

# Compton Park



Compton Park began as an off-shoot of a Public Works drainage project whose goal was to use some of the 30-acre tract of land as a detention pond to handle local flooding pressures, and the rest as public open space.

Moore Planning Group, LLC (MPG), worked closely with the city's mayor and engineers to combine the two projects to make them better than they would be separately. Instead of the typical rectangular pond, the detention basin received a more natural, curvilinear treatment, allowing for good transition to a new neighborhood park. And -- instead of the usual park design, the designers, mayor, and the 5th grade class of nearby Julius B. Nachman Elementary School, worked together to create an environmentally sensitive park where the community could come to learn about the area's animals and native vegetation.

Park visitor safety was the city's main focus, followed by the goal of reducing the typically high maintenance requirements of a community park. To fence in the detention basin, MPG designed a free-form "wild zone" of black vinyl that disappears into the landscape of native wildflowers and host butterfly plant material. Rather than planting vegetation that needs constant upkeep, a "wild zone", filled with a variety of native plants, wild flowers, and trees grows to form this "learning edge", attracting butterflies and butterfly enthusiasts from across the State.

As part of its continuing relationship with the city, MPG developed a landscape management program that allows for privatization of the park's maintenance, thus reducing municipal maintenance division's burden and cost.

This highly utilized park offers the community not only passive activities such as walking and jogging, but also a learning environment with natural habitats, where visitors and area students alike can learn about ecosystems and their importance to the environment.

• Louisiana Chapter, ASLA Honor Award, 2000

Client: James Branch  
Capitol Projects Administrator  
City of Alexandria, LA  
(318) 473-1170

**Moore Planning Group, LLC**  
Alexandria / Baton Rouge, LA  
(318) 445-2825 / (225) 346-6850  
[www.mooreplanninggroup.com](http://www.mooreplanninggroup.com)