
CONSERVATION PARK



BLACKWATER CONSERVATION AREA

BREC

DESCRIPTION

Blackwater Conservation Area opened in 2002 and is one of BREC's renowned conservation areas. The Comite River traverses along the parks' western edge. This naturalized recreational site offers two large fishing lakes, nature trails and pavilion with restrooms. Recent additions include a visitor clean up station,

ADA accessible concrete pathway leading to an accessible fishing pier with benches and Cypress Trees were planted. BREC continues to preserve the local habitat through invasive species removal and native tree plantings with the help of volunteers and local organizations.

BLACKWATER CONSERVATION AREA

PROJECT DATE

2006	Visitor Clean up Station
2006	Accessible Fishing Pier & Walks
02/23/2006	Parking Area Improvements
01/23/2007	Exotic Removal & Plantings
2014	Interpretive Signage

PROJECT COST

\$3,000	Visitor Clean up Station
\$45,000	Accessible Fishing Pier & Walks
\$6,000	Parking Area Improvements
\$10,000	Exotic Removal & Plantings



BLACKWATER CONSERVATION AREA

BREC

PROJECT PHOTOS



BLACKWATER CONSERVATION AREA



Site Prior To Concrete Path



New Accessible Pathway



New Pathway Near Parking Area



New Fishing Pier



New Visitor Cleanup Station



Clearing Underbrush To Improve On Site Security



DESCRIPTION

Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center is a 103 acre facility dedicated to conservation, education, recreation and tourism. It houses an award-winning, 9500-square-foot building filled with live animal exhibits, photographs and natural artifacts. To expand programming at the facility additional land adjacent to the site was procured in 2009. The existing building was repurposed as BBS Education and Conference Center. The facility contains multi-

purpose rooms, an assembly area, an area for overnight and extended stay educational programs, ample storage for art and educational supplies, a kitchen, and offices. The interior classroom and work space was coordinated with an exterior classroom/work area. The building is being carefully integrated with the overall Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center Master Plan.

PROJECT DATE

2009	Land Acquisition for Education Building
2012-2013	Utility Conversion—Overhead to Underground
2012-2014	Education Building Renovations
Underway	Site Circulation Master Plan



PROJECT COST

\$1,050,000	Land Acquisition for Education Building
\$110,000	Utility Conversion
\$10,000	Front Deck Repairs
\$220,000	Education Building Construction Drawings
\$535,000	Education Building Renovations



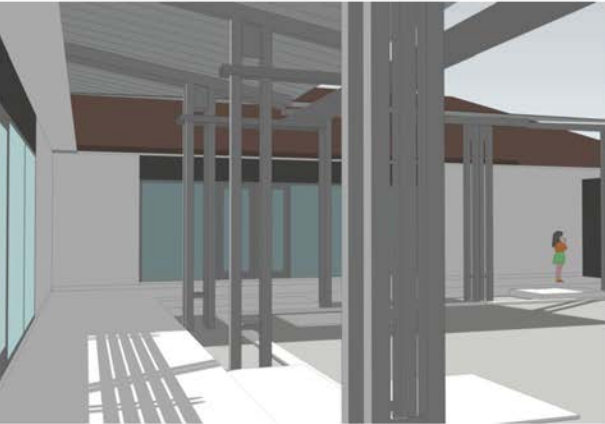
BLUEBONNET SWAMP NATURE CENTER

BREC

PROJECT PHOTOS



BLUEBONNET SWAMP NATURE CENTER



Illustrations For Bluebonnet Swamp Education Building



Education Building Before Construction



Renovations Complete



COMITE RIVER PARK

BREC

DESCRIPTION

Comite River Park located south of Hooper Road near Blackwater Conservation Area is also a conservation park. The naturalized recreational site adjacent to the Comite River features unique hilly terrain which makes a popular spot for riders to traverse 5 miles of mountain bike trails. Recent additions include a bicycle

cleaning station, ADA accessible pavilion, new trail signage, and improved parking area. BREC continues to preserve the local habitat through invasive species removal and native tree plantings with the help of volunteers and local organizations.

