Lakes District Master Plan
&
Landscape Design Consideration

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PROPOSAL SUMMARY
CITY PARK/UNIVERSITY LAKES MASTER PLAN

ORGANIZATION NAME: BATON ROUGE GREEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Lynn F. Morris

BRIEF SUMMARY: The purpose of this proposal summary is to provide information regarding the scope of the CITY PARK/UNIVERSITY LAKES MASTER PLAN. The focus of the Master Plan will include the City Park and the University Lakes and the approximately six-mile greenspace immediately adjacent to the lakes. The purpose of the Master Plan is to create enhancement opportunities for the entire Lakes District, which includes addressing quality of life issues and environmental concerns.

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Lynn F. Morris, Baton Rouge Green

PROJECT DESIGNERS: Lorrie Henslee and Van Cox, ASLA

ADDRESS: 448 N. 11th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

E-MAIL: bgreen4u@aol.com

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (225) 381-0037

FAX NUMBER: (225) 387-3887

REASON FOR PROJECT: The CITY PARK/UNIVERSITY LAKES MASTER PLAN will fulfill the goals addressed in the HORIZON PLAN, which are to provide a living environment that offers clean air and water and sufficient amount of green space for the citizens. (Goal LU 5, Goal E1, Goal E5, Goal E6, Goal E7, Action LU 5, G). The theme of the HORIZON PLAN is based on enhancing the “sense of place” that Baton Rouge derives from the natural beauty of its landscape.

MISSION STATEMENT: Baton Rouge Green is dedicated to the planting and conservation of our urban forest.
NARRATIVE SECTION

1. CONCISE HISTORY:

Founded in 1987, Baton Rouge Green Association, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 ©(3) member based organization. The goals of BRG are to 1) plant trees 2) educate the community and 3) conserve our existing urban forest canopy. We share a vision of a healthy, attractive and productive urban forest that will contribute to a sustainable economy and environment for all of our fellow citizens.

BRG serves the citizens as a catalyst coordinating projects with the City/Parish Department of Public Works, LA DOTD, LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry, LA DEQ, private citizens, civic groups, the Federation of Civic Associations, and the Recreation and Park Commission (BREC).

BRG also coordinates projects with the public and private school systems, local utility companies and area businesses with the assistance of the Louisiana State University Departments of Landscape Architecture and Forestry, as well as the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Southern University Department of Urban Forestry, local and state foresters and independent landscape architects.

Baton Rouge Green has planted more than 24,000 trees and returned more than $5.2 million dollars worth of projects to the Greater Baton Rouge Area.

2. CHALLENGES TO BE MET BY THE PROJECT:

There are specific complex issues that are indigenous to the lakes. The priorities for programming and expenditures of funds will address the following public concerns:

- The need to aerate the lakes and accentuate the visual drama of the lakes by providing tall, vertical jets of water in the lakes as focal points for travelers, residents and motorists
- The need for provision of facilities for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists
- The need for adequate provision for passive recreation
- The need for adequate and attractive lighting
- The need to provide for the enhancement of scenic views
• The lack of adequate provision for outdoor seating

• The need for provision to provide for the rehabilitation of eroded shoreline

• The lack of any provision or maintenance plan to provide for the preservation of existing historic Live Oaks and Bald Cypress trees

• The need for provision or plan to mitigate for water pollution due to stagnation and highway runoff

• The need for provision or plan to mitigate for air pollution due to density of roadway/interstate usage

• The need to properly landscape the exit ramp from I-10 to Dalrymple Drive leading into the LSU campus, the flagship of our State University system

• The need to minimize the adverse impacts of noise pollution on the residents and the general public who live and/or seek recreation along the lakes

• The need to provide for the improvement of the visual quality of all public lands surrounding the City Park/University Lakes

• The need to maintain, restore and enhance plant and wildlife communities in the Lakes District

• The priority of being good stewards of this great asset and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Baton Rouge

3. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**METHODOLOGY:**

Given the widespread public interest and use of the City Parks/University Lakes, there has been an intensive exploratory survey to examine and review the physical aspects of the City Park/University Lakes. The latest aerial photography and ground truthing were used to create an overall Master Plan. The Master Plan utilizes all information obtained from the site analysis to develop a comprehensive plan for the entire six mile area.
PRODUCT:

The City Park/University Lakes Master Plan diagnosis includes an illustrated review and diagnosis report including diagrams and sketches, describing discoveries and observations from direct field experiences and discussions with the focus people and groups concerned.

The Diagnosis includes ideas for potential approaches to enhancement, both general and site specific, including the use of native or indigenous plant materials. More than one option probably will be described for various conditions, including special entries, gateways, unique landscaping and the selection of appropriate plant materials. In the construction drawings, opportunities for and constraints to landscape design will be delineated, with special emphasis on, but not limited to, the following landscape elements:

PHASE I:

SITE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Bicycle/Jogging/Walking Paths: Recommendations for expanding and improving the existing path system are made, with special emphasis on safety to pedestrians and cyclists and limited impact on the existing landscape setting; should opportunities occur, exercise areas are designated as well.

- Fishing Piers/Bulkheads: As part of the path system and shoreline functional issues, provisions are made for a limited number of pier and bulkhead areas to accommodate fishing, wildlife observation, and prevent edge erosion.

- Seating/Gathering Areas: Vantage points or special viewing opportunities are proposed, with appropriate seating provided.

