

St. Tammany Parish Recreation District 4
Budget Message

The 2018 budget message is a direct representation of the plans to spend the revenue of Lacombe Recreation District #4 in conjunction with the mission statement. The focus is to provide improvements in areas that need to better serve the citizens in the community of Lacombe and go directly to the mission of the center, “the community’s hub to provide activities, events, and recreational programs to the community members of all ages.”

The revenue of Recreation District #4 is created primarily through Ad Valorem taxes, State Revenue Sharing, Folgers/Smucker's (PILOT) and donations, sponsorships, and grants. Our 2018 focus will reach out to our community for sponsorships and to explore grant ideas. We must give consideration with the mix of revenues to accommodate the capital and operational needs of the recreation center. Recreation District #4 also seeks partnerships with other organizations, companies, and businesses through cooperative endeavor agreements, grants, and donations to stretch local dollars in providing first class service to its community members.

With our continued focus on revenue streams, the district purchased a large screen tv to provide a place to display our sponsorships, provide a venue to show movies to our youth during our Community Family Day programs, and to display our concession stand menu. A quarterly sock hop program provides our children a safe place to stay and provides revenue through entrance charges and concession sales. The internal staff and board members of Recreation District #4 will continue efforts to improve day to day operations, facility maintenance/improvements, and expansion. We are always cognizant of the safety, enjoyment, and benefits to our Lacombe community.

The staff and the board of directors have been discussing short and long-term projects that need to be addressed to move forward with upgraded and better facilities as well as continued maintenance of our community center building and conservancy of the trees and environment in John Davis Park and at our Keller Field Park and facility. Policies and programs have been created to continue growth and work toward the center’s mission statement, “provide first class customer service, create positive memories, and encourage our patrons to: dream big, revolutionize their perspectives, and maximize our community’s potential.”

In 2017, Lacombe Recreation District #4 expanded the use of our gym with additional basketball goals for our growing basketball program thus eliminating the need to rent additional space at our local middle school gym, installed a curtain to divide the gym into two separate areas to accommodate more volleyball games, smaller wedding and celebration venues, installed dimmer lights for parties and weddings, sealed the leaks in the roof of the gym, and updated and replaced the air conditioning system for the Center's office and gym area. Additionally, the concession stand at the gym was updated with new furniture and concession equipment. We were also able to provide for medical insurance for our staff.

In 2018 the Lacombe Recreation District staff and board of directors will continue to strive for the safety and enjoyment of the community through updated concession stand with storage, bathrooms, dugouts,

and playground at the Keller Field facility. It is also our goal to provide an additional basketball area in John Davis Park and to move and improve the playground facility in the park. Additionally, we will continue maintenance of the gym at John Davis Park.

As we look towards spending the revenue, we must be aware that our spending meets the suggestions/wants/needs of our community. Secondly, we will strive to assure that we provide the public transparency and accountability in all areas of financial reporting with every monthly board meeting and included on our website.

Lastly, we are always cognizant of our spending of public monies for the continuance of our day to day operations and also to expand and improve our facilities. With this in mind, we look towards the future through:

- Keller Field Renovations

The baseball fields, concession stand, signage, press box, walk ways, and storage area need to be renovated and improved. These improvements will add value to the park and progress the facility and recreation center.

- John Davis Park

The park needs additional lighting around the perimeter of the park. This is a project that has been in the works and will look to be completed this year. Trees in the park have been examined and reviewed by multiple arborists and need to be addressed. Signage on the building and near the park will improve the aesthetics of the area.

- Acquisition of additional property

John Davis Park can only contain so many buildings, and the use of additional space is a priority for the likelihood of Recreation District #4 to reach its true potential. The additional property/building could serve multiple purposes such as: study rooms, computer lab, meeting room, conference area, staff lounge area, after school and summer activities, adult recreation classes etc.

As we look forward, we know that there are challenges ahead. There will be challenges in the short term for funding and allocating money to fulfill and align the vision of the board, staff, and community alike. In future years, we expect revenues to allow for seamless operations and renewal of our millage in 2020.

Jordan Johnson
Executive Director