



PELICAN PARK®

THE

Pelican Watch

Be A Game Changer Conference

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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

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Doug McLemore, *Assistant Director of Parks*
Scott Goodwill, *Chief Finance Officer*
LyKinda Thibodeaux, *HR/People Operations Director*
Louisette Scott, *Natural Resources & Planning Director*
Niki Butler, *Marketing & PR Director*

Administrative Staff:

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Tonya Rosevally, *Administrative Assistant*
Shannon Holland, *Accounting Specialist*
Brandi Savoy, *Accounting Specialist*

Recreation Staff:

Ray Duplantier, *Concession Supervisor*
Brennan Kuss, *Recreation Supervisor - Athletics*
Carly Arthur, *Recreation Supervisor - Athletics*
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Chad Groover, *Recreation Supervisor*
Matt Bettencourt, *Facility Staff*
Talor Lewis, *Facility Staff*

Programs:

Alex Landry, *Naturalist & Environmental Education Coordinator*

Castine Center Staff:

Tracy Roskens, *Castine Event Supervisor*
Catherine Barbier, *Castine Event Supervisor*
Kevin Lewis, *Facility Maintenance Supervisor*
Paige Bailey, *Functional Coordinator*

Park Staff:

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

CONTACT US!

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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

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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 2025

July 19th | Live Music with Alt'r Ego

August 18th | Winter Registration begins

September 27-28 | Pickleball Classic

November 22-26 | Thanksgiving Turkey Tourney
Pickleball Tournament

New Director's Message

I'm excited to welcome you to our Fall/Winter edition of the Pelican Watch. Our team has been hard at work preparing a lineup of programs, events, and activities that offer something for everyone—whether you're competing, exploring, or just here to enjoy the moment.

We're kicking off the fun this summer with **Alt'r Ego** performing live on **July 19**, followed by the **Back to School Bash** on **July 26** from **10 a.m.–noon**, hosted by our partners at the **Children's Museum of St. Tammany**. That same day, and again on **August 23**, kids can try a new sport at our Youth Floor Hockey Clinics, sponsored by the **New Orleans Hockey Club**.

As we roll into fall, we're excited to host two major pickleball events: the **Fall Pickleball Classic (Sept. 27–28)** and the **Thanksgiving Turkey Tourny Pickleball Tournament (Nov. 22–23)**. Don't miss the **free 4Unplugged concert on Saturday evening, Nov. 22**, open to the public and sure to be a highlight of the season!

Music fans can also look forward to the **Covington Concert Band's Fall Concert on October 9** and their beloved **Holiday Concert on December 18** at the Castine Center—both free and family-friendly. Make sure to mark your calendars for our festive **Jingle Jam Pajama Party on December 13**, where kids can meet Santa and enjoy holiday-themed games, treats, and crafts in their coziest pajamas.

For outdoor adventurers, be sure to check out our **newly updated Disc Golf Course**, featuring redesigned holes, new baskets, and improved signage. For nature lovers, the **Pelican Park Nature Club** continues to grow with **bird walks, butterfly expeditions, and canoe and kayak outings**, thanks to our awesome new environmental education team, and our partners at **Fontainebleau State Park** and the nature-loving owners of **Canoe & Trail Adventures**.

We're also proud to celebrate the legacy of naturalist William Bartram at the **Bartram Trail Conference on October 25**. Then, on **November 24 & 25**, we're teaming up again with the **Children's Museum of St. Tammany** to present **STEM Quest**, a hands-on learning event that will ignite curiosity and creativity in young minds. Mark your calendars and let the good times roll, literally! Pelican Park and CMST are teaming up once again for our **2nd Annual Kids Krewe Parade on February 16th, 2026** and it's going to be bigger, better, and more fun than ever! So make sure to register and get those wagons decorated and ready to roll or grab your family and parade day supplies, come early and grab your spot to enjoy as our pint-sized parade takes over the park with throws, smiles, and Mardi Gras spirit. But the fun doesn't stop there! After the parade, we will all second line over to **The Groves** for an afternoon of **live music, tasty food, local vendors**, and all the family-friendly fun you can handle.

Exciting news, starting this fall, we're brewing up something new—PJ's Coffee will be available at select concession stands offering hot and iced coffee, refreshing teas, and lemonades. We're excited to partner with PJ's and grateful for their support of Pelican Park!

As always, I encourage everyone to register early for our fall, winter, and early spring leagues, clinics, and special events—there's something for every age and interest. Whether you're joining us for a game, a concert, a nature walk, or a cup of PJ's Coffee, we're proud to be your community gathering place. As part of the Visit the Northshore initiative, we embrace the spirit of Every Wave Welcome—committed to fostering a more inclusive, respectful, and welcoming environment for all visitors and locals. We can't wait to see you at Pelican Park!

Suzanne Reeder

Suzanne Reeder
Executive Director





2025 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

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 Milestone Spotlights



Ron Johnson - 25 Years of Dedication at Pelican Park

Ron Johnson began his career at Pelican Park on March 27, 2000, starting as a Park Crew member. Over the years, his dedication and leadership have led him through the ranks...from Park Crew, to Construction Foreman to Park Supervisor, and now Park Manager. His commitment and leadership have helped shape Pelican Park into what it is today.

He's seen Pelican Park grow tremendously since day one. "It's just truly unbelievable how much the Park offers for the St. Tammany residents," Ron says. But what's remained constant is what he values most: "The quality of upkeep and dedicated employees that keep Pelican Park one of the top recreation facilities in the state."

Some of his favorite memories include the park expansions, Pelican Park car shows, and the Celebrate St. Tammany Event. Ron finds motivation in the satisfaction of seeing residents enjoy the results of staff efforts. "I love what I do," he says. He's especially proud of earning his L.D.H. Certification for Wastewater Collection and Treatment, and the privilege of working at a job he's loved for 25 years.

Ron names Doug McLemore as someone who made a lasting impact on his career. And as someone who has grown personally and professionally through the years, his advice to new staff is: "Stay positive... this job can be demanding, but dedication will pay off."

Outside of work, Ron enjoys spending time with wife and family, vacationing, gardening, and meal prepping and cooking with his wife. One word to sum up his journey at Pelican Park? "Life-changing – A word or phrase that has a profound and significant impact. The transformation that I have seen over the years and Pelican Park's meaning to my future has been a huge impact on my life."



Ricky Forster - Celebrating 15 Years of Dedication at Pelican Park

Ricky Forster joined the Pelican Park family back in 2010 as a member of the Park Crew, ready to jump into whatever was needed. Over the years, his role has evolved, taking on new responsibilities as a Mechanic Specialist. Through it all, Ricky has seen the park grow significantly in size and scope, but one thing that's never changed is the joy he sees on kids' faces as they learn and play. That energy, he says, is what keeps him coming back with a smile year after year.

When asked about his favorite memory, Ricky doesn't hesitate..."the day I started." That simple but heartfelt answer speaks volumes about his love for the job and the community. He credits Doug McLemore as someone who's made a lasting impact, always believing in him and offering encouragement. Ricky is proud of how far he's come, especially in how his attitude has grown more outgoing (even if his hair has turned a bit grey!). His advice to new employees? "This is not just a job...it's a career."

Off the clock, Ricky enjoys working around his yard and home. And here's a fun fact that might surprise you...he traces his ancestry back to both John Adams and John Quincy Adams! If he had to sum up his time at Pelican Park in one word, it would be comical...because he always tries to bring a little laughter to those around him.



Charles Rosevally - A Decade of Dedication

Charles Rosevally joined Pelican Park in 2015 as a temporary member of the Park Crew, but his hard work, reliability, and growth mindset quickly earned him a full-time position. Over the years, Charles has become a key part of the operations team, eventually rising to lead the baseball prep crew, a moment he considers one of his proudest.

