



THE

Pelican Watch

Castine Family Campout

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Paddles on Paddy's Day Pickleball Tournament

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Twilight Eggstravaganza

Page 18



Recreation District #1 OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH

PELICAN PARK®

Making a Difference in the Lives of Children & Adults!

Board of Commissioners

Nixon Adams, *Chairman*
Shearn Lemoine, *Vice-Chairman*
Rick Danielson
William Matthews, Jr., J.D.
John Neill
deShea Richardson, J.D.

Management Staff:

Ext:

Jennifer Dexter, <i>Executive Director</i>	103
Kia Knight, <i>Assistant Director</i>	105
Doug McLemore, <i>Assistant Director</i>	201
Scott Goodwill, <i>Finance Director</i>	121
Marie Dupre, <i>Records Information Manager</i>	110
Niki Butler, <i>Marketing Administrator</i>	111

Front Line:

Melissa Smith, <i>Office Supervisor</i>	114
Andrea Stafford, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	100
Tonya Rosevally, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	109

Recreation Staff:

Erika Lehrmann, <i>Recreation Supervisor</i>	118
Brennan Kuss, <i>Recreation Supervisor</i>	102
Carly Arthur, <i>Recreation Supervisor</i>	120
Lacey Gill, <i>Recreation Supervisor</i>	119
Andrew Thomas, <i>Concession Supervisor (retired)</i>	113
Matt Bettencourt, <i>Facility Staff</i>	
Bobby Speak, <i>Facility Staff</i>	

Castine Center Staff:

Tracy Roskens, <i>Supervisor</i>	117
Catherine Barbier, <i>Supervisor</i>	104
Kevin Lewis, <i>Specialist</i>	
Mike Keilly, <i>Maintenance</i>	

Park Staff:

Ron Johnson, *Park Supervisor*
Jesse Williams, *Turf Supervisor*
Will Reed, *Park Foreman*

CONTACT US!

63350 Pelican Drive
Mandeville, LA 70448

985-626-7997

PelicanPark.com

Pelican Park Hours

7am - 9pm Daily

24 Hour Hotline

985-626-1444

Office Hours

8am - 5pm
Mondays - Fridays

Facility Staff

4pm - 9pm
985-966-6645

Follow Us On

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@PelicanParkMandeville



Recreation District #1 is a free-standing governmental agency. The District is supported by a property tax paid by the residents and businesses within the Recreation District. The general boundaries of the Recreation District are Lake Pontchartrain on the south side, the Tchefuncte River on the west side, Big Branch on the east side and Three Rivers Road on the north side. The District, which operates Pelican Park, is under the direction of a seven-member Board of Commissioners.

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Save the Dates for Upcoming Events in 2024

Castine Family Campout - February 23-24, 2024

Paddles on Paddy's Day Pickleball Tournament - March 16-17, 2024

Hoppy Paw Pics - March 22, 2024

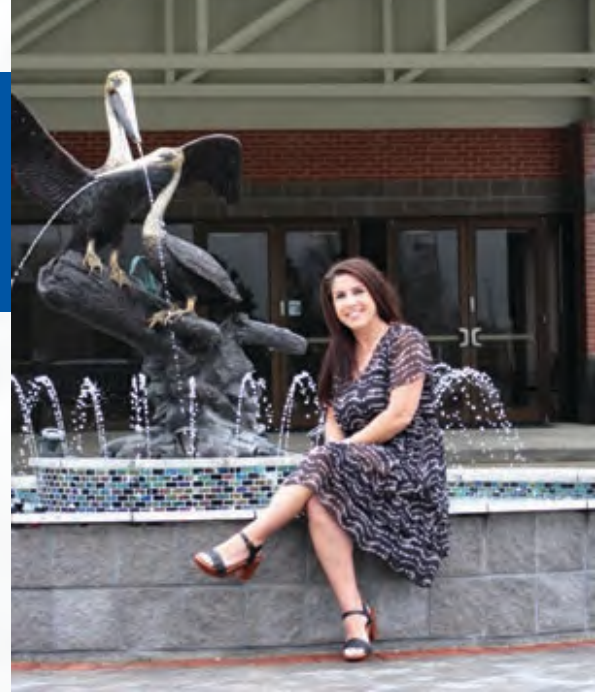
Twilight Eggstravaganza - March 23, 2024

Cruisin' the Castine Car Show - May 4, 2024

Family Fishing Rodeo - June 8, 2024

Pelican Park Pickleball Classic - September 21-22, 2024

Director's Message



As the holiday season comes to a close, I hope you and your loved ones had joyous and safe festivities. We, at Recreation District #1 / Pelican Park, are in high spirits as we step into the promising year of 2024! For many of us, with each new year comes promises to live a healthier, happier lifestyle. Together, we can make this year one of growth, strength, and shared memories!

As we anticipate this new chapter, I am thrilled to welcome new staff, board members, players, and coaches to our ever-expanding family. We are truly fortunate to have a community as dedicated and passionate as ours! Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our accomplishments, and I am confident that together, we will achieve even greater heights in the coming year.

One of the cornerstones of our success is the funding that we have received from our voters and community, enabling us to continue impactful projects at Pelican Park. This support has not only allowed us to sustain our ongoing initiatives, but has also empowered us to explore new avenues for growth and innovation. As we forge ahead, we remain committed to utilizing these resources responsibly and transparently, ensuring that every dollar contributes to the betterment of our community.

