



PELICAN PARK®

1989-2024

35 Years

THE

Pelican Watch

Celebrating 35 Years

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Pelican Parks New Executive Director

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2024 Board of Commissioners

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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
John Neill
deShea Richardson, J.D.
Barrett McGuire
Ed Bee

Management Staff:

Ext:

Suzanne Reeder, <i>Executive Director</i>	103
Kia Knight, <i>Co-Executive Director</i>	105
Doug McLemore, <i>Co-Executive Director</i>	201
Scott Goodwill, <i>Finance Director</i>	121
Louissette Scott, <i>Park Planner/Environmental Ed.</i>	108
Marie Dupre, <i>Records Information Manager</i>	110
Niki Butler, <i>Marketing Administrator</i>	111

Front Line:

Melissa Smith, <i>Office Manager</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 Reed, <i>Recreation Supervisor</i>	119
Ray Duplantier, <i>Concession Supervisor</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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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

Pelican Park Pickleball Classic - September 21-22, 2024

Barktober Fest /Trunks & Treats - October 26, 2024

Breakfast with Santa - November 30, 2024

Santa Paws Pics - November 30, 2024

New Director's Message



I am beyond excited to extend this warm greeting as the newest member of the St. Tammany Parish Recreation District #1 Pelican Park team and to share a bit about myself and the journey that has led me here.

The world of parks and recreation has been a pivotal part of my life, both personally and professionally. It all started with a bike ride to a park where I fell in love with tennis and discovered my passion for athletics and the outdoors. That initial spark led me on an educational and career path that has allowed me to serve communities of various sizes in Georgia and Florida, as well as share my knowledge and consult with parks and recreation departments nationwide. These experiences continue to impact me and reinforce my dedication to enhancing and promoting the joy found in parks and recreation spaces and programs.

As my family and I transition into life in St. Tammany Parish, we are eagerly anticipating exploring all that this vibrant community has to offer. We look forward to meeting members of the community, playing pickleball, walking our dogs along Lake Pontchartrain, sampling the culinary delights of the many fine restaurants in the area, and attending special events.

As I step into my role at Pelican Park, I'm thrilled to be part of a community known for its appreciation and support of parks and has a solid history of championing the programs and services provided. I'm filled with enthusiasm for what lies ahead and am dedicated to contributing to the ongoing enhancement of Pelican Park. My goal is to help the District continue to provide places and spaces where lifelong memories are made, athletic skills are nurtured and developed, natural spaces are protected for future generations and every visit contributes to the vibrancy of the community. I am committed to upholding an environment where families can gather, where individuals of all ages can participate in enriching camps, clinics and workshops, and people are excited to host conferences, wedding receptions, family reunions, and other events. Additionally, I aim to ensure that passive leisure activities like picnics and walks can be enjoyed by all. Being a devoted dog person, I am eagerly anticipating sharing the joy and activity of the dog park with my two furry companions.

My approach to this role is deeply influenced by a strong ethical background that emphasizes stewardship of both taxpayer and user funds. I believe in the power of transparency and accountability, values that have been sharpened by my experience in environments governed by strict Sunshine Laws. I'm committed to open communication, ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of the rationale behind decisions and timelines. Efficiency and effectiveness in utilizing funds are principles that I hold dear, and I have consistently aimed to deliver services, programs, and projects within budget and on schedule in previous roles. In my new capacity, I vow to uphold these critical standards and hope to contribute to a legacy of trust and excellence.

I'm deeply thankful for this opportunity to be a part of the team and am looking forward to working alongside everyone to further develop and enrich the experiences that District #1 and Pelican Park provide.

Suzanne Reeder

Suzanne Reeder
Executive Director





2024

Recreation District #1 Board of Commissioners



Nixon Adams

Board Chairman



Shearn Lemoine

Board Vice-Chairman



Rick Danielson

Commissioner



John Neill

Commissioner



deShea Richardson

Commissioner



Barrett McGuire

Commissioner



Ed Bee

Commissioner

Welcome our 2024 Recreation District #1 Board of Commissioners. Recreation District #1 is a free standing governmental agency under the direction of a seven member Board of Commissioners. The Board meets every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Castine Center Conference rooms. The Board has special meetings as needed. All regular, special and committee meetings are advertised in accordance with State Public meeting laws. The public is invited to all meetings. Public comment in accordance with Board rules of procedure is allowed on each agenda item. If you are interested in having a new item addressed at the meeting, please contact the Director at suzannereeder@pelicanpark.com preferably a week in advance to be added to the agenda.

