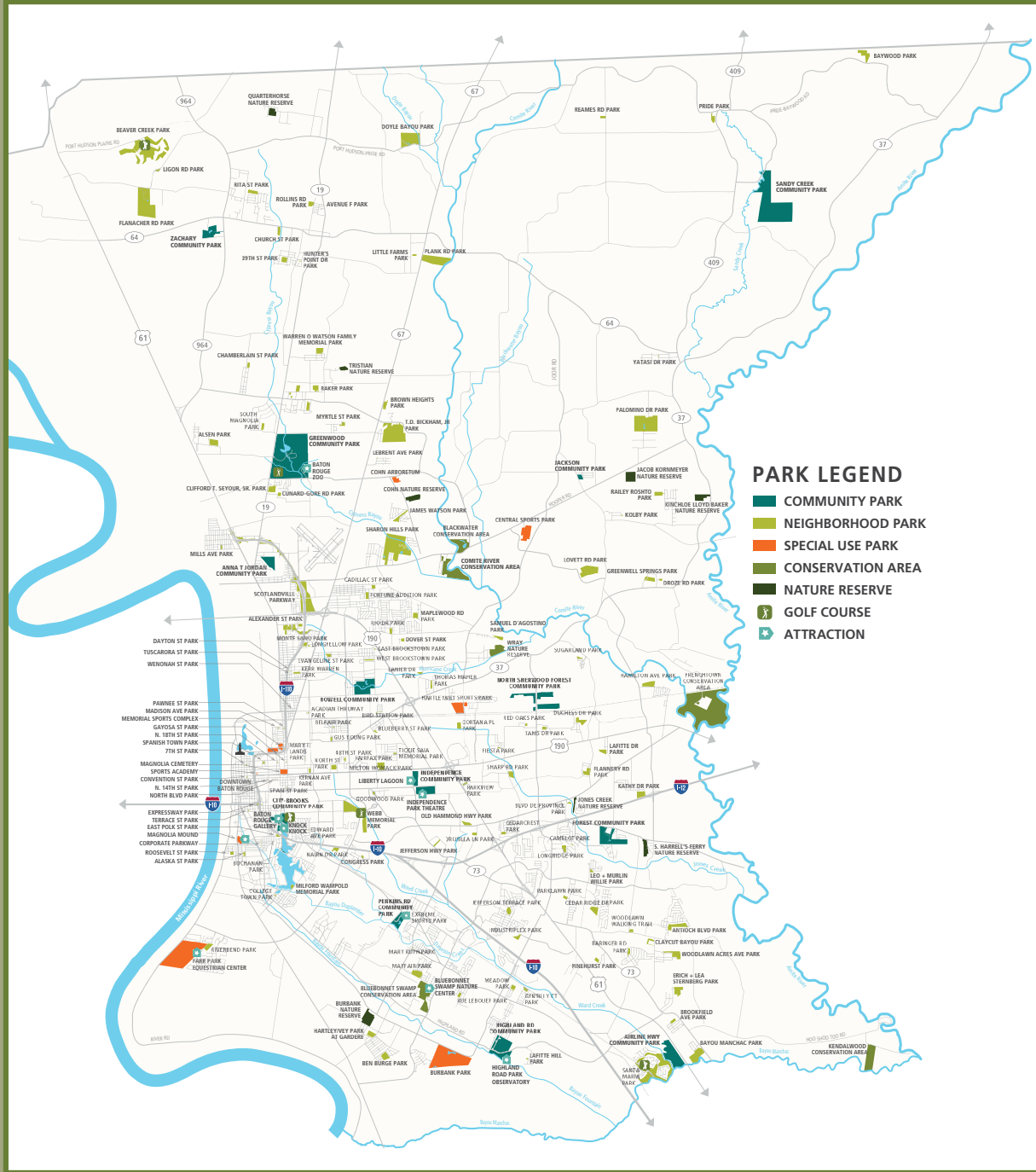


BREC PARK SYSTEM



PARK LEGEND

- COMMUNITY PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- SPECIAL USE PARK
- CONSERVATION AREA
- NATURE RESERVE
- GOLF COURSE
- ATTRACTION



BREC is dedicated to creating a healthy community by providing public access to safe parks, trails and recreation facilities with programs that encourage physical activity, cultivate a connection to nature and contribute to a greater sense of social, mental and physical well-being.



