

# *Baton Rouge Area Foundation*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2014

Contact: Mukul Verma, director of communications, (225) 381-7116 (o), (225) 362-9260 (c),  
[mverma@braf.org](mailto:mverma@braf.org)

## **Top Consultants Bidding to Create Master Plan for Baton Rouge Lakes**

*Finalists will present in open meeting June 30; master plan will begin in late summer*

Teams led by landscape architects from around the world have submitted proposals to create a \$400,000 master plan for City Park and University lakes, and four additional Baton Rouge lakes that connect to them.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation asked landscape architects to bid for master planning to enhance the lakes and its surroundings with amenities in balance with long-term preservation of the natural system. By deadline last week, 15 planning teams had submitted proposals to do the work. (The list of the teams is attached.)

With engineering and public outreach, the total project is estimated at \$750,000. The Foundation has secured the money from fund donors, generous philanthropists and other foundations.

A selection committee that includes project partners is being formed to choose finalists for the master plan. Partners include the Foundation, LSU, city-parish government, underwriters and representatives of area homeowners.

Finalists are expected to present in an open meeting June 30 at the Manship Theatre. Information about those meeting will be available through the media and at **Facebook.com/BatonRougeLakes**. Residents are encouraged to attend the presentations and offer comments for guiding the final selection.

The Foundation expects to sign an agreement with the winning firm by late June or early July, with planning beginning in late summer or early fall. The completed plan is expected within a year.

“The competing teams include some of the most accomplished landscape architecture firms in the nation, and most of them are collaborating with Louisiana firms that have deep knowledge of our lakes and how treasured they are by the people of our parish,” said John G. Davies, president and CEO of the Foundation.

Under a request for proposals, the Foundation stated that planners must engage residents of East Baton Rouge to seek ideas for making the lakes an even better destination for the community. Planners were also asked to offer an overall design for the lakes and 45 acres that surround it, a circulation plan that includes paths with connections to area neighborhoods, as well as gateway suggestions for exits at I-10 and Dalrymple Drive. Planners must deliver a landscaping scheme, design wayfinding and signs, offer a habitat restoration plan and suggest methods for reducing noise and mitigating drainage from I-10.

## *Baton Rouge Area Foundation*



Funding sources for dredging and building amenities must be identified in the final plan. Recommendations for governing will be included to ensure the long-term upkeep and improvement of the City Park and LSU Lakes, along with the four smaller lakes that connect to them.

The Foundation announced the lakes project – Destination: The Lakes – at its 50th anniversary celebration in March. The work is being conducted in consultation with donors to the project, lake-area residents, LSU and the city-parish, which own the lakes; and BREC, which operates Milford Wampold Memorial Park on Stanford Avenue.

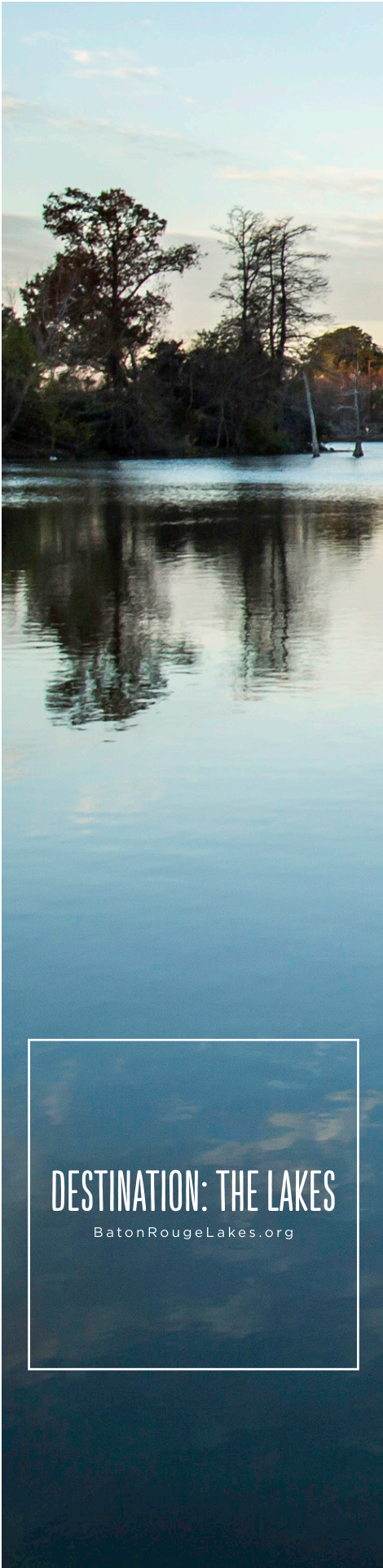
The city's lakes were created in the 1930's by transforming an undesirable stretch of swamp to open water for the parish to enjoy. But the lakes face problems, much bigger than even the lack of safe pathways for pedestrians. On average, the lakes are only 2.5 feet deep and getting shallower each year. If nothing is done, the lakes will turn into mud flats and eventually revert to swampland.

A 2008 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report recommends dredging the lakes to an average depth of five feet, with deeper areas for healthy fish habitats. The Corps also recommends tubes for flushing out sediment, preserving the lakes' health for more than five decades to come. The expectation is that oxygen levels in the water will be higher after 50 years than they are now.