- Parking: As needed, limited parking is proposed, designed with safety and minimal disturbance to the immediate surroundings in mind.

- Lighting: Special landscape lighting is proposed in specific areas to supplement existing street lighting for security and for aesthetic effect.

- Fountains/Sculpture: As part of the functional and aesthetic recommendations, sitings for aeration and decorative water features are proposed; additional aesthetic measures may include the siting of and setting general thematic character for various sculptural pieces.

- Memorial plantings: Specific areas are designated for memorial plantings with granite markers at ground level.
DESCRIPTION OF ENHANCEMENTS:

Asphalt Paths (6’ wide throughout)
35,000 linear feet (approximately 6.6 miles) @ 6’ wide min.

Asphalt Parking Spaces (various locations)
Minimum of 75 spaces as noted on plans

Boardwalk (at various locations where asphalt along the lakes’ edge is not feasible, i.e. sharp curves, no space, etc.)
See plan for locations

Fishing/Viewing Piers (6+ locations)
See plan for exact locations

Boardwalk, Pier and Path Lighting (this would occur only where street lighting does not provide adequate coverage)
Throughout study area

Fountains (4)
Two (2) major fountains near interstate that create a column of water approximately 60’ height and includes lights

Two (2) minor fountains that create a column of water approximately 30’ height and include lights

Miscellaneous Grading & Bank Stabilization
This will occur throughout the project wherever conditions warrant treatment

Removable of Underbrush and Undesirable Trees (entire area)
This would cover removal of dead trees and underbrush and clearing of unsightly areas as needed

Additional Planting (entire area)
Trees as proposed in the design
Accent Plantings at various areas
PHASE II:

FORMATION OF THE CITY PARK/UNIVERSITY LAKES FOUNDATION
COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

LSU
City/Parish Department of Public Works
BREC
Lake District Civic Associations
Baton Rouge Green Association
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

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CONTINUING THE PROJECT

INFORMATION TRANSFERRAL: Public Presentations

- POWER POINT PRESENTATION DEVELOPED
- CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS CONTACTED AND PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULED
- MASTER LIST OF INTERESTED RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS DEVELOPED

FINAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS:

- PRELIMINARY DESIGN PRESENTATION AND REVIEW
- FINAL DESIGN PRESENTATION TO INCLUDE TECHNICAL BREAKDOWN OF ALL DESIGN ELEMENTS, PLANTING PLANS, ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS WITH ASSOCIATED COST ESTIMATES, ETC.
- CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FINALIZED

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

- PLANS PRESENTED TO THE UTILITY COORDINATING COUNCIL
- LETTERS OF NO OBJECTION FROM AFFECTED UTILITY COMPANIES
- PERMITS RECEIVED
- PRE-BID CONFERENCE
- BID OPENING
- BIDS AWARDED
- Letters to all participants including the Governor, Congressmen, LSU Board of Supervisors, Mayor, Metro Council, DPW, BREC and other interested persons inviting them to attend ceremonial planting
- MEDIA RELEASES
• PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE
• WORK BEGINS
• ONGOING SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION WORK
• INSPECTION OF PLANT MATERIAL PRIOR TO INSTALLATION
• SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION
• FINAL APPROVAL

PROJECT MAINTENANCE IMPLEMENTATION:

• MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATIONS DRAWN UP
• PRE-BID CONFERENCE
• BIDS AWARDED
• MAINTENANCE REGIMEN ESTABLISHED
• "AFTER" PICTURES TAKEN

Presently, BREC, City/Parish DPW, and LSU are providing mowing and litter pick up of the lakeshore. The maintenance regimen of this project will involve coordination of these maintenance crews with additional privately funded maintenance of designated areas.
CITY PARK/UNIVERSITY LAKES FOUNDATION

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY PROPOSAL

In 1994 the Lakes Commission recommended that a charitable organization be formed with a 501 ©(3) status to be the vehicle used to raise money to fund projects to benefit the Lakes and to oversee the management of the Lakes.

On June 14, 1995 Resolution # 35925 to “AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF THE PRIVATE NON-PROFIT UNIVERSITY LAKES FOUNDATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS” was approved by the Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge. (See attached) The City-Parish Government and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determined that it would be advisable to develop a uniform management approach to protect past improvements, provide a mechanism for future improvements, establish practical management methods and procedures, and streamline responsibilities.

General areas of concern listed in the original Project Summary furnished by the City-Parish included: Water Quality, Shoreline Protection and Enhancement, Maintenance, Lake Use, Enforcement and Jurisdiction Liability, Legislative Requirements, Educational Programs, and Funding.

In 2000 the Lakes Steering Committee was formed to review the current status of the Lakes and review the recommendations made by the Lakes Commission in 1994. Members of the Steering Committee are Metro Council Members Ms. Lori Burgess (District 10); James T. “Jim” Benham District 12); Fred Raiford (Director, City/Parish Department of Public Works, Greg Jones, DPW/Engineering; Lynn Morris, Executive Director Baton Rouge Green; Lorrie Henslee, Landscape Architect; Van Cox, Landscape Architect; Jolie Berry, Resident and BRG Board Member; Kelly Rusch, Ph.D., LSU Environmental Engineer, John Sansalone, Ph.D. LSU Environmental Engineer; Bill Benedetto, ENTERGY; Andrew Barron,
DEQ Water Quality Division. Gordon Nelson, DOTD; Carol Marabella and Alison Thompson, residents.

