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ExxonMobil Funds Initiatives to Combat Blight in North Baton Rouge

Three-part program supports cleaner, safer community spaces

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BATON ROUGE, La. – ExxonMobil is funding three anti-blight initiatives to help deter illegal dumping on greenspace near the future BREC bike trail, install a litter collection boom on Monte Sano Bayou, and provide community recycling grants. This program represents a nearly \$75,000 investment from ExxonMobil in the North Baton Rouge community.

“Blight and illegal dumping is an issue that has plagued our greenbelt, nearby community and the Monte Sano Bayou waterway near our facilities,” says ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Refinery Manager Dave Oldreive. “As we considered ways to address the issue, we turned to partners like BREC, the Louisiana Storm Water Coalition, our ExxonMobil Community Dialogue Group members and North Baton Rouge Councilman Hurst for creative solutions.”

One idea was to donate three parcels of ExxonMobil’s greenbelt near Amarillo and Hollywood Streets to BREC to create a pocket park that will eventually connect to the future BREC bike path. The effort came from ExxonMobil’s discussions with Hurst, feedback from neighbors and with BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson.

“ExxonMobil has been a tremendous partner in helping the City of Baton Rouge, North Baton Rouge, and specifically District 5 with blight remediation and community revitalization,” said Councilmember Hurst. “I was excited to work with them on the land donation with the green space as this will provide a community resource and will turn a former dumping ground into a place where families can thrive through outdoor activities.”

“I believe that the more government agencies, private companies and non-profit organizations work together, the better we can serve the community we all live in,” said BREC Superintendent Corey K. Wilson.

ExxonMobil is further collaborating with the Louisiana Stormwater Coalition to reduce litter and clean-up Monte Sano Bayou, which runs adjacent to ExxonMobil’s facilities in North Baton Rouge. Through this partnership, ExxonMobil will install a boom on the bayou that will not only trap litter in the waterway, but also help pinpoint the sources of litter to address the root causes.

“The Monte Sano Bayou is a critical waterway to absorb stormwater and reduce flooding in Baton Rouge. Last year, we were proud to partner with ExxonMobil to clean up the bayou and remove more than 70 tires from the waterway. We are grateful to reinforce this work with the addition of a permanent litter removal boom. By reducing and preventing litter in the bayou, we will strengthen

stormwater management in our city, beautify our community and support a cleaner Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico,” said Louisiana Stormwater Coalition member Dr. Jeff Kuehny.

To reduce litter throughout the community and support improved waste management, ExxonMobil is also working with the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, Southern University and the Louisiana State University AgCenter in a new community engagement initiative that will assist small businesses and community members in developing more sustainable practices. This initiative will award mini-grants to community organizations working to combat litter in North Baton Rouge.

“As long-standing members of the North Baton Rouge community, we are committed to doing our part to improve the quality of life for our neighbors and workers,” said ExxonMobil Refinery Manager Dave Oldreive. “Our cooperation with local authorities demonstrates our commitment to ensure the neighborhoods next to our facilities are met with the highest standards of respect, care and concern. The proper maintenance of the area near our facilities not only plays an important role in the safety of our workforce and community, but also reflects our role and responsibility as a community partner.”

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