The Foundation is building on the Corps report. Engineers hired by the Foundation have measured lake depths and probed the lake bottom to determine its soil composition. This research is crucial for understanding how much material has to be dredged up, as well as how it can be used to build new amenities, such as walking paths along the shoreline.

The landscape architect-led team will come behind the engineers, delivering a final plan by summer 2015. Knowing how much material has to be dredged and what can be created with it, they will seek public input about amenities, such as trails along the shoreline.

###



## **CONSULTANT TEAM LIST**

### **BATON ROUGE AREA LAKES MASTER PLAN**

#### **1. Imelk**

- a. ETM Associates
- b. Franklin Associates
- c. James Lima Development
- d. John Nyman
- e. Nomad Studio Landscape Architect
- f. Pentagram
- g. Sherwood Design Engineers

#### **2. Dana Brown & Associates, Inc/ Bosch Slabbers Landscape + Urban Design**

- a. Deltares
- b. Moffatt & Nichol
- c. Royal HaskoningDHV
- d. Waggoner & Ball Architects

#### **3. Design Workshop, Inc.**

- a. Applied Ecological Services
- b. Baird Engineering
- c. CSRS
- d. Dr. Yi Jun Xu/LSU
- e. Eskew Dumez Ripple
- f. ETM Associates
- g. Reich Associates

#### **4. EDSA, Inc.**

- a. CBI Inc.
- b. Dr. Jim Richardson
- c. Joseph Furr Design Studio

#### **5. Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture**

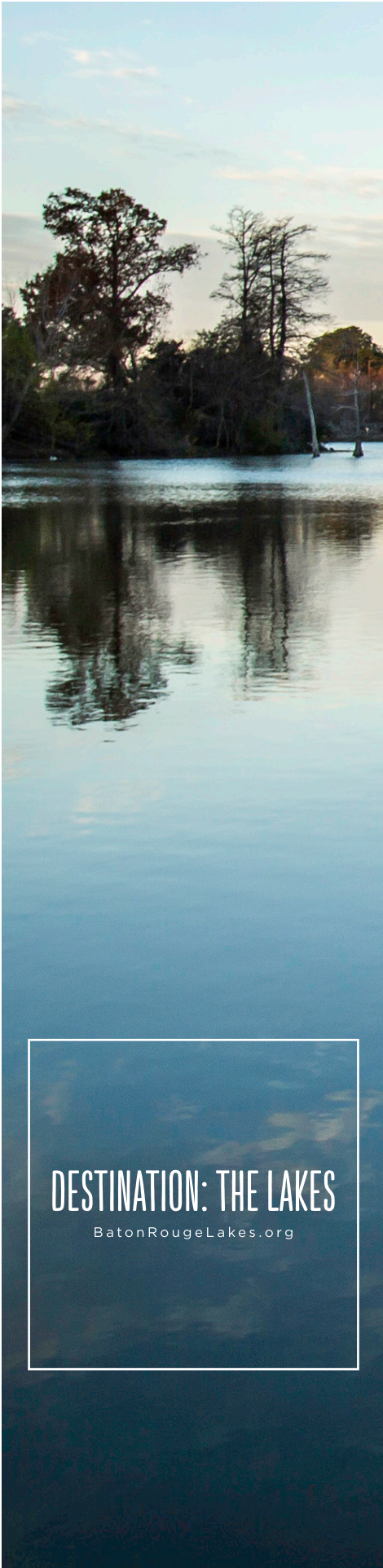
- a. HDR
- b. Kevin Harris Architect
- c. Lincoln Builders
- d. ORCA Consulting
- e. Roll Barresi Associates
- f. Toole Design Group

#### **6. Michael Baker International**

- a. LEED Green Associate
- b. McKnight Landscape Architecture

#### **7. Perkins + Will**

- a. Abbey Associates, Inc.
- b. Project Finance Advisory Limited
- c. River Oaks Wetland Services, Inc.
- d. Sherwood Design Engineers



## **8. Port Architects**

- a. E-Design Dynamics
- b. Metrostudio
- c. Richard L. Hindle

## **9. RDG**

- a. Ballard\*King & Associates, Ltd
- b. Stantec

## **10. Reed Hilderbrand**

- a. ETM Associates
- b. Faithful & Gould
- c. Gulf South Research Corp
- d. LAM Partners
- e. Lord Cultural Resources
- f. MSME
- g. Roll Barresi & Associates
- h. Sherwood Design Engineers
- i. William Fontenot

## **11. Sasaki**

- a. Applied Ecological Services
- b. Heller + Heller
- c. Leisure Vision
- d. Spackman Mossop + Michaels Landscape Architecture/Planning

## **12. SWA Group in association with Jeffrey Carbo Landscape Architects**

- a. Biohabitats
- b. ETM Associates
- c. Pros Consulting
- d. Sherwood Engineering
- e. Stantec

## **13. SWT Design**

- a. Tetra Tech, Inc.
- b. Urban Systems, Inc.

## **14. The Office of James Burnett**

- a. Coleman Partners Architects
- b. RSM Design
- c. Stantec

## **15. Wallace Roberts & Todd Design**

- a. Etc Institute/ Leisure Vision
- b. Kate Keating Associates, Inc.
- c. Pros Consulting
- d. Spackman Mossop + Michaels