A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TOWARD PARK PLANNING

"An effective implementation strategy requires that participants transcend the silos of their departments or agencies; identify opportunities for partnerships or joint use; leverage available resources, regardless of the source; and actively look for ways to generate multiple benefits for the community through implementation of projects, programs, and initiatives."

-David Barth, PhD, ASLA, AICP, CPRP



BREC has a strong commitment to the provision of fair and just access to high-quality parks, green space, recreation facilities and programs for all residents of East Baton Rouge Parish. System-wide planning helps us to strengthen that commitment and build upon BREC's history of excellence.

To establish a clear set of goals, policies and standards for the entire the parks and recreation system, broader thinking and planning is required. This goes beyond parks and playgrounds and considers green space, conservation areas, green infrastructure, greenways and trails, recreation facilities, operations and maintenance, community engagement, social and environmental justice, and program development.

The Planning Division within the P&E Department is charged with reconciling the diverse interests of both internal

and external stakeholders to realize BREC's mission.

In consideration of the comprehensive nature of our system, BREC developed a set of "system-wide needs" during the Imagine Your Parks 2 planning process to help prioritize resources effectively and yield the greatest community benefit.

This section outlines those areas of focus and summarizes relevant work to address the system's comprehensive needs over the last 10 years.



OPERATING AND ADMINISTRATION

The organization of the Planning and Engineering department and the Capital Construction Division (formerly CIP) developed considerably during the implementation of the IYP2 Plan. This includes creating additional positions and additional divisions within P&E. The additional P&E divisions include NRM, Urban Trails, Planning & Development, Construction, CCD Coordination. Additionally, The P&E department developed a new set of Standard Operating procedures. CCD also saw many notable improvements including the construction of a new CCD operations building which has helped to improve training, tools storage, and other CCD processes.

CCD/PE EQUIPMENT

CCD purchased various types of construction-related tools and equipment including backhoes, trucks, trailers, and more.



TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

The P&E department purchased several Trimble GPS data collection units to help facilitate field data collection as it relates to NRM division data needs as well as site utilities, grading spot elevations, and other types of field data. Most of this data will be added to the GIS database for various types of utilization and analysis.

FEASIBILITY STUDIES

DDG performed a feasibility study to determine if Airline Highway Park could be developed and what the implications would be from a stormwater management standpoint.

Following the 2016 flood, CSRS performed a stormwater resiliency study of the BREC park system and examined several parks for their potential for stormwater storage. They developed a prioritized list of parks for consideration for future improvements and enhancements as they relate to stormwater management and storage at each site.

In 2021, Stantec conducted a planning study clearly identify project expectations and define the planning process for the Essen to OLOL Ward Creek Trail, which is an extension of the Health Loop Greenway.



SYSTEM-WIDE NEEDS



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Over the last 10 years BREC has made significant strides in its management and protection of natural resources, environmental education program offerings and public engagement through partnerships and volunteerism. Additional information on each of these projects can be found in the individual park descriptions and in Strategic Direction 4 information but below is a brief summary.

In 2014 BREC hired staff dedicated to conservation programming outside of Bluebonnet Swamp Nature center to serve parks, which were referred to as “Satellite Conservation Areas” such as Frenchtown and Blackwater. This spurred the creation of programs that are now a staple in the BREC system like Woods Walks, Night Hike and Campfire Programs, Revive Your Mind hikes and more. Staffing needs in this area grew and program demands rose which ultimately led to the program’s expansion in 2019 and the creation of a new division within Recreation called the Conservation, Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Division (CORE).

As demand for programs grew, so did the need for places to conduct programming and offer hiking which led to the expansion of the trail system which now includes over 30 miles of trail spread over 13 different parks. Improvements in these areas focused on directional signage to ensure hiker safety along with increasing trail accessibility through bridges and surface enhancements. Over the last 10 years, the following landmark improvements were successfully completed in conservation areas and conservation management units.

