

FRIENDS OF BRECHTEL PARK

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GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT BLOOMS IN ALGIERS IN SUPPORT OF BRECHTEL PARK

Friends of Brechtel Park pledges to bring back the magic of Brechtel Park.

In a 2006 article by the Times Picayune, Ann McDonald, Director of the City of New Orleans Department of Parks and Parkways, encouraged Algiers residents to organize in an effort to clean up Brechtel Park. We heard the call and Friends of Brechtel Park was formed.

Founded in 2007, Friends of Brechtel Park (“FOBP”) is a grassroots organization created to facilitate the revitalization and maintenance of Brechtel Park. FOBP is comprised of business professionals, home owners, residents and volunteer community leaders who represent diverse areas of interest.

As part of its strategic planning process, FOBP is committed to developing a grass-roots public/private community partnership program to accelerate, enhance, and foster innovation by decision makers to address the needs of Brechtel Park. Together we will reach out to community-spirited individuals, civic organizations, churches and neighborhood groups to leverage resources, raise awareness and build support for the Brechtel Park revitalization process.

FOBP has initially identified areas that are in need of immediate attention, including the camping facilities, trails, additional play equipment, security, landscaping, picnic shelters, benches, water fountains, fencing, restrooms, lighting, landscaping, and signage. Input from all the community is welcome and encouraged. A meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. at the Park Timbers Club House, 1 Park Timbers Dr., New Orleans, LA 70131** to discuss the future of the park. For more information about Friends of Brechtel Park, go to www.brechtelpark.org.

Brechtel Park is an urban park located on the west bank of the Mississippi River in the Algiers section of Orleans Parish. In 1971, 112 acres were acquired with an LWCF grant of \$711,845. Two LWCF development grants (\$861,997) were used to construct a lagoon, trails, picnic shelters, tables and barbeque pits, playground equipment, restrooms, 2 ballfields with bleachers and backstops, drinking fountain, and, on scout island, a large pavilion, picnic units and 30 tent sites.¹ Brechtel Park is also an important stop for many species of migratory birds and was recently

¹ <http://www.doi.gov/iga/states/louisiana.htm>

designated as an America's Wetlands Birding Trail.²

Since even before Hurricane Katrina, Brechtel Park has fallen into disrepair and has restricted access.³ Too many children are missing the fun, friendship and exercise a good park provides. Too many neighborhoods are losing the sense of community that thrives around a good park. All that is changing because a group of citizens are investing time, energy, effort and money into our neighborhood park through the Friends of Brechtel Park. Showing what can happen when friends decide to make a difference.

² <http://www.fermatainc.com/la/documents/AWLoop10.pdf>

³ Langenhennig, Susan, *Brechtel Park opens as a work in progress*, Times Picayune (July 2, 2006)