When reflecting on what's changed, Charles shares that the most meaningful difference has been personal: working at Pelican Park has allowed him to build a stable lifestyle for his family. What hasn't changed, and what he values deeply, is the consistent and dependable work environment.

Charles names William Reed as a mentor who's impacted him both professionally and personally, helping shape his growth in attitude and behavior. His advice to new employees? "Keep your mouth shut, ears open, and be receptive to all advice and tips."

At the end of the day, family is Charles's biggest motivator. When he's not at work, he enjoys spending time raising his son Zayden, hanging with his older kids Caleb, and Jesa and enjoys spending time outdoors as an avid deer and hog hunter.

If he had to sum up his time at Pelican Park in one word, it would be "roller coaster", because like any great ride, it's had its ups and downs, but the experience has been unforgettable and full of growth.

Meet the New Team Members



Alex Landry - Naturalist & Environmental Education Programs Coordinator – Turning Curiosity into Connection

If you're looking for someone who can spot a bird mid-flight, guide you through a marsh, and still write a killer program schedule... Alex Landry is your person. As Pelican Park's Naturalist and Environmental Education Programs Coordinator, Alex has been inspiring awe and environmental awareness since joining the team in January 2025. No two days look the same. One day might involve office time promoting nature walks or kayaking trips, and the next could mean scouting wildlife along a trail or paddling through a quiet bayou. That blend of structure and spontaneity is exactly what Alex loves about his new position at Pelican Park.

Born and raised in St. Tammany Parish, Alex returned to Mandeville after several years of serving in the Navy, bringing back not just a strong work ethic but also a deep appreciation for the local ecosystems. One proud moment so far? Representing Pelican Park live on Fox 8 News to talk about birdwatching...a passion Alex lives and breathes. "The line between work and hobbies is very blurry for me," Alex jokes. "Birding, kayaking, visiting antique stores, lifting weights, or hanging with my mom...it's all part of a day well spent." Also, fun fact that people may not know about him...but now we ALL DO.... Alex is a proud Swiftie!

Personally inspired by those who remain kind through adversity, and professionally motivated by the wonder of new naturalists discovering wildlife for the first time, Alex sees the work as both science and storytelling. Family is close to the heart...especially his Mom, who often shows up to support Pelican Park programs (keep an eye out for her at the next bird walk!).

Looking ahead, Alex sums up the journey with a simple but optimistic phrase: "The best is yet to come."



Chelsea Ducre - Administrative Assistant – The Heart of the Front Office

From her early days as a temp in October to officially joining the Pelican Park team in January, Chelsea Ducre has quickly become a familiar and friendly face in the front office. As the Administrative Assistant, Chelsea keeps things running smoothly behind the scenes and out front, managing everything from emails and calendars to sports registrations and walk-in visitors. Whether it's prepping documents, answering calls, or brightening the day with a well-timed joke, she does it all with energy and a smile. In her words, "Making people laugh is the most important part of my job!"

Chelsea, a proud Covington native, says the best part of her work is the positive atmosphere. "Everyone arrives with a smile, ready to engage and help. It's an amazing team of people who are passionate about what they do." Though she's still early in her journey at the Park, she's already working on achievements she's proud of...and we're excited to watch them unfold.

Outside of work, Chelsea enjoys painting, planting flowers, and reading. Her biggest inspirations are the more experienced members of the team, who she credits with teaching her both professionally and personally. She also finds daily motivation from Chris, who encourages her to grow and become the best version of herself.

Her home life is full of love and energy...she's the proud mom of energetic twin boys, Cameron and Carter (age 8), who are diehard Messi and Ronaldo fans, along with their playful pup, Reese, a 7-month-old bundle of joy. When thinking about her future at Pelican Park, Chelsea sums it up beautifully: "Where every step forward feels like a new adventure waiting to unfold."



Melissa Garcia - Grants & Contracts Manager – Building Strong Foundations Behind the Scenes

Melissa Garcia joined the Pelican Park team in February 2025 as the Grants & Contracts Manager, and she's been making waves ever since. With a passion for collaboration and a sharp eye for strategy, Melissa plays a vital behind-the-scenes role in shaping how the Park manages everything from special projects and vendor services to community partnerships. Her days are filled with dynamic problem-solving, cross-departmental teamwork, and big-picture thinking. "No two days are the same," she says, "which keeps things interesting and rewarding."

One of her proudest achievements so far? Helping develop a more efficient, streamlined contract tracking system that's improved communication, accountability, and long-term planning across the organization. Though she's originally from Texas, Melissa now calls Slidell home and is deeply rooted in her new community. She was drawn to St. Tammany Parish by its strong sense of connection and purpose...and Pelican Park's mission, "Making a Difference" felt like a perfect fit.

Outside of work, Melissa enjoys spending time with her large, blended family (including three dogs, a cat, and her parents, who live with her and her husband), exploring the outdoors, and relaxing with a good book or great local food. Inspired by purpose-driven, team-oriented people, Melissa leads with kindness and integrity in all she does. When asked to describe her vision for the future at Pelican Park, she summed it up in a single phrase: "RD1ST = Ready First: Honoring Our Legacy, Inspiring Tomorrow's Community."



Meet the New Team Members

(CONTINUED)



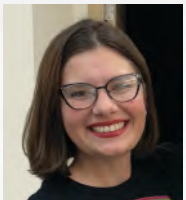
Chad Groover - New Recreation Supervisor - Sports Clinics and Programs

Chad Groover is a proud Covington native, Chad has been working with the Recreation Department at Pelican Park...organizing programs, clinics, events and supporting leisure programs, and making sure coaches, parents, and players have what they need to enjoy every moment. Whether he's answering emails, fielding phone calls, or collaborating with his recreation teammates Brennan, Borato, and Carly, Chad's goal is simple: bring the FUN to the park, every single day.

For Chad, the real magic happens when an event comes together from start to finish. One standout memory? The Biddy Basketball Tournament, where he watched his team grow stronger with each challenge, proving that dedication, teamwork, and a few good laughs go a long way. "We faced every challenge head-on," Chad says, "and in the process, we became like family."

Outside of work, Chad's world revolves around family. He's a proud dad to four amazing kids, Kiara (18), Cassidy (13), Chad Jr. (12), and Callie (9), and shares life with his partner Elymarie. His mom, Tammie, instilled in him a powerful work ethic, and his twin sister, Chassidy, helps keep life running smoothly. He's also got two four-legged teammates: Ca\$H, a Treeing Walker Hound, and Caine, a loyal Pit Bull. Whether he's cooking, spending time with his kids, or talking sports (which he'll do all day if you let him), Chad's passion for people and community shines.

When asked what inspires him, Chad answers without hesitation: "Family." And when he looks to the future at Pelican Park? "I'm here to do my part in making this park...and this community...better every single day. If the present is this good, just wait. The future is looking even brighter."



Paige Bailey - The Magic Behind the Moments at Castine

Meet Paige Bailey, our new Castine Center Functional Events Coordinator, who's been helping events shine from the inside out since the moment she stepped in just a month ago. Whether it's a wedding reception, a banquet, or a community gathering, Paige is the behind-the-scenes force making sure everything runs smoothly, and with a smile.

What makes the job special for Paige? "Being part of so many celebrations and helping people make memories." And even in this short time, she's already proud of the genuine connections she's made with coworkers.

Paige lives in Abita Springs with her husband TJ and their five kids, Kimber (15), Dakota (13), Cain (11), Tegan (6), and Lennox (4), and when she's not managing events, you can find her gardening, throwing dinner parties, or watching Big Brother.