The Lakes Steering Committee approved the creation of a Master Plan for the Lakes District and a study of the water quality of the University/City Park Lakes. The Committee has completed Phase I of the Master Plan, which addresses the safety and aesthetic issues inventoried in the 6-mile area immediately adjacent to the City Park and University Lakes.

The next logical step is to follow the directive of the Lakes Commission and the Metropolitan Council and to form a non-profit foundation with an Executive Director and a 15 member Board of Directors. The Executive Director will be responsible for coordinating fund raising efforts; implementing a management plan which includes implementing the 2000 Master Plan; continuing to conduct water quality research projects and following the other directives of the Lakes Commission where appropriate. The members of the 1994 Lakes Commission and the Lakes Steering Committee of 2000 will be asked to continue to serve as technical consultants for this charitable foundation.

The Board of Directors would consist of representatives of the primary stakeholders for the Lakes including LSU, the Recreation and Park Commission (BREC), DOTD, DEQ, City/Parish Department of Public Works and representatives from the adjacent civic associations.

It is recommended that each of these entities generate the funding for the implementation of the Master Plan and financially support the proper management of the Lakes at an appropriate level. Furthermore, it is suggested that a methodology for determining the amount of the financial support of the primary landowners for the management of the Lakes and the implementation of the Master Plan can be based on the percentage of lake frontage owned by each entity based on the whole. Private residential property owners could use the same methodology to arrive at a reasonable level of financial participation.
Executive Director:

The Lakes Foundation functions through a committee system coordinated by a full-time paid Executive Director. It is recommended that the Executive Director, who would not be civil service, be familiar with Limnology, experienced in Lake Management and Recreational Management, and have the demonstrated ability to facilitate community support. Supporting staff, however, could be Civil Service and the office and office equipment could be located within the City-Parish government to reduce overhead expenses.

The full-time Executive Director and support staff are to oversee day-to-day management activities and to coordinate the efforts of the six committees: Lake System Committee; Water Quality Committee; Recreation Committee; Aesthetics Committee; Natural Resources Committee; Jurisdiction Committee.

The urgency of addressing the condition of the Lakes and the associated quality of life issues cannot continue to be ignored. The City Park and University Lakes are the “Central Park” of Baton Rouge and experienced in some form by more than 200,000 people on a daily basis. Safety issues are of immediate concern and it is urged that appropriate measures be undertaken to demonstrate the collective responsibility of the landowners and governing agencies of this parish.
April 30, 2001

Mr. Bill Palmer
Recreation & Park Commission
Parish of East Baton Rouge
P. O. Box 15887
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Re: Memorandum of Understanding
City/Parish, BREC, LSU, Baton Rouge Green
Lakes District Project

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Enclosed is the Memorandum of Understanding agreement executed by the City/Parish, LSU and Baton Rouge Green in regard to the Lakes District Project. After final execution by BREC, please return a copy to me.

Sincerely,

Fred E. Raiford, III
Director

FER:am

enclosure
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ORGANIZATION NAME: Baton Rouge Green Association, Inc.

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NUMBER: 72-1124182

ADDRESS: 448 North 11th Street
          Baton Rouge, LA 70802

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 225-381-0037

FAX NUMBER: 225-387-3887

E-mail: bgreen4u@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.batrougegreen.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Lynn F. Morris

PROJECT DESIGNERS: Lorrie Henslee and Van Cox, ASLA

BRG TECHNICAL CONTACT: Michael R. Spafford, Horticulturist/Arborist

MISSION STATEMENT: Baton Rouge Green is dedicated to planting and conserving our urban forest.

SERVICE AREA: Greater Baton Rouge Area

INITIAL Term and Renewal Term(s):
(a) This Agreement shall be for an initial term of one (1) year from and after the date of execution by the parties ("Initial Term").

(b) At the end of the Initial Term, this agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year terms ("Renewal Term (s)"), unless a Party's intent not to renew is provided in writing to the other Party, at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the initial Term or any Renewal Term hereof.
BRIEF SUMMARY:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to express the agreement of all parties involved in the enhancement of the City Park and University Lakes to implement the Master Plan and to confirm the role of BRG in this process. BRG is hereby authorized to seek and obtain funds from any source, public or private, to accomplish the implementation of the Master Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1994 the Lakes Commission recommended that a charitable 501 (3) organization be formed to be the vehicle used to raise money to fund projects to benefit the Lakes and to oversee the management of the Lakes.

On June 14, 1995 Resolution # 35925 to “AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF THE PRIVATE NON-PROFIT UNIVERSITY LAKES FOUNDATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS” WAS APPROVED BY THE Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge. The City-Parish Government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determined that it would be advisable to develop a uniform management approach to protect past improvements, provide a mechanism for future improvements, establish practical management methods and procedures, and streamline responsibilities.

General areas of concern listed in the original Project Summary furnished by the City-Parish included: Water Quality, Shoreline Protection and Enhancement, Maintenance, Lake Use, Enforcement and Jurisdiction Liability, Legislative Requirements, Educational Programs, and funding.

