

LAFAYETTE PARKS & RECREATION 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my privilege to submit the 2013 summary of activities, programs, and facilities on behalf of the employees of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department.

Our success in the Recreation Department continues to reflect the level of commitment we receive from the numerous volunteers who positively impact our programming in this community.

The accomplishments that are highlighted were made under the leadership of City-parish President Joey Durel, CAO Dee Stanley, and the Lafayette City-Parish Council. Additionally, the Recreation Advisory Commission members, along with the program participants and volunteers, contributed in many different ways.

The specific numbers, programs, and improvements confirm our commitment to our objective of having a quality recreation system for the citizens of Lafayette Parish. We salute everyone for their contributions, especially our youth program volunteers, whose time and talents are immeasurable.

As we enter 2014, please accept my gratitude for your role in our success this past year.

Sincerely,



Gerald Boudreaux, Director
Parks & Recreation Department



CITY/PARISH COUNCIL

Front row left to right: Keith Patin, Andy Naquin, Kenneth Boudreaux, William Theriot and Brandon Shelvin. Back row left to right: Kevin Naquin, Jared Bellard, Jay Castille and Donald Bertrand.

PARKS & RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the citizens of Lafayette Parish the opportunity to participate in a wholesome environment in which they can experience a leisure time that is diversionary in character, and to assist in promoting entertainment, pleasure, relaxation and other physical and mental development.

LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

Mission Statement: The mission of the Lafayette Consolidated Government is to enhance the quality of life of our community by providing high-quality, cost-effective services that meet the needs and expectations of the public.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

(Not pictured) Leroy Barrington, Richard Chalmers, Frank Hebert, III, Michael Helms, Todd Landry, Chairperson, Danny Leblanc, Terry McFillen, Brian Pope, Harold Porter, Johnnie Stinson, Jr., Vice-Chairperson, Ted Weber.



MANAGERS

Left to Right: Greg Gautreaux, Karen Odom, George Williams, Gerald Boudreaux, Mike Guidry, Todd Robertson and David Gary.

INTRODUCTION

What is the purpose of a recreational program? To teach the rules of a game? To learn a physical skill? To expand one's cognitive abilities? To gather with others having the same interests? To simply enjoy an activity? The answer is probably "yes" to at least two of those questions.

Now – what is the purpose of a therapeutic recreational program? What is therapeutic recreation? Therapeutic recreation plays a unique role – promoting play, recreation and leisure as a way to psychological and physical recovery, health and well-being among individuals with disabilities – with a goal of maximizing an individual's functioning and promoting a better quality of life.

Some estimates put the number of disabled persons at nearly 20% of the American population. And research shows that individuals with a disabling condition – physical or cognitive, lifelong or temporary, through illness or injury – spend significantly more time socially isolated, participating in fewer community activities than their non-disabled contemporaries. So it would be appropriate, and of benefit, to all of society to find a way of maximizing these individuals' quality of life, and enable them to contribute to our communities at their highest possible level.

Now, to be sure, this can be a daunting task. It requires working with a variety of systems (schools, non-profits, healthcare oriented, advocacy groups, etc.) to reach just as varied types of participants (children, young adults, adults and seniors) with a wide range of needs and abilities.

But that is the directive of the Therapeutic Recreation Division of the Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department. For instance, to work with the special education and special needs teachers and leaders of the parish's school system, to most easily reach parents of children with disabilities. Joining with area and state-wide Special Olympics organizers in providing competitive-type events for youth and adults brings high-profile recognition. Reaching out to local nursing homes and adult centers to gauge interest, coordinate activities, and encourage participation for their clients. Working with other groups in Lafayette to expand, not duplicate, opportunities for physically- and cognitively-challenged individuals.

And "recreation" covers a wide range of activities. It is not only sports. It encompasses social and leisure activities (such as a prom for special-needs youth), and life skills coaching (following a recipe and learning how to double it to feed more guests). It includes the six-week "Camp We Can Do" summer camp that brings dozens of individuals together with staff and volunteers to have fun, learn, and experience personal growth. It is a year-round effort of staff, volunteers, family and constituents to make life as full, and fulfilling, as possible.

Seeing program participants achieve their goals is wonderful. Seeing them enjoy experiences that any person their age has on a regular basis is heart-warming. But seeing the "ah-ha" moment that comes over non-challenged people when they realize that a disabled youth or adult experiences the same joy and satisfaction while participating in these activities is truly amazing.