Employee Spotlights



Kia Knight

We are Celebrating over 25 Years of Dedication with one of our Pelican Park Pioneers, Kia Knight!

After Kia's journey, that has spanned a quarter of a century, our beloved colleague decides to bid adieu to Recreation District #1/Pelican Park. Reflecting on her story of commitment, that began in March 1999, our retiring veterans' evolution of roles have only been witnessed by a few other employees that have joined her during this journey and witnessed the commitment to this community and worked next to her during her career.

At the beginning of her journey, she was hired as the Office Manager, then transitioning to the helm as the Castine Center Manager. Kia's dedication and adaptability moved her into the role of Assistant Director in 2009. In the last few months, Kia held off on her full retirement to Florida and lounging in the sun, as she took on an even bigger role as the Acting Co-Executive Director, while searching high and low for Pelican Park's newest Executive Director, which definitely speaks volumes about her commitment and leadership abilities over the past 25 years.

Working on special projects has always been her driving force, with projects like the Castine Center renovations serving as her milestone achievement and the push to overcoming many challenges and embracing the many changes that fueled her professional journey. Now, reflecting on Kia's cherished moments over the years, she finds pride not only with her individual accolades, but in the collective achievements of the dedicated Pelican Park Team.

She gets super excited talking about the Park's growth from the small community Park from when she first started and the enthusiasm of watching it grow with the Parish residents and being a part of the Park's current Master Plan that will help add even more to the almost 500 acres that Pelican Park has now become. Kia also loved watching the process of adding purple martin houses and watching the birds make nests, lay eggs, hatch, and get banded by the Wildlife and Fisheries professionals, so we can research their migration and see the fledglings come back year after year and start their own new families. Each of these experiences have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on her heart.

As the page turns on this chapter and full-retirement draws near, so are the new beginnings starting at her sunny retirement community in Florida alongside her hysterical and adorable English husband of 23 years, Eddie Knight. Amidst dreams of travel, both near and far, our retiree's bucket list can't wait to runneth over with traveling adventures, enjoying the excitement of sports, traveling to other recreational parks as participants and cooking amazing cajun food with her friends. As we bid farewell to a cherished colleague, we extend heartfelt gratitude for 25 years of unwavering dedication and wish her and Eddie endless joy and fulfillment in the chapters yet to unfold.



Noel Baham

Dr. Noel Baham Jr. serves as the new Recreation Director at Pelican Park. In his position, Dr. Baham oversees various aspects of park operations, including facility rentals, coach certification programs, and establishing partnerships to enhance services. He finds fulfillment in working with the park's staff and engaging with families in the community. One of his proudest moments involves learning from Kia Knight, gaining insights into the inner workings of the park and recreation department.

Dr. Baham has been a resident of St. Tammany for nine years, having previously lived in Orleans Parish. He currently resides in Slidell, LA, where he enjoys hobbies, such as officiating high school football and basketball games and cherishes his time at home with his wife Janitra Cymoane, and their 11-year-old daughter.



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His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation and a master's degree in Sports Administration from Grambling State University, with a recent attainment of a doctoral degree in Sport and Sports Management in 2023. Born and raised in New Orleans, Dr. Baham's journey has led him to Pelican Park, where he aims to make a lasting impact in the community.



Ray Duplantier

Meet Ray Duplantier, our Concessions Supervisor at Pelican Park. Ray's responsibilities encompass purchasing all concessions food and managing part-time employees. Despite being relatively new, he hasn't just made transactions; he's made an impact by being a role model for his young concessions team. Especially since the majority of the employees working at the concessions at Pelican Park are having their first job experiences. One of Ray's proudest moments so far was managing one of the busiest weekends at Pelican Park with one of the highest number of concession transactions ever recorded.

Ray previously lived in New Orleans, before crossing the Causeway to find his new home as a resident of Mandeville two years ago. When not at work, he indulges in competitive cycling and cherishes moments with his wife Kylie and their two daughters, who are 4-years and 9-months old. Family is Ray's ultimate inspiration, and he envisions his future at Pelican Park with a sentiment captured in the words, "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." We are excited to have Ray as part of the TEAM.



Chris Jackson

Meet Chris Jackson, a dedicated member of Pelican Park and one of the Castine Center team members who has recently transitioned from part-time to full-time. In his role as Castine Center Maintenance and event setup, Chris wears many hats, from janitorial duties to setting up customer layouts with tables, chairs, and stages for various occasions. What he likes most about his job is its straightforward nature; he thrives on completing tasks that are outlined in diagrams and lists.