In 2000 the Lakes Steering Committee was formed as an ad hoc group to review the current status of the Lakes and review the recommendations made by the Lakes Commission in 1994. Members of the Steering Committee are Metro Council Members: Mayor ProTem Ms. Lorri Burgess (District 10); James T. “Jim” Benham (District 12); Fred Raiford (Director, City/Parish Department of Public Works; Greg Jones, DPW/Engineering; Lynn Morris, Executive Director, Baton Rouge Green; Lorrie Henslee, Landscape Architect; Van Cox, Landscape Architect; Jolie Berry, Resident and BRG Board Member; Kelly Rusch, Ph.D., LSU Environmental Engineer; John Sancelone, Ph.D., LSU Environmental Engineer; Bill Benedetto, ENTERGY; DEQ Water Quality Division and Bill Palmer, BREC.
The Lakes Steering Committee approved the creation of a Master Plan for the Lakes District and a study of the water quality of the University/City Parks Lakes. The Committee has completed Phase I of the Master Plan, which addresses the safety and aesthetic issues inventoried in the 6-mile area immediately adjacent to the City Park and University Lakes. In January 2001 LSU, BREC and the City-Parish applied for Tea-21 funding from DOTD for additional bike paths. These applications were approved.

The next logical step is to follow the directive of the Lakes Commission and the Metropolitan Council and to form a non-profit foundation with an Executive Director and a Board of Directors. While this Foundation is being created, it is necessary to continue the implementation and management of this important project and to raise monies to make this possible. It is the understanding of the parties involved that the role of coordinating this project and implementing a fundraising strategy will be the responsibility of BRG.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONCISE HISTORY

Founded in 1987, Baton Rouge Green is a 501 © (3) not-for-profit grassroots, citizen-based organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of our natural urban forest and to the improvement of the quality of life of our citizens. Baton Rouge Green provides the Greater Baton Rouge Area with an urban reforestation program based on research and professional guidelines. To date, Baton Rouge Green has planted and is maintaining more than 25,000 trees and returned more than $5mm projects to the Greater Baton Rouge Area. More than 750 volunteers assist in the tree planting projects. BRG serves as a catalyst to plant and conserve our urban forest. BRG creates new partnerships bringing together the resources of the city/parish government, private citizens, civic groups, the Federation of Civic Associations, the Recreation and Park Commission (BREC), the public & private school systems, local utility companies and area businesses with the Louisiana State University Schools of Landscape Architecture and Forestry, Southern University Urban Forestry Program, local & state foresters, and independent landscape architects.

The Baton Rouge Green School Program, "Trees for Our Children's Future," has planted more than 6,500 trees at 75 public and private schools reaching more than 44,000 school children, more than 500 teachers and more than 88,000 parents in EBRP. To date, "Trees for Our Children's Future" has returned more than $230,000 in school projects to the community. BRG has planted more than 1,118 trees in thirty-one BREC parks throughout the parish with a value of more than $35,360. Also, Baton Rouge Green has planted 96 trees in three public housing projects with a value of $3,920. We have planted and maintain more than 6,000 trees on the interstates and local highways in the Greater Baton Rouge Area. Presently, we are partnering with the research team at NASA's Global Hydrology and Climate Center and EPA to use remote sensing data to analyze the relationship between land use patterns and urban heat island development. Analysis of thermal energy characteristics helps us understand how we can modify the city landscape to lessen the impacts of the urban heat island and its subsequent effects on air quality.
The results of Baton Rouge Green projects and programs have been significant. Citizens have an increased awareness of their personal contribution to the environment and a better understanding and appreciation of the value of their trees. Baton Rouge Green is an advocate for our urban forest, which improves air & water quality, reduces the heat island effect and softens the harsh lines of the urban world, creates wildlife diversity, and improves personal health. Baton Rouge Green projects and programs impact all our citizens as we work to improve the quality of life in our schools, parks, neighborhoods, and roadways.

2. CHALLENGE TO BE MET BY THE PROJECT:

There are specific complex issues that are indigenous to the lakes. The priorities for programming and expenditures of funds will address public concerns. A sample of those concerns is listed in alphabetical order:

- **Bicycle/Jogging/Walking Paths**: Recommendations for expanding and improving the existing path system will be made. Specific grant requests were submitted to DOTD for TEA-21 grant monies to build these paths.
- **Fishing Piers/Bulkheads**: As part of the path system and shoreline functional issues, construction drawings will be drawn to meet all safety requirements.
- **Fountains**: The need to aerate the lakes and accentuate the visual drama of the lakes by providing tall, vertical jets of water in the lakes as focal points for travelers, residents and motorists.
- **Lighting**: Special landscape lighting, including lamp posts and lighted bollards will be recommended for safety and security.
- **Memorials**: Specific areas will be designated for memorial tributes.
- **Parking**: As needed limited parking will be proposed, designed and installed.
- **Planting**: In addition to an assessment of existing vegetation, specific proposal for supplemental plantings of an indigenous nature will be made.
- **Sculpture**: As part of the aesthetic recommendations, outdoor sculpture will be recommended.
- **Seating/Gathering Areas**: Specific recommendations for benches will be made.