I am pleased to announce that, through smart planning and responsible fiscal management, Recreation District #1 will have an “in lieu of” proposal on the Spring 2024 Election Ballot. This is not a new tax, but combines our current two millages into one so that we can pay off previous self-funded debt for capital projects and have the ability to bond additional funds for even more projects at the Park. The success of this renewal not only signifies the continued trust and confidence of our community, but also serves to continue the momentum of our projects, create lasting impacts, and build a legacy that extends far beyond the confines of any given year—but for generations to come!

Some board members, staff members, and I had the privilege of attending the 2023 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Conference in Dallas and the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) Congress and Athletic Business (AB) Show in Baltimore. It was somewhat overwhelming, yet enlightening and inspiring to see what parks and recreation facilities do nationwide. It was an incredible think tank—with all of us coming back to Mandeville with a wealth of ideas to better serve our community of all abilities and ages. It was exciting to have the opportunity to learn about various trends, products, and network with other professionals in the industry.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Here's to a year filled with growth, success, and the unwavering spirit of Recreation District #1 / Pelican Park! I look forward to sharing more about Pelican Park's developments in the coming months!

Jenny Dexter

Jenny Dexter
Executive Director





Please Vote!

On April 27, 2024 St. Tammany Parish will hold an election, and Recreation District #1 (Pelican Park) will have a proposition on the ballot that combines two of our existing millages.

Is this a new tax? NO, this is NOT a new tax. This is a combination and replacement of two existing special tax levies that voters have already passed. The existing special tax levies of 2.78 mils (passed in 2007) and 3.27 mils (passed in 2014) would be combined into one levy of 6.05 mils.

What is the benefit of combining them now? This would greatly benefit Recreation District #1 by providing new financing opportunities for our planned capital projects. The current structure of our millages limits our ability to issue new debt to pay for our planned capital projects. The proposed combined tax levy would permit us to issue a sufficient amount of debt to fund our intended capital improvements and continue improving and expanding our level of services to the community. This proposition would give the District the ability to see the taxes in 2024 and have the money to actually spend for the Master Planning Projects in 2025.

How will this proposition benefit you? Pelican Park will continue to provide excellent recreation for the community as well as the new opportunities identified in our Master Plan. There is something for everyone at Pelican Park!

Your voice counts! Please vote on April 27, 2024!

Have you seen all of the changes at Pelican Park?

If you haven't, please come by with your friends and family soon! We have 500 acres and are not "just" a sports facility! Come enjoy our District's dog parks; take a walk on our health trail or in the woods at Northlake Nature Center; use the outside adult exercise equipment; enjoy a game of pickleball on our 8 outside courts or just have a quiet picnic in the Groves, just to name a few great family activities ready for you and your family to enjoy.



Employee Spotlights



Kia Knight, CPRP (Certified Parks and Recreation Professional)

Congratulations on your retirement, Kia Knight! Thank you for your 25 years of service at Pelican Park.

When did you start at Pelican Park and in what position? I was hired in March 1999 as the Office Manager. The following year, I assumed the position of the Castine Center Manager.

What Position do you have today? In 2009, I was promoted to and am currently the Assistant Director.

How would you describe the culture at Pelican Park? I always say to people that if you meet any of the staff, you'll understand what a Parks and Rec professional is. We're outgoing, fun and have a huge desire to contribute to our community.

What is your favorite part of your job? I love special projects and I have been fortunate to have worked on many projects in the park, such as the Castine Center renovations and office expansion

What motivates you? I really enjoy learning and doing something new. It's the challenge that motivates me.

What is your proudest moment at Pelican Park? There's not one particular thing that stands out to me. I'm just proud of the team I've worked with through the years and everything we have accomplished for our community.

What is a special experience you had at Pelican Park? I've had a lot, but most recently I was able to experience up and close the banding of new baby purple martin birds at the Silver complex.

How do you see Pelican Park in the near and far future? I was involved in the new Master Plan for the park and all I see is growth and opportunity for this community.

What are your hobbies when you are not at work? I love anything to do with animals, cooking, and watching all kinds of sports.

What are your plans after retirement this March? My husband of 23 years, Eddie, and I are moving to Florida to a retirement community. I'll finally get to fully enjoy parks and recreation as a user. It's going to be great!

What is the top of your bucket list? I can't wait to travel, locally, domestically and abroad.



Andrew Thomas

Congratulations on your retirement, Andrew Thomas! Thank you for your 16.5 years of service at Pelican Park.

When did you start at Pelican Park and in what position? I officially joined Pelican Park on August 7, 2007, initially working part-time as a Supervisor at the Castine Center. By May 5, 2008, I transitioned into a full-time role.

What Position do you have today? In 2013, after six years, I assumed the role of Concessions Supervisor. This position has been my mainstay for the entirety of my 16.5-year tenure at Pelican Park, culminating in my retirement in December 2023.

What are your responsibilities today? Currently, I oversee and train a team of 35-45 part-time teenagers that work at the concession stands. My duties include ensuring timely product orders and restocking, handling financial transactions, and maintaining the upkeep of all stands and equipment.

How would you describe the culture at Pelican Park? Pelican Park is a great place to work with great benefits and an awesome retirement plan too!

What is your favorite part of your job? Getting to know the kids and interacting with the patrons.

What are your plans after retirement this March? I'm looking forward to unwinding and spending ample time fishing. A particularly appealing prospect is the diminished frequency of late-night texts from all of the teenage employees that would like to change their shifts.

What is the top of your bucket list? Catching a swordfish is a long-standing goal of mine.



Friends of Pelican Park



The Friends of Pelican Park Board is composed of all local volunteers. The current Board Members consist of the President, Bobby McKinney; Treasurer, Alex Balducci; Secretary, Jennifer Messina and board members, Sue McGuire, Walker Liddell, Chris Tissue and Heath Jones (past President).