COMITE RIVER PARK

PROJECT DATE

2012 Site Renovations

PROJECT COST

\$40,000 New Pavilion & Site Improvements



COMITE RIVER PARK

BREC

PROJECT PHOTOS



New Trail Signage



New Wash Station & Pavilion

COMITE RIVER PARK



Site Construction For New Pavilion



New Pavilion



Parking & Site Drainage Improvements



Cypress Seedlings Planted & Invasive Plants Removed



BREC CONSERVATION AREAS

BREC

DESCRIPTION

BREC currently has 8 parks which are set aside for conservation purposes. Of those include Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center which is the hub of environmental education within the parish and the remaining seven parks are considered Satellite Conservation Areas. These include Blackwater Conservation Area, Burbank Conservation Area, Cohn Nature Preserve, Doyle's Bayou, Frenchtown Conser-

vation Area, Kendalwood and S. Harrell's Ferry Road Park. Each of these parks were acquired for their high ecological value and the unique or rare habitats they contain. These natural areas provide many benefits beyond public enjoyment such as improving air quality, preserving habitat, reducing noise pollution, flooding, green house gases and energy cost.

BREC CONSERVATION AREAS



Doyle's Bayou Park



Bird Watchers at Bluebonnet Swamp



Green Heron at Bluebonnet Swamp



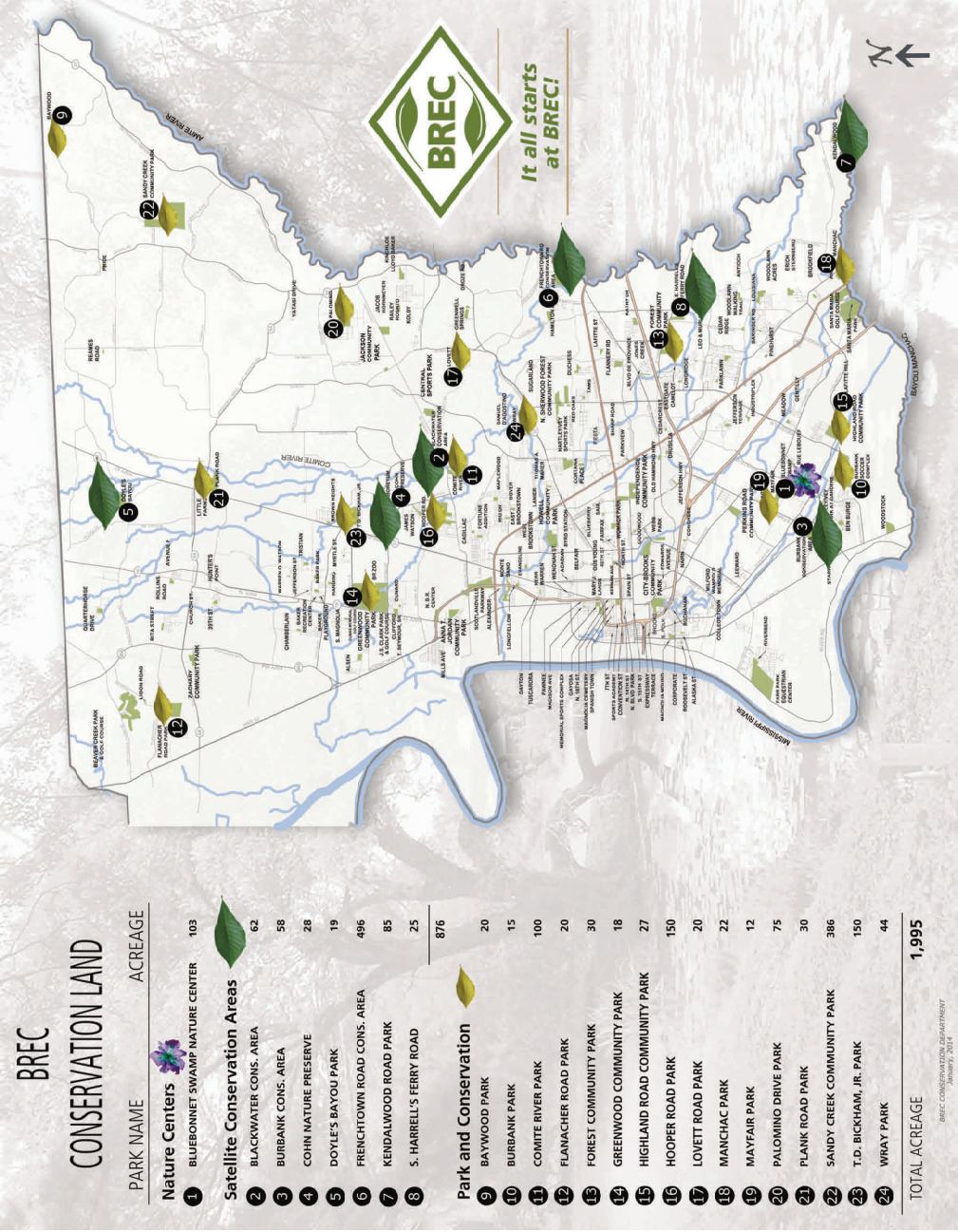
Comite River at Frenchtown Conservation Area