- **Dredging the lakes**: In an effort to improve the water quality of the lakes, dredging has been recommended, the cost of which is undetermined at the present time. A separate study will be conducted to determine the feasibility of dredging.
3. **BRG RESPONSIBILITIES:**

For an agreed upon monthly fee, BRG agrees to provide the following services:

- As the fiscal agent for the Lakes Project, BRG will provide a detailed listing of each account and category to which Postlethwaite and Netterville, Certified Public Accountants, has assigned account numbers for the Lakes Project. Each of these accounts will be used in coding deposits and cash disbursements. BRG working with P&N will prepare a compiled financial statement compared to budget for the Lakes Project on a monthly basis based on information provided by BRG, i.e., annual budget, coded check stubs, coded bank deposits, and bank statements. P&N will invoice the Lakes Project separately for their services. Furthermore, as the fiscal agent for the Lakes Project, BRG will have the following specific responsibilities:
  - Open and maintain a bank account with the title: “BRG: Lakes Project”
  - BRG, working with P&N will compile a monthly statement of assets, liabilities and fund balances and a related statement of revenues and expenses.

Monthly account statements, financial analysis and annual budget preparation will assure the Lakes Commission and the BRG Board of Directors that the terms of our agreement are being met. On a monthly basis, BRG will perform the following services:

- Record cash receipts and disbursements from coded checks and deposits
- Reconcile bank accounts
- Prepare monthly financial statements
- Monthly budget comparison statement prepared for review
- Preparation of the annual federal tax return
- Provide project coordination and support in the following ways:
  - Assist in preparations for committee meetings of stakeholders
  - Assist in evaluating, planning, organizing and implementing successful fundraising events and solicitation for individual and corporate contributions
  - Assist in public relations by speaking to representative community groups, television and radio appearances, preparation of speeches, media releases, news articles, and correspondence
- Maintain accurate data base
Representatives of City/Parish, BREC, LSU and Baton Rouge Green sign this Memorandum of Understanding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITY OF BATON ROUGE</td>
<td>Robert Blane</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION</td>
<td>Eugene E Young</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>5/4/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>Mark A. Emmet</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>3/27/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BATON ROUGE GREEN ASSOCIATION, INC.</td>
<td>Owen D. Keeg</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>3/13/01</td>
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Approved as to Form

Parish Attorney's Office
SUMMARY
LAKES DISTRICT MASTER PLAN

LAKES DISTRICT MASTER PLAN MISSION:
• To improve the functional and visual natural and cultural lakes district environment.
• The overall goal is the integration of contiguous shoreline areas, which includes edge treatments, proposed linkages to or expanding existing pedestrian pathways and any measures to enhance environmental quality.

HOW THE LAKES DISTRICT MASTER PLAN WORKS:
• The Lakes Committee with Baton Rouge Green serving as the primary liaison will implement the Lakes District Master Plan. BRG coordinates with the public and private partners to combine resources and enhance/improve the Lakes District. Community involvement is the cornerstone of the implementation of the Lakes District Master Plan. Liaisons from the neighborhood associations are appointed to the steering committee along with representatives from the City/Parish, LSU, BREC, DOTFD, and DEQ, the community and the landscape design team.

PARTICIPANTS:

POTENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:
♦ College Town Civic Association
♦ Southside Civic Association
♦ Lakeshore Civic Association
♦ Residents of the area

CITY/PARISH GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:
♦ Department of Public Works
♦ Division of Landscape and Forestry

BREC:
♦ Eugene Young
♦ Bill Palmer

LSU:
♦ Facilities Services

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
• Arts Council of Baton Rouge
• Private Sector: Corporations, local businesses, service organizations
• Landscape Design Team: Henslee/Cox
• Baton Rouge Green Association, Inc.
WHERE DOES THE LAKES MASTER PLAN FUNDING COME FROM:

♦ LA DOTD Enhancement Program
♦ City/Parish
♦ BREC
♦ LSU
♦ Private foundations, corporations, and citizens
♦ Maintenance Costs: All of the above, with the exception of DOTD

LAKE MASTER PLAN PROCESS & TIMELINE:

♦ Lakes Master Plan implementation will follow a phased in timeline starting in the fall of 2001

BATON ROUGE GREEN BOARD INVOLVEMENT:

♦ Assist in preparations for committee meetings of stakeholders
♦ Assist in evaluating, planning, organizing and implementing successful fundraising events and solicitation for individual and corporate contributions
♦ Assist in public relations by speaking to representative community groups, television and radio appearances, and preparation of speeches, media releases, news articles and correspondence.
♦ Assist in preparations for committee meetings for stakeholders
♦ Maintain accurate data base

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

♦ Make your tax-deductible contribution to the project by “buying” a tree, bench, bollard, etc.
♦ Give talks to other citizens and civic associations
♦ Encourage your neighbors to participate and support the lakes project
"WISH LIST" FOR VARIOUS LAKES PROJECT COMPONENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BENCH</td>
<td>$600 - 1,000 depending on size</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOLLARD LIGHT</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTROL BOLLARD</td>
<td>$200-500 depending on type and location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLE LIGHT</td>
<td>$1000 - 1500 depending on size</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEDESTRIAN WATER FOUNTAIN</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRASH RECEPTACLE</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXERCISE STATION</td>
<td>$1000-2500 depending on type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESTROOM BUILDING</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTANCE MARKER</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAZEBO/PAVILION</td>
<td>$12,000-35,000 depending on size and location</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIER/BOARDWALK</td>
<td>$20-25 per square foot depending on location</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAKE FOUNTAIN</td>
<td>$10,000-50,000 depending on size and location</td>
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<td>VARIOUS TREES (30 gal.)</td>
<td>$230</td>
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<td>VARIOUS SHRUBS (3 gal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1 gal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(7 gal)</td>
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Area References

