SKATE PARK SITE SELECTION CRITERIA



BASIC SITE CONSIDERATIONS:

- Ownership of site: Does the City own the site?
- Size of site: Is the site capable of providing a minimum of 10,000 sf of dedicated skatepark area?
- Site contours: Has the site been previously developed (i.e., graded and ready for construction and installation of skate park elements)?
- Site conditions: Is there an environmental mitigation effort needed for site soils?
- Site infrastructure: Are the basic utilities present on the site (i.e., electric, water, sewer) and in working condition?

<u>Access</u>

Skate parks must be accessible to the broader community and in a central location near residential areas, easily accessible by public transportation and existing pedestrian infrastructure. (A remote skate park will only attract those people who have the means to reach it).

- Is the site highly visible to passing pedestrian and vehicular traffic?
- Is the site adjacent to bus or streetcar service routes?
- Is the site located within a population dense area?
- Is the site easy to find and get to for the users?

Sociability

Skateboarders are passionate and committed individuals. Like most people, skaters would rather recreate with other people around than alone. Non-skaters who happen to be nearby can add to the overall sense of community inclusion at the skatepark; the facility should be designed for lots of community mixing. Healthy skate parks incubate a community of park regulars who greet each other and contribute to an overall sense of belonging.

- How friendly is the site environment and the current site users?
- Is the site clean and well-tended by current users?
- Do women and the elderly use this site currently?
- Does it feel safe and hassle-free?
- Does the space provide good photo/video opportunities for sharing via social media?

<u>Activity</u>

The contextual setting of the skatepark – its surrounding area – should be active with other users. This diversity keeps the environment interesting and vibrant; without it, the space will feel "overrun" and homogenous...a place for "skaters only." Planners can quickly eradicate the sense of activity (and sociability) by surrounding the skatepark with a tall fence. The activity of a place indicates how much engagement opportunity there is.

- Is there nearby parking? Site lighting? Restrooms?
- Are there other nearby activities (i.e., recreational, commercial services, etc.) that can be linked to the skatepark?
- Is the site open (unfenced) to allow flow between onsite and offsite activities?
- Are there various things to do within the site to appeal to a diverse ages and interests?
- Are there individual and group activities currently occurring on the site?
- Are there are quiet or reflective and active, dynamic activities happening on the site?

<u>Comfort</u>

Often overlooked, comfort is a way of expressing that the users are an important and valued part of the community. A comfortable environment allows people to set proper expectations about the area, use the area in a way that is natural and intended, and ultimately take pride in this venue. For many skaters, the skatepark will become their central gathering point for years. An uncomfortable space will feel unsafe and attract the wrong element.

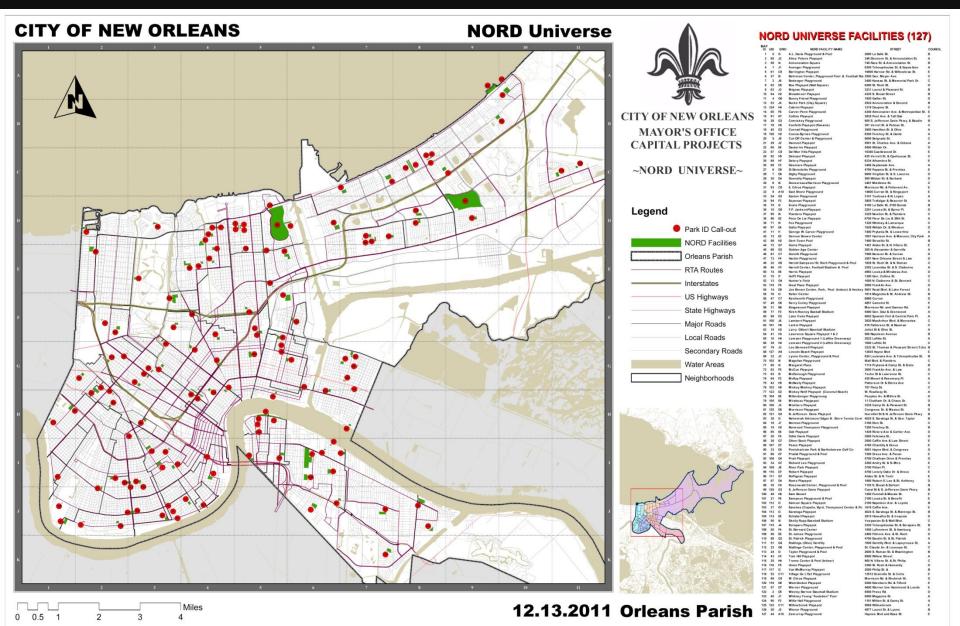
- Is there plenty of space to move, stand, and sit?
- Is there a sense of place for the site (i.e., is it a descriptive location in terms of place and identity)?

CNO / NORD RECREATIONAL and GREEN SPACES

CPA/PDU in collaboration with NORD, Parks and Parkways and Property Management has identified approximately 239 recreational sites in the City of New Orleans.

These sites consist of green spaces that include; Parks, Play Spots, Neutral Grounds, Squares, General Green Spaces, Play Grounds, Sports Facilities, Recreation/ Community Centers, Golf Courses and Wild Life Refuges.

These 239 sites represent over 25.5k acres of recreational /green space under the City's management and operation.



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SKATE PARK SHORT LIST – Joe Brown Park



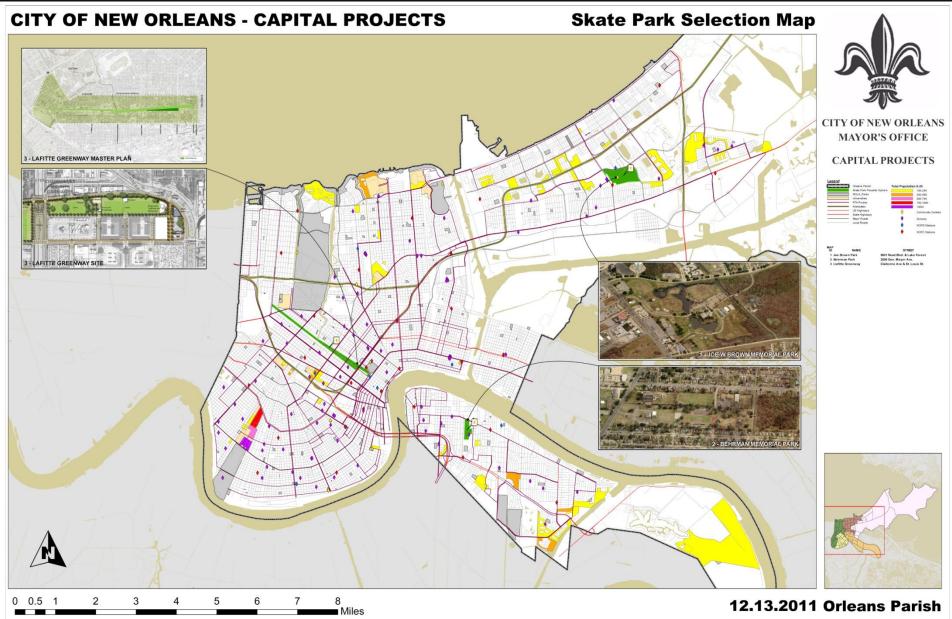
SKATE PARK SHORT LIST – Lafitte Greenway



SKATE PARK SHORT LIST – Behrman Park

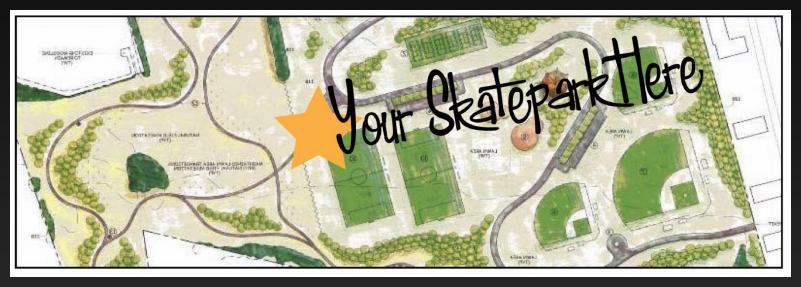


SKATE PARK SHORT LIST MAP



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FORWARD STRATEGY



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Conduct Public Comment Meetings (in Council Chambers)
 - 1.) Wednesday, December 21, 2011 (3pm until 5pm)
 - 2.) Wednesday, December 28, 2011 (10am until noon)
 - 3.) Wednesday, January 4, 2011 (3pm until 5pm)
- Consolidate and analyze information;
- Submit recommendations to NORD Commission for final selection.