



Audubon Park

**Audubon Park Master Plan
50% DRAFT**

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Contact Information

Mail: Audubon Commission
Park Master Plan
P.O. Box 4327
New Orleans, LA 70178

E-mail: parkmasterplan@auduboninstitute.org

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.

Section G: Park Infrastructure

Introduction	G – 1
Lighting – Jogging Path	G – 1
Park Operating Hours & Security	G – 1
Drainage	G – 3
Shelters & Restrooms	G – 3-4
Audubon Park Structures	G – 5-6
Lighting Attachments	G – 7-10
Drainage Improvements	G – 11
Riverview Shelter House Drawing	G – 12

Section G: Park Infrastructure

Introduction

The overall infrastructure of Audubon Park needs a combination of continued care and maintenance, improvement and preservation. One of the most frequently mentioned items in the public meetings and subsequent public comment period related to lighting along the jogging path in the front section of Audubon Park. Several options related to jogging path lighting are specifically addressed in this draft Master Plan. In addition, areas in the park which have the greatest need for drainage improvements are identified; shelter house maintenance, improvements and additions are identified in the front, middle and back (Riverview) sections of Audubon Park; playgrounds are addressed; and the fountains, buildings and Newman Bandstand are also included.

Lighting – Jogging Path:

Included in this draft Master Plan are four different schemes for lighting the jogging path in the Park. Each scheme provides a different level of lighting and a different appearance of the lighting fixture in the infrastructure of the day time park. Each of these schemes, if implemented, would include placement of the fixtures only on the outer perimeter of the jogging path in most locations. This would minimize potential damage to trees caused by the necessity of new underground utilities for the lights. The current lights and electrical service are totally inadequate for any type of reuse in a new lighting system along the jogging path. These different schemes are presented for public comment and review.

In addition to the lighting itself, adding significant light levels along the jogging path has potential implications for security and park operating hours. Currently Audubon Park is closed at 11:00 p.m. daily (separate hours exist for Riverview) and the low level of lighting on the jogging path does not “invite” night time users. In conjunction with park lighting, the Commission will consider appropriate park closing hours and security levels during open hours to provide maximum assurance of a well lit, secure park during operating hours. Consideration will also be given to the appropriate level of lighting along the jogging path when the park is closed. Please see further discussion regarding this matter under the next part of this section of the preliminary of the draft Master Plan.

Park Operating Hours & Security

General operating hours for Audubon Park are currently established as 5:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. The Riverview area of Audubon Park has operating hours which end at 8:30 p.m. Exceptions are made for scheduled athletic and other events. These hours have been established for the safety and security of park users, park facilities and park neighbors.

A review of the operating hours for Audubon Park will be part of the development of the overall Audubon Park Master Plan. Therefore, the Audubon Commission is seeking public input in this regard. If the current situation regarding lighting along the jogging path does not change significantly in the Master Plan, it would be anticipated that the operating hours for Audubon Park overall would be 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and that the Riverview operating hours would continue to be shorter than the overall park. However, lighting of the jogging path is one of the major issues to be considered in the Master Plan. If a significant increase in the lighting along the jogging path is implemented, as part of the lighting program the Commission would consider revising operating hours (and security patrols) to help ensure a safe and appropriate use of Audubon Park in the evenings. Further discussion of this issue follows:

Additional lighting along the jogging path will increase the number of users of Audubon Park after dark. Given the openness of Audubon Park and the open access policy necessary in a public park an increase in after dark usage in the Park also increases the concerns about the safety and security of park users, park property and park neighbors. Therefore, along with the consideration of additional lighting on the jogging path the Commission will consider revising the open hours of the Park and the level of security provided. Under consideration and discussion would be changing the open hours of Audubon Park to 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and provide additional security along the jogging path between sunset and 9:00 p.m. This should provide for a safe access to Audubon Park during reasonable opening hours and for the ability to secure and control the park after 9:00 p.m.

