

GREENWAYS + BLUEWAYS TABLE OF CONTENTS

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GREENWAYS

The 2004 Imagine Your Parks (IYP) Strategic Plan identified trails as a top agency priority to satisfy the high public demand. Between 2004 – 2014 BREC expanded trail facilities within its parks. In 2012, BREC and community stakeholders developed a trail plan that recommended a system known as the “Health Loop” that extended beyond park boundaries. While trails remained an agency priority in the 2014 IYP Strategic Plan, more emphasis was applied to the implementation of trails that connected park systems and other community destinations. In 2015, the BREC Commission approved a parish-wide trail plan known as the Capital Area Pathways Project (CAPP). The CAPP Plan incorporated the Health Loop and identified other desirable trail corridors that provide access to BREC parks and other points of interest in the community. In the interest of public safety, BREC located pathways off roadways and within public rights-of-way such as utility and drainage corridors.

In 2018, BREC and several Baton Rouge organizations/stakeholders began a joint master planning process, incorporating the CAPP plan, identifying needed on-street connections, and recommending additional greenway components. The East Baton Rouge Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan recommended several BREC-led trail priorities known as “greenways” – a Shared Use Path located within parks, natural environments, or urban settings where landscape provides a buffer between motor vehicles and facility users. The master plan was approved and adopted by the BREC Commission and EBR City-Parish in 2020

Since the EBR Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan adoption, BREC has been working closely with multiple agencies involved in transportation and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to implement the priorities identified in the plan.