- » 8.5 MILES OF NEW TRAIL
- » 9 TRAILHEAD KIOSKS
- » 69 DIRECTIONAL TRAIL PILLARS
- » 940 FEET OF BOG BRIDGES
- » 8 TRAIL FOOTBRIDGES
- » 800 FEET OF ELEVATED BOARDWALK
- » 15 INTERPRETIVE SIGNS
- » 12 ATV GATES AND BOLLARD LOCATIONS



In order to oversee and manage these improvements while also enhancing and protecting the natural resources within parks, the Natural Resource Management Division was also created in 2019. This new division now oversees not only primitive and nature trails but also fishing ponds, biodiversity surveys, green infrastructure, invasive species removal, native plantings and assists in park and system wide planning efforts.

One of the first tasks of this division was to create a foundation for natural resource management at BREC. As part of this an Invasive Species Management Plan was developed to help guide these efforts to increase biodiversity and protect native habitats within parks.

Additionally, in 2021, the Natural Resource Management plan was rewritten to include updated park classifications like Conservation Areas and Nature Reserves, establish sensitive habitat zones within the parks, and update techniques to include new technology like GIS.

SYSTEM-WIDE NEEDS



GIS has shifted the way BREC approaches planning by providing and tracking data throughout the system. The Natural Resource Management Division has played a significant role in developing the Geodatabase that BREC uses to house its geographical data and also in collecting data in the field. The following GIS field surveys were created to help collect important data which is used for stormwater planning and management, land acquisition decisions, construction design and more.

- » TREE SURVEY
- » RAPID ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT SURVEY
- » INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY
- » SIGNAGE SURVEY
- » TRAIL MAINTENANCE SURVEY
- » TRASH AND RECYCLING RECEPTACLE SURVEYS

One of the most impactful improvements to the system in the last 10 years included the creation of the Green Force Volunteer Program in 2017. This program, which now includes over 100 consistent members, assists with conservation related projects across the BREC system, providing field workers and assistance to BREC staff. Green Force volunteers are trained by staff which allows them to work independently of staff. This program has engaged the conservation community within East Baton Rouge parish and created partnerships with local groups like the master naturalist who need service hours as part of their certification process.



SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Nearly all special use facilities saw significant improvements over the last 10 years. Burbank Park has added a total of five additional soccer fields, expanded the irrigation system, added multiple restrooms, upgraded the potable water system, updated the signage, and more.

Central Sports Park saw multiple phases of improvements including additional restrooms, concessions, multi-use fields and synthetic turf for all of the baseball infields.

Liberty Lagoon Family aquatic center has expanded by adding multiple feature slides as well as a simulated surfing feature, an additional concession stand and restroom building, updated the queuing and ticket windows, and replastered the pools.

Magnolia Mound Historic Site has seen improvements to the Historic Hart house. A brand new visitor's center has also been constructed at the site, along with other various site improvements.

Farr Park and Horse Activity Center has seen improvements to the sewer system as well as improvements to the Event Arena.

SYSTEM-WIDE NEEDS



The Botanical Garden at Independence Park received a major expansion as part of IYP2, and the Garden center was also completely renovated in conjunction with the garden expansion.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Many athletic facilities in the BREC system saw improvements as part the IYP2 Plan

Burbank Park has added a total of five additional soccer fields, expanded the irrigation system, added multiple restrooms, upgraded the potable water system, updated the signage, and more.

Central Sports Park saw multiple phases of improvements including additional restrooms, concessions, multi-use fields and synthetic turf for all of the baseball infields.

Memorial Stadium and Goldsby field both saw improvements to the playing surface as well as the stadium structures.

Olympia Stadium saw improvements to both the playing surface and the stadium structure.

Hartley Vey Sports Park saw major improvements including the addition of an irrigation system, the conversion of the infields to synthetic turf, and the replacement of the backstops.



RECREATION CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

ADAPTIVE USE

A non-profit group known as Front Yard Bikes (FYB) entered into an agreement with BREC to utilize the Terrace Street park recreation center as base of operations. FYB began as a community bike shop with a simple focus of teaching participants of all ages how to fix and maintain bikes. However, through organic growth and fueled by the eagerness of participants to build new skills, FYB has evolved into a transformative force, teaching youth mechanics and workforce skills, while promoting inclusivity, mentorship, recreation, and academic achievement. They do this through safe, free, after-school and summer programming.