Her energy is contagious, and her outlook is best summed up by one of her favorite quotes from Leslie Knope: "Now go find your team. Get to work. Whatever that work is that you find worth doing. Do it, and find some people to love who'll do it with you."



Dominic Palisi - IT Specialist - Straight Outta Algiers! Tech skills, team spirit, and Superdome swagger

Say hello to our new IT Specialist, a proud Algiers native with a heart for people and a knack for problem-solving. From day one, he's been met with smiles, and he's already soaking in the good vibes:

"Everybody here seems genuine. I'm really looking forward to building more connections as we go."

He brings not only experience, but incredible stories, like playing football and baseball in sanctioned games inside the Superdome (yes, really) and working at Guantanamo Bay post-9/11. Whether he's setting up systems or troubleshooting tech tangles, he's here to make sure your digital world runs smoother, faster, and smarter. What's he most excited about in this role? "Making a real difference in your work day." When asked what superpower he'd choose, he gets real: Hindsight, to learn from the past, or shape-shifting, so he can be what his four kids need most. That same heart shows up in his favorite advice too: "Cherish the moments, good and bad."

Oh, and if you ever catch him at karaoke, stick around. You might just hear him duet with his son on "Feel Like a Rockstar" by Tim McGraw and Kenny Chesney. A fitting anthem for someone who brings both grit and groove to the job.

Employment Opportunities - Join Our Team at Pelican Park!

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

Volunteer Football Coach
Recreational Park Volunteer (Non-Coaching)
Concession Attendant
Parks - Field and Grounds Maintenance
Park Event Center Attendant - Part Time



Making a Difference



Pelican Park extends its deepest gratitude to the **St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office and Lt. Alex Dantagnan, Jr.** for their vital role in enhancing community safety. Thanks to their leadership, Narcan, an emergency medication that can reverse opioid overdoses, is now available at the park. Lt. Dantagnan's efforts in securing this resource and coordinating staff training ensure our team is better prepared to respond in critical situations. We are proud to recognize their commitment to protecting lives and supporting the well-being of all who visit Pelican Park.



Pelican Park proudly recognizes **Ken and Vicki Winn** for their extraordinary contributions to the growth of pickleball in St. Tammany Parish. Their leadership, passion, and tireless dedication have transformed Pelican Park into a thriving hub for players of all ages and skill levels. From organizing top-notch tournaments like the 2025 Shamrock Showdown to bringing in elite coaching and national sponsors, Ken and Vicki have elevated the game and built a vibrant, inclusive community. We thank them for their outstanding impact and commitment to growing the sport we all love.



We are proud to honor the **Pelican Park Boys 9U Biddy Basketball Team**, who capped off an incredible season with a 2nd Place finish at the prestigious Biddy World Tournament. With outstanding leadership from Coaches Crystal Ferris and Lindsey Long, and the heart and hustle of every player—Ellis Gulina, Dominic Sherwood, Eli Ferris, Dilan Patel, Paxton Long, Kaden Parker, Carter Senac, Haynes Parks, Everett Surrette, Cruz Cortes, Michael Bodron IV, and Luke Joffrion... this team showcased true Pelican Park spirit on a national stage. Congratulations to our champions, you've made our community proud!

Thank you for our Garden Makeover Day at Pelican Park!

We'd like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to Will Afton, LSU AgCenter's County Agent, and the incredible **St. Tammany Master Gardeners**; Barbra Moore and Penny Bankston, for spending the day at Pelican Park giving our garden a fresh boost of beauty and care!

This vibrant space, originally designed and planted by this talented team, continues to flourish because of their expertise, dedication, and (let's be honest) those magical green thumbs.

Thanks to their hard work, the garden is bursting with color and ready for the community to enjoy. We invite you to take a peaceful stroll and experience it for yourself... it's truly in full bloom!



Pelican Park Updates



The Pines Disc Golf Course at Pelican Park

Tucked in between athletic fields and the scenic natural areas of Pelican Park, The Pines Disc Golf Course has been a staple for local disc golf enthusiasts since it was first established in 2013. Designed by Josh Edwards and Mike Kernan, the course was thoughtfully laid out to blend the natural landscape with fun and challenging play for all skill levels.

Now, more than a decade later, The Pines is entering an exciting new chapter with major upgrades designed to enhance the player experience and establish the course as a premier disc golf destination on the Northshore. A huge thank you to Skip Skarin and Thurston Yates for leading the charge and putting in extra effort to improve the flow of the course and install top-of-the-line MVP baskets. We also want to thank them for updating the locations on the Udisc app. You can now scan the QR code at Hole 1 to be guided through the course, and even keep score right in the app!

Among the most notable enhancements is the installation of two sets of permanent baskets on every hole, giving players the option to play a long or short layout on each hole. This dual-basket setup provides flexibility for casual games, competitive rounds, and skill development alike.

In addition to the upgraded baskets, the course has been reconfigured to improve overall game flow, making navigation between holes more intuitive and enjoyable. New and improved signage has been installed throughout the course to help players more easily navigate from hole to hole or shall we say basket to basket.

These enhancements reflect Pelican Park's continued commitment to offering diverse, high-quality recreational opportunities for our community. Whether you're an experienced disc golfer or trying the sport for the first time, The Pines now offers an exciting, refreshed experience surrounded by the natural beauty of the park.

Grab your discs and come enjoy the improved Pines Disc Golf Course; where every round is a great way to play, explore, and connect.

Orange Playground Has A New Safety Surface

Exciting news! If you're headed to Orange complex, take a moment to notice the fresh new look on the Orange Playground Surface!

Pelican Park completed the replacement of the safety ground surfacing, which will make it safer, softer, and way more fun for everyone to enjoy. Come check it out and let the play begin!



EXCITING NEWS

Recreation District #1 installed 3 Perry Weather stations at Pelican Park

~Lightning Alarms & Online Safety Countdowns

~Real-Time Weather Updates and Forecasts: Rain, Temperature, Lightning and Wind Conditions.

Visit our Website to see our new live widget

Our Staff will monitor the App to keep you informed and safe

Lightning Countdown when NOT CLEAR

79° Temp
Clear 0-10 mi

Lightning Status
12:22
0-10 miles

PelicanPark.com

New Weather Safety System at Pelican Park!

We're excited to announce that three weather stations have been installed at Pelican Park, powered by Perry Weather!

These on-site weather stations provide real-time lightning detection and send automatic safety alerts within 15 seconds, helping keep everyone safe during outdoor activities.

Here's what to expect at Pelican Park:

- Loud Alerts: Alarms will sound, and strobes will display if lightning is within 10 miles.
- With the Perry Weather Widget at PelicanPark.com you will have:
- Real-Time Weather Updates and Forecasts for: Rain, Temperature, Lightning and Wind Conditions.
- See countdown timers after lightning, alert to know when it is safe to resume play.
- NOTE: Live lightning timers reset with every new strike...no guessing needed! Our staff actively monitors the Pelican Park App to help keep you informed and safe.

Whether you're a Park regular, pickleball fanatic or gearing up for a round of disc golf, make sure the weather's right before you and your family before you drive over... you can now go to our website to check the rain, wind direction and strength before driving to the park.

Skate Park Progress is Rolling Forward!

Exciting news for skaters and fans of action sports... Pelican Park's long-awaited Skate Park is cruising toward completion!

Seiverding Construction and Grindline Skateparks have teamed up to re-mobilized the dirt- work and are working hard to shape the park's foundation. With dirt work nearly complete, the next phase will bring in steel structures and all the specialty features that make a skate park truly one-of-a-kind.

