

BREC PARKS

MAKING EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE + WORK + PLAY



Senate Bill 205 seeks to break the accredited, award-winning, and nationally recognized BREC park system up and create two additional park systems—one for the city of Central and one for the city of Zachary.

RAMIFICATIONS

01

The bill expands government with duplicative services and staff. It would create two additional layers of government to oversee, maintain, program, and manage parks, facilities, programs, and assets currently managed by BREC.

02

The bill carries significant risks. BREC is a nationally accredited and two-time national Gold Medal award-winning (and 17-time runner-up including the last six years) agency that follows hundreds of quality and efficiency standards and best practices. The bill would turn over public assets to groups without any experience or success in the operation, maintenance and construction of multiple parks, facilities, programs and events with the expectation that services would remain the same or improve.

03

The bill jeopardizes transformational projects that benefit the entire parish. BREC is currently developing major projects with committed funding that will benefit residents in all parts of the parish, including the reimagination of the Zoo and Greenwood Community Park, the parish-wide bicycle/pedestrian master plan, revitalization of the Lakes at City-Brooks Community Park, and implementation of newly created master plans at Frenchtown Road Conservation Area and Airline Highway Park.

BREC KEEPS ITS PROMISES

01

In 2008, a similar bill was submitted for Central to create its own park district.

02

At the time, BREC committed to spending \$3.7 million on a sports park and \$500,000 on a community park in Central. Since then, BREC has spent over \$8 million on Central Sports Park and by the end of 2021, will spend more than \$4 million on Jackson Community Park.

03

BREC has more than lived up to these commitments and has a proven track record of listening to concerns and requests from residents and community leaders throughout the parish to improve parks, programs, and services.



BY THE NUMBERS

Residents of the communities that would be served by these new park systems are already seeing a significant return on their tax dollars, with additional upgrades planned for the coming years. Currently, BREC receives approximately **\$2.5 million** annually in property taxes from Central's **29,357** residents and **\$2 million** from Zachary's **17,949** residents.

Over the past five years, BREC has invested more than **\$24 million** on parks that specifically serve these two areas, including more than **\$17 million** in Central and **\$7 million** in Zachary. In addition to funding these community-specific park improvements, property taxes from each of these areas—like those paid by residents throughout the parish—help to support the delivery of transformational parish-wide projects that benefit everyone, regardless of where they live. BREC strives to meet its mission of providing exceptional parks, open spaces and recreational experiences to all East Baton Rouge Parish residents by investing in high quality parks, programs and maintenance standards in every part of the parish because we believe everyone deserves the benefits gained from having such access.

BREC uses property taxes paid annually by residents of these areas to leverage additional funds and investments in constructing transformational projects and providing high-quality services across all its parks and facilities. BREC has demonstrated again and again its commitment to using all revenues and resources at its disposal to serve all residents effectively and equitably, both in their own communities and throughout the parish.



PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO LEARN MORE OR PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE BILL.
CONTACT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT: [LEGIS.LA.GOV](https://legis.la.gov)



BREC CONTINUES TO ADVANCE LARGE SCALE TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS

The following are just some of the large projects BREC has either recently completed or that are currently underway which will have a transformative impact on all of East Baton Rouge Parish.



The reimagination of the Baton Rouge Zoo and Greenwood Community Park

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The parish-wide bicycle/pedestrian master plan, which will bring 450 miles of connectivity trails to every area of the parish

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The development of a green infrastructure initiative focused on maximizing multiple benefits of BREC lands and resources for resiliency, sustainability and mitigation of future flood risks to neighborhoods and businesses surrounding BREC parks

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More than \$8-million invested in the creation of and improvements to Central Sports Park and more than \$4-million invested in Central's Jackson Community Park, including such new amenities as a one-of-a kind modern playground, a new recreation center at Jackson Community Park, and the pending purchase of adjacent land for expanding the park

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A new education building and master plan for Frenchtown Road Conservation Area in Central, creating the only park in the parish that is comparable to Louisiana's state parks in size and scope

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The construction and continuous improvement of Zachary Community Park, with amenities such as a splashpad, dog park, fishing lake and a one-of-a-kind playground that is the tallest playground in the BREC system

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