It is the first step in building awareness. And awareness leads to advocacy. Advocacy leads to involvement. Involvement to acceptance, and inclusion. And that is all that anyone with special needs is looking for.

After all, life can change for any of us in an instant. If we lose one ability, do we then become "less than" we were? Or do we simply need to learn, adapt, and approach life in a different way?

The Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department makes every effort to meet the needs and expectations of its citizens. The staff strives to be a positive influence in the lives touched by the department. Questions, comments and suggestions are, as always, welcomed, and should be directed to the administrative staff of the Parks & Recreation Department.



PARTICIPATION

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Summer Swimming	6,300
Track and Field	5,050
Soccer (spring and fall)	3,865
Baseball (spring and fall)	2,968
Basketball (boys, girls, teener and all-stars)	1,698
Football (general, teener and youth flag)	1,565
All-Stars Baseball/Softball	720
High School Swim League	589
Slowpitch Softball League	552
Youth Volleyball	510
Fastpitch Softball	432
Baseball (American Legion)	130
Teener Softball	80
Tri-Star Basketball	36

Youth Total: 24,495

ADULT PARTICIPATION

Tennis (league and tournament play)	8,200
Disc Golf Tournaments	725
Soccer (spring and fall)	620
Basketball (men and women)	600
Flag Football (spring and fall)	408
Volleyball (co-ed)	180

Adult Total: 10,733

YOUTH SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPATION

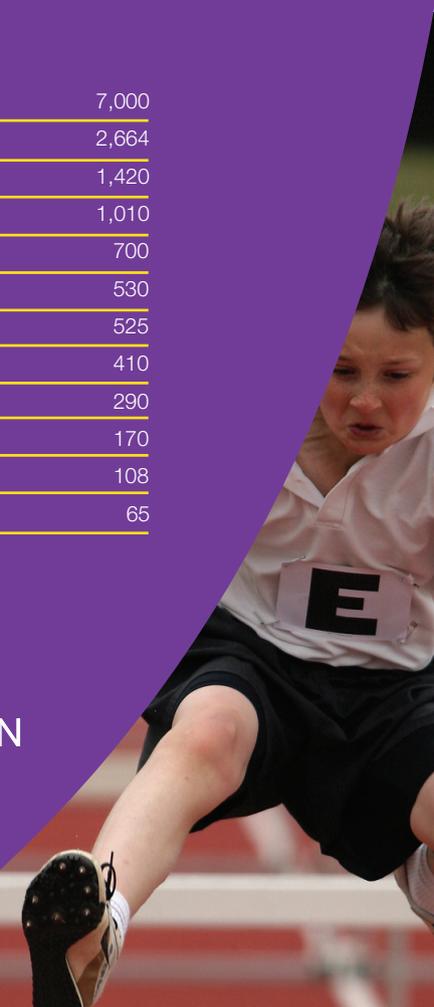
Swim Meets	7,000
Cajun Classic Soccer	2,664
Hershey Track & Field (state and local)	1,420
Coca Cola Cajun Cup Soccer	1,010
Junior Tennis Clinics	700
School Tennis Leagues	530
Junior Golf Clinics	525
Snickers State Cup Soccer	410
Pelican Cup Soccer	290
Youth Coaches' Clinics	170
Punt, Pass & Kick (local and regional)	108
Youth Officiating Clinics	65

Youth Special Event Total: 14,892

THERAPUTIC RECREATION DIVISION

Acadiana-Area Special Olympics	2,852
Ongoing Therapeutic Recreation Activities	2,632

Therapeutic Recreation Participant Total: 5,484



NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS

The Neighborhood Youth Associations, and their respective athletic programs, offer dozens of team activities for Lafayette's residents. These volunteer contributions, numbering thousands of hours by hundreds of tireless citizens, are an essential component of the Department's program successes, enabling a much wider variety of recreational opportunities for youth and adult alike.

