

FACTS

about

BREC



About BREC

Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge

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info@brec.org

BREC operates public park and recreation facilities and programs throughout East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, USA. This award-winning agency is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and has been nationally accredited and recognized as one of America's premier recreation and park departments. BREC maintains 180+ parks that feature a wide variety of quality facilities with family-oriented leisure activities for all ages and population groups.

BREC Mission Statement

It is BREC's mission to contribute to a healthier, more vibrant community by providing exceptional parks, open spaces and recreational experiences for all of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Why BREC?

The acronym BREC originated with the Public Relations Committee in 1961. BREC was derived in the following manner: BR representing Baton Rouge and REC for recreation.

BREC Fact

BREC celebrated its 70th birthday in 2016.

History of BREC

The Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge was created by a State Legislative Act in 1946 as a separate and distinct body whose purpose is to develop, maintain and operate public park and recreational properties and facilities for all the people in East Baton Rouge Parish. BREC is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana and does not operate under the City-Parish Government.

BREC - Nationally Accredited - A Gold Medal Winning Agency

BREC is one of the few parks and recreation agencies in the country to win the prestigious Gold Medal Award twice. BREC won this award, given for excellence in parks and recreation administration, in 1975 and 1991. BREC has also been a national finalist for this award 16 other times: 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2008, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. BREC is also one of only 169 agencies across the country that has been accredited achieving an unprecedented 5th accreditation in 2014.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Programs, facilities and services of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge are available to all citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age or ability.

Operating Funds

Money for financing land purchases, construction of facilities, maintenance, and the operation of many varied programs is obtained from taxes approved by the votes of the

citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish and from income from facilities, concessions and programs. Other funds come from local governmental agencies and the Federal Government.

Commission Board

The Commission is composed of nine members, six of whom are appointed by the Metro Council - two each year - to serve a three-year term; and three of whom are ex-officio members, these being the Mayor-President, a member of the School Board and a member of the City-Parish Planning Commission. The Commission members receive no compensation for their services but accept their appointments in the interest of civic betterment.

Committee Appointments

BREC relies on volunteers to serve as advisors on these committees. Each department director at BREC receives advice and direction from nine to twelve committee volunteers and up to three commission members. This is a fantastic way to hear the voice of the community when planning the actions of the park system!

BREC Departments

Communications

Director: Cheryl Michelet, (225) 272-9200, ext. 1543

About Communication

BREC's award-winning Communications Department acts as an in-house advertising, marketing and public relations agency, managing 18 separate strategic communications plans to promote facilities, programs, events and initiatives. The department is also responsible for four websites, more than 20 social media channels, special events such as groundbreaking and ribbon-cuttings and a volunteer program which recruits and manages more than 5,000 volunteers each year as well as graphic design and print requests for the entire agency.

Communications produces and distributes three Play Books annually to inform the community about programs and events, a stylized annual report which mimics our national Gold Medal application, a map brochure which is distributed to Welcome Centers across the state and Visitor Centers across East Baton Rouge Parish. The Communications Department is also responsible for media relations, the internal Park Bench newsletter and brand standards for the agency.

Conservation

Assistant Superintendent: Reed Richard (225) 273-6405

About Conservation

East Baton Rouge Parish residents care about protecting local habitats and biodiversity and so does BREC! BREC's Conservation Department is dedicated to complete its mission through the Natural Resource Management Plan in order to better the lives of East Baton Rouge Parish residents. The goals of BREC's Conservation Department are as follows:

- To promote recreation and education activities focusing on appreciation and understanding of the natural environment.
- To protect unique and historically representative habitats within East Baton Rouge Parish.
- To reduce the loss of species.

Finance

Interim Director: Lester Rainey (225) 272-9200, ext. 1415

About Finance

The Finance Department exists to protect the assets of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge. Those assets include capital assets, cash and investments, inventory and other property. This is accomplished by maintaining a comprehensive set of internal controls within our operating procedures. These procedures control the flow of cash, hold employees accountable for transactions that create financial obligations, and provide for financial reporting on the results of operations to management, the general public and others.

To accomplish these ends, employees in the Finance Department manage all aspects of general accounting, budgeting, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, inventory and

warehousing, capital assets accounting and revenue accounting. These activities are conducted according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), and the laws of the state of Louisiana. Financial statements of the Commission are audited annually, and the auditor regularly conducts tests of the internal control structure of the Commission. Audits are conducted according to Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America.

