



# Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

---

## Compton Park

**Location:** Alexandria, LA

**Client:** James Branch

**Design Firm(s):** Moore Planning Group

**Landscape architect/Project contact:** Patrick C. Moore, ASLA

**Email:** [patrick.moore@erm.com](mailto:patrick.moore@erm.com)

**ASLA Chapter:** Louisiana



Photo: Moore Planning Group, LLC

## Project Specifications

**Project Description:** Compton Park is an extraordinary example of what can happen when a city refuses to believe that a drainage project is a necessary eyesore. The City of Alexandria needed a detention basin to handle local surface run-off during rainy periods. Initial engineering solutions for the thirty acre tract included the standard rectangular hole in the ground with fencing. The result is a highly utilized park that not only offers passive activities such as walking and jogging, but also as a learning environment with natural habitats, where visitors and area students alike can learn about ecosystems and their importance to the environment.

**Project Type:**

Open space - park

Part of a redevelopment project

**Design features:** Bioretention facility and bioswale.

**This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates:**

Local ordinance, to meet funding criteria

**Impervious area managed:** greater than 5 acres

**Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site:** greater than 5 acres

**The regulatory environment and regulator was** supportive of the project.

**Did the client request that other factors be considered, such as energy savings, usable green space, or property value enhancements?** The underlying project goal was to preserve green space and wildlife habitat within the city. The now highly utilized park attracts visitors to its unique combination of education, recreation, and exercise experiences. Compton Park has directly resulted in increased property values and economic development in Central Louisiana.

## Cost & Jobs Analysis

**Estimated Cost of Stormwater Project:** \$500,000-\$1,000,000 (Public funding: Local)

**Was a green vs. grey cost analysis performed?** No

**Cost impact of conserving green/open space to the overall costs of the site**

**design/development project:** Conservation of green space was a project priority to reduce the high maintenance requirements typical of community parks. The site was designed so it could be maintained with existing city equipment. Cost savings were realized when the excavated material was kept on site and used to create three sculptured berms looped by a multi-use trail system.

**Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)?** Significantly reduced costs (10% or greater savings).

**Number of jobs created:** Over 50

**Job hours devoted to project:**

Planning and Design: Over 700

Construction: Over 10,000

Annual Maintenance: Not available

## Performance Measures

### Stormwater reduction performance analysis:

No data available.

**Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project:** The City of Alexandria needed a detention basin to handle local surface run-off during rainy periods to minimize flood impact potentials downstream where flooding was frequent. The result was 2/3 detention, 1/3 community park (green space). Several new neighborhoods have since been developed adjacent to the park. The adjacent elementary school assisted in the initial park design and the school and surrounding community assist with ongoing maintenance.

## Project Recognition

Louisiana Chapter, ASLA Honor Award, 2000

## Additional Information

**Links to images:** [http://www.mooreplanninggroup.com/projects\\_shell.php?project=LA-Compton&sec=landscape](http://www.mooreplanninggroup.com/projects_shell.php?project=LA-Compton&sec=landscape)