HVAC AND MAJOR RENOVATIONS

Multiple recreation centers across the parish have received major upgrades and renovations including air-conditioned gyms. Those recreation centers include Lovett, Highland, Antioch, Baker, Ana T. Jordan, Gus Young, Howell, Forest, and Church.

UPGRADES

Several other recreation centers also received upgrades to varying extents during the IYP2 program, those include Flannery, Sharp, Jefferson Highway, Greenwood, Hamilton, and Maplewood.

PURSUING NEW TRENDS

Pickleball has emerged as a new trend in recreation during IYP2 and BREC has added pickleball court striping to several indoor recreation center courts and has also permanently converted several tennis courts into pickleball courts, most notably at Greenwood Community Park.

Urban Community Farm: BREC has engaged in a partnership with the walls project to develop a community urban farm, Baton Roots, at Howell Community Park. The Baton Roots farm area is roughly four acres and is managed and maintained by the walls project and community volunteers to provide locally grown fruit and vegetables while educating the community as it relates to various gardening techniques.

BREC is partnering with the East Baton Parish School Board to develop a “School in the Park” concept. BREC will combine two Neighborhood parks (Meadow & Gentilly) with some additional adjacent land purchased for the location of the new school facilities. The site will be designed and developed cohesively as part of the “School in the Park” concept.

PARK AND COMMUNITY MATCH PROJECTS

Many of the projects previously mentioned also included matching funds from varying sources and to varying degrees. Those projects include several phases of improvements at Central Sports Park, Additional fields at Burbank Park, The Baton Roots urban farm at Howell Community Park, The Magnolia Mound Visitor’s Center, The “School in the Park” Plan for Meadow & Gentilly, as well as the feasibility studies by DDG and CSRS.

In 2023, BREC is pursuing a match grant through the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that will facilitate field data collection for the trees located in a subset of our parks that were identified as a priority in the CSRS Stormwater Resiliency Study. This data will be delivered to BREC and folded into our GIS database and utilized for various types of analysis as part of BREC’s Natural Resource Management Plan.

BREC Greenways has participated in a multitude of matching grant programs through the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Transportation, including Transportation Alternatives, Recreational Trails, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement.



SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

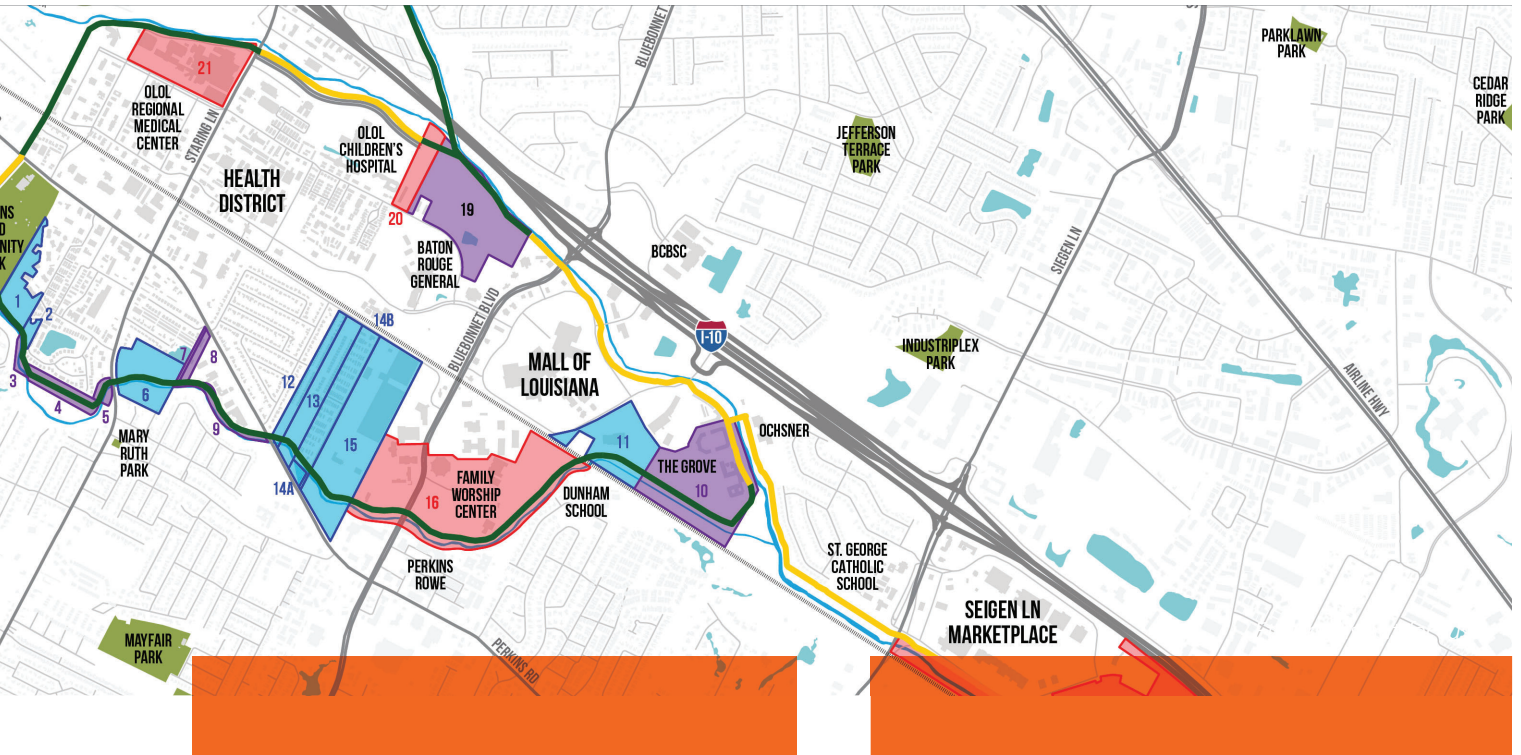
The site sewer infrastructure at the Farr Park Equestrian Center was upgraded and replaced as part of the IYP2 program.