Questions regarding operations of the Finance Department should be directed to Lester Rainey, Interim Finance Director, Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, 6201 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Golf

Director: Michael Raby, (225) 272-9200, ext. 1364

About Golf

BREC Golf is committed to continuing its long history of offering affordable, accessible, and quality golf courses to the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish. The BREC Golf price structure is tiered in a manner that will make it easy for golfers to find a golf course suitable to their individual budgets or experience levels.

Youth golf development is a passion shared by the entire golf staff as evidenced by the many free or extremely low-cost clinics and lessons given each year at The First Tee EBRP at J.S. Clark Golf Course. We not only want to produce lifelong golfers but great citizens through our life-skills programs that teach traits such as judgment, sportsmanship, courtesy, respect, and perseverance.

Human Resources

Director: Stephanie Trim, (225) 272-9200, ext. 1539

About Human Resources

The Human Resources department takes a leadership role in providing a full range of comprehensive human resource services in recruiting, selection, staff development, compensation and benefits and safety. The goal of human resources is to continue to strive for excellence and to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of the organization, employees, and management.

Information Technology

Director: Steven Knight, (225) 272-9200, ext.1101

About Information Technology

The Information Technology Department was created in October of 2006. It is the purpose of the IT department to make sure that all of BREC's technical equipment is up and running for employee job use. This includes computers, servers, phones, faxes, scanners, copiers, networking equipment, and anything in between. The IT department also installs, updates, maintains and removes all operating system software, hardware-based software, general-productivity software and department-specific software.

It is also the responsibility of the IT department to analyze and make recommendations regarding all current equipment, as well as purchase new equipment. The IT department manages the relationship between BREC and its consultants, vendors and support contracts. IT

is also responsible for data retention and file recovery and ensuring secure and viable backups for all our data.

The IT department works with every other BREC department to brainstorm, plan, coordinate, implement and complete IT-related projects.

Park Operations

Director: Justin Smith, (225) 272-9200, ext. 1406

About Park Operations

BREC facilities include 180+ park sites totaling over 6,600 acres, which contain over 400 buildings. For all facilities, the department provides specialized support such as trades, deliveries, etc. The Park Operations Department provides: routine mowing, clean up, athletic field preparation, playground maintenance, forestry and horticultural services, special event set up, building repairs, picnic facility maintenance, swimming pool mechanical repair and maintenance, plus numerous other services related to grounds and property maintenance. In addition, the department services and repairs more than 200 vehicles in the BREC fleet plus the wide variety of equipment required to maintain the park system. The department is organized into the following groups: Grounds, Sports Turf, Horticulture, Trades, Forestry, Fleet Management and Administrative support.

Planning and Engineering

Assistant Superintendent: Reed Richard, (225) 272-9200, ext. 1405

About Planning and Engineering

The department staff provides professional planning, design, and engineering expertise to identify and define issues. They collect and analyze citizen input, identify innovative alternatives and coordinate strategies for achieving organizational goals. The Planning and Engineering Department seeks to acquire and develop park lands and facilities at a low cost, by acquisition, gifts, and/or donations by working with landowners, developers, citizens groups, individuals, and outside consultants. To stretch limited resources and provide high quality facilities the Planning and Engineering staff works to keep informed of cutting-edge parks and technologies. This has helped BREC create a dynamic and well-balanced park system.

Recreation

Assistant Superintendent: Brandon Smith (225) 272-9200, ext. 1420

The Recreation Department operates over (58) recreation facilities, with recreational activities ranging from afterschool programs to kayaking for patrons ranging from ages 3 years to over 65 years old. Holiday and summer camps provide recreation opportunities during the summer months, school breaks, as well as during school holidays. BREC personnel, in conjunction with qualified instructors and volunteers, continually seek to upgrade or reinforce recreational and educational levels in the community through various facility-based opportunities.

To provide the most operative programs and services to all EBR Parish residents, the recreation division will operate within six program genres - athletics, outdoor adventure, general recreation, community events, health and wellness, and aquatics.

The Special Facilities Division assists in meeting the overall mission of BREC by not only offering quality recreation and leisure programs to our citizens but also serving as an outlet to enrich the artistic, educational and cultural life of our community. Even though the activities

offered through the six special facilities are unique and different from each other, each facility is dedicated to achieving the same goals.