1. NORTH CITY PARK LAKE AREA
(Area generally bounded on the north by Magnolia Ln./Broussard Street and on the south by the I-10/12 bridge.)

a. North Edge
- Expand Pedestrian Path (650 L.F. @ 12.) 7,800.
- Add additional Barriers (1,000 L.F. @ 5.) 5,000.
- Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 20,000.
- Pollution Control Strips (1,000 L.F. @ 10.) 10,000.
- Improve Parking Definition (Lump) 5,000.
- Lighting Improvements (Lump) 7,000.
- Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 2,000.

b. City Park/Dalrymple
- Expand Pedestrian Path North on Park Blvd. (2,500 L.F. @ 12.) 30,000.
- Expand Pedestrian Path South on West Side of Dalrymple to Interstate (3,000 L.F. @ 12.) 36,000.
- Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 50,000.
- Pollution Control Strips (2,800 L.F. @ 10.) 28,000.
- Expand/Improve Barriers (7,400 L.F. @ 5.) 37,000.
- Additional Road Markings (Lump) 5,000.
- Security Lighting Improvements (Lump) 20,000.
- New Parking Area West of Dalrymple (Approx. 50 spaces @ 400.) 20,000.
- Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 2,000.

Subtotals for Area 1: 282,800
2. WEST CITY PARK LAKE EDGE
(Area generally parallel to Dalrymple Drive south of Interstate to May Street)

- Security Lighting (Lump) 2,500.
- Bridge Area Interpretive Boardwalk
  - Add Boardwalk (750) s.f. @ 20 including benches and Interpretive signage 15,000
  - Security Lighting (Lump) 4,000.
  - Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 2,500.
  - Improve Existing Barriers (750 L.F. @ 5.) 3,750.
  - Add additional Barriers (750 L.F. @ 5.) 3,750.
  - Redefine Parking (Lump, including new paving) 7,500.
  - Security Lighting (Lump) 4,000.
- Dalrymple Drive Pedestrian Path Extensions
  - Add New Path adjacent to Lake (500 L.F. @12.) 6,000.
  - Expand Path Southward on West Side of Dalrymple (1,750 L.F. @ 12.) 24,000.
  - Improve Existing Barriers (1,200 L.F. @ 5.) 6,000.
  - Add additional Barriers (1,750 L.F. @ 5.) 8,750.

Subtotals for Area 2: 87,750

3. SOUTH CITY PARK LAKE EDGE
(Area generally extending north of May Street and along south side of City Park Lake)

- Redefine Parking (Lump, including new paving) 10,000.
- Expand Pedestrian Path (1,000 L.F. @ 12.) 12,000.
- Pollution Control Strips (1,150 L.F. @ 10.) 11,500.
- Additional Road Markings (Lump) 1,000.
- Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 2,500.
- Improve Existing Barriers (750 L.F. @ 5.) 3,750.
- Add additional Barriers (750 L.F. @ 5.) 3,750.
- Security Lighting (Lump) 8,000.

Subtotals for Area 3: 52,500

4. NORTH UNIVERSITY LAKE EDGE
(Area generally extending south of May Street and along north side of University Lake)

- Redefine Parking (Lump, including new barriers) 5,000.
- Remark Pedestrian Path (Lump) 1,000.
- Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 1,500.
- Improve Existing Barriers (Lump, including Bridge Rails) 2,500.
- Add Additional Barriers (175 L.F. @ 5.) 875.
- Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 10,000.
- Additional Road Markings (Lump) 1,000.
- Security Lighting (Lump) 6,000.

Subtotals for Area 4: 27,875
5. DALRYMPLE ® CREST/UNIVERSITY LAKES
(Ensuring generally on either side of Dalrymple Drive between Crest and University Lakes)
a. Crest Lake (West) Side
   - Expand Pedestrian Path (1,200 L.F. @ 12.) 14,400.
   - Redefine Parking (Lump, including new barriers) 10,000.
   - Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 7,500.
   - Pollution Control Strips (1,200 L.F. @ 10.) 12,000.
   - Pedestrian Security Lighting (Lump) 7,500.
   - Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 1,500.
   - Additional Road Markings (Lump) 1,000.
b. University Lake (East) Side
   - Expand Pedestrian Path w/7' Wide Precast Concrete Panels w/Railings (750 L.F. @ 175.) 131,250.
   - Redefine Pedestrian Path (Lump, including new barriers) 6,000.
   - Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 15,000.
   - Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 1,500.
   - Additional Road Markings (Lump) 1,000.
c. Dalrymple/May Street Cut-Off Area
   - Pedestrian Security Lighting (Lump) 2,000.
   - Interpretive Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 1,500.
   - Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 5,000.
   - Pollution Control Strips (200 L.F. @ 10.) 2,000.
   - Pedestrian Path Markings (Lump) 500.

