

# New Orleans City Park

2026 – 2030 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST



CITY PARK






## How big is City Park?

- Over 170 years old, one mile wide and three miles long, comprising a total of 1,300 acres, New Orleans City Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States
- It is located in the heart of New Orleans and is the largest recreation area for the entire metropolitan area
- The Park hosts an estimated 3,206,300 unique visitors from around the country annually
- Welcomes 5 times the visitors of all State Parks combined in the State of Louisiana
- Home to the largest collection of live oak trees in the world, some dating over 800 years old

*City Park is a very large 1300-acre regional park. Attendance estimates do not include international data.*



# 2060 – 2030 CIP Request

- City Park Historic Infrastructure Rehabilitation
- City Park Amphitheater for Arts, Culture, and Community

A photograph of a stone arch bridge over a pond. A white swan is swimming in the water in the foreground, and there are lily pads. The background shows dense green trees. The text 'City Park Plan' is overlaid in a green, serif font.

# City Park Plan

- City Park is required by state law to operate pursuant to a Master Plan and has had two plans to date
- The most recent, City Park 2018, was approved in March 2005 and has guided the improvements of the Park over the last decade and a half
- The completed 2005 Master Plan largely focused on improvements to the south side of the Park, but included development of the City Park south golf course post-Katrina





- The first plan was published in 1933 for the development of 1,300 acres, imagined as an urban forest as a setting for a large range of Park facilities for the public
- This guided the transformation of farmland and cypress swamp during the era of the Work Progress Administration (WPA)
- The WPA employed 10,000's of New Orleans citizens rebounding from the Great Depression to build lagoons, bridges, fields, golf courses, a stadium, a museum, and artworks integrated throughout the forested park landscape







A photograph of a stone arch bridge over a pond with a swan and lily pads. The text "City Park Plan" is overlaid in a light green serif font.

# City Park Plan

- New Master Plan kicked off in July 2023 with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, with the intent to evaluate the **full 1,300 acres** of City Park
- Help guide the trajectory of a Park into the future
- Help **guide investment** in the Park and **ensure vibrancy** for future generations
- Help guide how City Park serves New Orleans but also providing a platform for the public to **elevate many regional issues that impact everyone** – resilience, climate shifts, challenges in equity and access to public resources, loss of ecological diversity – that the Park may be able to do its part to address

# Community Engagement Overview

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- 6 community meetings with approximately 1,550 attendees
- 4 Ideas Youth Committee meetings with 80+ youth from 18+ organizations and schools represented
- 11 local Community Fellows to help with outreach, planning and facilitation, and pop up events in all 5 districts
- 30+ focus group meetings and 15+ neighborhood/speaking engagement meetings
- 5,250+ survey responses with increase in youth participation
- 30,000+ community input comments through survey, after action reviews, emails, and open comments



# Recurring Community Feedback

*"Enhance and expand available nature areas and improve maintenance practices"*

*"Address the health of the waterways to improve ecological functions and accommodate recreational use"*

*"Acknowledge and share City Park's history (museum, guided tours, historic markers...)"*

*"Provide visitor support amenities and furnishings (restrooms, lighting, trash cans, seating, shade, concessions...)"*

*"Expand and connect biking and walking circulation networks, including bridges over waterways. Incorporate wayfinding and educational signage"*

