



## **Columbia Parc at the Bayou District highlighted by Mayor Mitch Landrieu at National Press Club**

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New Orleans LA-Columbia Parc at the Bayou District, a place-based holistic neighborhood redevelopment model in Gentilly based on Atlanta's East Lake community, was highlighted by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu in a speech before the National Press Club on Thursday August 19, 2010.

Mayor Landrieu hailed Columbia Parc in these remarks... *"Our network of neighborhood based health clinics is a small part of another bold new idea taking root in New Orleans: place-based community development. This is a holistic approach to revitalizing communities where different public and private entities work together to cluster amenities and to close connections to surrounding multi-income housing. When HUD Secretary Shawn Donovan came to New Orleans last spring, he went to Columbia Parc, a new mixed-income development in a high poverty area of the city. The master plan for the surrounding neighborhood includes middle schools and high schools, an early childhood learning center, a recreational facility, libraries, playgrounds, retail, and yes, green space, all to serve one neighborhood in New Orleans. And Columbia Parc is only one of these place-based community developments under way. New Orleans today is the largest urban planning effort in American history. Together we will build revitalized communities that are safe, that are healthy and that are stronger."*

"We're very gratified that the mayor has acknowledged nationally how public/private partnerships like this can work to benefit the citizens of New Orleans," said Gerry Barousse, Chairman of the Bayou District Foundation. "Together we know that we can defeat the cycle of poverty that plagued this neighborhood for generations. We're working hard to provide people the opportunity to live in a great home surrounded by some of the finest education and recreation amenities in the region."

Mayor Landrieu's remarks were recorded by CSPAN. The recording may be found at this web address: <http://www.cspan.org/Watch/Media/2010/08/19/HP/A/37200/NPC+Luncheon+with+New+Orleans+Mayor+Mitch+Landrieu.aspx> . The Mayor's remarks about Columbia Parc at the Bayou District begin at the ten minute mark.

Bayou District Foundation, a Louisiana non-profit, is committed to rebuilding and renewing New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. BDF in conjunction with Columbia Residential and the Housing Authority of New Orleans is building a mixed income residential community and commercial assets on the site of the former St. Bernard Public Housing Development and surrounding neighborhood. BDF is also introducing three world class schools to the former St. Bernard neighborhood and is working on the restoration of New Orleans City Park's recreational and golf facilities.