

Lagniappe Links

New Orleans Mini-Golf Restoration Project

Pre-K, New Orleans had two miniature golf links to serve its putting population. Both were destroyed when the levies broke. We feel it's time to bring the game back to a city that deserves the delights of spending an hour in fantasy garden, letting the cares of the day slip away.

Lagniappe Links is planned to be an exuberant and beautiful miniature golf course in the style of miniature golfs of the 1920s and 1930s with a New Orleans theme, featuring the food, the music, the art and the architecture. Obstacles that are as fiendishly clever as a local pol will whet the competitive instincts of all.

Miniature golf is traditionally an ideal entertainment for a wide range of folks—great fun for kids and a good place to learn how to play a group game together; a fun, romantic, and inexpensive place for a date; a good place to get a little fresh air and practice large-muscle eye-hand coordination; and a place where even community members who are disabled or elderly can join in the fun.

Lagniappe Links will demonstrate how environmental sustainability can be fun. Rather than use energy-inefficient high intensity overall lighting like most mini-golfs, night play will be illuminated with atmospheric landscape lighting, lanterns and twinkle lights, most of which will be powered by the day's solar energy. Moving hazards, such as windmills and spinners, will be powered with renewable energy like light and wind, or the player's own muscle power. Trees will provide cooling shade in the warmer months.

Many of the materials used to decorate and construct the mini-golf will be recycled or locally sourced. "Picassiette" mosaics covering planters will be made of broken plates. Many-hued decorative shades and filters for lights will be made of recycled plastic bottles and bottle caps. Shade awnings and umbrellas can be made of repurposed billboard vinyl. Plastic flowers will be made of colorful, used plastic bags. We will search out fragments of Mardi Gras floats and local architecture to make the links uniquely NOLA.

The plantings will be a combination of low-maintenance xeriscape and edible landscaping, featuring peppers, eggplants, onion, okra, sweet potatoes, cherry tomatoes in many colors, and merlition. Berry bushes and other fruit will be grown for putters to taste.

The creation of a miniature golf course can itself be a community activity, providing a rare opportunity for the public to contribute in a personal way to the shared environment. Through guided workshops, children and adults can help decorate and construct the links.

Lagniappe Links is planned to be an economically self-sustaining project run by a community group. If you'd like to be involved with the project, keep up with news, help fund raise or add your two cents to this plan, e-mail us at NOLALinks@hoopla.org.

Laissez les Golf Balles Roulerz!

