

## NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEPARTMENT

January 18, 2002

Departmental Accomplishments and highlights of the past eight years

1. Increase in NORD operating budget

One of the biggest accomplishments during the Morial Administration was the increase of the NORD Operating budget. It has more than doubled from \$3,992,645.00 in 1994 to the present \$9,000,423.00.

2. Development of Teen Camps

“Teen Camps” were designed to address the need of teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 during the summer months. “Teen Camps” fill the gap by offering job skill training and recreation, with a stipend.

3. Operation of 19 Swimming Pools

\$7,303,823 has been expended on new construction and renovation of swimming pools in the last eight years. Lifeguards are trained and certified under the direction and guidance of the Red Cross.

4. Addition of a Soccer Program -

Through a collaborative effort with New Orleans Public Schools NORD conducts a Fall and Spring Soccer Program at several sites for ages 6- 12. The program has been extremely successful and has tripled since its inception

5. Development of NORD Athletic Coordinator Positions

These are two new positions that were requested to help the Athletics Division Head run NORD more effectively, and has proven to be a vital addition.

6. Citywide Lighting Improvements

\$1,058,994.00 represents improvements in ballfield lighting, basketball shelter lighting, playground perimeter lighting and security lighting at various sites.

7. Citywide Fencing Improvements

\$142,400.00 worth of fencing projects were completed during this administration.

8. Playground and Playground Building Repairs

\$2,281,290.00 was spent on playground block house renovations as well field renovations.

9. New Play Equipment

\$789,962.00 was spent in NORD's attempt to deal with the needs of small children, out dated play equipment was removed and new equipment was installed according to the guidelines of play equipment industry standards.

10. New Bleachers

\$155,000.00 worth of bleachers were installed at various NORD sites to facilitate seating during NORD athletic activities.

11. NORD Center Renovations and Repairs.

\$3,943,796.00 was spent on renovations at nine NORD centers.

12. Harrell Playground Site Improvements

The Harrell site has experienced a new building, a new pool, a renovated track and field, new stadium lighting, and new bleachers. The cost is around \$2,000,000.00.

13. Berhman Playground Site Improvements

The Berhman site has also experienced comprehensive work. The football field has a new drainage system, There is a renovated press box, rest rooms, concession areas, plus fresh fountains. There has also been air conditioning repairs to the gymnasium. These improvements cost approximately \$900,000.00.

14. Joe W. Brown Outdoor Hockey Rink

Yet another jewel in the crown at Joe W. Brown. A state of the art inline hockey rink built to NHL specifications.

15. Development of a Comprehensive Girls program

Overall there has been increasing growth in girls programs due to the addition of the girls coordinator position.

16. Expansion of the NORD Tennis Program

Nord now has a tennis program at the following sites Stern Tennis Center, Berhman, St. James, A. L. Davis, Oak Park, Lafitte, and Joe Brown. Some programs are year round and some are operated only in the summer.

17. Expansion of the NORD Day Camp Program

The number of sites have drastically increased. Several specialty camps have been created Such as, Treme Villa Creative Arts Camp, the Strings Camp, Anthony Bean Community Theater Camp, and our newest addition, the Joe W. Brown Sports Camp.

18. Enhanced Outdoor Program

The Outdoor Program offers Canoeing, Camping, Hiking, an Environmental Education Program. The Outdoor Program is partnered with Jean Lafitte Park and the Wildlife and Fisheries Department. With a new van it operates 12 Clubs in different Schools and Community Centers. Our newest addition to this program will be the Ropes Course at Joe W. Brown.

19. Coaching Certification Program

Coaches are certified prior to each seasonal sport. Proper coaching Techniques are stressed as well as the use of first aid and CPR. Every coach must pass a background check.

20. Reviving Baseball in the Inner City

This is a program of Major League Baseball to revive interest in baseball in the inner cities across the United States. NORD has competed in this league for the past years.

21. Expansion of the Summer Developmental High School Basketball League

Over the years this program has expanded to include two sites. It now has several teams in both boys and girls divisions.

22. NORD Partnerships

NORD has developed partnerships with various entities to enhance the agency's performance and better serve the youth of New Orleans. We are in partnerships with the Red Cross, N. O. Strings Project, N. O. Ballet Association, Anthony Bean Community Theater, The Audubon Institute, and the New Orleans Public Schools, any many more.

23. Expansion of the Friends of NORD

The Friends of NORD was designed as an entity to help the Department where the budget may fall short but a need exist for additional funding.

24. Expansion of Babe Ruth Baseball

NORD has fielded more teams in recent years and has been successful in bringing home National Championships in the last several years..

25. The NORD Cultural Division

This division has gained popularity with their pottery program and has increased it's piano program which operates at several centers. The Renovation of the North Alexander Street Facility has enhanced the senior citizen program which helps to fill the needs of the elderly.