



## Community Stakeholder Meetings Round 1

*October 25, 2016 – West Bank*

*October 26, 2016 – East Bank*



**Recreation Master Plan**  
**St. James Parish Government**  
**St. James Parish, Louisiana**

## Overview



- Community stakeholder engagement process
- Stakeholder interviews, surveys, and community meetings
- Basis of the project's vision, goals, and objectives
- Provide updates to the Parish Council

## Why are Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Important?



- Parks, open space, and recreation facilities are the places that people go to get **healthy** and stay fit.
- Parks, open space, and recreation facilities provide **identity** for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of **quality of life** in a given community.
- Parks and open space provide **gathering** places for families and **social** groups, as well as for individuals of **all ages and economic status**.

## Why are Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Important?



- Parks and open space provide opportunities to **protect natural resources** and **connect** people with nature.
- Access to parks, open space and recreation opportunities have been strongly linked to **reductions in crime** and reduced juvenile delinquency.
- Parks and open space improve the local tax base and **increase** property values.

# Council District Map and Park Locations

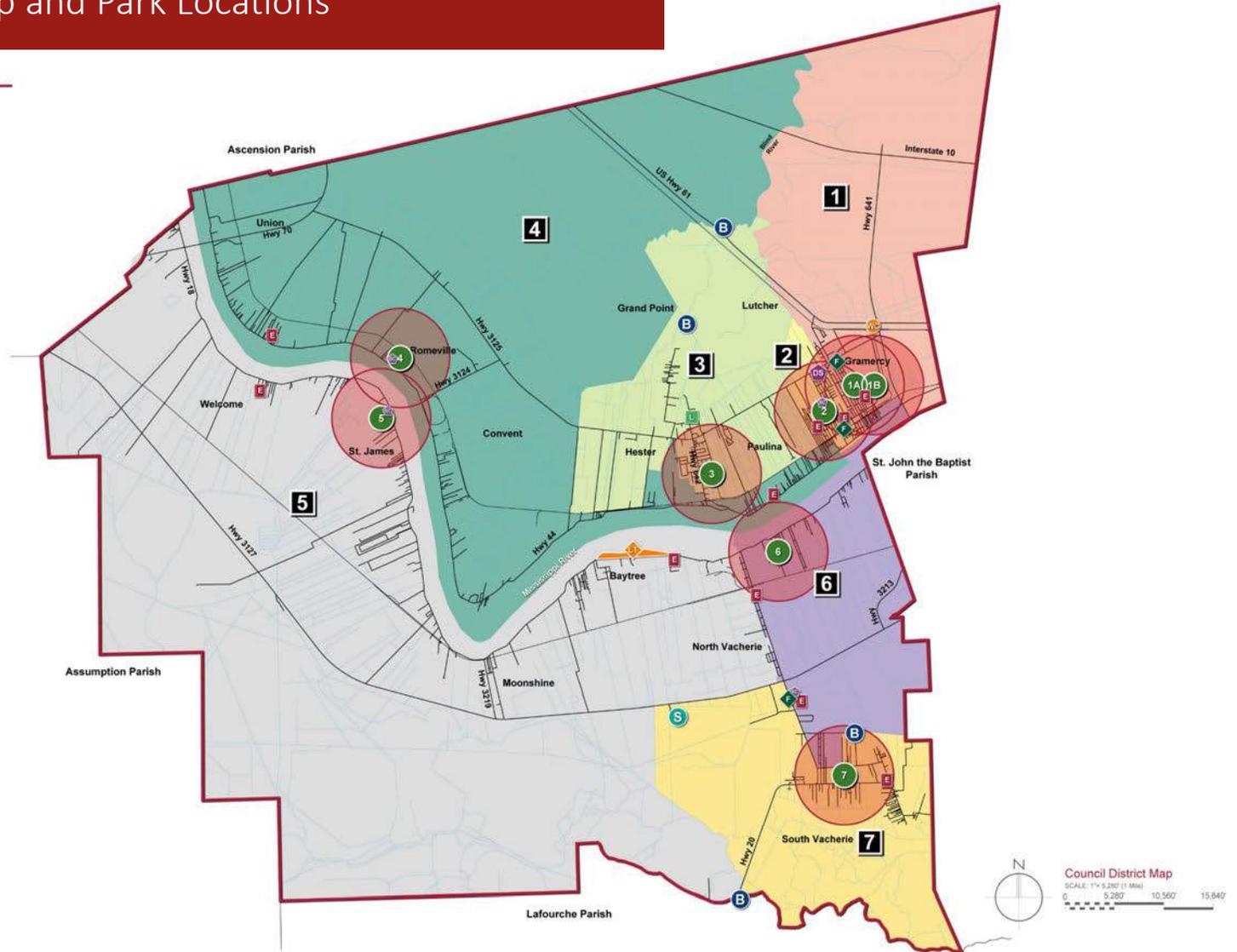
## Legend

- |  |            |  |            |
|--|------------|--|------------|
|  | DISTRICT 1 |  | DISTRICT 5 |
|  | DISTRICT 2 |  | DISTRICT 6 |
|  | DISTRICT 3 |  | DISTRICT 7 |
|  | DISTRICT 4 |  |            |

- Gramercy Park (Main Park)
- Gramercy Park B (Golden Grove)
- Lutchter Park
- Paulina Park
- Romeville Park
- Welcome Park
- Magnolia Park
- South Vacherie Park