Subtotals for Area 5: 219,650

6. BIRD SANCTUARY
(Areas generally managed by Louisiana State University, including lakeside areas on West Lakeshore and South Stadium, Campus, College and University Lakes, and the relationship to the overall Campus Master Plan*)
a. North and East Campus Area
   - Expand Pedestrian Path (5,400 L.F. @ 12.) 64,800.
   - Pollution Control Strips (5,000 L.F. @ 10.) 50,000.
   - Additional Road Markings (Lump) 3,000.
   - Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 5,000.
   - Add Barriers (3,600 L.F. @ 5.) 18,000.
   - Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 30,000.
   - Security Lighting (Lump) 100,000.
b. Burden Bird Sanctuary
   - Expand Pedestrian Path (6,500 L.F. @ 12.) 78,000.
Pollution Control Strips (3,500 L.F. @ 10.) 35,000.
   - Additional Road Markings (Lump) 3,500.
   - Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 7,000.
   - Security Lighting (Lump) 150,000.
d. Campus Lake Improvements
   - Expand Pedestrian Path (1,500 L.F. @12.) 18,000.
Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 15,000.
Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 2,500.
Pollution Control Strips (1,500 L.F. @ 10.) 15,000.
e. South Campus "Gateway" Zone
Expand Pedestrian Path to Burbank(2,500 L.F. @12.) 30,000.
Add Barriers (1,500 L.F. @ 5.) 7,500.
Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 7,500.
Lighting (Lump) 15,000.
Add Boardwalk (400 l.f. @ 75) 35,000
Subtotals for Area 6: 689,900

7. SOUTH UNIVERSITY LAKE AREA
(Generally defined as the Corporation Canal-South
University Lake and Baton Rouge Beach-Stanford Areas)
Expand Pedestrian Path (1,850 L.F. @ 12.
including connection of existing path to piers) 22,000.
▪ Add additional Barriers (1,000 L.F. @ 5.) 5,000.
▪ Pollution Control Strips (1,800 L.F. @10.) 18,000.
▪ Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 7,500.
▪ Add Boardwalk & Overlook Pier (2,800 s.f. @ 20) 56,000
▪ Expand Pedestrian Path (1,000 L.F. @ 12.) 12,000.
▪ Lighting Improvements (Lump) 35,000.
▪ Erosion Control Measures (Lump) 15,000.
▪ Pollution Control Strips (1,800 L.F. @10.) 18,000.
▪ Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 3,500.
Subtotals for Area 7: 192,000

8. RESIDENTIAL AREAS
(Generally defined as those areas abutting the lakes
comprised of residential ownership, including but not
limited to Magnolia Ridge, University Gardens, Zee Zee
Gardens, Hillsdale, and 100 Oakes Addition Subdivisions.)
▪ Pedestrian Path Road Markings (Lump) 10,000.
▪ Lighting Improvements (Lump) 15,000.
▪ Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 5,000.
▪ Pedestrian Path Road Markings (Lump) 15,000.
▪ Pedestrian Path Road Markings (Lump) 25,000.
▪ Lighting Improvements (Lump) 25,000.
▪ Signage/Distance Markers (Lump) 10,000.
▪ Pedestrian Path Road Markings (Lump) 10,000.
Subtotals for Area 8: 115,000
The City Park/University Lakes Management Plan, Project No. 90-MP-EPA-0066 document identified four recommendations with regard to enhancing the natural resources of the Lakes System. The Lakes Commission Natural Resources Committee met during the spring and summer of 1994 to review the pertinent parts of the management plan, discuss goals and strategies, and adjust the Management Plan recommendations as necessary.

The Natural Resources Committee herein presents its review and recommendations of the Management Plan goals for natural resource enhancement.

**Management Plan Goal Number 5.: ENHANCE NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Goal 5a.** Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) be brought into active partnership on the Lakes System.

LDWF recognizes the recreational potential of the Lakes System and is active in managing the fishery resources of the Lakes System. The Department’s Inland Fisheries Division pursues a stocking program as part of its Urban Lakes Program for City Park and University Lakes. To date the lakes have been stocked with the following: catfish (blue and channel) - 13,856, Florida bass - 36,400, and hybrid striped bass - 36,700. In June of 1992 the lakes produced the then state record largemouth bass, a 15.38 pound fish caught by Thomas Robinson.

In cooperation with concerned anglers of the area, LDWF has conducted a limited anglers survey on the lakes to quantify the angler use and recreational value of the lakes. A program is being developed and the data is to be analyzed in the upcoming year.

LDWF is in the process of developing an urban wildlife program. Assistance in developing appropriate planting materials for wildlife/wetland applications, is interested in participating in developing management plans for wildlife.

Successful management of the wildlife resources of the lakes is dependent on but not limited to the development, enhancement, and implementation of diversified
habitats within the system. The following sections of this report contain additional recommendations for improving the flora and fauna of the lakes and surrounding area through resource surveys, stocking, and habitat enhancement.

**Natural Resources Committee Recommendation:**

*Endorse the fishery and wildlife management measures of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and encourage cooperative efforts between the Department and the City-Parish and LSU to further enhance fishery and wildlife resources in the Lakes System.*

**Goal 5b. Systematic research on the lakes natural systems be improved.**

Research on the lakes is sporadic. Programs should be developed and implemented so that the appropriate regulatory and management agencies can acquire the data needed to maintain the lakes adequately for all users.

Appendix A is a proposal for fishery research to be conducted on a continuing basis by LDWF. The cost for this proposal would be borne by LDWF as part of their ongoing programs in fish and wildlife restoration.

Appendix B is a proposal to survey the tree resources around the lakes, identify problem areas, and recommend solutions to enhance that resource. Costs for this work would be minimal and borne by LSU essentially in the form of dedication of researcher’s time.

