



Baseball game at Saul Adler Community Center

### ***13.0 Parks, Recreation and Open Space***

Parks and recreational facilities in the City of Monroe account for approximately 900 acres of land. Facilities include community centers, parks, golf courses, and undeveloped open space. There is currently no designated greenway system connecting the City's parks.

A significant amount of cooperation and coordination occurs among the various providers of recreation resources in the City. Neville High School Booster Club, Monroe Youth Baseball Association and the Monroe Youth Softball League have aided the City by making improvements to the City-owned ball fields that they use (over \$300,000). Many of the Monroe School District's schools use the City's community centers and sports fields and the City's Parks and Recreation Department uses the school's indoor court facilities.

Effective May 2007, maintenance of all park facilities was transferred to the Public Works Department. The Parks and Recreation Department will coordinate with the Public Works Department to facilitate required maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Department has developed a maintenance plan for facilities and parks. It also has as a future goal the diversifying of parks according to different age groups and interests. The City of Monroe is the park 'hub' in the region and it attracts residents from Mississippi and Arkansas to use its facilities. The City's parks are recognized as an economic attraction, which draw residents and businesses. Despite limited funding, the Parks and Recreation Department has plans to upgrade and expand its facilities. The City received a \$100,000 economic development grant which will be used to make improvements at five neighborhood parks.





Liller Maddox Marbles Community Center

The Liller Maddox Marbles Community Center is located at 2950 Renwick Street. This center sits on 10.0 acres, just north of I-20. Outdoor facilities include a pool, baseball field, tennis courts and football field. Indoor facilities include a basketball and volleyball court. This center also offers arts and crafts, youth mentoring, tutoring, and after school programs. With about 1500 participants a week, it may be the most heavily used center. Improvements are needed to both the building and its furnishings

Saul Adler Community Center

The Saul Adler Community Center is located at 3900 Westminster on a 31.7-acre land area. The center’s facilities include a substantial outdoor sports complex of baseball, softball, and T-ball fields and batting cages. There is no playground equipment at the center. Indoor facility includes a full length basketball court, table games (pool and ping pong), and a multi-purpose room for large capacity meetings and social events. The center generally hosts about two meetings per night and the sports fields are generally used for two games each evening. The volume of participants put a strain on the limited parking that is available. Indoor facilities are used by about 400 participants each week. When outdoor facility users are added this number is easily doubled.

Powell Street Neighborhood Community Center

The Powell Street Neighborhood Community Center is located at 1400 Powell Street on 6.0 acres. This center offers senior citizen activities, after school games program and tutorial services. It has a baseball field, basketball court, and tennis courts. This well used center has become a ‘home’ for some youths. The center serves an average of 150 participants per day; more during summer.



Youths using the gymnasium at the Powell Street Neighborhood Community Center

B. J. Washington Boxing and Fitness Community Center

The B. J. Washington Community Center is located at 1300 Richwood Road #1 in the southern tip of the City. This center sits on a 13-acre lot and offers boxing, fitness programs and Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Louisiana. This newly developed center typically has 45 to 50 participants daily.

**13.1.2 Parks**

The City of Monroe has a total of 15 parks; four larger community parks and 11 smaller neighborhood parks. Parks account for 545 acres of land area, excluding golf courses.

Charles H. Johnson Park

The Charles H. Johnson Park is located in the southern part of the City and is accessed from Wilson Street and Bernstein Park Drive. This 48.4-acre park is adjacent to the Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo and as a result is visited by many school groups. The park has a good pedestrian circulation system that may be expanded in the future to encompass the entire park. The pedestrian circulation system includes a fitness trail that should be rehabilitated.



Children’s playground at Charles H. Johnson Park



The park's concession building is in need of maintenance and a large area of play structures needs organization. Other park amenities include: swings and other play equipment, two basketball courts, two parking areas, portable toilets, open grassed areas for athletics and events, and a treed open space.

Consideration should be given to developing stronger connections to the surrounding residential neighborhoods by linking sidewalks in the neighborhood to the parks internal pedestrian system and to developing a stronger physical and functional connection to the Gardens and Zoo.