This dynamic partnership is focused on quality and creativity, ensuring the final result will be a destination skate park for all ages and skill levels. If the weather stays on our side, we're expecting to wrap construction by the end of fall, just in time for cooler temps and perfect skating weather!

Stay tuned for sneak peeks and updates as we roll closer to opening day!



Pelican Park Facilities



Our 3 Dog Parks

Fall into Fun at Pelican Park's Dog Parks!

As the leaves begin to fall and the air gets crisp, it's the perfect time to visit one of Pelican Park's three dog parks with your four-legged companion. Whether it's a brisk morning run or a cozy afternoon stroll, our parks offer a safe, spacious setting for your dog to socialize, exercise, and soak up the season.

Let your pup leap into fun, chase the cool breeze, and meet new furry friends under the tree canopies. These parks aren't just great for play...they're also ideal for practicing good behavior and forming positive social habits.

Pelican Park features two on-site dog parks...one for larger breeds and another for small dogs...that are tucked away near the back of the 500 acres for a peaceful retreat. And don't forget about Pretty Acres Dog Park in Covington, located on Andrew Drive just off Hwy 190. Managed by Recreation District #1, Pretty Acres features a gazebo, and plenty of space for your pup to explore.

Please be sure to review the dog park rules and help us keep these spaces enjoyable for everyone. Let's make this fall and winter full of tail wags and happy memories!



Disc Golf

Cool Weather, Warm Vibes: Play a Round at The Pines

There's nothing like a refreshing round of disc golf on a crisp fall day. The Pines Disc Golf Course at Pelican Park is the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors while staying active, whether you're playing solo or with family and friends.

This season, discover a new layout created by local disc golf pros, designed to challenge returning players while staying welcoming to beginners. With the cooler temps and fewer bugs, it's the ideal time to enjoy the game and nature at once. We want to give a big shout out to Skip and Thurston for all of their hard work with this revamp of the disc golf course. We appreciate all of their efforts and we are looking forward to many more events and visitors after the course has been updated with 2 separate levels of play.



Sand Volleyball Courts

Fall Into Fun at the Volleyball Courts

Just because summer's over doesn't mean the fun has to stop! The sand volleyball courts near Silver Fields remain open for spontaneous matches and friendly competition.

Available on a first-come, first-served basis, these courts offer the perfect mix of fitness and fun...even if you're just warming up for next year's tournaments that will be held at Pelican Park's brand new sand volleyball complex. With the master plan is planning to add six new professional sand volleyball courts as part of its future Master Plan—stay tuned!



The Groves at Pelican Park

The Groves: Year-End Magic and What's Next

Last year The Groves ended the year with two amazing free community concerts: our Grand Opening of the The Stage had a spooky themed performance “Songs of the Night” by the Covington Concert Band and a soulful Jazzy Creole Christmas concert ended the year with the soulful sounds of Dr. Ben Redwine, Mark Weliky, John Previti and Herman LeBeaux. We're so grateful for the community's support this year and can't wait to welcome more live music and events in 2026!

From the scenic walking paths to outdoor fitness equipment and the Pelicans Landing pavilion, The Groves is your go-to destination for seasonal strolls and family outings. And coming soon: four new pickleball courts to meet growing demand for this fast-paced, fun sport.

As we head into the holidays and beyond, keep your eye out for new additions—and please pardon our progress as we continue growing this vibrant community space.



Pelicans Landing: The Perfect Venue for Your Next Event

Your gathering spot for a great event this Season

Looking for the perfect venue for your back to school bash, holiday party, family gathering or end of the year work celebration? Pelicans Landing offers a beautiful, flexible outdoor space ideal for all your seasonal events.

Whether you're planning a picnic, team celebration, or festive birthday bash, Pelicans Landing can accommodate your needs and is surrounded by all the amenities of The Groves; a beautiful stage for presentations and conferences, green space for chairs and tables, pickleball courts, large game, cornhole, bbq pits etc.. Call 985-626-7997 to learn more or reserve your spot!



Pickleball

Pickleball is Heating Up This Winter!

No need to hibernate this season...pickleball at The Groves is the perfect way to stay active during the cooler months. With eight courts currently open daily from 7 AM to 9 PM, there's plenty of time for morning matches or evening rallies under the lights.

And here's the best news: four brand-new courts are on the way! Whether you're a seasoned player or just getting started, there's room for everyone in our thriving pickleball community.

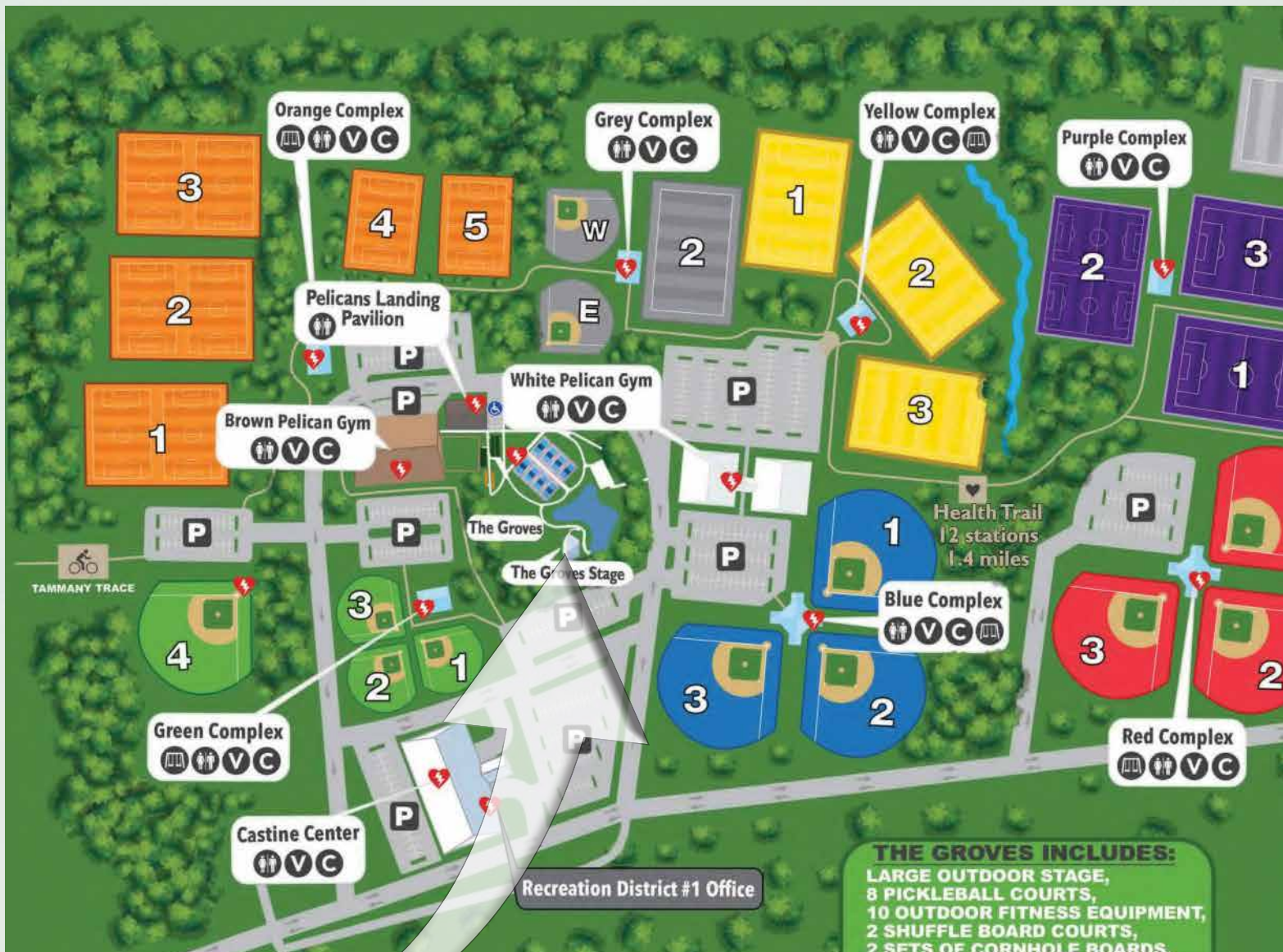
Adult Exercise Equipment

Stay Fit This Winter with Outdoor Workouts at The Groves

Breathe in the fresh fall air while getting a full-body workout at The Groves' adult fitness area. Now featuring 10 machines, including a brand-new bicep curling station, this space is perfect for keeping your routine going year-round.

