# Louisiana State Parks

### **Prepared for:**

## **Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**



## The Louisiana Research Team



### Acknowledgments

This report was prepared under the direction of **Harsha Chacko**, professor of the Lester E. Kabacoff School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Administration, with the assistance of **Marianne Hawkins Marcell** and **Melody Alijani**, research analysts in the Hospitality Research Center at the University of New Orleans. Additional gratitude is given to **Bridget Bordelon**, assistant professor of the Lester E. Kabacoff School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Administration, for assistance in preparing the survey instruments and methodology. Thanks and recognition is also given to the **LSU Public Policy Research Lab**, for assisting with data collection. Gratitude is also extended to **Mark Northington**, Research Director of the Louisiana Office of Tourism, for general advice based on his valuable experience working with the Louisiana State Parks. In addition, **Stuart Johnson**, **Cleve Hardman** and **B.J. Songne** from the Office of State Parks were instrumental in facilitating this study. Finally, recognition is given to the various other members of the **Louisiana Research Team** who provided specific information relevant to the final results as reported.

### **Executive Summary**

This study examines the role of the Office of State Parks in terms of its contribution to the economy and quality of life in Louisiana for the year 2004-05. According to its stated purpose, Louisiana State Parks and Historic Sites maintain nineteen state parks, fifteen historic sites, and a State Preservation Area, representing a variety of environments and cultures of Louisiana.

#### **ECONOMICS**

- ➤ The total number of visitors to all facilities operated by the Office of State Parks was 2,183,421. Of these 1,048,002 were overnight visitors while 1,135,419 visited for day use only.
- The direct primary spending by park visitors in Louisiana parishes was \$41.1 million.
- ➤ Out of state visitors to State Parks spent almost \$12 million in Louisiana and produced an economic impact of over \$24 million. This provided earnings of \$791,196 for Louisiana workers and supported 380 jobs. Bayou Segnette had the highest proportion of out of state visitors.
- Louisiana residents spent another \$29.2 million while visiting State Parks.
- ➤ Every dollar spent by the Office of State Parks resulted in \$2.09 in direct primary spending by park visitors. Jimmie Davis State Park produced the highest direct primary spending by visitors with \$6.85 for every dollar in direct operating expenses.
- ➤ Based on Profitability Analysis methodology, twelve parks were Stars (high in profit and high in visitation). These were Bayou Segnette, Chicot, Fairview Riverside, Fontainebleau, Grand Isle, Jimmie Davis, Lake D'Arbonne, Lake Claiborne, Lake Fausse Point, North Toledo Bend, Sam Houston Jones, and Tickfaw.

#### **OVERNIGHT VISITOR PROFILE**

- > 73% of visitors to the Louisiana State Parks were residents of the state of Louisiana.
- ➤ Over half (61.8%) of Louisiana State Parks visitors were repeat visitors.
- The average number of nights visitors stayed in a Louisiana State Park was 3.62 nights.
- ➤ Over half (59.8%) of the visitors to Louisiana State Parks have visited other State Parks around the country.
- ➤ Parks in Mississippi (44.6%) followed closely by Texas (38.4%) were the two most visited out-of-state parks by visitors to Louisiana State Parks.
- A little more than a third (37.3%) of the visitors to the Louisiana State Parks were in parties of one or two people.
- About half of the visitors had children under the age of 18 accompany them on their visit to the State Parks.
- ➤ A third of the visitors to Louisiana State Parks found out about the park through friends, family and/or co-workers and 24.7% of the visitors had personal knowledge or a previous visit.
- > A little more than half of the visitors to Louisiana State Parks were retired.
- About one third of the visitors' annual income falls between \$47,000 and \$74,999.

#### STATE PARK EXPERIENCE

- ➤ Slightly less than one third (32.2%) of the visitors found the Nature and Outdoor environment the best thing about the state park.
- ➤ A majority of visitors (51.8%) indicated that there was nothing to dislike about the Louisiana State Parks
- An overwhelming majority of respondents (90%) said that their visit to the Louisiana State Park exceeded or met their expectations.
- Camping (RV, trailer) and Picnicking/Cookout topped the list of preferred activities among visitors.
- ➤ 42.1% of visitors found the current facilities and activities to be fine and required no change. 17.4% of the visitors would like to see additions and improvement of the hiking and nature trails
- > 79.9% of visitors agreed or strongly agreed that visiting a state park was an educational experience.
- ➤ 97.5% of visitors agreed or strongly agreed that visiting a state park was a good way to experience nature.
- An overwhelming majority of visitors (98.8%) agreed or strongly agreed that visiting a state park was a good way to spend time with family.
- An overwhelming majority of visitors (97.7%) agreed or strongly agreed that a trip that included a visit to a state park was a good value for the money.
- ➤ 98.5% of visitors agreed or strongly agreed that visiting a state park was a good way to get away from the stress and demands of daily life.
- ➤ The majority (80.9%) of visitors agreed or strongly agreed that a trip including state parks was a good way to experience a state's culture and history.

### **HURRICANE KATRINA POSTSCRIPT MARCH 2006**

- Louisiana State Parks served as a tremendous resource after Hurricane Katrina by providing shelter for hundreds of evacuees displaced by the storm. All the parks, except those badly damaged by the storm, hosted evacuees.
- ➤ Indeed, six months after Katrina, six parks still are home to evacuees. These are Jimmie Davis, Chemin-A-Haut, Chicot, Lake Claiborne, Lake D'Arbonne, and Lake Bistineau.
- > Several parks also suffered various levels of damage from the storm. These are Bayou Segnette, Chicot, Cypremort Point, Fairview-Riverside, Fontainebleau, Grand Isle, Lake Fausse Point, Poverty Point Reservoir, St. Bernard, Sam Houston Jones, and Tickfaw.
- ➤ Parks still not open include, St. Bernard, Bayou Segnette, Fontainebleau, Sam Houston Jones and Cypremort Point (closed to day visitors).