### Claire Chennault Park

The Claire Chennault Park is located 8475 Millhaven Road on the eastern edge of the City. This 438.2-acre park is often used to host festivals because of its seclusion from residential neighbors. The Delta Fest is held at the park in the fall. Park amenities include: a stage area with ample utility hook-ups; an 18-hole golf course with driving range, pro shop and maintenance shop; 10 tennis courts that are in need of maintenance; an 18-hole disc golf course; 1.2-mile pedestrian and bicycle system; picnic sites and Children's Safety Mini City which is designed to educate kids on safety rules and regulations. The Children's Safety Mini City is a cooperative endeavor between State Farm and the City of Monroe. The park office building houses the grounds staff and includes a restroom, small kitchen, and storage areas. Northeast Louisiana Soccer Association's 70-acre soccer complex is accessed through the park.

Chennault Park has the feel of a regional park. Consideration should be given to providing a bicycle route to the park. The Parks and Recreation Department is considering adding a skateboard park to the facility to address a recognized need.

### Forsythe Park

Forsythe Park is located at 2300 Sycamore Street. This 94.1-acre green space is the main downtown city park. It is well organized and has many amenities and ample parking areas. Park amenities include: an outdoor pool; the Swayze Natatorium (closed for the past four seasons) and associated kiddie pool; a 9-hole municipal golf course, including a pro shop and maintenance building; a putt-putt golf course; a medium sized soccer field and an area for small soccer fields; two baseball fields; a softball field; batting cages; six tennis courts; a system of pathways for walking/biking; a sculpture garden with a 20' metal dragon fly and Century Art Wall; golf driving range, restrooms and a children's play area.

This park is in need of minor repair and upkeep to its vegetation and facilities. Consideration should be given to adding elements to the sculpture garden and linking walkways to the surrounding residential areas, school, and the Forsythe Point Recreation Area.

### Forsythe Point Recreation Area

The Forsythe Point Recreation Area is accessed from Riverside Drive. This linear 84.6-acre riverside park has a distinct character and poor visual relationship to Forsythe Park and should therefore be considered a separate recreational area.



Picnic shelter beside the Ouachita River in Forsythe Point recreation Area



Park amenities include: a boat launch; a dock that provides 28 rental slips and a parking lot that facilitates boat access to the Ouachita River; two volleyball courts; two restroom facilities; picnic tables; river viewing pull-offs; a series of ponds; a 28-acre undeveloped wooded lot that is not accessible by the road and a naturalized multi-use trail, with mile markers and directional signage.

The park is hidden by a levee. Consideration should be given to providing a road entry from the south to improve access and ease of use. Consideration should also be given to developing this park as a major waterfront venue that includes a trail system, shoreline amenities, boat slips, plantings and educational and interpretive signage in the wooded area.

### **13.1.2.1 Neighborhood Parks**

There are 11 neighborhood parks within the City of Monroe. These parks are typically smaller in size and are geared to serve the surrounding neighborhood. Some neighborhood parks include athletic facilities and play grounds while others are tiny open spaces between thoroughfares.

#### East Parkview Nevada Drive Park

East Parkview Nevada Drive Park is a 25.8-acre site located adjacent to Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School grounds and recreation space. It may be accessed from Nevada Drive, which has an informal dirt parking area or Nutland Road via the school's parking area and driveway.

This park has the potential to become a central open space for the surrounding community but it needs improved maintenance. Ease of access from Martin Luther King Drive and I-20 allows this park to become a city-wide recreation space.

#### Jasmine Park

Jasmine Park at 2300 Jasmine Street is one of two interior block parks. This 0.9-acre site is accessed at two points; via a shared residential driveway and a utility strip between houses. It contains a see-saw and a basketball court, both of which are in need of repair.

This park has no signage and no paths/trails. It is poorly organized and needs improved maintenance. It appears to be used as an extension of the surrounding residential properties.

#### Jessie Williams Park

Jessie Williams Park, located at 303 Marx Street, is a 6.1-acre park that is accessible from Marx or South 5<sup>th</sup> streets. It contains: two basketball courts, a ball field, climbers, swings, slides, bleachers, benches, tables, and a comprehensive pedestrian circulation system. Limited off street parking is available from Marx Street. It is one of two interior block parks with very limited street visibility.

