

Audubon Park

Audubon Park Master Plan 50% DRAFT

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Introduction

Audubon Park is one of New Orleans' most cherished assets, providing quality recreational opportunities for millions of people annually. In developing the Audubon Park Master Plan, the Audubon Commission's highest priority was to continue its stewardship of the unique character of Audubon Park that has been the source of enjoyment for generations of New Orleanians. Therefore, the Site Plan contained in Section A reflects no major changes to land uses in Audubon Park. Within this existing framework of uses in Audubon Park, however, the Commission must continue to improve the beauty of the Park and the quality of the services it provides to the entire New Orleans community, consistent with its more than one hundred years of stewardship of Audubon Park. The six sections of this 50% Draft Master Plan document delineate those actions the Commission preliminarily deems appropriate for the future of Audubon Park.

The response to the Audubon Commission's request for public input on the Audubon Park Master Plan has been great and we appreciate all of the interest that it has generated. The public meeting on January 13th had over 150 attendees and the comment period after the meeting resulted in many written responses, over 100 email comments, numerous telephone comments, and meetings between staff and interested groups and individuals.

The 50% Draft Master Plan is being published and disseminated at this early stage in order to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on all aspects of the Master Plan early in its development. To this end, the Draft Master Plan attempts to address all of the issues applicable to the Park's Master Plan which have been identified by Audubon staff, its consultants and the general public over the last several years, and particularly during the last four months of public comment and meetings. This Draft Master Plan then attempts to briefly explain the philosophy related to each issue and broadly outline how the final Master Plan may address each issue. It is the intention of the Audubon Commission that this methodology will facilitate a public comment process that is informed, specific and productive before a detailed 90% Master Plan is completed and disseminated for final public comment and action by the Commission.

A public meeting to receive comments on the Draft Plan will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9th in the Audubon Tea Room. This schedule will allow the public sufficient time to review the Draft, ask questions and prepare specific comments for the Commission at the public meeting or via written or email communication.

After the July 9th public meeting, further public comment will be solicited by the Commission until the end of July. The Commission will then continue the Master Plan development to the 90% stage, publish the 90% Draft Plan and hold another public meeting and comment period before completing the plan and voting on it at a Commission meeting in late 2003 or early 2004.