3

### Introduction

This study examines role of the Office of State Parks in terms of its contribution to the economy and quality of life in Louisiana. According to its stated purpose, Louisiana State Parks and Historic Sites maintain nineteen state parks, fifteen historic sites, and a State Preservation Area, representing a variety of environments and cultures of Louisiana. Each of the State Parks was carefully chosen for its outstanding location and recreation, which includes: hiking, fishing, biking, bird watching, and nature trails. The State Historic Sites were selected for historical, cultural or archaeological significance. Museums, artifacts, outdoor displays, and interpretive programs are some of the ways each area communicates its unique story. The Louisiana State Arboretum in Ville Platte, a State Preservation Area, offers visitors a living botanical museum with natural growth and plantings grown for scientific or educational purposes.

Louisiana State Parks and Historic Sites propose a four-fold mission:

- 1. Preserve natural areas
- 2. Establish and operate parks
- 3. Protect and preserve significant historic state sites
- 4. Portray and interpret the natural features of various state parks



# **State Parks with Day Use and Overnight Facilities**

Park	City/Town	Facilities Available for Reservation
Bayou Segnette	Westwego	*cabins, campsites, group camp, meeting room, picnic pavilions
Chemin-A-Haut	Bastrop	*cabins, campsites, group camp, meeting room, picnic pavilions
Chicot	Ville Platte	*cabins, campsites, group camps, meeting room, picnic pavilions
Cypremort Point	Franklin	*cabins, group pavilions
Fairview-Riverside	Madisonville	*campsites, group pavilion
Fontainebleau	Mandeville	*campsites, group camps, lodge, picnic pavilions
Grand Isle	Grand Isle	*campsites, picnic pavilions
Jimmie Davis (formerly Caney Creek Lake)	Chatham	*campsites, picnic pavilions
Lake Bistineau	Doyline	*cabins, campsites, group camps, lodge, picnic pavilions
Lake Bruin	St. Joseph	*campsites, picnic pavilions
Lake Claiborne	Homer	*cabins, campsites, picnic pavilions
Lake D'Arbonne	Farmerville	*cabins, lodges, campsites, group camp, meeting room, picnic pavilions
Lake Fausse Pointe	St. Martinville	*cabins, campsites, meeting room, picnic pavilions
North Toledo Bend	Zwolle	*cabins, campsites, group camp, meeting room, picnic pavilions
Poverty Point Reservoir	Delhi	*lodges
St. Bernard	Violet	*campsites, picnic pavilion
Sam Houston Jones	Lake Charles	*cabins, campsites, picnic pavilions
South Toledo Bend	Anacoco	*cabins, campsites, meeting room
Tickfaw	Springfield	*cabins, campsites, group camp, picnic pavilions

### **State Historic Sites**

Audubon State Historic Site Marksville State Historic Site

Centenary State Historic Site Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site

Fort Jesup State Historic Site Port Hudson State Historic Site

Fort Pike State Historic Site Poverty Point State Historic Site

Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site Rebel State Historic Site

Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site

Los Adaes State Historic Site Winter Quarters State Historic Site

Mansfield State Historic Site

### **State Preservation Area**

The Louisiana State Arboretum, Ville Platte

### Methodology

The method for the study consisted of five phases: survey design, implementation, and data analysis; economic impact; return on investment; profitability analysis; and return on objectives.

### Survey Design, Implementation, and Data Analysis

The first phase included designing and implementing a survey of visitors to State Parks with overnight facilities. The survey questionnaire included questions pertaining to different aspects of park visitation and was designed by members of the University of New Orleans Hospitality Research Center. Questions were included regarding trip expenditures, park visited and length of stay, activities during visit, park facilities, intrinsic values of park visit, and demographics among others (See Appendix A). The survey questionnaire was sent by electronic mail and first class U.S. mail to a stratified random sample of visitors to all 19 State Parks with overnight facilities. The electronic survey was sent to 800 visitors and 191 (24%) usable responses were received. The mail survey was sent to 5,499 visitors and 1,308 (24%) usable responses were received. The total number of usable responses was 1,499. The Public Policy Research Lab of the Louisiana State University implemented the survey. Data was then sent to the University of New Orleans Hospitality Research Center for programming and analysis.

### **Economic Impact**

The second phase consisted of developing the economic impact methodology based on visitors' trip expenditures obtained from the survey. The research team believed that a robust calculation of economic impact on the State of Louisiana should only be based on the park related expenditures of visitors from outside Louisiana. This is not to say that the expenditures of Louisiana residents do not matter. They do and are listed in the sections pertaining to economic analysis and will also be used in return on investment calculations. However, the impact of residents' expenditures is a circulation of state money within the state and does not have the economic impact of "fresh" dollars entering the state economy from out of state. Therefore, economic impact will be based only on expenditures of overnight visitors from outside Louisiana who spent money outside the park in the parish where the parks were located and also inside the park for services provided. In summary, economic impact results are a conservative estimate. Secondary impact, earnings generated and jobs supported by out of state visitor spending are based on multipliers for the state of Louisiana obtained from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

### **Return on Investment**

The third phase was to determine an appropriate measure for assessing return on investment (ROI). Louisiana's investment in State Parks consists of long-term capital investment in land, buildings and facilities and a short-term investment in annual operating expenses for the Office of State Parks and the individual parks. For this study only, annual operating expenses will be used for determining ROI. The return will be based on the direct expenditures by overnight visitors, both in-state and out-of-state, in Louisiana. These expenditures include money spent in the parish in which the parks were located and also in visitors' home parishes as they obtained supplies for their trip to visit the park. This ratio is best described as the return on annual

operating expenses. In this study, Overall ROI calculations for the Office of State Parks does not include the expenses related to operation and maintenance of State Historic Sites or the revenues from these Sites.

#### **Profitability Analysis**

The fourth phase was to identify a method to develop a profitability analysis of the individual State Parks that took into consideration the popularity of each park and also it's potential for profitability. Popularity of each park is based on visitation (both day use and overnight) data while profitability is based on contribution margin. Contribution margin is the difference between the dollars generated (both inside and outside the park) by the park and its direct operating expenses). Each park was classified as either High or Low on the two categories of popularity and profitability. A park that was high in both categories is labeled as a Star while the ones that were Low in both categories are labeled as Question Marks. If a park is Low in profitability but High in popularity, it is a Plowhorse. None of the parks fell into the fourth category (High in profitability; Low in popularity).