- Baton Rouge Art Gallery
- Farr Park Horse Activity Center
- BREC-LSU-BRAS Highland Road Observatory
- Magnolia Mound Plantation
- Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
- Independence Park Theatre and Cultural Center

Superintendent

Corey Wilson, (225) 272-9200, ext. 1568

About the Superintendent

The State of Louisiana by Act 95 of the Legislature created BREC and gave the BREC Commission the authority to name and employ a person to be designated as Superintendent of the Commission. The superintendent is not a member of the commission but is designated as ex officio secretary of the commission. The legislation further states that the superintendent shall have the power and authority to make recommendations as to said policies, plans, and procedures, and to assign duties, to direct and control, transfer, promote, demote, and otherwise change the status of all employees, and to recommend the salary to be paid in each case. Such nominations and recommendations shall finally be passed upon by the commission. The commission can not and shall not act in the actual administration of public recreation and park facilities except through the superintendent, and every lawful act of the superintendent performed in his capacity as superintendent pursuant to the provision of the section and the rules and regulations of the commission shall be the act of the commission.

The secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, minutes of all commission meetings and meetings of the standing committees of the commission. The secretary shall be the custodian of the records of the commission and shall perform any duties prescribed by the board of commissioners.

The duties and responsibilities of the superintendent shall be defined specifically in a written job description approved by the commission and shall conform to the provisions of law that established the position.

Such duties and responsibilities shall include the general management and administration of the business of the commission and making all administrative decisions affecting the recreation facilities and programs.

The superintendent shall have oversight authority and responsibility in all matters of facility and program management, including but not limited to facility maintenance and construction, human resources, finance, concessions and other related areas. He shall at all times be subject to the directives of the board of commissioners.

The superintendent shall, by the regular meeting in March of each year, submit a report of the activities on the commission, including financial statement for the proceeding year and his recommendations for the coming year.

Zoo

Director: Phil Frost, (225) 775-3877

About the Zoo:

The Zoo is Baton Rouge's #1 year-round family attraction and Louisiana's largest urban zoo. The Zoo has over 200,000 guest per year. It is home to nearly 700 animals from around the world displayed in a beautiful 147acre garden-like setting.

Our Zoo guests can discover the exciting animal kingdom, including giraffes, alligators, flamingos, rhinos, tigers and much more. Guests can visit our world-class Realm of the Tiger, featuring highly endangered Malayan tigers and Sumatran tigers, Siamang gibbons, and the beautiful birds in the Asian Aviary, a koi pond and rock garden. Enjoy The Otter Pond nestled in the woods of the Atchafalaya Basin next to L'aquarium de Louisiane home to fish, reptiles and amphibians of Louisiana. Youngsters of all ages love the KidsZoo, featuring the Safari Playground and hands-on animal encounters with farm animals. And no visit is complete without a ride on the Cypress Bayou Railroad. Food is available at the Flamingo Café and Cool Critters Café and souvenirs and gifts can be found at the Safari Post!

Visit us at www.brzoo.org

BREC Foundation

Director: Carl Stages, (225) 272-9200, ext. 1552

Mission

The mission of BREC Foundation is to raise funds for parks and recreation to benefit the health, welfare, and culture for all citizens and visitors of East Baton Rouge Parish. We act as good stewards of funds entrusted to us by our donors and abide by their wishes and directives. We facilitate and support innovation, sound corporate governance, and the development of meaningful partnerships to further our mission and provide opportunities to our members.

About the BREC Foundation

In May 2003, the BREC Foundation was officially designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, chartered to serve as a conduit for funding for BREC initiatives.

To fulfill that mission, the citizen-based BREC Foundation works to:

- Increase the value of the Park system through donations of services, property, monetary resources, educational expertise, as well as solicit, collect, receive, hold and invest money and property from grants, gifts, bequests and contributions.
- Assess needs in the community and serve as a catalyst for response.
- Serve as responsible stewards of all our resources.

Through a cooperative endeavor agreement with BREC, the Foundation provides grant administration and oversight working with departments to identify and pursue program and project funding opportunities.

From 2004 through December of 2018, nearly \$6,200,000 in restricted funds has been contributed to the BREC Foundation. Donors of note are Raising Cane's, Capital One, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation, Baton Rouge Soccer Association, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Irene W. and C. B. Pennington Foundation, Greater Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation, Wampold Companies, ExxonMobil Foundation, Reilly Family Foundation and Sue Turner and her family.

As more of the master plans for various parks are completed, there will be additional amenities that will capture the attention of the business and philanthropic communities. These public-private partnerships will be key to implementing the dreams captured in the "Imagine Your Parks" and future strategic plans.

The Foundation is located on the second floor of the BREC Administration building next to the Executive Offices. The telephone number is 226-7381, the fax number is 273-6419 and e-mail may be sent to cstages@brec.org. The Foundation's website is www.brecfoundation.org.

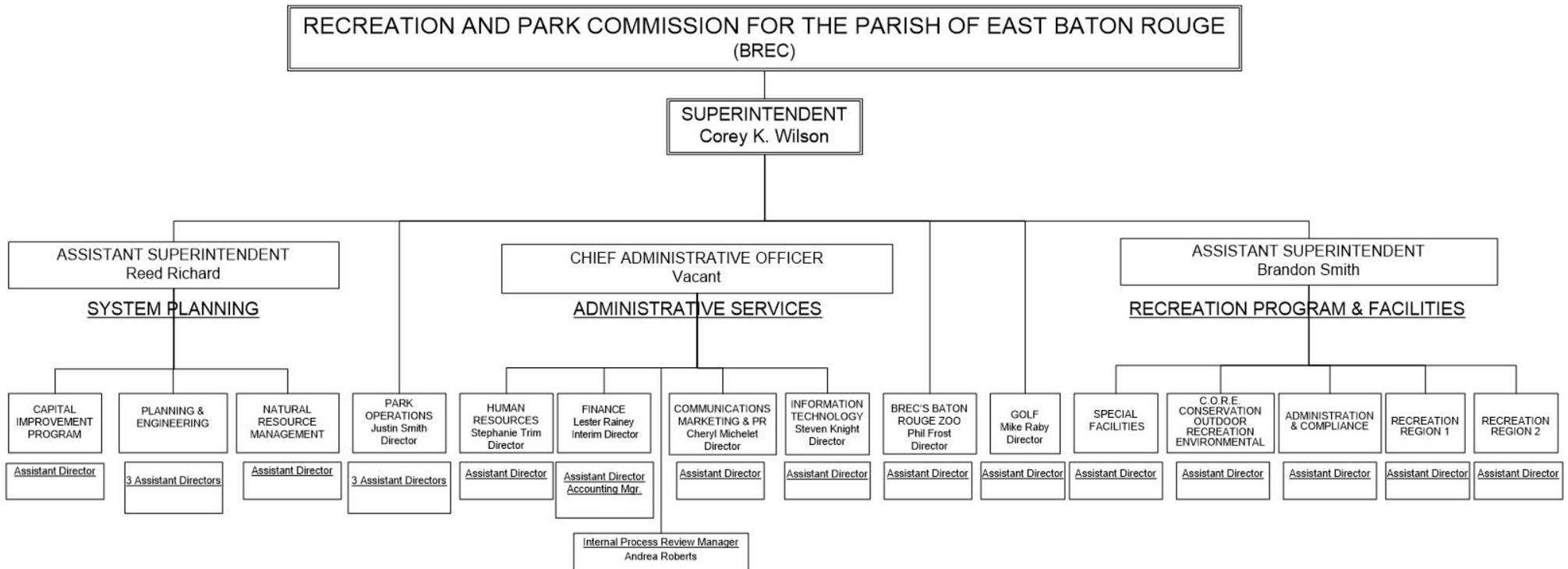
Volunteer Tax Information

A State Law passed in 2007 provides for a \$500 deduction from taxable income per tax year for individuals who volunteer for BREC provided the following conditions are met:

- 1. The individual must serve 30 hours or more during the calendar year. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to track their hours and turn them into the volunteer office after approval is received by the department director. Hours are calculated on an hour per hour basis of your time served. For example, one-hour long committee meeting per month would equal 12 hours and will not be sufficient alone to satisfy the requirement.**
- 2. The individual must be registered by the volunteer office as a BREC volunteer.**

More information about volunteering for BREC and the income deduction can be requested by calling the BREC Volunteer Manager at 272-9200 ext. 1446.

BREC Organizational Chart



If no Director is listed for a department, the Assistant Superintendent for that department serves in that capacity.