The potable water infrastructure at Burbank Park was replaced and upsized to accommodate higher use of the park restroom facilities during large scale events and tournaments.

ROOF PROJECTS

All of the recreation centers that received HVAC for their gyms also had to have their roofs replaced or upgraded as part of that process, those included Highland, Antioch, Baker, Ana T. Jordan, Gus Young, Howell, Forest, and Church. Additionally, Flannery and the North Sherwood Forest warehouse received new roofs as well.

SYSTEM-WIDE NEEDS



LAND ACQUISITION

In 2020, an additional 3 Acre parcel was purchased and added to Frenchtown Conservation Area.

We are also in the process of purchasing a small parcel adjacent to the east entrance of the Forest Community Park, near the maintenance facility.

As mentioned previously in this report, BREC will be splitting a land purchase with the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board as park of the "School in the Park" Project in .

BREC Greenways has acquired land within drainage rights-of-way for trail segments, particularly within the Health Loop Greenway System (pictured above). These parcels are owned by the adjacent property owners, and acquired via servitude agreements that allow BREC to operate the trails as linear parks.

Along the greenbelt adjacent to the ExxonMobil properties in North Baton Rouge, land has also been donated to serve as a pocket park associated with the 5-mile greenway that will soon connect North and South Baton Rouge.

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CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

ACADIANA CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

Riverbend Site Improvements 2018

Lovett Road Dog Park 2021

ANR CONSTRUCTION, LLC

City Park Croquet Court 2018

Forest Recreation Center Flood Repair 2019

N 14th St Park Improvements 2019

Maplewood Site Improvements 2021

BARRIERE CONSTRUCTION CO., LLC

Jefferson Highway Asphalt Parking Overlay 2016

BDS CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Church Street Recreation Center Renovation 2018

Lovett Recreation Center Renovation 2018

BOONE SERVICES, LLC

CAPP Bluebonnet Extension Segment 2020

BUFFALO ELECTRIC, INC.

Expressway Field Lighting 2017

CANGELOSI WARD GENERAL CONTRACTORS, LLC

BREC Administration Building Renovations 2016

CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION, LLS

Jefferson Hwy Rec Center Renovations 2015

CHARLES CARTER CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

Burbank Multiuse Fields 2017

Central Sports Park Ph III 2016

Howell Park Repurposing Ph I 2017

Independence Volunteer Bldg 2017

Contracts from 2015-2024

Public Works by Sealed Bid

COMMAND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES

CAPP – Wards Creek Trail - Siegen Extension 2017

CORPORATE GREEN

Hartley-Vey Oak Villa Irrigation Improvements
2016

CROSS COUNTRY COWBOY, INC.

