

# *Baton Rouge Area Foundation*

## **MEDIA ALERT**

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### **New Location for Next Lakes Master Plan Meeting**

*Working designs will be revealed at open house in late January*

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation's next public meeting for the University and City Park lakes master plan has been moved to the Lod Cook Alumni Center. People attending the open house in January can view and comment on the initial working designs for the master plan.

### **Open House to Reveal Working Designs**

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, 6-8 p.m.

LSU's Lod Cook Alumni Center

3838 West Lakeshore Drive

We appreciate an RSVP at [BatonRougeLakes.org](http://BatonRougeLakes.org)

The Foundation began a master plan after consulting LSU and city-parish government, which own the lakes, and BREC, which cares for the lakes and operates parks around them. SWA Group, in association with Jeffrey Carbo Landscape Architects, was hired last summer to do the work, which is a first step toward reversing the declining lakes.

The problem: University and City Park lakes – and three of the four smaller lakes that surround them – are too shallow, and are silting over time. In 2008, the Army Corps of Engineers issued a draft report that recommended dredging to deepen the lakes and installing pipes to flush sediment to keep them rich with oxygen for more than five decades.

To advance the Corps' draft, the Foundation raised nearly \$750,000 for the master plan and related studies. In summer 2015, SWA and JCLA will deliver a comprehensive design for the six lakes and land along their banks, along with gateway suggestions for the Dalrymple Drive exits at I-10. Planners are also charged with delivering a cohesive landscaping scheme, suggesting

way-finding signs, providing a habitat restoration strategy, and proposing methods for mitigating both noise and drainage from I-10. As well, the planners will recommend shoreline improvements with the dredged materials, such as walking and biking paths. To achieve all these ends, they will identify funding sources for implementation. Recommendations for governance will be included to ensure the long-term upkeep and improvement of the lakes.

The work is being conducted in consultation with donors to the project and lake area residents, users of the lakes, LSU, the city-parish, BREC, Louisiana Division of Administration, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, La. Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

**About the Foundation:** The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is among more than 700 community foundations in the United States. The Foundation works in two ways to improve the quality of life across South Louisiana. One, The Foundation connects donors who open charitable accounts with nonprofits that provide services to the community. Over 50 years, fund donors and the Foundation have granted more than \$350 million. Two, the foundation takes on projects that improve the quality of life. Contributions from members, who number about 600, partly underwrite these projects, which include master planning of the Baton Rouge lakes, improving autism services, education reform, downtown redevelopment, and creating The Water Institute of the Gulf to solve problems caused by rising seas and vanishing wetlands.