The seven Neighborhood Associations are responsible for all aspects – organization, coordination and financial – of the various athletic programs. The rules and regulations of the Associations, while decided upon by the Associations, are approved by both the Parks & Recreation Department and the Recreation Advisory Commission.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS LEADERSHIP

- Broussard/Youngsville Youth Association (BYYA): Dawn Durke, president
- Brown Park Athletics (BPA): Dessie Ledet, president
- Cajun Sports Association (CSA): Chuck Schaub, president
- Carencro Area Youth Sports Incorporated (CAYSI): Linda Picard, president
- Scott Area Team Sports (SATS): Tony Napolitano, president
- South Lafayette Youth Sports Incorporated (SLYSI): Doug Edney, president
- South West Athletics (SWA): Calyn Citrano, president

RECREATION CENTERS

The staff members of the Department's 10 (eight recreational and two activity) centers take great pride in their ability to enrich the lives of their fellow citizens through a host of programs. Promoting healthier lifestyles and enhancing the quality of life for participants of all ages and walks of life is an ongoing objective. Educational and recreational activities offered to residents strive to include five core service areas: cultural enrichment; health and physical activity; outdoor and environmental education; personal development and life skills, and social enhancement. No matter a person's age, ability, interest or income, there is certain to be something of interest for everyone, as is indicated by the nearly 750,000 center visitors last year.

Of great importance are the recreation centers' ties to their individual neighborhoods. While many activities draw participants from throughout the parish, others are designed specifically for that particular neighborhood. Whether that is after-school tutoring, recovery meetings, neighborhood organizational gatherings, or simply free-play time, the recreation centers provide a place to draw together. Center leaders and volunteers also work with local non-profit organizations to inform and educate citizens, helping to strengthen the fabric of our community. The centers also provide a "home away from home" setting for all citizens, as they are available for rent for reunions, graduation celebrations, holiday get-togethers, baby showers, and other occasions where families need space to gather.

A number of the recreation centers are also the designated sites for the LPRD's annual Summer Enrichment camps, which saw over 1,400 youngsters age 5 – 14 participating last season. This low-fee program offers arts & crafts, educational workshops, games, field trips and cultural and recreational activities, effectively serving as an extension of the school year.

REVENUES

Athletic Registrations/Summer Enrichment Program Revenues: \$302,315
Facility Rentals: \$181,400
Swimming Revenues: \$26,221
Campground Revenues: \$48,522
Tennis Revenues: \$38,454
Instructor Revenues: \$53,461

2013 RECREATION RENTAL AND REVENUE TOTAL \$650,373



GOLF

Golf courses around the country have been struggling over the past few years, and many industry professionals are looking at ways of adapting the game for today's players in the hopes of driving up player numbers for the future. Lafayette's three public courses, however, continue to challenge those trends. The numbers of rounds played and revenue taken in increased (as a division) once again last year. But the courses' professionals, managers, and Department leaders realize they must walk a tightrope in consistently offering enjoyable, yet challenging and well-maintained courses while holding prices at a level to make the game available to the average "duffer".

THE JAY & LIONEL HEBERT MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

2013 was another good year, with just over 22,000 rounds played on Lafayette's oldest public course, bringing in approximately \$570,000 in revenue. One of the highlights of the year was the course once again hosting the Sheriff Mike Neustrom Jr. Golf Tournament, with 246 youth golfers participating over two days. Numerous other fundraisers, civic group tournaments and area fundraisers were also held throughout the year.

LES VIEUX CHENES

Though they dropped slightly from last year, to 39,500, the parish's southern course was once again the leader in number of rounds, and revenues increased to just over one million dollars. Improvements were made to the snack bar/dining area, and the course's website was updated to help local golfers. More native oak and cypress trees were planted on six holes, and a number of new golf carts were put into fleet rotation. Notable tournaments during the year included a return of the PGA Tour's Web.com Tour Qualifier, Lafayette Parish high school matches throughout the season, the University's Bill Bass Open Homecoming tournament, the USSSA Junior High Golf Championship, and the 450 players over the two days of the Mike (Harson) Open.

THE WETLANDS GOLF COURSE

One of 13 state golf courses on the Audubon Trail, The Wetlands continues to be a favorite of visiting golfers. Revenues increased in 2013, with the course bringing in 1.4 million dollars on over 33,000 rounds played (also an increase over the prior year). The Wetlands was chosen to host numerous local private and civic tournaments throughout the year. Year-round ladies clinics were very well attended and over 150 youth golfers attended the junior clinics held in June.



