Hurricane Katrina and City Park Facts

CITY STATISTICS:

Date of storm: August 29, 2005

Percent of city flooded: 80%. Some parts were under 15 feet (4.6 meters) of water.

The storms surge caused more than 50 breaches in drainage canal levees and also in navigational canal levees and precipitated the worst engineering disaster in the history of the United States. These breaches were responsible for most of the flooding, according to a June 2007 report by the American society of Civil Engineers.

80 to 90 percent of the residents of New Orleans were evacuated safely in time before the hurricane struck.

CITY PARK STATISTICS:

1,300 acres, located in the MidCity neighborhood of New Orleans

Home of the largest stand of centuries-old live oak trees in the world

Home of New Orleans Museum of Art

During Katrina the Park suffered $43 Million in damages. Every building was damaged or destroyed, 2,000 trees were downed. The Amusement Park and Storyland were seriously damaged. Most maintenance equipment, and many electrical systems and vehicles were destroyed.

The Botanical Garden, home of a large variety of local plants, was heavily damaged.

The Park sat in one (0.30 meters) to eight (2.4 meters) feet of water for nearly four weeks.

The staff was reduced from 125 employees to 23. Many employees also lost their homes.

To date, the Park has raised $117 million for repairs and improvements. Much of the money came from FEMA, donations from foundations, non-profits, and individuals.

The Park’s Master Plan designers were Wallace, Roberts and Todd from San Francisco and Cashio Cochran LLC of New Orleans. The master plan was approved by the City Park Board of Administrators on March 29, 2005, exactly five months before Katrina made landfall.

Today, City Park of New Orleans is on many “Top Ten City Parks in America” lists. And this is just the beginning.

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