

CANOE & KAYAK LAUNCH

SAFETY RULES & REGULATIONS

WARNING: Please note that paddling and boating are potentially hazardous recreational activities. The risk of injury from canoeing and kayaking can be significant including the potential for serious injury, disability, paralysis and death. There are no lifeguards or safety personnel at the launch or along the blueway route. Proceed at your own risk.

BY USING THIS BREC LAUNCH YOU AGREE TO FOLLOW THESE RULES:

BREC owns and operates this canoe/kayak boat launch for public use but does not have jurisdiction or control of the waterway. The rules and regulations of East Baton Rouge Parish, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the United States Coast Guard apply to users of this waterway.

1. NO MOTORS The boat launch is restricted to human propelled water craft.

2. NO SWIMMING Bayou Fountain is not suitable or safe for swimming. Water quality varies with water flow and branches, logs, and debris may move after flood events. The muddy water may hide hidden objects and obstacles that may prove hazardous.

3. LAUNCH CLOSSES AT DARK This BREC park is open from sunrise to sunset. Please plan your trip accordingly and ensure you arrive back in time to load your watercraft before dark. Camping here or along waterway is not permitted. (Ord. No. 9745, § 1, 11-10-93)

4. STAY IN THE STREAM CHANNEL Bayou Fountain flows through private land. Do not trespass. Stay in your boat.

5. KNOW STREAM CONDITIONS & YOUR PADDLING CAPABILITIES Bayou Fountain is normally a lazy, slow moving stream, but can change with weather conditions. Water depth may exceed 10 feet and have a swift current at higher water levels. Take precaution and make sure your skill level is up to stream conditions. You can check water conditions on weather.gov or on our Blueway webpage: BREC.ORG/BLUEWAYS.

6. PLAN YOUR TRIP Familiarize yourself with the waterway before beginning. You can paddle Bayou Fountain upstream or downstream unless the current is fast. Downstream travel is suggested for intermediate to advanced paddlers and if you choose to paddle downstream there are currently no authorized BREC takeout locations, the nearest non-BREC public boat launch is Ducros Launch located on Bayou Manchac, 11 miles downstream.

7. WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET All boats, including canoes and kayaks, must be equipped with one Type I, II, III or V wearable PFD for each person on board (if under 13 years old, the PFD must be worn at all times). (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Boating Regulations)

8. WEAR PROPER CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR Footwear is extremely important. The river bottom is muddy and contains pointed logs and sharp metal and glass objects. River shoes or old sneakers are the best footwear for water sports.

9. BEWARE OF HAZARDS As with any outdoor area, there are things that you must be aware of. Low hanging branches (sweepers), branches in water (strainers), submerged obstacles (sliders), slippery banks, trash and sharp objects on the stream bottom. Also present are natural hazards such as hanging wasp's nests, snakes, poison ivy, and human hazards such as broken glass, rusty metal, lines in branches with leftover fishing hooks attached.

10. TAKE A CANOE/KAYAK SAFETY COURSE BREC, LDWF, RED CROSS, US COAST GUARD, or other boating safety organization.

11. FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED Please follow all Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations when fishing within a BREC park or on a local waterway. Hunting within a BREC park or on private property along the blueway is not permitted.

12. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES Possession and consumption of alcohol within BREC parks is not permitted. (City Code 1951, Title 13, § 106; Parish Code 1962, Title 13, § 416; Ord. No. 9080, § 1, 4-25-90)

13. BE A GOOD OUTDOOR STEWARD Don't litter. Pack in and pack out. Don't disturb the plants or wildlife.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES: 911

PARK RANGER HOTLINE: (225) 252-2620

EAST BATON ROUGE SHERIFF: (225) 389-5000

By using BREC's Blueway Launch, you agree to follow all BREC Rules and Regulations and release BREC from all liability in respect to any and all injury, disability, death or loss or damage to person or property associated with use of launch. For more information about BREC's Blueway Trails and to plan your trip visit BREC.ORG/BLUEWAYS.



HIGHLAND ROAD
COMMUNITY PARK