

LAFAYETTE
PARKS AND
RECREATION
2015
ANNUAL
REPORT



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share this 2015 Annual Report, which is a reflection of the activities, programs and facilities that are overseen by the Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department.

The success of the Parks and Recreation Department is reflective of the partnerships between staff members, volunteers, community associations and program user groups. The leadership shown by City-Parish President Joey Durel, CAO Dee Stanley and the Lafayette Consolidated Council has helped to further the goals of the Department. Invaluable support and direction has been given by the Recreation Advisory Commission.

The positive impact of the Department – shown by the programs offered, community partnership initiatives, participant numbers and physical plant improvements – mark our commitment to provide the best possible recreation system for the citizens of Lafayette Parish. Staff members and volunteers continue to provide quality service with limited funding.

With the 2015 election, a change in LCG leadership occurred; the transitional goals and objectives are being implemented. Our job is to make sure that all citizens are provided with quality recreational programs and facilities. We look forward to the challenge with you as our partner.

I thank you for your contributions to our success, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful department and community.

Sincerely,



Gerald R. Boudreaux, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

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.



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.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Leroy Barrington, Frank Hebert, III, Michael Helms, Todd Landry, Chairman, Danny LeBlanc, Merlin Leger, Darrel "Buffy" Massey, Terry McFillen, Brian Pope, Harold Porter, Johnnie Stinson, Jr. and Ted Weber.

INTRODUCTION

Every year, thousands of Lafayette citizens utilize the programs, services and facilities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Some use only one aspect of the department – youth soccer, perhaps, or after-school tutoring, or golfing. Other residents do not take part in programming, but regularly take advantage of walking trails and greenspaces in the parks. Staff members work diligently to offer programs and services that appeal to as many citizens as possible.

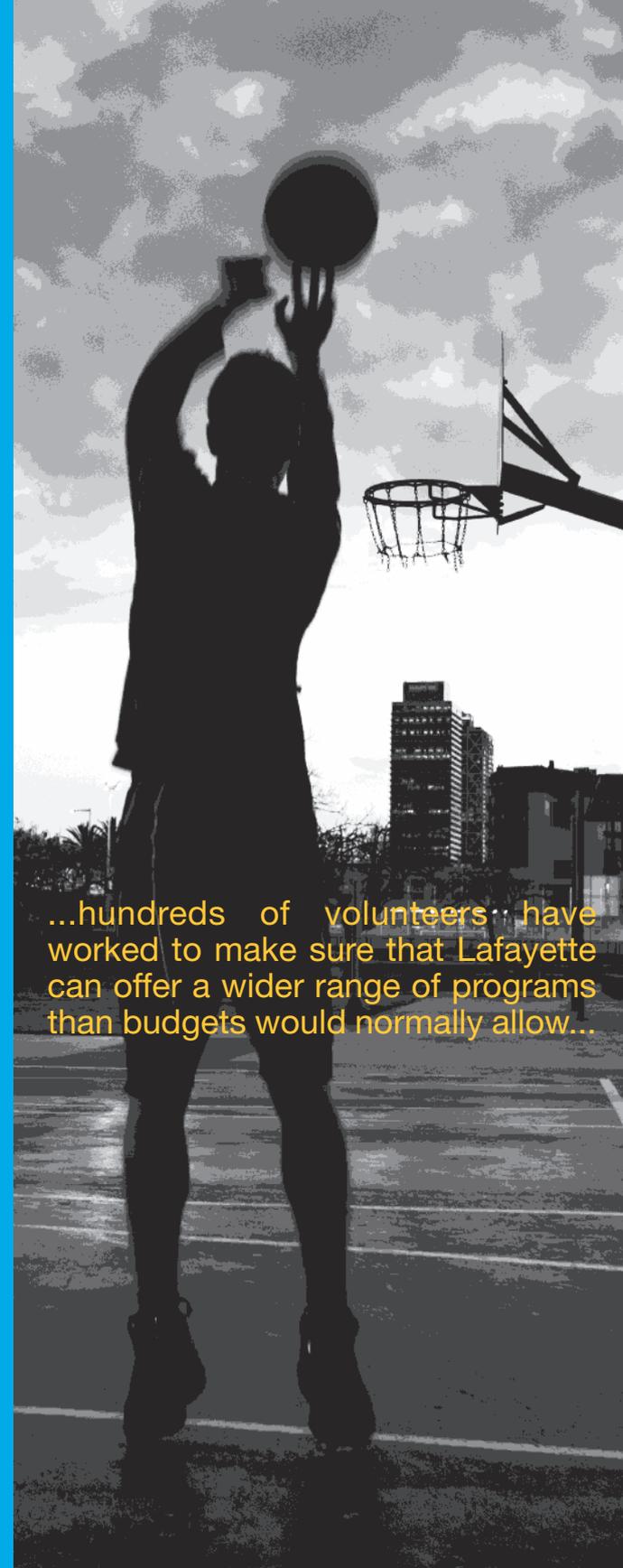
The department is proud that through the years, hundreds of volunteers have worked to make sure that Lafayette can offer a wider range of programs than budgets would normally allow. Some coordinate sports league play; some coach those sports. Others help in after-school tutoring programs, or lead recreational classes. The reasons people volunteer are as varied as the volunteers themselves – to offer their expertise in an area, because their children are interested in playing a sport, wanting to be more involved in their community. Regardless of the motivation, they all understand that without their help, the department's offerings would be much more limited. They are an important part of any success, and they are appreciated for all of their efforts.