LSU and Southern Universities should be encouraged to solicit grants for natural resource related research on the Lakes System. The universities also should develop programs with their natural sciences, engineering, landscape architecture, and related disciplines to use the lakes as outdoor classrooms and laboratories. This will provide some continuity in basic research and/or environmental monitoring.

**Natural Resources Committee Recommendation:**

*Endorse the fishery and vegetation resource proposals contained herein and encourages additional research through City-Parish and State agencies and universities.*
Goal 5c. Islands or other enhanced and diversified habitat for birds and other wildlife be developed or improved.

Improvement of existing aquatic and terrestrial habitats is needed. Deepening of the lakes would enhance water quality and provide better habitat for aquatic animals. Without deepening the lakes will continue to become shallower as a result of sediment deposition and the natural aging process of the lakes. Another problem associated with the lakes is the excess nutrient load that is deposited in the lakes from the surrounding urban area. This nutrient load causes massive algal blooms that are the cause of fish kills in summer during periods of algae die-off. High water temperatures, a direct result of shallow water levels, during summer months also adversely affect fisheries production through reduced growth rates and reproduction.

Use of dredge spoil for creating islands has been suggested in earlier restoration plans for the lakes but was rejected. Other potential solutions include shoreline vegetation (scrub-shrub) zones, planted with species and varieties beneficial to wildlife. Plantings should include terrestrial as well as emergent wetland vegetation.

Multiple benefits of plantings include providing food and cover for a variety of terrestrial and avian wildlife species. They also would enhance water quality by intercepting and using excess nutrients from runoff water before they get into the lakes. They also are aesthetically pleasing provided the proper plants are selected. Some wildlife species that might be attracted to the plots potentially could be considered as undesirable by local community. In addition the plots will require maintenance or they will become "weedy". In addition they would restrict direct access to the lake shore. Access problems can be mitigated by providing structural or earthen piers to the lake side. Earthen piers can be used to increase retention time for low-flow runoff and increase nutrient uptake by vegetation.

If dredging is not an option, then deepening via short-term limited drawdown of the lakes should be pursued. In addition to benefits derived from enhanced aquatic habitats, drawdown would allow consolidation of sediments and oxidation of excess organic matter and nutrients to improve water quality.

Natural Resources Committee Recommendation:

Improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat in the Lakes System; recommends that the City-Parish and LSU investigate means of deepening the lakes through dredging or drawdown, and endorses
beneficial use of dredge spoil for creation of vegetated buffer zones and wildlife habitat.

**Goal 5d.** Restrict boating to certain portions of the lake, probably the area nearest Stanford Avenue.

In the view of the committee, harassment of birds by boaters is not a problem. Existing restrictions on the use of motorboats in the lakes, and the relatively low usage of the lakes by boaters serves to keep interactions between boaters and birds to a minimum.

Management practices at the LSU President’s Point bird sanctuary are not likely to change for the betterment of the birds (Appendix C). Other habitat enhancements were discussed previously under 5c (above).

**Natural Resources Committee Recommendation:**

*No additional restriction of boating in the lakes and restates its endorsement of habitat improvement throughout the Lakes System.*

**Other Issues Pertaining to Wildlife and Fishery Resources:**

Environmental Contaminants, Toxics, and Wildlife Disease

The Committee received an unsolicited report concerning unusual mortality of waterfowl around Campus Lake. That report is included in its entirety as Appendix D. After reviewing the report, the Committee collected additional information to verify the potential problem and estimate its extent. Corroborating information are as follows:

Samples of water and lake bottom sediment collected by the Department of Environmental Quality indicated that the bottom sediments contain high levels of heavy metals (Appendix E).

Necropsies of dead birds and examinations of sick birds were performed by personnel at the LSU College of Veterinary Medicine. These have yielded inconclusive results about the causes of the mortality. Some might have
been attributable to heavy metal poisoning. In at least one case, a bird's death was as attributed to avian botulism (Appendix F). Either case indicates the existence of an environmental problem in Campus Lake.

Appendix G is an investigative article regarding the incident that was copied from the LSU Daily Reveille.

**Natural Resources Committee Recommendation:**

*appropriate agencies within state and City-Parish government should work with LSU to identify the cause(s) of this mortality in order to insure that it does not recur or spread beyond the shoreline of Campus Lake.*

Litter

The shorelines and bottoms of the lakes accumulate a substantial amount of litter, and litter can result in injury to fish and wildlife resources (Appendix H).

**Natural Resources Committee Recommendation:**

*Anti-littering signs be more broadly posted around the lakes, and that the appropriate state and City-Parish agencies and LSU investigate and implement better means of enforcing anti-litter ordinances.*

Submitted by the Members of the Natural Resource Committee:

James G. Hanifen, Chairperson
CHERRY GROVE MEMORIAL & FOUNTAIN OVERLOOK
Existing trees

Existing LSU Overlook

Ornamental walls

New pathway adjacent to road

Separate path at times from road

Existing curb

Edge landscaping

LSU Fountain Jet

Sitting areas w/ Benches

West Lakeshore Drive

LSU Pedestrian Path Expansion - W. Lakeshore Drive Area
STANFORD - BAYOU DUPLANTIER BRIDGE / WIEB AREA

- existing trees
- ornamental landscaping
- Stanford Avenue
- existing pedestrian bridge
- new bicycle-pedestrian bridge
- existing path
- distance markers
- lighting
- existing boat docks