Chris's proudest moments so far, is from the appreciation he receives from vendors and customers alike for his hard work and nice set-ups and cleanliness of the Castine Center. Outside of work, Chris cherishes every moment he spends with his four daughters, aged 3 to 10, often engaging in lively games and activities with them. Driving in from Hammond each day and working hard each week, his mantra is, "Nothing to it...but to do it!!" which perfectly describes his approach to his work at Pelican Park and the Castine Center.

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



Looking to host an event soon, but struggling to find the perfect venue? Look no further than the Castine Center! Whether you're planning a Mardi Gras ball, an award ceremony, a dance recital, or any other event, we've got you covered. Our versatile space is suitable for events of any size, from intimate board meetings to a fun and exciting festival.

With 28,000 square feet of clear span area, our arena can be easily customized to suit your needs. Need additional space? We've got you covered with a 3,400 square foot concourse, 625 square foot conference rooms, and a 3,000 square foot outdoor courtyard. Whether you need extra seating, registration areas, preparation rooms, or ceremony spaces, we have the flexibility to accommodate your requirements.

Our dedicated staff is ready to assist you every step of the way, from booking to execution. Contact us today at 985-626-7997 to schedule a tour and see how the Castine Center can make your next event a success!

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

June:

- ◆ Murphy's Gun Show - June 1 & 2
- ◆ Louisiana Deaf Festival - June 8
- ◆ Larry's Beer Fest - June 22

Skate Park and Pump Track Expansion Update

Recreation District #1 /Pelican 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 the design, which included an in-person design charette where a group activity was where participants selected desired terrain and located them to scale on the project site. During the second meeting Newline presented 3 concept drawings and attendees identified what they liked about each one. The final design has incorporated elements from each meeting and an online survey that have all been taken into consideration for Pelican Park Skatepark that 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.



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Exciting News Alert...

Pelican Park will have Food Trucks in the Park!



Get ready for some deliciousness because we're thrilled to announce that Pelican Park will have a food truck rolling in three nights a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) during the baseball/softball season! Please support these local businesses, so we can keep them going throughout the year. Swing by Green-4 while you're at the park, whether it's between games or on your way home, and treat yourself to a mouthwatering dinner!

6 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at Pelican Park!

Do you have an Electric Vehicle (EV)? Pelican Park has six new charging stations with Tesla and J-Plug compatibility, located strategically for easy access, offering free charging for our patrons for the next three years. Pelican Park is now equipped with 40 level 2 electric vehicle charging stations, thanks to Cleco Power, Adopt a Charger, and the Northshore Community Foundation. Kitty Adams of Adopt a Charger approached Recreation District #1 to install chargers, aiming to educate the public on EV benefits. This initiative aims to encourage EV usage by providing convenient charging options, adding 10-30 miles of range per hour.



Louisiana Leash Laws and Requirements

Leash Requirements and Public Nuisance Regulations for Pet owners in Mandeville, Louisiana, must adhere to specific regulations outlined in local ordinances. Here's a breakdown of the key provisions:



Definitions (Sec. 4-1):

- Animal: Encompasses all living creatures except humans, spanning mammals, birds, fowls, reptiles, and fish. However, in the context of rabies control, the term "animal" refers exclusively to mammals.
- Restraint: An animal is considered restrained if securely enclosed within its owner's property or under control via leash, lead, or other safe means. The responsible person handling the animal must be capable of physical restraint.

Public Nuisance (Sec. 4-5):

- Pet owners are obligated to ensure their animals do not create public nuisances.
- Specific provisions prohibit animals from running at large, with exceptions made for designated dog parks or off-leash areas.

It's important to note that under Louisiana's service animal law and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities have the right to bring service animals into all public accommodations. These accommodations include various establishments such as stores, businesses, motels, restaurants, schools, and more. Additionally, Louisiana state law aligns with ADA protections for psychiatric service dogs.



By understanding and complying with these regulations, pet owners can ensure the safety and well-being of both their animals and the community at large.

Pelican Park Facilities



Our 3 Dog Parks

Experience the joy and unleash the summer fun at one of Pelican Park's 3-dog parks! Watch in awe as your furry companion dashes through lush greenspace, making new friends and living their best life. It's a paw-some playground where tails wag and tongues pant with joy. And hey, it's not just your pup who benefits – spending quality time together in the great outdoors strengthens your bond and boosts your mood too! These parks aren't just for play; they're training grounds for polite pooches. With plenty of exercise and socialization, your furry family members will be so well behaved and make a lot of new friends in the process. So why wait? Grab that leash, because the dog days of summer are calling!