Partnering with volunteers reaches into other areas as well. With a commitment to service, and a history of responsible financial stewardship, civic groups have worked with LPRD to expand the department's reach and impact. Examples include park pond improvements by the Beaver Club, the development of Parc Independence (for handicapped youth) with the Kiwanis Club, and working with New Hope Community Development of Acadiana in their efforts to improve academics and decision-making processes for youth in one of Lafayette's more economically challenged neighborhoods. The department is one of a number of Lafayette groups participating in a multi-year grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation to improve the health and well-being of the community.

Equally important are the LPRD's efforts to engage with various user groups, helping to determine changing needs. Examples include building petanque courts at Girard Park, where players asked for space to be set aside for the centuries-old French game. Not infringing upon other park users, the petanque players take care of the courts and organize play, welcoming new players to join in. Disc golf was started in the same way, and has enjoyed a large following. Working with the families of physically- and mentally-challenged youth was the impetus of the above-mentioned Parc Independence, allowing them to have a safe place to play in surroundings adapted to their abilities. Such a place is a natural outgrowth of the Therapeutic Recreation Division, which seeks to expand and enhance the recreational opportunities for all Lafayette residents, regardless of their capabilities.

Forming partnerships, responsible stewardship, expanding opportunities, welcoming the contributions of others. All of this helps to make the Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department successful, and to serve the people of Lafayette to the best of their ability.

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.



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PARTICIPATION

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Summer Swimming	6,100
Soccer (spring and fall)	5,814
Track and Field	4,600
Baseball (spring and fall)	2,940
Basketball (boys, girls, teenager and all-stars)	2,210
Football (general, teenager and youth flag)	1,280
All-Stars Baseball/Softball	570
Slowpitch Softball League	552
Youth Volleyball	510
High School Swim League	496
Fastpitch Softball	432
Youth Volleyball	400
Baseball (American Legion)	75
Teener Softball	60
Tri-Star Basketball	28
Youth Total: 25,557	

ADULT PARTICIPATION

Tennis (league and tournament play)	8,100
Disc Golf Tournaments	750
Basketball (men and women)	520
Soccer (spring and fall)	505
Spring Volleyball	160
Flag Football (fall)	135
Adult Total: 10,171	

YOUTH SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPATION

Soccer Tournaments	8,500
Swim Meets	6,300
Junior Tennis Clinics	590
School Tennis Leagues	510
Junior Golf Clinics	500
Youth Coaches' Clinics	200
Punt, Pass & Kick (local and regional)	96
Youth Officiating Clinics	40
Youth Special Event Total: 16,736	