Vehicle access into the grassy areas should be restricted as there are many rutted tracks in the turf. The play structures are very old and require improved maintenance. Consideration should be given to transforming this park into a children's play park by installing additional unique play structures not found anywhere in the City. There is a need to develop neighborhood pride and care of the park.

#### Lamyville /Magnolia Park

The Lamyville-Magnolia Park, located at 2600 Olive Street, is 3.3-acre site that is surrounded by residential streets and backyards. The park contains the following: a baseball field, two basketball courts, play equipment and two portable restrooms. Some of the benches need to be repaired or replaced and parking is limited.



Consideration should be given to adding a loop walkway around the park for recreation and pedestrian circulation.

### Lexington Street Park

Lexington Street Park is located at the intersection of Lexington Avenue, Essex Street and Bois D'Arc Place. This 1-acre triangular shaped greenspace has no amenities. It has beds of perennial plantings that are in good shape and some beds with no plantings. There are large stately willow oak trees, which give the site a pastoral quality. Ditches surround the exterior of the park discouraging access.



Lexington Street Park

This park would benefit from minor maintenance of its vegetation. Consideration should be given to creating pedestrian access, a path system and benches.

### Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park is located at 4200 Elm Street. This 8.2-acre park is associated with the Lincoln Elementary School and contains a ball diamond, a large multi-purpose field, a basketball court and play equipment.

This park requires improved maintenance to make it more usable and appear “safe and inviting”. The play structures would benefit from an organized path system, additional pieces, and safety surfacing.

### Mt. Nebo Park

Mt. Nebo Park, a 1.2-acre site, is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Jackson Street and Thomas Avenue. It contains two basketball courts, 2 swing sets, recently installed benches and tables, a portable bathroom, and area lighting. A concrete path system and an unfenced side allow ease of access into and through the park.

### Sherrouse Park

Sherrouse Park is a 2.4-acre triangular shaped park located the east end of Blanks Street and bounded by Harrison and Gerald Streets. This park contains mature trees, a ball field and play equipment.

The ball field and play equipment are in need of improved maintenance. Consideration should be given to re-programming this park to better suit the needs of the neighborhood. Needed elements include: seating, trash containers and walkways.

### Orange Street Park

Orange Street Park is a 1.8-acre site that spans between South 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> streets, along Orange Street. The park offers mature trees that would benefit from trimming of the lower branches to improve sight lines through the park. Park amenities include: two basketball courts, swings, three climbers, a slide, benches, and a concrete walkway. The play equipment and concrete walk are in need of repairs.



Consideration should be given to making a better pedestrian connection between this park and the recreation green space of the Carver Elementary School. The ditch along a portion of Orange Street prevents errant kids from wandering into the street, but limits the ease of access to the park.

#### Pargoud Boulevard Park

Pargoud Boulevard Park is a 1.4-acre triangular shaped greenspace that is bordered by Pargoud Boulevard, Stuart Avenue and Beloit Street. Park amenities include: a ball field, basketball hoop, bird houses, and an historical monument. Large Willow Oak trees grace the park. There is no formal parking area, pathways or sidewalks, and surrounding ditches limit ease of access.

The basketball hoop, ball field and backstop are in poor condition and should be removed or re-developed. Consideration should be given to developing formal or informal pedestrian entries, park signage, seating, and enhancing the area around the monument.

#### River Oaks Community Park

River Oaks Community Park is a community developed 1.9-acre site at the corner of Barbados Boulevard and Deborah Drive. Park amenities include: a basketball court, a volleyball court, a soccer field, and several playscapes, a gazebo and a rest room building. There is a parking lot that connects to a pedestrian circulation system. The park is in good condition but could benefit from the removal and replacement of dead trees.



Sport fields at River Oaks Community Park

### ***13.1.3 Regional Parks and Open Space***

There are several recreational facilities in and around City of Monroe that either have a regional draw or are owned by regional agencies.

#### Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo

The Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo is owned by the City of Monroe and it is a major attraction in northeast Louisiana. Located at 1405 Bernstein Park Drive, the Gardens and Zoo includes over 80 acres of zoological park exhibits. Attractions include: over 500 animals, many of which are in naturalistic habitats; educational programs; a scenic boatride; a catwalk that brings visitors up close to big cats such as tigers, jaguars and lions; and the Wild Side Gift Shop that offers a variety of souvenirs.