Webb GC Practice Range Netting 2018

DUB JOHNSON PAVING CONTRACTOR, INC.

Independence Community Park Recreation Center
Parking & Site Improvements 2016

E. CORNELL MALONE CORP

NSF Warehouse Roof Repair/ Replacement 2017

EPIC CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Greenwood Park Building Addition & Renovation
2019

Jackson Community Park Site Improvements 2019

F.G. SULLIVAN, JR. CONTRACTOR

Zoo Asphalt & Drainage 2016

FRANCISE HORTICULTURAL SERVICES, INC.

Zachary Community Park Splash Pad 2016

Highland Road Park Disc Golf Course 2019

GARDEN CITY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

Cohn Arboretum House Renovation 2021

GEOSURFACES, INC.

Central Sports Park- Field Two Artificial Turf 2019
Central Sports Park- Artificial Turf Infields 2019

GILL INDUSTRIES LTD

NSF Abatement & Demo 4 Bldgs 2015
Howell Rec Center Abatement & Demo 2020

GLOBAL SYNTHETICS ENVIRONMENTAL LLC

Howell Community Park: Multipurpose Field Lights
2018

GM BUILDERS, INC.

Church Street Site Improvements 2016
James Watson Airnasium 2016

GUARANTEE SERVICE TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS, INC.

Church Street Rec Ctr Roof Replacement 2015

HILL CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Bluebonnet Swamp Education Center Porte
Cochere Replacement 2021

HONORE COMPANIES, LLC

Bluebonnet Swamp Parking Improvements 2017

INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES, INC.

Perkins Rd Community Multi-Use Trail 2016
Farr Sewer Improvements 2017
Independence Rec Center Parking Ph II 2017
Womack Park – Multi-use Field & Parking Lot
Improvements 2017
Cadillac Street Park Site Improvements 2021
Farr Park Equestrian Center: Phase I Arena 2021

J & W CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

Phase 2 BREC Restroom Renovations 2021

J. REED CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

Anna T Jordan Recreation Center Renovation 2016
Gus Young Rec Center Renovation 2017
N. Sherwood Forest Community Park Site
Improvements 2018

KELLY CONSTRUCTION GROUP, LLC

CAPP Ochsner Bridge to Morning Glen Segment
2019
Restroom Renovations: Hartley/Vey at Gardere,
Evangeline, Flanacher 2019

LAW INDUSTRIES, LLC

Baker Recreation Center Renovations 2016
Beaver Creek Golf Course Pavilion and Outdoor
Tournament Area 2017
Pennington Trail Segment 2016

M.D. DESCANT, LLC

Knock Knock Children's Museum 2017

NCMC, LLC

Burbank Park Potable Water Line Replacement
2021

NORTH SIXTY MANAGEMENT, INC.

Kathy Drive Park Improvements 2016
Spanish Town Park 2015

PERCY J. MATHERNE CONTRACTOR, INC.

Independence Garden Center Addition and
Renovation 2018

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS CONTINUED

R. J. DAIGLE & SONS CONTRACTOR, INC.

Burbank Soccer Road Improvements 2015

ROOFING SOLUTIONS, LLC

Hooper Road Park Rec Center Roof Repair/
Replacement 2017

RUSSELL COLEMAN CONTRACTING, INC.

Antioch Rec Ctr Renovations 2016

Independence Parking Ph III 2015

Zachary Community Park Play Area 2015

SIELLE CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Perkins Road Community Park Extreme Plaza
Drainage 2015

Greenwood Community Park Pedestrian Bridge
2017

Playground Shade Sails at Greenwood, Howell &
NSF 2019

SIENNA CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Independence Community Park Botanical Garden
Ph 1 Expansion 2016