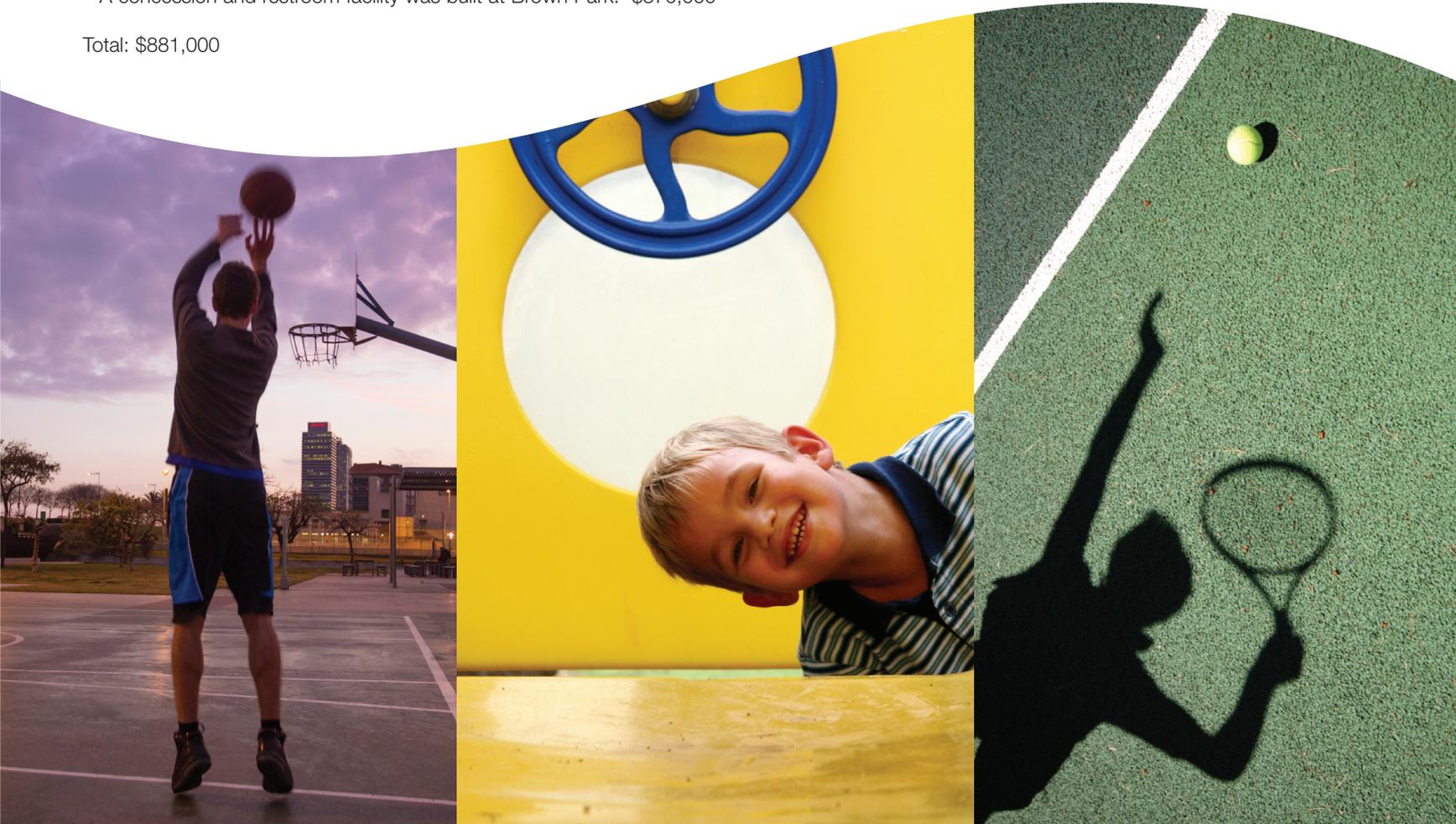
OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE; IMPROVEMENTS

It is a testament to the members of the Operations and Maintenance Division that their efforts in overseeing the Department's nearly three dozen parks, 10 recreation centers, four pools and three golf courses has been recognized by a number of community groups. These various groups have made substantial and continuing donations of funds and equipment to further the Department's mission. By supplementing fiscally-restrained budgets, these generous partnerships allow Lafayette's citizens to enjoy a much wider variety of experiences.