All equipment uses your body weight for resistance and is sheltered under a shaded structure with tranquil pond views. Enjoy the serenity of nature as you stay healthy and strong—even in sweater weather!





Event Stage
NOW OPEN
 (Follow social media
 for our next concerts)



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

Skate Park

Under Construction
(See article page 11)



Volleyball
Coming Soon!

RESTROOM **C CONCESSIONS** **P PARKING**
Handicap parking available at every complex

V VENDING **PLAYGROUND** **PAVILION**

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) located at each Complex

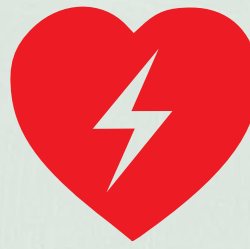


Recreation District #1 Pelican Park has 19 AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) on campus.

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



AED



CPR, AED & First Aid Training for Employees

Pelican Park would like to send a BIG THANK YOU to the American Heart Association and our Recreation District #1 Partner St. Tammany Health Systems/Ochsner for going the extra mile and making several trips to Pelican Park.

We're grateful for their continued support in making sure that our Pelican Park staff are CPR, AED, and First Aid certified. Your dedication helps keep our park safe and prepared year-round.

Did you know Pelican Park has 19 AEDs located throughout the park?

Please take a moment to visit PelicanPark.com and familiarize yourself with their locations before heading to the Park. You never know when an emergency might arise, and being informed could help save a life.



Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute to our community?

We invite you to consider making a donation to "Friends of Pelican Park Inc.," a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your generous support helps us maintain and enhance the beautiful Pelican Park by adding playgrounds and recreational projects for everyone to enjoy.

To make a donation, simply scan the QR code:

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of our cherished park!



Youth Sports



WINTER SPORTS

Winter Basketball

Registration Dates: August 18 – September 15, 2025 *Late Week Registration (additional \$25): September 16 – 19, 2025*
Games Begin: November 8, 2025 – January 24, 2026

Basketball Lil' Dribblers Clinic

4-5 years old
November 1st, 8th and 15th
December 6th and 13th

6 years old Girls Clinic

6 years old
November 1st, 8th and 15th
December 6th and 13th

Boys: 6 - 12 | Girls: 7 - 12



EARLY SPRING SPORTS

Girls' Volleyball

Age of Date: Jul 1, 2026 *NEW*
Registration Dates: Dec 1, 2025 – Jan 4, 2026
Late Week Registration: (additional \$25): Jan 5 – 9, 2026
Games Begin: Feb 23 – Apr 10, 2026



Older Boys' Basketball

Age of Date: Sept 1, 2026 *NEW*
Registration Dates: Dec 1, 2025 – Jan 4, 2026
Late Week Registration: (additional \$25): Jan 5 – 9, 2026
Games Begin: Feb 23 – Apr 10, 2026



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE UPCOMING SPORTS CLINICS

Youth Volleyball Clinics - July 11 | August 1 | December 1

Floor Hockey - July 26, 2025 | August 23, 2025

Saints Player - Delvin Breaux Sr. 3-Day Football Camp at Pelican Park

for ages 7-15. 3-Sundays: July 13, 20 & August 10

Thank you for being a part of the many camps and clinics we've had the pleasure of offering so far this year! Your participation and enthusiasm help make each event a success. If there are any specific camps or clinics you'd love to see in the future—or if you're interested in leading one yourself—we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to Chad Groover at chadgroover@pelicanpark.com with your ideas or inquiries.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PARENT, PLAYER, COACH EJECTIONS

Pelican Park maintains a zero-tolerance policy for violations of the Player, Parent, or Coach Code of Conduct. Any player, spectator, or coach who is ejected from a game—and whose ejection is deemed warranted—will be subject to a mandatory one-game suspension. In addition, the individual must complete a Sportsmanship Certification course provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) before returning to participate. This policy is strictly enforced to uphold the integrity, safety, and respect of our programs.

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.

SHERIFF

Pelican Park is proud to partner with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office to help maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who visits our facility. Their presence, professionalism, and ongoing support are an invaluable part of our community, and we are truly grateful for the time and service they dedicate to our park.

As a friendly reminder, please make sure not to leave any valuables in your vehicle and always keep your car locked when unattended. Your awareness and cooperation help us all enjoy a safer experience at the park.

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 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.

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.

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

Session 3

Captains Registration: July 14-18, 2025

Players Registration: July 19-25, 2025

Games Start: Week of August 3, 2025

- Adult Men's Softball (Sundays)
- Adult Co-Ed Softball (Thursdays)
- Adult Competitive Volleyball (Thursdays)
- Adult Recreational Volleyball (Thursdays)
- Adult Just for Fun Volleyball (Thursdays)

Session 4

Captains Registration: October 20-24, 2025

Players Registration: October 25-31, 2025

Games Start: Week of November 9

- Adult Competitive Volleyball (Thursdays)
- Adult Recreational Volleyball (Thursdays)
- Adult Just for Fun Volleyball (Thursdays)
- Potential Men's Basketball 25+(Sundays)

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.

Adult Classes

You can NOW register for several classes at the same time.

ART

Painting with Michelle:

July 1, July 8, July 23, July 31

One of a Kind Cards:

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27
Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26
Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Stamping Cards:

July 7, 14, 21, 28
Aug. 11, 18, 25
Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27
Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24
Dec. 1, 8, 22, 29

Techniques with Robin

July 16, 30
Aug. 20
Sept. 24

Wire Art Jewelry

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26
Sep. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28
Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25
Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Yarn it with Eve

July 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31
Aug. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
Sep. 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30
Oct. 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30
Nov. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25
Dec. 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 30

Canasta

Every Wednesday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

YOUTH CLASSES / CAMPS AND CLINICS

Pickleball

Softball Fast-Pitch Clinics:

Pitching
Batting
Offence/Defense

Baseball Clinics:

Pitching
Batting
Offence/Defense

Co-Ed Volleyball

Girls Volleyball

Fencing – Youth and Adults

OPEN GYM

Sundays 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Brown Gym





The Pickleball Kitchen Chronicles

Have you stepped into the kitchen yet? (That's pickleball talk, of course!)
When we say kitchen... we mean it's PICKLEBALL TIME!

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in America, and there's no better place to play than Pelican Park.

Come out and play at Pelican Park and see what all the fuss is about. At this moment Pelican Park has 8 pickleball courts in The Groves. Our Master Plan is about to expand the area with 4 more courts to have 12 in total by the beginning of next year.

Don't know the rules or how to score? No worries, we have you covered...We have two expert pickleball players that are ready to get you in the game! Ken and Vicky Winn are two of our Local Pickleball Heros and are doing an amazing job raising awareness and stepping up our pickleball game in our community. Mark these dates below if you would like to join them in one of their upcoming clinics, socials or tournaments! The have BEGINNER, BEYOND BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE so make sure to find your fit and register today!!