The Friends of Pelican Park has been in existence since 1998. It is a 501c3, non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to enhance Pelican Park's facilities and programs.

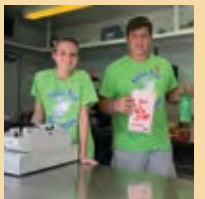
Past projects include the playground at the Orange complex, the 12 station health trail located along the park's paths, resurfacing of playground surfaces, purchasing trees as part of the District's reforestation project and supporting scholarships.

These projects were made possible through the generous donations of the District's residents. Donations can be made when registering for any program or sent directly to the park made payable to Friends of Pelican Park. Additionally, your employer may have a program that allows you to make contributions through payroll deductions. Some employers will even match their employees' donations!

Employment Opportunities

We have both full and part-time positions available. For full details about the following positions or to fill out an employment application, please visit our website at: pelicanpark.com under [About/Employment/HR](#) or you can apply at the Pelican Park office, inside of the Castine Center at:

63350 Pelican Drive, Mandeville, LA.
Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm



Castine Center and Pelican Park Updates

Are you or your company having an event soon and looking for a perfect place to have it? The Castine Center is ideal for any size event including: Mardi Gras balls, award ceremonies, dance recitals, fundraisers, holiday events, board meetings, educational classes, conventions, festivals, and even dance, cheer or gymnastic competitions. The options are endless and our staff is ready to book your next great event here at the Castine Center. The arena offers 28,000 square feet of clear span area that can be subdivided. The Castine Center also offers a 3,400 square foot concourse, 625 square foot conference rooms and 3,000 square foot outdoor courtyard which can all be used as additional space for events for registration, additional seating, preparation rooms, ceremonies and much more.

Call us to schedule a tour at 985-626-7997

Take a look at these upcoming public events that will be held at the Castine Center soon:

January:

- ◆ 13-14th Northshore Gymnastics
- ◆ 17th LSU Ag Meeting

February:

- ◆ 3-4th St Tammany Home and Remodeling Show
- ◆ 17-18 Murphy's Gun Show
- ◆ 21st LSU AG Meeting

March:

- ◆ 16th Victory Athletics
- ◆ 20th LSU AG
- ◆ 20-22nd Bargain Boutique (Smock Candy)
- ◆ 23-24th Murphy's Gun Show

Skate Park and Pump Track Expansion Update

Recreation District #1 is excited to have one of our priority projects identified in the master plan well on its way! The Park has contracted with Newline Skateparks, Inc., a full-service planning, design and construction firm specializing in the development of integrated concrete skateparks, pump tracks and other progressive action sports environments. Newline's team consists of registered landscape architects, engineering experts and construction professionals who are passionate, active skateboarders.

With operations spanning over 20 years and nearly 400 highly recognized projects across North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia, Newline is considered one of the world's longest running and most respected municipal skatepark, and pump track design-build firms.

Two Community Engagement meetings were held to gather input for design, the first on September 19th and the second on October 25th. Community Engagement also included a survey accessible through a QR code that was posted for two weeks following each community meeting. We had approximately 40 attendees at both meetings and an additional 50+ responses from each survey. This meeting included an in-person design charette where a group activity was performed by five groups of eight or more where participants selected desired terrain and located them to scale on the project site. Finally, a spokesperson from each group described the priorities of the group input.

At the 2nd Community Engagement meeting, Newline presented conceptual drawings and received lots of feedback from the public. Three concept drawings were presented and attendees identified what they liked about each one. The final design will incorporate elements from the 3 conceptual designs presented.

Additionally, the community's feedback highlighted a strong desire for a skatepark that reflects local culture and uniqueness. Incorporating elements like pelican-themed art or features, and possibly using colors or motifs that resonate with the local community, could add a distinct touch. Artistic representations of local landmarks or cultural symbols in the skatepark's design would enhance its appeal and identity



By considering these recommendations, the Pelican Park Skatepark can become a cherished and functional space that meets the needs and expectations of its diverse user group while reflecting the unique character of the community.



A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Pelican Park

Our Turf Management

In this edition of a Behind-the Scenes Look, we take you on a journey to explore the meticulous care and attention our Turf Staff dedicates to maintain the lush, green playing fields that provide the backdrop for countless memories, competition and learning.

A Symphony of Precision and Timing

Imagine mowing over 2,178,000 square feet of Hybrid Tifway 419 Bermuda grass. That's the impressive feat accomplished by only 4 of our amazing Pelican Park Turf Professionals. The fields, spanning 50 acres, are a testament to their commitment and to think, as soon as they reach the end, our staff starts the process again since they are usually mowed twice a week to ensure a consistent and pristine playing surface.



The Science of Fertilization

Maintaining the integrity of our turfs requires a carefully crafted regimen. Every 6 to 8 weeks, the park undergoes a transformation with the application of 15,000 lbs. of fertilizer. This nourishment ensures the turf remains resilient and lush throughout the year. Additionally, our diligent staff aerates all fields every 8 weeks. This crucial process reduces footprints, alleviates soil compaction, and facilitates the percolation of air and water, creating an optimal environment for healthy turf growth.

Fields are meticulously maintained at a height of 1 ¼" during the spring and summer, a decision informed by soil testing analysis. This method allows our Turf Staff to tailor their approach, providing the necessary nutrients for the soil to thrive in every season.

Watering Wisdom for Drought-Resilient Fields

Water is the elixir of life, and our fields receive a carefully calibrated dose through our irrigation system. Equipped with 693 Falcon Rainbird heads, our game fields boast a watering infrastructure. During the drier months, from June to September, these heads disperse over 1.5 million gallons of water per week, ensuring our turf remains vibrant and resilient even in the face of drought conditions like we have been experiencing for the past few months.

