

What is HOUSE BILL 87?



House Bill 87 is a state bill proposed in the 2025 Louisiana legislative session that would **repeal the law that created BREC** in 1946. If passed, this bill proposes to:

- **Eliminate BREC** as a special district that functions as East Baton Rouge Parish's parks and recreation system and effectively make it a department of City-Parish government.
- **Transfer all 175 parks**, the Baton Rouge Zoo, its 5 golf courses, 500+ employees, and assets along with the operations, management, and maintenance of those parks and assets **to the City-Parish government**.

These changes, affecting a park system responsible for providing services to all East Baton Rouge Parish residents and funded by the voters of the parish, **would be made without a public vote**.

KEY FACTS


01 This bill will put YOUR park system, which was built on almost 80 years of input from the residents of East Baton Rouge Parish, at risk of possible closures and reductions in recreational programming. The bill seeks to **eliminate a nationally accredited, three-time national Gold Medal award-winning park system**. This would place it under the control of City-Parish government, **risking the funding approved by voters** to fund the operations, maintenance, and improvement of BREC's 175 parks with 5 golf courses, a Zoo, a waterpark, conservation areas, and many miles of walking/biking trails.


02 East Baton Rouge Parish voters have consistently supported BREC, most recently approving two ballot measures renewing 65% of BREC's funding. Since 1947, BREC has added modest millages gradually, **with voter support**, to match the growth of the park system, focusing on **responsible, transparent funding** aligned with community needs.


03 Despite decades of **voter support for BREC**, the bill would **fundamentally change how parks and facilities are managed** in East Baton Rouge Parish, all with **no public vote**.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

This bill may **significantly delay or even derail** the Imagine Your Parks 3 Master Plan, which was developed with significant community input and approved by the voters in November 2024. This Plan includes:

 A new recreation center portfolio with **brand new centers across the parish**

 **Safer parks** addressing security issues across the parish

 **Enhanced conservation efforts** to protect natural habitats and connect parish residents with nature while also addressing localized flooding through green infrastructure








 450 miles of **parish-wide bike/pedestrian trails** for walking and biking

 More **universal programming** for everyone in the community

 More **shade and heat relief** in parks to beat the Louisiana heat



MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PLANS + PROJECTS AT RISK


-  Future phases of the reimagined **Baton Rouge Zoo + Greenwood Community Park**
-  The Louisiana Watershed Initiative funded **Green Infrastructure project at Greenwood Park**
-  The federally funded **Safe Rooms at Airline + Memorial Stadium** that will function as first class recreation centers outside of disaster situations
-  Federally-funded **Greenway Trails** from the Health District in South Baton Rouge to Southern University
-  New **Airline Highway Community Park**, which includes 16 new pickleball courts
-  Updated master plans for **Perkins Road Community Park + City-Brooks Community Park**
-  Build-out of the **Scotlandville Parkway Park Master Plan**



HOW TO GET INVOLVED Email or call your legislator: house.louisiana.gov/H_Cmtes/Municipal

SPREAD THE WORD Share this fact sheet with friends, family, and neighbors. Post key points on social media using the hashtag **#BRECmakesParksBETTER**

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 Subscribe to text updates from the Baton Rouge Zoo Foundation by **texting BREC Bills** to 844-541-9170 or by scanning the QR code

SHOW UP Attend public meetings and legislative sessions

The bill is set to go before the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs after session begins on April 14, 2025.