After major renovations at a number of parks last year, this year saw much more modest improvements to facilities:

- New basketball court lighting was installed at Picard Park: \$11,000
- Beaulieu Park received new playground equipment: \$35,000
- Playground equipment was also installed at Mouton Park: \$65,000
- A new restroom facility was constructed at Scott Park: \$100,000
- Tennis courts were resurfaced at both Thomas & Beaver Parks: \$125,000
- Judice Park added a hard surface parking lot: \$175,000
- A concession and restroom facility was built at Brown Park: \$370,000

Total: \$881,000



PARKS LIST

1. Acadiana Park – 1005 E. Alexander St. 117 acres
open play area, lighted tennis courts, soccer fields, basketball courts, backstop ball diamond, covered picnic area with grills, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment, campground, 36-hole disc golf course, jogging trail, bike/mountain bike trails, nature trail, nature station, historical or commemorative markers
2. Arceneaux Park – 835 E. Main Broussard 31 acres - tennis courts, soccer fields, basketball courts, lighted ball fields, backstop on Pony field, batting cages, t-ball, covered picnic areas, restrooms, children's playground
3. Beauillieu Park – 410 W. West Bluebird Dr. 29 acres
Comeaux Recreation Center
soccer fields, lighted ball fields, batting cages, concrete slab for in-line hockey, jogging trail, walking track, covered picnic areas, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment
4. Beaver Park – 500 Fisher Rd. 70 acres
Tennis Center (sells tennis balls; string jobs; tennis lessons by appointment) tennis courts (lighted courts, clay courts and hitting wall), ball parks, covered picnic areas, large pavilion (reservations required), children's playground with baby equipment, fishing pond with pier and boat ramp, historical or commemorative markers
5. Broadmoor Park – 605 Broadmoor Blvd. 8 acres
lighted ball fields, covered picnic areas, restrooms, water fountain
6. Carencro Park – 4003 N. University Ave., Carencro 17 acres - open play area, tennis courts, basketball courts, lighted ball fields, t-ball, covered picnic areas, restrooms, handicapped restrooms, water fountain, and children's playground with baby equipment
7. Chargois Park – 606 Guilbeau Rd. 10 acres
open play area, tennis courts, soccer fields, basketball courts, lighted ball fields, covered picnic areas, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment, historical or commemorative markers
8. City Park – 901 Mudd Ave. 104 acres
Domingue Recreation Center
18-hole golf course and clubhouse (Jay and Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course, a.k.a. "Muni"); 121 Shirley Picard Drive - Mouton Swimming Pool & Bath House (outdoor Olympic-size pool) Clark Field - lighted football and soccer stadium with field turf surface, basketball courts, backstop ball diamond, picnic areas, children's playground
9. Dalton "Pee Wee" LeBlanc Park – 2036 Carmel Dr. 5 acres - basketball courts, backstop ball diamond, covered picnic area, children's playground
10. Debaillon Park – 510 Saucier Dr. 33 acres
J. Carlton James Recreation Center
pavilion with lights and picnic tables, 2 lighted flag football fields, 1-mile walking/bicycle trail through park, tennis courts, basketball courts (1 covered), pavilion with kitchen area (reservations required), picnic areas, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment
11. Derby Playground – 105 Aris Dr. 1 acre
children's playground with baby equipment, basketball goal
12. Dorsey-Donlon Park – 301 Cora St. 15 acres
Martin Luther King Recreation Center
outdoor pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball parks, jogging trail, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, children's playground with baby equipment
13. Duson Park – 101 B. Robin Rd., Duson 29 acres
covered pavilion with lights & benches, open play area, ball parks with lighted fields, t-ball, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, children's playground
14. Foster Memorial Park – 399 4th St., Youngsville 16 acres - open play area, tennis courts, soccer fields, basketball courts, lighted ball fields, four backstops with dugouts, batting cages, walking path, covered picnic areas, concession stand, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground, historical or commemorative markers
15. Girard Park – 500 Girard Park Dr. 33 acres
Main office of Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department
Girard Park Recreation Center - outdoor pool, 1.25 mile jogging trail, work-out station, covered pavilion with restrooms and grill (reservations required), open play area, tennis courts, hitting wall, basketball courts, backstop ball diamond, covered picnic areas, restrooms, handicapped restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment, playground for physically- and mentally-challenged children, 9-hole disc golf course, pond, natural wildlife, historical or commemorative markers