THERAPUTIC RECREATION DIVISION

Acadiana-Area Special Olympics	3,518
Ongoing Therapeutic Recreation Activities	8,386

**Therapeutic Recreation
Participant Total: 11,904**

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 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP:

- Broussard/Youngsville Youth Association (BYYA); Kayla Reaux, president
- Brown Park Athletics (BPA); Darrell Duffy, president
- Cajun Sports Association (CSA); Chuck Schaub, president
- Carencro Area Youth Sports Incorporated (CAYSI); Bert Hebert-VanDyke, president
- Scott Area Team Sports (SATS); Tony Napolitano, president
- South Lafayette Youth Sports Incorporated (SLYSI); Kevin Breaux, president
- South West Athletics (SWA); Calyn Citrano, president

RECREATION CENTERS

Civic group needing a place for 100 to meet? Check. Bridge club looking for a new playing location? Check. Meal on Wheels distribution site? Check. Neighborhood association basketball tournament? Check. Senior swimming time? Check. High school reunion? Check. Pickleball play? Check. Wedding reception? Check. After-school tutoring? Check.

If the above seems like a disordered variety, welcome to the Centers and Programs division. The LPRD oversees 10 recreation and activity centers throughout Lafayette; eight are full-function recreation centers, offering gymnasiums, meeting and game rooms. Two are activity centers, providing space for meetings and events on a smaller scale. Together, they offer the Lafayette community entry to outstanding recreational facilities.

With enhancing the quality of life as its goal, the Parks & Recreation Department uses the centers' wide variety of pursuits to promote health and physical activities, cultural enrichment, lifetime recreational skills, the encouragement of academic engagement, and the strengthening of family and community bonds. All age groups and ability levels will find a place in the wide array of programs and activities. And those citizens with special needs will find adaptive offerings to fulfill their needs, as well.

The Centers and Programs division is also home to the Summer Enrichment Camp, where youth ages 5 – 14 will find a safe and supportive environment where they can play, learn, and be with others in appropriate age groups. Held in various center locations, the Summer Enrichment Camp traditionally sees over 1,000 participants during June and July. Supervised by trained staff, enrollees take part in field trips, arts and crafts, developmental programs, fine arts programs and more.

In addition to departmental offerings, all recreation centers can be reserved and rented for special occasions. Weddings and receptions, business training sessions, graduation gatherings, parties and more are just a few of the activities that are held in the centers. The cost of renting a facility is competitive; event set-up is free. Kitchen facilities may available, depending upon the choice of center. Gatherings as small as 10, or as large as 800, can be accommodated by the over 1.8 million square feet of Lafayette recreational centers.

REVENUES

Athletic Registrations/Summer Enrichment Program Revenues: \$320,742

Facility Rentals: \$214,620

Swimming Revenues: \$54,604

Instructor Revenues: \$50,136

Campground Revenues: \$41,505

Tennis Revenues: \$43,671

2015 Recreation Rental and Revenue Total: \$725,278



GOLF

Lafayette's three public golf courses continue to thrive. Knowledgeable staff members are in tune with their users, and demonstrate responsible use of funds, staff and grounds. In 2015 over 83,000 rounds were played and over 2.78 million in revenues was collected at the three courses.

THE JAY AND LIONEL HEBERT MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

The oldest golf course in southwest Louisiana, the Hebert Municipal Course has been in continuous operation since its inception in 1928. Though the par-72 course may be short by today's standards at 6,400 yards, its nine lakes, tree-lined fairways and three sets of tee markers prove competitive to all levels of golfers. In fact, nine of the last 10 winners of the Lafayette City Championship list "Muni" as their home course. Named after the only pair of brothers to win the PGA National Championship, the course saw nearly 24,000 rounds played and over \$537,000 in revenue last year. To enhance future golf experiences, major tree work (pruning and removal) was undertaken to improve fairways and greens turf growth. Cypress trees were added near the lakes, and live oaks and magnolia trees were planted in other areas. Renovations to on-course shelters and restrooms was completed, and work was begun on a new maintenance facility. The installation of a new computer system improved the irrigation system with increased efficiency. (Then) Sheriff Mike Neustrom hosted his annual Junior Tournament, seeing over 200 youth golfers participating in the 2-day event. Numerous school and civic groups utilized the course for fund raising tournaments, and a number of schools use Muni for weekly practice sessions in addition to hosting their competitive matches.