### **Return on Objectives**

The final phase was to examine the return on objectives of the Office of State Parks and focused on the impact of State Parks on quality of life in Louisiana. Visitors were asked to evaluate a variety of benefits received from their experiences at State Parks including education, experiencing nature, spending time with family, value for money, experiencing the state's culture, and getting away from stress.

### **Important Notes and Limitations**

It must be noted that the economic analysis does not include the impact of spending by day visitors in the parishes where State Parks and State Historic Sites are located. This data can only be captured by year round randomly sampled intercept surveys at all locations. Given that approximately 36% of visitors to State Historic Sites are from out of state, it is recommended that a study of the economic impact of these Sites be conducted in the future to provide a more complete picture of the economic contribution of the Office of State Parks. In addition, the economic analysis does not include the secondary impact of annual state capital outlays for construction and renovation at various park facilities. These factors result in a conservative estimate of the economic contribution of the Office of State Parks in this study.

### **Economics of Louisiana State Parks**

In this study, Economic Impact is based on primary spending and secondary impact of out of state visitors to parks with overnight facilities. This is separate from and additional to the spending by Louisiana residents who visited State Parks.

Return on Investment is based on direct primary spending of both out state and in state visitors compared to the total budget of the Office of State Parks.

### **LOUISIANA STATE PARKS (2004-05)**

Number of overnight visitors	1,048,002
Number of day use visitors	1,135,419
Number of employees - current (post-Katrina)	289
Number of employees - peak (pre-Katrina)	482

### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LOUISIANA STATE PARKS

(based on out of state visitors only)

(bused on our of state visitors only)	
Park visit related spending by out of state visitors in	
Louisiana businesses	\$10,321,511
Spending by out of state visitors in park	\$1,594,089
Total primary spending by out of state visitors in LA	\$11,915,600
Secondary economic impact of out of state visitor	
spending	\$12,511,380
<b>Total Economic Impact</b>	\$24,426,981

Earnings for local workers generated by out of state	
visitors	\$791,196
Jobs generated by out of state visitors	380

### LOUISIANA RESIDENT SPENDING

(based on in state visitors only)

Park visit related spending by Louisiana residents in	
Louisiana businesses	\$25,114,761
Spending by Louisiana residents in state park	\$4,084,735
<b>Total Spending by Louisiana Residents</b>	\$29,199,496

### **RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

Direct Operating Budget (B)  Return on Operating Budget (A/B)	\$19,633,951 <b>\$2.09</b>
Direct primary spending by park visitors (A)  Direct Operating Budget (B)	\$41,115,096

# Out of State Visitor Economic Impacts of Individual State Parks with Overnight Facilities

Total Economic Impact is based on primary spending and secondary impact of out of state visitors to parks with overnight facilities. This is separate from and additional to the spending by Louisiana residents who visited State Parks.

Park	Total Economic Impact	Jobs Generated	
Bayou Segnette SP	\$6,181,664	96	
Fontainebleau SP	\$4,581,326	71	
Sam Houston Jones SP	\$1,981,273	31	
St. Bernard SP	\$1,959,147	30	
Fairview-Riverside SP	\$1,303,992	20	
Lake D'Arbonne SP	\$1,221,599	19	
Tickfaw SP	\$1,161,161	18	
Lake Claiborne SP	\$933,442	15	
Lake Fausse Pointe SP	\$797,509	12	
North Toledo Bend SP	\$787,999	12	
Jimmie Davis (formerly Caney Creek)	\$774,415	12	
Chemin-A-Haut SP	\$732,758	11	
Chicot SP	\$479,556	7	
Grand Isle SP	\$404,944	6	
Lake Bistineau SP	\$398,707	6	
Poverty Pt Reservoir SP	\$195,919	3	
Cypremort Point SP	\$195,198	3	
South Toledo Bend	\$168,952	3	
Lake Bruin SP	\$167,420	3	

# **Return on Investment of Individual State Parks with Overnight Facilities**

Return on Investment is based on direct primary spending of both out state and in state visitors compared to the operating budget of the individual park. For example, visitor spending related to Poverty Point resulted in \$0.62 for every dollar in operating expenses while visitor spending related to Jimmie Davis resulted in \$6.85 for every dollar in operating expenses.

Park	ROI
Jimmie Davis (formerly Caney Creek)	\$.85
Bayou Segnette SP	\$5.92
Chicot SP	\$4.03
Fontainebleau SP	\$3.95
Lake Fausse Pointe SP	\$3.42
Tickfaw SP	\$3.28
North Toledo Bend SP	\$3.17
St. Bernard SP	\$3.11
Lake D'Arbonne SP	\$2.94
Grand Isle SP	\$2.75
Sam Houston Jones SP	\$2.71
Lake Claiborne SP	\$2.59
Fairview-Riverside SP	\$1.81
Chemin-A-Haut SP	\$1.59
Lake Bistineau SP	\$1.51
Lake Bruin SP	\$1.49
South Toledo Bend	\$1.48
Cypremort Point SP	\$1.29
Poverty Pt Reservoir SP	\$0.62

### Profitability Analysis of Individual State Parks with Overnight Facilities

Profitability analysis has been regularly used in corporate brand and portfolio analysis for over 25 years. In this case, State Parks are examined in terms of their popularity and their profitability. Popularity of each park is based on visitation (both day use and overnight) data while profitability is based on contribution margin. Contribution margin is the difference between the dollars generated (both inside and outside the park) by the park and its direct operating expenses. Each park was classified as either High or Low on the two categories of popularity and profitability. A park that was High in both categories is labeled as a Star while the ones that were Low in both categories are labeled as Question Marks. If a park is Low in profitability but High in popularity, it is a Plowhorse. None of the parks fell into the fourth category (High in profitability; Low in popularity).

### **Strategies**

The strategies discussed below are by no means exhaustive or complete. They are suggestions only and the final conclusions should be left to the judgment of professionals at the Office of State Parks who have more in depth knowledge of individual park environments.