In Pelican Park, we have two distinct dog parks towards the back of the property. One catering to larger breeds and another for smaller dogs. Additionally, there's a third dog park named Pretty Acres Dog Park, managed by Recreation District #1. This off-site dog park is in Covington, LA, and is named Pretty Acres with a gazebo and newly planted trees, and can be found on Andrew Drive, just off Highway 190.

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, featuring 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 as part of our Master Plan Projects. Construction will start in May and is currently expected to be completed by February 2025. 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

Join us in a game of sand volleyball at our open courts located towards the rear of the Park, next to the Silver Fields. The sandy terrain adds an extra layer of challenge, and the courts operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Whether you're honing your skills, engaging in friendly competition with pals, or simply soaking up the sun, these courts offer endless enjoyment.

Stay tuned for our exciting sand volleyball updates: we're thrilled to announce that six new professional sand volleyball courts and facilities are on the horizon as part of our upcoming Master Plan Projects.



The Groves at Pelican Park

Exciting Developments at The Groves this year, but please pardon our mess and progress as we continue to grow for our community.

We're thrilled to announce our expansion plans at The Groves, bringing you even more opportunities for leisure, competition, and family bonding. Scheduled for completion by the end of this year, our latest additions include four brand-new pickleball courts and a permanent event stage.

Whether you're seeking a friendly game of pickleball or want to catch a family community show or event, The Groves has something for everyone. From the Pelicans Landing pavilion to outdoor fitness equipment and walking paths, our destination promises endless family fun and excitement.

Stay tuned for the unveiling of our new courts and open-air stage, set to host concerts and a variety of engaging events, adding a new dimension to The Groves experience.



Pelicans Landing

Pelicans Landing goes beyond being just an open-air pavilion; it's a versatile event space ready to host your next special occasion. Whether it's a daytime get-together or an evening event, Pelicans Landing can be customized to your needs. Whether you're planning a birthday, office party, or team celebration, the options are endless.

If you want to learn more or book your birthday party, event, office get-together, or team party, simply contact us. Email laceygill@pelicanpark.com or call our office at 985-626-7997, and let's create an unforgettable experience together.

Pickleball

In response to the growing demand for pickleball courts at Pelican Park, we're thrilled to announce the addition of four more pickleball courts. The Groves in Pelican Park has become a great community hub where neighbors, friends, and newcomers alike come together to share moments at all levels of play.

Beyond the sheer excitement of the competition and laughter lies a wealth of health benefits too. The dynamic movements, strategic maneuvers, and rapid reflexes offer an invigorating cardiovascular workout. Regular participation in pickleball not only boosts agility, balance, and coordination but also promotes a healthier, more active lifestyle.

Currently hosting eight courts, Pelican Park ensures accessibility by keeping them open daily from 7 am to 9 pm, including weekends, with ample lighting for evening matches. Courts are available on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring equitable access for all enthusiasts. Please note that court availability may be subject to park programming, facility rentals, and tournaments.

We warmly invite you to join our thriving pickleball community at the Pelican Park Pickleball Facility, nestled within The Groves at Pelican Park. For further details, visit our website at pelicanpark.com under Pelican Park/Facilities/The Groves. Come, be a part of the excitement!



Adult Exercise Equipment

The Groves has recently expanded its adult exercise section with an exciting new addition: a bicep curling machine tailored to enhance your inclusive workout regimen. With this latest inclusion, the dedicated area now boasts a total of 10 specialized apparatus aimed at boosting endurance and targeting both upper and lower limbs. Utilizing your body weight, these outdoor exercise machines offer effective resistance for a comprehensive full-body workout under a shade structure with a beautiful view of the pond and fountains.

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU

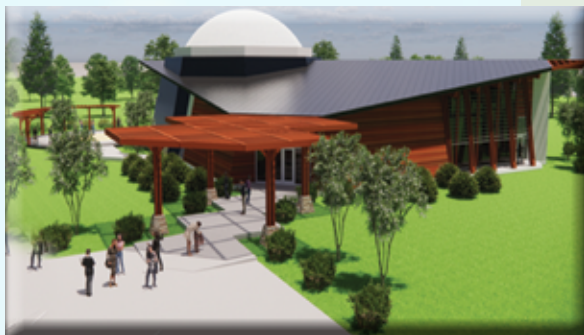
It's almost time to celebrate

It all started in 1985, when Sue McGuire led a group of volunteers to petition then governor Edwin Edwards to lease 50 acres of land to the District. It later expanded to what is now 230 acres. In 1989, the District hired its first Director, Kathy Foley. She remained for 30 years through the expansion of the park. With the guidance of our seven member Board of Commissioners, it included everything we see today, to include the Northlake Nature Center and our maintenance area East of the park and now boast over 500 acres. We've expanded on some of the areas and now it's time to do more!

EVENT STAGE



PLANETARIUM/ SCIENCE CENTER



Map of Pelican Park showing various complexes and facilities:

- Orange Complex (3, 4, 5)
- Grey Complex (2)
- Yellow Complex (1, 2, 3)
- White Pelican Gym (H V G)
- Brown Pelican Gym (H V G)
- The Groves
- Green Complex (H V G)
- Castine Center (H V G)
- Recreation District #1 Office
- Park Maintenance STAFF ONLY
- Blue Complex (H V G)
- Blue Complex (1, 2)
- Blue Complex (3, 2)

THE GROVES
8 PICKLEBALL
9 FITNESS STATION
2 BOCCIA BALL
2 SHUFFLEBOARD
2 HORSESHOE
POND, WALKWAY
& PICNIC TABLES

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

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

YOU'RE HAVING FUN!

35 years of awesomeness!

Our recently adopted Master Plan includes 6 additional pickleball courts, 6 sand volleyball courts, an event stage in The Groves and the expansion of our existing skatepark to include more skating space for all wheels and a pump track! All of these amenities are slated to be completed by the end of 2024. We're listening to you and working hard to continue to offer as many recreational opportunities to you as we can and to be the most elite park in our area. We're so fortunate to have this jewel in our District and it's all because of you! **There's no limit to how far we can grow together.**

Purple Complex (Pickleball, Volleyball, Golf)

Silver Complex (Pickleball, Volleyball, Golf)

Gold Complex (Pickleball, Volleyball, Golf)

Red Complex (Pickleball, Volleyball, Golf)

Facilities: Sand Volleyball, The Pines Disc Golf, Dog Park, Pelican Bark Park, Pavilion, Playground, Sunscreen Station, Restroom, Concessions, Vending, Parking.

AMENITIES INCLUDES:
 ALL COURTS
 STATIONS
 ALL COURTS
 BOARD COURTS
 DE COURTS
 KING TRAIL, GRILLS,
 BLES

**PELICAN CENTER
 MANDEVILLE, LA
 PELICANPARK.COM**

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

SAVE STATION
 PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR

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



SKATE PARK/ PUMP TRACK



SAND VOLLEYBALL

Youth Sports



SUMMER SPORTS

Summer Boys & Girls Basketball

Age as of date, September 1, 2024
Boys Age: 7-18 | Girls Age: 7-12

Summer Girls Volleyball

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

Registration: May 20 – June 4 | Evaluations: June 6 – June 11
Team Formations: June 17 – June 20 | Practices Start: June 24
Games Start: July 8
Tournaments Start: August 5 – August 10



FALL SPORTS

Boys Baseball

Age as of date, April 30, 2024
Registration: July 22 – August 6 | Evaluations: August 7 – 10
Team Formations: August 13 – 16 | Practices Start: August 19
Games Start: August 31 | Tournaments Start: October 21

Boys Football

Age as of date, June 1, 2024
Registration: June 24 – July 23 | Evaluations: July 29 – July 30
Team Formations: August 5 | Practices Start: August 10
Games Start: September 7 | Tournaments Start: October 26

Girls Softball

Age as of date, December 31, 2024
Registration: July 22 – August 6 | Evaluations: August 7 – 10
Team Formations: August 13 – 16 | Practices Start: August 19
Games Start: August 31 | Tournaments Start: November 2

Girls Cheer

Age as of date, June 1, 2024
Registration: July 22 – August 6

Fall Girls Volleyball

Age as of date, September 1, 2024
Registration: August 12 – 27
(Later Registration due to School Try-outs)
Evaluations: August 28 – 29
Team Formations: September 2 – 6
Practices Start: September 7
Games Start: September 16
Tournaments Start: October 23



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE UPCOMING SPORTS CLINICS

- ◆ Little Dribblers (4-5 year old) ◆ Boys & Girls 6 year old Basketball Clinic
- ◆ Summer Volleyball Clinics ◆ Softball Fast-pitch Clinic (TBD) ◆ Baseball Clinic (TBD)
- ◆ Fencing Clinic (TBD) ◆ Skateboarding Clinic (TBD) ◆ Lacrosse

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 team formation, refunds are given upon request less a \$5 handling fee. Between the draft and the second game, a refund request is not guaranteed. However, a refund will be issued during this time if a child from the waiting list accepts the open registration spot. When the waiting list child has registered, we will issue a refund to the child dropping from the league less the \$5 handling fee when the uniform, if already issued, is returned. 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.



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!



Important Park Notices and Policies

Pelican Park Play-up Policy

Pelican Park's policies, established by our Board of Commissioners, strictly prohibit play-ups in leagues with combined age groups. This rule aligns with our long-standing philosophy, which limits the inclusion of three age groups in the same league, unless they compete at a high school age level (Ages 13-15). This measure is in place to ensure the safety and optimal development of our players.

Consequently, parents will not have the option to request a play-up for their child if the desired age group already combines two age brackets. For instance, a 10-year-old cannot transition to a league that already has both 11 and 12-year-old players in that one league.

However, parents may still choose to request a play-up for their child who wishes to move up within a single age group (e.g., a 9-year-old seeking to join a 10-year-old league). Such requests must be submitted in the office and will be considered pending until league formations are finalized. Ultimately, decisions regarding play-up requests will be made based on league availability.

Scholarships Available

Should you need financial assistance with youth sports registration, please come into our office and complete an application. Scholarships are available to District residents only and applications must be done in person with a valid driver's license and proof of assistance with printed active dates.

Secondary Medical Insurance

In the event of an accident or injury, you must contact the Park's office and complete an incident report. For more information, call the Pelican Park office at: 985-626-7997. If the offices are closed during the injury, call the facility staff at: 985-966-6645.

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.

Adult Sports Session 3

Captains Registration: July 22 – July 26

Players Registration: July 27 – August 2

Games Start: Week of August 11

Thursday Nights

Competitive Volleyball
Recreational Volleyball
Just For Fun Volleyball
Co-Ed Rec Softball

Sunday Nights

Men's Rec Softball



Save the Date

Leisure Programs at a Glance: Recreation District #1 offers a variety of leisure programs. **Pre-registration is required for most programs.** To register, call (985) 626-7997 or visit www.pelicanpark.com for more information, including detailed descriptions.

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.

ARTS & CRAFTS

One-of-a-Kind Cards

Wednesdays, 5/1-8/28
1:00pm-3:00pm

Painting With Michelle

Mondays, 5/6, 5/13, 6/3, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/22, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19
10:00am
Tuesdays, 5/21, 6/11, 7/30, 8/27
1:00pm and/or 6:00pm

Stamping Cards

Mondays, 5/6-5/20, 6/3-6/24, 7/1, 7/15-8/26 (Skip 5/27 & 7/8)
1:00pm-3:00pm

Techniques With Robin

Wednesdays, 6/5, 7/10, 7/24, 8/7
10:00am-12noon

Wire Art Jewelry Making

Tuesdays, 5/7-8/20 (Skip 5/21, 6/11, 7/2, 7/30, 8/27)
1:00pm-3:00pm

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries Boating Safety

Saturdays, 4/27 or
9:00am-5:00pm

HEALTH & WELLNESS

*New Program – Barre Above

Mondays & Wednesdays: 4/22-5/29 (Skip 4/29 & 5/27)
9:00am-10:00am

*New Program – Power Balance

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 4/23-5/30
9:00am-10:00am

Pilates

Mondays, 4/8-6/17 (Skip: 4/29 & 5/27)
Wednesdays, 4/24-6/26 (Skip: 5/15 & 6/19)
6:00pm-7:00pm

Yoga

Tuesday, 4/16-6/18 (Skip: 4/23 & 5/21)
Thursdays, 3/28-5/30 (Skip 5/9)
6:00pm-7:00pm

SOCIALS

Canasta

Every Wednesday
9:00am-12noon

Special Populations BINGO

Every Wednesday
3:30pm-4:30pm



Special Populations



Pelican Park's Northshore Mustangs take Silver in Softball and Gold in Basketball at the Special Olympics Tournament!

The Northshore Mustangs are a Special Olympics team known for their spirit and talent in multiple sports like basketball, softball and volleyball. The team is a source of pride for the local community, embodying the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and inclusivity.

The Mustangs completed their softball season in St. Martinsville, LA at the Clayton Boudreaux Memorial Park and displayed remarkable skill and determination, clinching a well-deserved second place in the Louisiana Special Olympics State Softball Tournament. Their only loss in the tournament came in the finals, in a game that showcased the high level of competition and skill present at the event. Despite a challenging match against the eventual gold medalists, the Mustangs' spirit never waned.

