

APPENDIX C
Public Involvement

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
VAL REISS PARK,
CHALMETTE, ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a proposed park enhancement. St. Bernard Parish has prepared and submitted an application to FEMA for funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-1603-DR-LA. The Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1603-DR-LA, was signed on August 29, 2005, for this event.

The proposed action includes the construction of a new recreational complex for St. Bernard Parish. The project shall include one (1) youth baseball/softball quadraplex, one (1) mixed youth/adult baseball/softball quadraplex, a multi-purpose building, picnic areas, parking lots, circulation roads, a walking path, playground lots, a restroom/concession building, a shuttle road, a scout house, fencing, and utility infrastructure. The proposed project location is on a parcel of land currently owned by St. Bernard Parish. The parcel covers an area of approximately thirty-three (33) acres located at 1101 Magistrate St. in Chalmette, Louisiana 70043. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action. The draft FONSI will be FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment if no additional substantive information is discovered during the comment period.

The public comment period will be August 29, 2008 to September 12, 2008. Written comments on the draft EA can be faxed to FEMA's Transitional Recovery Office in New Orleans at (504) 762-2871; and verbal comments will be accepted at (832) 851-3832 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm> and is also available for public review at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 8201 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043. The Government Complex hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and draft FONSI will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

- Town Hall Forum held on 02-07-08 in the Government Complex by St. Bernard Parish President Craig P. Taffaro Jr. to unveil his 100-day Recovery and Growth Plan that discussed plans for Val Reiss Park. Report has been placed on the government website at www.sbpj.net as well.
- Town Hall Forum held on 04-26-08 in the Government Complex by St. Bernard Parish President Craig P. Taffaro Jr. where he updated his Recovery and Growth Plan that discussed plans for Val Reiss Park. Report has been placed on the government website at www.sbpj.net as well.
- Mid-Year Report issued 07-08-08 by St. Bernard Parish President Craig P. Taffaro Jr. where he updated his Recovery and Growth Plan that discussed plans for Val Reiss Park has been placed on the government website at www.sbpj.net. More than 1,000 are being distributed of the report.
- Mid-Year Report by St. Bernard Parish President Craig P. Taffaro Jr. where he updated his Recovery and Growth Plan that discussed plans for Val Reiss Park published as a newspaper ad as double-truck full spread of two pages in the St. Bernard Voice on 7-11-08.
- Mid-Year Report by St. Bernard Parish President Craig P. Taffaro Jr. where he updated his Recovery and Growth Plan that discussed plans for Val Reiss Park published as a newspaper ad as double-truck full spread of two pages in the St. Bernard News on 07-16-08.
- Meeting of the Rotary Club of St. Bernard Parish on 07-24-08 where St. Bernard Parish President Craig P. Taffaro Jr. discussed his mid-year update on his Recovery and Growth Plan that discussed plans for Val Reiss Park.
- Article in *The Times-Picayune* and posted on the web dated 3-4-07 that detailed the parish's efforts to consolidate the parks into a super park at Val Reiss.
- Article in *The Times-Picayune* and posted on the web dated 1-20-07 that detailed the parish's efforts to consolidate the parks into a super park at Val Reiss.
- The St. Bernard Recovery Times, the November 2006 edition of an online flyer of that is also distributed by the St. Bernard Citizen's Recovery Committee that discusses plans for Val Reiss.
- A FEMA press release dated 07-09-07 and available on line at http://www.fema.gov/txt/media/2007/071107_prproject.txt detailing the plans.