

LOUISIANA RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
2012 Annual Conference

*"Throw Me Something Mister,"
Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler*

TOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Start early and take the **Creole Nature Trail All American Road GPS Ranger** tour. The entire tour, including taking advantage of all of the stops, will take eight to ten hours, but you can take part of the tour and/or drive the entire route and just watch the videos. If you drive the entire route, budget at least 2 hours. There are nature trails, wildlife drives, and many other informative stops along the way, including a wildlife museum at the Cameron Prairie visitor's center (closed on Sunday). Sites/sounds are available sunrise to sunset. Pick up your free GPS Ranger at the Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Visitors Bureau or download an app

to your smartphone). There is no charge for the Ranger, but you need to leave a credit card until the Ranger is returned. You can pick the Ranger up the day before if you'd like to get an early morning start on Saturday or Sunday. The GPS Ranger is a self-guided audio/video tour of the entire trail. It knows where you are and tells you what you're about to see and where to turn if you want to explore other things. An awesome experience. The tour includes a ferry ride (runs 24/7 there is fee for West route but East route [to Lake Charles] is complimentary) and is extremely informative about the local history, economics, wildlife, etc. It is a great way to get to know the area you're visiting. Once finished with your tour, return the Ranger and pick up your credit card. Read more details online (www.creolenaturetrail.org).

Creole Nature Trail, photography: Brenda Lafleur



You'll have a chance to explore the park and recreation facilities in **Sulphur, West Lake and Moss Bluff** - see what's going on in Calcasieu Parish, y'all!

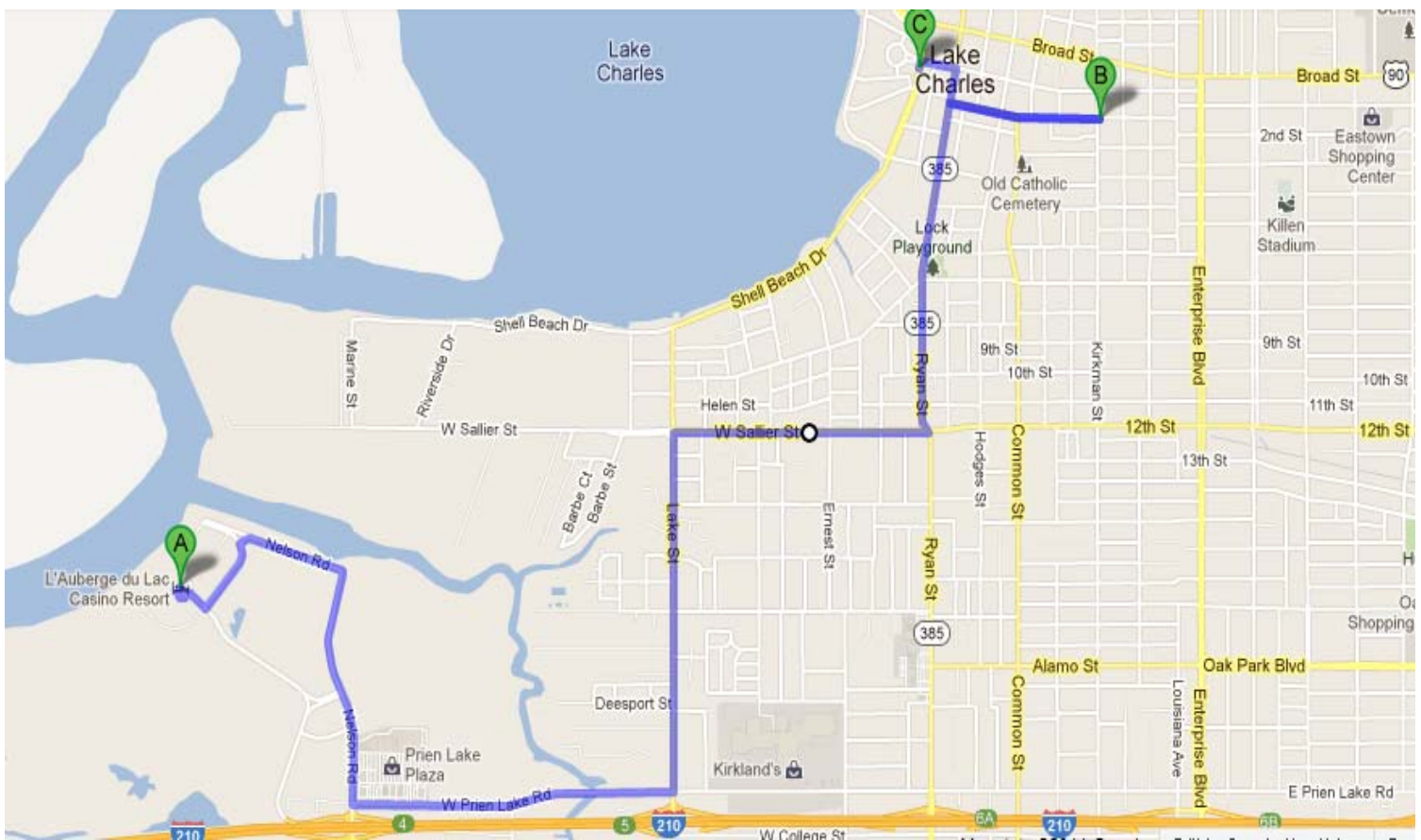


Housed on the second floor inside the Central School Arts & Humanities Center (809 Kirby Street in Lake Charles, Louisiana), you will find a great place to catch a good time! The **Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu** has the largest display of Mardi Gras costumes in Louisiana. Not only will you get a chance to see more feathers and filigree than you can shake a baton at, but delegates will be able to make your very own Mardi Gras mask. Please note that transportation will not be provided to the Mardi Gras Museum and the trip takes about 15 minutes each way.



You don't want to miss this opportunity to create your one-of-a-kind carnival wear as y'all are invited and encouraged to wear your best Mardi Gras costumes to the social Monday night. If you can't make it to the museum, don't fret, cher, just bring your carnival clothes and masks you may have stashed away to the social anyway! If you can't find the last costume from the Krewe of You, come on in your best Zydeco clothes (washboards and accordians welcome!) to the Monday night social and we'll pass a good time in the **Buccaneer Room at the Lake Charles Civic Center** (take your time coming in so you can stroll the beautiful Promenade). Shuttle transportation will be available from the L'Auberge to the Civic Center and back throughout

this event. While you're at the Civic Center, be sure to take a carriage ride and check out the new playground. Bring your wallet for the silent auction and laissez les bons temps rouler!



A: L'auberge du Lac Casino Resort; B: Central School Arts & Humanities Center; C: Lake Charles Civic Center