Also under consideration will be a lower level of lighting after Park closing hours. The Commission will consider two light levels along the jogging path – full lighting during open hours and significantly lower levels after closing hours. This lower level of lighting would allow for vehicular security patrols of the jogging path but not “inviting” users into the Park after hours.

Security and safety in Audubon Park is provided by regular patrol by 2nd District New Orleans Police Department, Audubon Commission Security Staff and paid details of NOPD officers during selected normal activities and special events. This combination of NOPD and Audubon Staff will continue throughout Audubon Park, including vehicular patrols throughout the park, bicycle patrols, foot patrols and traffic controls at appropriate times and locations. In addition, the security call boxes will be maintained and vehicular access to the Riverview area of Audubon Park will continue to be blocked after closing.

Drainage

Although major portions of Audubon Park have adequate drainage (especially Riverview and the new Audubon Park Golf Course) there are several areas of the park where additional drainage infrastructure must be added or other actions taken within or adjacent to Audubon Park. Attached is a map of Audubon Park with the areas delineated within the park which need additional drainage infrastructure. During the next 12 months the necessary engineering analysis and design will be performed to determine the most appropriate manner to resolve these drainage issues in a way that positively impacts park property without negatively impacting adjoining properties and neighborhoods and an implementation and funding schedule will be developed.

The Audubon Commission recognizes that all drainage in the park goes into the overall City drainage system. As part of the long range plan for Audubon, the Commission will continue to work with the City to keep the drains and drainage system immediately adjacent to the park as functional as possible.

Shelters and Restrooms

Front of Park (St. Charles to Magazine Street)

There are currently three (3) Shelter/Restroom complexes in the front section of Audubon Park. The two shelters near St. Charles Avenue on the Expedition Blvd. and Walnut Street side of the Park also have an associated playground. The Master Plan anticipates no expansion of either the playgrounds or the Shelter/Restrooms in these areas. The playgrounds will continue to be well maintained at their current size. The restrooms in the shelter houses will be improved (but not expanded) and both these shelter bathrooms will be locked after dark and reopened after sunrise.

The largest shelter/restroom complex in Audubon Park is Shelter #10 located adjacent to the Newman Bandstand near Magazine Street. This is also the only shelter which has direct vehicular access. The restrooms in this shelter will be improved (not expanded) and the shelter house size will remain the same. As Audubon Park continues to improve in quality the requests for using this shelter house by large groups is anticipated to increase even further from current levels. This is not necessarily desirable for the overall quality of experience for all users in the front section of Audubon Park. Therefore, the Master Plan will consider usage restrictions for this shelter house by large groups, particularly in spring and fall when park usage is at its peak and by large groups which are not making use of the jogging path. The objective of these new regulations would be: continue the level of races in the park at the current level, with no major expansion; careful coordination with other large activities occurring within Audubon Park and Zoo; parking restrictions and directions for races and large events to direct parking to the zoo side of Magazine Street, reserving the parking near Shelter #10 and the Clubhouse for golfers and other regular park users; provide an opportunity (see Riverview) for large picnics in a more appropriate area of the Park; and provide appropriate levels of security during any large events or races in the front section of Audubon. Additional regulations regarding the usage of shelter houses will be considered to control crowding, noise and trash associated with shelter house usage. Comments from the public are requested regarding Shelter house regulations that may benefit all Park users.

The shelter structures around the lagoon will be maintained, additional benches will be placed throughout the front section of Audubon Park and the concrete benches along St. Charles Avenue will be repaired or replaced, as necessary.

Overall, the Park Master Plan anticipates no expansion of existing Shelter houses and restrooms, but improvements to the restrooms. The level of activity at the shelters near St. Charles Avenue would remain stable and the activity at the shelter near Magazine Street would decrease during the spring and summer months. Races would continue at the same level, but additional security would be provided.

Middle Section (Magazine Street to Railroad Tracks)

This area of Audubon Park currently has two facilities which formerly served as shelter houses but would need significant improvements to make them functional. These are Shelter #13 (adjacent to Magazine Street) and a small shelter house located in the area riverward of the stables. The Shelter 13 on Magazine Street is so close to the street that it is not a safe or appropriate shelter house location. However, the building is one of the oldest structures in Audubon Park and should be preserved. Therefore, the Master Plan anticipates the preservation of this building, but not as an active shelter/restroom. In addition to the physical preservation of the building, interpretive signage would be developed to explain the history of this section of the park (on both sides of Magazine Street). This would preserve the building and allow this area of the park, generally between Magazine Street and the Odenheimer Complex in the Zoo, to be a quiet and relatively low activity area of the park. This will contrast with the much higher level of activity directly across Magazine Street in the area of Shelter 10 and the Newman bandstand, which has been a focus of activities in Audubon Park for almost 100 years.

The former shelter/restroom located riverward of the Stables will also not be put into active restroom/shelter usage. Its location is too isolated for safety and the Master Plan envisions this area of Audubon Park as an area of limited, quiet activity. For other comments on this area of the park please see Labyrinth; and Parking and Vehicular Traffic sections of this Plan.

Riverview

There are currently two bathrooms located at the upriver and downriver ends of Riverview. The upriver bathroom serves primarily the open space and the downriver bathroom serves primarily the playground and athletic fields. The Master Plan anticipates significant improvement to both of these bathroom facilities and the addition of covered shelter spaces in the vicinity of both bathrooms.

The upriver bathroom would be enlarged and improved and a covered shelter would be added adjacent to the bathrooms. This would be a location to move some of the larger non-race activities which currently occur at Shelter 10. This area of Audubon Park has more parking, more green space, more shade and less conflicting uses than the Shelter 10 area.

The restrooms on the downriver side of Riverview would be improved and expanded. A covered shelter area would be added as well as concession facilities related to the athletic fields, current and proposed. The playground would be maintained at its existing size.

Additional comments about the Riverview area are included in the Vehicular Traffic and Parking; and Athletic Program sections of the Plan.

Audubon Park Structures

In addition to the trees (see tree program) and shelter houses (see shelter house section) the primary structures within Audubon Park which require continued care, maintenance and preservation include the entrance at St. Charles Avenue; the Newman Bandstand; the fountain at the entrance at St. Charles Avenue; the Hyams fountain off Magazine Street; the World War I Memorial and flagpole; the tennis clubhouse/bike and boat rental building near the golf clubhouse; and the structures preserved from the original Audubon Park swimming pool.

The entrance and fountain at St. Charles Avenue are in excellent condition, probably as beautiful and functional as when the entrance was first constructed. The Master Plan anticipates this condition continuing indefinitely into the future with appropriate maintenance, repair and improvements to retain its original beauty and architecture. This includes the entrance architecture as well as the fountain and the overall area of the entrance.

The Newman Bandstand was recently renovated and the lagoon side of the Bandstand significantly improved with a new lagoon overlook and viewing area, using many of the design elements of the front entrance to Audubon Park. Although this area of Audubon Park was at one time a very active concert location, with a significant amount of bench seating in front of the Bandstand, the current informal configuration of the area around the Bandstand is anticipated to be continued. The architecture will remain the same; the Bandstand will continue to be the focal point of pre and post race activities and only periodic concerts (like the annual free Symphony concert) will occur on the Bandstand. It is also anticipated that the current architecture of the Newman Bandstand will be maintained and retained. The original tennis clubhouse/bike and boat rental building will remain as a support/storage building and the World War I Memorial and flagpole will be retained.

Hyams fountain, located just outside of the Zoo near the Odenheimer complex, will be maintained as a fountain and the landscape and grass around the fountain area will be reworked. The intent is to create a beautiful, shaded and serene terminus in the park to the oak alley extending from the Newman Bandstand and its high level of activities across Magazine Street to the Hymans fountain and ultimately the Odenheimer complex inside the zoo perimeter fence. The Master Plan anticipates the location of the zoo perimeter fence to remain unchanged.

May 1, 2003

Mr. Dale Stastny
AUDUBON INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 4327
New Orleans, LA 70178

REFERENCE: Audubon Park Path Lighting
ME File No. 2003-02

SUBJECT: Additional Information Submittal

Dear Dale:

Following our meeting of April 2, 2003, we continued to develop the design concepts as discussed and provide below our final concepts for the jogging path for your use and consideration.

Initially, we referred to the light level standards proposed by the Illuminating Engineers Society (IES) for pedestrian pathways located away from roadways to give a technical basis for design. It recommended a minimum average of 0.5 footcandles and a ratio of average footcandle level to the minimum footcandle level at less than 5:1 in areas where security is a concern.

To give a baseline of existing conditions, we measured existing light levels in four sites around the Park. Drawing E1 highlighted the 4 site areas. At your request, Site D is now the roadway and parking area leading to Pavilion 10 and the new golf club house.

We represented our findings on Drawing E2 in a linear bar graph form to provide a visual idea of how the light levels undulate along the area surveyed. The new Site D is now depicted on the drawing. The average and average-to-minimum lighting ratios are also shown for sites B, C and D. These data all represent existing conditions.

To bring the lighting levels on the jogging path to those recommended by IES, new poles and light fixtures will have to be installed. Different fixtures produce different results, and therefore require different quantities to ring the path. We have presented, below, information about five different pole-mounted light fixtures indicating how many fixtures are required, their spacing and performance.

Finally, we are also forwarding drawing E3, a lighting arrangement for a segment of the path, from Magazine Street to Hurst Street along the Walnut Street side. This shows the variation in lighting levels and spacing of the poles.

This concludes our scope of work. We trust this provides you with the helpful kind of information you sought.

Mr. Dale Stastny

May 1, 2003

Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this Feasibility Report to you and should you require our services at meetings with the public or for future reviews or design work, please do not hesitate to call me.

Yours very truly,

MOSES ENGINEERS

Reed D. Hamilton, P.E.

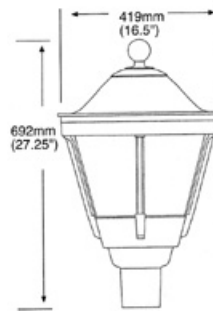
RDH/vsm

Attachments

Audubon Park Jogging Path Lighting

FIXTURE COMPARISONS

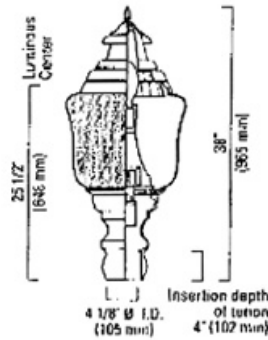
GE Criterion



Holphane Residential Post Top



Gardco Gullwing

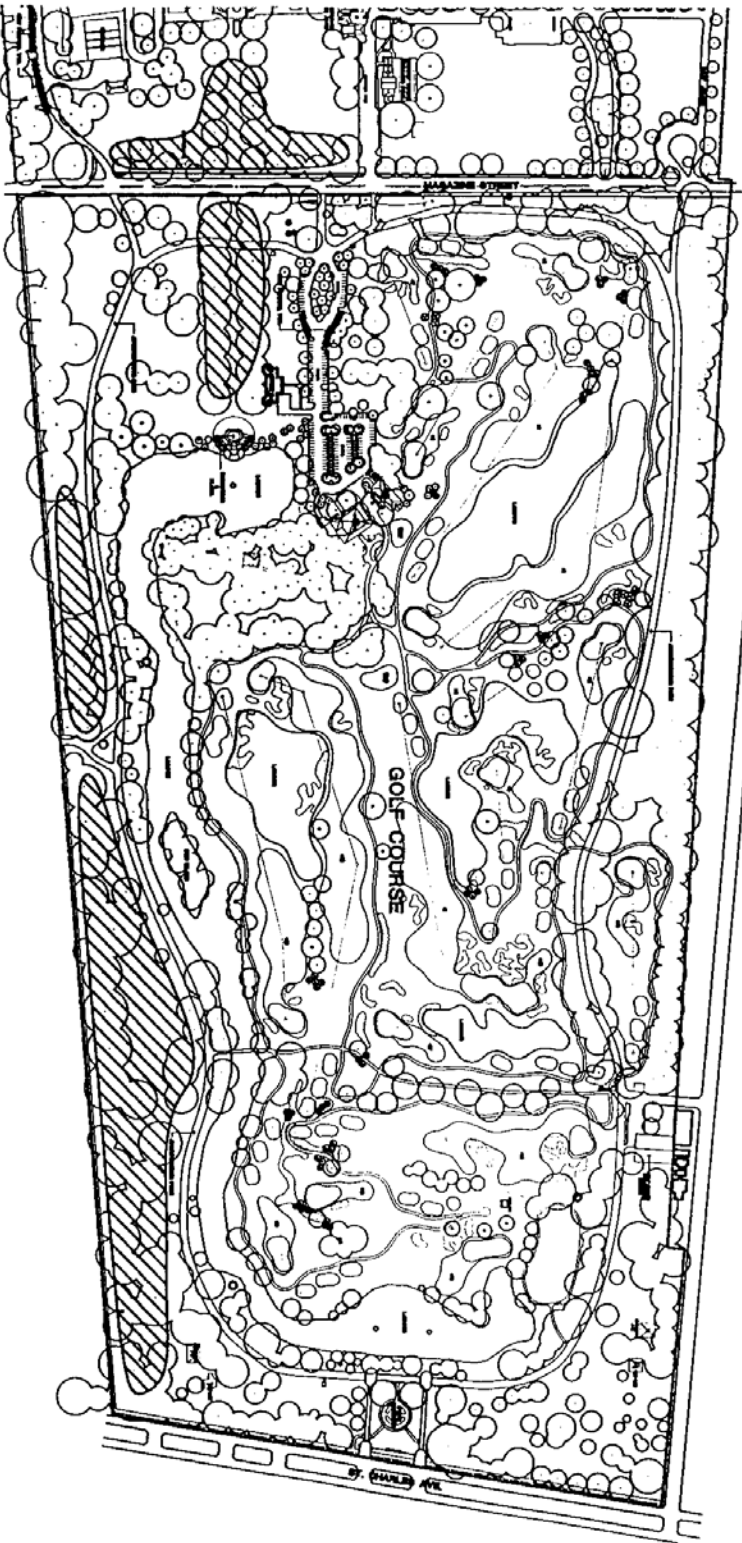


Lumec L51

**AUDUBON PARK JOGGING PATH
FIXTURE COMPARISONS**

Fixture	mounting Height, feet	fixture spacing, feet	quantity required	Max footcandle s	Min footcandle s	Average footcandles 0.5 fc required	Average/ Minimum < 5:1 required	fixture Cost	Yearly operating cost. 10 hours/night @ \$.08/KWH
GE Criterion									
100 watt	18	80	119	2.6	0.6	1.4	2.3:1	\$400	\$4,344
100 watt	18	90	106	2.6	0.5	1.1	2.28:1	\$400	\$3,869
Holphane Residential Post Top, Same as:									
Entergy Blvd									
Entergy Promenade	14	62	153	0.9	0.3	0.6	1.7:1	existing	
Entrance/ Parking to Club House	14			1.8	0.0	0.5	24.:1	existing	
	14	40	238	1.7	0.6	0.9	1.7:1	existing	
Proposed pathway									
100 Watt	14	65	146	1.9	0.5	0.8	2.0:1	\$450	\$5,329
175 Watt	14	90	106	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.6:1	\$450	\$6,500
Gardco Gullwing									
175 watt	18	120	79	3.9	0.2	1.25	6.25	\$430	\$4,844
Lumec L51									
175 watt	15	120	79	1.9	0.3	0.75	2.5	\$660	\$4,844

Notes: The maximum electrical load is 106 fixtures with 175 watt lamps, resulting in 27 Amp load. Split the load between a panel at the St. Charles Avenue end of the park and one at the Magazine street end. This would require only 3 1-pole breakers in each panel; each panel would have 13.5 Amps added to it at night.



LEGEND



DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
NEEDED

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

G-11