Find Your Fit – Upcoming Clinics with Ken and Vicky Winn

Beginner – Just picked up a paddle? We'll teach you the basics, rules, and gameplay.

Beyond Beginner – You've got the hang of it and want to level up with strategy and consistency.

Intermediate – You're playing regularly and ready for advanced techniques and tactics.

Evening Clinics on Friday Nights

6:30–8:30pm: 1 day / 2-hours

- July 11: Beginner Clinic | \$30
- July 25: Beyond Beginner Clinic | \$30
- August 22: Intermediate Clinic | \$30

Morning Clinics Monday & Wednesday

8:30–10:00am: 2-days / 3-hours in total

- Sept 22 & 24 (Mon/Wed): Beginner Clinic | \$45
- Sept 29 & Oct 1 (Mon/Wed): Beyond Beginner Clinic | \$45
- Oct 13 & 15 (Mon/Wed): Beginner Clinic | \$45
- Oct 20 & 22 (Mon/Wed): Beyond Beginner Clinic | \$45

Pickleball Tournaments at Pelican Park

Get ready for a full lineup of exciting pickleball events this fall at Pelican Park. Whether you're here to compete, learn, or just have a great time on the courts, we have something for every player.



The Pelican Park Pickleball Classic

September 26 & 28

A three-day event designed for both competitive and recreational players.

- Friday Morning: Training Camp and 1-on-1 Mini Tournament
- Saturday: Doubles Tournament
- Sunday: Mixed Doubles Bracket

Registration opens soon. Check our website and social media for updates.

Pickleball Social Night

October 24 | Friday | 5:30–8:30 PM

Join us under the lights for an evening of casual games, player meet-ups, and community fun. This is a great way to connect with other players and learn more about our upcoming fall tournament.



Pelican Park Turkey Tourney

November 22–23

Don't miss our biggest pickleball event of the season, directed by the ever-popular Ken and Vicky.

- Friday: Social Warm-Up
- Saturday: Doubles Tournament
- Sunday: Mixed Doubles Showdown

Also featuring: Live Music • Food Trucks • Coffee and Tea Vendors • Local Market Vibes

Registration opens soon. More details will be shared on our website and social media.

For questions or to register: Call 985-626-7997 or visit our website and social media pages.





Pelican Park Launches New Astronomy Program!

Get ready to explore the cosmos because big things are happening at Pelican Park! We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Astronomy Program, featuring state-of-the-art telescopes and an immersive viewing experience.

Prepare to be amazed as we utilize the powerful Celestron Origin telescope to project awe-inspiring wonders of deep-sky objects onto a 98-inch high-resolution screen. You'll witness the stunning beauty of nebulae, galaxies, and more in incredible detail.

For closer cosmic encounters, our Celestron 9.25" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope will transport you to the planets and the Moon with incredible clarity, allowing you to marvel at Jupiter's cloud bands and the breathtaking, cratered landscape of Earth's own Moon. Join Our First Stargazing Event!

Come explore the wonders of the night sky with us at our inaugural event:

- **When: Saturday, July 19th at 8:00 p.m.**
- **Where: The Yellow Complex at Pelican Park**
- **Rain Date: Saturday, July 26th at 8:00 p.m. (also at the Yellow Complex)**

A Special Thanks! We extend a huge thank you to Leon Zebrick, our dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer, for leading this exciting new program. His passion for astronomy and deep space exploration is truly inspiring.

We're also excited to announce that the **Pontchartrain Astronomy Society** has been invited to participate, adding even more expertise to our events.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to journey through the universe right here at Pelican Park!

Parents Night Out Volleyball Clinics

Let your athlete grow while you enjoy a night off.

Sign your child up for our Parents Night Out Volleyball Clinic, open to boys and girls ages 7–15. These clinics are a great way for athletes to learn new skills in a fun, supportive setting.

Cost: \$35 for three hours of instruction and play.

Each clinic includes:

- Fundamental training: setting, spiking, bumping
- Strategy sessions: 6-2 and 5-1 formations
- Game-like drills and team development

Led by experienced coaches, these clinics are designed to help athletes at all levels develop confidence and love for the game.

Upcoming Clinic Dates:

- July 11
- August 1

Floor Hockey Clinics at Pelican Park

Hosted by the New Orleans Hockey Club

Introduce your child to the fast-paced world of floor hockey! These clinics are perfect for beginners and led by experienced instructors in a fun, welcoming environment.

Details:

- Ages 6–9: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Ages 10–14: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Cost: \$30 per child
- All equipment provided—just wear tennis shoes and athletic clothes
- Only 20 participants per session for personal instruction

Clinic Dates (Brown Gym):

- July 26: 1–3 PM and 3–5 PM
- August 23: 1–3 PM and 3–5 PM

Spots are limited and fill quickly - register today!



Peace by Practice: Soundbaths

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our past **Peace by Practice: Soundbaths at THE GROVES...** the vibes were high, the energy was calm, and the relaxation was next level. Didn't make it? Don't worry...we're doing it again soon! Follow us on social media for our upcoming event dates! **Save the dates for the Next Southbaths on October 30th and November 20th at 5:30pm.**





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 or stay updated by following us on social media.

We're thrilled to welcome you to another exciting season at Pelican Park! Our team has been working hard to bring you a lineup of activities, programs, and events that offer something for everyone—whether you're competing, exploring, or just soaking in the fun.

Summer Kickoff Events

- ★ **July 19:** Live Music by Alt'r Ego – Join us for a lively evening of music and community fun.
- ★ **July 26:**
 - Back to School Bash (10 a.m.–Noon) – Hosted in partnership with the Children's Museum of St. Tammany.
 - Youth Floor Hockey Clinic – Kids can try out this exciting new sport, sponsored by the New Orleans Hockey Club.

Late Summer Programming

- ★ **August 23:** Youth Floor Hockey Clinic returns – Another opportunity for kids to discover the thrill of hockey.

Fall Pickleball Tournaments

- ★ **September 27–28:** Fall Pickleball Classic – A weekend of competitive fun for pickleball enthusiasts.
- ★ **November 22–23:** Thanksgiving Turkey Tourney Pickleball Tournament – Wrap up the season with a festive round of pickleball fun.
Plus, don't miss the free 4Unplugged concert on Saturday, Nov. 22—a highlight of the season and open to all.

Music & Performing Arts

- ★ **October 9:** Covington Concert Band Fall Concert – A family-friendly evening of classic and contemporary music.
- ★ **December 18:** Covington Concert Band Holiday Concert – Celebrate the season with this beloved holiday tradition.

Holiday Happenings

- ★ **December 13:** Jingle Jam Pajama Party – Kids can meet Santa and enjoy games, crafts, and sweet treats in their favorite pajamas.

Educational & Cultural Highlights

- ★ **October 25:** Bartram Trail Conference – Honoring the legacy of naturalist William Bartram.
- ★ **November 24–25:** STEM Quest – A hands-on science and learning event presented with the Children's Museum of St. Tammany to spark curiosity in young minds.

Coming next year – Mardi Gras Magic

- ★ **February 16, 2026:** Pelican Park is once again partnering with the Children's Museum of St. Tammany for the Kids Krewe Parade – Bigger, better, and bursting with Mardi Gras spirit.

After the parade, we'll second line over to The Groves for live music, local vendors, food, and plenty of family-friendly fun.

Registration Reminders

Fall, winter, and early spring leagues, clinics, and special events are filling up fast—be sure to register early to secure your spot.

As part of the Visit the Northshore initiative, we proudly support Every Wave Welcome—a commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming space for all.

We look forward to seeing you at Pelican Park!