BREC CONSERVATION AREAS

BREC

PROJECT SITE PLAN



FRENCHTOWN ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

BREC

DESCRIPTION

Frenchtown Road Conservation Area or "The Land Between The Rivers" is the largest Park and the largest Conservation Area currently operated by BREC. It is 496 acres of Bottomland Hardwood Forest including Small Stream Forest and Spruce Pine Hardwood-Flatwood Forest habitat; both of which are locally and globally ranked as rare or imperiled habitats. The property is home to a diverse spread of flora and fauna including several species of state conservation concern and

countless migratory birds. Frenchtown currently has over 3 miles of trails which wind around the north and central parts of the park including access to the Amite River Beach, several Amite River overlooks and access to countless Cypress-Tupelo sloughs. Basic signage directs visitors around the park's hiking trails. More trails and amenities will be developed when the Park Master Plan is finalized.

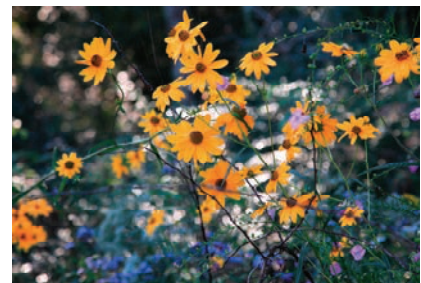
FRENCHTOWN ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

PROJECT DATE

December 2009	Land Acquisition
2013	New Parking Area & Trailhead
10/22/2013	New Hiking Trails Opened
Underway	Master Plan