The team is led by a dedicated coaching of Head Coaches Joe Sherwood and Shawn Ledig, alongside Assistant Coaches John Allen, Sophia Singler, and athlete-coach Josh Stankey – the Mustangs navigated through the tournament with a blend of skill, teamwork, and sheer enthusiasm. Their journey to silver was a testament to months of rigorous training, unwavering team spirit, and a community that rallied behind them every step of the way.

Special thanks to Pelican Park for hosting the Mustangs' practices, providing a world-class facility and equipment that played a crucial role in the team's preparation and success. The park's support exemplifies the community's commitment to fostering sports and inclusivity.

Once the softball season ended, the Mustangs switched straight into basketball, with Coach Shawn Ledig and Coach Mike Lane at the helm. The transition marks a new chapter for the team, promising another season of sportsmanship, growth, and hopefully more podium finishes.

The Mandeville Mustangs' Special Olympics Unified Basketball team wrapped up their final practice in April and competed in the Louisiana State Tournament at the end of the month, where our athletes shined and **WON THE GOLD!** Congratulations Mustangs... Way to GEAUX! The Mustangs are an amazing group of players, parents and volunteers and they are excited for their next athletic endeavor for the summer, which will be Volleyball! We are very fortunate that St. Tammany Parish patrons and volunteers are always eager and ready to support these remarkable athletes in their continuous pursuit of excellence, both on and off the fields and courts.



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!

BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL SPECIAL POPS PROGRAMS WILL BE REGISTERING SOON!

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.



Pelican Park Pickleball Classic / Must Register

September 21-22, 2024

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



Barktober Fest

October 26, 2024

Costume Contest and Fun with your dogs | Pelican Park Bark Park
Trunks N' Treats | Gold Parking Lot

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

- Food Vendors for Families
- Dog Supply Vendors
- Arts and Crafts for Dogs & Families



SAVE THE DATE

Events at a Glance for 2024

Breakfast with Santa / Must Register

November 30, 2024 | Castine Center

Santa Paws Pics

November 30, 2024 | Pelicans Landing Pavilion

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 Events this year so far. We had an amazing time at all of these events: The Castine Family Campout, Paddles on Paddy's Day Pickleball Tournament, Hoppypaw Paws and the Twilight Eggstravaganza



Environmental Education



The Groves Pond

The Groves Pond in Pelican Park recently introduced young fish. We're asking visitors to hold off on fishing for now, so the fish can grow. Wildlife and Fisheries stocked the pond with juvenile channel catfish and bluegill fingerlings in late 2023.

This closure allows the fish to mature and reproduce, establishing a healthy population in the pond. Fishing will be off-limits until the fish are ready for catch and release.

Pelican Park looks forward to hosting family educational programs and fishing events like the Father's Day Fishing Rodeo. Signs at the pond will indicate when fishing is permitted.



Exciting Update: Purple Martins Return to Pelican Park!



In our second year with the gourd system, we celebrate another successful season hosting Purple Martins! These captivating birds, the largest of the swallow family, embark on an incredible migratory journey spanning 8,500 miles, passing through our area twice a year.

Arriving along the Gulf Coast from late January to early February, Purple Martins grace us with their beautiful song and graceful flight while also providing valuable insect control, consuming thousands of tons of flying insects annually.

The adult male Purple Martins boast iridescent purple feathers, while females exhibit a subtler coloration. Once relying on natural tree cavities, they now thrive in man-made housing, like our 24-unit gourd system installed in Spring 2022.

Nesting from late March to early July, females typically lay around 3-5 eggs. This season, we witnessed the hatching of two nests, each with promising numbers. By mid-May, we eagerly watched as nestlings began to fledge, taking flight around the end of May.

Each year, in mid-June, Eric Baka and his Wildlife and Fisheries team visit the Park to band our birds, a federally regulated process aiding in bird research and conservation efforts. Each bird receives a silver federal band and a unique identifier specific to Pelican Park.

As summer approaches, Purple Martins gather in large flocks for pre-migratory roosting, a spectacle attracting thousands of birds. Despite their departure, we anticipate their return to our colony year after year, enriching our park with their presence until their southward migration in mid-September.

Keep an eye out for these marvelous creatures around the Silver fields and light poles until the gourd system is taken down for winter, awaiting their return in early spring to start the process over with their new growing families!



PELICAN PARK®

Louisiana Native Irises at Pelican Park

Did you make it out the see the Louisiana irises blooming at Recreation District #1/ Pelican Park iris bog? It was truly a beautiful sight to see hundreds of these native irises in bloom all at once and this site was ranked as the #4 in south Louisiana.

The Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative (LICI), created by Gary Salathe, organizes rescue and planting projects involving wild, native irises that are threatened with destruction. LICI has ongoing iris rescue and planting projects in area refuges and nature preserves and they are interested in preserving and restoring the Louisiana iris in habitats where it once grew in abundance. (<https://www.lisaveirises.com/>).

This beautiful Iris relocation area at Pelican Park is planted with the *I. giganteaerulea* species of the Louisiana iris and it was the most recent location they had planted irises under this program. The blooming irises were in view to the public, which furthered their goal of raising awareness of this wonderful native Louisiana plant, but it was actually a way to propagate the irises. The bloom typically lasts from the middle of March until the middle of April, with the peak bloom in the middle. Each location can start and finish blooming at different times from the others.

LICI creates an interactive map of all the places to see native Louisiana irises in bloom. We are excited to report that our Pelican Park site has shot up in the rankings from 15th place last year in 2023 to 4th place this year! You can find the interactive map and ranking through the link on the LICI Facebook page or on their website. You can zoom in on the map to find the exact location of the sites and you can click on this location's icon to learn more about the locations with details and photos too. All locations are worth the drive to see them as the irises reach their peak bloom.



Photography by Niki Butler

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.



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.

Umpires, Officials and Refs OH MY!

Attention all Pelican Park participants,

It's time for an important discussion about our officials! Contrary to popular belief, Recreation District #1/Pelican Park does not directly hire umpires, officials, and referees. Instead, we have a contract with several local official associations that are responsible for appointing officials for every sport at Pelican Park. They meticulously schedule officials who are both age-appropriate and qualified for each sport.

Unfortunately, we're facing a significant shortage of officials across all age groups, spanning from local recreation to junior high and high school sports. Traditionally, individuals became officials out of a love for the game, but contemporary challenges, such as dealing with irate parents, have deterred many potential candidates.

Research indicates a troubling trend in the increasingly aggressive behavior of parents, which reflects a broader shift in youth sports culture. Once centered around enjoyment, learning, and camaraderie, youth sports now contend with the pressures of highly competitive leagues, exorbitant expenses, and heightened expectations on officials.

As parents, it's imperative that we support the men and women who volunteer their time to coach and officiate at Pelican Park. Before succumbing to frustration and shouting at referees during your child's game, please pause and remember that these games are about learning and friendly competition. If you encounter an issue with an official, we encourage you to fill out the available forms, which are accessible to all parents and visitors at the game box. These forms are reviewed by the official association's owners.

If you believe you have what it takes to become an official, we need you! Lack of experience? Don't fret; training will be provided. For those interested in joining the ranks of our officials, please reach out to the office for further information.

Let's work together to ensure the continued success and enjoyment of sports at Pelican Park for generations to come.



Exciting Sponsorship Opportunities Await You at Pelican Park!

Are you looking for a unique way to support Pelican Park and reach over 65,000 Recreation District #1/Pelican Park residents? Look no further! We're thrilled to announce exclusive sponsorship opportunities tailor-made for your organization's needs.

Can't find the perfect fit? No problem! We offer customizable packages designed to suit your specific requirements, ensuring you can effectively connect with over 1 million Pelican Park visitors annually.

To learn more about this exceptional opportunity and explore our sponsorship catalog, simply visit our website. Navigate to the "About" tab and select "Sponsorships." You can click the image at the bottom of the page to see your options and Alternatively, you can reach out to Ripple Resources at ripplesources1@gmail.com and/or call their dedicated team at 985-778-1797 and they will be delighted to assist you.

Don't miss out on the chance to make a meaningful impact while gaining valuable exposure. Join us in supporting Pelican Park and our vibrant community today!

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





PELICAN PARK®

63350 Pelican Drive
Mandeville, LA 70448

HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT AT PELICANS LANDING PAVILION!

Did you know that Pelicans Landing Pavilion is available for rent for a variety of occasions? Whether it's a birthday celebration, family gathering, company picnic, or team party, our pavilion offers the perfect venue.

Conveniently located next to The Groves, Pelicans Landing Pavilion provides access to a range of amenities, including bocce, horseshoes, shuffleboard, cornhole, a boardwalk, pond, and more!

The facility features a spacious charcoal grill, 30 feet of concrete counters with outlets for food warmers, a sink, charging stations, restroom facilities, picnic tables with seating for 68 guests (with room for more), and two large fans to keep you cool during the summer months.

For rates and availability, please contact our office at 985-626-7997. Make your next event a memorable one at Pelicans Landing Pavilion!



GULF COAST BANK
& Trust Company



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:

