



In 2004, BREC launched the Imagine Your Parks (IYP) strategic/master plan to transform what had become an aging, neighborhood- based system of parks and special use facilities into one that now boasts twelve community parks, six dog parks, Liberty Lagoon Water Park, skate parks, fishing ponds, new conservation areas, improved playgrounds, splash pads, a growing trails system and two mobile playground units. The plan also included renovations to more than 150 neighborhood parks and special use facilities across the state’s largest parish (county), including the Baton Rouge Art Gallery, Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, BREC’s Baton Rouge Zoo, Botanic Gardens, Cohn Arboretum, Independence Park Theatre, Farr Park Equestrian Center, golf courses, Highland Road Observatory and Magnolia Mound Historic House.

In 2014 BREC updated its strategic/master plan and, since then, included transformative projects not yet requested by the public, nor envisioned in 2014. BREC is nearing the completion of the second Imagine Your Parks plan, and the start of a lengthy planning process for the third iteration in 2024. In the first Imagine Your Parks plan, more than 120 large scale projects were completed, including the creation of the twelve large community parks.

The IYP 2, strategic/master plan for 2015-2025, can be found here: (<https://www.brec.org/assets/IYP2/ImagineYourParks2.pdf>) with the Capital Improvement Plan beginning on page 123. From 2015-2020, 193 projects of varying size and scope have been completed. 2021 marked the 7th year of the Imagine Your Parks 2 strategic plan and BREC’s Planning and Engineering team had 88 capital improvement and system-wide planning projects either under construction, out to bid, in the planning/design phase, or completed as of December 2021. Below is a list those projects which vary in size and scope from neighborhood parks and playgrounds to conservation areas, recreation centers, primitive trails, pollinator gardens and various signage projects.

Projects in Master Plan or Design (Through End of Year)

1. Airline Highway Park - Community Park Master Plan – approved by Commission in March, 2021
2. Airline Highway Park – Phase 1 Design Development & Construction Documents
3. Airline Highway Park - Safe House
4. Anna T. Jordan Community Park - Playground Renovation
5. Blackwater Conservation Area – Interpretive Signage
6. Bluebonnet Swamp – Interpretive Signage
7. BREC Greenways - CMAQ Ph 1
8. BREC Greenways - Greenwood Park Trail Phase II
9. BREC Greenways - Ward Creek extension behind OLOL/Burden
10. Expressway Park - Master Plan and Phase 1 Improvements DOTD Project 107
11. Farr Park– Site Drainage Phase 2
12. Greenwood Com Park – Greenwood/Zoo Ph. 1 Design & Construction Drawings
13. Greenwood Com Park – LWI Cypress Bayou Green Infrastructure
14. Howell Community Park - Garden Pavilion
15. J.S. Clark Memorial Golf Course – Maintenance Yard
16. Lovett Road Park – New soccer fields & lighting
17. Memorial Stadium – Safe Room – Design Starting in 2022
18. Milford Wampold Memorial Park - New Modular Restrooms
19. Milton Womack Park - Space Planning and Construction
20. Milton Womack Park – Electrical System Upgrade
21. Plank Road Corridor – Eco-Park Master Plan
22. Palomino Park –Master Plan and Phase 1 Improvements
23. Scotlandville Parkway – Develop Master Plan and Phase 1 Improvements
24. Baton Rouge Zoo – Bobcat Exhibit

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Projects bidding or under construction (Through end of year)

1. Bayou Manchac Park Canoe/Kayak Launch
2. Baywood Park - New Playground & Site Improvements
3. Bluebonnet Swamp - Education Building Porte Cochere
4. BREC Greenways– Bluebonnet Ext
5. Cadillac Street Park – Playground & Shade Sails
6. Central Sports Park – Synthetic Turf Fields Phase II
7. Duchess Park - New Playground & Site Improvements
8. Farr Park – Arena Drainage Phase I
9. Frenchtown Conservation Area - Education Building
10. Greenwell Springs Park – Playground Improvements
11. Greenwood Community Park - Greenwood & Zoo Phase 1 Construction
12. Hartley/Vey Sports Park – Synthetic Turf Fields and Lighting
13. Howell Community Park - BREC Rec Center & Pool
14. Howell Community Park – Baton Roots Maintenance Yard
15. Jackson Community Park - Phase 2 Masterplan Construction
16. Lafitte Drive Park - Site Improvements
17. Lovett Road Park - Soccer Field Lights
18. Maplewood Park – Playground and Shade Sails
19. New CXT Restrooms at Multiple Parks: Flannery, Rita, Perkins, Chamberlain
20. System Wide Signage – Park ID Signs Year 1+2

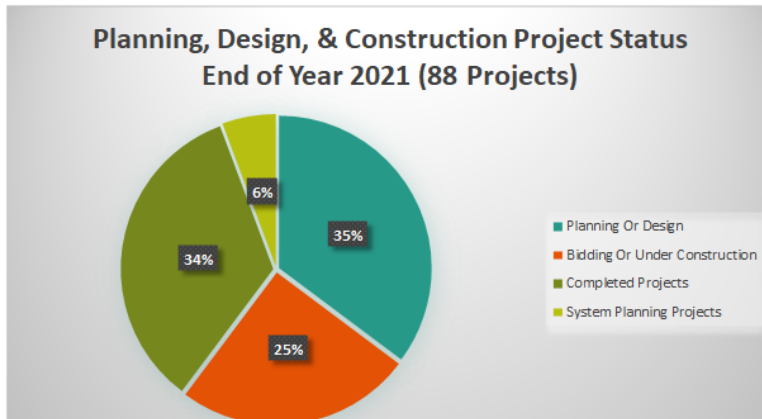
Projects Complete (Through end of year)

1. Bluebonnet Swamp - Native Plant Pollinator Garden
2. Bluebonnet Swamp – Trail and Boardwalk Improvements
3. Boulevard de Province Park - New Playground & Site Improvements
4. BREC Greenways – Dawson Creek Greenway Signage
5. Brown Heights Park – Remove Playground & Add New Walking Loop
6. Burbank Park – New Highway Park ID Signs
7. Burbank Park - New Water Infrastructure
8. Church Street Park – Flood Repair
9. City Golf Course – Maintenance Shed Additions
10. City Brooks Community Park – Picnic Hill Playground Improvements
11. Cohn Arboretum – Bungalow Abatement
12. Expressway Park - Park ID Signs & Amenities
13. Forest Community Park – Native Plant Pollinator Garden Expansion
14. Forest Community Park – NRM Trail Hiking Footbridge
15. Forest Community Park – Road Restoration Planting
16. Fortune Addition Park – Site Improvements & Playground
17. Frenchtown Conservation Area Directional Signage
18. Greenwood Community Park – Pickleball Courts
19. Howell Community Park – Pollinator Garden Recycled Glass Pavers and Paths
20. Independence Community Park - Liberty Lagoon: Line Queues and Building Improv
21. Independence Community Park – Universally Accessible Playground Master Plan
22. Kendalwood Conservation Area – Bog Bridges on Imashaka Trail
23. Lovett Road Park - Dog Park (New)
24. Lovett Road Park – Site Improvements
25. Maplewood Park – Recreation Center Flood Repair
26. Mary J. Lands Park – Pavilion Renovation

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27. Milton J. Womack – Digital Park ID Sign Replacement
28. Natural Resource Management Plan Update
29. N. Sherwood Forest Community Park – CCD Administration Building
30. P&E Standard Operating Procedures Manual
31. Rollins Road Park – Bathroom Renovation

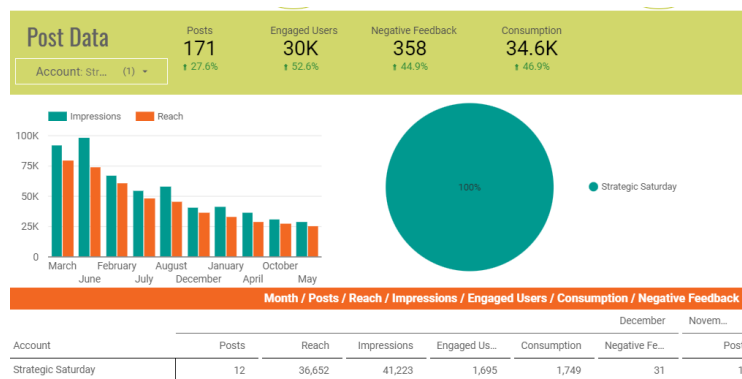


To keep the public informed on the progress of the Imagine Your Parks plans, BREC posted a portfolio of all completed projects from the first plan on its website. It can be found here:

<https://www.brec.org/index.cfm/page/2986/n/352>. Each park has a park improvement page on the website as well as an overall park improvement page which can be found here:

<https://www.brec.org/index.cfm/subhome/ParkImprovements>.

Our most popular social media campaign is called Strategic Saturday, which highlights a construction project on BREC’s main Facebook page. It is consistently our highest performing campaign with a reach exceeding 40,000 people, several thousand engaged users and 50,000+ impressions over the life of the campaign.



In 2022, the Planning and Engineering staff estimates that construction projects will total \$40-million, the largest expenditure in a year in BREC’s history as major projects get underway and the new resiliency plan to increase green infrastructure in all large-scale construction projects is implemented.

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