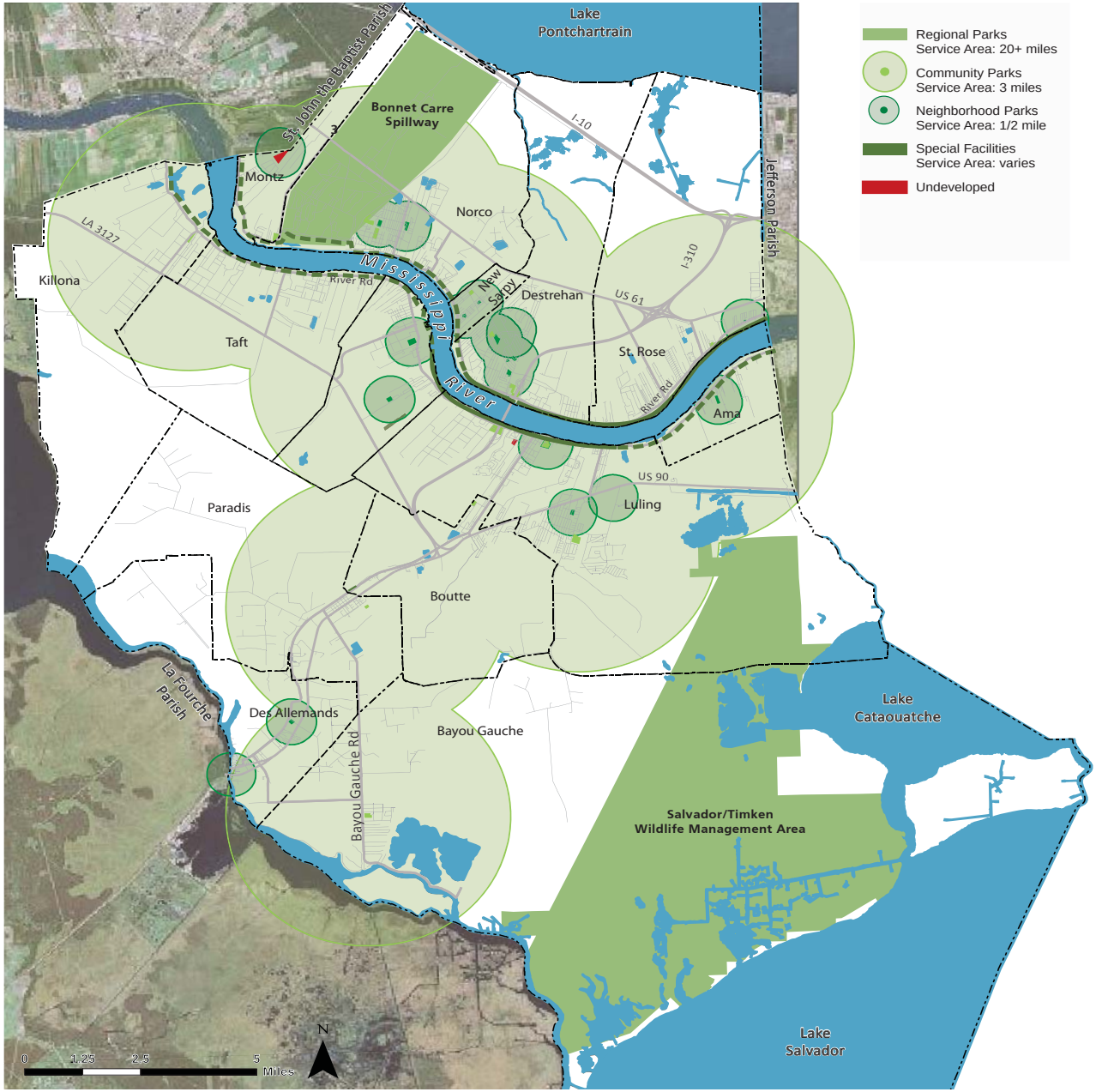


Figure 11: Facilities Classification by Type and Service Area (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, WRT)

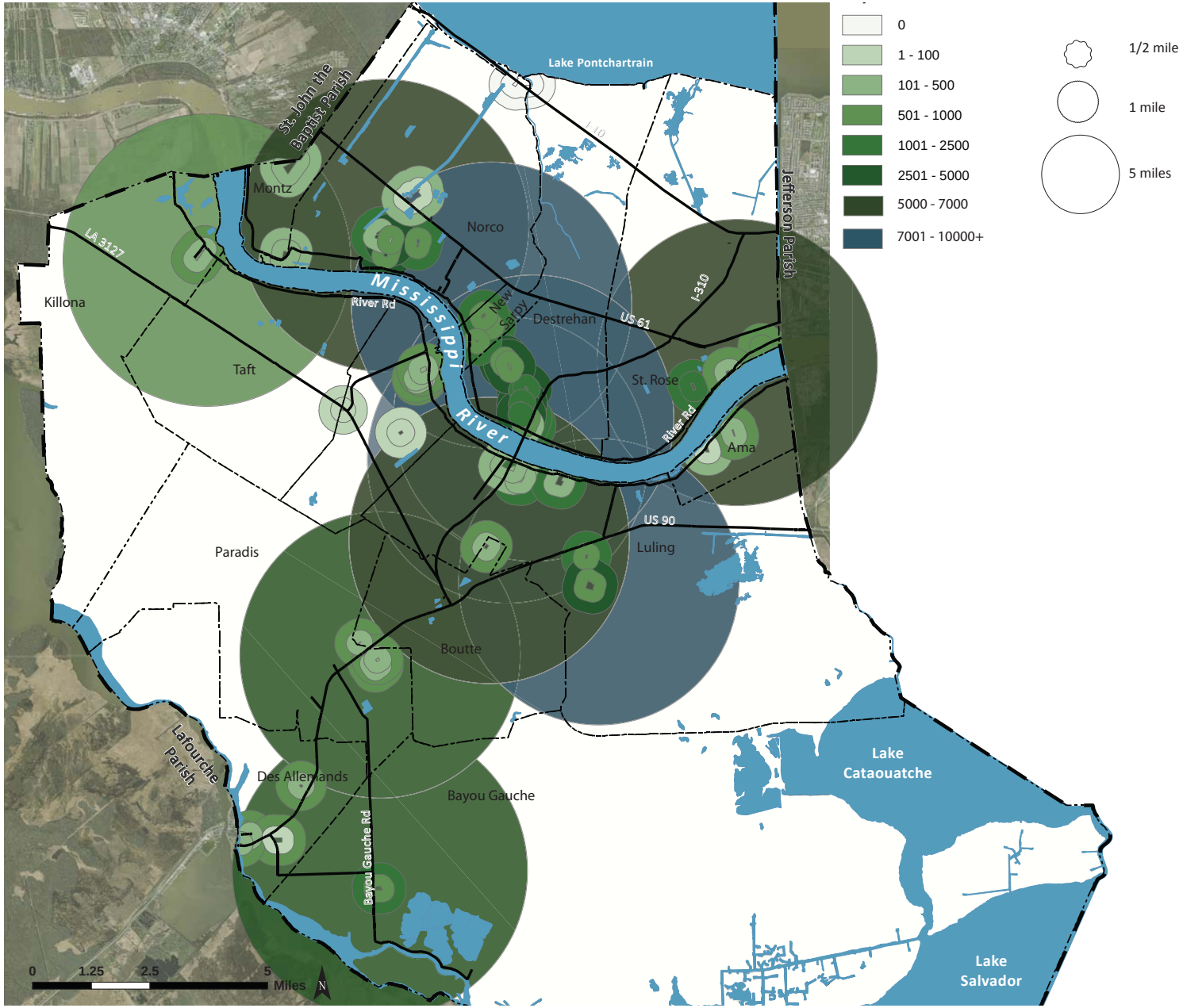


Figure 12: Population within Facility Service Area (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, WRT)

Applying the proposed classification, Figure 12 indicates that the Parish is well served with no gaps in service areas, relative to population. Figure 13 indicates that many parks across the Parish actually have significantly lower populations within their service areas than those described in the national guidelines. As mentioned, this is due primarily to the geographic distribution of population, which is scattered due to the established pattern of development.

Table 10 shows the distribution of recreational facilities by planning community, according to type and acreage. With the exception of Des Allemands, each planning community has at least one community-scale park, but these differ greatly in size and offerings.

As a whole, Luling is the best-served community in terms of overall acreage (88 acres), and the second in number of park sites (7), with three community parks and three neighborhood parks, plus one additional prospective community park (Ashton Plantation). Luling also has the highest offering of ball fields (25).

Luling's 2010 population (12,119) is the highest among the Parish's thirteen communities, followed by Destrehan's (11,535). Destrehan leads in

Table 10: Distribution of Parks Facilities by Planning Community

Map Key	Park	2010 Population	Acreage	Facility Type
AMA				
25	St. Marks		2.7	neighborhood
26	Ama Grain		3.8	community
	Totals	**1,316**	**6.5**	
BAYOU GAUCHE				
38	Bayou Gauche Park		7.3	community
	Totals	**2,071**	**7.3**	
BOUTTE				
36	Boutte Community Park		4.0	community
	Totals	**3,075**	**4.0**	
DES ALLEMANDS				
39	JB Green Park		1.8	neighborhood
40	American Legion Field		9.4	community
41	Des Allemands Walking Park		1.8	neighborhood
F	Des Allemands Boat Launch		0.2	special
	Totals	**2,505**	**13.2**	

Note: Map Key numbers refer to Figure 5.

Table 10: Distribution of Parks Facilities by Planning Community (Cont'd)

Map Key	Park	2010 Population	Acreage	Facility Type
DESTREHAN				
13	Shriners Field		5.0	neighborhood
14	Ormond Community Park		5.1	community
15	Destrehan High School		5.0	community
16	South Destrehan		0.6	neighborhood
17	Red Church Park		2.7	neighborhood
18	Harry Hurst Middle School		8.1	community
19	East Bank Bridge Park		11.5	community
20	Nottaway Park		0.2	neighborhood
21	Panther Run Park		0.9	neighborhood
	Totals	**11,535**	**39.1**	
HAHNVILLE				
42	Hahnville High School		6.0	community
43	Fashion Plantation Park		2.9	neighborhood
44	Eual J. Landry Middle School		8.6	community
45	Holy Rosary Park		7.3	community
46	Carver Elementary School		5.5	community
D	Hahnville Boat Launch		0.2	special
	Totals	**3,344**	**30.5**	
KILLONA				
47	Killona Park		7.3	community
	Totals	**793**	**7.3**	
LULING				
27	Rathborne Park		12.0	community
28	Lakewood Elementary Park		15.5	community
29	Mimosa Elementary		0.5	neighborhood
30	Lagattuta Field		2.2	neighborhood
31	Monsanto Bi-centennial Park		4.6	neighborhood
32	Monsanto Park		9.1	community
33	R K Smith Middle School		4.2	community
34	Ashton Plantation (undeveloped)		9.0	community
35	West Bank Bridge Park		28.7	community
	Totals	**12,119**	**85.8**	
MONTZ				
1	Montz/Brougere Tract (undeveloped)		3.2	neighborhood
2	Montz Park		11.7	community
	Totals	**1,918**	**14.9**	
NEW SARPY				
9	New Sarpy Park		4.1	community
10	East Harding Park (Collins Park)		0.4	neighborhood
11	East Harding Park (Whitehall)		0.7	neighborhood
12	West Harding Park		0.8	neighborhood
	Totasl	**1,464**	**6.0**	
NORCO				
3	Bonnet Carre Spillway		23.1	regional
4	Bethune Park		11.3	community
5	Norco Elementary School		11.1	community
6	Sacred Heart Elementary School		3.1	neighborhood
7	5th and Goodhope		3.6	neighborhood
8	Wetland Watchers Park		28.3	regional
	Totals	**3,074**	**80.5**	
PARADIS				
37	RJ Vial Elem/JB Martin Middle School		13.6	community
E	Paradis Boat Launch		0.4	special
	Totasl	**1,298**	**14.0**	
ST. ROSE				
22	Albert Cammon Middle School		2.7	community
23	IMMT Park		3.9	community
24	Fairfield Playground		1.3	neighborhood
	Totals	**8,122**	**7.9**	

the number of parks (8), split equally between neighborhood and community parks. However, Destrehan only has 34 acres of parkland, and 14 ball fields. Luling and Destrehan both have had high growth rates in the past. While they will continue to grow in the future, their rates of growth have stabilized to some extent.

St. Rose, Ama, and Montz each have only two park sites within their boundaries. Effectively, however, Montz has only one park. The other park property located within Montz (referred in documentation provided as the Brougere Tract) is undeveloped. Montz is still a small community (1,918 population), but in the past decade it experienced the highest growth in the Parish, at 71 percent. Montz also has a substantial number of platted, vacant residential lots, ready to be developed in existing subdivisions. Therefore, additional recreation demand is likely in the future.

St. Rose has one community park and one neighborhood park, for a total of 7 acres, but these two parks serve a growing population of over 8,000. St. Rose adjoins Jefferson Parish on the easternmost edge of the Parish's East Bank, and will likely keep on growing rapidly due to a continued influx of new residents.

Ama has one community-serving and one neighborhood park. The population in Ama has only grown about 2 percent in the last decade. This pace may continue, but the recent widening of the Huey P. Long Bridge and other planned transportation network improvements (future I-49) may bring more attention to this area. However, natural and regulatory constraints that exist may curtail significant growth.

Boutte, Bayou Gauche, and Killona have the lowest number of park sites (one community park each), but Bayou Gauche's and Killona's are larger in acreage (7 acres) than Boutte's (4 acres). Boutte's population (standing at 3,075) experienced the second highest increase between 2000 and 2010, with 41 percent growth. Killona is the Parish community with the smallest population (793). Killona, along with Norco and New Sarpy, experienced some population loss during the last decade.

Norco suffered a loss of approximately 14 percent population, primarily due to a large scale property buyout. Norco has approximately 30 acres of community and neighborhood parks. In addition, the Bonnet Carré Spillway and Wetlands Watcher regional parks are both located adjacent to this community. New Sarpy has 6.0 acres of parkland divided among one community park and 3 neighborhood parks (all located within very close proximity of one another).

Paradis, with 1,298 people in 2010, has one community park, consisting of facilities at RJ Vial ES/JB Martin MS complex.

3. Operations

3.1 Organizational Structure and Staffing

St. Charles Parish uses the most common organizational method for providing parks and recreation services, which is through a line department. As of January 2012, the Parks and Recreation Department comprised 34 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees (Figure 14), including:

- A departmental Director, who reports directly to the Chief Operating Officer with direction from the Parish President.
- Three Assistant Directors (two responsible for the coordination of youth and adult sports and one for senior and Special Olympics) and one Assistant Superintendent.
- Two Foremen, each one in charge of a crew for the East and the West Banks, respectively. Each crew consists of several full-time and/or part-time maintenance workers and grass cutters.

The Parish's level of staffing was compared to those of nearby communities for which data were obtained (Table 11). The Parks and Recreation Department is well staffed for a community of St. Charles Parish's size and character. The level of staffing is reasonable in that the Parish has more park sites than any of the comparables, scattered across some 34 square miles of land on both sides of the Mississippi River.

Approximately 84 percent of the Department's total staff resources and nearly half of its funding are devoted chiefly to grass cutting, which is a high proportion compared to more urban communities with more extensive parks systems and resources. However, mowing is typically the most labor-intensive maintenance task of any parks and recreation department, and often the most budget-consuming overall.

Many parks departments across the nation are experiencing deep cuts in their grass-cutting personnel budgets, and are exploring alternatives such

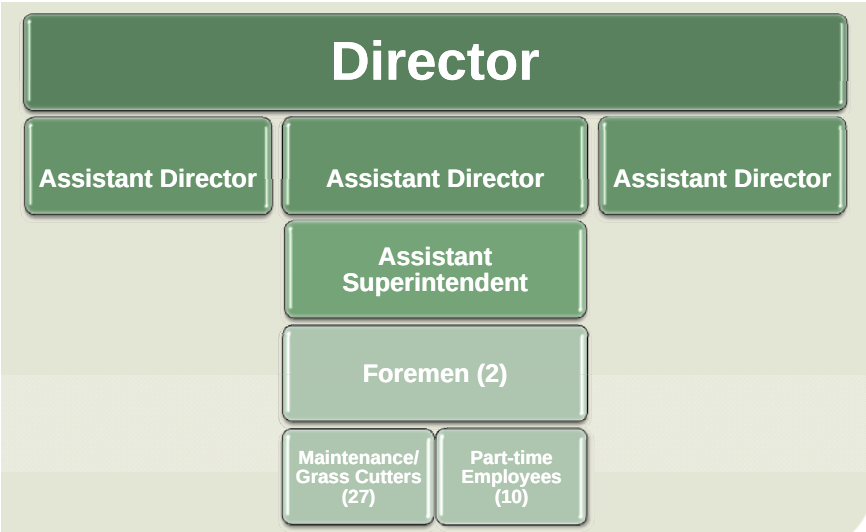


Figure 14: Departmental Structure. (Source: St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department)

Table 11: Comparison to Structure and Staffing in Nearby Parishes

Community	Population	Sites	Staff	Organization
St. James Parish	22,100	7	6	Director, Secretary, 4 Grass Cutters
St. John the Baptist Parish	45,924	16	5	Director, Secretary, Maintenance Foreman, 2 Laborers
Ascension Parish	128,000	17	14	Director, Secretary, 12 Field Workers
St. Charles Parish	52,780	50	44	Director, 3 Assist. Directors, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 2 Foremen, 37 FT and PT Field Workers

Source: St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department

as reduced mowing cycles, establishment of no-mow or low-mow areas, and similar measures.

When the line-department approach[3] is used, it is beneficial to establish a parks and recreation advisory board. The Parish does not have currently have such a board in place. A parks and recreation advisory board represents and interprets the needs of the citizens, works closely with the paid staff and assists in providing guidance for the department. The board does not have policy-making authority, but provides a critical link between the citizens, department staff, the administration, and elected officials.

Foremost among the advantages of this board are:

- Removing/reducing the risk of outside politics influencing decisions related to parks and recreation issues;
- Serving as an on-going forum for public comment;
- Providing a rational, citizen-driven framework for arriving at recommendations to be considered by the governing body; and
- Serving as an advocate for the department's programs to build support and visibility for its activities within the community.

Creating a parks and recreation advisory board could go a long way to allay the concerns expressed by numerous residents during the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Visioning Forums, regarding the perceived influence of political views and narrow interests in the decision-making process.

3.2 Functions

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for four major functions: operating, programming, upgrading, and maintaining the Parish's parks and recreation facilities.

[3] Organizational structure based on the notion of self-contained departments. In this approach authority travels downwards from top and accountability upwards from bottom along the chain of command, and each department manager has control over his or her department's affairs and employees.

Unlike other communities, the St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department does not have its own design and development division. Therefore, these functions are outsourced. Recent projects, such as the master planning of new facilities for Rathborne and Montz Parks, have been undertaken in this manner.

Among its functions, the Department's focus is largely absorbed by its upkeep and maintenance role. The Assistant Superintendent, working with the two Foremen and large crews of maintenance personnel, carries out all maintenance tasks. According to schedules maintained by the Department, rest room facilities are cleaned and garbage is picked up daily; grass is mowed/cut on a weekly basis; fields are sprayed for ants and weeds; routine checks are performed on playground equipment, and off fields are painted and lined on a daily basis. Because of the importance of the maintenance operations, the Department should consider upgrading its current maintenance yard located behind Monsanto Park, which currently consists mostly of old trailers, drop-off containers and lean-tos.

Mowing is the most labor-intensive of the Parks and Recreation Department upkeep tasks. The Department maintains a large number of grass cutters on staff.

Mowing consumes significant departmental resources: 27 full-time staff, at a cost of nearly $700,000 in yearly salaries alone, are deployed once a week, to cut over 300 acres of grass throughout the Parish. (In other communities, park maintenance divisions have been moved from parks and recreation departments to public works).

The Department also performs routine maintenance on facilities that it leases from others, including school gyms, sports fields and other facilities owned by the School District. A liaison is maintained with the School District for matters related to facility leases or interlocal agreements, as well as day-to-day operations and maintenance issues.

3.3 Funding Sources and Budget

The Annual Operating Budget for St. Charles Parish includes various funds that are budgeted and accounted for separately. The Parks and Recreation Department is supported by a 2.97-mill property tax levy, as well as supplemental funds from the General Fund (Table 12). The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Parish. It accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes or required for sound financial administration. The Recreation Construction Fund requires residential developments to donate 5% of site area for parks or pay an in-lieu fee.

Other significant funding sources also include federal and local corporate grants. For example, in 2009, grant monies were used to fund the development of Rathborne Park and the acquisition and installation of the Montz playground.

Admission fees, registration fees, and rental fees encompass the bulk of the remaining revenues. However, the Department does not charge participation fees. Volunteer booster clubs support sport leagues by facilitating teams and coaches and raising money through concession sales.

Table 12: Revenue Sources, 2009-2011

Description	Prior Year Actual 2009	2010 Original Budget	2010 Current Estimate	2011 Requested Budget
FUND BALANCE	**1,129,633**	**417,706**	**432,445**	**456,940**
REVENUES:				
Ad Valorem Taxes	2,934,549	2,992,300	3,126,290	2,886,000
Dept. of Culture, Tourism & Recreation	119,557	90,385	90,385	-
National Park Service Federal Grant	-	90,000	150,000	240,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,317	-	1,000	-
Rental of Parks & Buildings	7,927	1,000	3,100	3,000
Admission Fees	7,550	3,500	13,110	7,000
Reg Fees - Adult	20,037	17,000	18,450	17,000
Reg Fees - ID Pictures	184	-	-	-
Reg Fees - Summer Camp	58,871	50,000	81,750	50,000
Reg Fees - Youth Tournaments	567	500	3,900	500
Youth/Senior Special Fees	12,741	-	13,000	-
Sign Advertising Fees	-	2,000	-	2,000
Interest Earnings	11,359	7,500	4,575	4,000
Gifts/Donations	1,250	-	2,504	-
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	-	-	16,927	-
Transfer from General Fund	-	1,450,000	-	974,050
TOTAL REVENUES	**3,175,909**	**4,704,185**	**3,524,991**	**4,183,550**
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	**4,305,542**	**5,121,891**	**3,957,436**	**4,640,490**

Source: St. Charles Parish Annual Budget 2011

Rathborne Park in Luling was made possible through a Louisiana Recreational Trails grant and a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, plus development fees.

Table 13: Budgeted Expenditures, 2009-2011

EXPENDITURES:	Prior Year Actual 2009	2010 Original Budget	2010 Current Estimate	2011 Requested Budget
PERSONAL SERVICES	2,083,504	2,415,300	2,307,400	2,404,390
OPERATING SERVICES	742,599	506,690	489,420	504,215
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	505,851	299,950	299,950	272,600
OTHER CHARGES	37,931	37,300	37,300	50,000
CAPITAL OUTLAY	401,804	1,710,385	260,000	1,144,550
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	101,408	110,500	106,426	107,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**3,873,097**	**5,080,125**	**3,500,496**	**4,482,955**

Source: St. Charles Parish Annual Budget 2011

Annual expenditures for the Parish parks system, shown in Table 13, totaled $3.9 million in 2009 and were estimated at $5.1 million in 2010. The requested 2011 budget is $4.5 million.

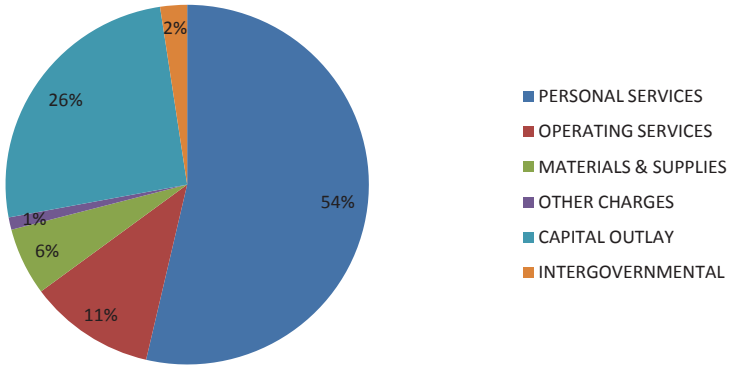


Figure 15: Budgeted Expenditures, 2009-2011 (Source: St. Charles Parish Annual Budget 2011)

As illustrated in Figure 15, personal services represent the largest annual expenditure in the Department's budget. In 2011, personal services are projected to total 54 percent of total expenditures, while the operating budget adds up to about 11 percent. The Department has estimated that about 75 percent of this budget is spent on maintenance, with the bulk of it going to grass-cutting.

The requested 2011 budget corresponds to an expenditure per capita of approximately $85 per Parish resident (based on U.S. Census 2010 population). Compare this ratio to those calculated for nearby communities based on their budgets (Table 14). Even with a smaller budget and a larger population, Ascension Parish is able to spend a comparable share of funding per park site. St. James Parish, however, has a smaller population but also a smaller park system, resulting in a larger spending per park site. Meanwhile, St. Charles Parish maintains significantly many more sites than these nearby communities, but many of those sites are small and have limited recreational value. Despite these inefficiencies, the Parish also offers more programs and has higher overall program participation rates than its neighbors.

Table 14: Comparison of Parks and Recreation Spending in Nearby Parishes (2011)

Community	Population	Parks and Rec Budget	Per Capita Spending	Spending per Park Site
St. James Parish	22,100	$1,247,000	$56.4	$249,400
St. John the Baptist Parish	45,924	$800,000	$17.4	$50,000
Ascension Parish	128,000	$1,200,000	$9.4	$85,714
St. Charles Parish	52,780	$4,482,955	$84.9	$89,659

Source: St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department

3.4 Partnerships and Volunteers

Volunteers and partners play a tremendously important role in advancing the parks and recreation goals of the Parish and supporting the mission and function of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Department relies heavily on its volunteers and partners to resolve recreational programming needs. In 2010, coaches and booster club members volunteered 53,533 hours at practices, games, meetings, registration session, and concession operations.

Perhaps one of the strongest partnership the Department maintains is with the nine local "booster" clubs. Booster clubs are non-profit organizations formed to contribute money to an associated club, sports team, or organization. The clubs are generally run and organized by parents of students of the supported organization.

The booster clubs and the Parks Department mutually support each other by encouraging participation in sports programs offered by the Parish.

In the Parish, the booster clubs also function as an "advisory board" of sorts, except that their scope and focus are much narrower than an advisory board would be. Each booster club and Department Parks staff are represented on an Organized Team Sports (OTS) group. Meetings are held with the OTS on a regular basis at approximately 2-3 month intervals. Each year, the booster clubs make a "wish list" for the Parks Department, which has used this as a proxy for budget planning. The rules and guidelines for interaction between the booster clubs and the Parks Department are spelled out in an OTS manual.

The Department currently maintains partnerships with the following organizations:

- Rotary Club
- United Way
- STC Employee Picnic
- American Cancer Society
- Bayou River Region
- Special Olympics
- STC School System
- RSVP
- Wetlands Watchers
- Council on Aging
- Private Swim Clubs

Many of these partners help facilitate important annual park events, including the United Way 5K Bridge Run, Rotary Club Alligator Festival, and American Cancer Society Relay for Life Christmas Tree Lighting, Team Violence Seminar, Battle for the Paddle, STC Employee Picnic, Bayou River Region Special Olympics, Senior Olympics and others.

Park partners typically facilitate recreational programming but also include environmental-focused partnerships. The LaBranche Wetland

The Department greatly relies on the support and enthusiasm of its many volunteers for the success of all of its recreation programs.

Watchers, a school-based service-learning project, is an example of one such partner, along with other government agencies, universities, non-profits, and businesses to provide outreach activities to increase wetland education and organize clean-up events.

Expanding partnership/volunteer opportunities presents opportunities to enhance the existing parks system. The Department could significantly increase the park user experience and opportunities available through a program to recruit and train volunteers.

4. Needs Assessment

The Parish's parks needs were assessed through a demands-based needs analysis and a standards-based analysis. The demands-based needs analysis relied on public outreach to identify residents' perception of the current parks system, opportunities for improvement, and Parish needs related to parks, open space, and recreational programming. The standards-based approach is based on parks relative to population and distribution. This ratio is expressed as a Level of Service (LOS).

4.1 Demand-Based Needs

A Resident Survey was conducted in March 2010. The objective of the survey was to assist the Parks and Recreation Task Force and its consultant in identifying resident perceptions, aspirations, preferences and needs for future – as well as opportunities for improvement of existing – parks, green space, recreation facilities, programs, and services within the Parish.

Collaboration between the consultant and Parish staff resulted in a survey questionnaire tailored to specific issues of strategic importance unique to the Parish. The survey was administered online using Survey Monkey and open for approximately one month. Strategies for eliciting community response included prominent links on the Parish website, emails sent to specific list serves, and a computer kiosk at Comprehensive Plan community forums. The survey was set up to try to limit the responses to one per household.

In total, 534 residents submitted responses. Approximately 80 percent of the respondents completed the entire survey, which is a good response rate.

It is important to note that the survey was not designed to be a statistically valid sample. Survey respondents were a self-selected group (i.e., not randomly chosen), and therefore the results cannot be directly applied to all Parish residents. Online surveys tend to skew towards higher income households, and some communities in the Parish had limited participation. In this case, there may also have been a geographic imbalance (more West Bank respondents). Thus, the results of the survey should be treated like the comments received at a public meeting, where those who attend generally have a significant interest in the topic of discussion. The survey data accurately reflects the opinions and concerns of those residents who had interest enough in parks and recreation to voice their preferences by this means. A copy of the survey and the complete response data is included in the Appendices.

4.1.1 Summary

The survey was designed to cover the following seven topics:

1. Visitation and Participation
2. Location of Facilities
3. Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities
4. Need for Recreation Programs
5. Quality of Facilities and Programs
6. Actions to Improve
7. Demographics

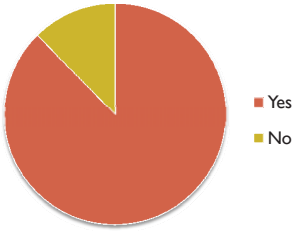
Visitation and Participation

Respondents were asked whether in the past 12 months, they or members of their household had visited any Parish parks or recreation facilities. If they responded yes, they were also asked how many times during those 12 months, and which park or recreation facility they visited. Similar questions were asked about their participation in the Parish's recreation programs and activities.

Q-1 Visitation & Participation

In the past 12 months, have you or members of your household visited any Parish parks or recreation facilities?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**87.6%**	**467**
No	12.4%	66



Q-7 Visitation & Participation

If you responded yes to questions #1 or #4, please check all the reasons you or your household uses parks, recreation facilities or programs offered by the Parish:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enjoyment of the outdoors	**83.0%**	**347**
Proximity of facility to my home	**61.5%**	**257**
Desire to improve health or physical fitness	**54.8%**	**229**
Menu of facilities or programs offered	23.2%	97
Quality of facilities or programs offered	27.0%	113
Quality of instructors	8.1%	34
Safety of facilities	23.4%	98
Availability of parking	30.6%	128
Affordability of fees	25.8%	108
Convenience of operating hours	19.4%	81
Ease of registration for programs	22.2%	93
Other (please specify)		75

The above graphics summarize select questions and responses from different sections of the Needs Survey. Note: The number of respondents vary by question.

Approximately 88 percent of respondents visited one or more Parish parks during the previous 12 months, and 64 percent indicated that they have visited those parks more than 10 times during that period. The most visited parks by number of responses were the East and West Bank Bridge Parks.

Approximately 54 percent of respondents had participated in Parish programs during the previous year. Of those, 68 percent participated more than 10 times. Consistent with the participation numbers tracked by the Parks and Recreation Department, the programs with the highest participation from respondents included baseball and basketball, followed by softball, football, and soccer.

The next two questions asked the respondents to choose from a list of possible reasons why they did or did not visit the Parish's parks or participated in structured recreation. For those who did, the reasons most often cited were their enjoyment of the outdoors (83 percent), the facility's proximity to their home (62 percent), and the desire to improve their health and fitness (55 percent). For those who did not, the reasons most commonly cited were lack of knowledge about the programs offered (43 percent), their perception of the quality of the programs and facilities (28 percent), the facilities' distance from the respondent's home and the perception that the Parish does not offer the program or activity sought by the respondent (25 percent each).