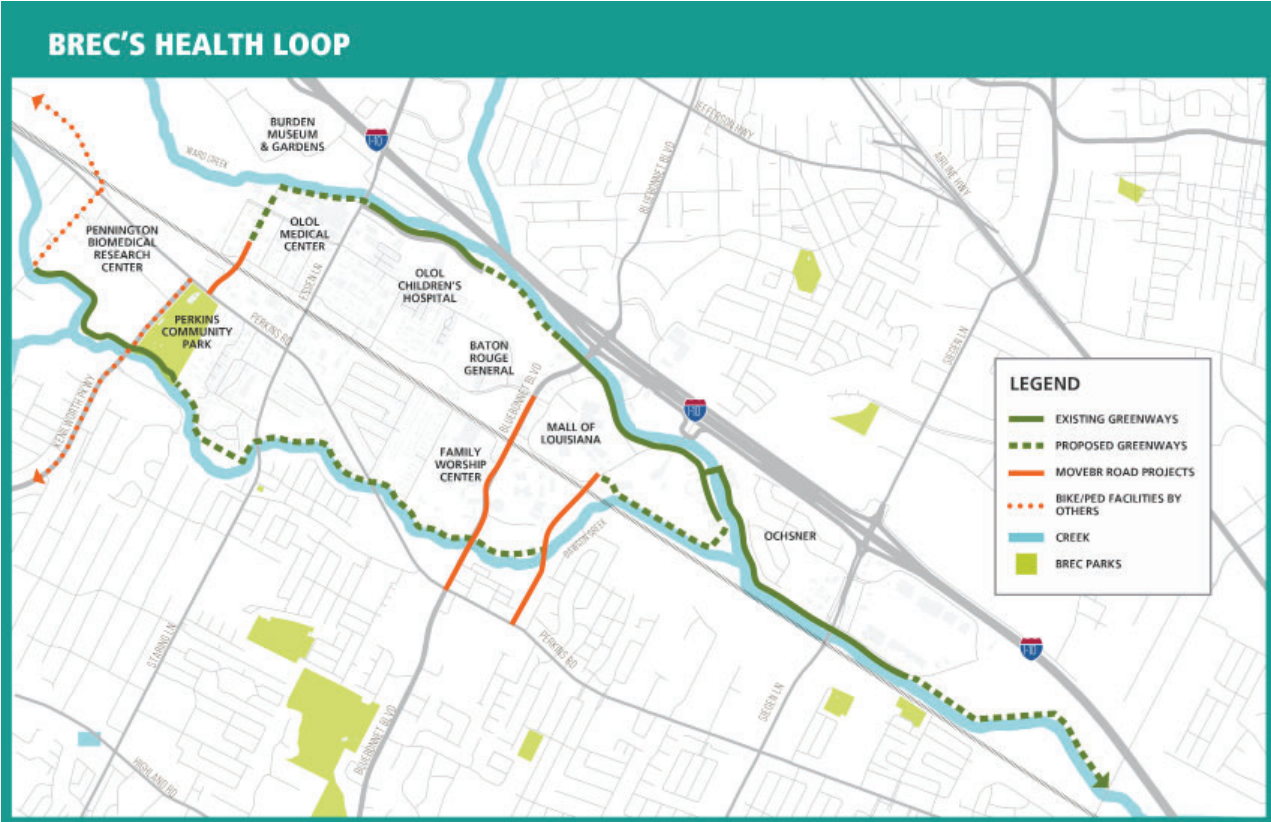
BLUEWAYS

The Blueways trail effort also began as part of the CAPP initiative. Blueways provide public access to local waterways through the construction of canoe-kayak launches designed to accommodate non-motorized paddle craft.

The first parish waterway access was completed in 2017 at Highland Road Park on Bayou Fountain. In 2023, the Bayou Manchac launch was completed. Additional waterway accesses are planned, with one at Airline Highway Park on Ward Creek currently in design.

PROJECT DATE

- 2015: CAPP Master Plan, BREC Commission Approval
- 2017: Highland Road/Bayou Fountain Blueway Launch
- 2020: EBR Pedestrian + Bicycle Master Plan Approved/Adopted by BREC Commission + EBR City-Parish
- 2023: Bayou Manchac Blueway Launch



Guided by the CAPP plan and recommendations from the Health District Infrastructure Committee, BREC began implementing components of the Ward Creek and Dawson Creek greenways to create a “Health Loop.”

It was envisioned as a comprehensive greenway system that would connect several medical facilities and destinations, while providing greater accessibility to residents, healthcare staff, and patients and their families for recreation and transportation.

The greenways typically comprise a 12-foot wide, barrier-free concrete pathway designed for pedestrians and cyclists. When the project is complete, there will be approximately 10 miles of greenways connecting the medical facilities and BREC Parks within the area.

PROJECT DATE

- 2015: CAPP Pennington Connectivity Trail Recreational Lease – LSU/BREC Commission Approval
- 2016: Pennington Trail
- 2017: CAPP Siegen/Tuscany Trail
- 2019: CAPP Ochsner/Ward Creek Bridge Crossing + Trailhead to Morning Glen
- 2021: Dawson Creek Greenway Signage
- 2023: Segments In Design:
 - Essen to OLOL
 - Bluebonnet Extension
 - High Grove to Mall
 - Perkins to Paulat



DAWSON CREEK GREENWAY

A segment of the greenway along Dawson Creek was completed in 2016. The multi-use pathway stretches from Quail Drive to BREC Perkins Road Community Park. A trailhead at Perkins provides an access point to the greenway featuring an outdoor exercise zone with multiple fitness stations, drinking fountain with mister, tire pump, bike rack and site furnishings.

Several segments are currently in design, including High Grove and Perkins to Paulat.

PROJECT DATE

- 2016: CAPP Pennington Trail Segment
- 2021: Dawson Creek Greenway Signage
- 2023: Segments In Design:
 - High Grove
 - Perkins to Paulat



WARD CREEK GREENWAY

Portions of the Ward Creek Greenway that are complete span from Essen Lane to the Children's Hospital and from Bluebonnet at the Mall of Louisiana to Siegen Lane Market Place and Tuscany.

Several greenway segments currently in design, include Essen to OLOL, Dijon Connector and Bluebonnet Extension which will tie into Constantin Phase II.

PROJECT DATE

- 2017: Siegen/Tuscany Trail Segment + Ward Creek Bank Erosion Repair
- 2019: Ochsner/Ward Creek Bridge Crossing + Trailhead to Morning Glen
- 2023: Segments In Design:
 - Essen to OLOL
 - Bluebonnet Extension



GREENWOOD GREENWAY

The first phase of the Greenwood Greenway was completed in 2008. The segment extends from the intersection of LA Hwy 19 and Lavey Lane and ends at Greenwood Community Park entrance along LA Hwy 19. The pathway provides the City of Baker a trail connection to Greenwood Community Park and other businesses in the area.

BREC received a Transportation Alternatives Program grant to construct the second phase of the trail. The project included two trail segments and the construction of a new 120 foot pedestrian bridge in order to provide a continuous pedestrian link from Lavey Lane to Thomas Road. The multi-use trail runs parallel to the roadway with a vegetation buffer zone, thus eliminating conflicts with motor vehicles.

PROJECT DATE

- 2024: Greenwood Park Trail Phase II (Transportation Alternatives Program Grant) Complete



SCOTLANDVILLE PARKWAY

The Scotlandville Parkway was built in the 1970s-80s and is a tremendous asset that has been managed by BREC for decades. The 2020 East Baton Rouge Parish Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan prioritized the restoration of the Scotlandville Parkway. A master plan for the restoration of the Scotlandville Corridor was completed in 2022.

A grant from the Trust for Public Land in 2021, engaged grassroots organizations to assist in the public input process including Healthy BR, Community Against Drugs and Violence (CADAV), Front Yard bikes, Bike Baton Rouge, and Scotland Saturdays. The grant also funded an activation project that included signage, benches, and public art in the lower portion of the parkway. In addition, the parkway received Transportation Alternative Program grant from LA-DOTD in 2021 to implement the first phase of the updated greenway system.

BREC was also awarded a Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant to construct a bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting the Scotlandville Parkway at Monte Sano Avenue to Memorial Park. BREC is also funding an extension of the trail to Spanish Town Road Park. The project is in the planning and design phase and is expected to begin construction in 2024.

PROJECT DATE

- 2021: Scotlandville Parkway - Develop Master Plan + Phase 1 Improvements
- 2023: Signage + Art Walk
- 2023: CMAQ Grant In Design
- 2024: CMAQ Greenway: Scotlandville Pkwy to Memorial Park - Construction Underway
- 2024: Scotlandville Pkwy Pedestrian Bridge Improvements - Construction Underway



HIGHLAND ROAD/BAYOU FOUNTAIN BLUEWAY

As BREC's first completed blueway access point, the Highland Road Boat Launch provides paddling access to Bayou Fountain and Bayou Manchac. The blueway had proven very popular even before the launch was complete, with paddlers and fisherman varying from families with young children to retirees. The launch is also utilized by organized programs such as BREC's Paddle-Up programs and trips, summers camps and other structured activities and events.

With thanks to BREC's Planning and Engineering for design and BREC Capital Improvements Crew for construction, this first portion of the Blueway system provided a new means of recreation to residents of East Baton Rouge Parish and expanded the concept of linear parks and pathways in the community.

PROJECT DATE

- 2015: BREC Commission Approves The CAPP Plan
- 2017: Highland Rd Blueway Launch Opens



BAYOU MANCHAC BLUEWAY

The scope for this project was to provide safe access to Bayou Manchac for kayaks and canoes in a variety of water conditions. The project consists of a floating dock and launch for kayaks & canoes, pivoted metal gangway and an adjacent stationary pier. The floating dock and launch was designed to rise and fall with the level of Bayou Manchac with the gangway allowing access to the dock at any water elevation.

The adjacent stationary pier is approximately 900 square feet, providing ample room for viewing, fishing and other activities. The pier is designed for occasional flooding from Bayou Manchac. A trail was constructed to connect the vehicular drop-off to the launch and platform, requiring portage of only 100 feet.

PROJECT DATE

- 2022: Bayou Manchac Blueway Site Work
- 2023: Bayou Manchac Blueway Launch