As we celebrate the beauty of our playing fields, let's also extend our gratitude to the Turf Staff Professionals whose passion and expertise transform our beautiful Park into a haven for sports and recreation. Their dedication ensures that every game played on our fields is on a canvas with a beautiful green backdrop.

Thank you for being a part of our thriving community. Stay tuned for more exciting updates and insights in the next edition of Behind-the Scenes Look of Pelican Park!



Pelican Park Facilities



Our 3 Dog Parks

Experience the joy of nature and play at our dog parks, where your pup can run, socialize, and expend energy while you both enjoy the outdoors. This benefits both dogs and humans, strengthening your bond and well-being. Dog parks foster good behavior through exercise and socialization, leading to happier, better-behaved dogs.

Our 3rd dog park that Recreation District # 1/ Pelican Park maintains, is called Pretty Acres Dog Park, and is located in Covington, LA. Pretty Acres is on Andrew Drive off of Highway 190 in Covington. From Highway 190, turn east onto Park Place Drive (which runs between Pier 1 Imports and Goodwill).

Please Remember to be responsible for your pets by familiarizing yourself with the rules and helping maintain a safe environment.



Skate Park

Visit our Pelicans Nest skate park at Pelican Park for thrilling experiences at our well-lit facility for both day and night-time riding from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Safety first – gear up with helmets, knee pads, and elbow pads for a secure and enjoyable experience.

Be on the lookout for our new upcoming expansion and construction that will be added to the current skate park. See article on page 8.



Disc Golf

Discover the relaxing and fun sport of disc golf at our beautiful course called The Pines Disc Golf Course. You can play a quiet round alone, or with family and friends of all ages. The sport is played using discs (frisbees®) and is similar to golf, however one throws a disc towards a target/basket instead of hitting a ball. The player with the lowest number of total throws at the last hole wins. Visit our website for more information at: pelicanpark.com/Pelican Park/Facilities



Sand Volleyball Courts

Enjoy the athletic and strategic experience of sand volleyball on our open sand volleyball courts toward the back of the Park near the Silver Fields. The sandy surface adds complexity, and the courts are first-come, first-served basis. You can practice your skills, enjoy some friendly competition with some friends and just have a little fun in the sun. The sand volleyball courts can also be rented for private parties, tournaments and corporate events.



The Groves at Pelican Park

Explore The Groves for a blend of leisure, competition, and family bonding. From Pelicans Landing pavilion to pickleball courts and outdoor fitness equipment, it's your go-to destination for family fun. An open air stage is coming soon for concerts and events.



Pelicans Landing

Pelicans Landing isn't just an open-air pavilion; it's an event space waiting to host your next special occasion. Whether it's a daytime gathering or an enchanting evening event, the versatile Pelicans Landing can be transformed to suit your needs. Birthdays, office parties, team celebrations – the possibilities are limitless.

If you are interested in finding out more information or would like to book a birthday party, event, office get together or a team party etc. you can email laceygill@pelicanpark.com or call the office at 985-626-7997.

Pickleball - Bringing the Buzz of Pickleball to Our Community

Nestled right in the heart of The Groves in Pelican Park sits our pristine pickleball courts that have become a hub where neighbors, friends, and even strangers come together to share laughter, challenges, and triumphs. The inclusive nature of the game encourages players to mix and mingle, forming connections that extend beyond the bounds of the court. While the thrill of the game is undeniable, pickleball also brings a myriad of health benefits. The swift movements, strategic shots, and quick reflexes provide an excellent cardiovascular workout. Engaging in regular pickleball sessions can enhance agility, balance, and coordination, contributing to a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Pelican Park has 8 pickleball courts that are open from 7am-9pm daily, including Saturdays and Sundays with lights for night time games too. The courts are available on a first-come, first-served basis, seven days a week, excluding the times scheduled for park programming, facility rentals, and tournaments. Definitely come by and join our pickleball community at the Pelican Park Pickleball Facility located in The Groves at Pelican Park. For more information visit our website at pelicanpark.com Pelican Park / Facilities / The Groves.

Adult Exercise Equipment

The newly covered adult exercise section at The Groves has introduced an exciting addition to its collection: a bicep curling machine designed to complement your inclusive workout routine. This designated area now features a total of 10 specialized apparatus, crafted to enhance endurance, as well as work on your upper and lower limbs. These outdoor exercise machines use your own body weight to provide effective resistance for a full body workout.

Green Space and Future Stage

Elevate Your Events

Looking to host an event that will be etched in memories for years to come? Our future stage and expanded park facilities will be available for event rentals. Imagine weddings surrounded by natural beauty, corporate gatherings that inspire innovation, and celebrations that bring people closer together. The possibilities are as limitless as your imagination and is currently scheduled to be completed in the Summer of 2024.