16. Graham Brown Memorial Park – 1234 E. Pont des Mouton Rd. 50 acres - George Dupuis Recreation Center
Timber Challenge work-out station, 1 mile jogging trail, batting practice areas, horseshoe pits, lighted tennis courts, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment, dog park area with pavilions
17. Heymann Park – 1500 South Orange St. 28 acres
Heymann Park Recreation Center
pavilion, .5 mile jogging trail, lighted tennis courts with hitting wall, regulation baseball field, basketball courts, covered picnic areas, restrooms, children's playground
18. I. R. "Bud" Chalmers Park – 2129 N. University 182 acres
The Wetlands Golf Course and Driving Range, clubhouse with snack bar, pro shop, cart and club rentals
19. J. Otto Broussard Memorial Park (Southside Regional Park) 221 La Neuville Rd Lafayette 222 acres
Fabacher Field Baseball Complex, pond with fishing pier, soccer fields, pavilions, playground
Les Vieux Chenes 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and pro shop, cart rentals, driving range, snacks available
20. J.W. James Playground – 1001 Hopkins St. 4 acres
open play area, basketball courts, backstop ball diamond, .4 mile jogging trail, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground
21. Judice Park – 500 Golden Grain Rd., Duson 22 acres
tennis courts, soccer fields, lighted ball fields, batting cages, jogging trail, covered picnic areas, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground
22. Lil Woods Playground – 200 Ile Copales Ave. 3 acres
basketball courts, picnic areas
23. Maurice Heymann Memorial Park – 700 Girard Park Dr. 3 acres
garden, benches, walking path, picnic areas, historical or commemorative markers
24. Moore Park – 250 Couret St. 130 acres
soccer complex (24 fields), lighted soccer fields, lighted softball fields, youth football field, covered picnic areas, hiking trail, mountain bike trail, go-kart/motor track, restrooms, children's playground, fishing pond and pier
25. Mouton Playground – 803 Center St. 6 acres
open play area, tennis courts, basketball courts, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment
26. Neyland Park – 1919 Eraste Landry Rd. 30 acres
Robicheaux Recreation Center
Earl J. Chris swimming pool
olympic-size heated indoor pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, lighted ball fields, batting cages, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, handicapped restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment, historical or commemorative markers
27. Eraste Landry (Oaklawn) Playground – 1000 Jeanne St. 7 acres - baseball backstops, benches, open play area, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment
28. Pa Davis Park – 120 Dawn St. 30 acres
Bowles Activity Center- 1 mile jogging trail, lighted soccer field, basketball courts, lighted ball fields, covered picnic areas, restrooms, children's playground, therapeutic playground area, 18-hole disc golf course
29. Parc de Lafayette – 539 Jefferson St. .5 acre
Small bandstand, waterfall fountain with small pool, benches, commemorative markers
30. Picard Park – 130 Park Dr. 24 acres
tennis courts, soccer fields, ball parks, lighted fields, t-ball, outdoor basketball court, .5 mile jogging trail, covered picnic areas, restrooms, handicapped restrooms, children's playground with baby equipment
31. Plantation Park – 1801 Kaliste Saloom Rd. 11 acres
lighted ball fields, restrooms
32. Scott Park – 1200 Cormier St., Scott 17 acres
jogging trail, backstop ball diamond, lighted fields, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, children's playground
33. St. Anthony Playground - 501 Helen St. 2 acres
basketball courts, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment
34. Thomas Park – 300 Geraldine St. 18 acres
Thomas Park Recreation Center
.6 mile jogging path, tennis clubhouse (lessons by appointment), lighted tennis courts, hitting wall, basketball court, soccer fields, ball parks, children's playground
35. Veteran's Park – 200 Feu Follet Rd. 6 acres
Veteran's wall naming all deceased Acadiana veterans having served in Vietnam, pavilion, natural wildlife, covered picnic areas with grills, restrooms, water fountain, children's playground with baby equipment, fishing pond, historical or commemorative markers

For more information on registration, neighborhood boundaries, competition schedules, fees, etc., call the Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department at 337.291.8370 or 337.291.8362.



Parks & Recreation Department
500 Girard Park Drive
P.O. Box 52113
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505

Phone: 337.291.8370
Fax: 337.291.8389