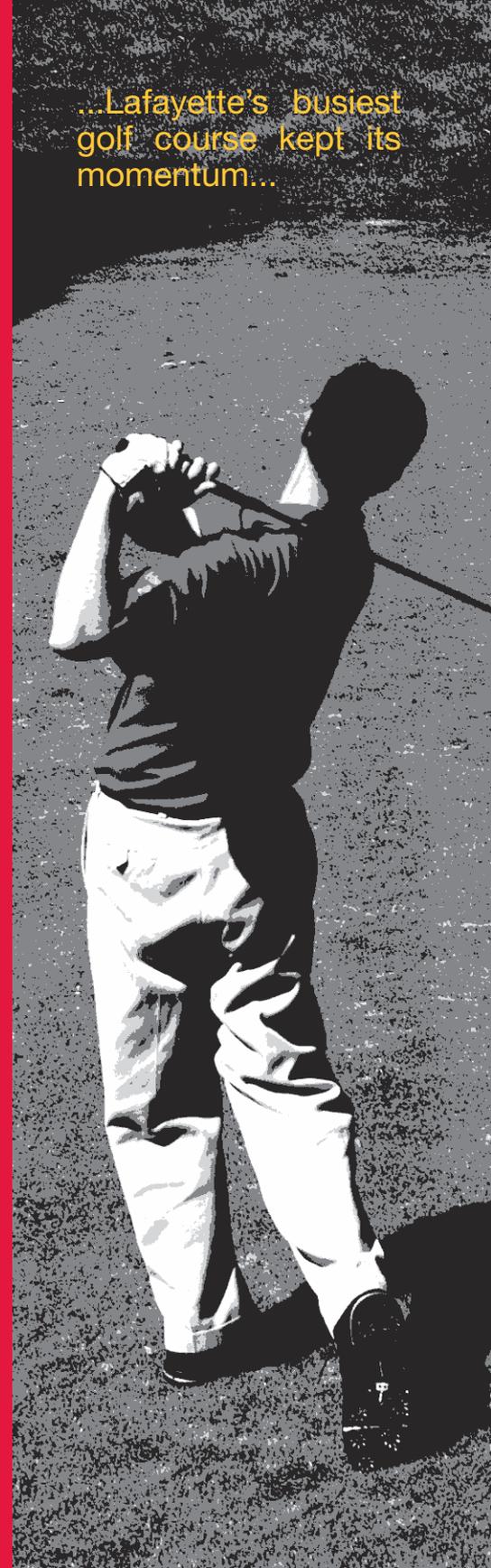
LES VIEUX CHENES

Lafayette's busiest golf course kept its momentum, seeing over 33,000 rounds played during the fiscal calendar. And though that number was slightly down from last year due to a wet spring/early summer, revenues actually went up just a bit, to a little over \$948,000. This includes greens fees, cart fees, annual golf pass sales and range ball sales. As per its normal practice, the course rotated out one third of its cart fleet, putting into service 30 new Yamaha golf carts. Physical improvements to Les Vieux Chenes included re-routing a cart path on hole number 8, planting live oak and cypress trees throughout the course for better playability, installing rock bulkheads on holes 7 and 8, and improving fairway drainage on the entire course. A new website was put into service – www.lesvieuxchenesgolfcourse.com. The LVC Senior Mens Golf Association holds a monthly tournament during the year, and the course hosted a number of matches for area high schools. Lafayette was host to the 2015 Louisiana High School Athletic Association's State Golf Championship, and Les Vieux Chenes hosted both days of the Girls' Championship. It also hosted the final day of the Lafayette City Championship and many charity events and tournaments throughout the year. Group and individual lessons are available for scheduling.