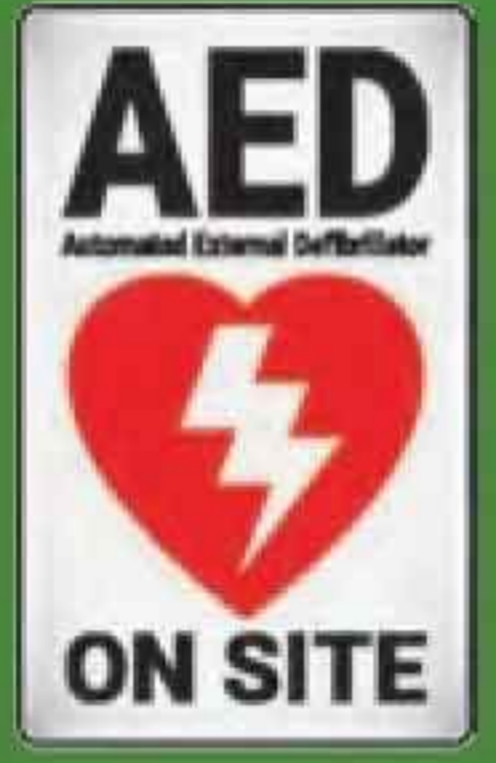


RECREATION DISTRICT #1



PARK UPDATES AND FIELD CONDITION HOTLINE 985.626.1444
 CASTINE CENTER OFFICE 8:00AM - 5:00PM 985.626.7997
 FACILITY STAFF 5:00PM TO CLOSE 985.966.6645

PELICAN PARK - THE CASTINE CENTER
 63350 PELICAN DRIVE • MANDEVILLE, LA
 985.626.7997 • WWW.PELICANPARK.COM



Recreation District #1 Pelican Park has 18 AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) on campus.

This symbol shows where each one is located along with NARCAN for emergencies.



Safety

Pelican Park strives itself on providing fun experiences to our public, and feeling safe is something every patron should do. In order to create a secure environment, Pelican Park provides a St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Detail during evening programming and weekend events. Please contact Facility Staff if you feel a Sheriff is needed at your facility inside the park. The District asks that you please protect your belongings and leave valuables at home or keep them with you.

If there is an emergency call 911. If it is a non-emergency issue, you can call the Facility staff at 985-966-6645 where they can help you or they will contact the sheriff detail and send them your way.



Free Sunscreen with a Purpose

Pelican Park is excited to have two FREE SunStop sunscreen kiosks for our patrons to protect their skin. One kiosk is located at the Pelican Park Bark Park and we have a second location at the Pickleball courts by Pelicans Landing.

SunStop's mission is to help people avoid the harmful effects of unprotected exposure to the sun. Thier goal is to prevent everything from simple sunburns to cases of skin cancer as well as long-term skin damage.

In collaboration with local companies, SunStop provides communities with sunscreen at a variety of outdoor locations like Pelican Park - FREE of charge.

For more information or to sponsor another SunStop Kiosk at Pelican Park, you can contact Patrick at: patrick@sunstopkiosks.com

Youth Sports



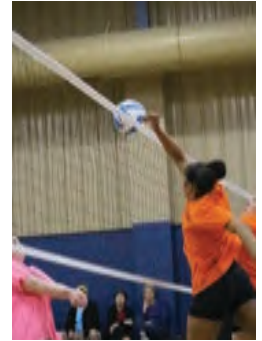
EARLY SPRING

Girls Early Spring Volleyball

Girls Volleyball: Age as of date, September 1, 2024 | Ages 7-18
Registration: December 25, 2023 - January 9, 2024

Boys Early Spring Basketball

Boys Basketball: Age as of date, September 1, 2024 | Ages 13-18
Registration: December 25, 2023 - January 9, 2024



SPRING SPORTS

Spring Softball

Age as of date, December 31, 2023 | Ages 5-15
Registration: February 19 – March 5, 2024
Evaluations: March 7 – March 12
Team Formations: March 18 – March 21
Practices Start: March 25 | Games Start: April 13
Tournaments Start: May 28 – June 8

Spring Baseball

Age as of date, April 30, 2024 | Ages 5-15
Registration: February 19 – March 5, 2024
Evaluations: March 7 – March 12
Team Formations: March 18 – March 21
Practices Start: March 25 | Games Start: April 13
Tournaments Start: May 28 – June 8

SUMMER SPORTS

Girls Summer Basketball

Girls Basketball: Age as of date, September 1, 2024 | Ages 7-12

Girls Summer Volleyball

Girls Volleyball: Age as of date, September 1, 2024 | Ages 13-18
Registration: May 20 – June 4

Summer Boys Basketball

Age as of date, September 1, 2024 | Ages 7-18
Registration: May 20 – June 4

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE UPCOMING SPORTS CLINICS

- ♦ Boys and Girls Volleyball Clinic - January 3-5th ♦ Lacrosse Clinic - January 22 - April 10th
- ♦ Skateboarding Clinic - January 13-27th ♦ Softball Fastpitch Clinic (TBD) ♦ Baseball Clinic (TBD)

If you or someone you know is interested being an instructor for any clinics, please reach out to Carly Arthur at carlyarthur@pelicanpark.com



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up-to-date on all of our leagues, programs, camps, clinics and events at Pelican Park.

Player Evaluations: Pelican Park upgraded the traditional player evaluations by incorporating a new software called Team Genius. Coaches and Volunteers no longer have to use paper and pen to track players' skills. This system allows real time input of evaluations and provides the most accurate rating of players. Make sure you check out our next evaluations to see the software in action.

MSC Soccer Information: Pelican Park and Mandeville Soccer Club are proud to continue their partnership by providing excellent soccer programming to the District residents. Please contact admin@mscsoccer.org for more information.

IMPORTANT - REFUND POLICY: Until the draft, refunds are given upon request, less a \$5.00 handling fee. Between the draft and the second game, a refund request is not guaranteed. However, we will issue a refund during this time if a child from the waiting list accepts the open spot. When the waiting list child is registered, we will issue a refund to the child dropping from the league less the \$5.00 handling fee once the uniform has been returned (if already issued). After the second game of the season is played, we do not issue refunds for any reason.

Thank You to our COACHES!