Nature & Outdoor Adventures

- ★ Check out our redesigned Disc Golf Course featuring new baskets, improved signage, and fresh layouts.
- ★ The Pelican Park Nature Club is growing. Explore with us on bird walks, butterfly expeditions, and canoe and kayak outings, thanks to our partnerships with Fontainebleau State Park and Canoe & Trail Adventures.

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.

Do you have a passion for sports and a heart for helping kids grow? We're looking for enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers to coach in our youth sports programs at Pelican Park!

As a coach, you'll have the opportunity to:

- **Teach the fundamentals of the game**
- **Instill confidence, teamwork, and sportsmanship**
- **Create lasting memories for players—and yourself!**
- **Be a positive role model in our community**

No prior coaching experience? No problem! We provide resources, training, and support to help you succeed. Whether you're a parent, former athlete, or simply want to make an impact, we welcome you to join our coaching family.

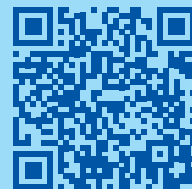
Exciting Sponsorship Opportunities Await You at Pelican Park!

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.

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.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Sponsored by



CedarGrove
SENIOR HEALTH SOLUTIONS



Thank You

Thank you for joining us for these Pelican Park Events:

We were thrilled to partner with and sponsor The Children's Museum of St. Tammany's Kids Krewe Mardi Gras at Pelican Park! The homemade floats were on point, and the kids had a blast tossing beads and treasures to their friends and parade-goers!

The parade rolled out from White Gym and made its way to The Groves stage, where the celebration Please join us for our next one on February 16, 2026. You can either register

Pelican Park and CMST are teaming up once again for our 2nd Annual Kids Krewe Parade on February 16th, 2026 and it's going to be bigger, better, and more fun than ever! So make sure to register and get those wagons decorated and ready to roll or grab your family and parade day supplies, come early and grab your spot to enjoy as our pint-sized parade takes over the park with throws, smiles, and Mardi Gras spirit. But the fun doesn't stop there! After the parade, we will all second line over to The Groves for an afternoon of live music, tasty food, local vendors, and all the family-friendly fun you can handle.



Lost and Found Reminder

Missing something after your last visit to the park or game? Be sure to check the **Lost and Found** located at the **Brown Pelican Gym**. Items are kept for **two weeks** before being donated, so don't wait too long to claim your belongings. Donations take place **every other Tuesday**...stop by soon!



Pelican Park is Proudly Serving PJ's Coffee!

Pelican Park is excited to announce that we are now proudly serving PJ's Coffee at several of our facilities! Guests can enjoy a refreshing selection of beverages including regular and iced coffee, tea, and lemonade.

You'll find PJ's Coffee available at the White and Brown Gyms, as well as at the Red, Orange, and Gold Field Concessions. Stop by, grab a drink, and fuel up for your day at the Park!

Coaches Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to all of our dedicated coaches who generously give their time, energy, and patience to help shape a positive and supportive environment for our youth. Your commitment does not go unnoticed—your impact is felt in every practice, every game, and every encouraging word. We deeply value all that you do, and we are truly grateful for the role you play in the success of our leagues. Simply put, we couldn't do it without you.

Congratulations to the 2025 Girls National/World Champions

The Girls 2025 Biddy Basketball National/World Championship Games were held at Pelican Park, and what an incredible tournament it was! We had a fantastic time watching these talented young athletes compete and celebrating their achievements on the court.

- **8U: JPRD Westbank**
- **10U: Terrebonne**
- **12U: Team from Finland**

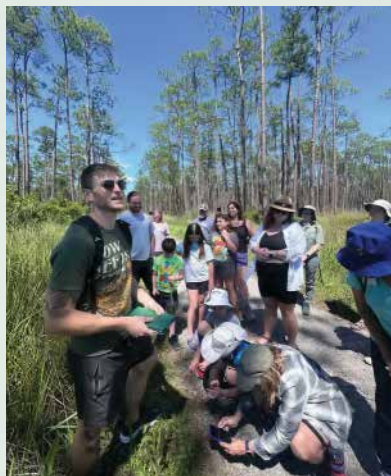
The tournament ran from March 28 through April 1 and brought exciting action to both Pelican Park, where the girls played, and Coquille, which hosted the boys' games. Every team showed amazing dedication and sportsmanship throughout the event.

A special shoutout goes to the 12U Champions from Finland, who traveled the farthest to be part of the competition...truly highlighting the global spirit of youth basketball!

Thank you for all of the hard work by the Pelican Park Staff and the Organizers of the Girls Biddy Basketball to make it such an amazing event!



Environmental Education



Pelican Park Nature Club

Birdwatchers have what's referred to as a "Spark Bird"—the bird that sparked their lifelong interest in birdwatching. Maybe we held a quiet admiration for the hardy House Sparrows in Home Depot's Garden Center as a child, or we catch ourselves looking for the pair of Red-Shouldered Hawks that call Asbury Drive home as we drive down that stretch of Highway 190.

I believe the Spark Bird phenomenon extends to the natural world at large. Maybe our Spark Bird is a unique plant, a peculiar mushroom, or a neat bug; I believe everybody has a Spark Something that serves as a catalyst to a lifelong interest in the outdoors. Our Spark Something often finds us, but sometimes we need a little help.

That's where the Pelican Park Nature Club comes in! Our programs and events cover an array of topics and interests. Since our first event on April 26th, a Full Moon Night Hike, we've had in-the-field learning about birdwatching, edible plants, citizen science projects, butterflies and insects, native mushrooms, native medicinal herbs, urban nature walks with the Wednesday Run Club, and paddles down Cane Bayou with Canoe and Trail Adventures!

You don't have to be a botanist, wildlife biologist, or any kind of "ologist" to enjoy our programs. We encourage people of all knowledge levels and abilities to come see what we're about!



Here are three repeat programs to add to your calendar:

★ **Monthly Meet and Mingle at Tandem Coffee and Cocktails.**

Dates: Every 4th Wednesday of the month (7/23, 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, 11/26)

5:30-6:30 PM; Social Hour.

6:30-7:15PM; Presentation from a local naturalist.

★ **July:** Creatures of the Night with Bill Whimley, Northshore naturalist and Tulane Professor; followed by a night hike event at Northlake Nature Center on 7/26!

★ **August:** Know your Knots! Hands-on knot tying lessons with Matt May of Canoe and Trail Adventures.

★ **September:** Beekeeping and Native Plants with Greg Capranica of Millefleur Apriary.

★ October & November: TBD

★ **Urban Nature Walks** with the Wednesday Run Club at the Mandeville Trailhead, 6PM. Dates: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month (7/9, 8/13, 9/10, 10/8)

★ **The Wednesday Run Club** is a fun, active social club of runners and walkers of all abilities and skill who meet every Wednesday at the Mandeville Trail head. On the second Wednesday of every month, the Pelican Park Nature Club will host an urban nature walk for all the walkers!"

★ **Second Saturday Early Birds** at Fontainebleau State Park, 8AM. Dates: 7/26, and then every second Saturday of the month (8/9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13)

★ **Join us for a bird walk around Fontainebleau State Park!** All experience levels welcome, especially newcomers. We will meet near the splashpad area at 8:00. We expect the walk to last around 2 hours. Binoculars provided thanks to our friends at Sport Optics. There is a \$3 entrance fee into the state park.