THE WETLANDS GOLF COURSE

Lafayette's third, and most demanding, course continued to be a popular destination for both local and out of town golfers. Being part of the 13-course Audubon Trail helps to promote not only the course, but Lafayette and the surrounding area. Local groups held more than 30 tournaments at the Wetlands last year; staff members also conducted five junior clinics with approximately 200 total youth golfers in attendance. Group and individual lessons may be scheduled through the pro shop. Revenue and rounds played held steady, at \$1.3 million and 27,000 respectively.

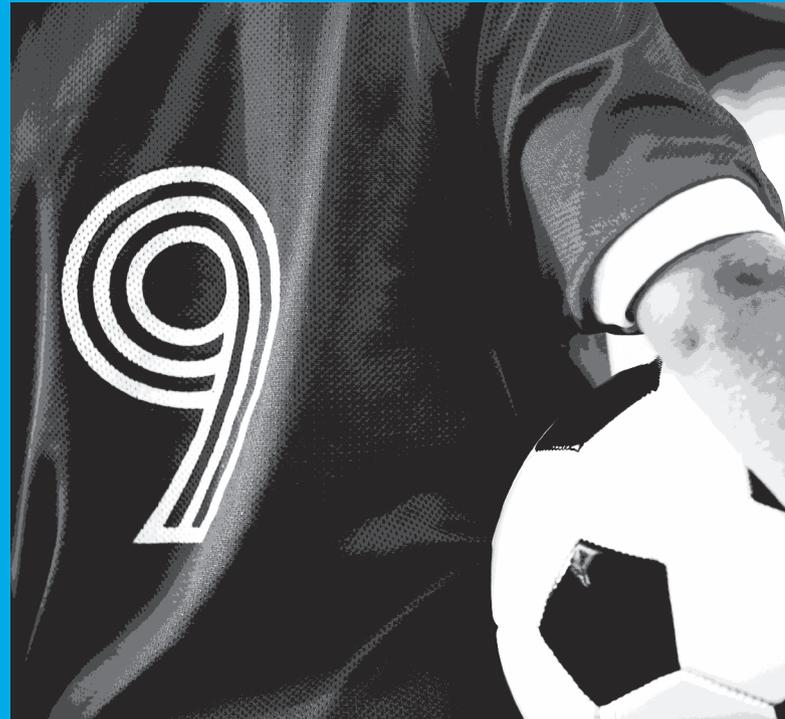
...Lafayette's busiest golf course kept its momentum...



OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE; IMPROVEMENTS

The staff of the Operations and Maintenance Division is charged with the care of over 1,300 acres of parks and golf courses, four swimming pools and 10 recreation centers. With buildings and grounds constantly in use, the task can be daunting. Though the budget may vary greatly from year to year, the staff strives to insure that all facilities meet the expectations of the Lafayette community.

- Overlay of campground road at Acadiana Park Campground **\$150,000**
 - Replacement of playground structure and equipment at Foster Park **45,000**
 - New youth exercise equipment was installed at J. W. James, Mouton, and City Parks **60,000**
 - Debaillon Park received new exercise equipment and the installation of a new walking track **150,000**
 - New exercise equipment was installed at Donlon Park **20,000**
 - Girard Park added a (children's) splash pad, outdoor ping pong table and new exercise equipment **129,500**
 - A new playground was installed at Beaulieu Park **35,000**
- Total Improvements **\$589,500**





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. Beaulieu 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 (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. Deballon Park – 510 Saucier Dr. 33 acres J. Carlton James Recreation Center pavilion with lights and picnic tables, 2 lighted flag football fields, 1.5 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, outdoor volleyball courts, 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, children's splash pad, ping-pong table, fitness equipment, 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, Public Library at Fabacher Field, 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, 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.



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