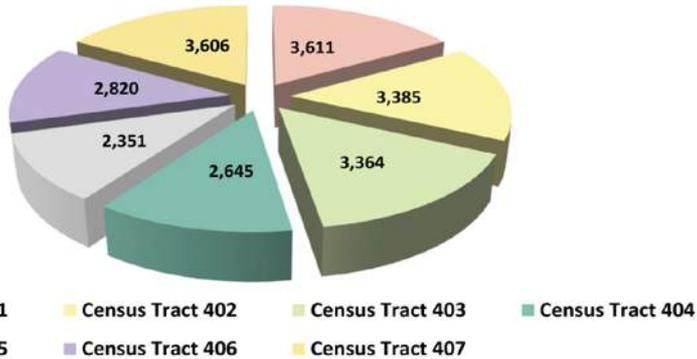


- Public Boat Launch
- St. James Parish Sheriff Shooting Range
- Education Facilities (Schools and Libraries)
- Levee Top Trail 2 ± Miles in Length
- Fitness Centers
- Longview Baseball and Softball Fields
- Senior Health Centers
- Dance Studios
- Welcome Center

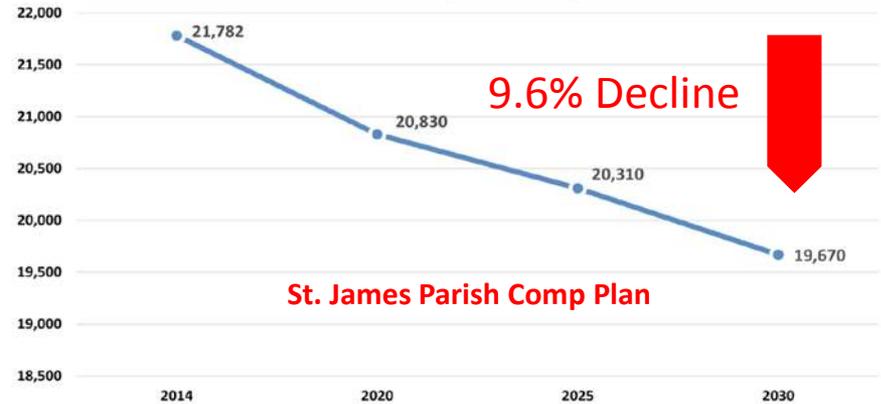


# St. James Parish - Census Data Snapshot

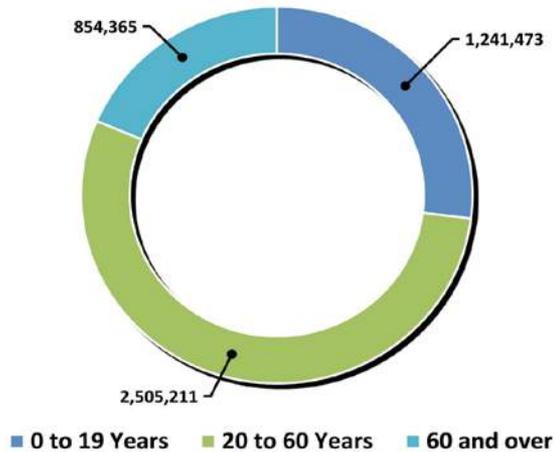
St. James Parish Population by Census Block



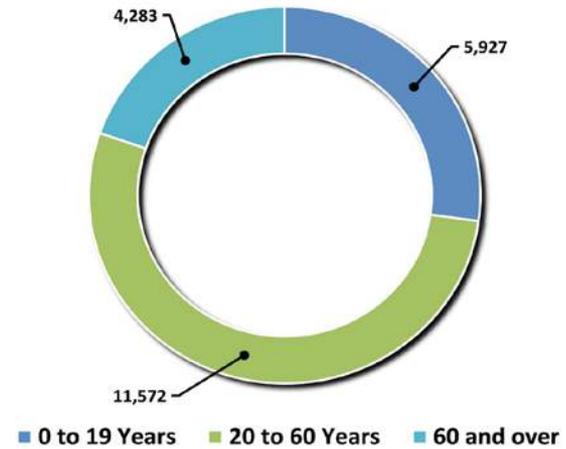
St. James Parish Population Projection



Louisiana Population  
4,601,049



St. James Parish Population  
21,782



## National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)



### Park Classifications *(8 Categories)*

- Mini Park
  - **Neighborhood Park**
  - **Community Park**
  - School Park
  - **Natural Resource Area** – Blind River (Maurepas Swamp), Bayou Chevreuil, Brazan Canal
  - **Greenways** – Levee top trail
  - Sports Complex
  - **Private Park / Recreation Facility** – Longview, St. James Boat Club
- Site Assessment**

## St. James Parish Park Classification



Photo Source: <http://www.dillondesignassociates.com/Oconnor2.jpg>

### NP

## Neighborhood Park

### General Description

Is the basic unit of the park system and serves as the social and recreational focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal, active, and passive recreation.

### Location Criteria

1/4 to 1/2 Mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other barriers.

### Size Criteria

5 Acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 Acres is optimal

## St. James Parish Park Classification



Community  
Park

Photo Source: <http://pacewater.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/anthem-country-club-overhead.jpg>

**CP**

### Community Park

#### General Description

Serves a broader purpose than the neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.

#### Location Criteria

Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods with a 1/2 mile to 3 mile service area.

#### Size Criteria

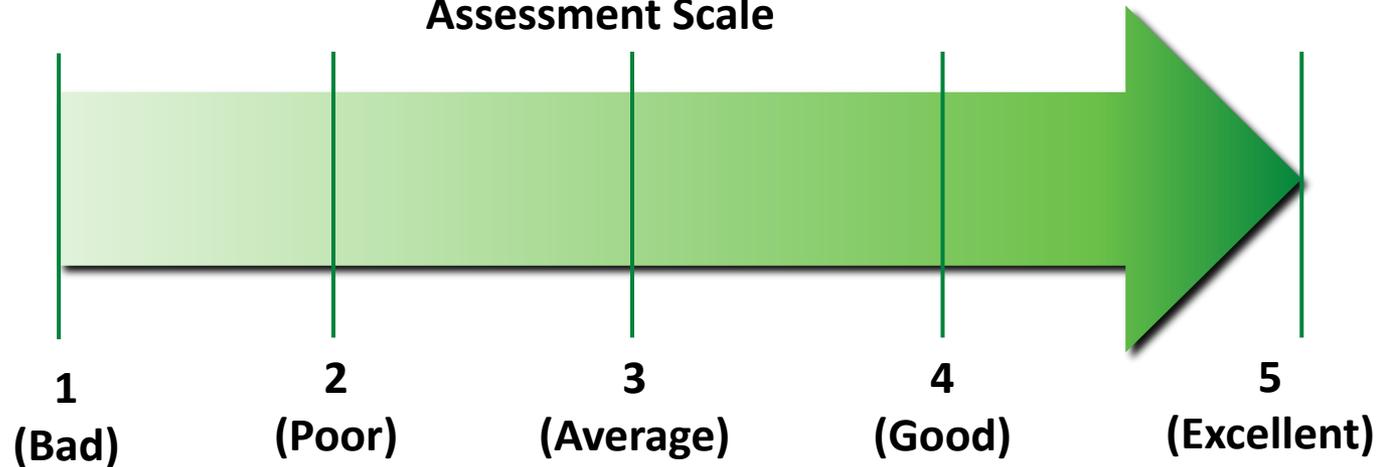
As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.

# Existing Park Assessment



<b>S</b>	<b>Safety</b>	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
<b>F</b>	<b>Function</b>	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
<b>A</b>	<b>Appearance</b>	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect.

## Assessment Scale



# Existing Park Assessment – Gramercy Park (Main Park)



Inventory and Assessment for:

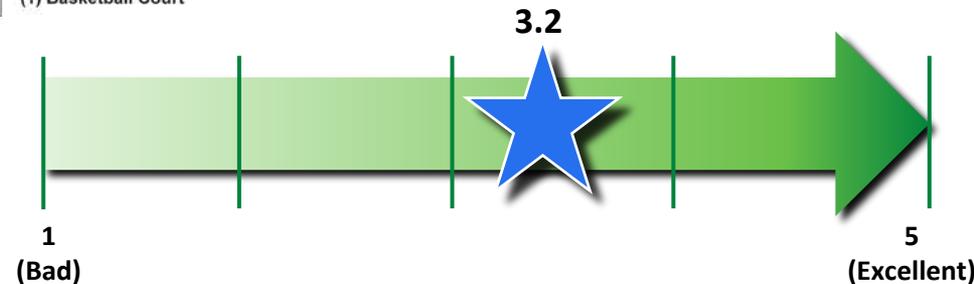
District 1 - Gramercy Park (Main Park)

S	Safety	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
F	Function	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
A	Appearance	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect:

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	3.2
1 = Bad 2 = Poor 3 = Average 4 = Good 5 = Excellent					
Park Conditions	2.8	2.8	2.8	Park is very clean with clear sightlines. Additional shade trees recommended.	
Baseball / Football Fields	3.8	3.5	3.6	Well used and maintained. Shade structures and minor maintenance recommended.	
Restrooms	3.0	2.7	3.0	No accessibility provided. Restricted access. No interior assessment available.	
Swimming Pool	3.6	3.8	3.3		
Walking Track	3.0	5.0	4.0	Not accessible from paved parking areas. Surface is in good condition.	
Playground - Play Structures	3.3	3.1	3.7	Play equipment should provide access to all users. Shade structures recommended.	
Outdoor Workout Station	4.0	4.3	4.5	Play equipment should provide access to all users. Shade structures recommended.	
Basketball Court	1.7	1.7	2.0	Limited access and replacement of equipment is recommended.	
Tennis Courts	3.0	3.0	2.0		
Parking Areas	3.6	3.2	3.0	Provided safe accessible access to activities with paved connections. Provide choices for handicapped spaces.	
Average	3.2	3.3	3.2		

## Park Inventory

- A** (9) Baseball Fields, (6) with Lights, and (2) with Scoreboards - (4) Under Construction
- B** Football Field
- C** Press Box with Storage Area
- D** Swimming Pool
- E** Pool House/Dressing Facility with Restrooms
- O** Rental Building on East Side of Pool
- G** (2) Tennis Courts with Lights
- H** Playground
- I** Outdoor Workout Station (Par Course)
- J** Walking Track
- K** (2) Concession Stands, (1) 10x 30 with cover/tables, (1) 10x40 Trailer
- L** (2) Batting Cages
- M** (3) Small Pavilions
- N** (8) Benches
- O** (7) Restrooms (2) in Pool House (2) in Rental Bldg (2) Concession Stand (1) Maint Shop
- P** (2) Parking Lots
- Q** (1) Basketball Court



# Existing Park Assessment – Gramercy Park (Golden Grove)



### Park Inventory

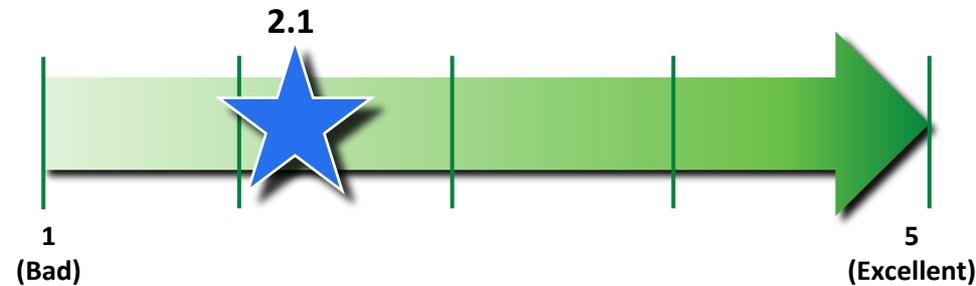
- A** (2) Basketball Courts with lights
- B** Small Playground
- C** (1) Unused Remnant Baseball Field
- D** Small Parking Lot

### Inventory and Assessment for:

### District 1 - Gramercy Park (Golden Grove)

<b>S</b>	<b>Safety</b>	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
<b>F</b>	<b>Function</b>	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
<b>A</b>	<b>Appearance</b>	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect:

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	2.1
1 = Bad 2 = Poor 3 = Average 4 = Good 5 = Excellent					
Park Conditions	2.0	2.0	1.5	Isolated park within close proximity to Gramercy Main Park	
Playground - Play Structures	2.4	2.3	3.0	Limited accessibility from other park activities. No ADA accessible route.	
Basketball Court	2.3	2.3	2.5	Court is converted from a tennis court. Surface in average condition.	
Parking Areas	2.2	2.2	1.0	Asphalt with no define spaces or ADA compliance.	
<b>Average</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>		



# Existing Park Assessment – Lutcher Park



### Park Inventory

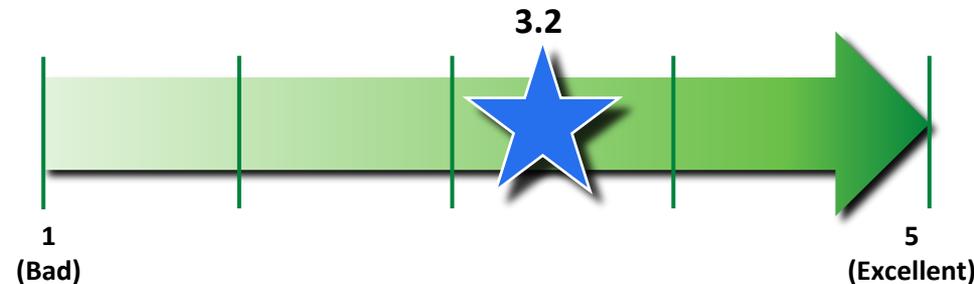
- A** (5) Baseball Fields, (4) with lights and scoreboards  
Two-Story Concession Stand/Press Box/Restrooms Facility (40 x 40)
- B** (1) Large Pavilion and (1) Small Pavilion
- C** (2) Soccer Fields
- D** Playground
- E** Walking Track
- F** (4) Restrooms Areas
- G** (26) Picnic tables
- H** (6) Benches
- I** (1) Batting Cage
- J** Parking Lot
- K** (1) Basketball Court
- L** (4) Tennis Courts with lights (In process of being removed)

### Inventory and Assessment for:

District 2 - Lutcher Park

<b>S</b>	<b>Safety</b>	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
<b>F</b>	<b>Function</b>	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
<b>A</b>	<b>Appearance</b>	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect:

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	3.2
1 = Bad 2 = Poor 3 = Average 4 = Good 5 = Excellent					
Park Conditions	2.8	3.0	3.0	Park is very clean with clear sightlines. Pedestrian access throughout park is recommended.	
Baseball / Football Fields	3.7	3.7	4.0	Well used and maintained. Shade structures and minor maintenance recommended.	
Restrooms	3.0	2.7	3.0	No accessibility provided. Restricted access. No interior assessment available.	
Walking Track	3.5	5.0	4.0	Not accessible from paved parking areas. Surface is in good condition.	
Playground - Play Structures	3.3	3.3	3.7	Play equipment should provide access to all users. Shade structures recommended.	
Basketball Court	2.7	2.7	3.0	Court in good shape. Pedestrian connection is recommended.	
Tennis Courts	3.0	2.7	1.0	In process of being removed.	
Parking Areas	3.2	3.0	3.0	Provided safe accessible access to activities with paved connections. Provide choices for handicapped spaces.	
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>		



# Existing Park Assessment – Paulina Park



### Park Inventory

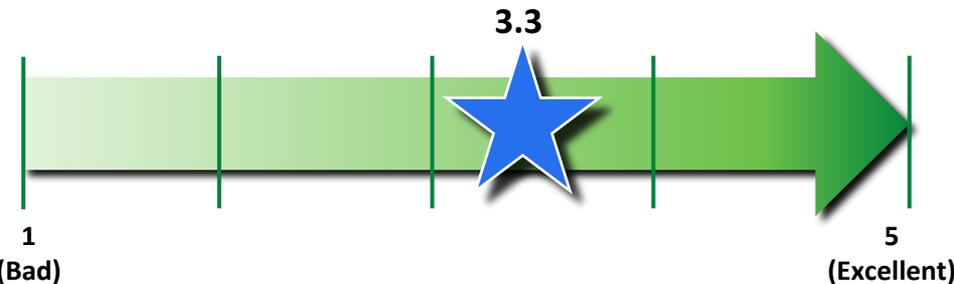
- A** (2) Baseball Fields with lights
- B** (1) Large Pavilion and (2) Small Pavilions with tables
- C** (2) Tennis Courts with lights
- D** (1) Basketball Court with (6) Goals lighted
- E** Playground
- F** Walking Track
- G** Concession Stand
- H** (2) Swing Sets
- I** (16) Picnic tables
- J** Storage Building (10 x 30)
- K** (2) Restrooms
- L** Splash Park
- M** Parking Lot

Inventory and Assessment for:

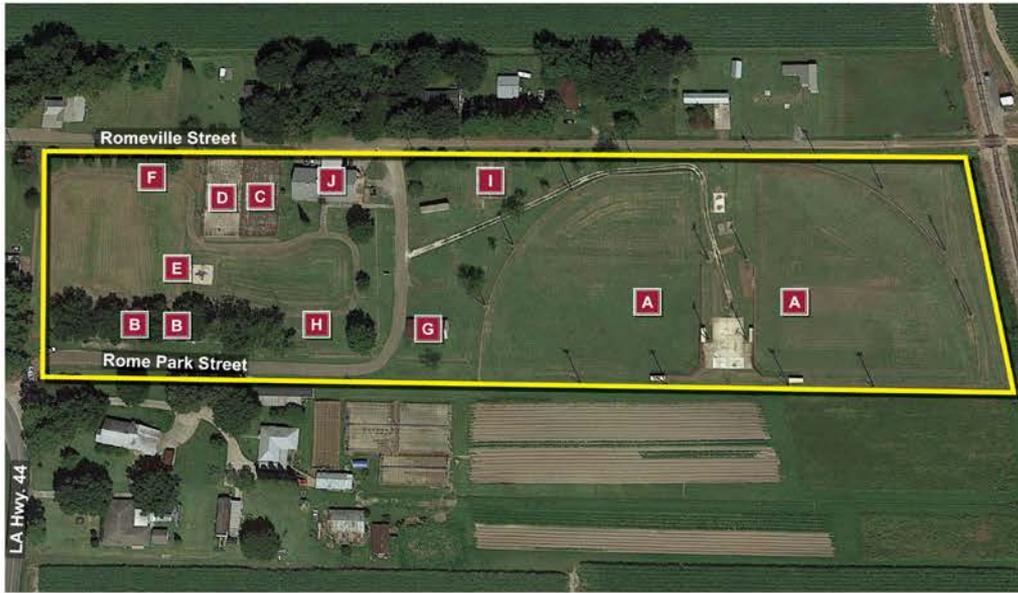
District 3 - Paulina Park

<b>S</b>	<b>Safety</b>	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
<b>F</b>	<b>Function</b>	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
<b>A</b>	<b>Appearance</b>	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect.

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	3.3
1 = Bad 2 = Poor 3 = Average 4 = Good 5 = Excellent					
Park Conditions	3.3	3.2	3.2	Park is very clean with clear sightlines. Pedestrian access throughout park is recommended. New concession building is an asset.	
Baseball Fields	3.8	3.8	3.8	Well used and maintained.	
Restrooms	3.0	2.5	3.0	No accessibility provided. Restricted access. No interior assessment available.	
Walking Track	4.0	5.0	4.0	Limited access from paved parking areas. Surface is in good condition.	
Playground - Play Structures	3.4	3.1	4.3	Play equipment should provide access to all users. Removal of swings recommended.	
Basketball Court	2.3	2.3	2.5	Court in fair shape. Pedestrian connection is recommended.	
Tennis Courts	3.7	3.7	3.0	Court in good shape.	
Splash Park	4.3	4.2	4.6	Relatively new and in good condition. Paved pedestrian access is recommended.	
Parking Areas	2.6	2.2	1.4	Provided safe accessible access to activities with paved connections. Provide choices for handicapped spaces.	
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>		



# Existing Park Assessment – Romeville Park



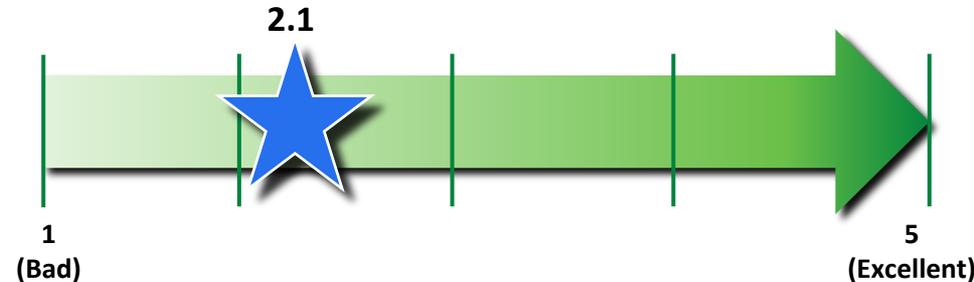
### Park Inventory

- A** (2) Baseball Fields with lights
- B** (2) Small Pavilions with picnic tables
- C** (1) Tennis Court with lights
- D** (1) Basketball Court with (6) Goals lighted
- E** Playground
- F** Walking Track
- G** Storage shed (25 x 60)
- H** (2) Swing Sets
- I** (12) Soccer Goals
- J** Homebound Meals Express Building

### Inventory and Assessment for: **District 4 - Romeville Park**

<b>S</b>	<b>Safety</b>	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
<b>F</b>	<b>Function</b>	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
<b>A</b>	<b>Appearance</b>	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect.

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	2.1
1 = Bad 2 = Poor 3 = Average 4 = Good 5 = Excellent					
Park Conditions	2.3	2.0	2.0	Park was in poor condition and grass unmowed at time of assessment.	
Baseball Fields	2.0	1.8	2.0	Unused and poorly maintained.	
Restrooms	1.7	2.3	1.7	Port-a-lets	
Walking Track	2.5	5.0	4.0	Limited access from paved parking areas. Surface is in good condition.	
Playground - Play Structures	2.7	2.4	1.6	Play equipment should provide access to all users. Removal of swings and slides recommended.	
Basketball Court	2.3	2.3	3.0	Court in poor shape.	
Tennis Courts	1.0	1.0	1.0	Court in bad shape.	
Parking Areas	1.8	1.8	1.2	Gravel and grass areas are subject to ongoing high maintenance. No handicapped spaces or paved pedestrian connections.	
<b>Average</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>		



# Existing Park Assessment – Welcome Park



### Park Inventory

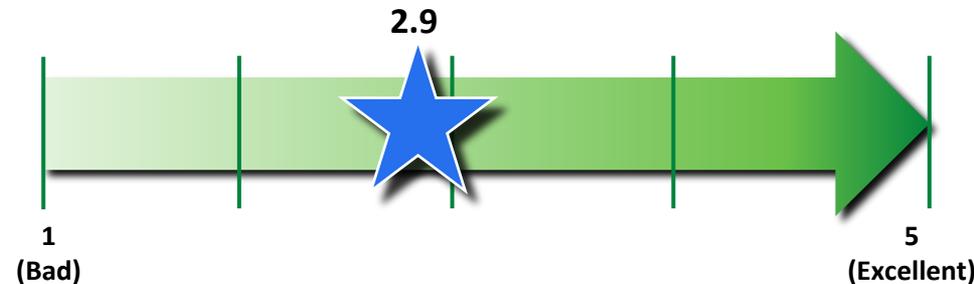
- A (2) Baseball Fields with lights and covered stands
- H (18) Picnic tables
- B (1) large Pavilion
- I Pond
- C Playground
- J Small Parking Lot
- D Walking Track
- E (2) Concession Stands
- F (4) Restrooms
- G (2) Storage rooms

### Inventory and Assessment for:

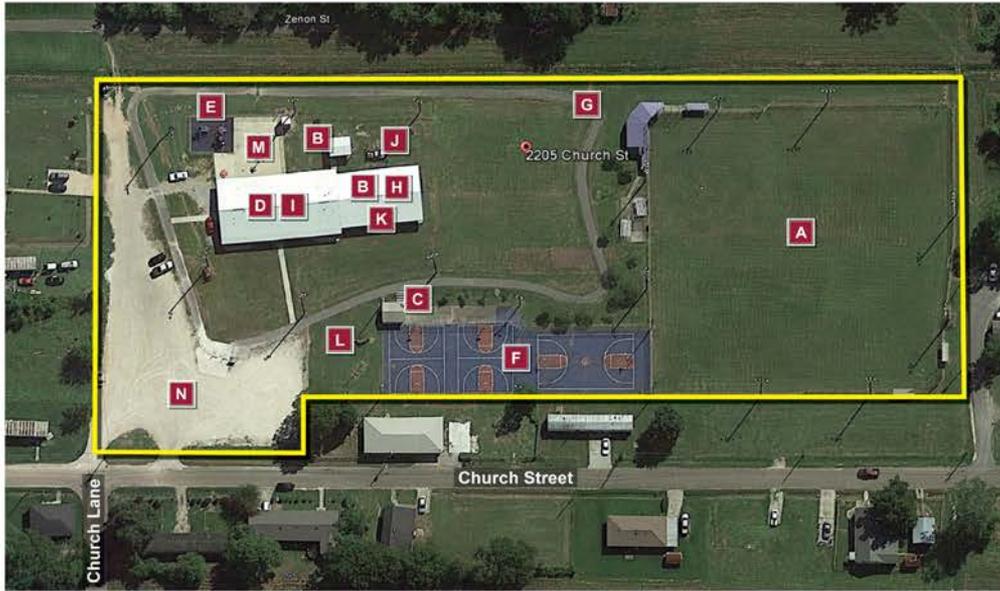
### District 5 - Welcome Park

S	Safety	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
F	Function	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
A	Appearance	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect:

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	2.9
1 = Bad 2 = Poor 3 = Average 4 = Good 5 = Excellent					
Park Conditions	2.2	1.8	2.0	Park was in average condition. Unfinished gym building has negative visual impact on overall park condition.	
Baseball Fields	3.8	3.5	3.8	Appear to be well maintained.	
Restrooms	3.0	2.5	3.0	No accessibility provided. Restricted access. No interior assessment available.	
Walking Track	2.5	5.0	4.0	Limited access from paved parking areas. Surface is in good condition.	
Playground - Play Structures	3.4	3.4	4.0	Play equipment should provide access to all users.	
Pond	2.7	3.0	3.0	Could be asset with regular maintenance.	
Parking Areas	1.8	1.8	1.2	Gravel and grass areas are subject to ongoing high maintenance. No handicapped spaces or paved pedestrian connections.	
<b>Average</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>		



# Existing Park Assessment – Magnolia Park



### Park Inventory

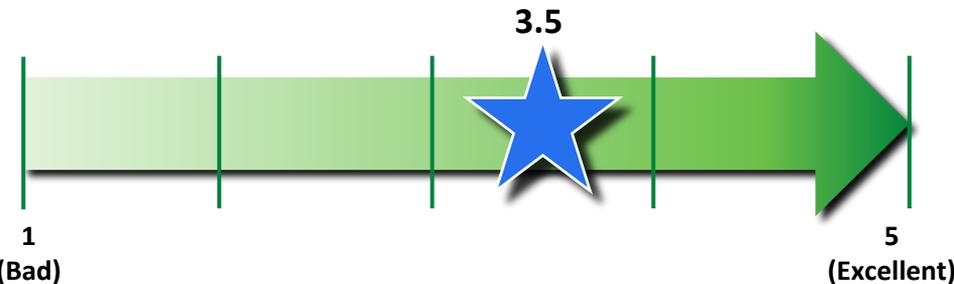
- A** (2) Shared Baseball Fields with lights
- B** (1) Large Pavilion and (1) Small Pavilion
- C** (1) Concession Stand
- D** (2) Restrooms
- E** Playground with lights
- F** (3) Basketball Courts with lights
- G** Walking Track
- H** Large Building under Pavilion
- I** (1) Storage room
- J** (3) Swing sets
- K** (10) Picnic tables
- L** (1) Slide
- M** Splash Park
- N** Small Parking Lot-gravel

### Inventory and Assessment for:

District 6 - Magnolia Park

<b>S</b>	<b>Safety</b>	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
<b>F</b>	<b>Function</b>	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
<b>A</b>	<b>Appearance</b>	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect:

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	3.5
Park Conditions	3.2	2.7	2.8	Park is very clean with clear sightlines. Pedestrian access throughout park is recommended. Pavilion building is an asset.	
Baseball Fields	3.7	3.3	3.6	Well used and maintained.	
Restrooms	3.5	3.5	3.0	No accessibility provided. Restricted access. No interior assessment available.	
Walking Track	4.0	5.0	4.0	Limited access from paved parking areas. Surface is in good condition.	
Playground - Play Structures	3.3	3.1	4.3	Play equipment should provide access to all users. Removal of slide recommended.	
Basketball Courts	3.7	3.7	4.0	Court in good shape. Pedestrian connection is recommended.	
Splash Park	4.3	4.2	4.6	Relatively new and in good condition. Paved pedestrian access is recommended.	
Parking Areas	2.8	2.4	1.4	Provided safe accessible access to activities with paved connections.	
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>		



# Existing Park Assessment – South Vacherie Park



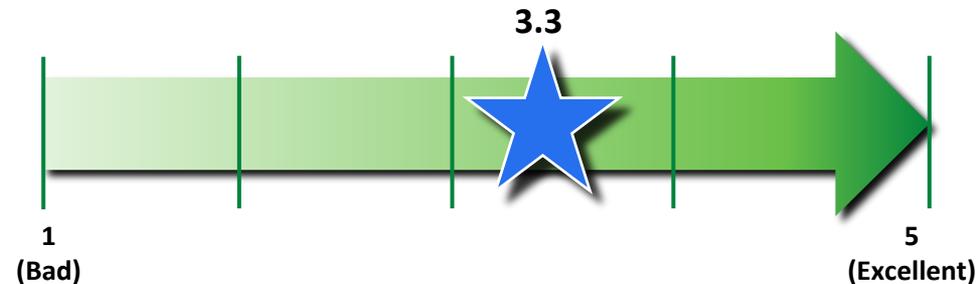
## Park Inventory

- A** (1) Large Pavilion and (1) Small Pavilion
- B** Football Field with lights, scoreboard, and (10) sets of bleachers
- C** Playground
- D** (1) Concession Stand
- E** (2) Restrooms
- F** (1) Storage room
- G** (1) T-Ball Field
- H** Walking Track
- I** Outdoor Workout Station (Par Course)
- J** Covered bleachers
- K** (17) Picnic tables
- L** (2) Swing sets
- M** (2) Slides
- N** Splash Park
- O** Small Parking Lot-gravel

## Inventory and Assessment for: District 7 - South Vacherie Park

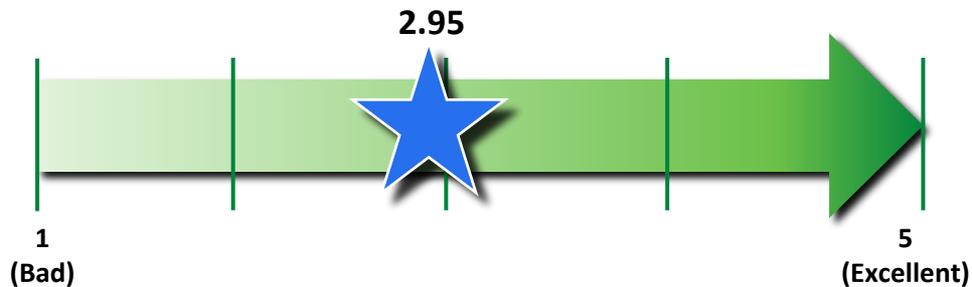
<b>S</b>	<b>Safety</b>	The state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
<b>F</b>	<b>Function</b>	The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists; role.
<b>A</b>	<b>Appearance</b>	The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect:

	S	F	A	Overall Rating	3.3
1 = Bad 2 = Poor 3 = Average 4 = Good 5 = Excellent					
Park Conditions	2.5	2.7	2.3	Small sized neighborhood park with limited clear sightlines due to park location. Concentration of uses near main parking area. Pavilion is an asset for the park.	
Football / Baseball Fields	3.8	3.8	3.8	Well used and maintained.	
Restrooms	3.0	3.0	3.0	No accessibility provided. Restricted access. No interior assessment available.	
Walking Track	4.0	5.0	4.0	Limited access from paved parking areas. Surface is in good condition.	
Outdoor Workout Station	3.7	4.0	4.0	Fairly new equipment. Equipment offers several physical activities and opportunities.	
Playground - Play Structures	3.0	2.7	3.3	Play equipment should provide access to all users. Removal of independent slides and swings recommended.	
Splash Park	3.8	3.7	4.0	Relatively new and in good condition. Connectivity to other park activities is recommended.	
Parking Areas	2.6	2.6	1.2	Provided safe accessible access to activities with paved connections. Gravel and grass areas are subject to ongoing high maintenance.	
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>		



## Existing Park Assessment Summary

Park Location	Rating
District 1 - Gramercy Park - Main Park	3.2
District 1 - Gramercy Park - Golden Grove	2.1
District 2 - Lutcher Park	3.2
District 3 - Paulina Park	3.3
District 4 - Romeville Park	2.1
District 5 - Welcome Park	2.9
District 6 - Magnolia Park	3.5
District 7 - South Vacherie Park	3.3
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>2.95</b>



## Existing Park Assessment Summary

Recreation Activity	Number of Units Per Population	Existing Park Amenity	Ratio of Population Served	Above or Below NRPA Standard
Baseball/ Softball	1 field per 4,000 (Youth) 1 field per 15,000 (Teen / Adult)	23	1 field per 760 (Youth / Teen / Adult) 1 field per 947 (Total Population)	Above Above
Basketball	1 per 5,000	9	1 per 1,944 (Youth / Teen / Adult) 1 per 2,420 (Total Population)	Above Above
Football	1 per 20,000 (Number of units depends upon popularity)	2	1 per 8,749 (Youth / Teen / Adult) 1 per 10,891 (Total Population)	Above Above
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3% to 5% of total population at a time)	1	1 per 17,499 (Youth / Teen / Adult) 1 per 21,782 (Total Population)	Above Below
Soccer	1 per 10,000 (Number of units depends upon popularity)	2	1 per 8,749 (Youth / Teen / Adult) 1 per 10,891 (Total Population)	Above Below
Tennis	1 court per 2,000	9	1 per 1,944 (Youth / Teen / Adult) 1 per 2,420 (Total Population)	Above Below

## Existing Park Assessment Summary



- Parks serve local neighborhoods / communities
- Improve pedestrian connectivity / ADA compliance
- Long-term maintenance funding needs to improve
- Lack of indoor multi-purpose space
- **Community input for recommendations of future improvements!**

## Community Stakeholder Input – Interactive Session

1. Which park facility do you visit the most?
2. What recreational facilities do you use when you visit a St. James Parish park?
3. What type of recreational facility or offerings would you like to use that is not currently offered within St. James Parish?
4. What is the most important factor for you in terms of parks and recreation?
5. How would you allocate \$100 for park and recreation improvements and or additions?

# Community Stakeholder Input – Online Survey

The screenshot shows the website for St. James Parish, Louisiana. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Contact Us, Employee Login, and Search. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation is a dark red banner with the text "LIVE WORK PLAY GROW NEWS" and a circular logo for St. James Parish Louisiana. The main content area features a large image of a plantation house. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with links for Agendas & Minutes, Archived Speeches, Events Calendar, Events List, and Submit a Calendar Event. A yellow button labeled "CONTACT US TODAY" is positioned below the menu. The main content area displays a "News" section with a "Return" link and a news item titled "St. James Parish Recreation Department Master Plan Survey - Tuesday, October 11, 2016". The text of the news item reads: "Please click on the link below to participate in the survey: **St. James Parish Recreation Department Master Plan Survey**". Below this, it states "Survey is to be completed by November 4, 2016." and includes links for "Tell a Friend" and "Printer Friendly Page". A large red arrow points from the right towards the survey link.

Click Link