PROJECT COST

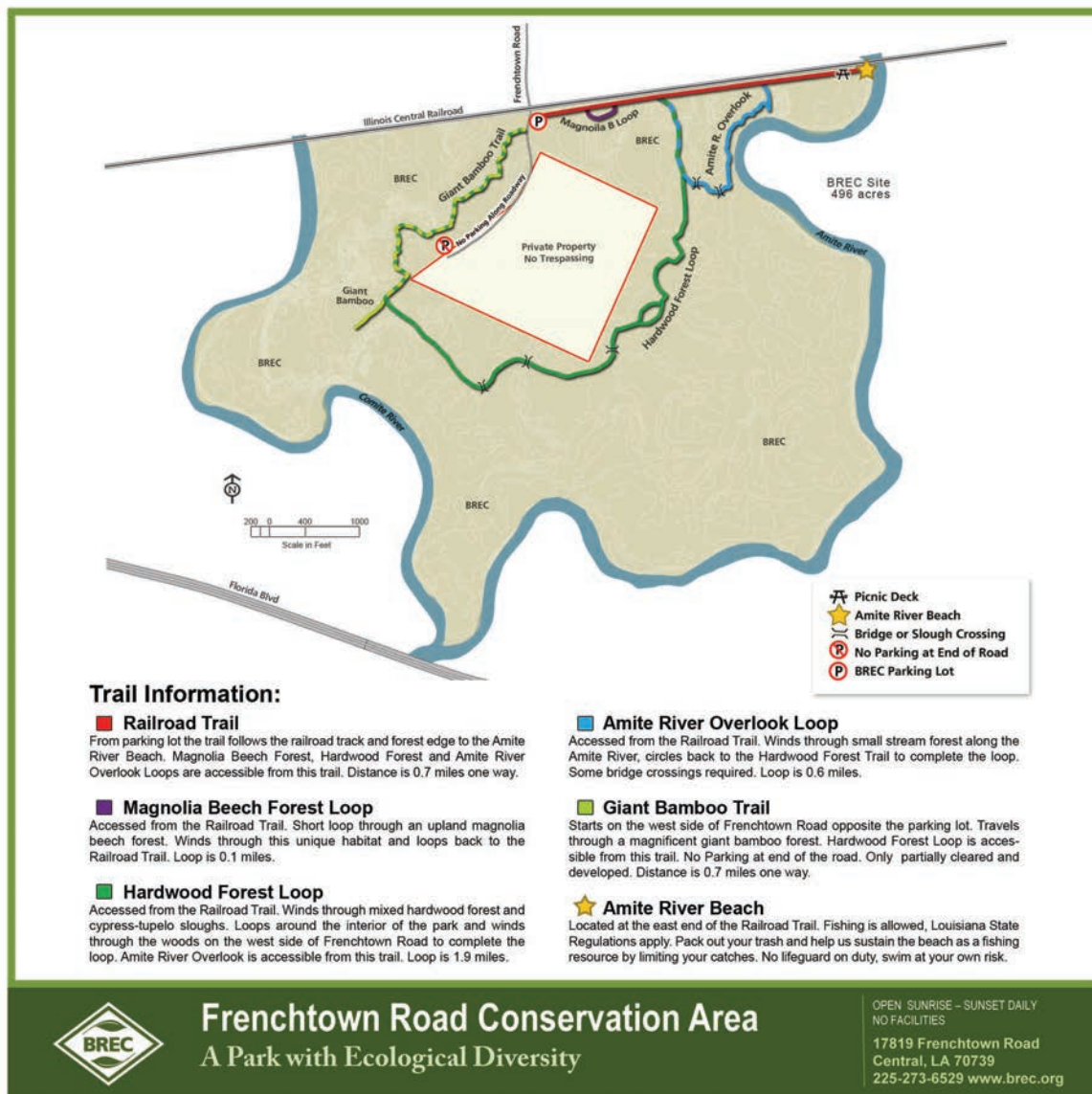
\$1,500,000	Land Acquisition
\$10,000	Site Assessment
\$30,000	Trailhead & Nature Trails



FRENCHTOWN ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

BREC

PROJECT SITE PLAN



FRENCHTOWN ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

BREC

PROJECT PHOTOS



FRENCHTOWN ROAD CONSERVATION AREA



Mapping Nature Trails



CIP Crew Clearing Trails



Site Before New Trailhead Construction



Ribbon Cutting At The New Trailhead



Wayfinding Signage Along Trail



1st Woods Walk At Frenchtown



NATURE PRESERVE OF THE COHN ARBORETUM

BREC

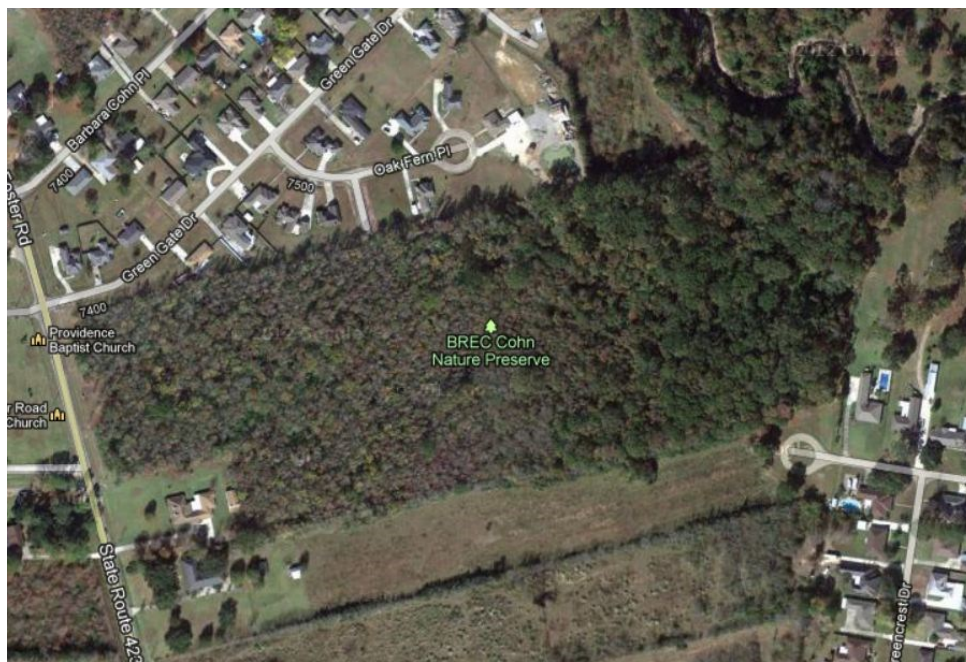
DESCRIPTION

The 28.5 acres of land is a Nature Preserve that will remain a natural area on Foster Road, south of the Cohn Arboretum. The late Margie Cohn donated the land to be used solely as a part of the

Laurens Henry Cohn, Sr. Memorial Arboretum, devoted and dedicated to the study, fostering and preservation of wildlife, plants and animals.



View of Nature Preserve from Foster Road



Aerial of Nature Preserve

NATURE PRESERVE OF THE COHN ARBORETUM



TRISTAN AVENUE PARK

BREC

DESCRIPTION

Tristan Avenue Park is now a Conservation Area. In 2010, the antiquated play equipment was removed to allow the site to return to its natural state. The park's entrance is located at the end of Tristian Avenue in Baker and has a BREC signage, a picnic table, and a small grassy area set on the edge of the woodlands. The 32.6 acre

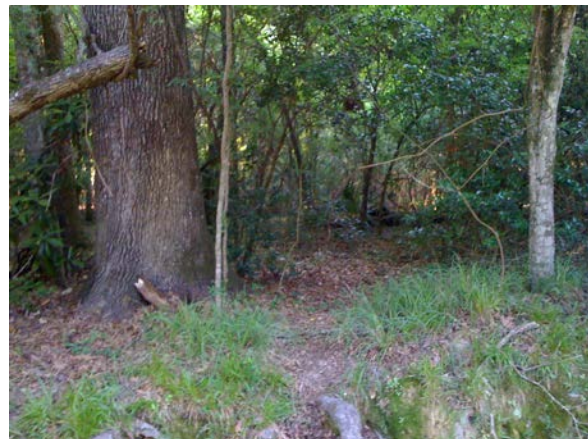
site features bottomland hardwood forest that is fairly mature with some moderately large magnolia and beech trees that backs up to White's Bayou.

PROJECT DATE

2010 Site Clean up

PROJECT COST

\$3,000 Site Clean up



TRISTAN AVENUE PARK

