CONSERVATION PARK
Blackwater Conservation Area opened in 2002 and is one of BREC’s renowned conservation areas. The Comite River traverses along the parks’ western edge. This naturalized recreational site offers two large fishing lakes, nature trails and pavilion with restrooms. Recent additions include a visitor clean up station, ADA accessible concrete pathway leading to an accessible fishing pier with benches and Cypress Trees were planted. BREC continues to preserve the local habitat through invasive species removal and native tree plantings with the help of volunteers and local organizations.

**PROJECT DATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Visitor Clean up Station</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Accessible Fishing Pier &amp; Walks</td>
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<td>02/23/2006</td>
<td>Parking Area Improvements</td>
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<td>01/23/2007</td>
<td>Exotic Removal &amp; Plantings</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Interpretive Signage</td>
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**PROJECT COST**

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<td>$10,000</td>
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NEW ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY

NEW PATHWAY NEAR PARKING AREA

NEW VISITOR CLEANUP STATION

CLEARING UNDERBRUSH TO IMPROVE ON SITE SECURITY

NEW FISHING PIER

SITE PRIOR TO CONCRETE PATH
Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center is a 103-acre facility dedicated to conservation, education, recreation and tourism. It houses an award-winning, 9500-square-foot building filled with live animal exhibits, photographs and natural artifacts. To expand programming at the facility additional land adjacent to the site was procured in 2009. The existing building was repurposed as BBS Education and Conference Center. The facility contains multi-purpose rooms, an assembly area, an area for overnight and extended stay educational programs, ample storage for art and educational supplies, a kitchen, and offices. The interior classroom and work space was coordinated with an exterior classroom/work area. The building is being carefully integrated with the overall Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center Master Plan.

**PROJECT DATE**

- 2009  Land Acquisition for Education Building
- 2012-2013  Utility Conversion—Overhead to Underground
- 2012-2014  Education Building Renovations
- Underway  Site Circulation Master Plan

**PROJECT COST**

- $1,050,000  Land Acquisition for Education Building
- $110,000  Utility Conversion
- $10,000  Front Deck Repairs
- $220,000  Education Building Construction Drawings
- $535,000  Education Building Renovations
Illustrations For Bluebonnet Swamp Education Building

Education Building Before Construction

Renovations Complete
COMITE RIVER PARK

DESCRIPTION

Comite River Park located south of Hooper Road near Blackwater Conservation Area is also a conservation park. The naturalized recreational site adjacent to the Comite River features unique hilly terrain which makes a popular spot for riders to traverse 5 miles of mountain bike trails. Recent additions include a bicycle cleaning station, ADA accessible pavilion, new trail signage, and improved parking area. BREC continues to preserve the local habitat through invasive species removal and native tree plantings with the help of volunteers and local organizations.

PROJECT DATE

2012  Site Renovations

PROJECT COST

$40,000  New Pavilion & Site Improvements
Imagine Your Parks PORTFOLIO

PROJECT PHOTOS

New Trail Signage

New Wash Station & Pavilion

Site Construction For New Pavilion

New Pavilion

Parking & Site Drainage Improvements

Cypress Seedlings Planted & Invasive Plants Removed
BREC currently has 8 parks which are set aside for conservation purposes. Of those include Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center which is the hub of environmental education within the parish and the remaining seven parks are considered Satellite Conservation Areas. These include Blackwater Conservation Area, Burbank Conservation Area, Cohn Nature Preserve, Doyle’s Bayou, Frenchtown Conservation Area, Kendalwood and S. Harrell’s Ferry Road Park. Each of these parks were acquired for their high ecological value and the unique or rare habitats they contain. These natural areas provide many benefits beyond public enjoyment such as improving air quality, preserving habitat, reducing noise pollution, flooding, greenhouse gases and energy cost.
Frenchtown Road Conservation Area or "The Land Between The Rivers" is the largest Park and the largest Conservation Area currently operated by BREC. It is 496 acres of Bottomland Hardwood Forest including Small Stream Forest and Spruce Pine Hardwood-Flatwood Forest habitat; both of which are locally and globally ranked as rare or imperiled habitats. The property is home to a diverse spread of flora and fauna including several species of state conservation concern and countless migratory birds. Frenchtown currently has over 3 miles of trails which wind around the north and central parts of the park including access to the Amite River Beach, several Amite River overlooks and access to countless Cypress-Tupelo sloughs. Basic signage directs visitors around the park’s hiking trails. More trails and amenities will be developed when the Park Master Plan is finalized.

PROJECT DATE
December 2009   Land Acquisition
2013   New Parking Area & Trailhead
10/22/2013   New Hiking Trails Opened
Underway   Master Plan

PROJECT COST
$1,500,000   Land Acquisition
$10,000   Site Assessment
$30,000   Trailhead & Nature Trails
Imagine Your Parks PORTFOLIO
Imagine Your Parks PORTFOLIO

FRENCHTOWN ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

PROJECT PHOTOS

Mapping Nature Trails

CIP Crew Clearing Trails

Site Before New Trailhead Construction

Ribbon Cutting At The New Trailhead

Wayfinding Signage Along Trail

1st Woods Walk At Frenchtown
The 28.5 acres of land is a Nature Preserve that will remain a natural area on Foster Road, south of the Cohn Arboretum. The late Margie Cohn donated the land to be used solely as a part of the Laurens Henry Cohn, Sr. Memorial Arboretum, devoted and dedicated to the study, fostering and preservation of wildlife, plants and animals.
TRISTAN AVENUE PARK

DESCRIPTION

Tristan Avenue Park is now a Conservation Area. In 2010, the antiquated play equipment was removed to allow the site to return to its natural state. The park’s entrance is located at the end of Tristian Avenue in Baker and has a BREC signage, a picnic table, and a small grassy area set on the edge of the woodlands. The 32.6 acre site features bottomland hardwood forest that is fairly mature with some moderately large magnolia and beech trees that backs up to White’s Bayou.

PROJECT DATE

2010   Site Clean up

PROJECT COST

$3,000   Site Clean up