Parks labeled as Stars are performing well in terms of both visitation and contribution margin and should be supported and maintained. Twelve of 19 parks with overnight facilities fell into this category. One park was labeled as a Plowhorse, one that attracts a fair number of visitors but does not produce its fair share of profits. Strategies for this park should include efforts to produce more revenue or to reduce its operating expenses. The other six parks labeled as Question Marks are relatively low in visitation and in profitability when compared with the other parks. These should be individually examined in light other performance measure such as intrinsic value to the state (Return on Objectives); spending produced by out of state visitors (Economic Impact); and Return on Investment. Strategies should try to raise revenues, reduce expenses, and increase visitation. In addition, if there are other mitigating factors that hindered the realization of the full potential of these parks, they must be taken into consideration.

Louisiana Office of State Parks Profitability Analysis*	Day Use (A)	Overnight (B)	Total Visitors C=(A+B)	Total direct spending in Louisiana parishes (D)	Total within park generated revenue E)	Total direct spending and revenue F=(D+E)	Operating Expenditures By Park (G)	Contribution Margin =(F-G)	Profitability Value**	Popularity Value***	State Park Rating
Bayou Segnette SP	212,474	180,339	392,813	\$5,989,721	\$887,483	\$6,877,204	\$1,161,446	\$5,715,758	HI	HI	STAR
Chemin-A-Haut SP Chicot SP	29,771	19,764	49,535	\$522,809 \$4,710,303	\$174,624	\$697,433	\$439,255	\$258,178	LO HI	LO HI	QUESTION MARK STAR
Cnicot SP	75,206	130,152	205,358	\$4,710,303	\$553,631	\$5,263,934	\$1,307,751	\$3,956,183	н	Ш	QUESTION
Cypremort Point SP	35,186	7,651	42,837	\$332,642	\$123,286	\$455,928	\$353,864	\$102,064	LO	LO	MARK
Fairview-Riverside SP	26,241	56,372	82,613	\$1,907,329	\$197,557	\$2,104,886	\$424,976	\$1,679,910	НІ	HI	STAR
Fontainebleau SP	106,171	106,788	212,959	\$4,058,798	\$453,454	\$4,512,252	\$1,140,992	\$3,371,260	HI	HI	STAR
Grand Isle SP	64,959	54,774	119,733	\$1,317,472	\$176,864	\$1,494,336	\$543,679	\$950,657	HI	HI	STAR
Jimmie Davis Caney Creek Lake SP	51,809	64,302	116,111	\$2,437,849	\$405,851	\$2,843,700	\$415,266	\$2,428,434	НІ	НІ	STAR
Lake Bistineau SP	16,420	52,306	68,726	\$1,240,297	\$280,302	\$1,520,600	\$1,004,887	\$515,713	LO	HI	PLOWHORSE
Lake Bruin SP	17,053	13,151	30,204	\$377,366	\$52,981	\$430,347	\$288,201	\$142,146	LO	LO	QUESTION MARK
Lake D'Arbonne SP	41,135	49,267	90,402	\$1,549,126	\$381,723	\$1,930,848	\$657,311	\$1,273,537	HI	HI	STAR
Lake Claiborne SP	35,972	42,452	78,424	\$1,733,096	\$276,356	\$2,009,453	\$775,463	\$1,233,990	HI	HI	STAR
Lake Fausse Pointe SP	21,798	52,978	74,776	\$1,933,762	\$410,982	\$2,344,744	\$684,986	\$1,659,758	НІ	НІ	STAR
North Toledo Bend SP	17,484	58,651	76,135	\$1,784,035	\$246,061	\$2,030,096	\$640,211	\$1,389,885	НІ	HI	STAR
Poverty Pt Reservoir SP	26,740	7,714	34,454	\$218,630	\$115,464	\$334,093	\$536,109	-\$202,016	LO	LO	QUESTION MARK
Sam Houston Jones SP	87,883	48,552	136,435	\$1,540,880	\$303,366	\$1,844,246	\$679,874	\$1,164,372	НІ	НІ	STAR
St. Bernard SP	16,807	29,702	46,509	\$1,021,461	\$102,142	\$1,123,604	\$361,753	\$761,851	LO	LO	QUESTION MARK
Tickfaw SP	46,141	52,151	98,292	\$2,208,040	\$283,654	\$2,491,694	\$758,996	\$1,732,698	HI	HI	STAR
Total	929,250	1,027,066	1,956,316	\$34,883,614	\$5,425,782	\$40,309,396	\$12,175,020	\$28,134,376			

### NOTES TO PROFITABILITY TABLE:

- \* South Toledo Bend S.P. not included due to insufficient data
- \*\* Profitability Value is HI if Contribution Margin is greater than 70% of the Median for all parks Profitability Value is LO if Contribution Margin is less than 70% of the Median for all parks
- \*\*\* Popularity Value is HI if Visitation is greater than 70% of the Median for all parks Popularity Value is LO if Visitation is less than 70% of the Median for all parks

Median Contribution Margin	\$1,253,763
70% of Median Contribution Margin	\$877,634
Median Visitors	80,518
70% of Median Visitors	56,363

# **Return on Objectives of Individual State Parks** with Overnight Facilities

Visitors were asked to evaluate a variety of benefits received from their experiences at State Parks including education, experiencing nature, spending time with family, value for money, experiencing the state's culture, and getting away from stress. These objectives are more qualitative rather than quantitative and reflect the importance of the Office of State Parks in enhancing the quality of life of visitors. This can be compared with a The National Parks Traveler Survey (2004) conducted by the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) as shown in the second table below.

STATE PARK EXPERIENCE	% Strongly agree or agree
Visiting a state park is an educational experience.	79.9%
Visiting a state park is a good way to experience nature.	97.5%
Visiting a state park is a good way to spend time with family.	98.8%
A trip including a visit to a state park is a good value for the money	97.7%
Visiting a state park is a good way to get away from the stress and demands of daily life.	98.5%
A trip including state parks is a good way to experience a state's culture and history.	80.9%

# COMPARISON OF LOUISIANA STATE PARKS WITH U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

PARK EXPERIENCE	NATIONAL	STATE	
	% Strongly Agree*	% Strongly Agree*	
As an educational experience.	74%	21%	
As a way to experience nature.	78%	46%	
Good way to spend time with family.	72%	67%	
Good value for the money.	57%	63%	
Good way to get away from the stress and demands of daily life.	60%	67%	
Good way to experience culture and history.	69%	28%	

<sup>\*</sup>Percentages of respondents who "Strongly Agree" only.

### OVERALL RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The following tables show the overall results of the survey of visitors who stayed overnight at Louisiana State Parks.

Are you a Louisiana resident?

Table 1

Response	Percentage
Yes No	73.0% 27.0%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1472

• 73% of visitors to the Louisiana State Parks were residents of the state of Louisiana.

Was this your first visit to this park?

Table 2

Response	Percentage
Yes	38.2%
No	61.8%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1346

• Over half (61.8%) of Louisiana State Parks visitors were repeat visitors.

Average number of nights spent in Louisiana State Park?

Table 3

Response	Percentage
0 nights	2.4%
1-3 nights	68.2%
4-9 nights	24.2%
10+ nights	5.2%
Mean	3.6 nights
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1400

• The average number of nights that visitors stay in a Louisiana State Park is 3.6 nights.

### Likes, Dislikes and Expectations:

What did you like best about this state park?

Table 4

Response	Percentage
Nature/Outdoor Environment	32.2%
Clean/Good Facilities	27.9%
Relaxing Atmosphere	27.3%
Accessibility	7.2%
Other	5.4%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1423

<sup>•</sup> Slightly less than one third (32.2%) of the visitors find the Nature and Outdoor environment the best thing about the State Park.

• Other "bests" can be found in Appendix B.

What did you like least about this State Park?

Table 5

Response	Percentage
Nothing to dislike	51.8%
Mosquitoes, flies, ants, bees etc.	20.8%
Other	14.2%
Dump stations/Sewage hook-up	5.7%
Restroom	4.8%
Dirty water/trash in water	1.9%
Signage	.8%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1343

- A majority of visitors (51.8%) find there is nothing to dislike about the Louisiana State Park that they visited.
- Other "least" can be found in Appendix B.

Would you say your most recent visit to a Louisiana State Park?

Table 6

Response	Percentage
Exceed your expectations	26.5%
Met your expectations	63.5%
Almost met your expectations	6.9%
Failed to met your expectations	2.2%
Don't know	.8%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1432

• An overwhelming majority of respondents (90%) said that their visit to the Louisiana State Park exceeded or met their expectations.

### **Activities Participated:**

What activities did you and your party participate in while at this park?

Table 7

Response	Percentage
Camping (RV, trailer)	56.4%
Picnicking/cooking out	53.2%
Sight-seeing	42.3%
Hiking	37.9%
Bicycling on pavement	32.8%
Fishing (pier/bank)	31.9%
Cabin Rental	31.5%
Fishing (boat)	29.2%
Boating (pleasure)	24.6%
Swimming	17.7%
Educational programs/exhibits	12.7%
Nature study	12.6%
Other	9.2%
Camping (tent, other)	9.1%
Canoeing/Kayaking	5.3%
Group camp rental	4.2%
Water-skiing	3.5%
Mountain biking	2.1%
Group sports	1.2%
Sailing (sailboat)	0.1%
Sailing (wind surfing)	0.1%
Valid Cases	1443

<sup>\*</sup>The percentage equal greater then 100 due to multiple responses

- Camping (RV, trailer) and Picnicking/Cookout top the list of preferred activities among visitors.
- A listing of others activities can be seen in Appendix B.

What facilities or activities would you like to see added or expanded to help make this park more enjoyable, comfortable and inviting?

Table 8

Response	Percentage
Everything is fine/no change	42.1%
Add/improve hiking, nature trails	17.4%
More recreational facilities	15.6%
Better playgrounds/more equipment	12.8%
Other	24.3%
otal	116.0%
Valid Cases	1317

<sup>\*</sup> The percentage equal greater then 100 due to multiple responses

- 42.1% of visitors found the current facilities and activities to be fine and require no change. 17.4% of the visitors would like to see additional and improvement on the hiking and nature trails
- See Appendix B for a full list of "Other" responses.

### **Louisiana State Park Experiences:**

Visiting a state park is an educational experience.

Table 9

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	21.0%
Agree	58.9%
Neutral	19.0%
Disagree	0.8%
Strongly Disagree	0.2%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1444

• 79.9% of visitors agree or strongly agree that visiting a state park is an educational experience.

Visiting a state park is a good way to experience nature.

Table 10

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	46.1%
Agree	51.4%
Neutral	2.4%
Disagree	0.1%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1443

• 97.5% of visitors agree or strongly agree that visiting a state park is a good way to experience nature.

Visiting a state park is a good way to spend time with family.

Table 11

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	67.4%
Agree	31.4%
Neutral	1.2%
Disagree	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1441

• An overwhelming majority of visitors (98.8%) agree or strongly agree that visiting a state park is a good way to spend time with family.

A trip including a visit to a state park is a good value for the money.

Table 12

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	62.9%
Agree	34.8%
Neutral	2.1%
Disagree	0.1%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1443

• An overwhelming majority of visitors (97.7%) agree or strongly agree that a trip that includes a visit to a state park is a good value for the money.

Visiting a state park is a good way to get away from the stress and demands of daily life.

Table 13

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	67.3%
Agree	31.2%
Neutral	1.2%
Disagree	0.1%
Strongly Disagree	0.1%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1444

• 98.5% of visitors agree or strongly agree that visiting a state park is a good way to get away from the stress and demands of daily life.

A trip including state parks is a good way to experience a state's culture and history.

Table 14

Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	28.0%
Agree	52.9%
Neutral	17.6%
Disagree	1.4%
Strongly Disagree	0.1%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1440

• Majority (80.9%) of visitors agree or strongly agree that a trip including state parks is a good way to experience a state's culture and history.

### Other Parks and Historic Sites Visited:

Have you visited other Louisiana State Parks within the past 12 months?

Table 15

Response	Percentage
Chicot SP	21.8%
Fontainebleau SP	20.4%
Lake Fausse Pointe SP	18.5%
Fairview-Riverside SP	16.2%
Grand Isle SP	16.1%
Bayou Segnette SP	15.8%
Tickfaw SP	15.6%
Lake Claiborne SP	14.0%
North Toledo Bend SP	12.4%
Sam Houston Jones SP	12.4%
Lake D'Arbonne SP	11.6%
Lake Bistineau SP	9.4%
Lake Bruin SP	9.2%
Cypremort Point SP	8.0%
South Toledo Bend SP	7.9%
Caney Creek Lake/Jimmie Davis SP	7.6%
Chemin-A-Haut SP	5.4%
St. Bernard SP	4.8%
Poverty Point Reservoir SP	4.6%
Valid Cases	912

- The percentage equal greater then 100 due to multiple responses
- 21.8 % of State Park users went to Chicot State Park within the last 12 months, followed closely with Fontainebleau State Park, with 20.4% of visitors.
- State Park users visited a mean of 2.4 other parks and a median of 2.0 other parks.

Have you visited outdoor recreation parks in other states within the past 12 months?

Table 16

Response	Percentage
Yes No	59.8% 40.2%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1422

• Over half (59.8%) of the visitors to Louisiana State Parks have visited other state park around the country.

*In which states are those other parks?* 

Table 17

Response	Percentage
Mississippi	44.6%
Texas	38.1%
Arkansas	34.3%
Alabama	26.9%
Florida	25.9%
Tennessee	17.4%
Georgia	14.6%
Missouri	11.8%
Colorado	10.0%
New Mexico	10.0%
Oklahoma	9.4%
North Carolina	8.1%
Arizona	7.9%
Kentucky	6.9%
South Carolina	6.6%
California	6.0%
Kansas	6.0%
Wyoming	5.7%
Virginia	5.6%
Illinois	5.2%

Response	Percentage
Nebraska	5.0%
Utah	4.9%
South Dakota	4.5%
Pennsylvania	4.4%
Indiana	4.1%
Minnesota	4.0%
Wisconsin	4.0%
Iowa	3.9%
Ohio	3.9%
Montana	3.8%
Nevada	3.8%
Oregon	3.8%
New York	3.7%
Washington	3.2%
Idaho	2.7%
Maryland	2.7%
Maine	2.5%
West Virginia	2.5%
New Hampshire	2.2%
North Dakota	2.2%
Vermont	2.2%
Massachusetts	1.7%
Alaska	1.5%
Connecticut	1.2%
New Jersey	1.2%
Delaware	0.7%
Rhode Island	0.3%
Hawaii	0.2%
Valid cases	896

<sup>\*</sup>The percentage equal greater then 100 due to multiple responses

• Parks in Mississippi (44.6%) followed closely by Texas (38.4%) were the two most visited out-of-state parks by visitors to Louisiana State Parks.

Which of the following, if, any, Louisiana State Historic Sites have you visited in the last 12 months?

Table 18

Response	Percentage
Poverty Point SHS	29.3%
Longfellow-Evangeline SHS	25.8%
Rosedown Plantation SHS	18.3%
Audubon SHS	15.9%
Fort Pike SHS	11.3%
Port Hudson SHS	11.3%
Marksville SHS	11.0%
Winter Quarters SHS	11.0%
Plaquemine Lock SHS	9.0%
Fort Jesup SHS	7.5%
Mansfield SHS	7.5%
Fort St. Jean Baptiste SHS	7.0%
Centenary SHS	3.8%
Los Adaes SHS	3.5%
Valid Cases	345

<sup>\*</sup> The percentage equal greater then 100 due to multiple responses

 Poverty Point State Historic Site is the most visited followed by Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site

### **Demographics:**

How many people were in your party on this trip to a Louisiana State Park?

Table 19

Response	Percentage
1-2 people	37.3%
3-5 people	32.5%
6-9 people	16.7%
10+people	13.5%
Mean	6.04 People
Median	4.00 People
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1410

- A little more then a third (37.3%) of the visitors to the Louisiana State Parks visited the parks with one or two people.
- The mean of 6.04 is high due to several large groups of people attending the State Parks.

Did any children under the age of 18 accompany you on your most recent visit to a Louisiana State Park?

Table 20

Response	Percentage
Yes	47.0%
No	53.0%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1435

• About half of the visitors had children under the age of 18 accompany them to their visit to the State Parks.

How did you find out about the park that you visited?

Table 21

Response	Percentage
Friends, family, co-worker	30.6%
Personal knowledge/previous visit	24.7%
Internet/Website	14.0%
State Parks brochure	9.6%
Travel guides, books, magazines	4.7%
Newspaper	3.8%
Maps	3.5%
Other	2.8%
Welcome Center	2.3%
Called or visited tourism office	1.1%
Wrote/phoned the park	1.0%
Convention and Visitor's Bureau	0.8%
Automobile/Travel Club	0.5%
Television	0.3%
Called or visited travel company	0.1%
Called or visited travel argent	0.1%
Radio	0.1%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1438

• A third of the visitors to Louisiana State Parks found out about the park through friends, family and/or co-worker and 24.7% of the visitors had personal knowledge or a previous visit.

Are you retired?

Table 22

Response	Percentage
Yes No	59.0% 41.0%
Total	100.0%
Valid Cases	1243

• A little more then half of the visitors to Louisiana State Parks are retired.

What is the approximate annual income of your household?

Table 23

Response	Percentage	
\$7,500-\$24,999		
\$25,000-\$47,499	27.2%	
\$47,500-\$74,999	31.6%	
\$75,000-\$99,999	16.1%	
\$100,000-\$149,000	12.9%	
\$150,000+	2.9%	
Total	100.0%	
Valid Cases	1287	

• About one third of the visitor's annual income falls between \$47,000 and \$74,999.

# APPENDIX A SURVEY INSTRUMENT

### Louisiana State Parks User and Economic Impact Survey

Thank you for visiting the Louisiana State Park system. We deeply appreciate your visit and request that you assist us in serving you even better by answering a few questions about your experiences. Your answers are very important to us in determining the economic impact of parks and to find out what visitors like and dislike about Louisiana parks.

Please answer the survey, in pen or pencil, by filling in the appropriate circles like:					
1. Are you a Louisiana resident?	O Yes	O No			
(If YES, go to Q.2; If NO, go to Q.3)					
TRIP EXPENDITURE					
2. During your most recent visit to the Louisiana State Park, consider all expenditures in Louisiana related to your trip. In preparation for this trip, how much money did you and your party spend in your hometown (if not applicable, enter zero) on: (Please round to the nearest dollar)					
Gasoline \$ Supplie	es \$		Camping	equipment \$	
3. During your most recent visit to the Louisiana State Park, how much money did you and your party spend in the Louisiana parish (county) in which the park is located (if not applicable, enter zero) on: (Please round to the nearest dollar)					
Gasoline \$ Campir	ng equipme	ent \$		Other supplies \$	
Hotels and other lodging facilities \$ Food and drink bought in grocery stores \$					
Food and drinks bought in restaurants and cafes, fast-food restaurants, bars and lounges \$					
4. Select the state park you most recently visited. (Select only one).					
O Bayou Segnette State Park	O Gran	d Isle State I	Park	O Lake D'Arbonne State Park	
O Chemin-A-Haut State Park	Chemin-A-Haut State Park  O Jimmie Davis State Park		O Lake Fausse Pointe State Park		
O Chicot State Park	O Lake	Bistineau St	tate Park	O North Toledo Bend State Park	
O Cypremort Point State Park	O Tickf	aw State Pai	rk	O Poverty Point Reservoir State Park	
O Fairview-Riverside State Park	O Lake	Bruin State	Park	O St. Bernard State Park	
O Fontainebleau State Park	O Lake	Claiborne S	tate Park	O Sam Houston Jones State Park	
O South Toledo Bend State Park					
5. Was this your first visit to this park?					
O Yes O No					



6. How many nights did you and your party spend at this Louisiana state park?				
7. What do you like best about	ut this park? (Select only one)			
O Relaxing atmosphere	O Nature/outdoor environmen	nt O Other		
O Clean/good facilities	O Accessibility			
8. What do you like <u>least</u> abo	out this park? (Select only one)			
O Mosquitoes/flies/bugs/ants	s/bees O Dump station/se	O Dump station/sewage hookup		
O Restrooms	O Dirty water/trash	in water	O Nothing to dislike	
O Other				
9. What activities do you and	d your party participate in while	at this park? (Select a	ıll that apply))	
Bicycling on pavement	Canoeing/Kayaking	Fishing (boat)	Picknicking/cooking out	
Boating (pleasure)	Sailing (sailboat)	Fishing (pier/bank)	Swimming	
Cabin rental	Sailing (wind surfing)	Group camp rental	☐ Water-skiing	
Camping (RV, trailer)	Sight-seeing	Hiking	Mountain biking	
Camping (tent, other)	Educational programs/exhibits	☐ Nature study	Other	
10. Would you say your most recent visit to a Louisiana state park				
O Exceeded your expectation	ns O Almost met your expec	ctations O	Don't Know	
O Met your expectations	O Failed to meet your exp	pectations		
11. What facilities or activities would you like to see added or expanded to help make this park more enjoyable, comfortable, and inviting? (Select all that apply)				
Everything is fine/No Char	nge Playgrounds better/mo	ore equipment	Other	
☐ More recreational facilities ☐ Add/Improve Hiking, Nature Trails				
12. Have you visited other Louisiana State Parks within the past 12 months?(Select all that apply)				
Bayou Segnette State Par	rk Jimmie Davis State Pa	ırk 🔲 Lake Fausse	e Pointe State Park	
Chemin-A-Haut State Par	k Lake Bistineau State P	ark North Toledo	Bend State Park	
Chicot State Park	Tickfaw State Park	Poverty Poin	t Reservoir State Park	
Cypremort Point State Pa	Lake Bruin State Park	St. Bernard	State Park	
Fairview-Riverside State F	Park Lake Claiborne State F	Park Sam Housto	n Jones State Park	
Fontainebleau State Park	Lake D'Arbonne State	Park South Toled	o Bend State Park	
☐ Grand Isle State Park				



13. Have you visited o	•	parks in other states	within the past 12	2 months	<b>s?</b>
		ay maylea la aata da (Sa	العجم فمطفاله فمما	٨	
14. <u>If YES</u> , In which s	tates are those oth		_	•	□ o. #. b.(
Alabama	Hawaii	Massachusetts	New Mexi	CO	South Dakota
Alaska	☐ Idaho	Michigan	☐ New York		Tennessee
Arizona	Illinois	Minnesota	☐ North Car	olina	Texas
Arkansas	☐ Indiana	Mississippi	☐ North Dak	ota	Utah
☐ California	☐ Iowa	Missouri	Ohio		☐ Vermont
Colorado	Kansas	Montana	Oklahoma	a	☐ Virginia
☐ Connecticut	☐ Kentucky	Nebraska	Oregon		☐ Washington
Delaware	Louisiana	Nevada	Pennsylva	ania	West Virginia
Florida	Maine	New Hampshire	Rhode Isla	and	Wisconsin
Georgia	Maryland	☐ New Jersey	South Ca	rolina	Wyoming
Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by checking the appropriate option:  15. Visiting a state park is an educational experience:					
O Strongly agre	ee O Agree	O Neutral	O Disagree	O Stror	ngly Disagree
16. Visiting a state park is a good way to experience nature.					
O Strongly agre	ee O Agree	O Neutral	O Disagree	O Stror	ngly Disagree
17. Visiting a state park is a good way to spend time with family.					
O Strongly agree O Agree		O Neutral	O Disagree	O Stror	ngly Disagree
18. A trip including a visit to a state park is a good value for the money.					
O Strongly agre	ee O Agree	O Neutral	O Disagree	O Stror	ngly Disagree
19. Visiting a state park is a good way to get away from the stress and demands of daily life.					
O Strongly agre	ee O Agree	O Neutral	O Disagree	O Stror	ngly Disagree
20. A trip including state parks is a good way to experience a state's culture and history.					
O Strongly agre	ee O Agree	O Neutral	O Disagree	O Stror	ngly Disagree

21. How many people were in your pa	arty on this trip to a	a Louisiana state park?			
22. Did any children under the age of 18 accompany you on your most recent visit to a Louisiana state park?					
O Yes O No					
23. How did you find out about this state park? (Select only one)					
O Internet/Web site		O Called or visited tourism office			
O Wrote/phoned the park		O Television			
O Friends, family, co-workers		O Welcome Center			
O Called or visited travel company	y	O Maps			
O Called or visited travel agent		O Personal knowledge/previous visit			
O Convention and Visitor's Bureau	u	O State Parks brochure			
O Automobile/Travel Club		○ Radio			
O Travel guides, books, magazine	es	O Other			
O Newspaper					
24.Which of the following ,if any, Louisiana State Historic Sites have you visited in the last 12 months? (check all that apply)					
Audubon State Historic Site		Mansfield State Historic Site			
Centenary State Historic Site		Marksville State Historic Site			
Fort Jesup State Historic Site		☐ Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site			
Fort Pike State Historic Site		Port Hudson State Historic Site			
Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site		Povewrty Point State Historic Site			
Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site		Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site			
Los Adaes State Historic Site		Winter Quarters State Historic Site			
25. Are you retired?					
O Yes O No					
26. What is the approximate annual income of your household?					
O \$7,500-\$24,999	O \$25,000-\$47,49	9			
O \$75,000-\$99,999	O \$100,000-\$149,	000 OVER \$150,000			

Thank you for your assistance in making Louisiana State Parks better.

Draft

# APPENDIX B LIST OF OTHER RESPONSES

### What did you like best about this park?

- 1. "All of the above would apply"
- 2. "Cabin with screened porch"
- 3. "Like to fish"
- 4. "the fishing sites"
- 5. "close to New Orleans and natural setting"
- 6. "We just love this park"
- 7. "swimming pool"
- 8. "confreence center"
- 9. "being by the river"
- 10. "great facilities and good fisihing"
- 11. "quite and clean"
- 12. "location and economical"
- 13. "all of the things listed"
- 14. "easy to access New Orleans"
- 15. "all categories equally impressive"
- 16. "Otis House tour"
- 17. "Valentine's activities
- 18. "historic backgound"
- 19. "lake swimming"

### What did you like least about this park?

- 1. "Water standing in campsites after rain"
- 2. "Park Management"
- 3. "no towels or toiletries"
- 4. everything was ok, need a better couch"
- 5. "no marina to leave boat"
- 6. "difficulties in making reservations"
- 7. "the pool was opened to the public"
- 8. "trees make it hard to park RV"
- 9. "not enough electrical outlets in large camp"
- 10. "Small camp sites"
- 11. "RV sites to close together
- 12. "Too close to home"
- 13. "No sewage"
- 14. "flooded and muddy in our area"
- 15. "signage"
- 16. "lack or discipline and patrolling"
- 17. "pretty remote"
- 18. "Not as kid friendly"
- 19. "the grass was not cut back in to the par"
- 20. "Not enough RV sites"
- 21. "no satellite or local TV station
- 22. "park rangers giving tickets
- 23. "to tent campsites
- 24. "screen porch was useless"
- 25. "run down cabins"
- 26. "needs a water park"
- 27. "vehicles allowed to park on grass"
- 28. "old and grungy inside"
- 29. "too much standing water on ground"
- 30. "trees in way of parking camper"
- 31. "spider weds and dust accumulating in cabin"
- 32. "drainage from previous rain poor"
- 33. "customer service"
- 34. ""not enough sewer at RV sites"
- 35. "need more spots top camp"
- 36. "loud dogs at night"
- 37. "lots of standing water"
- 38. "cracked roadway and RV pads"

- 39. "waiting list for cabin"
- 40. "most sites to far from bathroom facilities"
- 41. "road into park to narrow for motor homes"
- 42. "no cabin entertainment-TV,VCR,DVD"
- 43. "fallen trees"

### What activities did you participate in?

- 1. "Mardi Gras"
- 2. "Family Reunion"
- 3. "Reunion with high school friends"
- 4. "visiting with fellow campers"
- 5. "retreat"
- 6. "golf"
- 7. "hayride, horseshoe and campfire"
- 8. "tennis"
- 9. "wedding reception"
- 10. "birthday party"
- 11. "walking"
- 12. "cooking"
- 13. "training for Girl Scouts"
- 14. "water park"
- 15. "swamp tour"
- 16. "sewing in groups"
- 17. "Jazzfest"
- 18. "wave pool"
- 19. "enjoyed peace and quiet"
- 20. "scouts"
- 21. "engagement party"
- 22. "getting together with friends at the lodge"
- 23. "just relaxing"
- 24. "walking the beach at Christmas"
- 25. "campfire"
- 26. "river"

### What facilities or activities should be added?

- 1. "more cabins"
- 2. "more electrical outlets in group camp"
- 3. "full sewage hook-ups"
- 4. "more parking spaces"
- 5. "refinish camper parking areas and cut trees"
- 6. "water park"
- 7. "sewage hook-up"
- 8. "cleaner bathrooms"
- 9. "boat slips"
- 10. "swimming pool
- 11. "less trees by sites"
- 12. "larger RV sites"
- 13. "add more appliances"
- 14. "more group facility"
- 15. "more parking at cabin area"
- 16. "change park manager"
- 17. "new bathrooms in camping area with a/c"
- 18. "canoe rental"
- 19. "remove spider webs in cabins"
- 20. "not enough camp space for RV"
- 21. "add sewage"
- 22. "boat launch"
- 23. "pool'
- 24. "dump station location"
- 25. "boat rentals"
- 26. "more RV sites"
- 27. "more cabins"
- 28. "minimize reservation system"
- 29. "more fishing piers"
- 30. "convenience store"
- 31. "more group camp bathrooms"
- 32. "more RV sites at the park"
- 33. "additional vehicle parking"
- 34. "additional vehicle parking"
- 35. "adding sewage hookups"
- 36. "improve cabins"
- 37. "clean restrooms with working lights"
- 38. "sewer at site"
- 39. "improve bath house facilities"
- 40. "don't put girls scouts by young guys"
- 41. "dump stations need attention"
- 42. "cut crass back to woods"

### Louisiana State Parks

- 43. "shuttle to the French quarter"44. "more washer and dryers"45. "add a few more camp sites"