



For Immediate Release: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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St. Tammany Corporation Releases Conceptual Designs and Development Plan for Proposed State-of-the-Art Competitive Sports Tourism Complex in Eastern St. Tammany

Initial Findings to Guide Construction of \$35 Million Facility Upon Voter Approval of First-Class Entertainment & Gaming Resort

MANDEVILLE, La – Today, St. Tammany Corporation CEO Chris Masingill, along with Duplantis Design Group and its partners, is pleased to release the initial findings, proposed development plan, and conceptual designs of a new, state-of-the-art sports tourism complex that would be developed upon voter approval of *Camellia Bay Resort, Casino, and Marina* – a first-class entertainment & gaming resort in eastern St. Tammany Parish.

In August, Peninsula Pacific Entertainment announced its commitment to provide the entire \$35 million contribution to the construction of a competitive sports tourism complex in eastern St. Tammany upon approval of *Camellia Bay Resort, Casino, and Marina*. St. Tammany Corporation, after receiving private-sector resources, initiated a preliminary study to explore comparable projects across the country to help determine the design, size, scope, and economic impact of the proposed complex.

The East St. Tammany Sports Complex will break new ground in terms of facility quality and multi-sport flexibility. The multi-use flexibility of the fields allows for the complex to cater to sports across the spectrum of sports tourism including baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and football as well as less traditional events ranging from rugby and ultimate frisbee to quidditch and spikeball. Synthetic turf surfaces and LED lighting will ensure that the facility maximizes playability. Professional caliber sports specific amenities, which are unrivaled in the region, will make every athlete and team feel as though the complex is specifically designed for them, regardless of sport. The phase one conceptual design is a creative layout that provides the ability to host over 80 baseball or softball teams, 100 soccer or lacrosse teams, 120 flag football teams and three simultaneous high school football games.

“As a father who has spent countless hours at the ball field, what a special opportunity we have here in St. Tammany to have a state-of-the-art facility that, 15 minutes after a rain event, we can play ball, no matter what the sport is,” said Thomas H. Buckel, PE, Duplantis Design Group’s Vice President of Engineering. “This sports complex will truly be a great asset for Southeast Louisiana if constructed in our community.”

“The preliminary development plan for the East St. Tammany Sports Complex is the culmination of a collaborative and thoughtful study process, showcasing a potential legacy project that enhances quality of life and community competitiveness,” said Chris Masingill, St. Tammany Corporation CEO. “A project of this nature is both an asset to the local community and a significant economic and tourism driver, bringing new tourism dollars and opportunity into our St. Tammany economy.”

According to Jim Arnold, National Director of Business Development for the Sports Facilities Companies, youth sports tourism continues to boom across the country. “After proving to be recession-proof, youth sports is showing signs of coming out of the pandemic even stronger than its position in 2019 when the industry saw over \$45 billion in spending,” said Arnold. “With spending expected to near \$80 billion by 2026, the East St. Tammany Sports Complex will immediately cement itself as a top sports destination in the gulf region, allowing St. Tammany Parish to capture a share of the sports tourism market while also providing an incredible local asset for sports and recreational leagues, organizations, and clubs of all types.”

The East St. Tammany Sports Complex will not simply be a tourism-generating facility – it will become a true family and sport gathering place for the parish. Family-oriented amenities,, outdoor dining pavilions, and entertainment options will turn the sports tourism complex into a destination for local residents and out-of-town guests alike and make it the must-visit sport experience in the region.

“We are thrilled by the prospect of this new sports complex coming to East St. Tammany. This will give us a competitive edge in attracting regional and national tournaments to the area,” said Donna O’Daniels, St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission President & CEO. “Ultimately, it will bring a family-friendly venue that residents can enjoy while also attracting visitors that produce a significant economic impact for local businesses. It’s honestly a win-win for everyone.”

“Throughout the duration of this project, we have been consistently impressed with Peninsula Pacific Entertainment’s commitment to being good partners and corporate citizens to the City of Slidell and St. Tammany Parish,” said Masingill. “By P2E providing the \$35 million in upfront capital upon voter approval of the resort, this private-sector capital investment will create significant positive economic impacts for the region.”

For more information and to view the preliminary development plan, draft renderings, and video, visit <https://sttammanycorp.org/sports-tourism-complex-plan/>.

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About St. Tammany Corporation: As the lead economic development organization for St. Tammany, St. Tammany Corporation serves as the comprehensive resource center for business services throughout the parish. St. Tammany Corporation’s services include business retention, site selection, workforce development, research and data services, state and local incentives, business attraction, talent retention, certified site development, relocation support, and marketing St. Tammany. Since the organization’s launch in 2018, St. Tammany Corporation facilitated business expansion and attraction announcements representing over \$60 million in capital investment and 1,177 new and retained jobs in St. Tammany Parish.

About Duplantis Design Group: Duplantis Design Group (DDG) is a comprehensive design firm and is exceptionally experienced in managing all aspects of a development project. In the 24 years since its founding, DDG’s unwavering commitment to client service excellence has allowed us to grow into a multidisciplinary regional firm with over 100 full-time employees and 7 offices across South Louisiana, Alabama, and Texas.

About SF Companies: Since 2003, the SF Companies, comprised of Sports Facilities Advisory, Sports Facilities Management, and Sports Facilities Development, have worked to become the trusted resource for communities who want plan, fund, develop, or manage sports, recreation, entertainment, and fitness centers. In this time, we’ve guided projects in over 2,000 communities nationwide and overseen \$10 billion in developed projects. Through our managed venues in the SFM Network, we host more than 25 million visits annually and drive \$200 million in overnight hotel stays annually.

About Greenleaf Lawson Architects: Greenleaf Lawson Architects is a multi-award-winning firm. Recognized for New Orleans CityBusiness Reader Rankings Top Winner for Best Architect, a four-time Edge of the Lake Reader’s Choice Best Architect Firm winner, a five-time Northshore’s Best Architect + Interior Designer winner, one of LSU’s One Hundred Fastest Growing

Businesses, a multi [1] year winning New Orleans CityBusiness Best Places to Work Honoree, as well as a Chamber of Commerce Site-to-See two-time winner. All of these awards have been earned in just a six-year span of operations.