The final question posed in this section related to membership in the Parish's booster clubs. Over 68 percent of the respondents were not members of any booster club. Of those who are members, the highest share belonged to the Mimosa Booster Club (68), followed by the Destrehan Booster Club (36).

Location of Facilities

As much as about the actual location of facilities, this survey section was designed to elicit responses that communicate perceptions about the accessibility to parks and recreation in the Parish. For example, respondents

were asked questions about the proximity to parks facilities from their homes, and about their willingness to travel a certain distance to reach park using different transportation modes. More than 49 percent of the respondents felt that there were adequate parks and recreation facilities within a reasonable distance from their homes. Another 43 percent felt the opposite.

Over 54 percent of the respondents indicated their willingness to travel five miles or more to reach a park, if driving; another 45 percent is willing to travel no more than 4 miles to a park by car. Some 90 percent of the respondents are willing to bike up to 2 miles to a park. Of those willing to walk, about 68 percent would travel up to 1/2 mile to a park, while another 21 percent would walk up to 2 miles.

Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

The next section asked a series of questions about perceived needs for different types of parks and facilities, as well as about how well the Parish currently is perceived to meet those needs. Respondents were given a long list of choices, based on facilities that the exist in the Parish today as well as facilities that residents have previously expressed a desire to have.

From the list provided the choices with the highest percentages of response included walking and biking trails (65 percent), park shelters and picnic areas (58 percent), playgrounds (57 percent) and small neighborhood parks, 2 to 10 acres in size (54 percent).

On the question regarding how well the Parish is perceived to meet the needs for those same facilities today, the responses indicate that a majority sees the provision of said facilities as marginally adequate or inadequate.

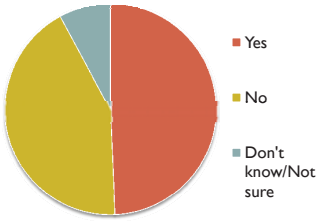
Need for Recreation Programs

Similar to the previous section, this part of the survey posed questions about the respondents perceived need for different types of recreational

Q-1 Location of Facilities

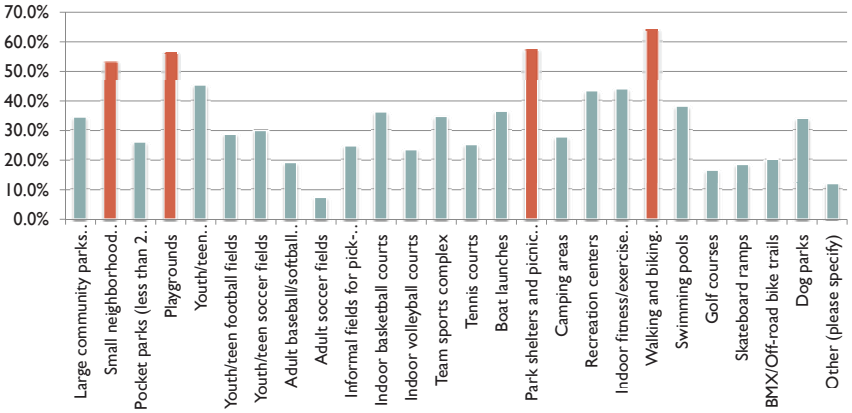
Do you feel there are sufficient/adequate parks, recreation facilities or green space within a reasonable distance of your home?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	49.3%	257
No	42.8%	223
Don't know/Not sure	7.9%	41



Q-1 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

From the following list of facilities, which would you say that you or members of your household need (check all that apply):



The above graphics summarize select questions and responses from different sections of the Needs Survey. Note: The number of respondents vary by question.

Q-1 Need for Recreation Programs

From the following list of recreational programs, which would you say that you or members of your household need (check all that apply):

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fitness/wellness programs	**65.9%**	**286**
Education/life skills	21.4%	93
Art, dance, performing arts	**37.8%**	**164**
Youth/teen sports programs	**49.1%**	**213**
Adult sports programs	32.7%	142
Senior programs	24.2%	105
Programs for the disabled	12.7%	55
Summer camp programs	**39.4%**	**171**
After-school programs	30.2%	131
Special Parish events/festivals	37.1%	161
Nature programs	36.2%	157
Tennis lessons/leagues	23.5%	102
Golf lessons	19.6%	85
Youth learn-to-swim programs	33.9%	147
Other (please specify)	4.1%	18

Q-1 Actions to Improve

Please indicate your level of support for the following actions that the Parish could take to improve its parks and recreation system:

Answer Options	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Don't know /Not sure	Response Count
Upgrade existing community & neighborhood parks	**319**	86	13	12	430
Upgrade existing athletic fields	255	115	25	22	417
Continue to develop small parks in each Parish community	251	115	33	14	413
Reduce the number of small parks in favor of larger, more comprehensive Parish-wide facilities	100	91	**171**	41	403
Preserve open/green space for passive recreation	203	144	30	30	407
Develop new walking/bike trails	**293**	97	19	10	419
Connect existing walking/bike trails	**281**	89	19	18	407
Develop greenways	175	114	53	48	390
Improve/expand range of indoor gym activities	238	98	34	33	403
Develop new, Parish-owned indoor recreation centers/gyms	**270**	87	38	20	415
Expand recreation program offerings	266	108	17	24	415
Expand support for booster clubs	188	99	50	61	398
Restructure booster club system	155	105	48	82	390
Expand joint use opportunities with School District facilities	175	123	55	50	403
Reduce reliance on School District facilities	134	95	98	65	392
Other	25	6	6	16	53
Please specify					42

The above graphics summarize select questions and responses from different sections of the Needs Survey. Note: The number of respondents vary by question.

programs and about their perception of how well the Parish is meeting those needs today. The programs that were perceived to be needed by the highest number of respondents included: fitness and wellness programs (66 percent), youth and teen sports programs (49 percent), summer camp programs (39 percent) and art and performing arts programs (38 percent).

To the question about how well the Parish is meeting the needs for these and other programs, again most responses indicate that the Parish is perceived to not be meeting them adequately, with the exception of teen and sports programs, and special events and festivals.

Quality of Facilities and Programs

The fifth section of the survey asked respondents to rate the physical condition of the Parish's parks and facilities, as well as the quality of the recreational offerings.

The majority of the respondents rated the Parish's parks, facilities and programs as good or fair.

Actions to Improve

This portion of the survey sought input on a variety of potential improvements for both facilities and programs, based on the respondents answers to the previous questions or other options provided. Generally the reaction was positive to most of the possible improvements listed, but a majority of respondents chose the following as those actions that they would be most supportive of: upgrading existing community and neighborhood parks, developing new walking/bike trails and connecting existing walking/bike trails, and developing new, Parish-owned indoor recreation centers and gyms. By contrast, a high number of respondents would not support reducing the number of small parks in favor of larger, more comprehensive Parish-wide facilities.

In addition, the respondents were asked to prioritize four actions from the list that they would be most willing to fund with their tax dollars. Upgrading existing community and neighborhood parks and developing new Parish-owned indoor recreation center and gyms were selected by the highest numbers of respondents as the top actions to spend their tax dollars on, followed as a second choice by developing new walking and biking trails.

This section provided a comment box for respondents to offer their own ideas for actions to improve the Parish's parks and recreation facilities and programs. Among the suggestions are the following:

1. Better connectivity and lighting of trail system for safe pedestrian & bicycle access
2. More small, neighborhood parks; provide access by sidewalks & trails
3. Long-term vision: acquisition & preservation of natural areas for larger park
4. Signage to give homage to historical sites & wildlife habitats
5. Large sports complex / community center with indoor facilities
6. More public art (sculptures, murals, etc.)
7. More public use & access of fields
8. Consider all age groups & interests to keep people healthy, active, productive & engaged (Arts programs, teen facility, adult activities, life skills programs, etc.)
9. Better advertising & PR to raise awareness of available opportunities
10. Better maintenance regarding:
    - Trash removal in spillway & parks
    - Upgrade playground equipment
    - Upgrade east bank facilities
    - Resurface tennis courts
    - Replace field lighting

Demographics

In the final portion of the survey, respondents were asked several questions about their households so as to establish their demographic character individually and as a group, and to compare this with the current demographics of the Parish. The responses to this section are the reason why the caveat must be included that the respondent group is self-selected (similar to what a mailed survey may have generated), and that therefore this is not considered a statistically valid sample.

Respondents were asked about where they lived within the Parish, how long they have been residents, how large their households are, the distribution of ages among its members, the household income range, and the respondent's ethnicity and gender.

The majority of the respondents reside in Luling, Destrehan, or Montz. Most are long-time residents (10-50 years and more). Their household size ranges between 2 and 5 persons, with a preponderance comprising 4 persons. In most of the responding households, the members are older than 18 but younger than 55 years of age. Nearly 50 percent of the respondents annual household income is $100,000 or more. The vast majority of the respondents are also White Caucasian (95 percent). More than half (55 percent) are female.

4.1.2 Resident Survey Findings

The following findings were derived from an analysis of the responses and correlations among them:

- Respondents are generally satisfied with the availability of facilities and programs, but feel nevertheless that improvements could be made.
- Most respondents (49%) felt that facilities are located at a reasonable distance from their place of residence, but almost just as many (43%) did not. Of the latter, 44% do not use Parish parks due to their distance from the facilities.

- Of those who use the parks but feel that there are not enough facilities within a reasonable distance, the majority live in Luling, Destrehan, or Montz.
- A majority of these park users go to the bridge parks primarily.
- There seems to be significant "cross-river" park use (bridge parks).
- Residents seem more likely to use those parks and other outdoor facilities that are close to their home and easy to access.
- The East and West Bank Bridge Parks are the most widely used facilities among the respondents.
- Residents of Luling, Destrehan & Montz seem more likely to visit the Bridge Parks – however, place of residence is not closely correlated to the location of the facility used.

In addition, the following potential planning considerations and issues were identified:

- Lack of awareness of location of facilities and program offerings
- Many recreation needs are perceived to be not well (or not at all) covered by the Parish
- Perceived or real maintenance issues – fields, courts & playgrounds
- Perceived or real access limitations/issues
- Instinctive resistance to the idea of relinquishing smaller (and in most cases underdeveloped/under-utilized) Parish parks
- Significant support for booster club organization -but no significant opposition to modifying/altering it.

Finally, the following are recognized as the top priorities of residents who responded to the survey:

1. Safe, well-connected, Parish-wide multi-use trail system
2. More small neighborhood parks – i.e., playgrounds, walking paths
3. Indoor recreation centers/gym facilities
4. Picnic facilities and shelters
5. Maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities
6. Increased accessibility to athletic/play fields
7. Expanded offerings for all age groups and abilities
8. Programs such as fitness/wellness, teen/youth, art, performing arts, & summer camp

4.2 Standards-Based Needs

In contrast with the Demand-Based Needs Assessment derived from the community survey, Standards-Based Needs Assessments provide an objective way of measuring the strengths and deficiencies within a park system. Such assessments are commonly used for this purpose by communities throughout the nation.

Level of Service (LOS) is the term used to describe the quantifiable measurement of park provision, and LOS can be used to establish numerical standards that can be used over time to track the condition of the park system. National guidelines for level of service standards range from broad categories of recreational facilities to calculations for increasingly specific facility types. The purpose of establishing LOS standards for parks and recreation facilities is to ensure adequate provision of facilities and equal opportunity for residents.

The calculation of current LOS for St. Charles Parish was based on the typology and hierarchy developed in Section 2.5.5. These were used to determine a LOS standard based on acreage of parkland. The figures listed in Table 15 summarize the 2010 LOS findings, which will serve as a baseline against which to compare future needs. Including all Parish-owned or leased/managed-parks, an overall LOS of 5.0 acres per 1,000

persons is achieved. The current LOS for community and neighborhood parks is 4.3 acres and 0.7 acres per 1,000 persons, respectively. A LOS of 771 acres per 1,000 persons is achieved for regional parks (including Salvador/Timken WMAs and the Bonnet Carré Spillway).

Table 15: 2010 Level of Service by Park Type

Basis of LOS Calculation	2010 St. Charles Parish Parkland Acreage	2010 Parkland Per Capita (acres/resident)	2010 LOS (acres/1,000 residents)
Community Parks	225.8	0.00428	4.3
Neighborhood Parks	39.0	0.00074	0.7
Local Parks Total	**264.8**	**0.00502**	**5.0**
Regional Parks Total (Parish Lease	**51.4**	**0.00097**	**1.0**
Regional Parks Total (Other)	**40,700.0**	**0.77113**	**771.1**
Special Facilities (Parish)	**4.2**	**0.00008**	**N/A**

Source: WRT
Note: Local Parks Total includes undeveloped sites

To put these calculations in perspective, the current LOS numbers were compared against national guidelines developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) (Table 16). Both organizations recommend that each community develop its own park standards to reflect specific conditions. Their guidelines, therefore, are provided here simply as reference points for understanding where St. Charles Parish fares relative to the national "norm."

The Parish's current park acreage to people ratio is far below both the NRPA and ULI guidelines. The Parish is also below the recommended standard for community parks and neighborhood parks. However, the national level of service (LOS) guidelines clearly do not reflect the more rural setting of St. Charles Parish. Therefore, it is appropriate to tailor those guidelines.

Table 16: 2010 Level of Service Compared to National Guidelines

Park Type	NRPA Recommended LOS Standard (Acres/1,000 Residents)	ULI Recommended LOS Guideline (Acres/1,000 Residents)	2010 St. Charles Parish Parkland Acreage	2010 St. Charles Parish LOS (Acres/1,000 Residents)
Community	**5.0 to 8.0**	**5.5**	**225.8**	**4.3**
Neighborhood	**1.0 to 2.0**	**5.0**	**39.0**	**0.7**
Parishwide	**11.25 to 20.5**	**25.5**	**264.8**	**5.0**
Regional Parks (Parish Lease)	10.0	15.0	51.4	1.0
Regional Parks (Other)	10.0	15.0	40,700.0	771.1
Special Facilities (Parish)	-	-	4.2	-

Source: NRPA, ULI, WRT

Table 17 show that levels of service actually vary greatly across the Parish, raising issues of equity and access among residents. Some planning communities do not have any neighborhood parks and some do not have any community parks within their boundaries.

However, the resident survey showed that visitation to a specific park may not be closely correlated to the users' place of residence within the Parish. Increasingly, residents do not consider traveling cross-river for recreation purposes burdensome. At the same time, the survey did indicate that residents are generally more likely to use parks that are located in close proximity to their homes, as may be expected.

Table 17: 2010 LOS by Planning Community

Community	Neighborhood Park LOS	Community Park LOS	Overall LOS
Ama	2.05	2.89	4.94
Bayou Gauche		3.52	3.52
Boutte		1.30	1.30
Des Allemands	1.44	3.75	5.19
Destrehan	0.81	2.57	3.39
Hahnville	0.87	8.19	9.06
Killona		9.21	9.21
Luling	0.60	6.48	7.08
Montz	1.67	6.10	7.77
New Sarpy	1.30	2.80	4.10
Norco	2.18	7.29	9.47
Paradis		10.48	10.48
St. Rose	0.16	0.81	0.97

Source: WRT

Therefore, in addition to amount of parkland in acreage, factors such as distance or travel time; capacity of the facilities; composition of the population; quality of the experience; availability of programs and activities and other factors (both tangible and intangible) must also be considered in assessing the true measure of access, equity, and overall level of service.

For example, New Sarpy is a small, compact community, with a population of approximately 1,600 and three parks. The level of service measures indicate that, by acreage, the community is below national norms. But New Sarpy is also flanked by Norco and Destrehan, two communities that offer a broader array of facilities, including Wetland Watchers Park and the West Bank Bridge Park. The community also falls under the service radii of other areas, as previously shown in Figure 11.

On the west bank of the Mississippi River, Killona is a smaller community, with only one community park. By national LOS measurements, Killona is above the minimum standards of the NRPA. Killona, however, is relatively isolated from the rest of the Parish, and therefore does not have the same level of accessibility to other park sites as other communities.

For these reasons, the Master Plan looks at a combination of measures other than the acquisition of new parks —which not be possible in many cases— to arrive at a more equitable level of service by community. Such measures may include creating linkages and removing barriers to improve and expand accessibility to existing parks.

Another way to look at levels of service is by how the Parish's two geographic areas, as separated by the Mississippi River, are served (Table 18).

Table 18: Level of Service by River Bank

River Bank	Population	Neighborhood Park Acreage	Neighborhood Park LOS	Community Park Acreage	Community Park LOS	Total LOS
East (97 acres)	25,668	22.5	0.9	74.5	2.9	3.8
West (167.8 acres)	26,113	16.5	0.6	151.3	5.8	6.4

Source: WRT
Note: Acreages include undeveloped parkland

However, this perspective does not consider differences between the smaller communities and the often-significant distances between the populated/developed areas in these communities.

The national guidelines are meant to serve as a point of comparison to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, according to these guidelines, the following parkland surpluses and deficits exist today[4] (Tables 19-20).

Table 19: Parkland Surpluses and Deficits (by park type)

Typology	2010 St. Charles Parish Parkland Acreage	2010 LOS (Acres/1,000 Residents)	Surplus/Deficit in Acres (NRPA)	Surplus/Deficit in Acres (ULI)
Community Parks	225.8	4.3	-38.10	-64.49
Neighborhood Parks	39.0	0.7	-13.78	-224.90
Local Parks	**264.8**	**5.0**	**-329.0**	**-1081.09**
Regional Parks (Parish/Non-Parish)	**40,751.4**	**772.1**	**40,223.60**	**39,959.70**
Special Facilities	**4.2**	**0.1**		

Source: WRT
Note: Local parks total includes undeveloped parkland.

The application of these measurements **does not** dictate a specific acreage of additional parkland that the Parish must acquire, or even that the Parish must acquire any land at all.

This only means that if St. Charles Parish chose to meet one of the national guidelines, with its 2010 population of 52,780, it would need to add approximately 329 acres of parkland to its current system to meet the minimum NRPA community-wide standard. The Parish would need to add about 38 acres to meet the NRPA guideline for community parks, and 14 acres to meet the neighborhood park guideline. The deficits relative to the ULI guidelines are significantly higher.

The NRPA also makes recommendations for LOS standards by facility type. Table 21 shows the present level of service for the most popu-

[4] Only the lowest end of the recommended NRPA range, where applicable, was calculated. Therefore, for community parks the ratio used was 5 ac/1,000 persons, and for neighborhood parks 1 ac/1,000 persons.

Table 20: Parkland Surpluses and Deficits (NRPA)

Community	Neighborhood Park Acreage	Current Need (NRPA)	Surplus/ Deficit (NRPA)	Community Park Acreage	Current Need (NRPA)	Surplus/Deficit (NRPA)
Ama	2.7	1.32	1.38	3.8	6.58	-2.78
Bayou Gauche	0.0	2.07	-2.07	7.3	10.36	-3.06
Boutte	0.0	3.08	-3.08	4.0	15.38	-11.38
Des Allemands	3.6	2.51	1.10	9.4	2.51	6.90
Destrehan	9.4	11.54	-2.14	29.7	57.68	-27.98
Hahnville	2.9	2.79	0.11	27.4	13.96	13.44
Killona	0.0	0.79	-0.79	7.3	3.97	3.34
Luling	7.3	12.12	-4.82	78.5	60.60	17.91
Montz	3.2	1.92	1.28	11.7	9.59	2.11
New Sarpy	1.9	1.46	0.44	4.1	7.32	-3.22
Norco	6.7	3.07	3.63	22.4	15.37	7.03
Paradis	0.0	1.30	-1.30	13.6	6.49	7.11
St. Rose	1.3	8.12	-6.82	6.6	40.61	-34.01
Parishwide	**39.0**	**52.78**	**(13.78)**	**225.8**	**263.90**	**(38.10)**

Source: WRT

lar recreation facilities, measured against the NRPA recommendations (which are indicated under the headings of each LOS column).

The facility LOS calculations indicate that St. Charles Parish is, as a whole, well served in terms of the number of baseball, soccer, football and multi-use fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds, relative to its population.

However, significant variations are found by planning community. Many communities lack some types of facilities (mostly football and soccer fields) entirely, but multi-use fields often fill these gaps adequately. Where certain facilities exist but are located in schools, access to the public may limited. And while playgrounds are present in almost every community, most fall short of the recommended LOS.

These considerations provide a reference point to begin to tailor the national guidelines to St. Charles Parish's particular conditions.

Table 21: Level of Service by Facility Type (NRPA)

Community	Baseball Fields	LOS (1/5,000)	Soccer Fields	LOS (1/10,000)	Football Fields	LOS (1/10,000)	Multipurpose Fields	LOS (1/5,000)	Outdoor Basketball	LOS (1/3,000)	Basketball Gym	LOS (1/20,000)	Playgrounds	LOS (1/1,000)
Ama	2	7.78		-		-	1.0	2.3	1	2.3		-	1	0.8
Bayou Gauche	1	2.41		-		-	1.0	1.4		-		-	1	0.5
Boutte	1	1.92		-		-		-	1	1.2	1	7.7	1	0.4
Des Allemands	11	27.71		-		-	2.0	3.0	1	1.5		-	1	0.5
Destrehan	13	5.52	2	1.7	2	1.7		-	3	0.8	3	5.1	4	0.3
Hahnville	5	7.48	1	3.0	2	6.0	2.0	1.8	2	1.8	4	23.9	2	0.6
Killona	2	12.18		-		-	1.0	3.7	2	7.3		-	1	1.2
Luling	20	7.95	1	0.8	1	0.8	7.0	1.7	6	1.4	2	3.2	5	0.4
Montz	2	8.45		-		-	1.0	2.5	2	5.1		-	1	0.8
New Sarpy	1	2.99		-		-	1.0	1.8	1	1.8		-	3	1.8
Norco	11	14.51		-		-	1.0	0.8	2	1.6	1	5.3	5	1.3
Paradis	1	3.55		-		-	1.0	2.1		-	1	14.2		-
St. Rose	4	2.98	10	14.9	1	1.5	2.0	0.9		-	1	3.0	2	0.3
Total	**74**	**7.01**	**14**	**2.65**	**6**	**1.14**	**20**	**1.89**	**21**	**1.19**	**13**	**4.93**	**27**	**0.51**

Source: LOS recommendations by NRPA

Table 22: Comparative Community Analysis

Location	2010 Population	Parks Inventory	Acreage (2011)	% of Total Area	LOS*	Personnel (2011)	Program Participation				Per Capita Spending		Budget (2011)	Notes
							Youth Sports	*Summer Camp*	*Adult Sports*	*Senior Activities*	*per participant*	*per resident*		
St. Charles Parish, LA	52,780	50 parks sites including 6 boat launch locations	317	0.09	4.9	44	5496	459	716	950	$ 89.6	$ 12.9	$ 683,054	
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	45,924	14 parks (including 2 public swimming pools)	521	1.06	9.2	5	1120	200	180	50	$ 516.1	$ 17.4	$ 800,000	
St. James Parish, LA	22,102	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	1075	0	140	47	$ 1,347.1	$ 76.9	$ 1,700,000	
Ascension Parish, LA	107,215	17	580	N/A	5.8	15	3059	0	25	370	$ 347.4	$ 11.2	$ 1,200,000	
BREC (East Baton Rouge Parish)	440,171	184 including 60 recreation and senior centers, numerous special facilities which include a zoo, observatory, extreme sports facilities, tennis complexes, golf courses, pools, equestrian facilities, historical sites; and conservation areas.	5,699	1.9	13.8	400	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$ 77.5	$938,000 (net after transfers)	BREC is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana and does not operate under the City-Parish Government. Funding comes from taxes and from income from facilities, concessions and programs as well as grants.
Chatham, NC	63,505	3 (major district parks)	409	N/A	6.4	4	1945	125	117		$ 538.8	$ 18.6	$ 1,178,264	Parks Foundation
Georgetown County, SC	60,158	22 boat landings, 2 fishing and observation piers, 74 beach access areas, 40 public parks including 26 baseball fields, 3 football fields, 1 soccer fields, 6 multipurpose fields, 17 playgrounds, 10 tennis courts, 16 picnic areas, 2 volleyball courts, 13 outdoor basketball courts, 10 community/senior centers and 4 gymnasiums	378	N/A	6.3	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$ 28.9	$ 1,738,820	
Pensacola, FL	51,923	98 facility/park sites including 5 community centers	600+	N/A	6.3	16 Recreation Division Staff + about 50 Parks & Building Division maintenance staff	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$ 152.4	$ 7,911,900	One-cent Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), approved in 1992. LOST has been renewed several times, generating more than $85 million. Funds are kept separate from other City monies and available only for capital improvement projects.

* With the exception of St. Charles Parish, as provided by existing documentation

Sources: St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Ascension, and East Baton Rouge Parishes; Chatham County, NC; Georgetown County, SC; City of Pensacola, FL

4.3 Comparative Community Analysis

In selecting an appropriate set of LOS standards, it is constructive to examine how St. Charles Parish fares against other communities of comparable populations and similar park system characteristics. Table 22 provides that comparison for several such communities, both in and outside of Louisiana.

Whenever available, Table 22 also provides information comparing the organization and level of staffing, participation, recreation budget and per capita or per participant spending in these communities.

Because of the interest in water-based recreation and the frustration over real or perceived access limitations, this study also sought to identify precedents for water access level of service that might be used as a gauge for the Parish. What was found was a wide array of LOS standards ranging from 1:5,000 to almost 1:50,000.

In many communities with high demand of water access (e.g., in coastal Florida and the Gulf states) water access LOS is often defined not only as boat ramps but also public beach access points, fishing access points, canoe/kayak launches, and any other fresh or saltwater access facilities.

Further, LOS is based on seasonal population to account for the impact of visitation. Due to these differences, additional measurements of demand likely need to be taken to fully settle on an appropriate level of service standard for water access in St. Charles Parish.

4.4 Recommended Level of Service Standards

Based on the analysis and consideration of the Parish's particular characteristics —of demographics, population distribution, existing resources and capabilities of the Parks Department, and other factors examined in this report, as well as the preferences and priorities expressed in the Resident Survey— the Master Plan proposes a simple and straightforward set of standards.

The targets set in these standards must be aspirational, consistent with the Parishwide vision to create "an outstanding recreation system, with conveniently located parks. and expanded opportunities to enjoy our waterways and other natural resources." At the same time those targets must be realistic and achievable.

In their responses to the Resident Survey, participants made the improvement of existing parks and recreational facilities a top priority, as opposed to the acquisition and development of new parks. They also highlighted the importance of developing walking trails and bike paths throughout the community. This is a winning combination of priorities from the perspective of expanding the residents' accessibility not only to the existing parks, but also to new and relatively low-cost opportunities for health, fitness and active living.

However, the provision of parkland must also be consistent with future population growth. As the Parish develops, both standards and a well thought-out locational approach must be in place to ensure that the Parish government continues to provide an adequate levels of service to its residents.

Consequently, the Parish should focus on providing strategically located "community-scale" parks that can simultaneously serve neighborhood needs. It is possible to design community parks to also meet community and neighborhood park needs for the neighborhoods around them. However, neighborhood parks can never meet community park needs due to the intrinsic and interrelated constraints of size, limited facility range, and access that characterize these types of parks.

With these considerations in mind, the following **park land standards** are suggested:

- Neighborhood parks: 1.0 acres per 1,000 persons
- Community parks: 4.5 acres per 1,000 persons
- Parishwide parks: 5.5 acres per 1,000 persons.

- Regional greenways/walking & biking trails: 1 linear mile per 3,000 persons, or 1 acre per 1,000 persons.

No regional park standard is necessary at this time. The Parish greatly exceeds the national guidelines for this type of park, and no deficits are foreseen based on current or projected population.

In addition to the park land standards, the following key **facility standards** are recommended:

- Boat launch ramps: evaluate demand by using boater registration and visitor usage to establish an appropriate standard.

  Taking into account factors of existing population and geography, a reasonable LOS for these facilities is likely to fall within a range of between 1 ramp per 3,000 and 1 ramp per 5,000 population.

- Baseball fields: 1 per 10,000 persons.
- Softball fields: 1 per 10,500 persons
- Multipurpose fields: 1 per 5,000 persons
- Soccer: 1 per 6,000 persons.
- Football: 1 per 10,000 persons
- Outdoor basketball courts: 1 per 3,000 persons
- Gymnasium: 1 per 10,000 persons
- Playground: 1 per 3,000 persons

Design guidelines for many of these facilities, as recommended by the NRPA, are provided in the Appendices.

Additional standards that the Parish may consider adopting include:

- Picnic shelters: 1 per 6,000 persons
- Tennis Courts: 1 per 5,000 population
- Community center: 1 per 50,000 persons, or one square foot per person targeted to be served by the center.
- Skate park: 1 per 50,000 persons
- Dog park (off leash): 1 per 20,000 persons
- Outdoor swimming pool: 1 per 25,000 persons

5. Planning for the 2030 Parks and Recreation System

5.1 Mission, Vision and Goals

5.1.1 Mission Statement

The following statement embodies the present mission of the St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation Department:

> *"Provide recreation programs, activities, parks, and facilities for all citizens of St. Charles Parish."*

This statement reinforces the Parish Administration's goal to "develop a comprehensive parks and recreation program that provides an array of services for all citizens." However, to achieve consistency between the departmental mission and the vision and goals of the Parish's 2030 Comprehensive Plan, it is recommended that the mission statement be amended as follows:

> ***"Provide quality recreation programs, activities, parks, and facilities that allow all residents of St. Charles Parish to enhance their quality of life."***

As the Parish continues to grow over the next twenty years, the Parks and Recreation Department should periodically evaluate its mission to respond to the evolving needs of its residents, as well as to align with future organizational changes and/or modified or expanded functions.

Beyond its straightforward recreation focus, potential areas that the Department may want to address more specifically in its mission statement include health, education, culture, and environmental stewardship. These are areas that the Parks and Recreation Department is already involved with in various capacities. This involvement is also in line with the policy framework established in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Expanding the mission statement in this manner would be to simply acknowledge and embrace the various "hats" that the Department wears in the community.

5.1.2 Vision Statement

The mission statement provides direction for the Parks and Recreation Department to achieve a long-term vision. A vision is a statement of aspiration, a view that concentrates on the future.

Beginning with a series of public forums held between August and October of 2009, residents embarked on the process to create a community-wide Vision Statement as the starting point for the Parish's new Comprehensive Plan.

During the Visioning Forums, citizens expressed widely shared values regarding what they like about life in St. Charles Parish and their hopes for the future. Their thoughts and opinions touched on every facet of the Parish, including recreation, which was generally characterized as a strong asset to be maintained.

At the same time, several weaknesses were mentioned, such as the lack of gyms or the limitations on boat access, and participants recognized that the Parish could do better even in areas where it is doing rather well today (e.g., youth and senior programs, recreational use of levees, etc.).

The resulting Parish-wide Vision Statement represents the citizens' shared destination for the new Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in June 2011. The Vision Statement embodies the future that St. Charles Parish residents aspire to. Below are excerpts from the Vision Statement that affirm citizens' wishes and expectation for the year 2030, related to parks and recreation:

> *"We are a community that has…[achieved] a "small-town" way of life, but enriched with a full array of…recreational opportunities. …We have created an outstanding recreation system with conveniently located parks and expanded opportunities to enjoy our waterways and other natural resources."*

5.1.3 Goals

The 2030 Vision Statement is the touchstone for every element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Vision Statement provides a broad "picture" of the community's desired future intended to guide decision-makers in the formulation of goals and policies. Goals are general statements of intent about the quality and character of the community. The goals of the Comprehensive Plan's Parks and Recreation Element are:

1. ***Provide equal access to and fair distribution of recreational areas, activities, services and facilities for all residents of the Parish.***
2. ***To the maximum extent possible, coordinate the provision of recreational facilities and services with other public and private providers, to avoid duplications, improve efficiency, and reduce costs.***
3. ***Maximize the lifespan and use of existing and future facilities by ensuring adequate flexibility and adaptability.***
4. ***Continually seek to expand the scope of the Parish's recreation services to include aspects of health, leisure education, and culture.***
5. ***Seek equitable ways to distribute the cost of open space and recreational facilities necessary to serve new development between the private and public sectors.***

5.2 Projected Needs

Population projections considered in the preparation of the St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan indicate that the Parish will continue to grow through 2030, although at a moderate rate (Table 23). The Louisiana State demographers' Middle Series growth projection predicts a total 2030 population of 60,580, a 12.8 percent increase (or 7,800 people) over the 2010 population of 52,780.

Table 23: St. Charles Parish Population Projections, 2010-2030

Year	Population
2000	48,072
2005	50,600
2010	52,780
2015	56,050
2020	57,930
2025	59,540
2030	60,580

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, local level data (2000 and 2010 actual counts); ACS 2005 population (est.); Louisiana State Demographer's Louisiana Parish Population Projection Series 2010-2030.

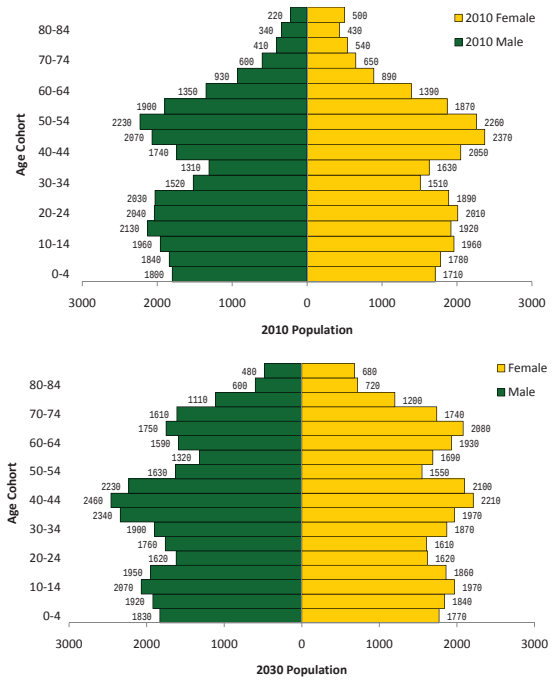


Figure 16: Population Pyramids, 2010 and 2030. (Source: State of Louisiana)

This growth will require the Parish to continue to expand its park system to achieve and maintain the LOS objectives established in the Parks Master Plan. But effectively satisfying future park needs will require more than merely satisfying quantitative standards. The Master Plan, therefore, must include locational and qualitative considerations as well.

The projected age distribution of the Parish population is one of these considerations. As illustrated in the population pyramids in Figure 16, over the next two decades the Parish can expect to see substantial increases in its population aged 60 and older, as well as in residents aged 35 to 44. The median age in the Parish is progressively inching up.

The projected age pyramid is consistent with national trends of Baby Boomers (those persons born from 1946 to 1964), who tend to concentrate population growth within the cohorts into which they age.

Baby Boomers account for approximately one-fourth of the Parish's population and are just beginning to reach age 65. These changes have material long-term implications not only for recreation services, but also for housing, transportation, healthcare and other support services.

At the same time, the number of young adults who call St. Charles Parish home is expected to decline somewhat. On the other hand, the projections indicate that the number of children in the Parish in 2030 will be similar to what it is today.

Also important to consider is the potential geographic distribution of population throughout the Parish in the future. The 2010 Census provides a comparison of population by Census Data Place for the years 2000 and 2010. The 2010 numbers indicate that certain Parish communities are experiencing substantial population growth, including Boutte, Hahnville, Montz, and St. Rose, whereas others, such as New Sarpy, Norco and Killona, are losing population.[5]

5 In the case of Norco, one of the reasons for the population loss was the buyout of property in the African American Diamond neighborhood by Shell Chemical.

Additional factors that must be considered in predicting potential development demand in each community include the actual availability of developable and development-ready land and the presence of major infrastructure projects and other development drivers.

Such factors were reviewed in the Comprehensive Plan as part of the community assessment. They include that are developed but where significant residential infill is still possible (Figure 17), as well as areas that are vacant but zoned for residential development (Figure 18).

In existing subdivisions where residential infill development is possible, the incremental increase in the population living in those areas may

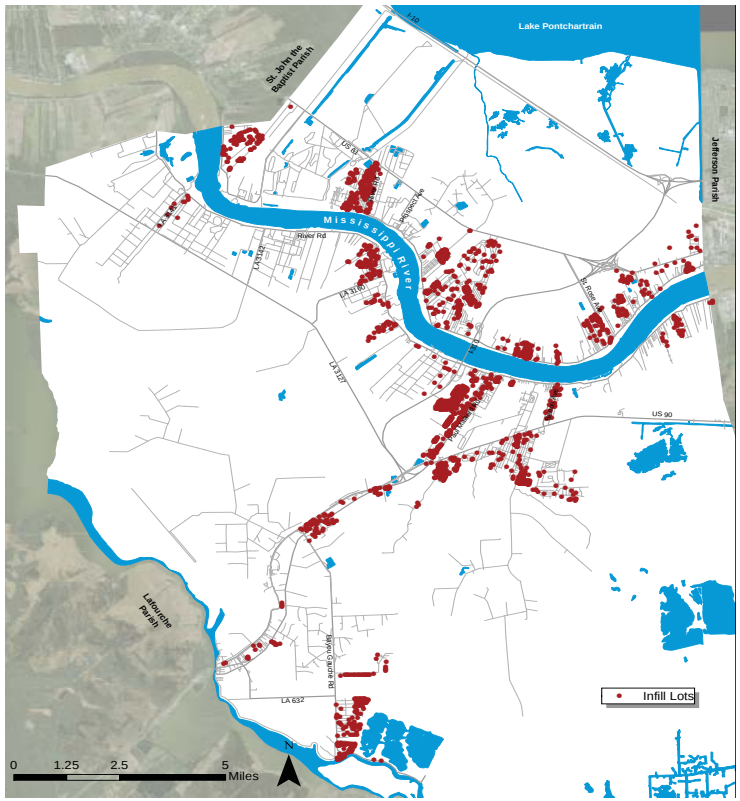


Figure 17: Existing subdivisions with Concentrations of Vacant Infill Lots. (Source: St. Charles Parish Planning and Zoning Department)

eventually require additional parkland even if the subdivision already has a park site. Areas that are zoning-ready for residential use are likely to be developed next, and those new subdivisions may trigger the need for additional parks as well.

The adopted Future Land Use Map (Figure 19) shows locations for future residential and mixed-residential uses which may provide opportunities (as well as create needs) for new park sites. The Future Land Use categories adopted with the map include a Recreation and Open Space land use district to designate existing, as well as potential future parks.

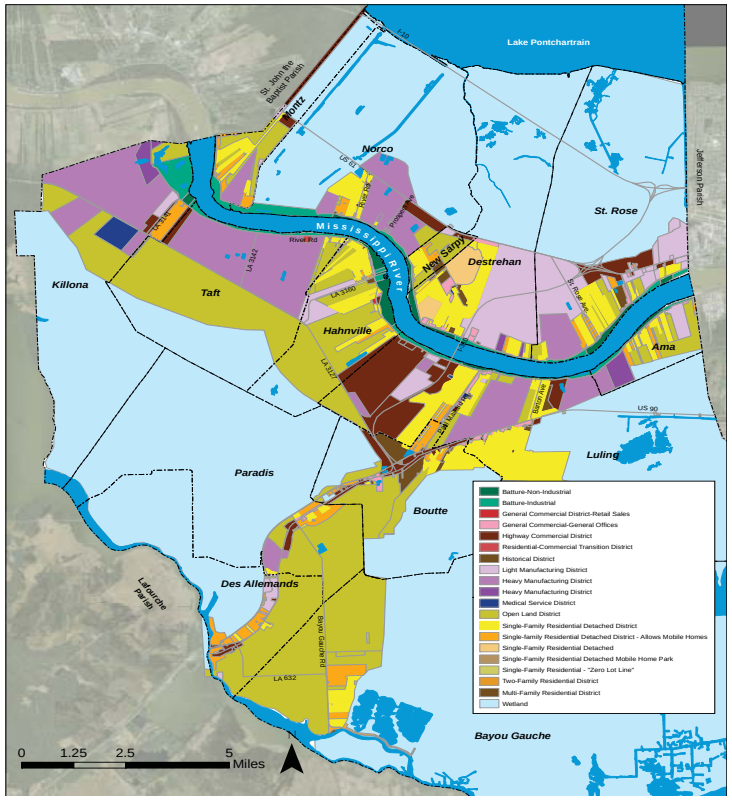


Figure 18: Existing Zoning.
(Source: St. Charles Parish Planning and Zoning Department, GIS Department)

5.2.1 Park Land

The Parish's park land acreage need has been calculated for 2010 using the U.S. Census 2010 counts and applying the recommended LOS standards. This represents the baseline need (Table 24).

Using these standards, the Parish at present does not meet the proposed Parishwide LOS by about 25 acres, of which 11 acres are a deficit in community parks. This amount of acreage is equivalent to 1 to additional community park. Similarly, the overall deficit in neighborhood park land is approximately 13 acres.

Table 24: 2010 Parishwide Park Land Needs

Park Type	Recommended LOS	2010 Park Land Acreage	2010 LOS	2010 Park Land Needed (Acres)	2010 Deficit
Parishwide*	5.5 ac/1000 persons	264.8	5.0	289.49	(24.69)
Community	4.5 ac/1000 persons	225.8	4.3	236.85	(11.05)
Neighborhood	1.0 ac/1000 persons	39.0	0.7	52.63	(13.63)
Regional Parks (Parish/Non-Parish)	-	40,751.4	772.00		
Special Facilities (Parish)	-	4.2	0.10		
Greenways/Trails	1 mi/3000 persons	25.79 miles	1.47	17.54	8.25

Source: WRT

Looking at needs at the planning community scale, marked disparities emerge (Table 25) relative to the population. As of 2010, the most significant deficiencies in community park land occur in St. Rose, Destrehan and Boutte. New Sarpy, Bayou Gauche, Ama and Des Allemands present deficits in community parks as well, though smaller. Neighborhood park land shortages in several of these communities may be addressed by expanding existing community parks, by leveraging future community parks or by acquiring new sites.

Parishwide park land needs were also calculated for the years 2020 and 2030 (Table 26) using the proposed LOS standards. Projected needs at the planning community scale are not provided for those years, because population projections are not available at the community scale.

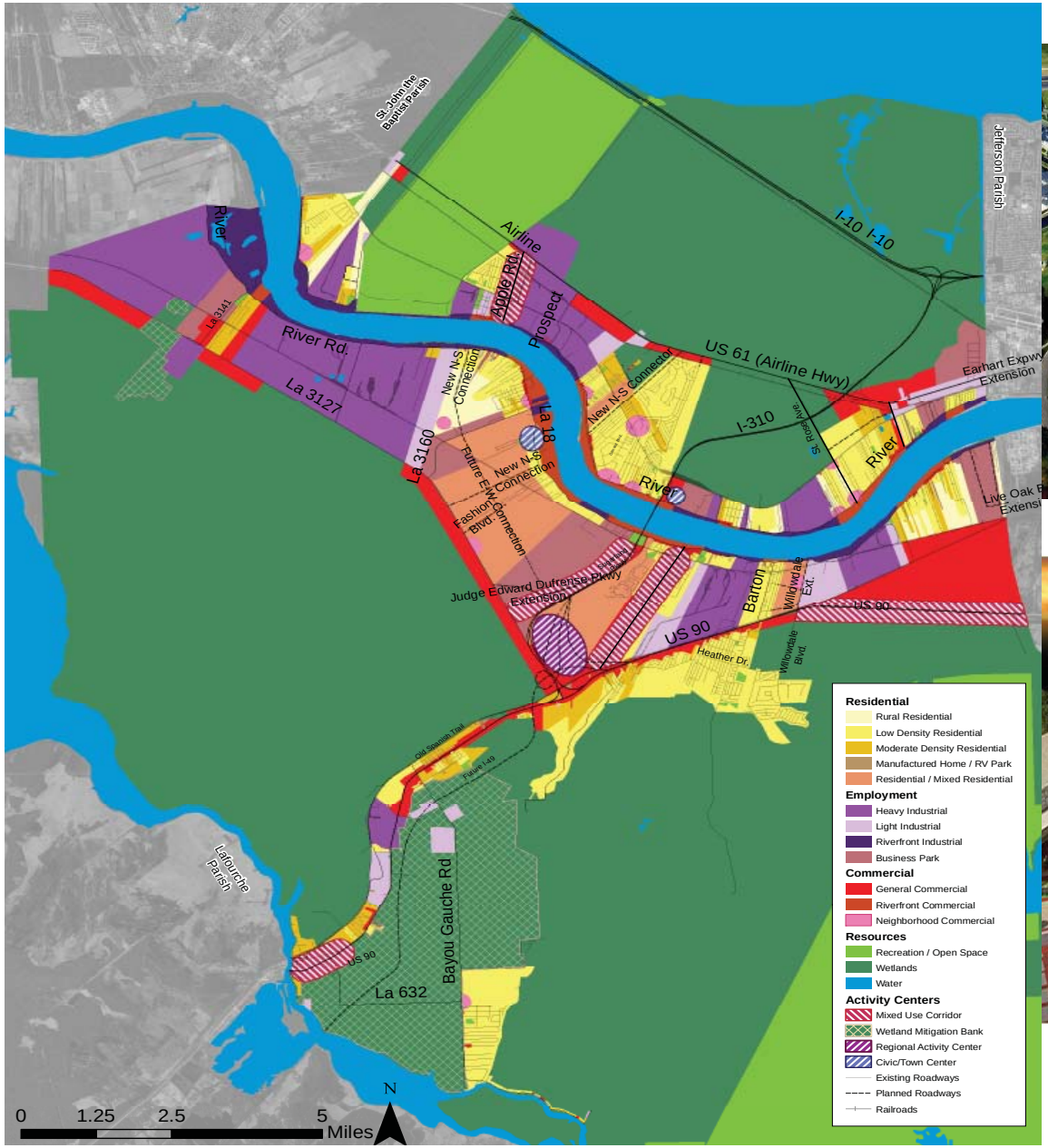


Figure 19: 2030 Future Land Use. (Source: WRT for the St. Charles Parish 2030 Comprehensive Plan)

Table 25: 2010 Park Land Needs by Planning Community

Community	Neighborhood Park Acreage	Current Need	Surplus/ Deficit	Community Park Acreage	Current Need	Surplus/ Deficit
Ama	2.7	1.32	1.38	3.8	5.92	-2.12
Bayou Gauche	0.0	2.07	-2.07	7.3	9.32	-2.02
Boutte	0.0	3.08	-3.08	4.0	13.84	-9.84
Des Allemands	3.6	2.51	1.10	9.4	11.27	-1.87
Destrehan	9.4	11.54	-2.14	29.7	51.91	-22.21
Hahnville	2.9	3.34	-0.44	27.4	15.05	12.35
Killona	0.0	0.79	-0.79	7.3	3.57	3.73
Luling	7.3	12.12	-4.82	78.5	54.54	23.96
Montz	3.2	1.92	1.28	11.7	8.63	3.07
New Sarpy	1.9	1.46	0.44	4.1	6.59	-2.49
Norco	6.7	3.07	3.63	22.4	13.83	8.57
Paradis	0.0	1.30	-1.30	13.6	5.84	7.76
St. Rose	1.3	8.12	-6.82	6.6	36.55	-29.95
Parishwide	39.0	52.63	-13.63	225.8	236.85	-11.05

Source: WRT

Table 26: 2020 and 2030 Parishwide Park Land Needs

Park Type	Recommended LOS	2010 Park Land Acreage	2020 LOS	2020 Park Land Needed (Acres)	2020 Deficit
Parishwide*	5.5 ac/1000 persons	264.8	4.6	318.62	(53.82)
Community	4.5 ac/1000 persons	225.8	3.9	260.69	(34.89)
Neighborhood	1.0 ac/1000 persons	39.0	0.7	57.93	(18.93)
Regional Parks (Parish/Non-Parish)	-	40,751.4			
Special Facilities (Parish)	-	4.2			
Greenways/Trails	1 mi/3000 persons	25.79 miles	0.84	19.31	6.48

Park Type	Recommended LOS	2010 Park Land Acreage	2030 LOS	2030 Park Land Needed (Acres)	2030 Deficit
Parishwide*	5.5 ac/1000 persons	264.8	4.4	333.19	(68.39)
Community	4.5 ac/1000 persons	225.8	3.7	272.61	(46.81)
Neighborhood	1.0 ac/1000 persons	39.0	0.6	60.58	(21.58)
Regional Parks (Parish/Non-Parish)	-	40,751.4			
Special Facilities (Parish)	-	4.2			
Greenways/Trails	1 mi/3000 persons	25.79 miles	0.81	20.19	5.60

Source: WRT

By the year 2020, St. Charles Parish is projected to have a population of 57,930 persons. If the current park land deficit is filled, the Parish will need to secure an additional 29 acres of park land to serve the needs of the 2020 population. Of those additional acres, approximately 24 would be needed for community parks (between 1-2 new parks). Only 5 acres of additional neighborhood park land would be required.

By 2030, the Parishwide will need 14.6 more acres than required in 2020. Approximately 12 of those acres would be needed for an additional community park.

In addition to park sites, the proposed LOS results in a 2030 demand for approximately 20 linear miles of greenways and trails, but the expected completion of the multi-use levee trails will create a surplus of linear trail miles through the year 2030. These multi-use paths should be linked to a network of new paths weaving through the Parish and allowing access to/from and between major community destinations.

5.2.2 Facilities

Based on the inventory of facilities, St. Charles Parish presently has a surplus of many types of facilities, based on the recommended Level of Service standards (Table 27).

As a result, there are no facility deficits at the Parish scale, and mostly fractional needs at the planning community scale. Exceptions include the need for multipurpose fields in Destrehan and outdoor basketball in St. Rose and Destrehan. In addition, the Parish should strive to include state-of-the-art multipurpose fields and basketball gyms in every community park, or to secure the use of additional facilities through interlocal/joint use agreements.

A special case concerns boat launch ramps. Although the LOS for boat launches is numerically adequate for the population, geographic disparities and lack of ancillary amenities (most particularly adequate parking)

make it imperative that the Parish continue to explore the feasibility of acquiring additional suitable locations to provide adequate water access. The Parish should move forward with its plan to build a state-of-the-art multi-ramp facility along east US 90.

The Parish should also adopt a comprehensive facility usage tracking strategy in order to more accurately document boat facility demand. Visitor use should include seasonal population, when appropriate (e.g., in the case of boat ramps).

Facility need projections for 2020 and 2030 at the planning community scale are not provided because population projections at the level are not available.

5.3 Equitable Recreation Access

The St. Charles Parish 2030 Comprehensive Plan envisions a community that, two decades from now, will provide a full array of recreation opportunities for all its residents and visitors through an outstanding system of conveniently located parks and expanded access to the Parish's waterways and other natural resources.

The 2030 Vision emphasizes improving the lives of Parish residents, but it is also geared toward attracting economic development to the Parish by creating an exceptional quality of life. The value provided by a first-rate parks and open space system within this vision is manifold: recreational, environmental, scenic/aesthetic, salutary, societal, economic and beneficial to transportation. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will enhance the livability of Parish communities by improving walkability and connectivity, retaining open space and greenway corridors, providing accessible Parish-wide active and passive recreation opportunities for a full range of age groups and interests, and facilitating the integration of recreation, civic activities, and other essential uses.

To carry out these objectives, the adoption of the level of service (LOS) standards recommended in this Master Plan is key. The standards provide an objective, quantified picture of the facilities necessary to adequately serve the Parish's population needs. The standards allows to quickly determine the extent of needs so that priorities may be established for the investment of limited fiscal resources in capital, program-related, or operational improvements.

However, the adoption of LOS is not enough. A new approach to the acquisition, management, and maintenance of the Parish's parks and recreation system is also required to ensure not simply its permanence, but its continual improvement. The new approach is a combination of three related strategies:

Table 27: Facility Needs for 2010

Community	Baseball Fields	Need (@ 1/10,000)	2010 Surplus/ Deficit	Soccer Fields	Need (@ 1/6,000)	2010 Surplus/ Deficit	Football Fields	Need (@ 1/10,000)	2010 Surplus/ Deficit	Multipurpose Fields	Need (@ 1/5,000)	2010 Surplus/ Deficit	Outdoor Basketball	Need (@ 1/3,000)	2010 Surplus/ Deficit	Basketball Gym	Need (@ 1/10,000)	2010 Surplus/ Deficit	Playgrounds	Need (@ 1/3,000)	2010 Surplus/ Deficit
Ama	2	0.1	1.9		0.2	-0.2		0.1	-0.1	1	0.3	0.7	1	0.4	0.6		0.1	-0.1	1	0.4	0.6
Bayou Gauche	1	0.2	0.8		0.3	-0.3		0.2	-0.2	1	0.4	0.6		0.7	-0.7		0.2	-0.2	1	0.7	0.3
Boutte	1	0.3	0.7		0.4	-0.4		0.3	-0.3		0.5	-0.5	1	0.9	0.1	1	0.3	0.7	1	0.9	0.1
Des Allemands	11	0.2	10.8		0.3	-0.3		0.2	-0.2	2	0.4	1.6	1	0.7	0.3		0.2	-0.2	1	0.7	0.3
Destrehan	13	1.2	11.8	2	2.0	0.0	2	1.2	0.8		2.4	-2.4	3	3.9	-0.9	3	1.2	1.8	4	3.9	0.1
Hahnville	5	0.3	4.7	1	0.6	0.4	2	0.3	1.7	2	0.7	1.3	2	1.1	0.9	4	0.3	3.7	2	1.1	0.9
Killona	2	0.1	1.9		0.1	-0.1		0.1	-0.1	1	0.2	0.8	2	0.3	1.7		0.1	-0.1	1	0.3	0.7
Luling	20	1.3	18.7	1	2.1	-1.1	1	1.3	-0.3	7	2.5	4.5	6	4.2	1.8	2	1.3	0.7	5	4.2	0.8
Montz	2	0.1	1.9		0.2	-0.2		0.1	-0.1	1	0.2	0.8	2	0.4	1.6		0.1	-0.1	1	0.4	0.6
New Sarpy	1	0.2	0.8		0.3	-0.3		0.2	-0.2	1	0.3	0.7	1	0.6	0.4		0.2	-0.2	3	0.6	2.4
Norco	11	0.4	10.6		0.6	-0.6		0.4	-0.4	1	0.8	0.2	2	1.3	0.7	1	0.4	0.6	5	1.3	3.7
Paradis	1	0.1	0.9		0.2	-0.2		0.1	-0.1	1	0.3	0.7		0.5	-0.5	1	0.1	0.9		0.5	-0.5
St. Rose	4	0.7	3.3	10	1.1	8.9	1	0.7	0.3	2	1.3	0.7		2.2	-2.2	1	0.7	0.3	2	2.2	-0.2
Total	**74**	**5.1**	**68.9**	**14**	**8.5**	**5.5**	**6**	**5.1**	**0.9**	**20**	**10.2**	**9.8**	**21**	**17.1**	**3.9**	**13**	**5.1**	**7.9**	**27**	**17.1**	**9.9**

Source: WRT

1. The Parish should focus primarily on the provision of large-scale, well-placed community parks, designed and programmed to simultaneously serve community and neighborhood recreation needs. Based on estimated current needs, the Parish should immediately identify at least one site for an additional large (10+ acres) community park, concentrating on those communities with the greatest current park land deficits: St. Rose, Destrehan and Boutte. The Parish may do this by:

   - Acquiring raw land for new park development
   - Expanding the functionality of existing under-utilized or underdeveloped parks
   - Developing other Parish-owned undeveloped sites
   - Acquiring existing recreational (non-Parish) sites

   Figure 20 identifies areas of immediate need throughout the Parish and areas of opportunity where the Future Land Use Map directs future growth, creating the opportunity for the Parish to target park land in a strategic manner.

2. To support the first strategy, the Parish should move away from accepting land exactions for neighborhood parks in new or existing residential developments which result in parcels too undersized or isolated to utilize for public use. Instead, the payment of fees-in-lieu, which is allowed in existing ordinances, should be encouraged through the development process so that the Parish may then target and acquire larger, better situated properties to meet community park needs.

3. To further improve the effectiveness of its operations, the Parish should expand public access to its existing parks, while exploring opportunities to dispose of existing park properties that offer low recreational value to its residents. This could mean terminating leases of underdeveloped or underused properties, or transferring an existing neighborhood park to a homeowners or neighborhood association. Table 28 offers a preliminary assessment of the recreational value and functionality of each of the Parish's park properties, based on the following criteria and ratings:

Suggested Criteria for Assessing Functionality/Value of Park Land

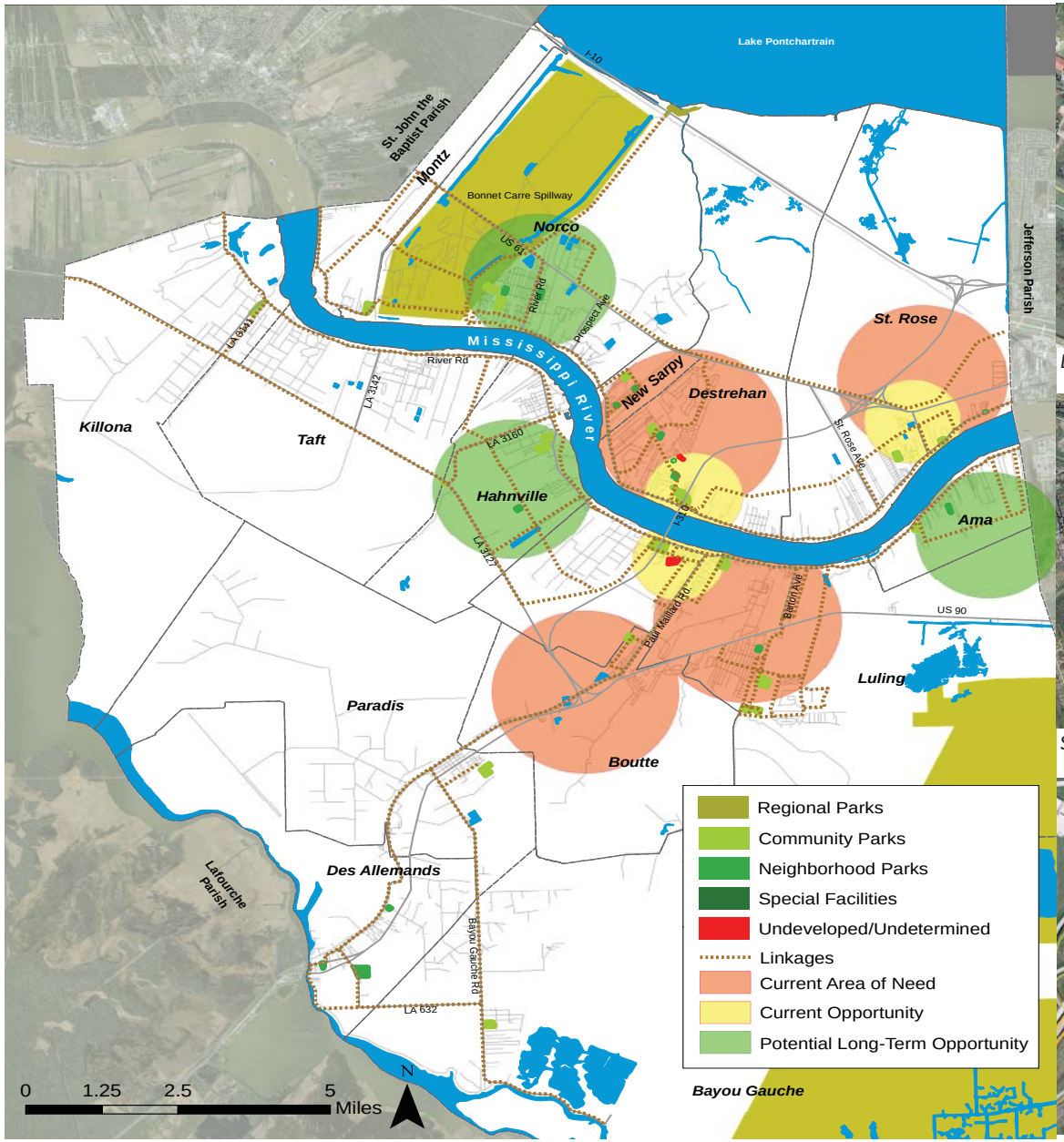
- Size: Minimum of 5 acres (existing community park; for future community parks 10 acres) and 1 acre (existing neighborhood park; 3 acres future).
- Location/Accessibility: Site can be easily accessed by the general public (no barriers); adequate parking, sidewalks and bicycle access can be provided.
- Facilities and Utilization: Site is configured so that facilities appropriate for the intended park type can be reasonably developed. Casual and programmed recreation is possible.

Functional Park of Parish-wide Public Value
Value = 1 (top value)

- Size (acreage): generally 5 acres or more
- Location/Accessibility: easily accessible to the general public, with adequate parking and good linkages to the surrounding areas (or potential for creating such linkages)
- Improvements: improved with sports/recreation facilities
- Programs: organized sports/programs/events are offered
- Utilization: public use

Functional Park of Localized Value Only
Value = 2 (limited value)

- Size (acreage): generally more than 1 acre but less than 5 acres
- Location/Accessibility: property is entirely within a neighborhood or subdivision boundaries, with limited or no parking and limited connections to surrounding areas (or impediments to creating them)
- Improvements: limited or none
- Programs: none offered
- Utilization: limited general public use (other than the immediate neighborhood) and mostly casual (e.g. pick-up games)



Destrehan Opportunity: East Bank Bridge Park Expansion

St. Rose Opportunity: IMTT Field Park Expansion

Luling Opportunity: Ashton Plantation Site Development

Figure 20: Current Areas of Need and Opportunity. (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, WRT)

Table 28: Preliminary Recreation Value/Function Rating

Value/Function Rating	Park	Community
1	Ama Grain	AMA
2	St. Marks	AMA
1	Bayou Gauche Park	BAYOU GAUCHE
1	Boutte Community Park	BOUTTE
3	JB Green Park	DES ALLEMANDS
1	American Legion Field	DES ALLEMANDS
2	Des Allemands Walking Park	DES ALLEMANDS
1	Shriners Field	DESTREHAN
1	Ormond Community Park	DESTREHAN
1	Destrehan High School	DESTREHAN
3	South Destrehan	DESTREHAN
3	Red Church Park	DESTREHAN
1	Harry Hurst Middle School	DESTREHAN
1	East Bank Bridge Park	DESTREHAN
3	Nottaway Park	DESTREHAN
3	Panther Run Park	DESTREHAN
1	Hahnville High School	HAHNVILLE
2	Fashion Plantation Park	HAHNVILLE
1	Eual J. Landry Middle School	HAHNVILLE
1	Holy Rosary Park	HAHNVILLE
1	Carver Elementary School	HAHNVILLE
1	Killona Park	KILLONA
2	Rathborne Park	LULING
1	Lakewood Elementary Park	LULING
1	Mimosa Elementary	LULING
1	Lagattuta Field	LULING
1	Monsanto Bi-centennial Park	LULING
1	Monsanto Park	LULING
1	R K Smith Middle School	LULING
4	Ashton Plantation (undeveloped)	LULING
1	West Bank Bridge Park	LULING
3	Montz/Brougere Tract (undeveloped)	MONTZ
1	Montz Park	MONTZ
1	New Sarpy Park	NEW SARPY
2	East Harding Park (Collins Park)	NEW SARPY
2	East Harding Park (Whitehall)	NEW SARPY
2	West Harding Park	NEW SARPY
1	Bonnet Carre Spillway	NORCO
1	Bethune Park	NORCO
1	Norco Elementary School	NORCO
1	Sacred Heart Elementary School	NORCO
2	5th and Goodhope Park	NORCO
1	Wetland Watchers Park	NORCO
1	RJ Vial Elem/JB Martin Middle School	PARADIS
1	Albert Cammon Middle School	ST. ROSE
1	IMMT Park	ST. ROSE
3	Fairfield Playground	ST. ROSE

Source: WRT

Sites with No Recreational Value

Value = 3 (no value)

- Size (acreage): generally less than 1 acre
- Location/Accessibility: limited accessibility, no parking, no connections to surrounding areas (or impediments to creating them)
- Improvements: none (unimproved/lawn only)
- Programs: none offered
- Utilization: only occasional casual or passive use

5.4 Connected Destinations

In keeping with the ideas proposed in the Vision, the Master Plan is conceived as an integrated system of quality community parks and open spaces which –along with other important local destinations— are connected by a network of pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails.

While linking the Parish's parks is one of the purposes of this network of paths and trails, the primary goal is to improve access between residential areas and nearby parks, schools, civic uses, employment and commercial centers, and cultural attractions, reinforcing and leveraging these proximities to create community hubs.

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map (refer to Figure 19) identifies what are termed as "activity nodes," where land uses are mixed in compact patterns that allow and encourage walking and biking between destinations. The nodes include existing and incipient clusters of uses such as parks, schools, libraries, municipal buildings, and cultural sites which today often stand as unconnected community destinations. The comprehensive system of linkages proposed in the Master Plan could serve as the missing "glue" that begins to bring together and provide "safe routes" to and between these destinations.

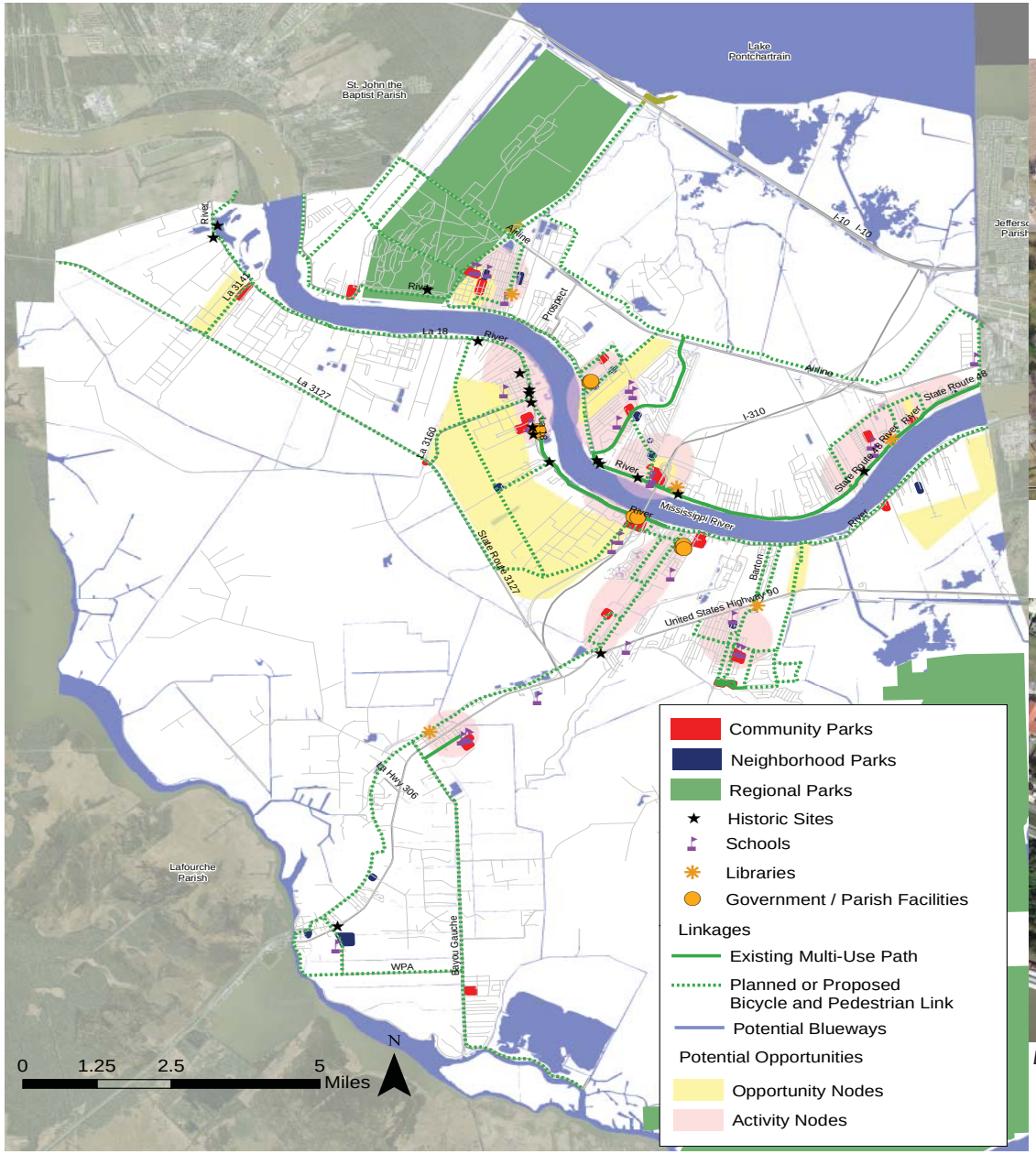
The path and trail network can also be used to expand user access to the Parish's wetlands and waterways with connections to "blue trails." Blue trails are dedicated stretches of a waterway, which enjoy special clean water safeguards and serve as destinations for fishing, boating, and other recreation. The Master Plan recommends that the Parish prepare a Blueways Feasibility Study to identify navigable waterways that are suitable for blue trail designation.

The levee paths exemplify some of what is desired in a greenway, but today, with few exceptions, they provide no side rest areas or amenities (i.e., trash receptacles, water, benches) and have little natural shade to give users respite from the sun and heat. There is no path signage and no safe connections exist to destinations beyond the path. These are simple design refinements which may be added over the next two decades (as shown in Figure 21) to enhance these paths.

Opportunities should be sought to develop the additional path and trail segments separate from auto traffic, with the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists as priority. In many areas, a "complete streets" approach will be the more feasible solution to enhance access to destinations, to link greenway segments and to improve multimodal mobility, both for recreational and transportation purposes.

Figure 22 depicts existing assets that may be leveraged in establishing the framework of connected destinations envisioned in this Master Plan. Figure 23 shows the overall concept for the Parishwide path and trail linkage network. Developing this system throughout St. Charles Parish will be challenging for several reasons: the only Parishwide trails that exist today are the levee paths; Parish streets are generally narrow and most are bordered by open drainage; and many portions of the Parish have been developed without consideration for linkages, making retrofitting difficult but not impossible. Figure 23 includes visualizations of how the complete streets concept may be accomplished. The Parish should encourage LA DOTD to apply a complete streets concept in every roadway improvement project it completes in the Parish over the next two decades, and should require it in Parish-undertaken roadway projects.

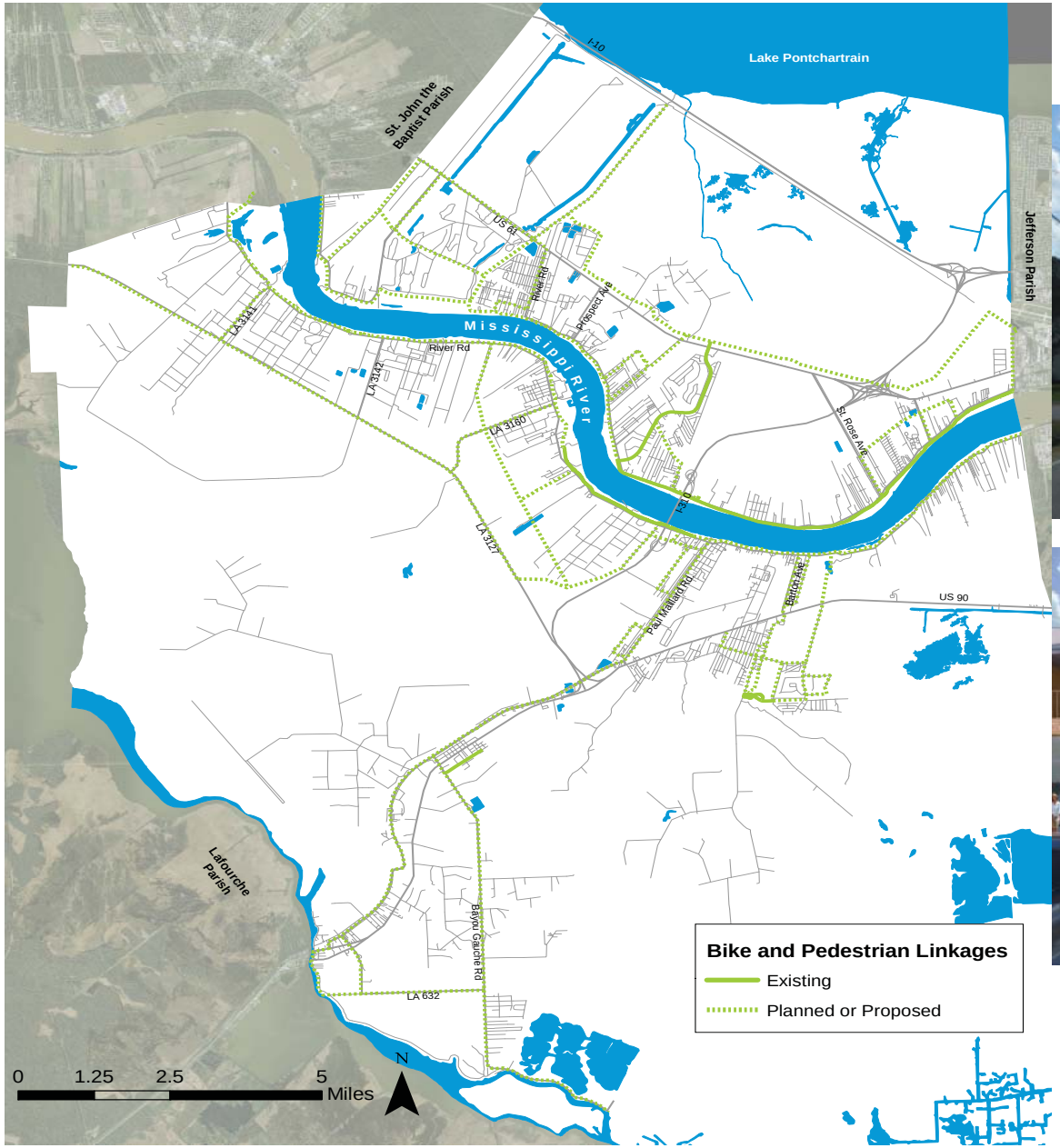
Figure 21: Possible Levee Path Enhancements. (Source: WRT)



Hahnville Civic Center Destination Node

Destrehan/East Bank Bridge Park Destination Node

Figure 22: Existing and Potential Destination Nodes. (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, WRT)



Paul Mallard Rd. Complete Street Improvement Opportunity

Figure 23: Potential Bike and Pedestrian Linkage Network. (Source: St. Charles Parish GIS, WRT)

6. Implementation

6.1 Implementing Policies and Actions

The goals of the Master Plan (refer to Chapter 5) are not easily quantified or measured, and must therefore be translated into measurable policies that may then be achieved by pursuing specific strategies or actions. The following are the policies and actions which implement the goals of the Master Plan. These policies and actions expand upon those memorialized in the Comprehensive Plan's Parks and Recreation Element, adopted in June 2011. Each policy is referred to the goal it is meant to forward.

Policy 1 (Goals 1 and 3)

Continually improve existing parks and recreation facilities and programs to adequately serve the needs and expectations of all St. Charles Parish residents.

Actions

1.1 Adopt and implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) as the instrument for determining maintenance needs and budgeting. Develop a GIS-based inventory to assist in day- to-day management of maintenance functions.

1.2 Continue to provide ongoing maintenance necessary to keep up functionality and a high-quality appearance in existing and future facilities and infrastructure. Develop maintenance standards with unit costs and cost-benefit criteria to prioritize investment, addressing issues such as:

- Acre cost per maintained acre.
- Lifecycle asset replacement.
- Safety and security.
- Access and linkages.
- Natural resource preservation and restoration.

1.3 Track upkeep of privately owned park facilities that are maintained by homeowners associations and other private entities.

1.4 Extend the utility of playfields with synthetic surfaces or new configurations, lighting to expand hours of use, and bicycle and pedestrian links to improve access.

1.5 Link existing and new facilities to build up a Parish-wide greenway system (using bike paths and bike trails, linear parks, natural open space, etc.).

1.6 Monitor maintenance equipment, infrastructure and staff needs and upgrade periodically pursuant to criteria similar to those used for parks.

Policy 2 (Goals 1, 3 and 4)

Provide an array and distribution of recreational opportunities to serve all recreation interests, income levels, age groups, and geographic areas in the Parish fairly.

Actions

2.1 Use the Future Land Use Map to identify opportunities for future parks (refer to Chapter 5, Figure 18).

2.2 Expand the variety of recreational programs to reach the largest number of citizens in St. Charles Parish:

- Undertake a demand and capacity analysis of existing programs offered.
- Establish an outcome-based program to track the need for modifications to existing programs and addition of new ones.
- Develop a phased implementation plan for modifying existing programs and rolling out new ones.

2.3 Continue to explore opportunities, as they arise, to acquire private recreational assets that meet needs identified in the PRMP and which-show potential to create positive cash flow from sources such as user fees (e.g., golf courses, swimming pools, etc.).

2.4 Expand and improve access to the Parish's existing parks, open space, and recreation areas and facilities:

- Develop a Parish-wide bikeway and pedestrian trail network consistent with the Potential Bike and Pedestrian Linkage Network (refer to Chapter 5, Figure 22).
- Leverage requirements in the Subdivision Regulations and the Zoning Ordinance to reserve land linkages between existing and future parks and the proposed Parish-wide Bike and Pedestrian Linkage Network.
- Ensure that the Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance include adequate standards for traffic calming (slow-down) to improve safety around parks and schools.
- Design all parks to be accessible and create "whole access" trails to provide outdoor recreation for all regardless of physical ability.
- Continue to pursue opportunities to enhance the Parish's image as it relates to outdoor lifestyles through physical and programmatic improvements to its waterfront.
- Explore innovative and cost effective tools that create new recreation opportunities; e.g., through the use of mobile recreation units or "pop-up park" events that come to under-served areas of the Parish on a recurring basis (e.g., once a week during summer months),
- Ensure clear signage exists linking parks and other facilities to improve wayfinding and safety.

2.5 Require that large-scale stormwater retention areas in new development be designed as open space amenities conveniently accessible to the public for recreation and enjoyment.

2.6 Prepare a Blueways Feasibility Study to identify a network of navigable waterways suitable for paddling and water-based recreation uses.

Policy 3 (Goal 2)

Capitalize on available resources and the participation from as many local agencies as possible to avoid duplication of facilities and services and reduce financial impacts on the Parish's taxpayers.

Actions

3.1 Continue to pursue joint use of recreational facilities owned by the school district and other recreational providers, including private recreation facilities.

3.2 Appoint a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to evaluate and prioritize park and recreational demands and needs, and to advise the Parks Department and the Parish Council on matters related to park and recreation issues.

3.3 Encourage private sector development of recreational facilities to help meet the Parish's needs.

Policy 4 (Goals 1 and 5)

Develop new facilities which conform to adopted standards for levels of quantity and quality.

Actions

4.1 Adopt the Level of Service (LOS) Standards recommended in the PRMP for current and future parks and recreation facilities.

4.2 To remedy present and projected quantitative deficiencies identified in the PRMP, over the next 20 years obtain and develop sites for five to six (5-6) additional 10+ acre community parks throughout the Parish.

4.3 Give immediate priority to meeting the needs of local communities with the greatest parkland deficiencies, but focus on providing larger

By the year 2030, residents envision St. Charles Parish having an outstanding recreation system with conveniently located parks that serve community needs and are linked to one another by sidewalks, bike paths, trails and green corridors...

community parks, which can accommodate users needs for neighborhood-oriented recreation facilities. Future public park sites may be gained by several means:

- Undeveloped, underdeveloped or under-utilized sites that are already owned by the Parish (used as parks or for other uses).
- Existing recreational sites or facilities not owned by the Parish (private or commercial recreation uses).
- Raw land specifically purchased for park development (or co-location agreements).

4.4 At least every five years, review and update the PRMP's population forecast and associated projections of parkland needs. Evaluate and, as necessary, adjust the adopted LOS standards at the same time to meet changing conditions.

4.5 Prepare detailed site plans for the development of any new parks, greenways, trails, and plans for the management of open space areas to fit the vision, principles, goals and policies of the PRMP.

4.6 Review and refine as needed the wording of the current open space requirements in the Subdivision Regulations (Section III.F.1(a) and (b)) to clarify that:

- All land reserved for park land as part of a development shall be **usable** for active or passive recreational use. Usable in this context means that the land must be accessible and free of obstructions and development.

  "Usable" does not include rights of way of engineered, non-accessible flood control channels, inaccessible utility easements, areas devoted to parking, traffic or private uses, or areas that do not provide a recreational or scenic benefit.

- The location and configuration of the park site is subject to plat review and approval.
- Because the Parish will be primarily focused on the acquisition of park land for community parks and not neighborhood parks, the Parish may choose to not accept park sites dedicated as neighborhood parks (i.e., a park of a certain size that serves only the immediate neighborhood, as defined in the PRMP).

  Such parks shall remain under the ownership and management of a property owners association or a similar private entity. The development shall receive credit for such open space in accordance with Section III.F (1(d).

The Parish will encourage developers to donate a fee-in-lieu of dedication to allow the Parish to pursue the acquisition of larger sites for community parks, consistent with the PRMP.

4.7 Consider providing an increase in net density (i.e., a reduction of the minimum lot size) for developments that provide park land above the minimum required.

4.8 Ensure that parks and recreational open space are included in redevelopment projects where that is feasible, to promote the revitalization of existing communities.

4.9 Secure corridors that allow parks, cultural sites and other community destinations to be connected through both public and private development (refer to Figure 21). Possible means to achieve this include:

- Voluntary easement agreements with utility agencies, private landowners and other governmental agencies for co-use of roadway, utility or waterway corridors, where appropriate, as greenway linkages and trails.
- Coordination with LA DOTD, the Parish's Public Works Department, and private developers to ensure that improved or new roadways are adequately sized and designed to accommodate on or off-road bike paths and trail facilities, prioritizing those identified in Figure TR-9, (Transportation Element).

- Ensure that Subdivision Regulations require new residential and mixed-use developments to include sidewalks on both sides of the street and bike paths on at least one side for internal collectors and for routes to parks and schools.
- Build connections between proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities and the levee trails.

Policy 5 (Goals 1 and 4)

Promote St. Charles Parish's parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Actions

5.1 Increase awareness and appreciation of St. Charles Parish's parks and recreation at the local and regional levels through effective marketing and informational campaigns:

- Develop a promotional plan to guide Parish efforts over the next five years.
- Work with the Parish's Public Information Office to determine budget needs for promotion.
- Develop materials that highlight the Parish's parks and recreation programs, facilities, and services and their benefits to residents.
- Coordinate with other Parish and regional promotional efforts to position the Parish and brand it as a place of great outdoor pursuits and lifestyles.
- Take advantage of new technology to expand the reach and efficiency of promotional communications.
- Conduct ongoing research (satisfaction survey) of users and non-users to understand desired services and outcomes.
- Promote neighborhood and business stewardship of parks through participation in clean-ups and similar activities.

5.2 Publish maps geared toward eco-tourists (including blueways, greenways/trails, etc.), and sportsmen (including boat launches, fishing areas, gamelands, etc.) to promote the Parish's outdoor recreation opportunities.

5.3 In coordination with the Department of Economic Development & Tourism and related economic development entities, establish performance measures of community well-being and quality of life that can be used to attract investment, as well as visitors, to the Parish.

Examples of performance measures may include but are not limited to:

- Per capita provision of park land for public use.
- Overall number and types of recreational facilities.
- Miles of trails and paths.
- Proximity/access to parks (service area distances).
- Park spending per capita.
- Program participation/number of persons served.
- Degree of user satisfaction (survey).
- Health and fitness measures (drop in obesity, diabetes rates, etc.).

Policy 6 (Goal 3)

Budget sufficient resources and seek innovative funding sources to maintain a high quality system of parks and recreation facilities.

Actions

6.1 Develop true cost of service information (direct and indirect costs) on a per unit basis to determine levels of operational efficiency.

6.2 Identify and pursue opportunities to reduce the inventory of low recreational value (as identified in the PRMP), which exert a financial drain on the Parish.

Possible means for disposition include, but are not limited to:

- Termination of leases of underdeveloped, under-used, low-value properties
- Property swaps (a low-value site for a better located, larger or otherwise more adequate for development of a higher value facility)
- Ownership/maintenance transfer to homeowner or neighborhood organizations of facilities which serve only that neighborhood or subdivision.

6.3 Prepare an investment program specifically related to the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of public parks, then annually allocate and update the funding needed for these actions in the Capital Improvement Program.

6.4 Periodically review and, if necessary, reallocate or increase staff resources as new programs or park acquisitions expand the Parish's park and recreation system.

6.5 Continue to explore and aggressively pursue opportunities to diversify and augment current funding sources, including:

- Development of new revenue-producing facilities.
- Federal, state, corporate, institutional and foundation grants.
- Public-public, public-nonprofit and public-private partnerships.
- Donations, corporate sponsorships.
- Outsourcing and concession agreements.
- Park "friends" group(s) (nonprofits for fundraising purposes).
- Cost-recovery for specific recreational activities and programs.

6.6 Continue to support and expand events and partnerships with volunteers and citizen groups on park maintenance and improvement projects through programs such as Park Stewards and Adopt-a-Park:

- Track the real cost and economic impacts (cost/benefit) of Parish events.
- Establish clear volunteer and affiliate partnership policies, strategies and criteria, including interlocal agreement and lease agreement terms, and cost-tracking.
- Partnership terms should include:

  -a description of the reason for the creation of the partnership and outcomes that benefit each partner's involvement.

  -a working agreement with measurable outcomes that hold each partner accountable to the outcomes and each other.

  -a system for tracking of direct and indirect costs and revenues to demonstrate the level of equity invested by each partner.

6.7 Integrate green/best environmental practices (energy and water conservation measures, use of recycled materials, low-water landscaping, etc.) into the design, construction, and management of the Parish's parks and recreation facilities to lower costs.

6.8 Pursue opportunities to combine new park sites with other public facilities (e.g., libraries, fire stations, or schools) to reduce acquisition and development costs.

6.2 Priority Needs

In the next two pages, Table 29 establishes a phasing plan for the implementation of the actions described in the previous section.

Acronyms Used	
DEDT	Department of Economic Development and Tourism
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
DPWW	Department of Public Works and Wastewater
DPZ	Department of Planning and Zoning
GO	Grants Office
LA DOTD	Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
PRAB	Park and Recreation Advisory Board (future)

Table 29: Priority Action Plan

Park and Recreation Actions and Recommended Timeframe to Initiate	Reference Page	Action Type	Lead, Partners
Immediate (within six months to 1 year)			
1.1 Adopt and begin implementing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP). Develop a GIS-based inventory to assist in day- to-day management of maintenance functions.	68	PLANNING	DPR, PARISH COUNCIL
3.2 Appoint a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.	69	PLANNING	PARISH COUNCIL, DPR
4.1 Adopt the Level of Service (LOS) Standards recommended in the PRMP (Chapter 4, Section 4.4, p. 53).	69	PLANNING	DPR, PRAB
4.6 Review and, as necessary, amend the Subdivision Regulations language (Section III.F.1(a) and (b)) to ensure that:	71	REGULATION	DPZ, DPR
• All land reserved for park land as part of a development shall be usable.		REGULATION	DPZ, DPR
• The location and configuration of the park site is subject to plat review and approval.		REGULATION	DPZ, DPR
• Because the Parish will be primarily focused on the acquisition of park land for community parks and not neighborhood parks, the Parish may choose to not accept park sites dedicated as neighborhood parks (as defined in the PRMP).		REGULATION	DPZ, DPR
• Any neighborhood parks created by a developer shall remain under the ownership and management of a property owners association or a similar private entity. The development shall receive credit for such open space (Section III.F (1)(d)).		PROGRAM, REGULATION	DPR
• Encourage developers to donate a fee-in-lieu of dedication to allow the Parish to pursue the acquisition of larger sites for community parks.		REGULATION, PROGRAM	DPR, PRAB, PARISH COUNCIL
6.2 Identify opportunities to reduce the inventory of low recreational value / maintenance intensive sites.	72	PLANNING	DPR, PRAB, PARISH COUNCIL

Table 29: Priority Action Plan (Cont'd)

Park and Recreation Actions and Recommended Timeframe to Initiate	Reference Page	Action Type	Lead, Partners
Short-Term (from one to two years)			
4.2 Acquire and develop at least one 10+ acre community parks within the next two years.	69	PLANNING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, PRAB, PARISH COUNCIL
4.7 Consider increasing the net density (i.e., a reduction of the minimum lot size) for developments that provide parkland above the minimum required.	71	REGULATION	DPZ, DPR
5.1 Create new marketing and informational campaigns:	71	PROGRAM	DPR, PIO
• Develop a promotional plan for the next five years		PLANNING	DPR, PIO
• Work with the Parish's Public Information Office to determine budget needs for promotion		PLANNING	DPR, PIO
• Develop materials that highlight the Parish's parks and recreation programs, facilities, and services and their benefits to residents.		PLANNING	DPR, PIO
• Coordinate with other Parish and regional promotional efforts to position and brand the Parish as a place of great outdoor pursuits and lifestyles		PLANNING	DEDT, DPR
• Take advantage of social media and other tools and technology to expand reach		PROGRAM	PIO, DEDT, DPR
• Conduct ongoing research (satisfaction survey) of users and non-users		PLANNING	DPR
• Promote neighborhood and business stewardship of parks.		PROGRAM	DPR
6.1 Develop true cost of service information (direct and indirect costs) on a per unit basis.	72	PROGRAM	DPR
6.3 Prepare an investment program for park acquisition, development, maintenance and operation; integrate into the CIP.	73	CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, PRAB, PARISH COUNCIL

Table 29: Priority Action Plan (Cont'd)

Park and Recreation Actions and Recommended Timeframe to Initiate	Reference Page	Action Type	Lead, Partners
Mid-Term (from two to five years)			
2.6 Prepare a Blueways Feasibility Study.	69	PLANNING	DPR, DPZ
4.2 Acquire and develop sites for two to three (2-3) additional 10+ acre community parks within the next five years.	69	PLANNING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, PRAB, PARISH COUNCIL
5.2 Publish eco-tourism (i.e., blueways, greenways/trails, etc.), and sportsman's paradise maps (e.g. boat launches, fishing areas, gamelands, etc.).	71	PLANNING	DPR
5.3 Establish park-related performance measures of community health and quality of life.	71	PLANNING	DPR, DEDT, DPZ
Long-Term (from five to fifteen years – through 2030)			
(2.4) Develop a Parish-wide bikeway and pedestrian trail network (Figure 22)	69	CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, DPWW
4.2 Obtain and develop sites for one to two (1-2) additional 10+ acre community parks. (By 2030, the Parish will need a total of five to six (5-6) more community parks than today.)	69	PLANNING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, PRAB, PARISH COUNCIL

Table 29: Priority Action Plan (Cont'd)

Park and Recreation Actions and Recommended Timeframe to Initiate	Reference Page	Action Type	Lead, Partners
Continuation of Current/Ongoing Actions, Programs, Initiatives			
1.2 Provide ongoing maintenance to existing and future facilities and infrastructure. Develop maintenance standards.	68	CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR
1.3 Track upkeep of privately owned park facilities.	68	PROGRAM	DPR, DPZ
1.4 Extend the usefulness of playfields.	68	CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR
1.5 Link existing and new facilities to build up a Parish-wide greenway system (using bike paths and bike trails, linear parks, natural open space, etc.)	68	PLANNING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, DPWW
1.6 Monitor maintenance equipment, infrastructure and staff needs and upgrade periodically.	68	PLANNING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, PARISH ADMINISTRATION
2.1 Use the Future Land Use Map to identify opportunities for future parks (PRMP Figure 18)	68	PLANNING	DPR, DPZ
2.2 Continually expand the variety of recreational programs to reach the largest number of citizens in St. Charles Parish.	68	PLANNING, PROGRAM	DPR
2.3 Explore all opportunities to acquire suitable private recreational assets which show potential to create positive cash flow.	69	PLANNING	DPR, PARISH ADMINISTRATION, PARISH COUNCIL
2.4 Develop a Parish-wide bikeway and pedestrian trail network (refer to Chapter 5, Figure 22):	69	PLANNING	DPR
• Develop a Parish-wide bikeway and pedestrian trail network (refer to Chapter 5, Figure 22).		REGULATION	DPZ, DPR
• Leverage the Subdivision Regulations and the Zoning Ordinance to reserve land linkages for bicycle and walking paths		REGULATION	DPZ, DPR
• Ensure that the Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance address traffic calming (slow-down) around schools and parks.		REGULATION	DPR
• Design all parks to be accessible and create "whole access" trails.		PLANNING	DPR

Table 29: Priority Action Plan (Cont'd)

Park and Recreation Actions and Recommended Timeframe to Initiate	Reference Page	Action Type	Lead, Partners
• Continue to pursue opportunities to enhance the Parish's waterfront.		PLANNING	DPR
• Explore innovative tools that create new types of recreation opportunities.		PLANNING, PROGRAM	DPR
• Improve wayfinding and safety through clear signage exists.		PROGRAM	DPR
2.5 Require that stormwater retention areas be designed as open space amenities.	69	PLANNING	DPZ, DPR, PLANNING COMMISSION, PLANNING COUNCIL
3.1 Pursue joint use of recreational facilities owned by the school district and other providers.	69	PLANNING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, PARISH ADMINISTRATION, PARISH COUNCIL
3.3 Encourage private sector development of recreational facilities.	69	PARTNERSHIP	PARISH COUNCIL, DPR
4.3 Meet first the needs of local communities with the greatest parkland deficiencies, but focus on providing larger community parks.	69	PLANNING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT	DPR, PRAB, PARISH COUNCIL
4.4 Review and update the PRMP at least every five years and adjust the adopted LOS Standards accordingly	71	PLANNING	DRP, PRAB
4.5 Prepare detailed site plans for any new parks, greenways, trails, and plans for the management of open space areas.	71	PLANNING	DRP
4.8 Ensure that parks and recreational open space are included in redevelopment projects where feasible.	71	PLANNING	DPZ
4.9 Secure corridors to connect community destinations through both public and private development (refer to Figure 21).	71	PLANNING	DPR
6.4 Periodically review and, if necessary, reallocate or increase staff resources.	73	PLANNING	DPR
6.5 Explore and aggressively pursue opportunities to diversify and augment current funding sources.	73	PLANNING	DPR
6.6 Support and expand events and partnerships with volunteers and citizen groups on park maintenance and improvement projects.	73	PARTNERSHIP	DPR
6.7 Integrate green/best environmental practices into the design, construction, and management of parks and recreation facilities to lower costs.	73	PLANNING	DPR
6.8 Pursue opportunities to combine new park sites with other public facilities (e.g.,schools, community centers).	73	PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP	DPR, PRAB, PARISH ADMINISTRATION, PARISH COUNCIL

6.3 Potential Resources for Meeting Needs

6.3.1 Funding/Financing Strategies

Local Option Tax Revenues
Special option taxes such as Local Sales Tax or Food and Beverage Tax are used in many communities to support parks efforts.

Sponsorships and Partnerships
Sponsorships and strategic partnerships are exceptional resources the Department can use to maximize opportunity in the community.

Parks and Open Space Districts
An administrative and financial structure as a special government unit tax district, which draws the majority of its funding from levies on assessed real estate. As its own political body, a Park District with its Parks Authority has the power to tax and the power to condemn. A Park District does not necessarily follow municipal boundaries.

Non-Profit Organizations
Use non-profit organizations to structure the funding of special projects and/or programs.

Parks Foundation
A parks foundation is a nonprofit organization established to involve private donors in specific causes, activities, or issues affecting the park system. Such foundations are created by park districts to raise money for land acquisition, development of facilities and amenities, and various program elements through means such as capital campaigns, gift catalogs, fund-raisers, endowments, sales of items, and many others.

General Foundations
Foundation funds can be sought for land acquisition, development and construction of facilities, providing programs, and special cause promotion.

Grants
Federal, state and foundation grant funding may be available to help finance the Master Plan recommendations. While increasingly competitive, potential funding for different aspects of the parks and recreation equation may be available through traditional and innovative grant programs, including the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program (park enhancements as part of neighborhod and district revitalization), Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative, Transportation Enhancement Funds (trail improvements and paths for Safe Routes to School), National Park Foundation, Recreational Trails program, AmeriCorps Grant Program (park maintenance), Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Trust for Public Land grants, among others, subject to certain eligibility criteria.

Fees and Charges
There are three different types of consumptive services provided by parks and recreation agencies that must be identified and priced accordingly:

- Resident/Non-Resident Fees
  Pricing activities based on the benefits to the participant. An out of parish policy may also be considered for any of the current and future parks which have regional draws.
- User Fees
  Fees for services, programs and/or special events (.e.g, classes)
- Membership Fees
  Fees for membership to special facilities (e.g., community center)

Commercial Uses and Lease Revenues
Lease and rental revenues are useful for financing facilities such as recreation centers, community centers, golf courses, etc. A land lease allows a private business to develop and use a public park land in exchange for a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross revenues generated by recreational enhancements that benefit park users. This mechanism could be used for a restaurant, driving range, campground facility, equestrian

facilities, or other recreational attraction compatible with the mission of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Similarly, lease backs are a source of capital funding in which a private sector entity such as a development company buys the land or leases public land and develops a facility such as a park, recreation attraction, recreation center, pool, or sports complex, and then leases the facility back to the municipality to pay off the capital costs over a 30 to 40 year period. This funding source is typically used for recreation and aquatic type facilities, stadiums, civic buildings, and fire stations.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
A more esoteric funding source for parks is the use of TIF districts to stimulate redevelopment, particularly in urban areas. However, the unique feature of TIF districts is that they fundamentally rely on property taxes created directly by the revitalization projects in the defined district.

Special Districts/Public or Business Improvement Districts (BID)
These districts allow property owners within a defined area to levy taxes, fees or assessments upon themselves to provide additional funds for a specific purpose such as increased park acquisition, development or maintenance. Such entities have been formed in communities in from California to New York, Texas to Massachusetts, to utilize this financing method.

Revenue Bonds
A popular funding method for financing high-use specialty facilities.

Maintenance Endowment
When funds are allocated for facility development; a maintenance endowment should be included.

Naming Rights
A creative funding method for special use facilities is the contracted naming rights by organizations.

Concessions
The selling of food and other concessions within parks provide additional (although limited) funds for parks and recreation.

Transient Occupancy Tax
Transient occupancy taxes are applied to hotel stays (typically 5 to 10% of the room charge) to fund facility improvements and marketing of the community by visitor and tourism agencies. This funding source can be used by park districts to fund urban park improvements that improve the image of the area, provide amenities for surrounding hotels and businesses, and/or create a visitor attraction.

Donations
The Parish can receive donations in support of its parks and recreation system in a variety of ways: land can be donated outright or through easements; funds can be donated for the purchase or development of parks, or in-kid donations, such as equipment, expertise, manual labor, etc., can be made. Providing donor recognition offers incentive, in addition to tax benefits.

Irrevocable Remainder Trust
Irrevocable remainder trusts are set up with wealthy individuals who are interested in leaving a portion of their inheritance to benefit a park system. As the trust fund grows over time, a portion of the proceeds is made available to the park district to support specific park and recreation facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.

Outsourcing
Consider out-sourcing of appropriate services and functions such as mowing.

Park Revolving Fund
A dedicated fund used for park purposes only, which is replenished on an ongoing basis from various funding sources such as grants, sponsorships, advertising, program user fees and rental fees within the park.

6.3.2 Regulatory Strategies

Many of these are recommended in the Comprehensive Plan. Some are already in place.

Park Land Dedication Ordinance

A city ordinance that requires developers to dedicate acreage for parks or in-lieu fees for which to purchase park land.

Property Easements

Every landowner holds a "bundle" of rights associated with the property. In using easements to create parkland, the department leverages the property without actually purchasing the land.

Alternative Development Patterns

Encouragement of alternative development patterns, such as cluster housing, can promote private or publicly-owned open space.

Sensitive Lands Regulations

These regulations limit the development of ecologically sensitive lands such as steep slopes or wetlands. These local regulations operate in addition to federal and state regulations.

Wetland Mitigation Banking

In situations where a proposed development will result in unavoidable impacts to wetlands subject to federal or state regulation, the regulatory agency (e.g. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) may permit the development on condition that the developer create, restore or enhance replacement wetlands on or off the site.

6.3.3 Other Implementation Opportunities

Non-profit organizations and land trusts

A land trust can operate as a public-purpose nonprofit corporation, eligible to receive tax deductible donations, land, and easements; identify priority parcels for preservation and acquisition; organize fund raising activities; and contribute to raising open space issues in the public consciousness.

Interlocal or Joint Use Agreements

Interlocal agreements are contractual relationships between two or more local units of government and/or between a governmental unit and non-profit organization to fund joint development/use projects

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements typically entail a landowner dedicating in perpetuity all or part of the development rights on a given parcel of land. The landowner retains the right to reside on, use, and sell the land. In return, the owner is entitled to a substantial charitable gift deduction on federal income taxes. The landowner also reduces exposure to inheritance taxes and local property taxes which are generally based on the development value of the land.

Tax Title and Owners Unknown Properties

Many communities have on their tax rolls parcels, which are delinquent in their tax payments (tax title properties) and parcels for which there is no known owner. Such parcels may possess sensitive resources such as wetlands that restrict their development potential and may be potentially valuable as open space. However, adjudication processes in Louisiana make the transfer of such properties especially challenging.

Land Swaps/Exchanges and Sales

Exchange of publicly-held land for a more valuable piece for the entire parks system.

Service Clubs and Volunteers

Volunteer work for coaching, running programs, assisting with maintenance, etc.

Appendices

ADVISORY TASK FORCE MODIFIED SWOT EXERCISE - 11/2009

Ideal Outcomes
Co-ed sports
Improved collaboration with booster clubs
Enhanced accessibility to recreation for residents (equity of location and facility types)
Consistency among booster clubs
Increased number and improved facility design
Multi-purpose/neighborhood facilities and gyms
One recreation facility per community/district
Better communication/collaboration with and sharing of/access to School Board facilities
Major, "one-stop shop" recreation facility
Influence on design of civic/community center
Aesthetically pleasing parks (with improved amenities)
Reduce dependency on the School Board for use of sports facilities
Upgrade existing facilities before undertaking new facilities
Get buy-in/support from St. Charles Parish communities
Improve condition of all facilities throughout the Parish (equity)
Covenants on subdivision parks
A first-class parks and recreation system!
Effectiveness in using the Master Plan as a decision-making tool (implementation)

Challenges and Impediments
Interference from "personal agendas"
Lack of coordination
Limitations in funding
Millage structure
"We" vs. "Them" and "East vs. West" attitudes
Keeping programs challenging enough to keep players in the Parish
Leveraging partners in recreation
Getting residents to understand what the Parks and Recreation Department does
Lack of selectivity in accepting sites for parks and recreation
Factors preventing the use of certain school facilities

St. Charles Parish
Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment

April 14, 2010

Needs Assessment Survey: Objective

To assist the Task Force in identifying resident perceptions, aspirations, preferences and needs for future – as well as opportunities for improvement of existing – parks, green space, recreation facilities, programs, and services within the Parish.

Needs Assessment Survey: Methodology

- WRT worked extensively with Parish staff in the development of the survey questionnaire. This allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to the Parish.
- The survey was deployed online using Survey Monkey.
- The survey was open for approximately one month.
- A link was posted on the Parish website, and emails were sent out to various listservs – including several reminders.
- A computer kiosk was made available at the most recent Comprehensive Plan community forums and attendees encouraged to take the survey on site.

Needs Assessment Survey: Methodology

Disadvantages:

Survey not statistically valid – no sampling

- Self-selected respondent group
- Online skews toward higher income households
- Some communities had very limited participation

Needs Assessment Survey: Topics

1. Visitation and Participation
2. Location of Facilities
3. Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities
4. Need for Recreation Programs
5. Quality of Facilities and Programs
6. Actions to Improve
7. Demographics

Needs Assessment Survey: Respondents

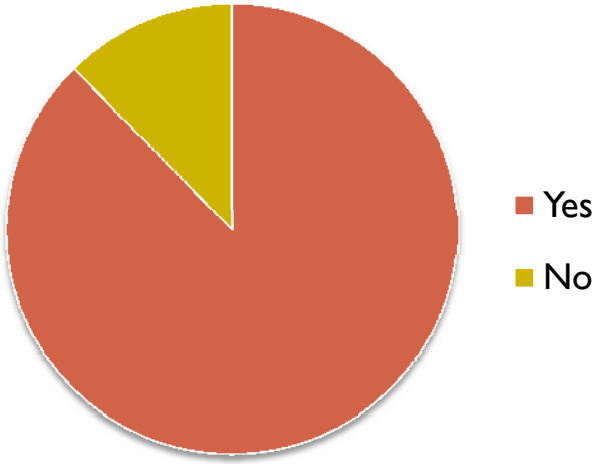
- 534 residents participated in the survey
- Of these, 429 (80.3%) completed the entire survey

Visitation and Participation

Q-1 Visitation & Participation

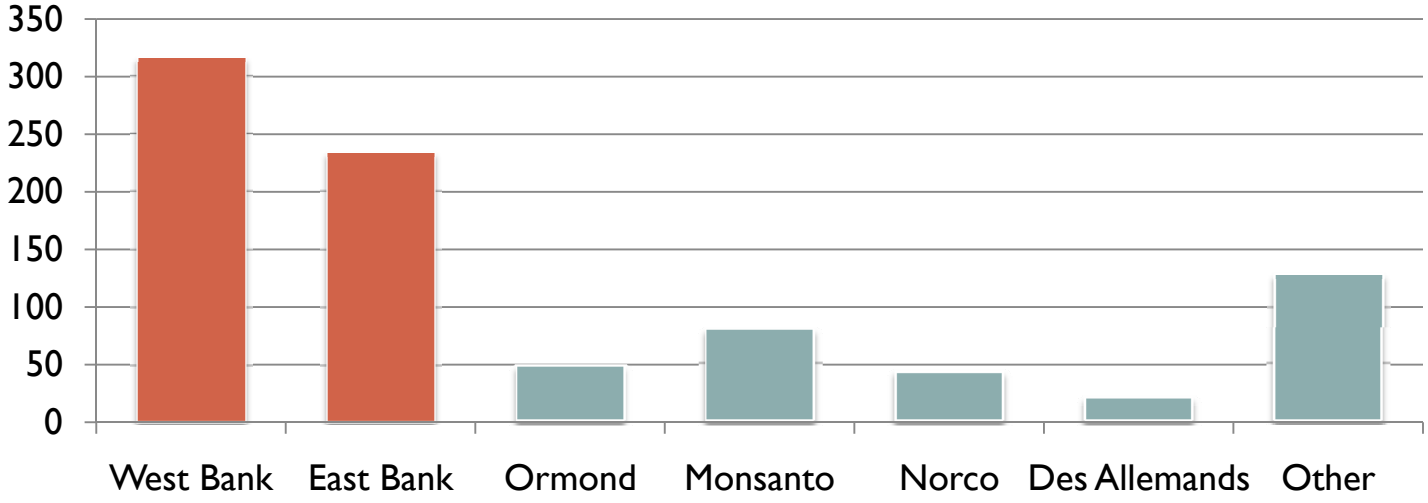
In the past 12 months, have you or members of your household visited any Parish parks or recreation facilities?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**87.6%**	**467**
No	12.4%	66



Q-2 Visitation & Participation

If you responded "yes" to the previous question, which park(s) or recreation facilities have you or members of your household visited during the past year?



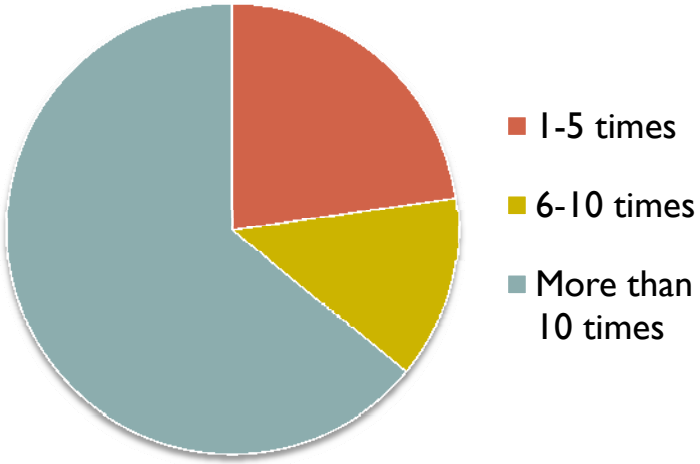
Included in "Other":

Bonne Carre Spillway	Bethune Park	Salvador WMA	JB Martin
Mimosa soccer fields	Lagatutta	Shriners	Landry Gym
Red Church Pocket Park	Levee Bike Path	St. Rose	IMTT
Good Hope Greenbelt	D.A. Legion	Laferiener Park	Ama
Bonnet Carre Boat Club	D.A. Watertower	Orange Park	New Sarpy
Bayou Gauche	Wetland Watchers Park	Harry Hurst Gym	Audubon Park and City Park (NOLA)
Hahnville	Montz Park	Cammon	Lakewood

Q-3 Visitation & Participation

How many times would you say you or members of your household visited Parish parks or recreation facilities during the past year?

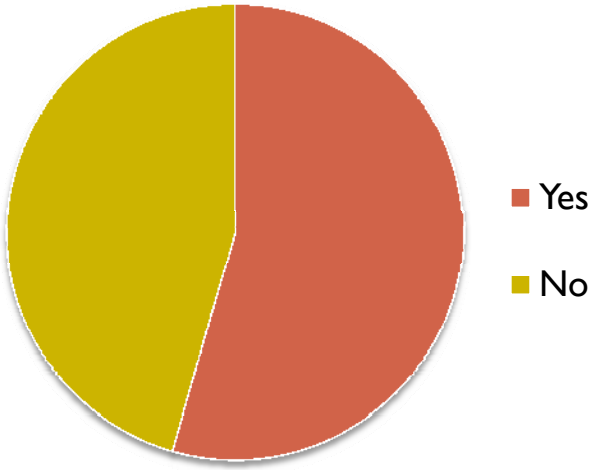
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1-5 times	22.8%	109
6-10 times	13.2%	63
More than 10 times	64.1%	307



Q-4 Visitation & Participation

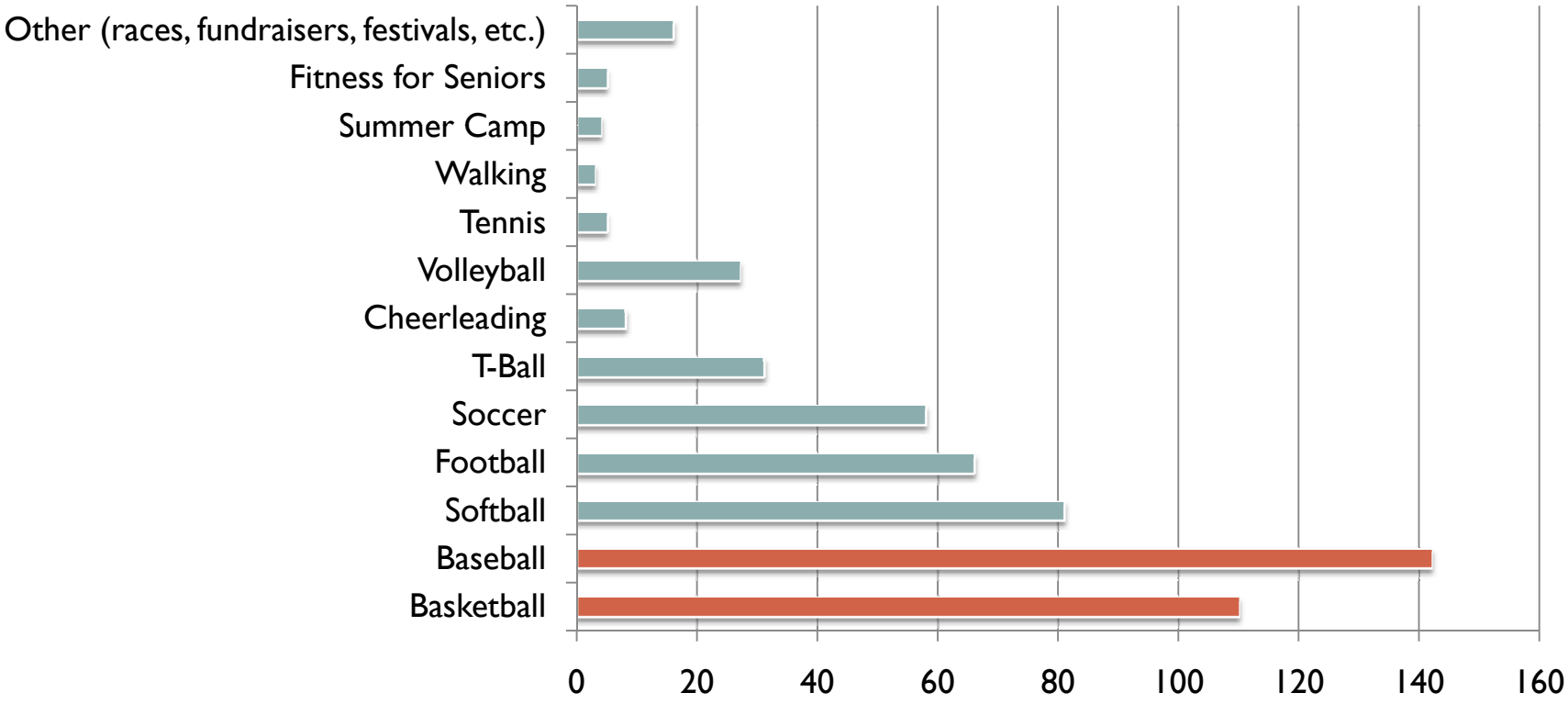
Have you or members of your household participated in any recreational programs offered by the Parish during the past 12 months?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**54.4%**	**290**
No	45.6%	243



Q-5 Visitation & Participation

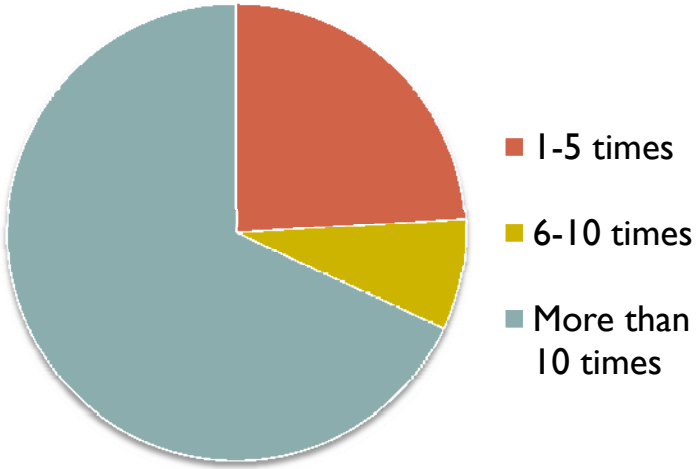
If you responded "yes" to the previous question, which recreational programs have you or members of your household participated in during the past year?



Q-6 Visitation & Participation

How many times would you say you or members of your household participated in these programs during the past year?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1-5 times	24.0%	73
6-10 times	7.9%	24
More than 10 times	**68.1%**	**207**



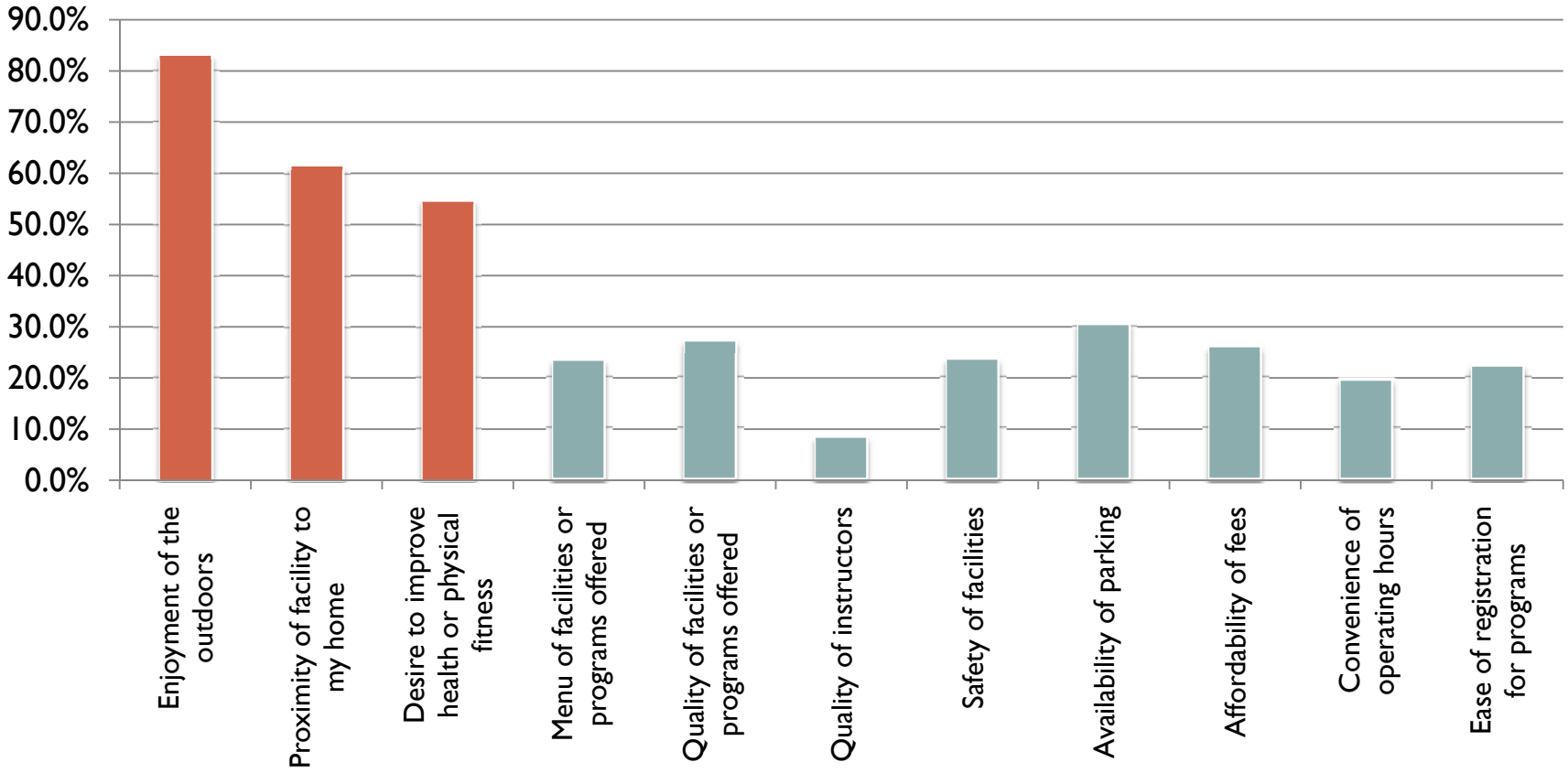
Q-7 Visitation & Participation

If you responded yes to questions #1 or #4, please check all the reasons you or your household uses parks, recreation facilities or programs offered by the Parish:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enjoyment of the outdoors	**83.0%**	**347**
Proximity of facility to my home	**61.5%**	**257**
Desire to improve health or physical fitness	**54.8%**	**229**
Menu of facilities or programs offered	23.2%	97
Quality of facilities or programs offered	27.0%	113
Quality of instructors	8.1%	34
Safety of facilities	23.4%	98
Availability of parking	30.6%	128
Affordability of fees	25.8%	108
Convenience of operating hours	19.4%	81
Ease of registration for programs	22.2%	93
Other (please specify)		75

Q-7 Visitation & Participation

If you responded yes to questions #1 or #4, please check all the reasons you or your household uses parks, recreation facilities or programs offered by the Parish:



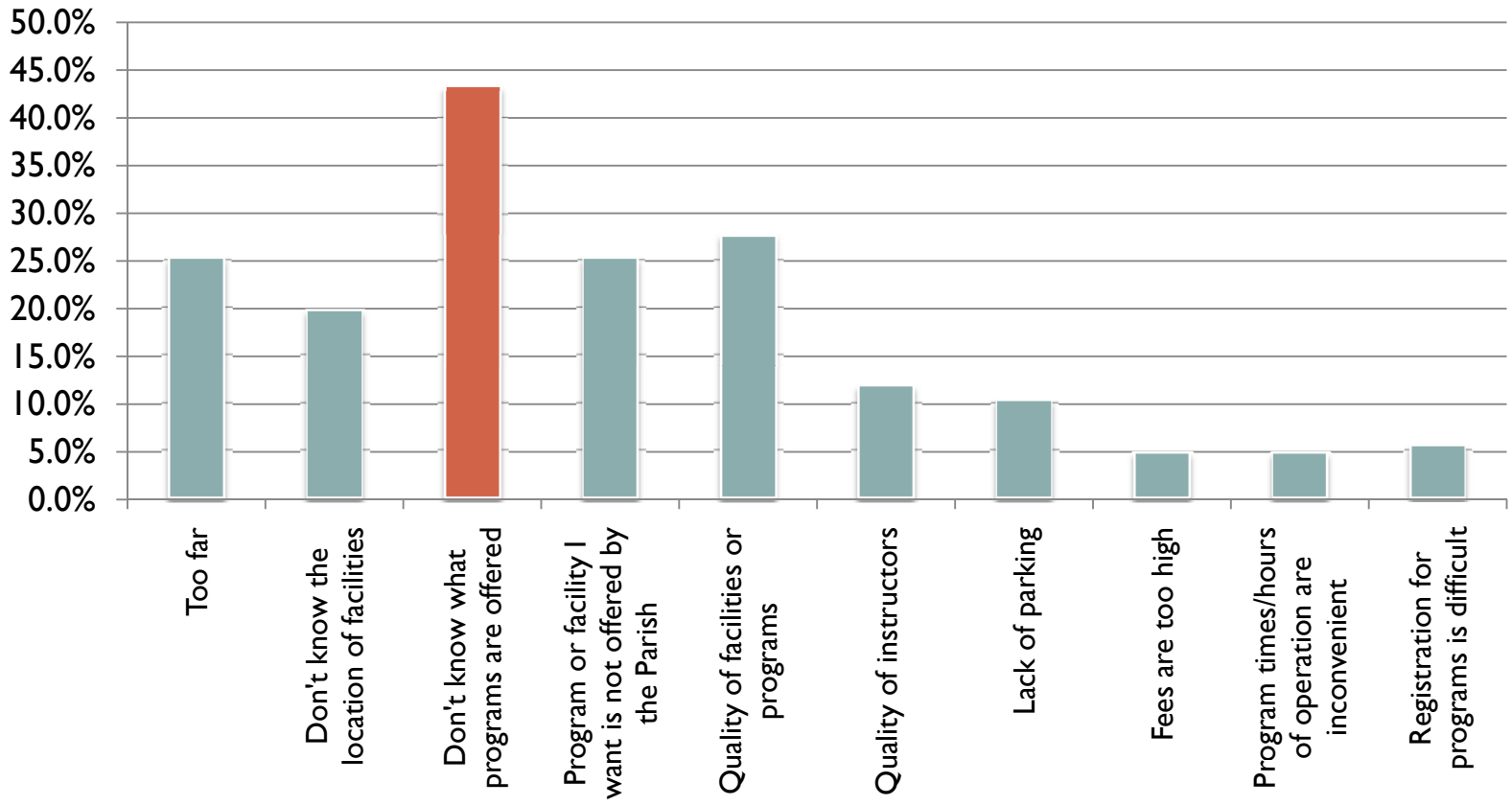
Q-8 Visitation & Participation

If you do not use the Parish parks and recreation facilities or programs, please check all the reasons that why you do not:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too far	**25.2%**	**32**
Don't know the location of facilities	19.7%	25
Don't know what programs are offered	**43.3%**	**55**
Program or facility I want is not offered by the Parish	**25.2%**	**32**
Quality of facilities or programs	**27.6%**	**35**
Quality of instructors	11.8%	15
Lack of parking	10.2%	13
Fees are too high	4.7%	6
Program times/hours of operation are inconvenient	4.7%	6
Registration for programs is difficult	5.5%	7
Other (please specify)		57

Q-8 Visitation & Participation

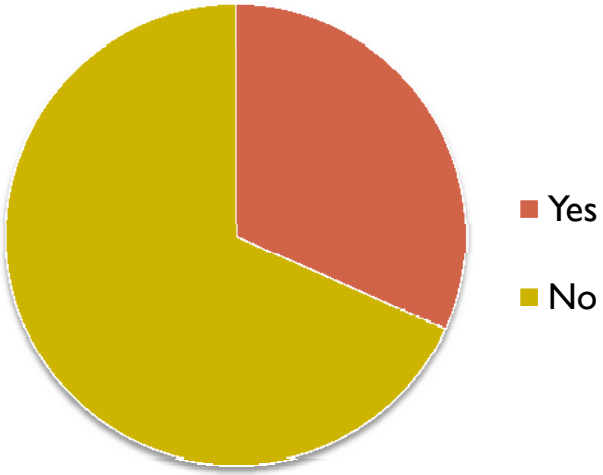
If you do not use the Parish parks and recreation facilities or programs, please check all the reasons that why you do not:



Q-9 Visitation & Participation

Are you or your household members of a booster club?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.7%	165
No	**68.3%**	**355**
If yes, which one?		152



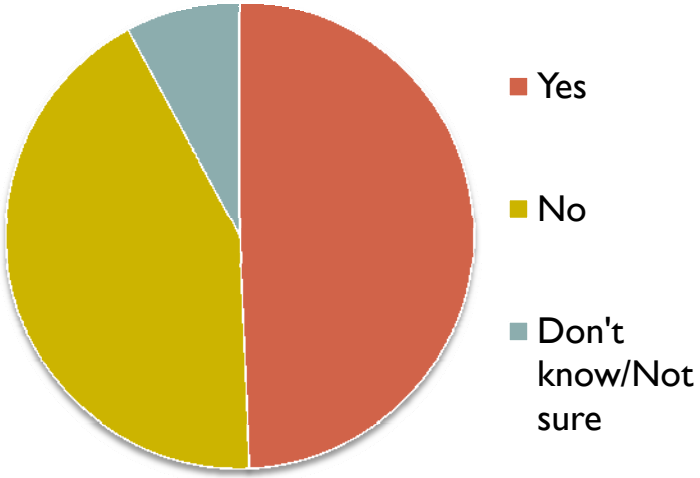
2

Location of Facilities

Q-1 Location of Facilities

Do you feel there are sufficient/adequate parks, recreation facilities or green space within a reasonable distance of your home?

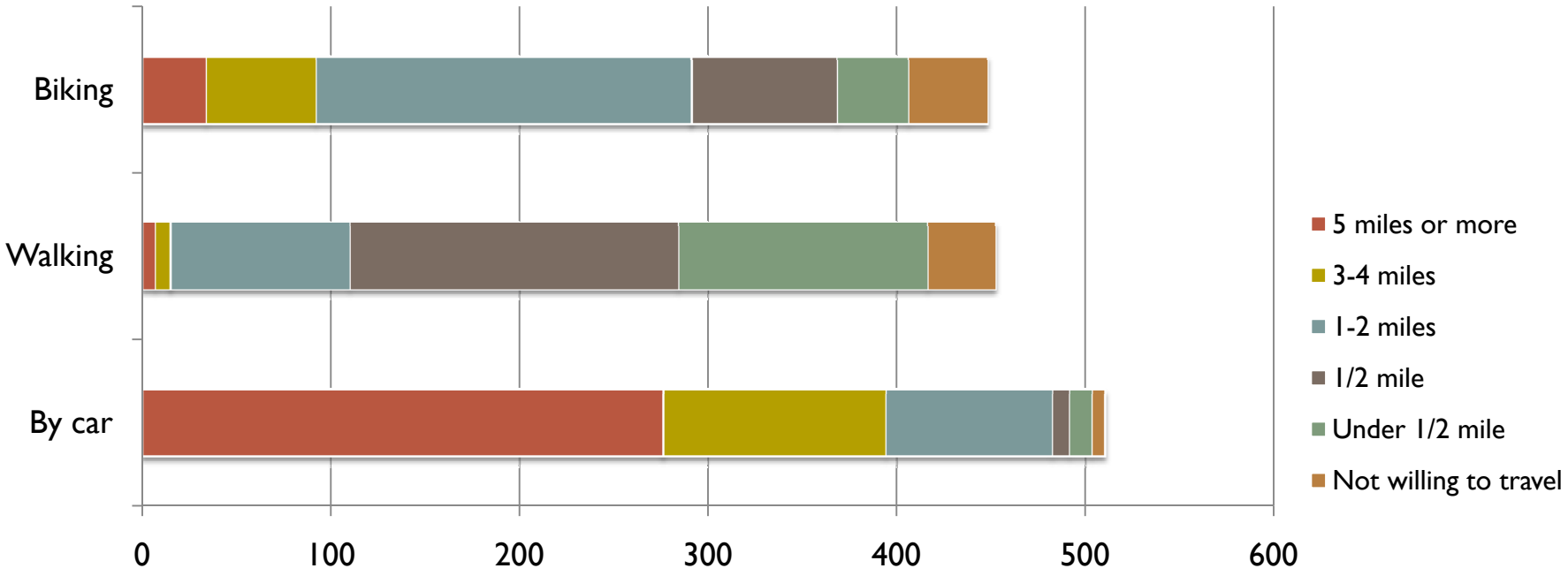
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**49.3%**	**257**
No	42.8%	223
Don't know/Not sure	7.9%	41



Q-2 Location of Facilities

What is the longest distance you are willing to travel to a park or recreation facility?

Answer Options	Not willing to travel	Under 1/2 mile	1/2 mile	1-2 miles	3-4 miles	5 miles or more	Response Count
By car	7	12	9	88	118	276	510
Walking	36	132	174	95	8	7	452
Biking	42	38	77	199	58	34	448



3

Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

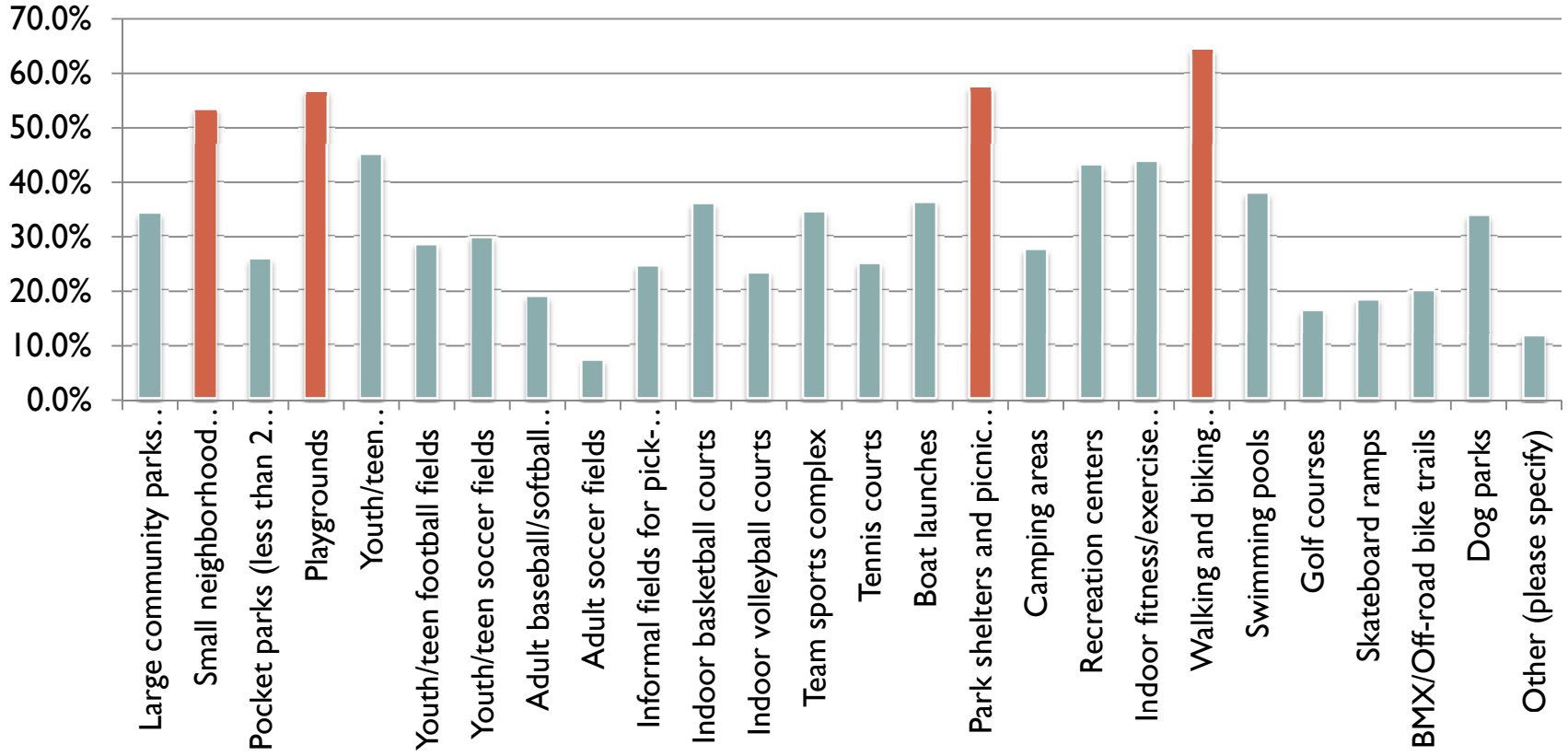
Q-1 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

From the following list of facilities, which would you say that you or members of your household need (check all that apply):

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Large community parks (10+ acres)	34.2%	164
Small neighborhood parks (2-10 acres)	**53.5%**	**257**
Pocket parks (less than 2 acres)	25.8%	124
Playgrounds	**56.7%**	**272**
Youth/teen baseball/softball fields	45.0%	216
Youth/teen football fields	28.5%	137
Youth/teen soccer fields	29.8%	143
Adult baseball/softball fields	18.8%	90
Adult soccer fields	7.1%	34
Informal fields for pick-up games	24.6%	118
Indoor basketball courts	36.0%	173
Indoor volleyball courts	23.3%	112
Team sports complex	34.4%	165
Tennis courts	25.0%	120
Boat launches	36.3%	174
Park shelters and picnic areas	**57.5%**	**276**
Camping areas	27.5%	132
Recreation centers	43.1%	207
Indoor fitness/exercise facilities	43.8%	210
Walking and biking paths/trails	**64.4%**	**309**
Swimming pools	37.9%	182
Golf courses	16.3%	78
Skateboard ramps	18.3%	88
BMX/Off-road bike trails	20.0%	96
Dog parks	33.8%	162
Other (please specify)	11.7%	56

Q-1 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

From the following list of facilities, which would you say that you or members of your household need (check all that apply):



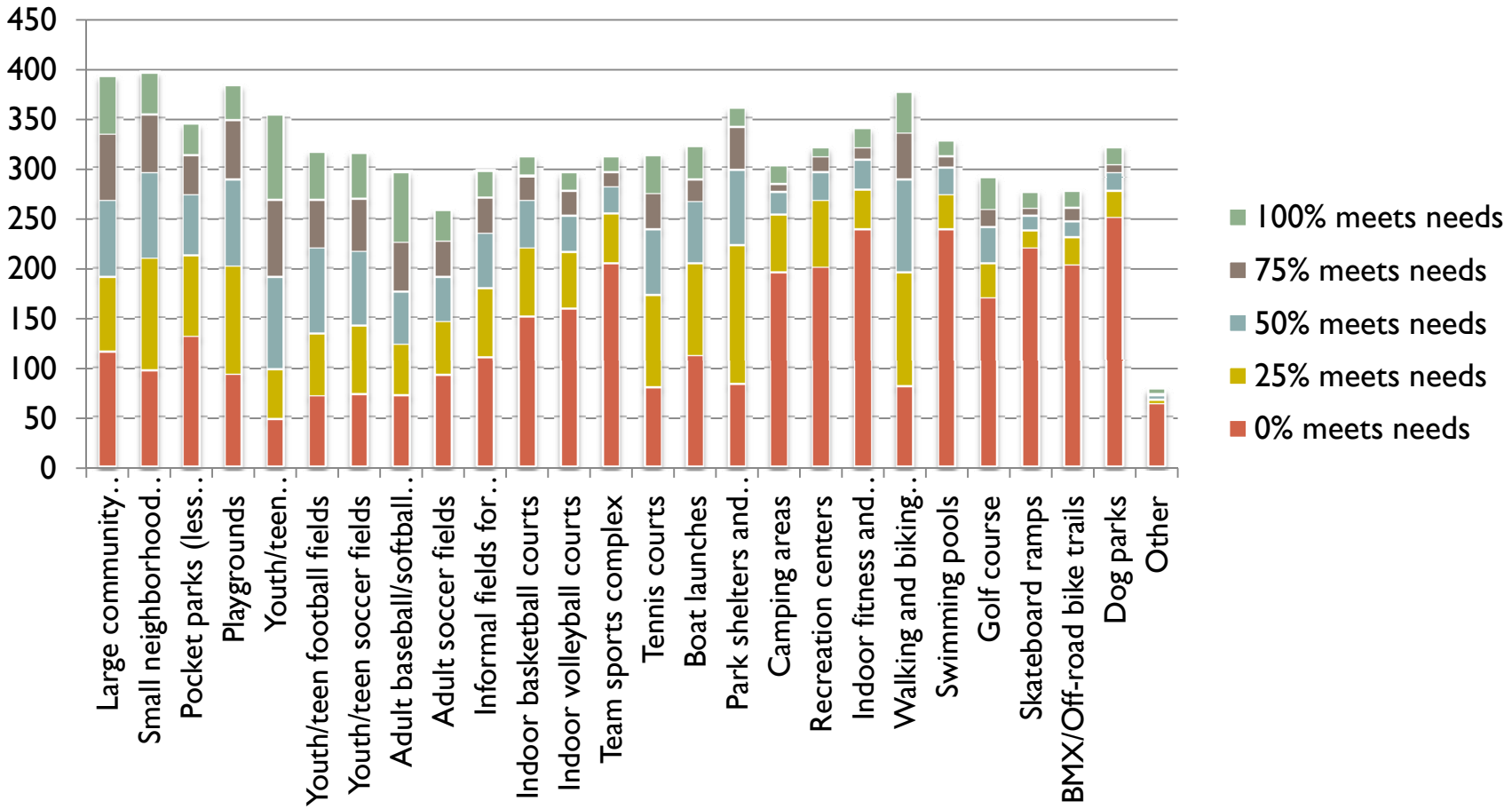
Q-1 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Based on the answers you provided above, how well do you feel existing Parish facilities meet your or your household's needs?

Answer Options	100% meets needs	75% meets needs	50% meets needs	25% meets needs	0% meets needs	Response Count
Large community parks (10+ acres)	58	66	77	75	116	392
Small neighborhood parks (2-10 acres)	43	59	85	113	97	397
Pocket parks (less than 2 acres)	31	39	61	82	131	344
Playgrounds	35	59	87	109	93	383
Youth/teen baseball/softball fields	85	78	93	50	48	354
Youth/teen football fields	47	49	86	63	71	316
Youth/teen soccer fields	45	53	75	69	73	315
Adult baseball/softball fields	70	50	53	51	72	296
Adult soccer fields	31	36	45	54	92	258
Informal fields for pick-up games	26	36	55	70	110	297
Indoor basketball courts	19	24	48	69	151	311
Indoor volleyball courts	17	25	37	57	159	295
Team sports complex	15	14	27	50	205	311
Tennis courts	38	36	66	93	80	313
Boat launches	33	22	62	93	112	322
Park shelters and picnic areas	19	43	75	140	83	360
Camping areas	17	8	23	58	196	302
Recreation centers	9	15	28	67	201	320
Indoor fitness and exercise facilities	20	12	29	40	239	340
Walking and biking paths/trails	41	46	93	115	81	376
Swimming pools	15	12	26	35	239	327
Golf course	32	18	36	35	170	291
Skateboard ramps	17	7	15	18	220	277
BMX/Off-road bike trails	17	14	16	28	203	278
Dog parks	18	8	17	27	251	321
Other	5	1	5	4	63	78

Q-2 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Based on the answers you provided above, how well do you feel existing Parish facilities meet your or your household's needs?



4

Need for Recreation Programs

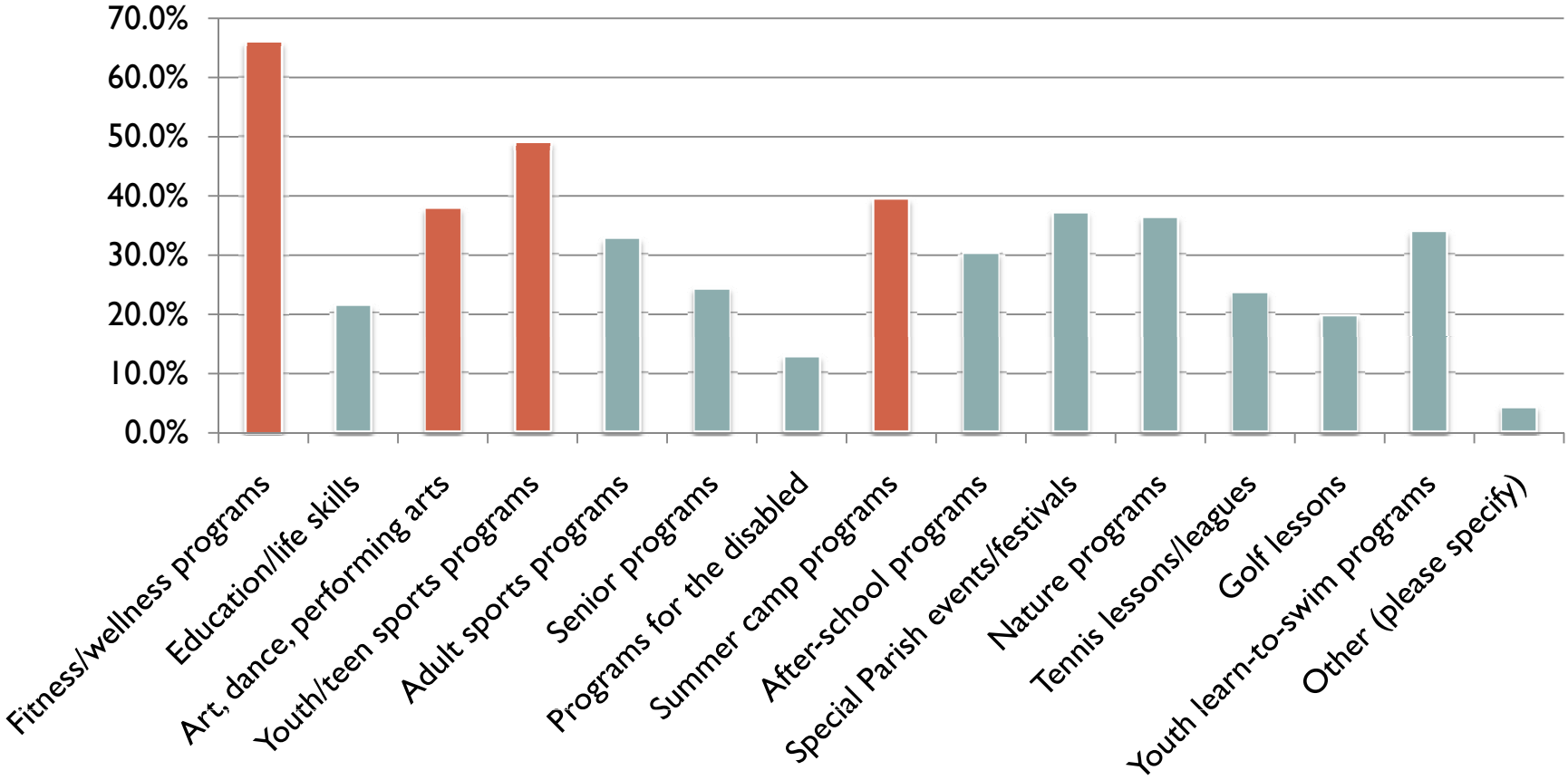
Q-1 Need for Recreation Programs

From the following list of recreational programs, which would you say that you or members of your household need (check all that apply):

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fitness/wellness programs	**65.9%**	**286**
Education/life skills	21.4%	93
Art, dance, performing arts	**37.8%**	**164**
Youth/teen sports programs	**49.1%**	**213**
Adult sports programs	32.7%	142
Senior programs	24.2%	105
Programs for the disabled	12.7%	55
Summer camp programs	**39.4%**	**171**
After-school programs	30.2%	131
Special Parish events/festivals	37.1%	161
Nature programs	36.2%	157
Tennis lessons/leagues	23.5%	102
Golf lessons	19.6%	85
Youth learn-to-swim programs	33.9%	147
Other (please specify)	4.1%	18

Q-1 Need for Recreation Programs

From the following list of recreational programs, which would you say that you or members of your household need (check all that apply):



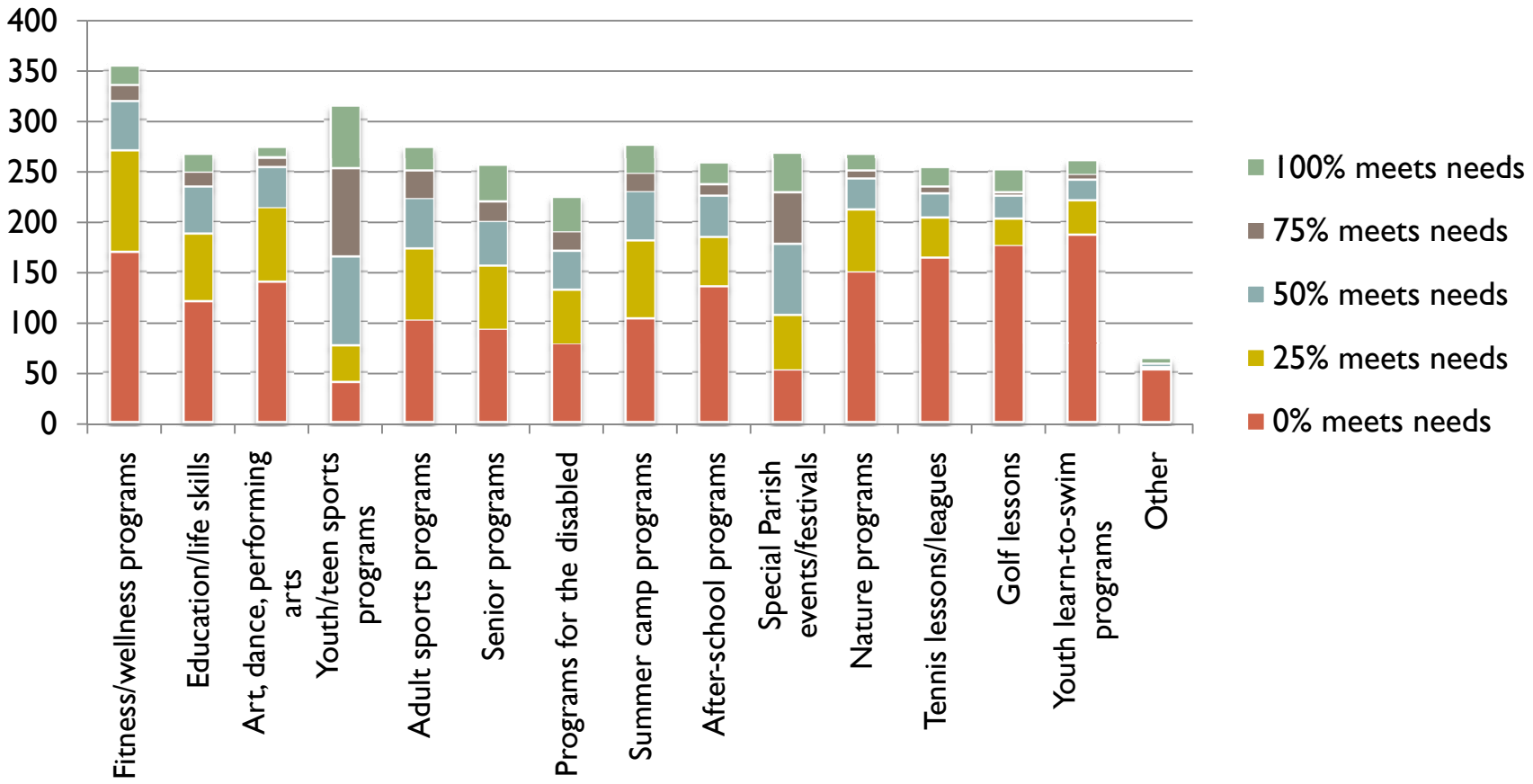
Q-2 Need for Recreation Programs

Based on your answers to the previous question, how well do you feel existing Parish programs meet your or your household's needs?

Answer Options	100% meets needs	75% meets needs	50% meets needs	25% meets needs	0% meets needs	Response Count
Fitness/wellness programs	19	16	50	100	170	355
Education/life skills	17	14	47	67	121	266
Art, dance, performing arts	10	9	40	74	140	273
Youth/teen sports programs	61	88	88	37	40	314
Adult sports programs	22	28	50	71	102	273
Senior programs	36	20	44	63	93	256
Programs for the disabled	34	19	39	53	79	224
Summer camp programs	27	18	49	77	104	275
After-school programs	22	11	41	49	136	259
Special Parish events/festivals	38	51	71	55	52	267
Nature programs	15	8	31	62	150	266
Tennis lessons/leagues	19	7	24	40	164	254
Golf lessons	23	3	23	27	176	252
Youth learn-to-swim programs	14	5	21	34	187	261
Other	5	1	3	2	53	64

Q-2 Need for Recreation Programs

Based on your answers to the previous question, how well do you feel existing Parish programs meet your or your household's needs?

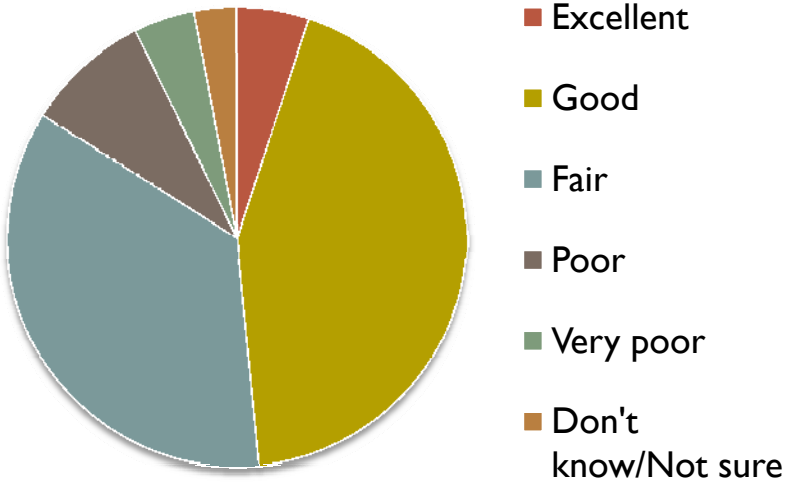


5 Quality of Facilities and Programs

Q-1 Quality of Facilities and Programs

How would you rate the overall physical condition of existing Parish parks and recreation facilities?

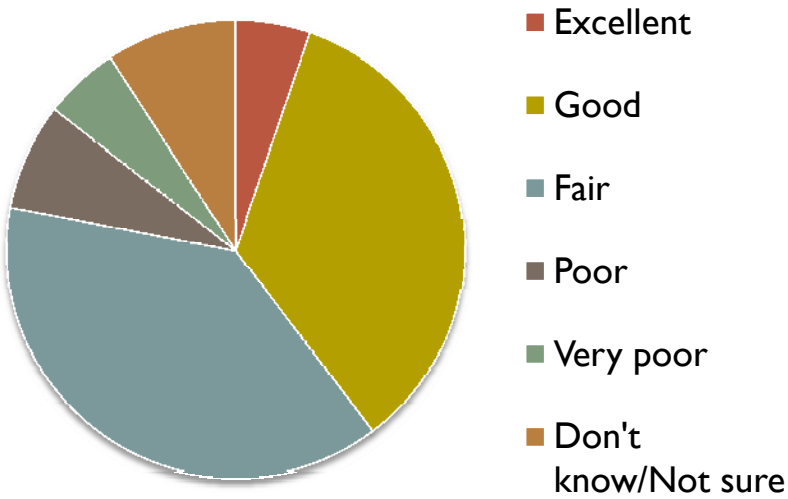
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	5.1%	24
Good	**43.4%**	**203**
Fair	35.5%	166
Poor	8.8%	41
Very poor	4.3%	20
Don't know/Not sure	3.0%	14



Q-2 Quality of Facilities and Programs

How would you rate the overall quality of existing recreation programs offered by the Parish?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	5.3%	25
Good	34.4%	161
Fair	**38.2%**	**179**
Poor	7.5%	35
Very poor	5.3%	25
Don't know/Not sure	9.2%	43



6

Actions to Improve

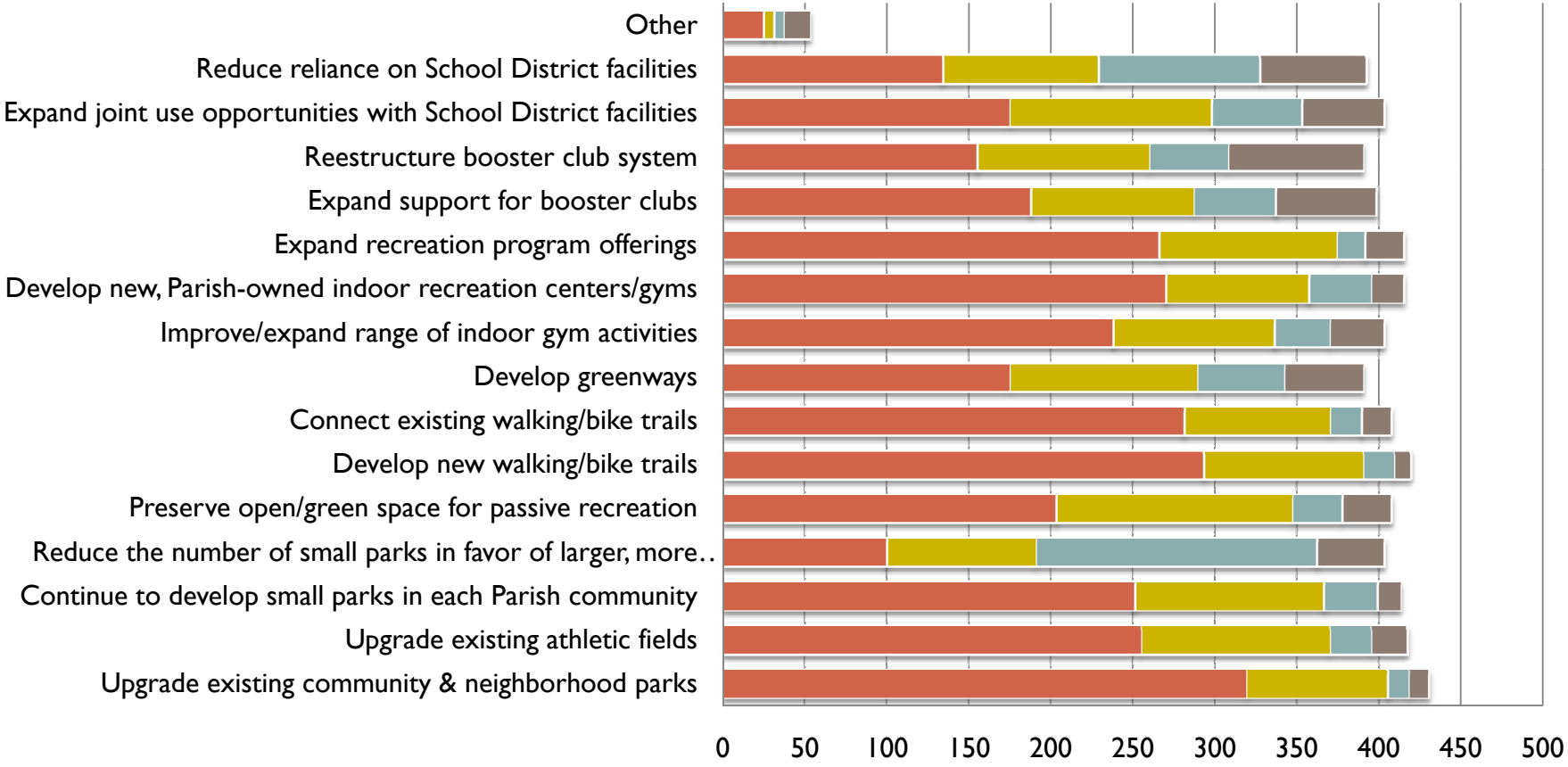
Q-1 Actions to Improve

Please indicate your level of support for the following actions that the Parish could take to improve its parks and recreation system:

Answer Options	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Don't know /Not sure	Response Count
Upgrade existing community & neighborhood parks	**319**	86	13	12	430
Upgrade existing athletic fields	255	115	25	22	417
Continue to develop small parks in each Parish community	251	115	33	14	413
Reduce the number of small parks in favor of larger, more comprehensive Parish-wide facilities	100	91	**171**	41	403
Preserve open/green space for passive recreation	203	144	30	30	407
Develop new walking/bike trails	**293**	97	19	10	419
Connect existing walking/bike trails	**281**	89	19	18	407
Develop greenways	175	114	53	48	390
Improve/expand range of indoor gym activities	238	98	34	33	403
Develop new, Parish-owned indoor recreation centers/gyms	**270**	87	38	20	415
Expand recreation program offerings	266	108	17	24	415
Expand support for booster clubs	188	99	50	61	398
Restructure booster club system	155	105	48	82	390
Expand joint use opportunities with School District facilities	175	123	55	50	403
Reduce reliance on School District facilities	134	95	98	65	392
Other	25	6	6	16	53
Please specify					42

Q-1 Actions to Improve

Please indicate your level of support for the following actions that the Parish could take to improve its parks and recreation system:



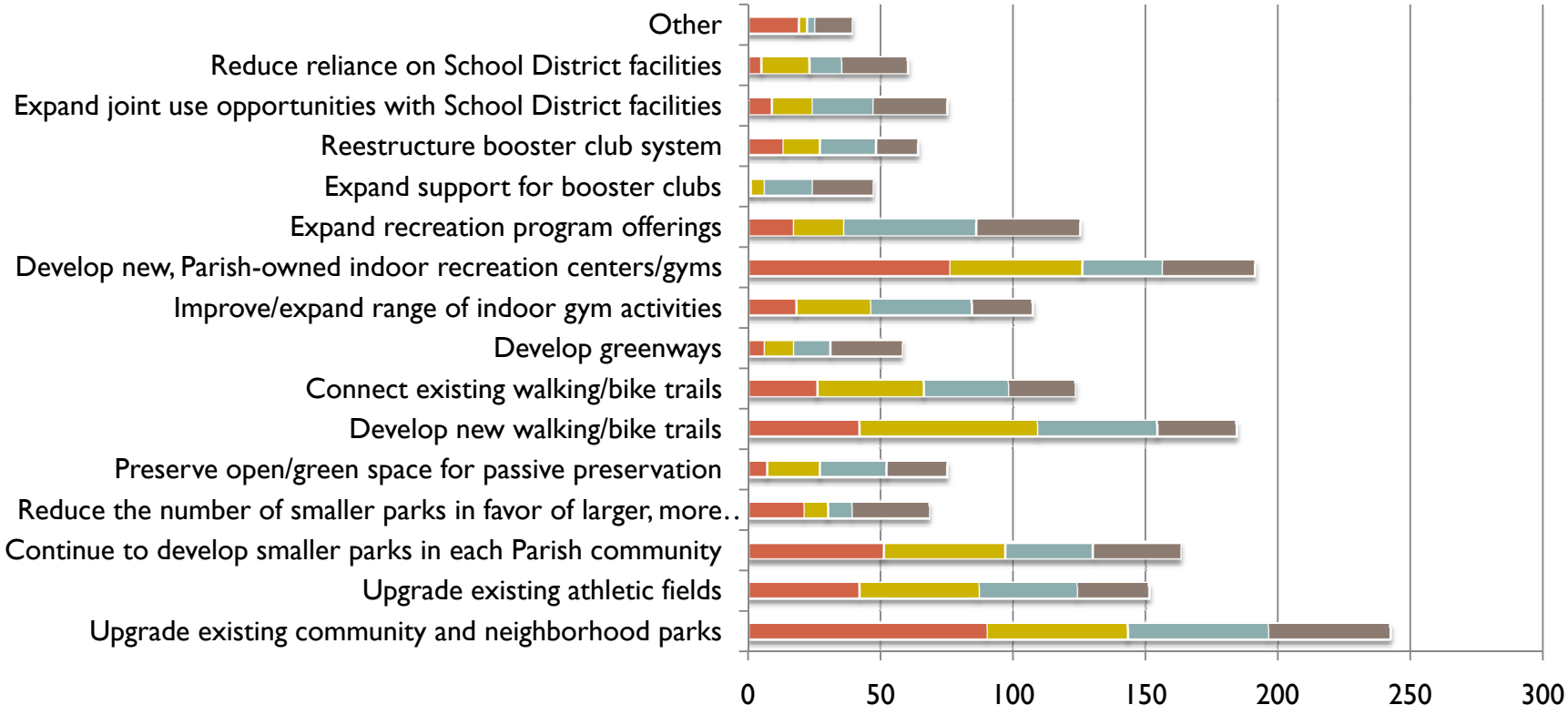
Q-2 Actions to Improve

From the list of potential actions that the Parish could take to improve its park and recreation system, please indicate which four of the actions you would be most willing to fund with tax dollars:

Answer Options	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	4th choice	Response Count
Upgrade existing community and neighborhood parks	**90**	53	53	46	242
Upgrade existing athletic fields	42	45	37	27	151
Continue to develop smaller parks in each Parish community	51	46	33	33	163
Reduce the number of smaller parks in favor of larger, more comprehensive Parish-wide facilities	21	9	9	29	68
Preserve open/green space for passive preservation	7	20	25	23	75
Develop new walking/bike trails	42	**67**	45	30	184
Connect existing walking/bike trails	26	40	32	25	123
Develop greenways	6	11	14	27	58
Improve/expand range of indoor gym activities	18	28	38	23	107
Develop new, Parish-owned indoor recreation centers/gyms	**76**	50	30	35	191
Expand recreation program offerings	17	19	50	39	125
Expand support for booster clubs	1	5	18	23	47
Restructure booster club system	13	14	21	16	64
Expand joint use opportunities with School District facilities	9	15	23	28	75
Reduce reliance on School District facilities	5	18	12	25	60
Other	19	3	3	14	39
Please specify					43

Q-2 Actions to Improve

From the list of potential actions that the Parish could take to improve its park and recreation system, please indicate which four of the actions you would be most willing to fund with tax dollars:



Q-3 Actions to Improve

Other comments or suggestions

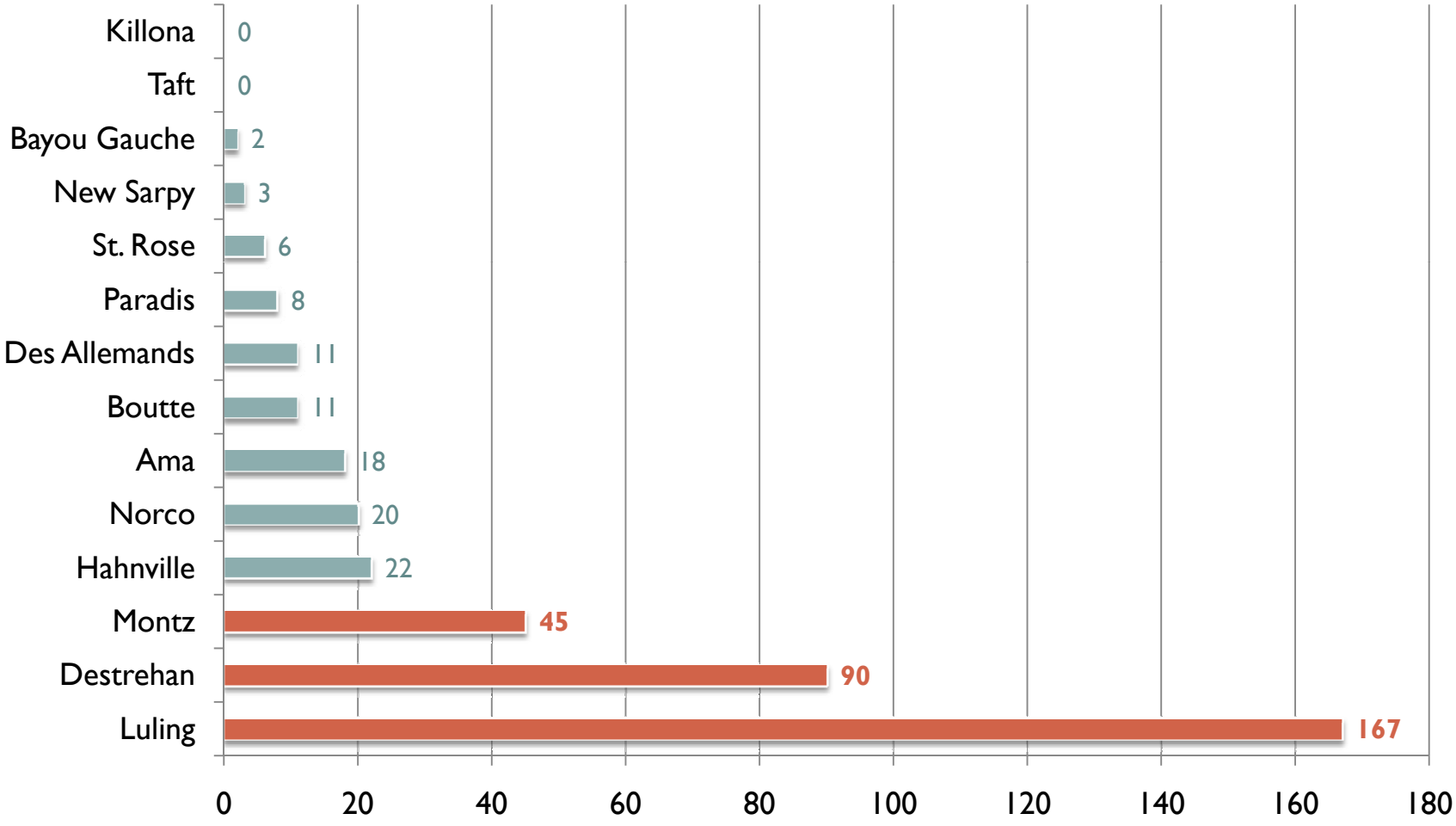
1. Better **connectivity and lighting of trail system** for safe pedestrian & bicycle access
2. More **small, neighborhood parks; provide access by sidewalks & trails**
3. Long-term **vision**: acquisition & preservation of natural areas for larger park
4. Signage to **give homage to historical sites & wildlife habitats**
5. Large sports complex / community center with **indoor facilities**
6. More **public art**
   - (sculptures, murals, etc.)
7. More **public use & access of fields**
8. Consider **all age groups & interests** to keep people healthy, active, productive & engaged
   - Arts programs, teen facility, adult activities, life skills programs, etc.
9. Better advertizing & PR to **raise awareness of available opportunities**
10. Better **maintenance**
    - Trash removal in spillway & parks
    - Upgrade playground equipment
    - Upgrade east bank facilities
    - Resurface tennis courts
    - Replace field lighting

7

Demographics

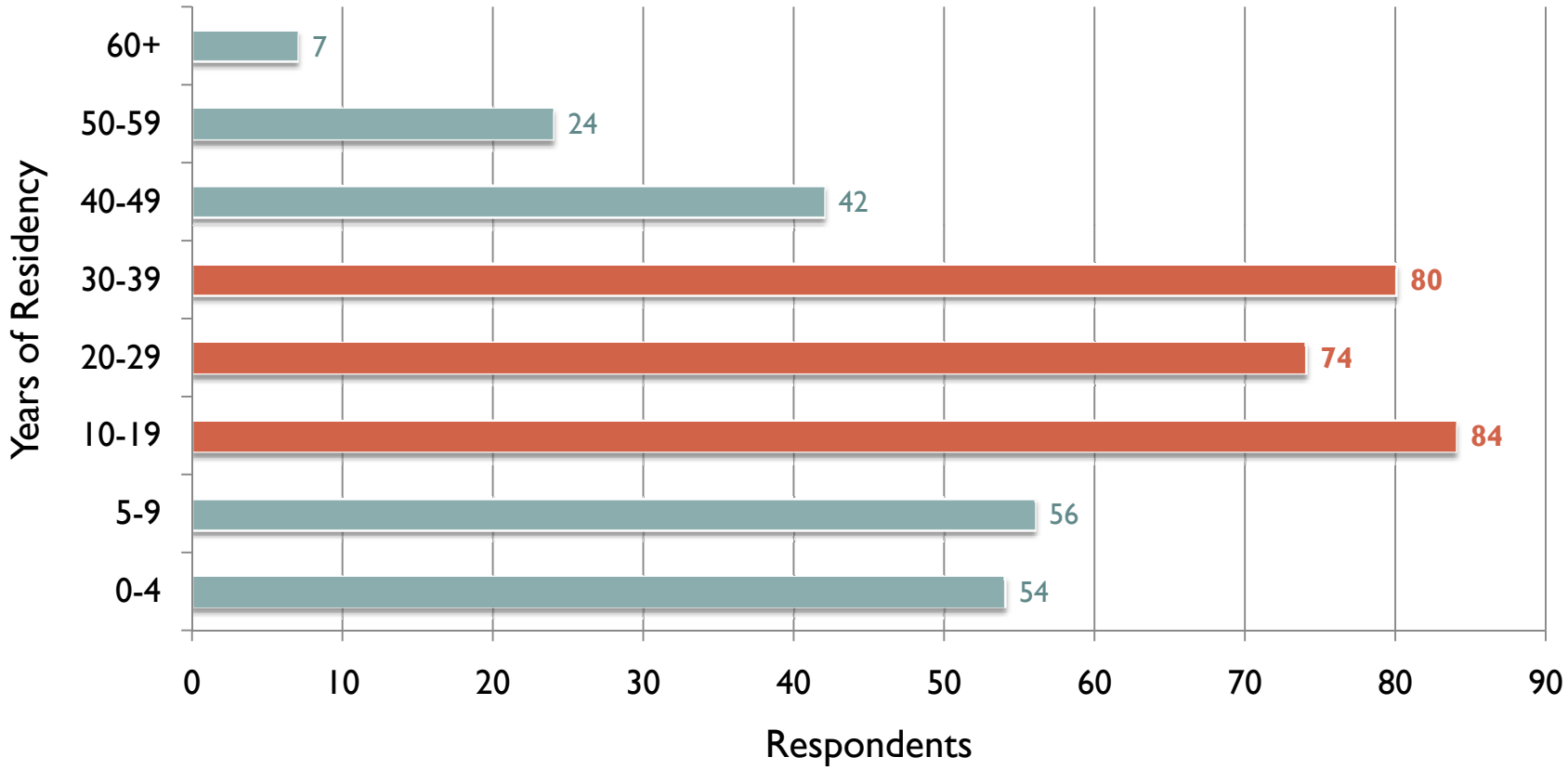
Q-1 Actions to Improve

Where within the Parish do you live?



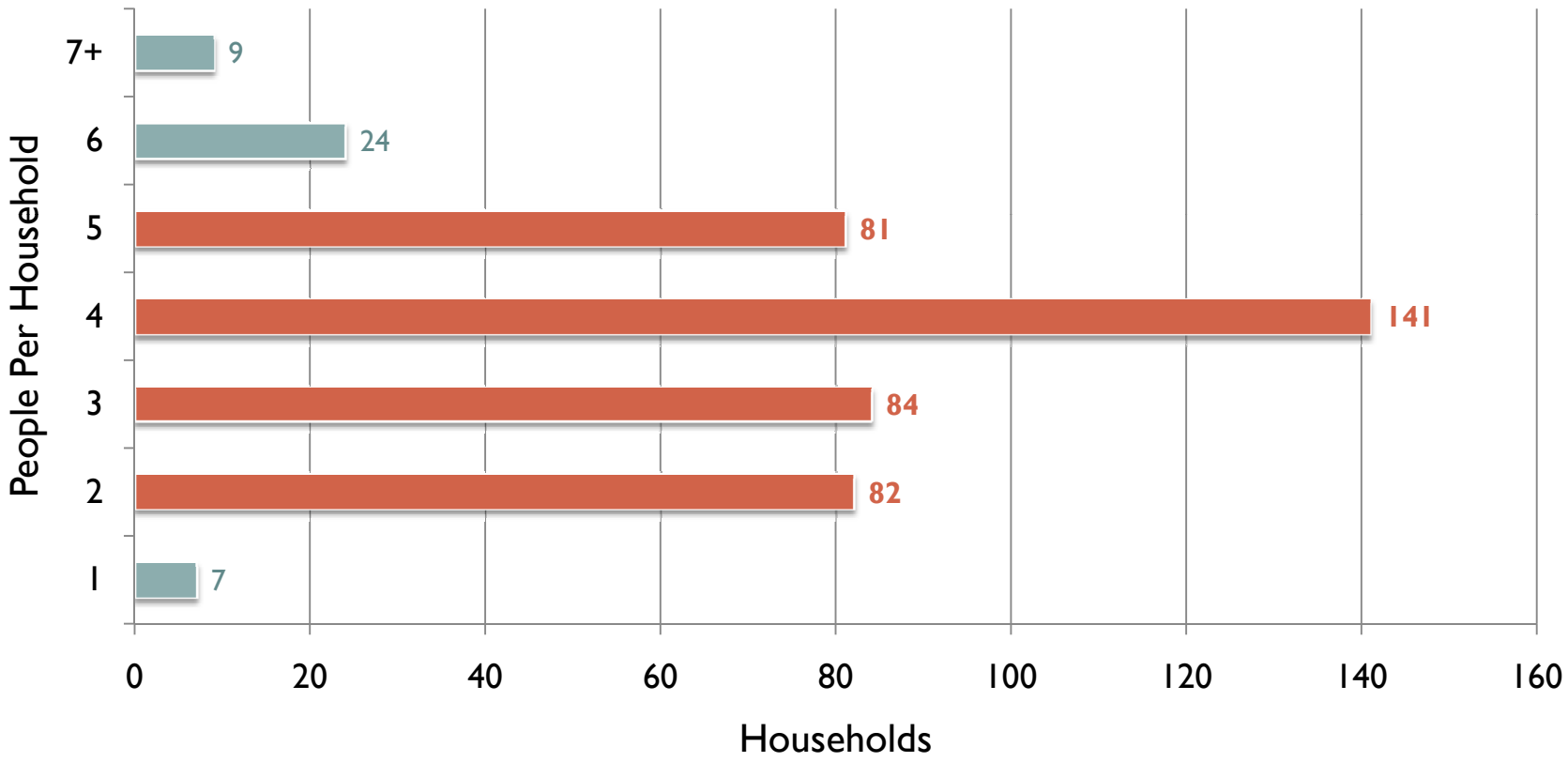
Q-2 Actions to Improve

How many years have you lived in the Parish?



Q-3 Actions to Improve

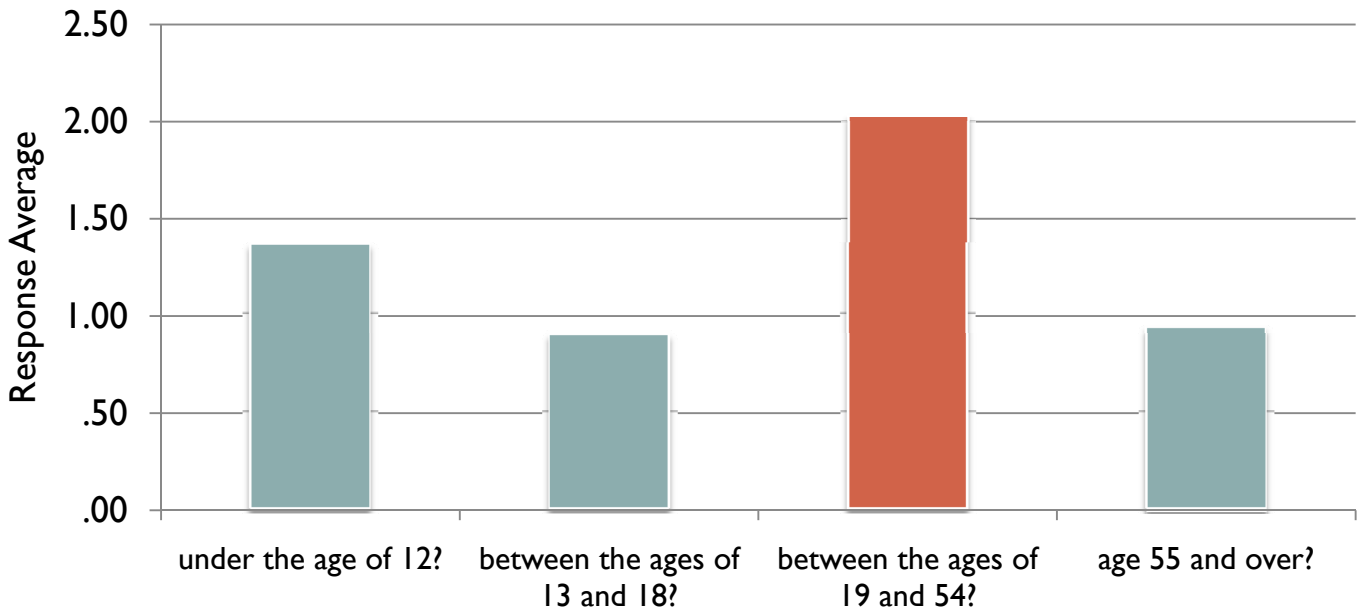
How many people does your household include?



Q-4 Actions to Improve

How many members of your household are:

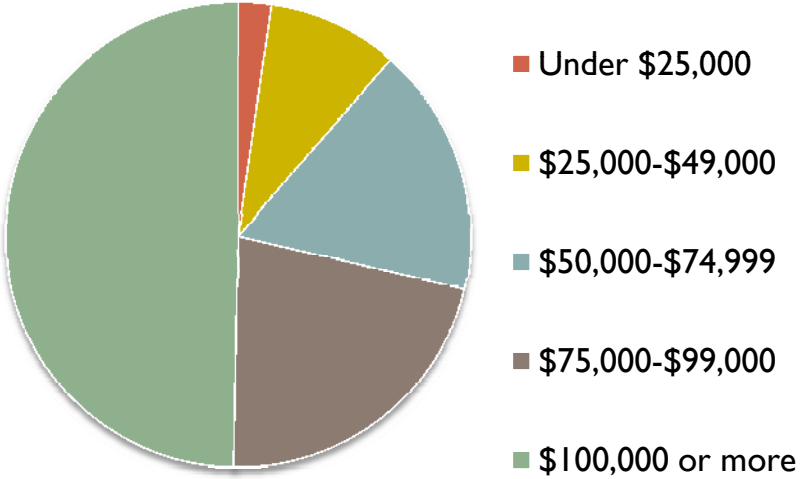
Answer Options	Response Average	Response Total	Response Percent	Response Count
under the age of 12?	1.36	433	28.1%	318
between the ages of 13 and 18?	.90	209	20.6%	233
between the ages of 19 and 54?	**2.03**	**791**	**34.4%**	**389**
age 55 and over?	.93	178	16.9%	191



Q-5 Actions to Improve

What is your annual household income?

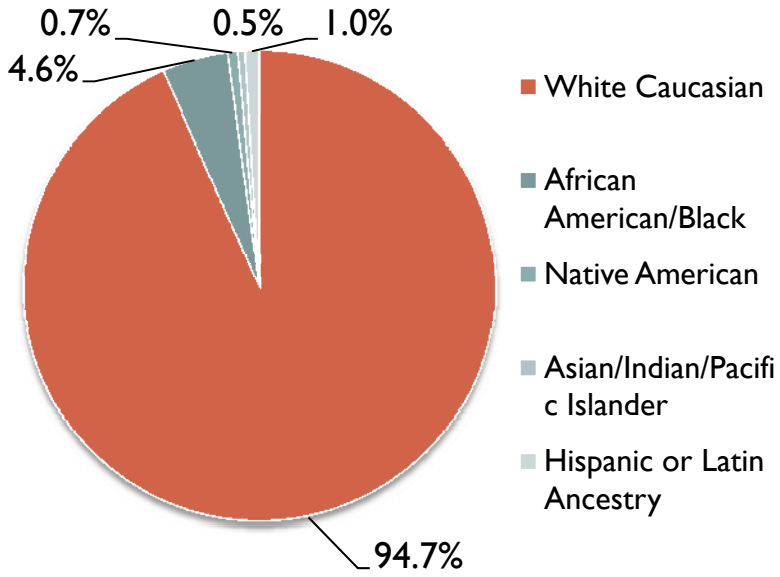
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under $25,000	2.3%	10
$25,000-$49,000	9.1%	39
$50,000-$74,999	17.2%	74
$75,000-$99,000	21.7%	93
$100,000 or more	**49.7%**	**213**



Q-6 Actions to Improve

What is your ethnicity?

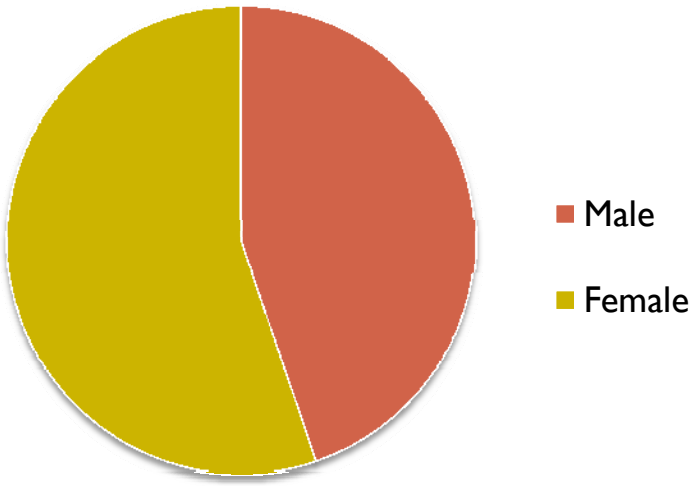
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
White Caucasian	**94.7%**	**392**
African American/Black	4.6%	19
Native American	0.7%	3
Asian/Indian/Pacific Islander	0.5%	2
Hispanic or Latin Ancestry	1.0%	4
Other (please specify)		8



Q-7 Actions to Improve

What is your gender?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	44.8%	192
Female	**55.2%**	**237**



FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

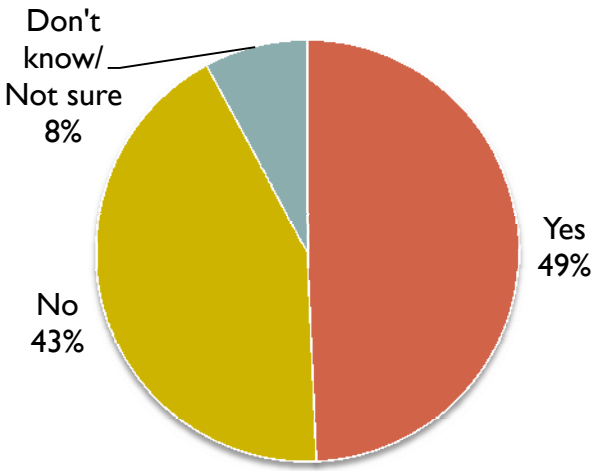
Findings & Conclusions

- ***Respondents are generally satisfied with the availability of facilities and programs, but feel nevertheless that improvements could be made.***
- ***Most respondents (49%) felt that facilities are located at a reasonable distance from their place of residence, but almost just as many (43%) did not. Of the latter, 44% do not use Parish parks due to their distance from the facilities.***
- ***Of those who use the parks but feel that there are not enough facilities within a reasonable distance, the majority live in Luling, Destrehan, or Montz.***
- ***A majority of these park users go to the bridge parks primarily.***
- ***There seems to be significant "cross-river" park use (bridge parks).***

Findings & Conclusions

Residents seem more likely to use those parks and other outdoor facilities that are close to their home and easy to access.

Do you feel there are sufficient/adequate parks, recreation facilities or green space within a reasonable distance of your home?



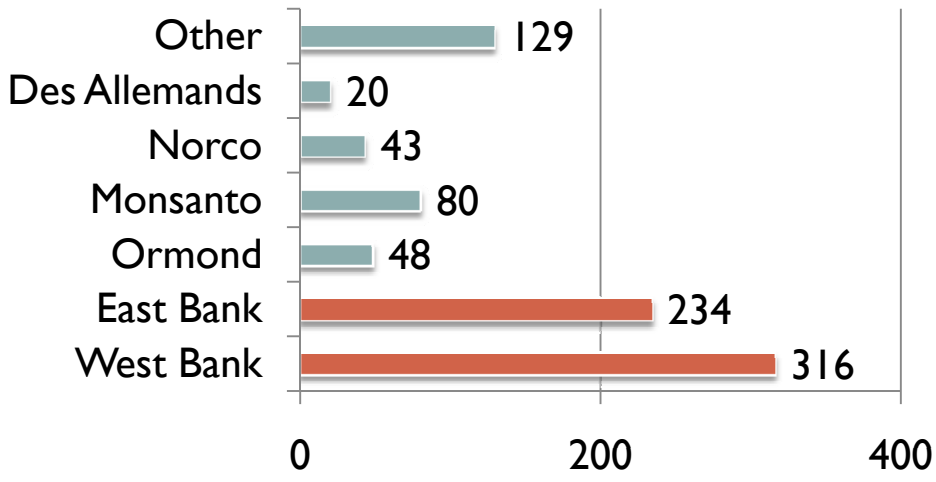
If you responded yes, please check all the reasons you or your household uses parks, recreation facilities or programs offered by the Parish:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enjoyment of the outdoors	**83.0%**	**347**
Proximity of facility to my home	**61.5%**	**257**
Desire to improve health / physical fitness	**54.8%**	**229**
Menu of facilities or programs offered	23.2%	97
Quality of facilities or programs offered	27.0%	113
Quality of instructors	8.1%	34
Safety of facilities	23.4%	98
Availability of parking	30.6%	128
Affordability of fees	25.8%	108
Convenience of operating hours	19.4%	81
Ease of registration for programs	22.2%	93
Other (please specify)		75

Findings & Conclusions

The East and West Bank Bridge Parks are the most widely used facilities among the respondents.

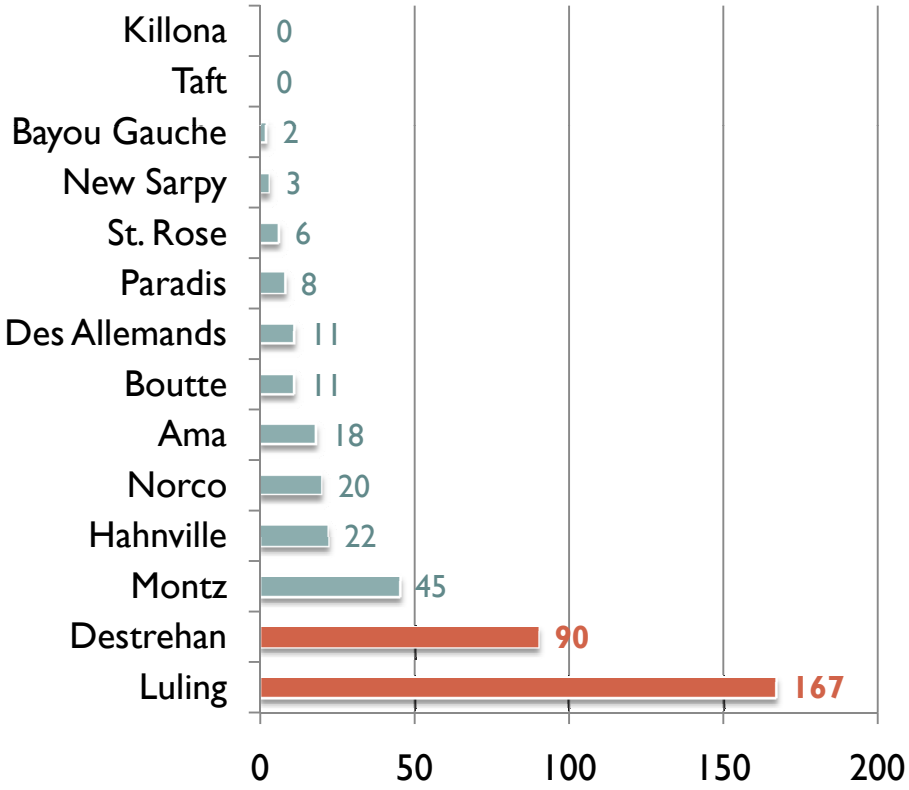
If you responded "yes" to the previous question, which park(s) or recreation facilities have you or members of your household visited during the past year?



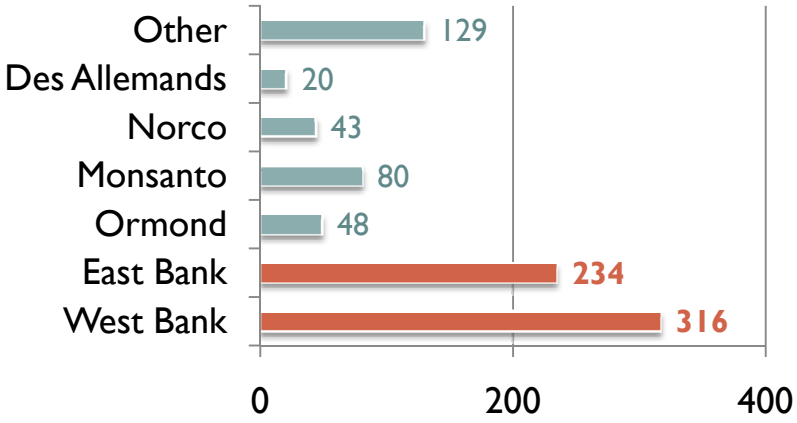
Findings & Conclusions

Residents of Luling, Destrehan & Montz seem more likely to visit the East and West Bank Bridge Parks – however, place of residence is not closely correlated to location of facility used.

Where within the Parish do you live?

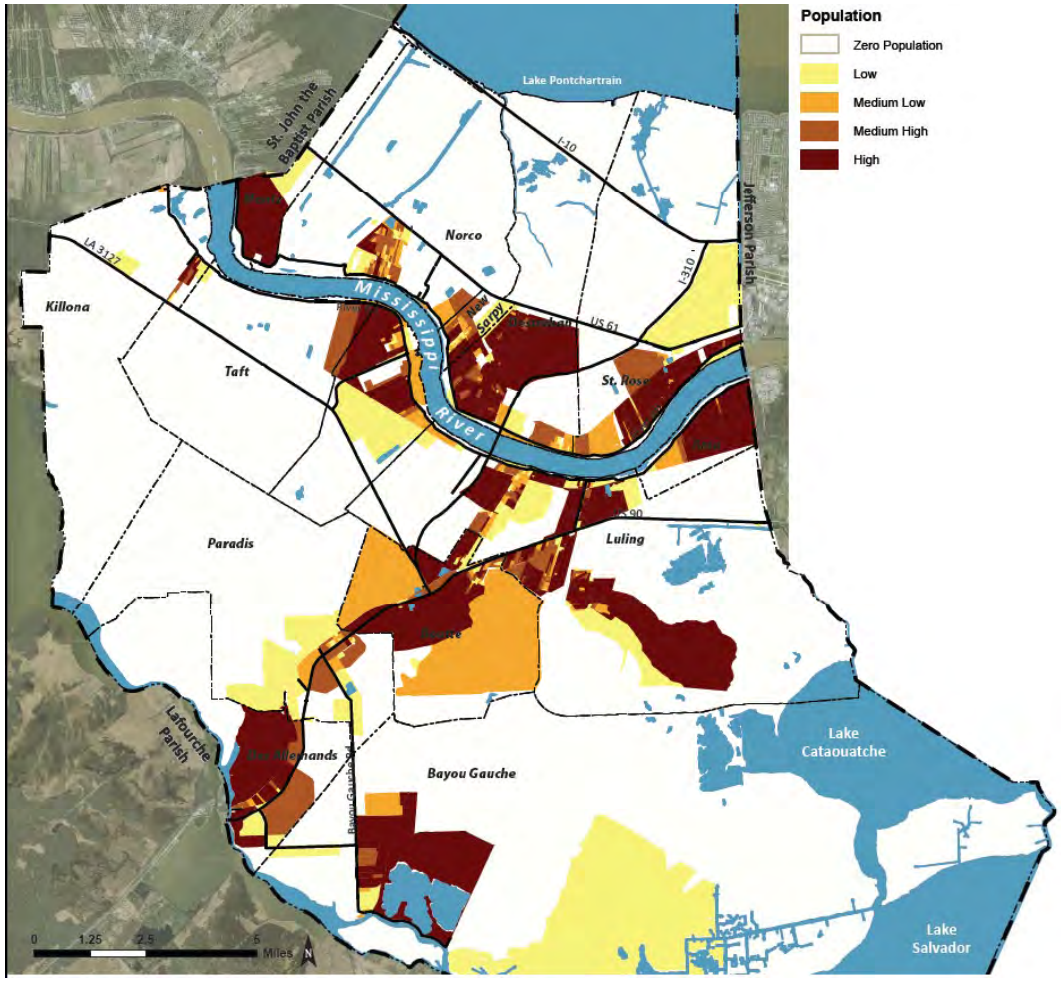


If you responded "yes" to the previous question, which park(s) or recreation facilities have you or members of your household visited during the past year?



Findings & Conclusions

Certain existing facilities may not be the appropriate type or be at the appropriate location to best serve the need of residents.



5. Findings & Conclusions

Potential Issues and Problems:

- Lack of awareness of location of facilities and program offerings
- Many recreation needs are perceived to be not well (or not at all) covered by the Parish
- Perceived or real maintenance issues – fields, courts & playgrounds
- Perceived or real access limitations/issues
- Instinctive resistance to the idea of relinquishing smaller (and in most cases underdeveloped/underutilized) Parish parks
- Significant support for booster club organization - but no significant opposition to modifying/altering it

5. Findings & Conclusions

Top Priorities of Parish Residents:

- Safe, well-connected, Parish-wide multi-use trail system
- More small neighborhood parks – i.e., playgrounds, walking paths
- Indoor recreation centers/gym facilities
- Picnic facilities and shelters
- Maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities
- Increased accessibility to athletic/play fields
- Expanded offerings for all age groups and abilities
- Other programs:
  - Fitness/wellness, teen/youth, art, performing arts, & summer camp

Advisory Board Member Sample Board Member Requirements and Criteria for Recruitment

Recruitment vehicles:

- Newspaper advertisements,
- Parish web site/social media pages
- Letters sent to individuals, organizations, social service agencies, and community leaders throughout the Parish asking for applicants.

Eligible candidates:

- a registered voter
- a Parish resident for at least one year
- not an employee of the Parish
- able to commit 2-3 hours per month to a board meeting, and 1-2 additional hours to review of documents in preparation for each meeting.
- If a youth candidate, to be at least 16 years of age and a student at a local high school.

Application requirements:

- Complete application form
- Cover letter explaining the candidate's interest in being a **Board member**
- Resume

Selection:

- Application packages are reviewed for eligibility/qualification
- Eligible, qualified candidates are shortlisted and notified of selection interview date and time
- Interviews are held in a public meeting: opportunity to express their interest in the **board**/commission they've applied for. Council members may ask questions.

Venice, Florida
"City on the Gulf"

BOARD APPLICATION
(Please type or print clearly)

BOARD: _____ DATE: _____

NAME: _____ HOME PH: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

CITY RESIDENT: Yes No EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN VENICE? _____

DO YOU OWN PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF VENICE? Yes No
IF YES, ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

NAME OF BUSINESS: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____ BUSINESS PH: _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY HOLDING AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICE FOR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY (INCLUDING CITY OF VENICE BOARDS)? Yes No

IF YES, PLEASE LIST: _____

RESUME OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: _____
_____
_____

MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: _____
_____
_____

WHY DO YOU DESIRE TO SERVE ON THE ABOVE BOARD? _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OR PLED "NO CONTEST" TO A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE?

Yes No

IF CONVICTED OF A FELONY, HAVE YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS BEEN RESTORED: Yes No
GIVE DETAILS: _____

_____

_____

_____

I UNDERSTAND THAT IF APPOINTED, I WILL SERVE ON THE ABOVE BOARD WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND AT THE PLEASURE OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

_____
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

PLEASE NOTE:

MEMBERSHIP ON THE FOLLOWING BOARDS REQUIRE THAT AN ANNUAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM BE FILED ON OR BEFORE JULY 1ST OF EACH YEAR: ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD; FIRE PENSION BOARD; MUNICIPAL CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD; PLANNING COMMISSION; POLICE PENSION BOARD; AND VENICE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

APPLICANTS OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS ARE REMINDED OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES AS APPLICABLE TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. ALL BOARD APPLICATIONS ARE KEPT ON FILE AND ARE REVIEWED AS VACANCIES OCCUR. UPDATED INFORMATION MAY BE REQUESTED AT THAT TIME.

DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, PHONE NO. 486-2626, EXTENSION NO. 23003.

Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Application

(Due to City Clerk's Office March 30, 2011 at 5p.m.)

How long have you been a resident of Golden? What neighborhood do you live in?

What is your current occupation?

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets the first Tuesday of the month for a study session and the third Tuesday of the month for a regular meeting. Will you be able to attend both meetings? How many hours per month could you contribute to the Board?

What other community groups or organizations do you actively contribute to?

The Golden Parks and Recreation Master Plan was approved by City Council in January, 2008. How would you approach prioritizing among the plan's many recommendations?

RETURN TO: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 911 10TH ST., GOLDEN, CO 80401
OR
VIA EMAIL TO clerks@cityofgolden.net OR VIA FAX TO 303-384-8001

With regards to parks and recreation in Golden, what areas do you feel do extremely well?

With regards to parks and recreation in Golden, what areas do you feel need the most improvement?

What skills and experiences would you bring to the board, and in what ways do you currently use Golden's Parks and Recreation system?

Why do you want to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as a board member or alternate?

Based on your experience, why do you feel you would be the best candidate for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board?

RETURN TO: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 911 10TH ST., GOLDEN, CO 80401
OR
VIA EMAIL TO clerks@cityofgolden.net OR VIA FAX TO 303-384-8001

Pierce County Parks and Recreation

ADVISORY BOARD APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in serving on a Pierce County Citizens' Advisory Board.
Board members serve in an advisory capacity, making recommendations to the Department.
Members may also represent their programs to the community in garnering support and recognition.

Please attach resume if available.

I am interested in serving on the following Citizens' Advisory Board:

❑ Conservation Futures ❑ Parks and Recreation

Name_____

Phone(____)_____(____)_____ E-mail_____
(Home) *(Business)*

Home Address_____

Work Address_____
(Please indicate preferred mailing address with an asterisk)

Occupation:_____ Employer:_____
(If retired, please indicate former occupation)

Pierce County Council District No._____

Education: _____

_____
(Name of high school, college/university, year graduated/degree)

Why are you interested in serving on this Advisory Board/Commission:_____

_____

_____

_____

Qualifications related to this position:_____

_____

_____

_____

Professional/Communities Activities:_____

_____

_____

_____

List past and/or current involvement with Pierce County Parks programs or operations:_____

_____

_____

Signature _____ Date_____

List references on back.

REFERENCES:

Name:_____ Phone:_____
(Home) *(Business)*

Address:_____
(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

Name:_____ Phone:_____
(Home) *(Business)*

Address:_____
(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

Name: _____ Phone:_____
(Home) *(Business)*

Address:_____
(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

Please return completed application to:

Pierce County Parks and Recreation
9112 Lakewood Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

Phone: (253)798-4176 ● Fax: (253)582-7461

Join

West Linn

Teen Advisory Committee

The West Linn Teen Advisory Committee is a group of high school-age teens who are working to make West Linn a more teenager friendly city.

To join
e-mail: tjones@westlinnoregon.gov
Or visit: westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec

City of West Linn

City of West Linn **Parks and Recreation Department**

Teen Advisory Committee (TAC) Application

Pre-requisites: City of West Linn Resident in grades 6-12th. TAC members will be requested to meet the following minimum participation expectations: Attend at least quarterly meetings and provide at least 12 hours of volunteer service during a 12 month period.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

PERSONAL DATA

Name _____ Address_____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

School Attend _____ Year in School _____ Age _____

Please respond to the following questions.

Why do you want to serve on the TAC?

_____

_____

Please list any sports, clubs or organizations you participate in

_____

_____

What benefits do you think you will receive from your participation on the TAC?

_____

_____

_____

What strengths or skills can you bring to the TAC?

_____

_____

_____

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE _____DATE _____

PARENTS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Return this application to the City of West Linn, Parks and Recreation Department, 22500 Salamo Road, #1100, West Linn, OR 97068, FAX: 503-656-4106, or email: tjones@westlinnoregon.gov

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CLARK, STATE OF NEVADA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

19.06.010 Created

There is created the Clark County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission pursuant to NRS 244.308—244.3091, to be composed of nine members, who shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners from residents of the county at large with reference to their fitness for office.

19.06.020 Membership

The members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners from residents of the county at large with reference to their fitness for office, as directed by NRS 244.3085. One member shall be appointed from the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Clark County School District.

19.06.030- Terms of office; vacancies; compensation and expense of commissioners.

a) Upon the appointment of the first nine members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, the term of one of the commissioners will expire one year from the date of appointment, the terms of two of the remaining commissioners will expire two years from the date of appointment, the terms of three of the remaining commissioners will expire three years from the date of appointment, and the terms of the remaining three commissioners will expire four years from the date of appointment. Thereafter all commissioners shall be appointed for terms of four years.

b) Within 10 days after their appointment, commissioners shall qualify by taking the oath of office.

c) Commissioners shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified.

d) Any vacancy in office of commissioner shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

e) Commissioners shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to the same travel expenses and subsistence allowances as county officers.

19.06.040- Organization.

Within ten days after their appointment, the commission shall meet and organize as the Clark County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission by the election of one of their number as

chair, one as secretary, and by the election of such other offices as they may deem necessary. The elected officers shall hold office for one year, with annual elections being held in January.

19.06.050- Meetings.

a) The Clark County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission shall meet a minimum of four times a year at regularly appointed times, which meetings shall be open to the public, and shall keep a complete record of its transactions.
b) Minutes of regular meetings shall be filed with the County of Clark within ten days following such meeting.
c) Five Commissioners shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.
d) Any resolution, motion or other action shall be adopted or ordered taken by a majority of the commissioners forming a quorum.

19.06.060- Duties.

The Clark County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission shall have and exercise the following duties:

(a)

Establish general procedures to carry out the purpose of the commission and adopt bylaws, rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to facilitate the continuity of a county park and recreation system. [The bylaws, rules and regulations shall be submitted to the board of county commissioners for approval];

(b)

Act in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners in promoting, aiding and encouraging public recreation, including the development of parks and recreation areas and facilities which address the needs of the County's residents;

(c)

Act in an advisory capacity to the Director of Parks and Recreation in the development, maintenance, operation and programming of all recreation areas and facilities in the unincorporated areas of Clark County;

(d)

Annually review projects suggested for funding with residential construction tax revenue and make a recommendation to the county commission;

(e)

Act as an advocate for parks and recreation activities, actively seek public input, receive complaints and resolve conflicts.

(f)

Perform such additional duties involving parks and recreation as may be delegated by the Board of County Commissioners.

(g)

Review all proposed changes to Title 19 of the Clark County Code as they relate to Parks and Recreation; and make recommendations to the

CITY OF FORT MORGAN
BY MOTION
MARCH 17, 2009

PARKS DEPARTMENT

TREE, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD – BYLAWS

ARTICLE I
NAME

Section 1. This group shall be called the Fort Morgan Tree, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (hereinafter "the Board").

ARTICLE II
OBJECTIVES

Section 1. To work in cooperation with the Parks Superintendent and the City Forester and other organizations in the community dealing with trees, parks and open space issues.

Section 2. To work in cooperation with the Recreation Superintendent and other organizations dealing with recreation in order to plan and implement leisure time programs and facilities for all residents of the City of Fort Morgan.

Section 3. To study, investigate and advise City Council in matters relating to the selection of planting sites, species, treatment, disposition of trees and plantings in and upon public places, and propose policy, rules, regulations and specifications for planting, pruning and trimming, and removal for disease and pest control and protection for City trees and plantings.

Section 4. To study, investigate and advise City Council in matters relating to the development and redevelopment of parks, open space and recreation facilities that are consistent with the current scale and character of the community and protects environmental resources.

Section 5. To study, investigate and advise City Council in matters relating to the preservation of existing open space, the acquisition of new properties for preservation and recreation; and protect the water supply and watersheds, scenic resources, wildlife habitats and other significant environmental assets of the community.

Section 6. To study, investigate and advise City Council in matters relating to maintaining, improvement and the creation of opportunities for safe pedestrian and bicycle movements; and the encouragement of development of multi-use trails.

Section 7. To study, investigate and advise City Council in matters relating to the enhancement of the physical and aesthetic appearance of the City; and protect the scenic and historic resources.

Section 8. To study, investigate and advise City Council in matters regarding park and recreation facilities rules, regulations and policies, as the Board believes necessary and proper for the management and use of the public park facilities.

Section 9. To study, investigate and advise City Council on matters regarding the Parks and Recreation Department's operating budgets and fees and charges.

Section 10. To promote Parks and Recreation functions and services in the community.

Section 11. To advise Staff, with City Council's approval, on the administration of such gifts of money or property, or endowments as may be granted to and accepted by City Council for parks and recreation purposes, and to take such steps as the Board may deem feasible to encourage gifts in support of the Parks and Recreation Departments and to administer a grant-in-aid program directed at individuals who would be unable, due to financial considerations, to participate in recreation programs.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Board shall consist of seven (7) members, all of whom shall be residents of the City. The City Clerk shall advertise for open positions and forward the applications to the Board's City Council Representative who will make recommendation of appointment to City Council. (Revised by Res 09 03 05)

Section 2. All member terms are for three (3) years. All members appointed to the Board shall be allowed only one (1) reappointment or two (2) full terms, whichever is longer. In the event there are no applicants for a position on the Board, then a term-limited member may apply for the vacancy. Nothing in this rule prohibits any person from applying for a vacancy after they have been off the Board for at least one (1) term. (Revised by Res 09 03 05)

Section 3. In the event of the resignation of any Board member, or his/her death, inability to serve or absence without acceptable reasons from three regular consecutive meetings, a vacancy shall be declared. Vacancies occurring on this Board shall be filled for the unexpired term pursuant to Section 1 of this Article III.

Section 4. A Councilmember appointed by the Mayor, the Parks Superintendent, the City Forester, the Recreation Superintendent and the Director of Community Services shall serve as ex-officio members of the Fort Morgan Tree, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

ARTICLE IV
MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Agendas for such regular meetings will be delivered a minimum of three (3) days beforehand. In order for an item to be placed on the agenda, the Chairman of the Board and the Director of Community Services must be contacted. (Revised 04/01/2008)

Section 2. Special Meetings shall be called by the Chairman or upon the request of at least two (2) members.

Section 3. Meetings shall convene at a time specified by the majority of the Board. (Revised 04/01/2008)

Section 4. The regular meeting held in January of each year shall be known as the Organizational Meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election and installation of officers, namely the Chairman and the Secretary; the presentation of the annual report and other business that may need to come before such meeting.

Section 5. The meeting held in September of each year shall be for the review of the budget for the coming fiscal year, and for other business that may need to come before such meeting.

Section 6. Four (4) members constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting. (Revised 04/01/2008)

Section 7. All meetings are open to the public.

ARTICLE V
OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Board shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary who shall be elected at the organization meeting in January; to serve for one (1) year or until a successor shall be elected and qualified. (Revised 04/01/2008)

ARTICLE VI
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board, appoint all committees, represent the Board at public affairs, act on behalf of the Board in emergencies and shall maintain the dignity and efficiency of the Board in all possible ways. The Chairman, or his/her designee, shall report to City Council at a scheduled public meeting, as requested by Council, to make reports to Council on the activities of the Board. (Revised by Res 09 03 05)

Section 2. The Vice-Chairman shall assume all duties of the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman. (Revised 04/01/2008)

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board. He or she shall read all official communications to the Board, write correspondence as directed and keep on file all important letters and replies. The secretary shall forward an official copy of the minutes to the City Clerk in a timely manner. (Revised 04/01/2008)

ARTICLE VII
ELECTIONS

Section 1. All officers shall be elected by nominations having been made from the floor. A majority vote of a quorum shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE VIII
DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of each member of the Board to take an active part in the direction of the Board's activities and to act in whatever capacity he or she may be called; to be loyal in thought and deed to the welfare of trees, parks, and open space and to the community, which it seeks to serve.

Section 2. All members shall serve without remuneration.

Section 3. All members shall complete a training program within six (6) months of their appointment. All Board members serving as of April 1, 2009, shall complete their training by September 2009. Training shall be provided by the City Manager and the City Attorney. (Revised by Res 09 03 05)

ARTICLE IX
COMMITTEES

Section 1. Special committees shall be appointed by order of the Board as needs may arise. Such committees shall not necessarily be restricted to members of the Board. The chairman of any special committee shall be a member of the Board.

ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed at any regular or special meeting for approval of those present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing to all Board members at least seven (7) days prior to said meeting. To be effective, any such amendments shall also be approved by City Council.

Certified By: */s/ Andrea J. Strand*
City Clerk

Director of Parks and Recreation and the Board of County Commissioners.

(h)

Review the Park, Trail and Open Space Element to the Clark County Comprehensive Plan and make recommendations which will ensure compliance with the intent of the plan.

19.06.070 - Compensation.

Commissioners shall serve without compensation but may be entitled to the same expenses as county employees, upon prior approval of the board of county commissioners.

BYLAWS
CITY OF GEORGETOWN
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1.1. Name. Parks and Recreation Board ("Board").

Section 1.2. Purpose. The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to the City Council concerning acquisition and uses of parkland and sports and recreation facilities and improvements in programs, activities and facilities to meet current and future community needs for the City and its residents. *See Ordinance Chapter 2.104.*

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.1. Number of Members. The Board will be comprised of seven (7) Members.

Section 2.2. Eligibility. Each Member shall reside in the City of Georgetown corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Section 2.3. Appointment of Board Members. Members of the Board shall be appointed pursuant to and in accordance with the City Charter.

Section 2.4. Terms of Office. Generally, terms of office for each Member shall be two (2) years. Generally, a Member may serve two (2) consecutive terms. Refer to *Ordinance Section 2.36.030A* for additional provisions regarding terms of office.

Section 2.5. Vacancies. Vacancies that occur during a term shall be filled as soon as reasonably possible and in the same manner as an appointment in accordance with the City Charter. If possible, the Member shall continue to serve until the vacancy is filled. An appointment to fill a vacated term is not included as a term for purposes of counting consecutive terms.

Section 2.6. Compensation and Expenditure of Funds. Members serve without compensation. The Board and its Members have no authority to expend funds or to incur or make an obligation on behalf of the City unless authorized and approved by the City Council. Members may be reimbursed for expenses authorized and approved by the City Council and the Board.

Section 2.7. Compliance with City Policy. Members will comply with City Ordinances, Rules and Policies applicable to the Board and the Members, including but not limited to *Ethics Ordinance Chapter 2.20* and *City Commissions, Committees and Boards Ordinance Chapter 2.36*.

Section 2.8. Removal. Any Member may be removed from their position on the Board for any reason, or for no reason, by a majority vote of the City Council.

ARTICLE III. BOARD OFFICERS

Section 3.1. Officers. The Board Officers are Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Chairman is appointed by the City Council during the annual appointment process. The other Board Officers are elected by a majority vote of the Members at the first meeting after the annual appointment process.

Section 3.2. Terms of Office for Board Officers. Board Officers serve for a term of one year. In the event of vacancy in the office of Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall serve as Chairman until the City Council appoints a replacement Chairman. A vacancy in the other offices shall be elected by majority vote of the Members at the next regularly scheduled meeting, or as soon as reasonably practical for the unexpired term. If possible, a Board Officer shall continue to serve until the vacancy is filled.

Section 3.3. Duties.

a. The Chairman presides at Board meetings. The Chairman shall generally manage the business of the Board. The Chairman shall perform the duties delegated to the Chairman by the Board.

b. The Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties delegated to the Vice-Chairman by the Board. The Vice-Chairman presides at Board meetings in the Chairman's absence. The Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman in the Chairman's absence or disability.

c. The Secretary shall perform the duties delegated to the Secretary by the Board.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 4.1. Time and Date of Regular Meeting. The Board shall meet once a month on the same week of the month, the same day of the week, at the same time, and at the

same place. The regular date, time and place of the Board meeting will be decided by the Members at the first meeting of the Board after the annual appointment process.

Section 4.2. Agenda. Items may be placed on the agenda by the Chairman, the City Manager or designee, or at the request of a Member. The party (or individual) requesting the agenda item will be responsible for preparing an agenda item cover sheet and for the initial presentation at the meeting. Items included on the agenda must be submitted to the Staff Liaison no later than one week before the Board meeting at which the agenda item will be considered. Agenda packets for regular meetings will be provided to the Members in advance of the scheduled Board meeting. Agenda packets will contain the posted agenda, agenda item cover sheets, and written minutes of the last meeting.

Section 4.3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or by three (3) Members.

Section 4.4. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Members. A quorum is required for the Board to convene a meeting and to conduct business at a meeting.

Section 4.5. Call to Order. Board meetings will be called to order by the Chairman or, if absent, by the Vice-Chairman. In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the meeting shall be called to order by the Secretary, and a temporary Chairman shall be elected to preside over the meeting.

Section 4.6. Conduct of Meeting. Board meetings will be conducted in accordance with these Bylaws and City Council Meeting Rules and Procedures, as applicable to the Board. See *Ordinance Chapter 2.24.*

Section 4.7. Voting. Each Member shall vote on all agenda items, except on matters involving a conflict of interest, substantial financial interest or substantial economic interest under state law, the City's Ethics Ordinance, or other applicable Laws, Rules and Policies. In such instances the Member shall make the required disclosures and shall refrain from participating in both the discussion and vote on the matter. The Member may remain at the dais or leave the dais, at the Member's option, while the matter is being considered and voted on by the other Board Members. Unless otherwise provided by law, if a quorum is present, an agenda item must be approved by a majority of the Board Members present at the meeting.

Section 4.8. Minutes. A recording or written minutes shall be made of all open sessions of Board meetings. The Staff Liaison is the custodian of all Board records and documents.

Section 4.9. Attendance. Members are required to attend Board meetings prepared to discuss the issues on the agenda. A Member shall notify the Chairman and the Staff Liaison if the Member is unable to attend a meeting. Excessive absenteeism will be subject to action under Council policy and may result in the Member being replaced on the Board. See *Ordinance Section 2.36.010D.* Excessive absenteeism means failure to attend at least 75% of regularly scheduled meetings, including Board meetings and Subcommittee meetings. If a Member is removed from the Board that position shall be considered vacant and a new Member shall be appointed to the Board in accordance with Section 2.5 above.

Section 4.10. Public Participation. In accordance with City policy, the public is welcome and invited to attend Board meetings and to speak on any item on the agenda. A person wishing to address the Board must sign up to speak in accordance with the policy of the Council concerning participation and general public comment at public meetings. Sign-up sheets will be available and should be submitted to the Chairman prior to the start of the meeting. If any written materials are to be provided to the Board, a copy shall also be provided to the Staff Liaison for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting. Speakers shall be allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak, but may take up to six minutes if another individual who signs up to speak yields the time to the speaker. If a person wishes to speak on an issue that is not posted on the agenda, they must file a written request with the Staff Liaison no later than one week before the scheduled meeting. The written request must state the specific topic to be addressed and include sufficient information to inform the Board and the public. A person who disrupts the meeting may be asked to leave and be removed.

Section 4.11. Open Meetings. Public notice of Board meetings shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. All Board meetings and deliberations shall be open to the public, except for properly noticed closed session matters, and shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Section 4.12. Closed Sessions. The Board may conduct closed sessions as allowed by law, on properly noticed closed session matters, such as consultation with attorney on legal matters, deliberation regarding the value of real property, competitive utility

matters, and economic development negotiations. A recording or certified agenda shall be made of all closed sessions of Board meetings.

ARTICLE V. REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL

The Board shall meet with City Council, as requested, to determine how the Board may best serve and assist City Council. City Council shall hear reports from the Board at regularly scheduled Council meetings.

ARTICLE VI. SUBCOMMITTEES

Section 6.1. Formation. When deemed necessary by a majority of the Board, Subcommittees may be formed for specific projects related to Board matters. Subcommittees comprised of non-Members may only be formed with the prior consent and confirmation of the City Council.

Section 6.2. Expenditure of Funds. No Subcommittee, or member of a Subcommittee, has the authority to expend funds or incur an obligation on behalf of the City or the Board. Subcommittee expenses may be reimbursed if authorized and approved by the Board or by City Council.

Section 6.3. Open Meetings. Subcommittee meetings and deliberations shall be open to the public, except for properly noticed closed session matters, and shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

ARTICLE VII. BYLAW AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the Board Members at any regular meeting of the Board. The Board's proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by City Council at the next Council meeting after the Board's approval. Bylaw amendments are not effective until approved by City Council.

Approved and adopted at a meeting of the City Council on the 10 day of May, 2011

ATTEST:

City Secretary

THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN

Mayor

Approved and adopted at a meeting of the Board on the 9th day of June, 2011.

ATTEST:

Board Secretary

BOARD

Board Chairman

BY-LAWS FOR YORK COUNTY

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Article I. BY-LAWS ESTABLISHED

Section 1 By-Laws Established

The York County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board hereby adopts the following articles in order to facilitate the duties of said Board in accordance with the York County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. R77-2, establishing the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Article II. PURPOSE OF ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1. General Statement of Purpose

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall serve as an advisory body of the York County Board of Supervisors.

Section 2. Specific Functions

Specific functions of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board are limited to the following:

- The Advisory Board shall serve as a liaison between the Recreation Manager, the Board of Supervisors, and the citizens of the community.

- The Advisory Board shall consult with and advise the County Administrator, the Recreation Manager, and the Board of Supervisors in matters affecting recreation services policies, programs, finances, acquisition and disposal of lands and properties related to the total community recreational services program, facility development, facility maintenance, and to the Division's long-range, projected program for recreational services. The advice of the Advisory Board should not be interpreted as instructions or regulations, but as constructive advice.

- The Advisory Board may interpret the Division and the general operation of the system to the public.

- The Advisory Board may represent the general public.

- The Advisory Board may represent the Division at official occasions.

- The Advisory Board may negotiate advantages for the Division. Because of

their individual and collective prestige, the Advisory Board is often in a better position than the County Administrator or others to negotiate advantages for the Division with the Board of Supervisors, other public officials, and the general public. Among these advantages might be an adequate budget for Division operations.

- The Advisory Board may encourage cooperation with other related agencies and assist in correlating community forces for the development of recreational services.

- The Advisory Board may investigate and determine the needs and interests of the community for recreation facilities and programs and recommend a recreation program to meet these needs.

- The Advisory Board shall advise the Manager, County Administration and Board of Supervisors on actions York County may take in order to meet the objectives of the Division as outlined by Policy Statements of the Board of Supervisors.

- The Advisory Board shall make full and compete reports to the governing body at such times as may be requested.

- The Advisory Board may, under the direction of the Manager, recommend and help prepare a master plan and other studies for the acquisition and development of an adequate system of parks, facilities, and recreation programs for the future.

- The Advisory Board may recommend and advise the Board of Supervisors on the acceptance of any grant, gift, bequest or donation, any personal or real property offered or made available for recreation purposes and which is judged to be of present or possible future use for recreation or parks.

- The Advisory Board shall act as a sounding board for the Manager.

- The Advisory Board generally enlists and influences favorable public opinion of and support for recreational services.

Section 3. Specific Restrictions

The Advisory Board specifically does not have the following functions:

- Perform administrative duties.
- Establish policy.
- Enter into and correct for or incur any obligation which binds the Board of Supervisors.
- Hire, dismiss, discipline employees, or advise on personnel matters.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Appointment

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall consist of eight members, who shall be qualified voters of the County. Seven members shall be selected from the County at-large by the Board of Supervisors. The eighth member shall be a member of the York County School Board and shall serve in an ex-officio capacity. Such ex-officio member shall be appointed by the York County School Board. The ex-officio member shall only be eligible for membership on the Advisory Board while officially a member of the York County School Board. Each member shall take the oath of office contained in Section 49-1 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) before assuming the duties of membership on the Advisory Board.

Section 2. Appointment Term

Appointments shall be for terms of four years each. The ex-officio member shall serve a term as specified by the School Board. The members shall hold office during their respective terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified. No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 3. Removal

The Board of Supervisors may, with or without the recommendation of the Advisory Board, remove any member of the Advisory Board for misconduct or neglect of duty.

Section 4. Vacancies

Vacancies occasioned by resignation, or otherwise, shall be reported to the Board of Supervisors by the Administrator and shall be filled in like manner as original appointments.

Section 5. Manager

The Recreation Manager shall be chief administrative officer to the Advisory Board, but shall not be a member of the Board. The Manager shall be entitled to attend all meeting of the Advisory Board and participate in discussion but shall not be entitled to vote. The Manager shall be notified in advance of all Advisory Board meetings.

Article IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. Appointment

The officers of the Advisory Board shall be a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The officers shall be elected by the Advisory Board at their organization meeting in January (date to be set by the Advisory Board) to serve for one year or until a successor shall be elected.

Section 2. Officer Vacancies

In case of a vacancy, an election shall be held at the next meeting following such vacancy, provided that at least five days written notice of such election shall have been previously sent to all Advisory Board members.

Article V. SPECIAL DUTIES

Section 1. Chairman

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees, call special meeting when deemed advisable, and perform all duties incumbent upon a chairman, except when such duties are properly delegated. The Chairman may succeed himself or herself and shall be elected from among the members of the Advisory Board. The Chairman is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. Vice-Chairman

The Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, shall perform all the duties of the Chairman.

Section 3. Chairman Pro Tempore

In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, the Advisory Board shall elect a Chairman Pro Tempore who shall perform the duties of the Chairman.

Section 4. Manager

The Manager shall have a continuing responsibility to explain the organization, responsibilities, and working relations to the Advisory Board, explain program objectives to them, assist them in details of organization, and assist in all matters related to a good organization. The Manager shall work closely with the Advisory Board in matters in interest to the operation of the efficient program. The manager keeps the Advisory Board informed concerning the interests, needs, objectives, progress, plans, and other factors of importance to them. The Manager shall be the official medium of communication between employees of the Division and the Advisory Board.

Article VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Scheduling Meetings

The date, time and place for Advisory Board meetings shall be established by the Advisory Board.

Section 2. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings shall be bimonthly (once every two months) during the year.

Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or on the written request of at least two (2) members, the time and place and purpose to be designated in the notice of such call.

Section 4. Organizational Meetings

The first regular meeting in January of each year shall be called the organizational meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election of officers, the presentation of the annual report, and other business that may need to come before such meetings.

Section 5. Attendance

Each member must attend at least 75% of all regular and special meetings of the Advisory Board. Failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings or absences exceeding the 75% criteria without justification shall be cause for removal from the Advisory Board. Justification of absence must be accepted by the Advisory Board at the next meeting following an absence. Members should advise the Chairman in advance of their absence. Attendance records shall be reported to the Board of Supervisors by the Manager. The School Board's ex-officio member shall only be required to attend when requested by the Advisory Board for discussion on mutual interest subjects.

Section 6. Quorum

A majority of the Advisory Board (excluding the ex-officio member) then serving shall at all times constitute a quorum and shall have full authority of the Advisory Board. The ex-officio member shall only be entitled to vote when there is an even number of Board of Supervisors appointed members present.

Section 7. Agenda

In order to get an item on the agenda for a regular meeting, a request should provided to the Chairman at least one week prior to the regular meeting.

Section 8. Rules of Order

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with procedures prescribed in the by-laws and decisions reached only after full consideration and debate on the issue in question. Meetings will be conducted as provided in *The Modern Rules of Order* as modified by these by-laws.

Section 9. Order of Business

The following shall be the order of business of the Advisory Board. The Rules of Order may be suspended and any matters considered or postponed by action of the Board.

a. Call to order.
b. Roll call.
c. Consideration of minutes of last regular meeting and of any special meetings held subsequently and their approval or amendment.
d. Unfinished business.
e. Reports of standing committees.
f. Reports of special committees.

g. Reports of the Advisory Board.
h. Report of the Manager.
i. New business.
j. Adjournment.

Article VII. COMPENSATION

Section 1. Advisory Board Compensation

Advisory Board members shall serve without compensation. Members may be reimbursed for travel and subsistence when attending Advisory Board related meetings, conferences and workshops. Such reimbursement shall be made in compliance with the general policies of the County. Such reimbursements are subject to approval of the County Administrator and shall be administered through the Manager.

Article VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. By-Law Amendments

These by-laws may be amended by the York County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at a meeting at which there is a quorum.