Boggs Seeks Fund For U.S. Park Study

WASHINGTON, D.C. — House Majority Leader Hale Boggs of New Orleans has announced plans to secure a $40,000 appropriation next fiscal year to study the feasibility of establishing Louisiana's first national park in the Barataria region of the Jefferson Parish West Bank.

Under the Boggs proposal, a 20,000-acre national cultural park would be created in the area of marshes and bayous adjoining Lake Salvador, approximately 15 miles south of New Orleans. The “Jean Lafitte National Cultural Park,” as it would be called, would preserve the natural condition of the tract while developing it for public recreation, including camping, boating and sport fishing, according to the proposal.

The announcement came after a meeting attended by Boggs, Jefferson Parish Council Chairman C. J. Eagan, National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog and other officials.

Boggs last year introduced legislation to authorize a $40,000, year-long study of the proposal by the National Park Service. Under the present plan, the item would be included in the appropriations for the Department of Interior next year.

The study of the proposed park has been given the approval of the National Park Service, Boggs said.

“Barataria is a valuable and irreplaceable part of the history and natural environment of Louisiana,” Boggs said, “and we are working to preserve it, in its present condition, for future generations.”

Boggs said the region of swamps and bayous is an “ideal location” for a national park because of its proximity to New Orleans.

“It is unusual to have an area suitable for a national park so near an urban center,” Boggs said. “Most of our national parks are located in areas very distant from population centers.”

The park would be reached from New Orleans via La. 45, he said. Plans have been developed by the Louisiana Highway Department for improving the road, he said.

The year-long study of the project would be coordinated with local and state agencies, Boggs said.