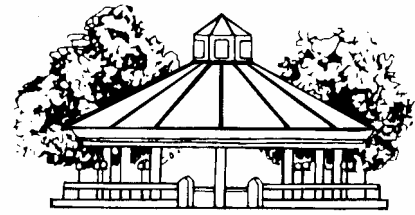


# *Lafreniere Park*

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The involvement, willingness and perseverance of the citizens of East Jefferson in the early 70's helped to transform the Jefferson Downs Racetrack into a well-planned public park. Anyone who visits Lafreniere Park can now see the benefit of such efforts. It provides many active and passive recreational opportunities.



3000 Downs Boulevard  
Metairie, Louisiana 70003

## **Meadow Area**

The open meadow area, with its surrounding hills and trees offers a great location for large gatherings, such as the Fourth of July celebration.

## **Shelters**

Picnic shelters are located throughout the park – most with water and electricity. They are open to the public or available for company or family picnics, parties, reunions, etc. Shelters can be reserved through the Park Office. The reservation information and forms are available on this website.



## **Waterfall**

Lafreniere Park has a beautiful man-made waterfall that has an exceptional view from Picnic Island.



## **Lagoon**

The twenty-acre lagoon winds throughout the park and is home to several species of turtles and fish. The largest bass caught was 6 ½ lbs.

## **Parterre Garden & Children's Memorial Garden**

This Garden is modeled from the formal gardens of France. It is divided into twenty sections that are laid out symmetrically. Located in Parterre is the Compassionate Friends Children's Memorial Garden, which was dedicated September 14, 2003. It is a site "where all can come to remember children whose lives ended too soon but whose love lives on forever."



## Marsh Island

The Marsh Island is a very good area to sight see and learn about the endemic flora and fauna of Louisiana, and is dedicated as a bird sanctuary, as is the entire park. This area is so different from the other areas found in the park, because of its natural vegetation and animal life living within. The Park is working with state agencies to redevelop the marsh island area to more closely achieve the marshland objective of the original master plan. This

will include improved circulation and aeration.

There is an elevated walkway to the gazebo. In addition, many adults and children come to the area to feed the ducks, geese and swans that inhabit this area.



## Tot Play Areas

There are 2 areas with equipment (ADA compliant) for younger children to play. One is located near the Carousel and the other is near the Park Office.

## Health Trac

If it is exercise you are seeking, then start at either one of our two Health Tracs with a warm-up, then enjoy a two-mile walk on the lighted, eight-foot wide jogging trail that winds around and through the Park. It is popular for cardiovascular exercise, physical fitness and general recreation from early morning until the Park closes.



## Frisbee Golf Course

This popular course began as a 9-hole course, but due to popularity, was expanded to an 18-hole course and is open to the public at no charge. A map is available at this website.

## Soccer Fields

Home of the Lafreniere Soccer Association, children of all ages enjoy playing on these fields. In addition, there are many tournaments and championships held here.



## Softball Fields

The Pilney Little League and various other leagues use these fields.



## Pavilion

This is a popular site for many special events. It is approximately 80 feet in diameter and is located on an island.

## Foundation Center

This popular facility is used for weddings, retirements, parties, etc. The moment you enter the large room you are greeted with a spectacular view of the park. Future plans are to add a patio garden area with a gazebo as the centerpiece which will create more useable space for outdoor functions. Reservation information and forms are available on this website.



## Carousel

The Patrons of Lafreniere held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 22, 2000 that marked the completion of the shelter for the Carousel. On December 27, 2000, the ribbon cutting ceremony was held as the official grand opening of the Carousel.

The Carousel consists of 30 moving horses, a zebra, a tiger and 2 chariots (one is handicapped accessible). It is available for rental Saturday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The reservation information and forms are available on this website.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PARK OFFICE AT 838-4389 OR  
[JPRECREATION@JEFFPARISH.NET](mailto:JPRECREATION@JEFFPARISH.NET).