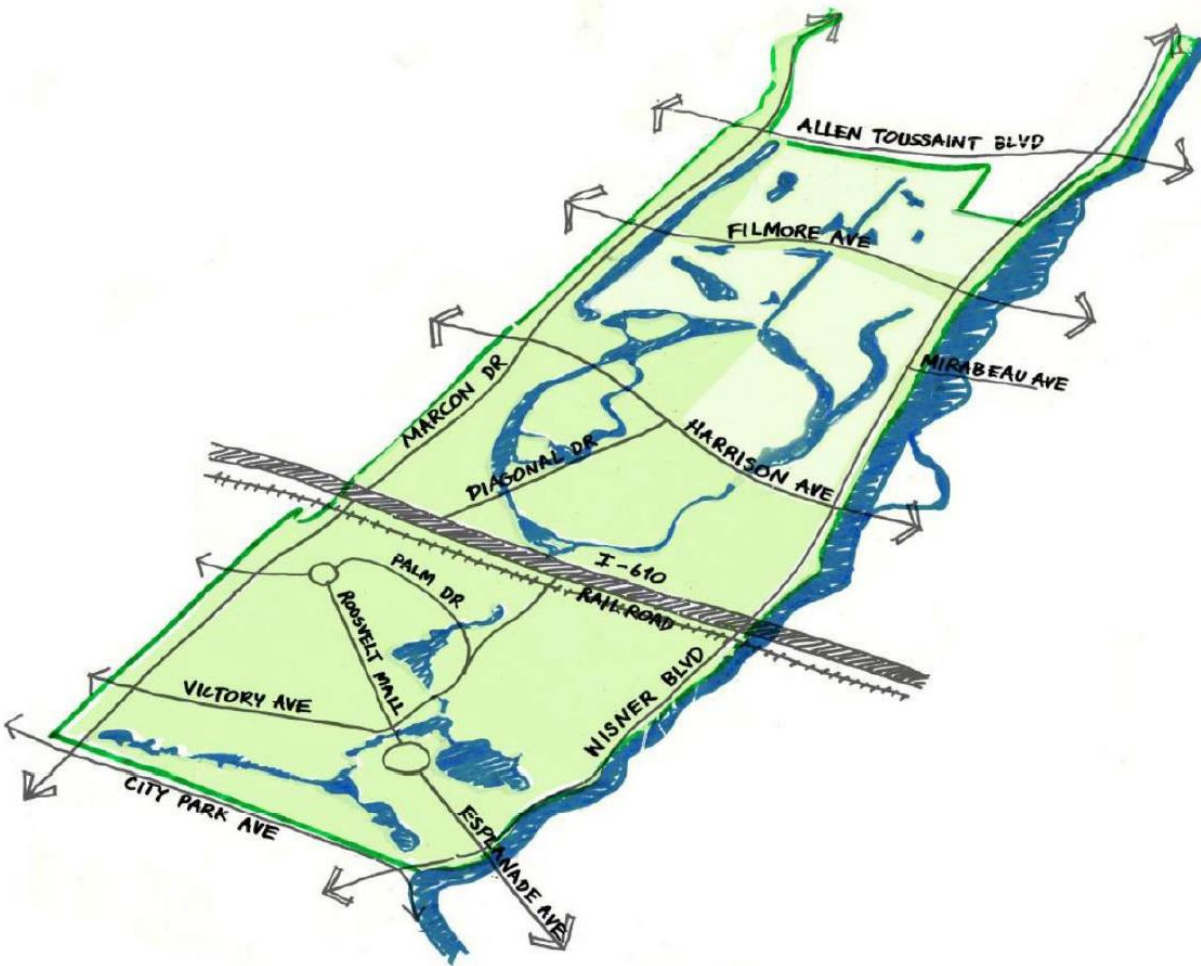
*"Provide opportunities for visitors of all ages and abilities to have fun, learn, and enjoy the park"*