Other July Programs:

- ★ 7/12 @ 10AM LSU Raptor Rehab at Pelican Park, White Pelican Gym #3.
 - ★ Get ready for an incredible opportunity as we host the LSU Raptor Rehabilitation Program! This is your chance to see raptors up close and learn about the vital work LSU does in conservation, research, and education.
 - ★ 7/15 @ 8:30AM Field trip to Southeastern University's Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station
 - ★ Southeastern Louisiana University's Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station offers unique field research and educational experiences within the Lake Pontchartrain estuary. Its diverse wetland environments, ranging from fresh to saline, and existing in various states of preservation, provide excellent opportunities for comparative study.
 - ★ Turtle Cove hosts educational field trips for K-12 students, university groups, and community organizations, covering wetland science, environmental history, and coastal wetland loss. Field trips include:
 - A lecture on wetlands and environmental issues.
 - A pontoon boat ride to the station.
 - A guided boardwalk tour with plant identification, dip netting, and water quality sampling.
- Participants will learn about wetlands ecology, restoration, and adaptations, while observing local wildlife and plants.
- ★ 7/23 @ 5:30PM Creatures of the Night presentation, Tandem Coffee and Cocktails.
 - ★ Discover the hidden world that awakens after sunset. In this photographic presentation, Bill Wimley showcases how an illuminated white sheet can attract a stunning array of moths, beetles, and other nocturnal insects—offering a rare glimpse into the rich biodiversity that comes alive after dark.
 - ★ 7/26 @ 7:30PM Creatures of the Night field trip, Northlake Nature Center.
 - ★ Companion field trip to Bill Wimley's 7/23 presentation. We will observe a moth sheet and all the fun creatures it draws out after the sun sets!

Our programs don't end there—we're always adding new programs for you to discover nature. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (Pelican Park Nature Club) to keep up with our programs and to learn more about the natural world of Southeast Louisiana. You can also see our events on Pelican Park Nature Club's webpage found on Pelican Park's website.



Species Spotlight

Prothonotary Warbler

After spending winter in South America, you can rely on the Prothonotary warbler to arrive in South Louisiana around the first day of Spring. They love the abundance of wet, swampy areas in Louisiana; John Audubon even noted that "Louisiana seems in fact better suited to its habits than any other state". Their name comes from bright yellow robes that papal clerks (called Prothonotaries) wore in the Catholic Church. They forage low in search for insects and small mollusks. They can be found near virtually any body of water in Louisiana from late March until October. Listen for their distinct "sweet-sweet-sweet-sweet" call on your next nature hike!

Pelican Park's Blooming Success

A Partnership with the Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative

Did you know that the majestic Louisiana iris, specifically *Iris giganticaerulea*, holds the esteemed title of Louisiana's official state wildflower? At Pelican Park, we're not just admirers of this native beauty; we're active participants in its preservation through a vital partnership with the Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative (LICI).

LICI's mission is dedicated to the rescue and planting of wild, native irises facing habitat destruction. Pelican Park proudly supports this endeavor, contributing to the recovery of these threatened wildflowers.

This incredible work would not be possible without the tireless efforts and unwavering passion of Gary Salathe, LICI's visionary founder and dedicated organizer. His commitment to conserving Louisiana's native irises is truly inspiring, and we are deeply grateful for his leadership and collaboration.

Over the past winter, a series of dedicated volunteer planting events, meticulously organized by LICI, allowed us to significantly expand our iris bog. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers and LICI's guidance, we successfully added over 1,000 irises to our collection. This tremendous effort culminated in a spectacular blooming event this March and April, transforming our bog into a vibrant tapestry of color and showcasing the stunning results of our conservation work. The display was a testament to the power of community involvement and the beauty of Louisiana's native flora.

We invite you to visit Pelican Park and witness the breathtaking display of Louisiana irises, a living testament to our commitment to environmental conservation and a celebration of our state's natural heritage, made possible by the dedicated work of LICI and its passionate leader, Gary Salathe.

Native Beauty in the Castine Center Parking Lot

We're excited to announce that the Castine Center parking lot now features beautiful native plants! A Huge thanks to John Broderick for sparking this idea and connecting us with Jess Cole of Sweet Fern Landscapes to bring this vision to life.

Our newly designed parking areas are now vibrant with a simple yet elegant mix of native plants, adding bursts of color, interesting textures, and graceful movement. By choosing all-native plantings, our parking islands have become rich, perennial habitats for pollinators, providing significant ecological benefits to our local environment. Plus, you'll appreciate the hardy, mostly evergreen foliage that keeps things beautiful year-round.

Included are groups of Sweet Bay Magnolias adding their charm. In the summertime, a delightful citrus scent will waft from their blooms, while their silvery-green foliage provides an elegant evergreen canopy throughout the year.

For a unique visual experience, some islands are now graced with a mass planting of Muhly grass. This "sea of grass" sways gracefully in the wind, offering a soft texture and a beautiful fluorescence in the cooler seasons.

Other areas showcase an alternating pattern of Dwarf Palmetto and American Beautyberry. These two native gems provide wonderful textural contrasts and create captivating focal points.

Finally, bright pops of color draw your eye with showy perennials like Large and Orange Coneflower, Inland Sea Oats, and Gulf Penstemon. These vibrant additions add an extra touch of cheer to the center.

We invite you to take a moment to appreciate this beautiful and beneficial new addition to the Castine Center. It's more than just landscaping; it's an investment in our local ecosystem and a testament to our commitment to creating a more vibrant and sustainable environment for everyone.



Special Olympics



Special Olympics
Louisiana

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Our athlete motto couldn't have been exemplified more clearly as our **Spring 2025** season has wrapped up, culminating with **Special Olympics Louisiana's State Summer Games in May**. Congratulations to our pickleball and bocce athletes who competed at various levels this Spring! Moving forward, we will be offering a wider selection of sports and fitness programming to give athlete many more opportunities to engage with the program. Our goal is to create a more robust program that has something for everyone – from sports and fitness to health and leadership opportunities. Fall 2025 will feature softball and horseshoes, then we will move into flag football later in the season before gearing up for basketball in Winter.

To register as a coach or athlete, visit the Special Pops Sports page on Pelican Park's website or go to www.specialolympicsla.org. For any questions, reach out to Alicia Lartey at alicia.lartey@specialolympicsla.org or call 800-345-6644 ext 107.



SPECIAL POPULATIONS SPORTS

YEAR-ROUND SPORTS

- Basketball
- Bocce
- Fitness
- Flag Football
- Horseshoes
- Pickleball
- Softball
- Volleyball

Also available locally:
athletics (track & field), bowling, golf, swimming



Contact us for more information: www.specialolympicsla.org | 800.345.6644

COACHES NEEDED

Coaches are the key to a successful sports experience for the Special Olympics athlete. As a coach, you teach sports skills and model good sportsmanship and character.

Interested? Contact Alicia Lartey to get started!
alicia.lartey@specialolympicsla.org
800.345.6644 ext. 107



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

Through sports training and competitions, Special Olympics helps people with intellectual disabilities (ID) receive joy, acceptance, and success. Their achievement allows them to feel empowered.

Athletes lead the way as the voices of the movement, taking on meaningful roles in their communities and educating the world about the potential of people with ID. These athletes drive our movement forward with their insights and contributions.

They are shining examples of what it means to be a leader.

SAVE THE DATE

**BE A
GAME
CHANGER
CONFERENCE**

Make a Difference & Change THE GAME

OCTOBER 10 & 11th



Save the Date! Join us October 10–11, 2025, at the Castine Center in Pelican Park for the Be a Game Changer Conference, part of the Million Coaches Challenge...an inspiring national initiative supported by NRPA, Susan Crown Exchange, and ESPN. This two-day event will bring together coaches, educators, youth leaders, and community members to explore inclusive coaching, youth development, mental wellness, and social-emotional learning in sports and in life. Stay tuned for registration details and speaker announcements...don't miss out you too can **BE A GAME CHANGER!**



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:

