NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK MASTER PLAN Vision for the 21st Century - City Park 2018





LETTER FROM OUR CEO AND PRESIDENT Dear Friends,

Our master plan was approved in March of 2005 with the goal of returning a world-class urban park to the citizens of Greater New Orleans in conjunction with the city's 300th anniversary in 2018.

While progress toward implementing the plan was severely impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, we were determined to make lemonade out of a very sour lemon. We regrouped, made adjustments to the plan and are now over half way to our goal!

We have raised more than \$80 million toward our goal of \$143 million. Guests to the park can see improvements virtually anywhere they look within our 1,300 acre boundary; The Goldring/Waldenberg Great Lawn, more that \$7 million invested in the Amusement Park and Storyland, the brand new 26-court City Park / Pepsi Tennis Center, renovations to dozens of buildings, construction of NOLA City Bark Dog Park, major updates to Big Lake, the planting of more than 4,000 trees, the replanting of the Botanical Garden, and several miles of new jogging/walking/biking paths - to name just a few.

No one wears rose colored glasses at the park. Despite our success in recent years, we face funding challenges at both the city and state level. We are working diligently to establish an appropriate level of funding by both entities.

Guided by a dedicated board, generous donors, enthusiastic volunteers and a committed staff, we look forward to celebrating the fulfillment of the master plan in 2018. In the meantime, we invite you to come enjoy your park.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Becker

Probert W. Bulin

CEO

Robert Edward Smith Lupo
President

WHY IS A PLAN FOR CITY PARK IMPORTANT?

City Park is the heart of the region with an astonishing array of facilities and open space. The Park is incredibly important to the quality of life of everyone in the region and its health and vitality is important to every citizen and employer.

The Park has a significant economic impact on the region which will be dramatically threatened if the Park is not put on a sound financial plan and if the facilities in the Park are not repaired, modernized and improved. According to the University of New Orleans (Pre-Katrina):

- The Park accounted for a total spending impact of over \$100 million dollars.
- The Park supports directly or indirectly over 1,350 jobs
- The Park creates a "halo" effect on surrounding property values. The Park increased the value of surrounding property by a total of nearly \$400 million dollars. The Parks operation creates approximately \$11 Million in State and local government annual tax revenue



Hurricane Katrina Reaffirms Importance of Plan

The massive destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the federal levee system in August of 2005 reaffirmed the importance of the plan. While the recovery of other institutions and facilities were significantly delayed because of the lack of a master plan, City Park 2018 immediately provided a blueprint for rebuilding and revisions to the Park. The Park has used the plan to guide restoration efforts, raise funds, marshal public and private support and to coordinate the efforts of over 35,000 volunteers.





MISSION OF THE PARK

Preserve and improve Park spaces for recreational, educational, cultural and beautification purposes.

GOAL OF THE PLAN

Make City Park the premiere urban Park in the nation!

Through 2018, existing Park facilities and infrastructure will be repaired and renovated with new facilities and uses introduced. The Park will be financially self sufficient, properly maintained and will offer an extensive array of programs and cultural educational experiences to the public to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the City of New Orleans.



INTRODUCTION

New Orleans City Park is one of the country's oldest and largest urban parks. With the first parcels acquired in 1854, its 1,300 acres dramatically illustrate the challenges and successes of the city's remarkable history.

The vision and plan for City Park was adopted in 2005, intended to guide development of the Park over the next decade and a half. The vision and plan were developed with extensive input from the public through a process which included a regional telephone survey and an online survey through a redeveloped master plan web site, and two well-attended public meetings. Other great public parks such as Central Park and Balboa Park were examined to learn about trends in park planning and current thinking regarding programs and facilities appropriate to great regional park assets.

Many ideas and suggestions were developed during the community needs and assessment process. The following represents highlights of that input.

- Additional museums/cultural facilities
- More concerts/festival areas in the Park
- Increase the amount of undeveloped open space available to the public
- Programs for all age groups
- Children's water play area and Skate Park
- Dog Park

- Improve lagoons/fishing/water quality
- Create a comprehensive forestry program
- Walking/jogging/bicycle paths
- Improve the golf complex
- Renovate infrastructure/better maintain the Park's buildings and grounds



In 2007, the Park undertook a review of the plan, particularly designed to determine if modifications to the plan were necessary as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The Park commissioned a new Regional Telephone Survey, conducted a public hearing and reviewed proposals submitted by interested groups. This research confirmed that the initiatives contained in the adopted plan were still correct and that only minor adjustments in the plan were necessary.

Telephone Survey's were conducted in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and confirmed broad support for the Park's Recovery progress and the Master plan initiatives.



CITY PARK VISION

The vision statement describes the community's aspirations for the Park. It is written from the perspective of citizens views in 2018.

City Park is a vital urban park, recognized for its beauty, diversity, and stewardship of its resources. Its 1,300 acres of lush parkland and waterways, crossed by a network of trails, contain a rich array of recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental resources well-used by the neighborhood, city, region, and State. City Park is a regional attraction, an important part of the region's economic development infrastructure and contributes to the economic vitality of the neighborhoods. The Park's historic landscape has completely recovered from Hurricane Katrina and is the setting for contemporary programs and events that appeal to all ages. Through partnerships, public support, and creative fund-raising, the Park maintains attractive facilities, grounds and programs that add to the enjoyment, health, and enrichment of the community.

The vision is structured around five themes. These themes are separated for clarity and emphasis, but are, in fact, closely related. Together, they describe the community's vision for the Park in its land uses, design and programs. These are the basis for the Initiatives as introduced on page 5. "In 2018, we envision...

Expanded recreational opportunities where...

- Healthy living is encouraged for all ages and abilities with places to play, compete, enjoy fresh air and nature.
- New facilities and activities meet the needs of the community.
- Public transit links the Park's resources with neighborhoods throughout New Orleans.

Strong sense of community where...

- Life long learning opportunities encourage curiosity, creativity, team work, and career development.
- Families enjoy the Park's variety of activities at every stage.
- Neighbors meet through Park programs and build long-term relationships.
- Public health is encouraged and celebrated for Park employees and visitors.
- Employment opportunities in Park related fields such as environmental sciences, business, and recreational management are explored and developed.
- Local businesses benefit by the improvements to the Park.
- Citizens are actively engaged in their community.

Integrated natural and functional systems where...

- Native Louisiana habitat of plants and animals thrive.
- Stewardship is a popular and rewarding activity.
- · Water quality throughout the Park is high and routinely maintained.
- Trails and roads are safe and enjoyable routes to destinations throughout the Park.
- The urban forest contributes to the Park's character and environmental quality of the region.

Distinctive identity where...

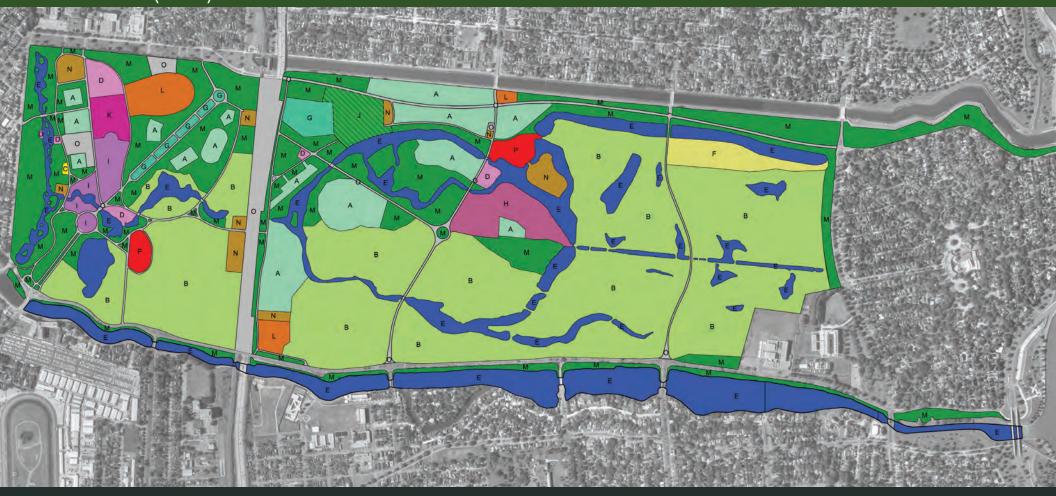
- City Park's distinct heritage is preserved and celebrated.
- A vibrant horticultural palette displays seasonal color of plant communities and traditions from New Orleans, the American South and exotic locations around the world.
- The surrounding neighborhoods enjoy and benefit from the Park's year-round activities.
- City Park's recovery serves as a inspiration for citizens from throughout the region
- City Park is nationally recognized as a premiere public park.
- Tourists find the Park fun, safe, and well maintained.

Financial self-sufficiency where...

- Park management and governance are responsive to ever changing conditions.
- Funding of Park improvements and operations are abundant and widely supported.
- A variety of public/private partnerships are mutually beneficial and grow with the Park.
- Ongoing evaluation directs improvements at all levels.



LAND USE (2005)



LAND USE LEGEND:

Α	'A' Active Recreation / Sports	93 Ac	F	'F' Equestrian Center	17 Ac	K	'K' Family / Amusement Areas		8 Ac
В	'B' Active Recreation / Golf	508 Ac	G	'G' Formal Gardens and Malls	14 Ac	L	'L' Stadiums / Recreation Cente	rs	23 Ac
С	'C' Active Recreation / Play	1 Ac	Н	'H' Natural Resource Area	23 Ac	М	'M' Undeveloped Open Areas		268 Ac
D	'D' Passive Recreation	11 Ac	1	'I' Cultural Area	15 Ac	N	'N' Park Support		20 Ac
Е	'E' Lagoon / Bayou / Water	218 Ac	3	'J' Undeveloped Open Areas	14 Ac	0	'O' Vehicular Circulation / Parki	ng	70 Ac
Related Recreation		used for festivals, sports, urban farming, biking, walking			Р	'P' Non-Park Related Areas		11 Ac	
				and jogging trails and other				TOTAL	1314 Ac



LAND USE (2011)

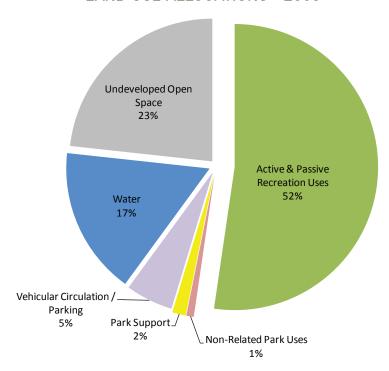


LAND USE LEGEND:

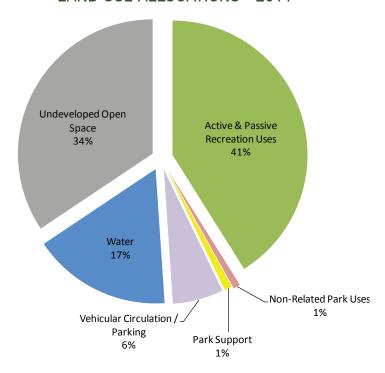
А	'A' Active Recreation / Sports	74 Ac	F	'F' Equestrian Center	18 Ac	K	'K' Family / Amusement Areas		18 Ac
В	'B' Active Recreation / Golf	316 Ac	G	'G' Formal Gardens and Malls	21 Ac	L	'L' Stadiums / Recreation Center	rs	22 Ac
С	'C' Active Recreation / Play	1 Ac	Н	'H' Natural Resource Area	70 Ac	M	'M' Undeveloped Open Areas		184 Ac
D	'D' Passive Recreation	14 Ac		'I' Cultural Area	56 Ac	N	'N' Park Support		12 Ac
Е	'E' Lagoon / Bayou / Water	219 Ac		'J' Undeveloped Open Areas	198 Ac	0	'O' Vehicular Circulation / Parki	ng	80 Ac
	Related Recreation			used for festivals, sports, urban farming, biking, walking		Р	'P' Non-Park Related Areas		11 Ac
				and jogging trails and other similar uses				TOTAL	1314 Ac

ALLOCATION OF LAND USE

LAND USE ALLOCATIONS - 2005



LAND USE ALLOCATIONS - 2011







ALLOCATION OF LAND USE

PLAN INITIATIVES

The proposed land uses are formed by the following initiatives. They are based on the City Park Vision's themes to meet the community's goal of making City Park the premiere urban Park in America.

Central Place - Create a more vibrant focus for the historic core of the Park by creating a diverse family recreation and leisure activity area- Tri-Centennial Place

Open Space - Increase the acreage devoted to open and undeveloped Park space by closing the south golf course and utilizing the space for open space and festival grounds.

Culture - Expand the area available for cultural and educational facilities including NOMA, Botanical Garden expansion and new museum sites

Recreation - Improve the Park's recreation facilities by building a new tennis center, dramatically upgrade the entire golf complex and upgrade the Park's sports fields.

Education - Expand education, youth and senior programming, and outreach activities through increased budget allocations and with a new multi-purpose building.

Healthy Living - Build a network of bike and walking/jogging trails to provide expanded exercise opportunities.

Natural Resources - Develop an extensive tree stewardship program, shoreline restoration and water quality improvement program.

Access - Improve and clarify access by minimizing redundant roads and realigning Stadium Drive: extending streetcar into Park.

Infrastructure - Repair and modernize the Park's buildings and utilities including drainage, water, electrical, sewer and roadways.

Implementation – Continue the development of a partnership between the Park, the City and the State to support the plan with adequate operating and capital funding. Plan includes permanent funding commitments from all three parties.

LAND USES

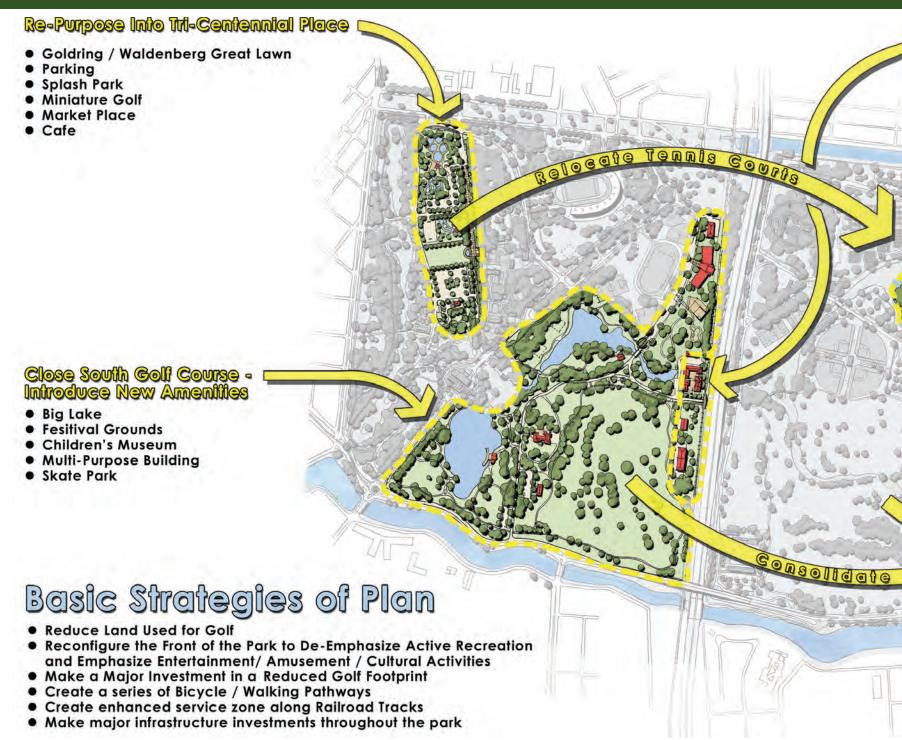
2005 MASTER PLAN 2011 MASTER PLAN
EXISTING ACRES PROPOSED ACRES CHANGE

Active & Passive Recreation Uses (A,B,C,D,F,G,I,K, & L)	53%	691.00	41%	540.00	-11%
Non-Related Park Uses (P)	1%	11.00	1%	11.00	0%
Park Support (N)	2%	20.00	1%	12.00	-1%
Vehicular Circulation / Parking (O)	5%	70.00	6%	80.00	1%
Water (E)	17%	218.00	17%	219.00	0%
Undeveloped Open Space (H, J & M)	23%	304.00	34%	452.00	11%
		1,314.00		1,314.00	





BASIC STRATEGIES OF PLAN





BASIC STRATEGIES OF PLAN

Park Maintenance

- Renovated Maintenance Building
 New Catering Complex
 Enhance Greenhouse Area
 Increased Storage



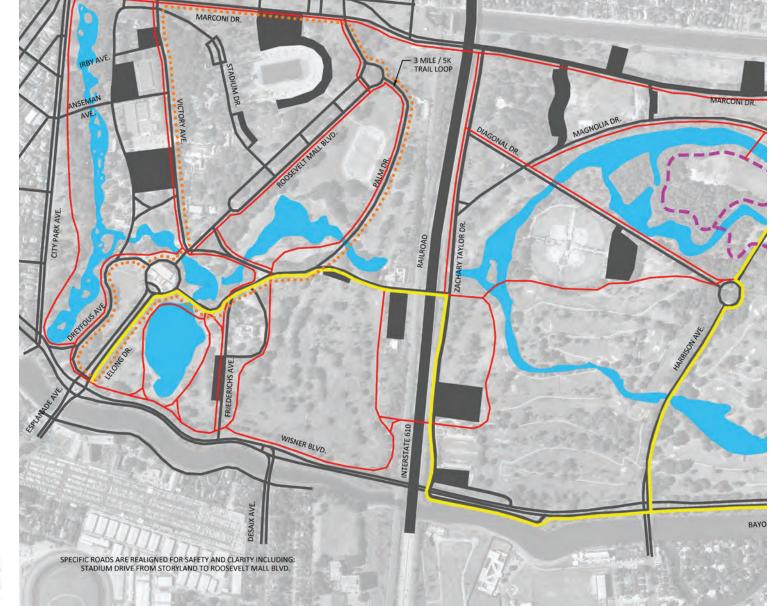






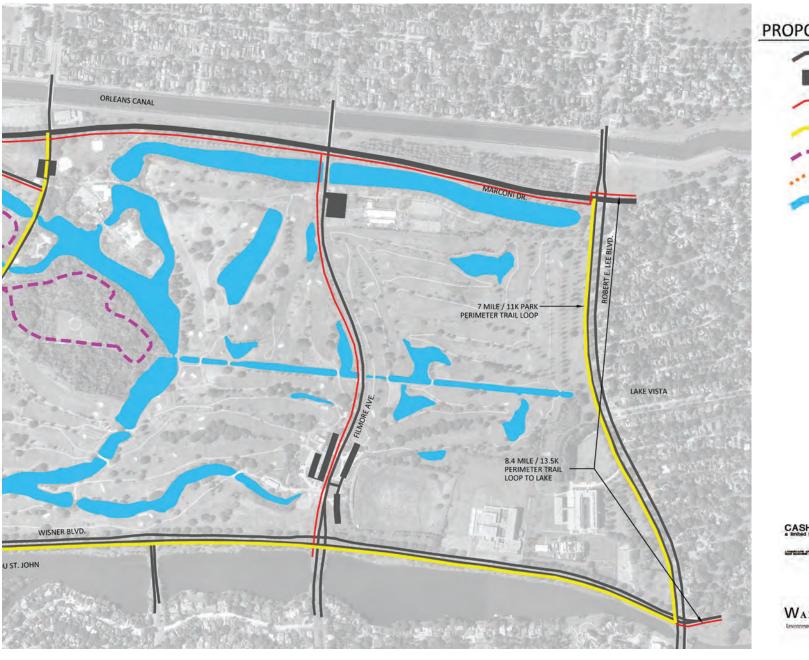
PROPOSED CIRCULATION LEGEND





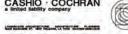






PROPOSED CIRCULATION LEGEND









WATER QUALITY AND SHORELINE IMPROVEMENTS

SHORELINE IMPROVEMENTS

Our goal is to protect the Park's 22 miles of shoreline from erosion, enhance them visually, and provide for aquatic, avian and other wildlife

WATER QUALITY

Our goal is to maintain the highest level of water quality in the Park's lakes, lagoons and bayous that, in turn, will ensure a healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat.

WATER MONITORING

Six new water monitors have been installed in the Park's lagoons. They measure salinity, water level, and temperature. The results help biologists from the Department of Agriculture and at the University of New Orleans manage water quality for the health of the Park's abundant fish population and also help maintain good water quality.





Shoreline grasses complement the new boardwalk at Big Lake



Thousands of Florida Strain Bass fry have been released into our lagoons Post-Katrina.



Big Bass are Back!

Volunteers have planted thousands of plugs of shoreline grass along the Park's 22 miles of shoreline.



TREE STEWARDSHIP

TREE STEWARDSHIP

Our goal is to establish a robust and diverse urban forest. New trees will be planted and established trees will be protected. City Park will be seen as a model of best practices for addressing the needs of the public while protecting one of the park's most valuable assets. The Park's ancient grove of mature live oaks will receive an even higher level of protection.



Almost every tree south of I-610 (and many of the trees north) has been pruned and evaluated.

The Park lost 2,000 trees in the aftermath Hurricane Katrina. We have planted over 4,000 new trees and have plans to plant many more. We're not just recovering, we're improving.



Debris from Hurricane Gustav was mulched and used to create new trails on Scout Island.



Cypress + Tupelo Swamp Riparian Edge

IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Master plan for City Park presents an ambitious but achievable schedule of physical and programmatic improvements designed to make City Park the premiere urban park in the country. It sets an achievable time frame of completing the physical improvements by 2018 and provides for continuing improvements to the care and stewardship of the Park during that time. The plan calls for spending \$143 million dollars in infrastructure repairs and improvements while raising an additional \$5 million dollars in operating revenue to care for the Park's man made and natural assets and to provide programming comparable to the nation's other great public Parks

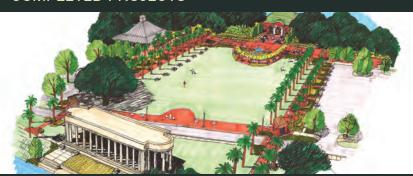
These improvements factor in the extensive repair of hurricane damage currently underway. The Park suffered over 40 million dollars in damage and it is expected that basic repairs will occur through 2013. The Park is using the funds allocated for repair to advance the improvements called for in the plan by combining repair and enhancement funds.

The individual capital projects which make up the \$143 million dollar investment strategy are listed in an accompanying chart on the next page. Clearly changes in the scope and phasing of these improvements will be made over the upcoming years depending on the timing of fund raising, project phasing, and detailing the scope of work on particular projects. The cost figures however clearly indicate the magnitude of expected work on these plan components.

Historically the operation of City Park has been chronically under-funded because of its extreme dependence on self-generated revenue. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, City Park generated over 98% of its own operating revenue and received little to no public support. Extensive analysis of other great urban parks confirms that this operating platform would not allow for the maintenance and operation of the Park to achieve the goal of having a world class asset. Simply put, it is not possible to raise sufficient revenue from entrepreneurial activities in the Park to achieve the goal of making City Park the premiere park in the country. After studying the Park's operating budget needs, it was determined that an additional \$5 million in operating revenue needed to be raised (from \$11.0 million to approximately 16 million).

Hurricane Katrina obviously dramatically affected the Park's operations and operating budget. All of the Park's operations were severely damaged and our self-generated revenue was dramatically decreased. Fortunately, through the efforts of the Park's legislative delegation, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the State has begun to provide a base level of public support. This was an important goal of the 2005 plan. The operating strategy is now to have public support to provide 30-40% of the Park's operating needs with 60-70% of the operating needs being self-generated.

COMPLETED PROJECTS



VIEW OF GOLDRING / WOLDENBERG GREAT LAWN Completed Spring of 2010



RENDER OF CITY PARK - BIG LAKE Completed Summer of 2009

FINANCING PLAN

The financing plan adopted in 2005 has been revisited in light of the damage sustained by Hurricane Katrina. The plan will continue to build on the partnership which has been developed between the Federal Government, State, City and the Park. Perhaps the most important development over the past few years since the storm is the receipt of a portion of its ongoing operating expenses from the State through the budget of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. In 2008 – 2009 the Park received a little over \$2,400,000 annually toward our operating expenses. This is slightly over the amount identified in our 2005 financing plan as coming from the State and its receipt has been absolutely crucial to the Park's recovery. The current financing strategy calls for public tax dollar support providing a platform of between 30 and 40% of the Park's total operating budget with between 60 and 70% of the revenue to be generated through Park operations.

While this model was achieved during the Fiscal years of 2006 – 2007, 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009, during the 2009 – 2010 Fiscal year State General Fund support was drastically reduced with the loss of over \$1.2 million general fund dollars and completely eliminated in the 2010-2011 budget. This represents a significant retreat in public support for the Park and will negatively impact the Park's progress. Funding the Park recieves from the tax on slot machines at the Fairgrounds has been used to reduce the impact from the loss of general operational support. This in turn will take funds away from our capital program.

The 2005 plan called for a City property tax to support the Park as part of the City's responsibility to support the Park. The devastation wrought by the Hurricane has placed this proposal temporarily on hold while the City stabilizes its recovery. The City suggested and the Park secured the implementation of a Tax Increment Finance District as an interim effort to secure some City support. The TIF District, while not supplying a tremendous amount of funds, is generating additional financial support which the Park expects to dedicate toward its capital program.

The Capital Budget strategy has also been revisited. While the Park has been extremely successful in raising capital funds - some \$83 million to date, approximately \$60 million remains to be raised. That strategy is shown on the Capital Strategy 2005 - 2018 chart on Page 19. As previously discussed the impact of the Hurricane has not allowed the Park or the City to pursue the dedicated property tax which would have supported both the operating and capital budget of the Park. Therefore the strategy in the near term has been revised to indicate more funds coming from the Park and a substantially greater reliance on private donations, Federal funds and State Capital Outlay dollars. Raising these funds will be challenging but accomplishable.



PHASING OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS





SOCCER SHELTER & RESTROOM (NOV 2011)

ARBOR ROOM @ POPP FOUNTAIN (OCT. 2010)





POPP FOUNTAIN RENOVATIONS (IN PROGRESS)

CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR MASTER PLAN

				• Worl	k Completed		
	Projects		Total Cost		or underway		Balance to be
	riojects		2005 - 2018		r committed		raised
			2005 - 2018	U	i committed		Taiseu
	Administration Building	\$	3,774,000	\$	3,774,000	\$	-
	Amusement Park Renovations	\$	9,500,000	\$	7,509,000	\$	1,991,000
	Big Lake Beautification	\$	3,700,000	\$	3,700,000	\$	-
	Bike System	\$	4,000,000	\$	2,050,000	\$	1,950,000
	Botanical Garden Improvements					<u> </u>	
	Infrastructure	\$	4,000,000	\$	1,596,000	\$	2,404,000
題	Conservatory - Plaza	\$	278,000	\$	278,000	\$	
	Conservatory - Addition	\$	2,500,000	\$		\$	2,500,000
	Catering Complex	\$	1,745,000	\$	-	Ś	1,745,000
	Coutourie Forest Improvements	\$	1,180,000	\$	1,180,000	\$	-
	Dog Park	\$	645,000	\$	645,000	\$	-
	Endowment	\$	5,000,000	, Ş	1,915,000	Ş	3,085,000
	Environmental Education Center	\$	4,000,000	\$	-	\$	4,000,000
	Festival Grounds - Infrastructure	\$	4,000,000	\$	4,000,000	\$	-
100	Golf Complex Improvements		,,		,,	<u>'</u>	
	Phase 1	\$	24,000,000	\$	16,005,000	\$	8,395,000
	North Course repairs	\$	1,056,000	\$	1,056,000	\$	
_	Horse Stables Covered Ring	\$	885,000	\$		\$	865,000
_	Infrastructure Improvements	Ś	15,000,000	; \$	11,609,000	Ś	3,391,000
	(drainage, electrical, sewer, etc.)						
	Lagoon Edge Improvements	\$	3,200,000	\$	458,000	\$	2,742,000
	Maintenance Facility	\$	3,200,000	\$	450,000	Ş	2,750,000
	Major Reforestation Projects	\$	2,000,000	\$	1,524,000	\$	476,000
	Multi-Purpose Bldg Phase 1	\$	6,600,000	\$	-	\$	6,600,000
	Pan American Stadium	\$	2,569,000	\$	2,569,000	\$	-
	Pavilion Addition - Botanical Gardens	\$	1,000,000	\$	-	\$	1,000,000
9	Playground Equipment	\$	250,000	Ş	250,000	Ş	-
	Popp's Reception Hall / Site Improvements	\$	3,100,000	\$	2,650,000	\$	450,000
	Shelter 5 Replacement	\$	400,000	\$	-	\$	400,000
	Sidewalk Renovations	\$	2,400,000	\$	626,000	\$	1,774,000
	Skate Park	\$	750,000	\$	-	\$	750,000
	Sports Fields Renovations	\$	1,200,000	\$	617,000	\$	583,000
2	Stadium Drive Improvements	\$	1,500,000	\$	-	\$	1,500,000
	Storyland Refurbishment	\$	450,000	\$	346,000	\$	104,000
	Tad Gormley Renovations	\$	4,940,000	\$	4,940,000	\$	-
	Tennis Complex	\$	4,351,000	\$	4,351,000	\$	-
9	Tri-Centennial Place						
2	Amphitheatre	\$	4,000,000	\$		\$	4,000,000
	Festival Market	\$	190,000	\$		\$	190,000
	Goldring / Woldenberg Great Lawn	\$	2,755,000	\$	2,755,000	\$	
	Infrastructure	\$	5,860,000	\$	3,103,000	\$	2,757,000
	Miniature Golf	\$	500,000	\$		\$	500,000
R	Splash Park - Phase 1	\$	4,970,000	\$	1,320,000	\$	3,650,000
	Ticketing / Bathrooms	\$	1,000,000	\$		\$	1,000,000
	Total	¢1	 142,828,000	\$	81,276,000	\$	61,552,000
	10ta:	. ب	112,020,000	,	-01,270,000	,	01,332,000

Note: Plan also contains sound wall & streetcar extension projects dependent on special funding.



MINIATURE GOLF (JUNE 2012)

REVENUE AND BUDGET PLAN

FUTURE PROJECTS



BOTANICAL GARDENS CONSERVATORY (EXTERIOR)



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY CENTER

FESTIVAL GROUNDS

CAPITAL STRATEGY 2005 - 2018

Master Plan Total Funds Raised to Date Funds to be Raised	2005 - 2018 2002 - 2012 2012 - 2018	\$ 143,000,000 \$ 83,000,000 \$ 60,000,000	
Park Surplus City	2012 - 2018 2012 - 2018	\$ 2,000,000 \$ 9,000,000	
State	2012 - 2018	\$ 12,000,000	
Federal Private	2012 - 2018 2012 - 2018	\$ 12,000,000 \$ 11,000,000	
Slot Tax	2012 - 2018	\$ 14,000,000	
Total	2012 - 2018	\$ 60,000,000	

SPLASH PARK



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (revised 3/22/2011)



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Mr. William Hoffman, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Hess, Vice President

Ms. Edmund Schrenk, Vice-President

Mrs. Karen DeBlieux, Treasurer

Mrs. Laura Claverie, Secretary

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Mr. Robert DeViney, Chief Operating Officer

Mr. John Hopper, Chief Development Officer

Mr. George Parker, Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Kevin Cox, Controller



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK MASTER PLAN

Vision for the 21st Century - City Park 2018

Adopted by:

The Board of Commissioners of the City Park Improvement Association March 29, 2005 Amended November 27, 2007 Amended May 26, 2009 Amended March 22, 2011



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK

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