Hartley-Vey Gardere Park Site Improvements 2017

Independence Community Park Playground 2016

SITE-TECH CONSULTING & CONSTRUCTION

Cunard Park Improvements 2018

City Brooks Community Park Improvements Dog
Park 2020

Church St Recreation Center Flood Repair 2021

STRUCTURAL TOPCOR

Olympia Stadium Restoration 2017

T3 GLOBAL PROJECTS, LLC

Central Sports Park - Turf Infields 2021

TASK INDUSTRIES, LLC

Maplewood Recreation Center Flood Repair 2020

THE LUSTER GROUP, LLC

Santa Maria Playground 2016

Hooper Site Improvements 2017

Longfellow Park Improvements 2018

Mills Ave Park Improvements 2018

Manchac Park Site Improvements 2019

Webb Golf Course Cart Barn 2019

Woodlawn Acres Site Improvements 2019

Mary J Lands Pavilion 2020

Liberty Lagoon Phase III Renovation 2020

VERTEX CONSTRUCTION GROUP, LLC

Magnolia Mound Hart House ADA Upgrades and
Renovation 2018

W H WARD, LLC

BREC CIP Administration Building – NSF 2019

WHARTON-SMITH, INC.

Forest Community Park Recreation Center
Renovation 2016

Liberty Lagoon Family Aquatic Center: Phase II Site
Improvements 2016

PARTNERSHIPS

AARP

Americana

Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge

Baton Roots

Baton Rouge Advocates for Safe Streets (BRASS)

Baton Rouge Area Mountain Bike Association (BRAMBA)

Baton Rouge Disc Golf Association

Baton Rouge Gallery

Baton Rouge Garden Club

Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation

Belaire High School

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation

BREC Foundation

Baton Rouge Soccer club

Build Baton Rouge

Capital Region Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Care South

Center for Planning Excellence

City Of Baton Rouge And Parish Of East Baton Rouge "City-Parish"

Council On Aging

East Baton Rouge Parish Library

East Baton Rouge Parish School Board

East Baton Rouge Parish School System

Friends of Magnolia Mound Plantation

Friends of the Zoo

Front Yard Bikes

These Organizations Have Partnered
with BREC During 2015 - 2024

Gardere Initiatives

GCHP-Progress Park

HealthyBR

Historic Magnolia Cemetery Board of Trustees

Humana

KaBOOM!

Knock Knock Children's Museum

Lauren Savoy Olinde (LSO) Foundation

Leave No Trace

Louisiana Conservation Corps

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Louisiana Housing Corporation

Louisiana Stormwater Coalition

Nancy Lieberman Charities

Ochsner Foundation & Willow Grove North LLC

Our Lady of the Lake Hospital

Raising Cane's Restaurants

State Of Louisiana, Office Of Community Development

Sustainability Partners

The Baton Rouge Botanic Garden Foundation

The Louisiana Soccer Association

The Walls Project

Trust for Public Land

Walk-On's Enterprises

Woodlawn Middle School

YMCA

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

BATON ROUGE GROWTH COALITION GOOD GROWTH AWARD

2018 | Knock Knock Children's Museum

LRPA OUTSTANDING PARK/ FACILITY DESIGN CLASS II

2016 | Highland Road Community Park: Phase III

LRPA OUTSTANDING PARK/ FACILITY DESIGN CLASS I

2022 | City Park Dog Park Improvements

LRPA BEST IN INNOVATION

2022 | Howell Community Park

LRPA INNOVATION IN CONSERVATION

2022 | Independence Park Botanical Garden Phase 1

LRPA INNOVATION IN PARK DESIGN

2022 | Jackson Community Park Site Improvements Phase 2

LRPA INNOVATION IN SOCIAL EQUITY

2022 | Howell Community Park Site Improvements Phase 2

NACPRO PARK & RECREATION FACILITY - CLASS I AWARD

2016 | Highland Road Community Park: Phase III

2018 | Knock Knock Children's Museum

NRPA GOLD MEDAL FINALIST



BREC P&E Staff Poses with the NRPA Gold Medal, 2022

NRPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

2022 | Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award, Class I (population 400,001 & over)

Gold Medal winner for the third time in BREC’s history. Best large park system in the nation. 2022 National Champions. The National Gold Medal Award honors public park and recreation agencies and state park systems throughout the United States and armed forces recreation programs worldwide that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.

BREC P&E TEAM



BREC PLANNING & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



BREC CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION DIVISION