#### The Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge

The Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge is part of the North Louisiana Refuges Complex and is located off US 165. This Wildlife Refuge was established in 1997 through a partnership between the City of Monroe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The City owns the land and uses the lake as its secondary water source. The Friends of Black Bayou, Inc., a non-profit organization, with the assistance of the National Fish and Wildlife Service, has developed the Refuge as an environmental education center. Its attractions include: a visitors' center, a conservation learning center, a native tree arboretum and wildflower meadow, a covered pavilion and amphitheater, a 400' wildlife pier with spotting scope, nature trails, and boardwalks.



### Parish Owned Recreation Facilities

While there are no Parish owned recreation facilities located within the City of Monroe, there are four Parish facilities within 20 miles of the City. These include: the Cheniere Fish and Game Preserve located about 10 miles southwest of Monroe, the Calhoun Experimental Station located about 16 miles west of Monroe, the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge (managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) located approximately 20 miles northwest of Monroe, and the Russell Sage and Ouachita Wildlife Management Areas (managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries) located about 7 miles southeast of Monroe. These facilities offer hunting, fishing, hiking, and/or other related outdoor recreational opportunities

### ***13.2 School and University Facilities***

The Parks and Recreation Department networks with three universities in the area: the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Louisiana Tech University and Grambling State University. These universities supply interns, help develop workshops for park staff and the public, train and certify lifeguards for summer programs and their athletic teams sponsor clinics and provides aid to the Park and Recreation Department's athletic programs.

University Park, a four softball field complex, was developed through a partnership between the City and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The City may use the complex from May through August. This well organized and maintained sports park is located on the University of Louisiana at Monroe campus. It contains a clubhouse, restrooms, and concession building.

### ***13.3 Private Facilities***

The following private or non-profit organizations also provide recreational facilities in Monroe.

#### YMCA of Northeast Louisiana

The YMCA works with the Parks and Recreation Department to provide summer camps and the football and cheerleading programs. Located at 1505 Stubbs Avenue, it offers after school care, provides spring break, summer, and holiday camps for children, and manages the Youth Volunteer Corps.

#### Monroe Athletic Club

Monroe Athletic Club is a multipurpose family health club located at 3801 Chauvin Lane in the northwest section of the City. Its facilities include a fitness center that hosts group exercise classes, personal training, and physical therapy, an aquatic center, and tennis courts. The club offers childcare, salon, massage therapy, and nutritional services.

#### Bayou DeSiard Country Club

The Bayou DeSiard Country Club is located at 3501 Forsythe Avenue in the northern part of the City. The club's main feature is an 18-hole golf course. Other facilities include a swimming pool, lighted tennis courts, and a clubhouse.

### ***13.4 Parks and Recreation Facility Analysis***

Various standards for park and recreation facilities have been developed and are used by professional and trade associations throughout the country. Each community is unique and has its own particular parks and recreation needs. The standards presented in this discussion are provided as a guide and may need to be adjusted to best address the needs of the City of Monroe.



### 13.4.1 Park Standards

The following table compares standards derived from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and available park resources in Monroe based on the City’s current population.

**Table 13-1 National Park Standards for Communities**

Park Type	Recommended Acreage Per 1,000 Residents	City of Monroe Current Acreage per 1,000 Residents
Neighborhood Park (Including playfields and playgrounds)	2.0	1.0
Community Park (Mix of passive & active use parks and sports complexes)	8	9.5
Special Use Parks (Golf courses, museums, trails, interpretive sites)	4.5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>

Source: National Parks and Recreation Association, City of Monroe Planning Department and peter j. smith & company, inc.

The City currently has approximately 51 acres of neighborhood parks, 500 acres of community parks and six acres of special use parks to serve its roughly 51,000 residents. Based on its current population, the City has one acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents which is lower than the two acre per 1,000 residents that is recommended. However, the City has more community parks and special use parks than is recommended, 9.5 acres and 6 acres per 1,000 residents respectively. Overall, the City of Monroe has slightly more parkland than the national standard.

### 13.4.2 Recreation Facility Standards

It is also useful to compare the provision of recreation facilities in Monroe to the NRPA Standards for those resources. The following table lists the NRPA Recreation Facilities Standards.