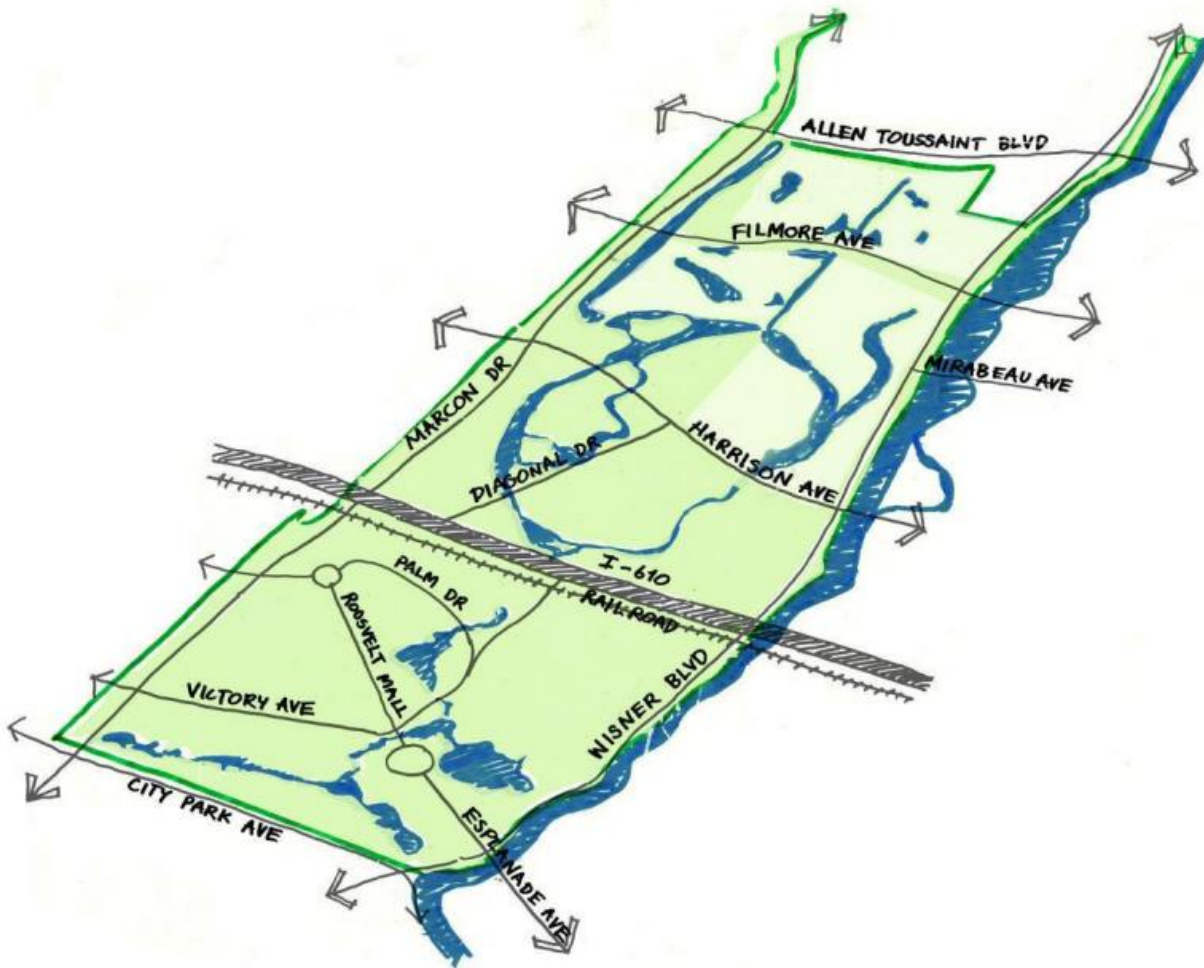
# "The Givens"

- Restrooms
- Concessions/ Refreshments
- Information Kiosk
- Seating
- Trash Cans
- Drinking Water Fountains
- Signage + Wayfinding
- Lighting
- Safety/Security
- Bike Parking
- Bike Sharing Stations
- Parking
- Accessible Pedestrians + Cyclists Trails
- Shade
- Native Plantings
- Invasives Management
- Rain Gardens



## FOUNDATIONAL PLANNING





## FOUNDATIONAL PLANNING

# Core Intentions



Present a unified and welcoming park arrival experience



Ensure the park is safe, accessible, & convenient



Promote landscape health and biodiversity through maintenance & stewardship



Respect the history and cultural uses of the park



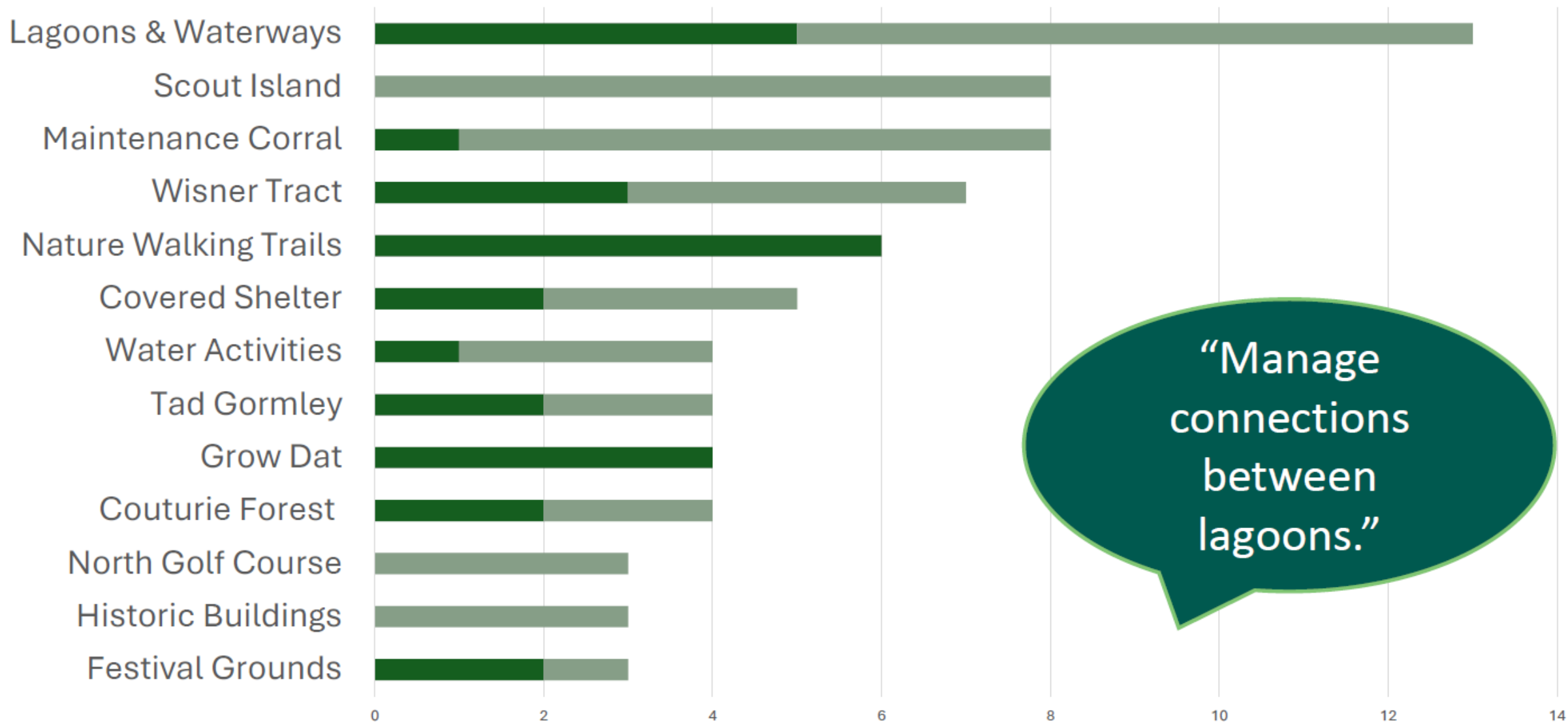
Create fun, healthy, and enriching opportunities for all ages



Balance the park's budget, revenue, & affordability

# Improve & Revive

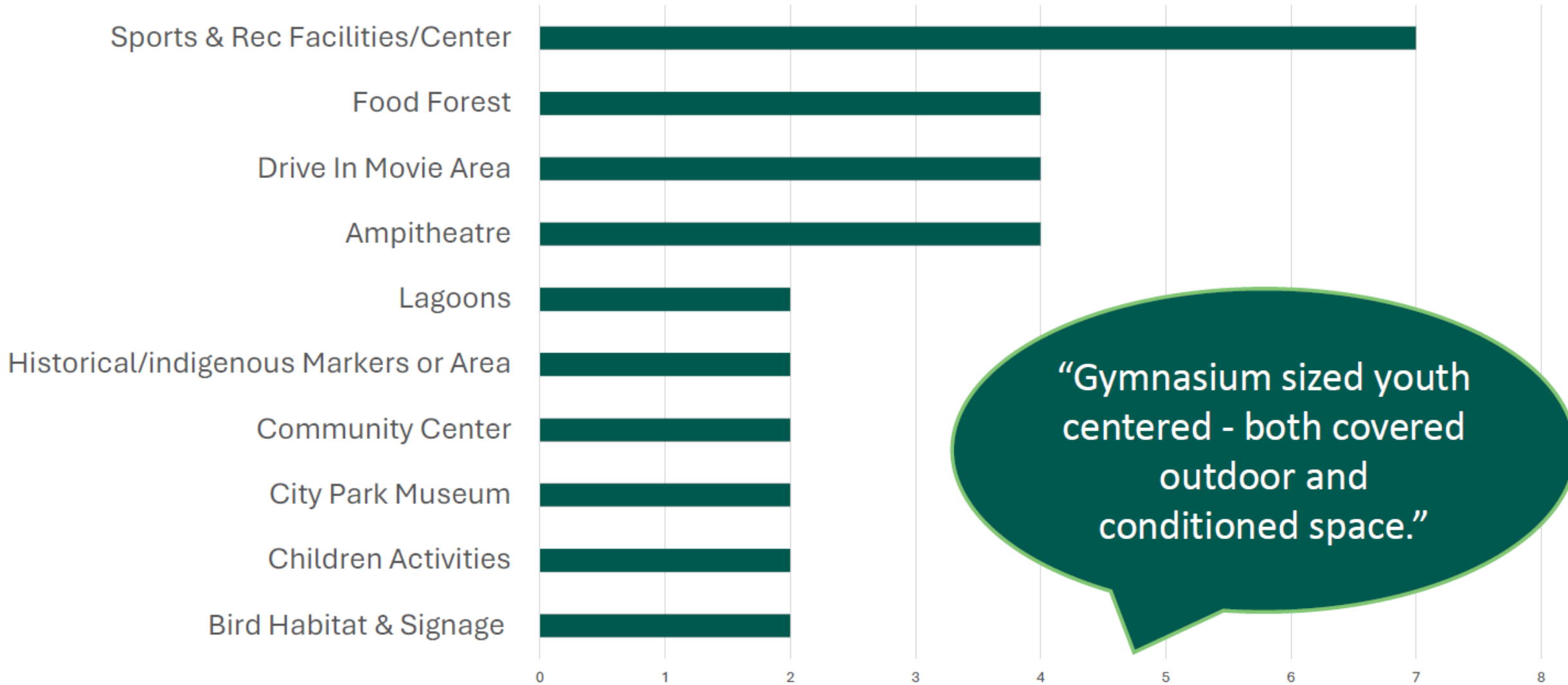
Improve  
Revive



“Manage  
connections  
between  
lagoons.”



# Add



## Core Intentions

- Present a unified and welcoming park arrival experience
- Ensure the park is safe, accessible, & convenient
- Promote landscape health and biodiversity through maintenance & stewardship
- Respect the history and cultural uses of the park
- Cultivate fun, healthy, and enriching opportunities for all ages
- Balance the park's budget, revenue, & affordability



## Placemaking Approach



## City Park Plan

IMPROVE  
What we have

REVIVE  
What was lost

ADD  
What is missing

Integrated  
Planning  
Solutions



# Six Areas for Integrated Planning





# ZONE 4

*"Expand current food offerings, create a designated food truck space"*

*"Combine a beer garden with other recreational opportunities to accommodate families"*

*"Use for general concessions of all kinds (snacks, beer, drinks, hot dogs, fishing supplies, bait...)"*

*"Revive Popp fountain"*

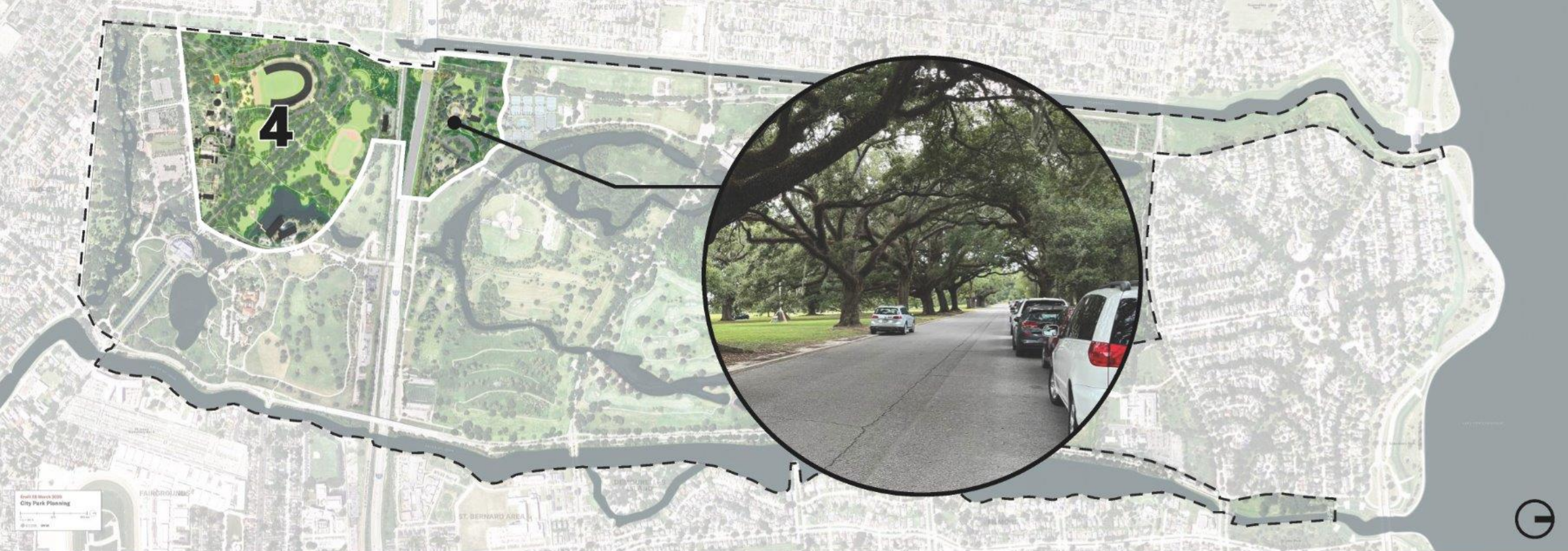
*"Improve the area around the stadium with good lighting and security"*

*"Integrate the Farmer's Market with more social activities in the park, expand to other vendors for arts & crafts, snowballs, etc..."*

*"Expand and connect biking and walking circulation networks"*







## IMPROVE

- Safe Pedestrian/Bicycle Trails for Park Connectivity
- Parking distribution
- Popp Fountain as a Publicly Accessible Garden

## REVIVE

- Tad Gormley Stadium
- Practice Track

## ADD

- Flexible Lawn Spaces for Events and Recreation
- Concessions Garden
- Event Amphitheater/Pavilion



Improve Safe  
Pedestrian/  
Bicycle Trails  
for Park  
Connectivity

VICTORY AVE

MARCONI DR

INTERSTATE 610

HENRY THOMAS DR



Multi-use Trail







**Stadium Plaza**



**Workout Pod**



**Concessions Garden**



**Event Amphitheater/  
Pavilion**



**Pedestrian  
Destination Gardens**



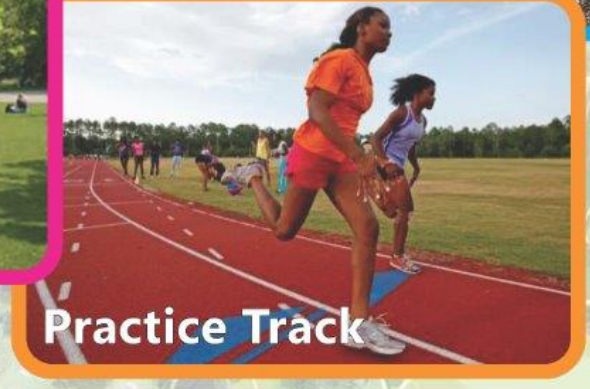
**Public Garden**



**Temporary Public Art**



**Flexible Lawns**



**Practice Track**





# 2026 – 2030 Request Overview

## City Park Historic Infrastructure Rehabilitation - \$4,000,000

- Rehabilitation and modernization of critical infrastructure throughout City Park, with a focus on historic assets originally constructed under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s.
- Much of the Park's current infrastructure—sidewalks, vehicular bridges, streets, irrigation systems, and power sources—has reached or exceeded its intended lifespan. Many of the vehicular bridges, never designed for today's volume or weight of traffic, are deteriorating rapidly and now pose structural and safety concerns.
- The Park's expansive trail system, which is essential for safe, equitable access across its 1,300 acres, requires upgrades to ensure ADA accessibility, user safety, and a connected, welcoming experience for all.
- Restore and reinforce historic bridges, repair sidewalks and roads, upgrade irrigation systems to improve water efficiency and landscape resilience and modernize and harden outdated power infrastructure to support enhanced lighting, events, and safety systems.
- These improvements will preserve the Park's historic legacy while enhancing connectivity, safety, and access for millions of annual visitors. By investing in these essential systems, this project will enhance visitor safety, improve mobility and access for all users, and strengthen City Park's role as a major economic driver and recreational hub for the region.



# 2026 – 2030 Request Overview

## City Park Amphitheater for Arts, Culture, and Community - \$4,000,000

- Construction of a new outdoor amphitheater in New Orleans City Park—an iconic green space located in the heart of a city globally recognized for its vibrant arts, music, and cultural heritage.
- There is currently no mid-sized outdoor venue capable of hosting audiences ranging from several hundred to a few thousand attendees. This amphitheater would fill that gap, creating an accessible, flexible venue for concerts, festivals, theatrical performances, and community programming.
- With both cultural celebration and economic development in mind, the amphitheater will provide a premier platform for local musicians, artists, and organizations, generating new performance opportunities while attracting visitors and creating lasting economic impact.
- The project will also strengthen the Park's financial sustainability by driving additional revenue through event rentals and increased Tax Increment Financing (TIF) contributions, which directly supports City Park.
- With thoughtful integration into the Park's landscape, this venue will serve as a year-round destination for residents and tourists alike—celebrating New Orleans' creative spirit while supporting local talent, community engagement, and long-term Park stewardship.

# Contact Us

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