Pelican Park has always thrived on the volunteers and parents that continue to serve our district as coaches. We would not be able to continue our work without their support. We thank all coaches for their hard work and dedication. Please contact our office if you wish to volunteer as well.

Parents, we send out an end of the season parent questionnaire every season. We use these questionnaire results to help us make improvements in our programs, our facilities, staff and coaches. Make sure to nominate your favorite coach next season in the parent questionnaire.

Volunteer Standouts

Based on Evaluations and Comments from Parents

- Brooks Berggren – Baseball
- Brian Fabregas– Football
- Melissa Rosenberry– Softball
- Jenni Hern – Volleyball
- Ken & Vicki Winn – Pickleball Classic



Thank you for participating:

- Little Dribblers Basketball Clinic
- 6-Year Old Girls Basketball Clinic
- Fencing Clinic
- Softball Pitching Clinic

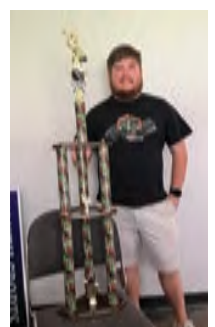


Congratulations to our Pelican Park Boys

9/10 football team for winning the Northshore Youth Football League Championship!

The Northshore Youth Football League that consists of 6 total recreational parks in South Louisiana. It is organized by a 7 man board with 1-commissioner and a 6-board members that are in charge of the program's registration, schedules and also vote on rules and regulations for each season and team. The NYFL this season consisted on teams from Pelican Park, Coquille, Covington Rec Department (CRD), St Bernard, Chappapeela and St Tammany Youth Football Organization (STYFO of Slidell).

A big shout out to Brennan Kuss, Pelican Park's Recreation Supervisor for boys sports and much more. He is also on the NYFL board and has done an amazing job this season by fixing the game schedules, organizing the weigh-ins and keeping up with the rules and regulations. Brennan went to several of the games this season and definitely represented Pelican Park to watch the 9/10's win the Championship. Thank you Brennan for all you do for Pelican Park, the staff and the youth. Keep up the great work!



Adult Sports & Leisure Programs

Adult Sports Registration: Pelican Park offers a variety of adult sports to serve our community. The purpose of the leagues is to provide an outlet for adults to continue to play their favorite sport, have fun, stay fit, and to socialize. The Park offers three (3) levels of play for the adult volleyball leagues.

Competitive Volleyball This division is for the more aggressive player who wants to play the sport at a highly competitive level with no restrictions. No Officials

Recreational Volleyball This division is for the less aggressive player who wants to play the sport at a slightly lower competitive level with no restrictions. No Officials

Just For Fun Volleyball This division is for fun, socialization, and exercise. No Spiking and underhand serves only. No Officials

Recreation Softball Co-Ed & Men's This division is for fun, socialization, and exercise. There are umpires for softball.

New Individual Registration: Participants will register individually online or in-person. Make sure to add your team captain and team name into the "notes" section during registration.

Session 1

Captain's Only Registration – January 29th – February 2nd

Players Registration – February 5th – February 9th

Games Start week of – February 25th

Session 2

Captain's Only Registration – April 22nd – April 26th

Players Registration – April 29th – May 3rd

Games Start Week of – May 12th

We are always looking to expand our Adult Leagues. Please email Brennan at brennankuss@pelicanpark.com with any suggestions or comments to help improve or expand our leagues

Save the Date

Leisure Programs at a Glance: Pelican Park Leisure Programs offer fun for everyone! With a variety of programs, Pelican Park hosts an average of five hundred classes per year including arts & crafts, personal development, health & well-being, outdoor adventure, and social activities. Pelican Park Leisure Programs welcomes children and adults to participate in a creative, educational, and entertaining atmosphere promoting a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

Pre-registration is required for most programs. To register, call (985) 626-7997 or visit www.pelicanpark.com for more information, including detailed descriptions.

ARTS & CRAFTS

One-of-a-Kind Cards

Wednesdays, 1/10-2/14, 2/28-4/24 (Skip 2/21)

1:00pm-3:00pm

Painting With Michelle

Mondays, 1/8, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/19, 2/26, 3/11, 3/18, 4/8, 4/15, 4/29

10:00am

Tuesdays, 1/16, 2/27, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23

1:00pm and/or 6:00pm

Quilling

Thursdays, 1/4, 2/1, 3/14, 4/11

1:00pm-3:00pm

Scherenschnitte Paper Cutting

Thursdays, 1/18, 2/29, 3/28, 4/25

1:00pm-3:00pm

Stamping Cards

Mondays, 1/8-2/5, 2/19-4/29

1:00pm-3:00pm

Wednesday, 2/14 10:00am-12noon

Techniques With Robin

Wednesdays, 1/10, 2/28, 3/6, 4/3

10:00am-12noon

Wire Art Jewelry Making

Tuesdays, 1/9, 1/23, 2/6, 2/20, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, 4/16

1:00pm-3:00pm

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Pilates

Mondays, 1/22-3/25 (Skip: 2/5 & 2/12)

Wednesdays, 1/10-3/27 (Skip: 1/17, 2/14, 2/21, 3/20)

6:00pm-7:00pm

Yoga

Tuesday, 1/9-3/5 (Skip: 2/13)

Thursdays, 1/11-3/7 (Skip 2/22)

6:00pm-7:00pm

SOCIALS

Canasta

Every Wednesday

9:00am-12noon

Special Populations BINGO

Every Wednesday

3:30pm-4:30pm



Special Populations



Special Pops Basketball and Volleyball will be registering soon!



Thank you to all of our Special Population participants and coaches for being part of such an amazing program! Being associated with Special Olympics has given us the opportunity to offer many different sports and programs to our families with exceptionalities! Currently at Pelican Park, we offer Special Populations softball, basketball, volleyball and bingo! We cannot wait to see what the next season will bring!

Upcoming Events

Disclaimer: All event dates, times, and locations are subject to change due to availability, weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. Please be sure to monitor our events at www.pelicanpark.com for the most up-to-date information regarding each of our events.



Castine Family Campout

Friday-Saturday, February 23-24, 2024 | 5:00pm-9:00am
Pelican Park – The Groves



Paddles on Paddy's Day Pickleball Tournament

Saturday & Sunday, March 16-17, 2024 | 8:00am-6:00pm
Pelican Park - Pickleball Courts

Would you like to be a vendor for this event? We are looking for:

- Food Vendors
- Equipment Vendors
- Health Focused Vendors



Hoppy Paw Pics

Friday, March 22, 2024 | 5:30pm-7:00pm
Pelican Park – Pelicans Landing Pavilion



Twilight Eggstravaganza

Saturday, March 23, 2024 | 6:00pm-8:00pm
Registration Opens: District – Monday, 2/19; Non-District – Monday, 3/4
Pelican Park – Orange Field Complex



Cruisin' the Castine

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 4:00pm-8:00pm
Castine Center

Would you like to be a vendor for this event? We are looking for:

- Food Vendors
- Car Accessory Vendors
- Craft Vendors



SAVE THE DATE

Events at a Glance for 2024

Family Fishing Rodeo | June 8, 2024

Pelican Park Pickleball Classic | September 21-22, 2024

Vendor & Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in being a vendor for one of our upcoming events?

Great! Vendors are determined by a first come, first serve basis and will only be considered for an event once all necessary paperwork, payment and applications have been received. Pelican Park does its best to limit competing vendors and/or conflicts with its own concessions sales. Due to this effort, all vendors will be required to list all sale items on their event application forms. No other items will be permitted, and all items are subject to Pelican Park approval. Vendor fees may vary by event, requested space and/or sale type.

Do you or your child need service hours for extracurricular groups or school? Pelican Park has many opportunities throughout the year to earn service hours by helping at events or programs.

Want to make a difference? Are you interested in volunteering at Pelican Park? Volunteers certainly make a difference in our community and are great additions to our events and programs. We have a variety of upcoming opportunities in need of volunteers of all ages. These opportunities are quickly approaching and we are looking for volunteers like you to be a fundamental part during these events and programs. We do provide service hour forms for any of those who may need them for academics, school or community groups, such as Boy or Girl Scouts. Visit our website www.pelicanpark.com for more information.

If you are interested in being a vendor or volunteering, visit our website to register or call the Pelican Park Main Office at (985) 626-7997 for assistance.

Sending out a big THANK YOU to all of the vendors, sponsors and patrons that were a part of Pelican Park's Barktober Fest Event! It definitely was a TAIL-wagging GOOD TIME and we made a lot of fun memories too!



Environmental Education



The Groves Pond

Here fishy, fishy... The Groves Pond is finally stocked!

There won't be any fish tales just yet, but within the next six months or so you might be able to catch a big one in The Groves Pond! A big thank you to Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries who stocked us up with 200 channel catfish along with a 1,000 little Bluegill fish in mid-October. We look forward to our little fish growing into big fish, providing an additional element of recreation to Pelican Park. Be on the lookout for future programming and family fishing rodeos in the future.



There are many benefits to joining Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes—the mission is to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Although most activities are for the public, occasionally members hold tours of their property for other members. Recently, members of our Pontchartrain Basin Chapter enjoyed a Field Day at our president Patty Zebrick's property in Southwest Mississippi. Tammy Baumgarten spoke about the history of our region, featuring the majestic Longleaf Pine Savanna. Then, Patty and husband Leon spoke about their native habitat restoration project. Members had a great time bonding and walking through hiking trails on the property, identifying and learning about native species present and about invasive species control.



Contact WOPB via email at wildonespontchartrainbasin@gmail.com and connect with us on social media. To become a supporting member of the Pontchartrain Basin Chapter, please visit <https://join.wildones.org/?chapter=3407>.

Check out our 12-month calendar of events which is uploaded onto the national website https://pontchartrainbasin.wildones.org/events/?events_archive_year=2023





PELICAN PARK®

6 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at Pelican Park!

Pelican Park is electrified!!! With EV chargers, that is! Cleco Power, Adopt a Charger and the Northshore Community Foundation are teaming up to install 40 level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at 10 sites across St. Tammany Parish. Kitty Adams, executive director for Adopt a Charger, a nonprofit organization focused on accelerating the use of plug-in EVs by installing public charging stations, contacted Recreation District #1 and asked if we were interested in being a recipient of some of these chargers. According to the District's Board President, Nixon Adams, "The goal is to go beyond charging cars and educate the public on the benefits of driving electric. When people spot an EV on the road, they don't automatically notice that the vehicle runs off electricity. The 'aha' moment happens when they see the car plugged in at places they like to go. From there, they can talk to EV owners and ask about their experience."

Adopt a Charger has installed six charging stations at Pelican Park. Each station consists of two chargers, fitted with both Tesla and J-Plug so all electric vehicles can use the chargers. They are located in the parking lots; near the Castine Center, on the east side of the White Gym and in the dog park/skatepark parking lot and charging is free to the public, for at least the first three years. Pelican Park is excited to be part of this endeavor and we hope that all of you who have EVs will use these chargers which will add 10-30 miles of driving range per hour of charging.



