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The City Center team began the design process by meeting with City Park to discuss the expectations for the following project. An engagement exercise was prepared to spark a conversation surrounding equity and access to camping coupled with personal stories highlighting our experiences camping. In three consecutive meetings, critiques were held to address the progress of the project goals and designs.

The NET Charter School design+construction class and the ASHÉ Cultural Arts Center, Kuumba Institute summer camp contributed to the design process through exercises discussing their experiences with camping and with City Park. Students were able to provide feedback on the campground designs, along with sharing what they would consider important to have at a campground in New Orleans.

The Design Research began with looking into existing campground programs and community organizations working to introduce camping to urban cities. Following these precedent studies, the City Center team conducted hands on research including camping on and canoeing around Nursery Island to get a better feel for the scale and environment of the site.
“Camping is highly valued in society because it is, in essence, a form of community building. Camping facilitates a heightened connection with the outdoors and strengthens human relationships; it underscores the importance of physical activity, play and quiet contemplation in both adults and children.”  
- J.D. Scott, TCC Design Fellow

STRATEGY : ACCESSIBILITY

Camping, as a form of enrichment, could offer a set of positive experiences and skills to those who might not otherwise have the means or opportunity.

The Campgrounds aim to accommodate a variety of users and events, with a goal of providing access for a diverse group of users. A combination of consistent use and special events could generate enough revenue to be an asset to City Park and New Orleans, while subsidizing certain events as a means of expanding accessibility.

FUNDERS / OPERATORS | TARGET MARKETS
--- | ---
Groups or companies interested in investing time, money, equipment or expertise, e.g. | - Local Families
- Local Non-Profits | - Tourists
- Mission-Driven or Youth-Oriented Institutions | - Festival Goers
- Corporate Sponsors (e.g. Outdoor Retailers) | - Kids as part of Youth/Other Organizations*

*opportunity for fully- or partially- subsidized events
NYC Urban Rangers

This program provides free family camping 6 weekends each summer, including food and camping equipment. They focus on connecting with the natural world and ‘unplugging.’

The Legacy Campout

This Legacy Campout serves Metro Atlanta high school students each year, providing a free night of camping, allowing students to experience the outdoors in an innovative way.

Chicago Urban Camping

Ten nights out of the year, the Chicago Parks Dept. offers family camping for $50, including equipment, allowing locals to experience camping in the urban environment.

L.A. Wonderful Outdoor World

LA WOW hosts 4 annual free campouts, presenting inner city youth with an educational opportunity to camp at local parks and recreation centers in their neighborhoods.
## Comparison Studies

### Louisiana Campgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Bayou Segnette</th>
<th>Bogue Chitto</th>
<th>Chicot</th>
<th>Fairview Riverside</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cabins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated Tent Camping</td>
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<td>Undesignated Tent Camping</td>
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<td>Group Camp</td>
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<td>Group Pavilion</td>
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<td>Canoe Rental/Dock</td>
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<td>Picnic Area</td>
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<td>Fishing Pier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
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### Average Louisiana State Park Camping Prices

#### General Prices:
- **Entrance Fee**: $2 / person
  - Free for 62+ and children under 3
- **Pavilion Rental**: $40 / day - $100 / day
  - Depending on size and capacity

#### Cabin Prices:
- **October - March**:
  - $120 / night
- **April - September (Fri + Sat)**:
  - $150 / night
- **Sleeps up to 8 people**:
  - 1 queen + 2 bunk beds + 1 sofa sleeper
### CAMPING FACILITIES

- Desigated Tent Camping
- Undesigned Tent Camping
- Group Camp
- Group Pavilion
- Canoe Rental/Dock
- Picnic Area
- Fishing Pier
- Playground

### General Prices:
- **Entrance Fee:** $2 / person (free for 62+ and children under 3)

### Cabin Prices:

- **Premium (pull-through + water + electrical hookup):**
  - $20 / night (October - March)
  - $28 / night (April - September)

- **Improved (water + electrical hookup):**
  - $18 / night (October - March)
  - $22 / night (April - September)

- **Unimproved (no hookups):**
  - $14 / night

### Tent Camping Prices:

- **Premium (pull-through + water + electrical hookup):**
  - $20 / night (October - March)
  - $28 / night (April - September)

- **Improved (water + electrical hookup):**
  - $18 / night (October - March)
  - $22 / night (April - September)

- **Unimproved (no hookups):**
  - $14 / night

### Attendance in Louisiana State Parks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cabins</th>
<th>Designated Tent Spaces</th>
<th>Undesignated Tent Spaces</th>
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<td>Fontainbleau</td>
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<td>Grand Isle</td>
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<td>Tickfaw</td>
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- **CABINS:** 60%
- **DESIGNATED TENT SPACES:** 91%
- **UNDESIGNATED TENT SPACES:** 21%
The site is located on Nursery Island, a peninsula in the heart of the historic City Park of New Orleans. The heavily wooded site offers a unique wilderness experience within an urban setting. It is conveniently located near the Couturie Forest and many other City Park attractions.
FUTURE GOLF COURSE

EXISTING DOCK

LARGE OAK TREE

EXISTING FENCE

EXISTING GRAVEL PAD

HORSE GRAZING FIELD

PLANT NURSERY

NOISE FROM POLICE STABLES

SHARED ACCESS
SITE PHOTOS

INLAND

FROM WATER
MAKE IT SAFE

MAKE IT FUN

MAKE IT ACTIVE

MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE

MAKE IT FLEXIBLE

MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE

MAKE IT A DESTINATION
EXERCISING

FISHING

CANOEING

HIKING

GATHERING

PLAYING
ALL CABINS

This option explores the use of different types of cabins throughout the site.

CABINS + PERMANENT TENTS

This option makes use of open-air cabins that are clustered in groups.

CABINS + OPEN FIELD

This option provides a flexible, open field area that can be used for various programs (festivals, community events, etc.).
SITE DIAGRAMS

REUSE OF EXISTING GRAVEL PAD AS PARKING

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

PROPOSED ADDITION TO CREATE SEPARATE ACCESS ROAD
Fixed spaces in this proposal remain unchanged, while the flexible area is explored through different camping options.

All public spaces are located near the entrance to the island, while private zones take advantage of the waterfront area of the island.

More secluded and quiet camping spaces are separated from the main amenities and gathering areas.
PAVILION + AMENITIES

Pavilion Design
Splash Park

Raft Bridge

Tree House
The proposed site plan includes a variety of accommodation options, to suit a variety of needs. Ranging from a fully conditioned cabin to a simple platform, the Campgrounds could accommodate campers with any level of experience. This flexibility will keep the Campgrounds accessible to many types of programs and sources of revenue.
Conditioned cabins offer campers all of the comforts of home, including bathrooms and air conditioning. Spacious decks foster connections with the outdoors and allow for views of the surrounding bayou.
Open-air cabins give campers a rustic outdoor experience while still providing protection from weather and insects. Operable screens and shades allow users to control light and airflow to maximize comfort.
Tent platforms provide a primitive camping experience to campers with their own equipment. These structures offer space to pitch a tent and simple amenities such as seating and fire-pits.
Design Alternative 2  

Design Alternative 3
The Alligator Hut is a flexible structure that can sleep one or two people. The hut can be easily transported and clustered to accommodate group camping. It is a superb option for guests who wish to go camping but do not own a tent. The multifunctional hut can also be used as a table, tent platform, and star-gazing deck.
enclosed structures

semi-permanent

Camping platforms

auxiliary structures
PROJECT CREDITS

CITY PARK OF NEW ORLEANS

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The Kuumba Institute

THE NET CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
Summer Design/Construction Class

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