**Table 13-2 National Recreation Standards for Communities**

Activity/ Facility	NRPA Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes	Existing in Monroe*	Excess/ Deficiency*
Baseball/Softball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball) Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.	18	8
Football	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.	0	-2
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.	13	7
¼ Mile Running Track	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.	0	-2
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	0	-2
Lacrosse	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	0	-2
Mixed Field Use (including soccer lacrosse, baseball, football, field hockey)	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	--
Basketball	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	16	6
Tennis	1 per 2,000	¼-½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/ community park or adjacent to school	24	-2
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	N/A	0	-5



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Activity/ Facility	NRPA Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes	Existing in Monroe*	Excess/ Deficiency*
Golf-driving Range	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned	2	1
Golf	1 per 50,000 (18 hole standard)	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day  18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day  Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center	2	1
Trails	1 system per region	N/A		N/A	0
Skate Park	1 per 50,000		In community or regional parks	0	-1
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3-5% of total population)	15-30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site	2	0
Ice Hockey	Indoor – 1 per 100,000	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility	0	-1
Community Center	1 per 8,000 –10,000 residents	½ mile radius	Centers can serve as community focal points and be programmed according to need, trends, and demand for programs and recreational amenities	7	0

Source: National Parks and Recreation Association

**\*Note: Private and school facilities are not included**

If private and school facilities are not included, the City is below NRPA standards for the number of facilities for football, track, field hockey, lacrosse, tennis, trails, skate parks and ice hockey. However, the area exceeds the standard for public golf and soccer facilities; with one 18-hole course, two 9-hole courses and a 20-field soccer complex. The City also meets or exceeds the standard relative to baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, swimming pools and community centers.

While the City of Monroe is challenged to adequately maintain its park and recreation resources it is not alone in this regard. According to the Louisiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2003-2008, most recreation opportunities in the State are provided by local parks and recreation departments. However, these local departments are facing continued economic difficulties as they try to provide adequate facilities to a growing recreation population. The Louisiana SCORP described the highest ranking issue as deteriorating recreational and park facilities.

## 13.5 Recreation Programs

The City provides a variety of programs ranging from athletic to tutoring and programs are well attended. Each Community Center runs its own programs, which are coordinated by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Department collaborates with approximately 60 non-profit organizations and athletic associations to provide recreation programs. Two of the major athletic associations providing recreational services to and for the Department are the Twin City Athletic Association and the Community Youths Athletic Sports. The YMCA of Northeast Louisiana provides support for the After School Program.



Private facilities also offer programs. These include athletic and recreational programs of football, basketball, soccer, softball, T-ball, baseball, swimming, track and field, martial arts, and volleyball. After school tutoring is offered as well.

The table that follows lists the various programs that are available and the organizations that provide them in the City of Monroe.

**Table 13-3 Recreational Programs and Program Providers**

Organization	Service	Location
A Plus Licensing	Driver Education	Saul Adler Community Center
Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA)	Seminars & Workshops	Various Community Centers
American Red Cross (ARC)	CPR, Swim Instructor, Lifeguard	University of Louisiana at Monroe, Henrietta Johnson Community Center, Liller Maddox Marbles Community Center
American Softball Association (ASA)	Softball	Saul Adler Community Center
Aquatics Staff of University of Louisiana at Monroe	Swimming Pools for Summer Time	University of Louisiana at Monroe Natatorium
Big Six Domino Club	Dominos	Harvey H. Benoit Community Center
Booker T. Community Outreach, Inc.	Gardening, Health Workshops, etc. for Seniors	Powell Street Community Center
Boys and girls Club of Northeast Louisiana	Life Skills Programs	Henrietta Johnson and BJ Washington Community Centers
Career Training Institute	Seminars & Workshops	All Community Centers
Community Youth Activity Sports (CYAS)	Baseball, Basketball, T-ball, Flag Football, and Education	Liller Maddox Marbles Community Center, Powell Street Community Center
Councilman Robert Johnson	Easter Egg Hunt, Scholarship Program, Halloween Carnival	Henrietta Johnson Community Center
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority	Seminars, Health & Education Workshops, Neighborhood Clean-Ups	Emily Parker Robinson and Harvey H. Benoit Community Centers
Garden Club Neighborhood Alliance	Seminars & Workshops	Various Community Centers
Girl Power of Northeast Louisiana	Mentoring Young Ladies,	Henrietta Johnson Community Center
Goodfellows/News-Star	Christmas Grocery Bag Donation to Needy Families	
Henrietta Johnson Drama Club	Speech, Drama	Henrietta Johnson Community Center
Henrietta Johnson Recreation Center's Dancers	Dance, Talent Competition	Henrietta Johnson Community Center
Louisiana State University Ag Extension	Seminars, Tree Planting & Workshops	Forsythe Park
Mayor James E. Mayo	Easter Egg Hunt, Food Donation	Various Community Centers
Monroe City School System(MCSS)	Transportation at all Community Centers	All Community Centers
Monroe Youth Baseball Association (MYBA)	Baseball	Saul Adler Community Center, Forsythe Park
Monroe Youth Girls Softball League (MYGSL)	Softball	Saul Adler Community Center
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)	Community Involvement, Human Rights Organization, Fishing, Seminars & Workshops	Emily P. Robinson and Harvey H. Benoit Community Centers



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Organization	Service	Location
Neville High School	Softball and baseball	Saul Adler Community Center, Forsythe Park
Northeast Louisiana Health Education & Planning Association	Senior Citizen Programs, Wellness Workshops & Seminars	Emily P. Robinson Community Center
Northeast Louisiana Soccer Association (NELSA)	Soccer	Claire Chennault Park
Ouachita Council on Aging (OCA)	Senior Citizen Programs, Meals on Wheels	Emily P. Robinson and Powell Street Community Centers
Ouachita Enterprise Community (OEC)	Economic Development, Seminars & Workshops	Emily P. Robinson & Henrietta Johnson Community Centers
Ouachita Parish District Attorney	Diversion Programs	Various Community Centers
Ouachita Valley Boys Scout Council (OVBS)	Boys Scout	Harvey H. Benoit and Emily Parker Robinson Community Centers
Ouachita Valley Silver Waters Girls Scout Council (OSWGSC)	Girls Scout	Harvey H. Benoit, Emily Parker Robinson, Powell Street, Liller Maddox Marbles, and Henrietta Johnson Community Centers
Ouachita Women's Tennis Association (OWTA)	Tennis	Forsythe Park
Pine Hill Cloggers Dance Group	Dance	Saul Adler Community Center
Positive Forces	Tutorial Program	Harvey H. Benoit Community Center
R.E.N.E.W.A.L., Inc.	Seminars & Workshops	Emily Parker Robinson & Henrietta Johnson Community Centers
Rocky Anderson Karate	Karate	Harvey H. Benoit Community Center
Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation (SCAF)	Seminars & Workshops	Various Community Centers
Southside Community Improvement Association (SCIA)	Seminars, Civic Duties & Workshops	Emily Parker Robinson Community Center
Southside Economic Development District (SEDD)	Seminars & Workshops	Harvey H. Benoit Community Center
Top Teens	Education, Civic Duties & Workshops	Various Community Centers
Twin City Athletic Association/CDBG	After-School Tutoring	Various Community Centers
Twin City Athletic Association (TCAA)	Track & Field, Baseball, Flag Football, Basketball, Storytelling, Computer Lab	Harvey H. Benoit Community Center
University of Louisiana at Monroe Soccer Team	Provide Staff for Summer Soccer Programs	Henrietta Johnson and Liller Maddox Marbles Community Centers
Zeta Phi Beta	Seminars, Health & Education Workshops, Neighborhood Clean-Ups	Harvey H. Benoit Community Center

Source: City of Monroe Parks & Recreation Department

### 13.6 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Findings

- A significant amount of cooperation and coordination occurs among the various providers of recreation resources in the City.
- The City of Monroe has seven community centers that are situated so that they each serve the community within a half mile radius of the facility. Four major parks and 11 smaller neighborhood parks are also located within the City.



- Based on National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) standards, overall the City has slight higher than recommended total park acreage but a lower than recommended acreage in neighborhood parks. Similarly, the City meets or exceeds the standard for some recreation facilities but shows a deficiency for others.
- Many park facilities are in need of improvements.
- Recreation programs are provided by the City and a number of non-profit organizations, athletic associations and private facilities.