Cool Shades

Amid Hurricane Ida in 2021, Pelican Park experienced a series of small tornadoes that tore through its grounds, causing extensive damage to numerous trees and mangling the bleachers at the Gold complex. During the restoration process, staff decided to seize the opportunity to enhance the facilities by introducing new covered shade structures to the replaced bleachers. As a result, football spectators can now enjoy the game from the upgraded bleachers, which boast comfortable backs and provide relief from the scorching heat with the added benefit of shading.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are the fields open?

A. Please call our Hotline after 3:00 to get the current field conditions! 985-626-1444

Q. When is the next registration?

A. On our website under **Sports and General Information** there is a chart for every season that includes the Sport, Age, Age as of Date, Registration timeline, Season Dates and Equipment.

Q. Where can I find the Game Schedules and Season Standings?

A. On our website under **Sports and Leagues** you can find your child's sport and age group. On the right of their league there is a Schedule and a Standings Button.

Q. Where can I find the League Rules?

A. On our website under **Sports and Current Sports Info** you can find your child's sport and age group. On the right of their league there is a Schedule and a Standings Button.



SPONSORSHIPS

Recreational sports fields and facilities play a crucial role in fostering community engagement, promoting physical activity, and creating a sense of unity among residents.

Recreation District #1 / Pelican Park is searching for local sponsors for our athletic fields, facilities and Pelican Park events. There is so much value in having local sponsorships to highlight the positive youth programming in our community. Being a sponsor for Pelican Park and having a visible platform for the hundreds of guests coming into each field or facility everyday, has the potential for increased business and customer loyalty. Sponsorship is a great way to benefit both your business and Pelican Park at the same time.

We can even tailor the sponsorship packages to meet the specific needs and budget of each potential sponsor. This might include varying levels of signage, mentions in promotional materials, or even opportunities for the sponsor to host events at the facility. Providing flexibility in sponsorship options increases the likelihood of securing partnerships.

To learn more about the Pelican Park Sponsorship Program and how you or your company can become a sponsor of one of the Park complexes or one of its numerous special events, visit our catalog at pelicanpark.com Under ABOUT, select Sponsorships.

We invite you to take a look through this catalog of unique sponsorship opportunities to decide how your organization can best support Pelican Park and the 65,000+ Recreation District #1 residents we serve.

For more information, contact Ripple Resources at ripplesources1@gmail.com or 985-778-1797.



Coaches Background Checks

Register to Coach and Complete Your Background Check Today!

Already registered and have a current background check? Great, and thanks!

Not sure if your background check is expired or not? Log in to your account at www.pelicanpark.com to find your expiration date under “Member Documents.”

Why Background Checks Matter

Background checks are a crucial part of our commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for our athletes. They help us identify any potential concerns that could compromise the safety and well-being of our participants. By conducting background checks, we can mitigate risks and maintain a level of trust within our community.

The District uses the National Recreation and Parks Association’s criteria for approving volunteers. For a full list of the criteria, please visit our website at www.pelicanpark.com and click on the “Volunteer to Coach” button on our homepage.

How to Register and Complete Your Background Check

Registering and completing your background check is a straightforward process. Here's what you need to do:

1. Visit Our website at www.pelicanpark.com: Click on the “Volunteer to Coach” button on our homepage to complete your registration.
2. Look for your confirmation email: A link to completing your background check will be in the email.
3. Use the link to complete your background check application: Please be assured that the information you provide will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and in compliance with all relevant regulations.
4. Wait for Confirmation: Once your background check is completed, you will receive a confirmation email or notification.

Act Now!

It is imperative that we have valid background checks on all coaches prior to the beginning of a season. It can take up to two weeks for results, so we are strongly encouraging you to apply to coach and complete your background check now.



Life Just Got a Little Easier

In a move aimed at improving accessibility, the Castine Center has recently introduced a state-of-the-art automatic door system. This new installation is designed to provide greater ease for individuals requiring assistance when entering or leaving the premises. Notably, the automatic door is equipped with clearly marked indoor and outdoor access buttons, ensuring seamless and convenient access for all. The introduction of this feature is set to significantly enhance the overall accessibility of the building, making entry and exit more convenient for everyone. Accompanying this update is a snapshot of the automatic handicap door, symbolizing the center's commitment to inclusivity and improved convenience for its visitors.



PELICAN PARK®

63350 Pelican Drive
Mandeville, LA 70448

PLEASE VOTE!

On April 27, 2024 St. Tammany Parish will hold an election, and Recreation District #1 (Pelican Park) will have a proposition on the ballot that combines two of our existing millages.

Is this a new tax? NO, this is NOT a new tax. This is a combination and replacement of two existing special tax levies that voters have already passed. The existing special tax levies of 2.78 mils (passed in 2007) and 3.27 mils (passed in 2014) would be combined into one levy of 6.05 mils.

What is the benefit of combining them now? This would greatly benefit Recreation District #1 by providing new financing opportunities for our planned capital projects. The current structure of our millages limits our ability to issue new debt to pay for our planned capital projects. The proposed combined tax levy would permit us to issue a sufficient amount of debt to fund our intended capital improvements and continue improving and expanding our level of services to the community. This proposition would give the District the ability to see the taxes in 2024 and have the money to actually spend for the Master Planning Projects in 2025.

How will this proposition benefit you? Pelican Park will continue to provide excellent recreation for the community as well as the new opportunities identified in our Master Plan. There is something for everyone at Pelican Park!

Your voice counts! Please vote on April 27, 2024!



Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Co. and Coca-Cola are the official bank & drink supplier of Pelican Park.

Pelican Park Sponsorships

Would you like to become a sponsor of one of Pelican Park's complexes or one of its numerous special events? Learn more by visiting our website at:

