



ANNUAL REPORT

Baytown Parks & Recreation

2023



Pictured: Baytown Parks and Recreation team participating in the truck pull competition at the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) East Region Maintenance Rodeo.

Photo Credit: William Jones



It's hard to pick one fond memory because for me almost every day is memorable and every memory is the fondest. There is nothing more memorable than seeing a happy kid who wants to come back and visit the Wetlands Center again.

Amina

 I loved watching everyone cheer each other on at the boat regatta! Dom

4th of July is the best. The community can bring their family and friends to enjoy the music and food and festival activities.

Sherwood

I loved being a part of the Christmas Parade and seeing the joy on all of the children's faces.

Mikayla

Making s'mores for event guests at Treats on the trail was my favorite 2013 memory. Watching how much fun the families had making memories and a mess at the same time and all the joy that came that night. Josh

“ WE WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES ”

It was great being a part of the maintenance rodeo. Even though we fell short of the gold, it was an amazing experience. Ivan

I ESPECIALLY LOVED CAPTURING MEMORIES WITH MY CAMERA AT POOCHAPALOOZA, TYKE HIKE, CHRISTMAS MARKET, BACK TO SCHOOL SPLASH, BIRDING CAMP, NATURE CENTER AT SUNSET, THE STORYBOOK TRAIL, AND DUKE HILL RENOVATIONS. LASTLY, I CAN'T FORGET THOSE DUKE HILL HOT DOGS.

WILL



It was nice being a part of the Boat Regatta and seeing all members of the Parks Staff having a great time.

Mariah

I really enjoyed watching our team compete and hosting the TRAPS East Region Equipment Rodeo at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex.

Tracie

Coaching soccer in the Youth Soccer League and watching those kids progressively improve gave me life and I grew attached to the kids. I plan on coaching again this year.

Our Juneteenth celebration event was amazing! Seeing all of the community come together to enjoy so many great artists was amazing. Being able to work and be a part of that even to experience what happens behind the scenes!

Shaila

Grito Fest is just an all-around good time.

Robert

It was great seeing the many fathers interacting with their daughters at the Daddy Daughter Dance! Sydney



Yuka



I'll never forget the smiles on our guests' faces watching the fireworks over the wave pool at the Back to School Splash.

Jenna

My favorite 2023 memory is the Christmas parade and having my son volunteer with me. Getting to show him the ins and outs was one of my core memories this year.

Diana



I love the team building boat regatta. It allows us to meet other Parks & Rec team members that I may have only seen or just briefly spoken to.

Elena

The Roseland Park Pop Up Park was an amazing event and the largest turnout to a Pop Up!

Leonard

My favorite memory would have to be seeing how so many organizations came together to present the 1st Annual Run for your wildlife 1K/5K at the Baytown Nature Center and it ended up winning a TRAPS award! It was so much fun! I loved hearing so many visitors talk about how the Nature Center is such an ideal location for trail runs.

Tracy



Our team was just FOUR SECONDS from beating Fire at the Jenkins Park relay race!

Amy

My fondest memory is one of the night markets we had! I love the cooler weather, the amount of people, and the glow sticks we gave out!

Kayla 

I loved seeing my daughter so excited to ride a horse and buggy at the Daddy and Me Dance.

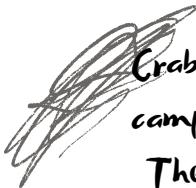
Cliff

It was so fun to watch the Mother and Son Olympics competitions!

Holly

The first day of the 4th of July celebration was really special seeing the crowd interact with Signo. The energy was lively, families and friends were dancing and singing together making great memories.

☆ Estrella



Crabbing on the pier at the Wetlands Center with camp kids is always one of my favorite memories.

There is nothing better than the smiles on kids' faces when that have caught a crab. This summer was extra special as my daughter had the opportunity to join. I expected her to dislike crabbing, but to my surprise she loved it!

Jina 😊

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INTRODUCTION

Annual Report

The Baytown Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members and the Parks and Recreation Department staff are again pleased to present the Department's Annual Report to the Mayor, Council Members, and City Management.



This report is made pursuant to Ordinance No. 885, adopted in September 1967, which states that, annually, the Board shall make a study of the parks and recreation facilities and policies of the City, and make recommendations concerning any changes, modifications or improvements.



This report is presented in its traditional format and continues to serve as:

1. The Department's collective view of the past year's activities
2. A progress report on most of our current programs and plans
3. A brief overview of our plans for the upcoming year



INTRODUCTION

Mission

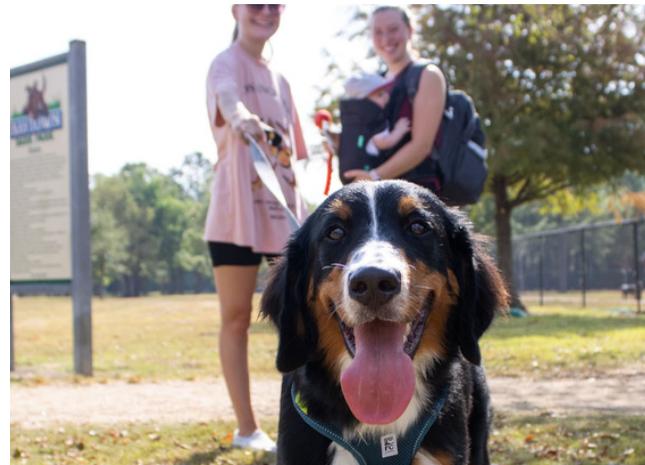
The mission of the Baytown Parks and Recreation Department is to foster lifetime involvement in and an appreciation of public space and recreational activities.

Vision

The Department is dedicated to Baytonians - continually striving to not only meet, but exceed community expectations - making Baytown a better place to live, work, and play.

Purpose

Working together to create unforgettable memories!



www.baytown.org/parksandrec

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2023 Annual Report



Welcome to the 2023 Baytown Parks and Recreation Department's Annual Report. We take great pride in providing a clean and welcoming park space or amenity to all of our 85,000 Baytown residents or to any guest choosing to spend time with us while visiting Baytown. This Annual Report celebrates the achievements and showcases the dedication and commitment of all of our team members that continue to work together to create unforgettable memories throughout the year. 2023 was a great year for our department, featuring a multitude of new or improved programs, classes, park amenities, and trail additions that include:

- The Clubhouse at Roseland Park completion
- Installation of lighted trails at Hollaway Park
- National Fitness Court and Teqball amenities added to Jenkins Park
- Complete park renovations at Duke Hill, Busch Terrace, and Newcastle Park
- Town Square Market revamp
- New adult athletic leagues
- Upgrades to meeting spaces at the Baytown Community Center
- New camps offered throughout the year
- New shaded basketball courts at Bergeron and Allenbrook Park



Since 2022, the annual report has been provided exclusively online, with printed versions only provided to Parks Advisory Board and City Council.

2023 also marked a year of growth for many of our Parks and Recreation staff members. Our Aquatics Superintendent, Jenna Jacobs, Recreation Superintendent, Kyle Frye, and Parks Superintendent, Abel Carmona, all were able to renew their Certified Parks and Recreation Professional certifications through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Our Office Admin, Holly Pinkston, completed the Six Sigma Black Belt course offered by the City of Baytown. Abel Carmona, our Parks Superintendent, completed his irrigation technician license, our Recreation Superintendent, Kyle Frye, was trained in conversation facilitation, and recently promoted Assistant Director Tracey Prothro adjusted to her new role, while still overseeing the staff at both the Baytown Nature Center and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center.

To say our team accomplished a lot in 2023 is a vast understatement. I cannot express how proud I am of all of the full and part time professionals that make up our team. Please join me in saying a simple "thank you" the next time you visit one of our 54 parks, walk any of our 30+ miles of trails, or join us at any of our phenomenal events, camps, programs, or athletic leagues.



Clifford W. Hatch
DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

VIEW THE ONLINE REPORT:



baytown.org/parkreports

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



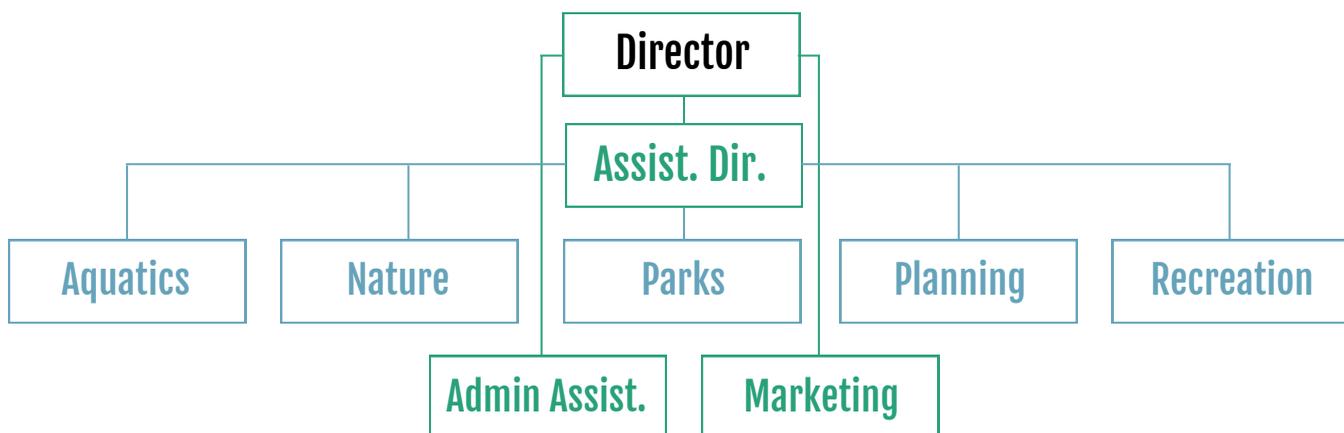
Administration Team. Pictured Left to Right: (Back Row) Amy Shipley, Clifford W. Hatch, Tracey Prothro, Holly Pinkston; (Front Row) Diana Herrera, Dominique Gutierrez, William Jones



This year's structure changed with the addition of an Assistant Director, as well as moving the Marketing team under Administration, and splitting the Parks team into two divisions: Parks & Planning.

About Us

Together, the Aquatics, Natural Resources, Recreation, Parks, and Planning divisions make up the Baytown Parks and Recreation Department. Each division is made up of one Superintendent, and many other full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. The administration team consists of a Director, an Assistant Director, Administrative Assistant, and Marketing Coordinator. The department is advised by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that is comprised of members who are appointed by the City of Baytown Mayor each year.



AQUATICS



LETTER FROM THE AQUATICS SUPERINTENDENT

Jenna Jacobs



The Aquatics Division of the Parks and Recreation Department had another outstanding, award winning, 2023! This year brought some new fixtures and a shiny new website to Pirates Bay.

The off season of 2023 brought many updates to Pirates Bay Waterpark and the Aquatics Team. We hired new team members, taught more candidates in lifeguard classes than we ever have before, and made updates to the parks. One of our biggest updates of the 2023 off season was getting our Aqualoop & Aquadrop slides refurbished and back up and running after they were down the entire 2022 season. Other updates included new larger trash cans, colorful new picnic tables, shade cover replacement/repair, and the polishing and of all of our slides. We also brought in a Food & Beverage Consultant team to help us update our concession menus and encourage us to go cashless in parts of the park. All of these projects were completed with teamwork from the Aquatics Team, Progressive Commercial Aquatics, USA Shade, and Profitable Foods Worldwide.

Aquatics and Marketing focused hard on lifeguard marketing during the spring of 2023. The intent of our new social media campaigns were to have members of the community sign up for our lifeguard certification classes, apply to become lifeguards, and complete the hiring process. This was done by a series of social posts that targeted the younger audience who were more likely to register for these classes. It was also done with a video that focused on the message of teamwork and a supportive work environment. As a result, we had a total of 238 participants registered for our 2023 lifeguard certification classes compared to 137 who signed for these classes in 2022 that's a 73% increase in registration. We also had a total of 188 lifeguards hired onto the team by the opening of the 2023 season compared to only 79 lifeguards in 2022; a 138% increase in lifeguards. This incredible success was conquered during a national lifeguard shortage and won us the 2023 TRAPS East Region Promotional Award of the Year.

Aquatics Park Service Coordinator, Brandon Jones's word of 2023 was education. He dedicated his year to learning and became a Certified Pool Inspector and Certified in Recreational Water Illnesses. Brandon was awarded the 2023 TPPC Member Scholarship to continue his educational journey and become a Certified Pool Operator Instructor. Receiving this certification will give him the ability to certify all Park Service Supervisors in proper water chemistry and pool maintenance.

2023 was another award-winning year for Baytown Aquatics. To start the year the Aquatics team was awarded the Safety Program of the Year for 2022 by Texas Public Pool Council for our Sun & Water Safety Pre-K program that we put on in conjunction with the GCCISD Early Learning Academies. To close out the year we were named the 2023 Class I Agency of the Year and Pirates Bay was named the 2023 Waterpark of the Year by Texas Public Pool Council. Part-time Operations Supervisor, Brieh Zuercher, was awarded the 2023 Student Scholarship for her hard work and dedication to aquatics and getting her degree at Lee College. For the second year in a row Baytown placed in the top team at the Gulf Coast Guard Games giving the teams a bid to the Texas Lifeguard Championship. At the Texas Lifeguard Championship in Plano, TX the team placed came home with the per voted Spirit Award for the second year running.

Aquatics would like to thank the Admin Team, Natural Resources, Recreation, Parks, and Planning divisions for supporting our events and helping us with projects throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the entire Leadership Team in Aquatics for stepping up all year long to make our program the top Aquatics program in the State of Texas.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jenna Jacobs".

AQUATICS



FUN FACTS

The Aquatics Division of the City of Baytown's Parks and Recreation Department operates two waterparks in the summer, Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove, as well as a Holiday Hangout in the winter.



Our brand new Water Aerobics program sold out during every session this summer.



2023 brought us some new friends! Polly the Parrott and BlueBeard the Pirate mascots joined our team.



2023 saw the resurgence of The Nest, Pirates Bay's AquaLoop and AquaDrop slides, that were closed all of the 2022 season.

NATURE



LETTER FROM THE NATURE SUPERINTENDENT

Tracey Prothro



It's been a "wild" year for the Natural Resource Education Division of the Parks and Recreation Department! We have taken on the designation as a wildlife rehabilitation drop-off location with one of our local rehabbers, so we never know what injured animal might be dropped at our facility for pickup by the rehabbers. It keeps us on our toes... one day we may receive an injured gull and the next might bring us an abandoned opossum. We are happy to serve as a very-short-term halfway house for these wildlife patients, and are glad that they receive the care they deserve.

The Wetlands Center celebrated its twenty-five year anniversary this year along with the City of Baytown's 75th anniversary. We know we've been around a long time when some of the original summer science camp students are now enrolling THEIR kids in our programs. The Wetlands Center is lucky to have landed in Baytown so long ago, and continues to appreciate the community and City of Baytown support.

The 12th annual Nurture Nature Festival at the Baytown Nature Center was a resounding success, welcoming close to 6,000 visitors to enjoy not only a day of outdoor fun, but the chance to view a solar eclipse with 6,000 of their closest friends! We felt really lucky that the festival was planned on that special day, and provided free solar eclipse glasses to all attendees onsite during the eclipse. It was a special moment and one I won't soon forget. We continue planning and working towards completion of new amenities at the park, including a new solar/wind charging station in the Butterfly Garden, new bird feeding and viewing stations throughout the park, a new kayak launch being installed in early 2024, and a greenhouse to be used for programs and plant propagation. A new program, "Run For Your Wildlife 1K/5K" was added to the Nature Center's annual events. Its inaugural year success was rewarded with the "Innovative Programming" Award from Texas Parks and Wildlife East Region in 2023. We look forward to the program's continued success and growth!

Our Goose Creek CISD programs continue to thrive. The Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center staff are now presenting programs to preschool Early Learning Center, 5th and 7th grade students at the Wetlands Center, and 9th grade biology students at the Baytown Nature Center. In 2023 we also visited schools 27 times throughout the year for Family Science and STEAM nights, allowing the students AND parents the chance to interact with staff and our ambassador wildlife.

The Wetlands Center and Lee College continue their partnership, utilizing students from Lee College as interns to teach the 7th grade Liquid Science Program. 2023 also saw a return of Lee College students to the Texas A&M University Soltis Research Center in Costa Rica. I have been privileged to be a part of that program, serving as the science education liaison during the week-long event. Our partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Community Outreach continues to keep us busy throughout the year. Taking our new and approved (it has a window!) kid-fishing tank and Wetlands Wagon wildlife outreach on the road with TPWD found us traveling to the Poteet Strawberry Festival, Fort Worth Mayfest, and State Fair of Texas. We love working with our TPWD partners and look forward to continuing with them in the future.

The 2023 season of Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camp continued its expansion with a total of 15 camps offered this summer at the Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center. This program has grown from offering 2 camps to where it is today, and we are always looking for ways to expand even more. Summer camps are fun!

Speaking of expansion, the Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center family has grown! Both Jina Faith (Education Coordinator) and Amina Klair (Admin Assistant) welcomed baby boys into their families in 2023. We congratulate them both and look forward to watching these babies grow up surrounded by their "work families" in the years to come.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the community support that keeps this division afloat. We could not offer the quality and quantity of programs that we do without donations and support from GCCISD, Lee College, ExxonMobil, Covestro, Chevron Phillips, Rotary Club of Baytown, Friends of the Baytown Nature Center, MD Anderson's Be Well Baytown initiative and Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

Tracey Prothro

NATURE



FUN FACTS

The Natural Resource Programs Division can be broken into three sections: Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education Center, Baytown Nature Center, and Wetlands Wagon Outreach Programs.



The Wetlands Center was formerly a bowling alley and the Nature Center was formerly Brownwood Subdivision.



The Wetlands Wagon Outreach Program logged over 3,200 miles across Texas with our education programs this year.



KHOU TV did a video feature on the Wetlands Center as a 2023 “hidden gem” in the Houston area.

PARKS



LETTER FROM THE PARKS SUPERINTENDENT

**Abel
Carmona**



The Parks Division has made it through another year of our regular everyday maintenance of keeping your city parks, roads and trails mowed and cleaned. These are our day-in, day-out operations that involve countless hours of mowing, trimming and litter removal in all of the parks, maintaining miles of walking trails and keeping our roadways and highways mowed and cleaned. All of this is done to provide the best customer experience we can to our citizens.

When most people hear that someone works for the Parks and Recreation Department, these everyday tasks are what they think of as what we do. But the one thing I'd like to let everyone know is, we are more than just Parks. Every year we are tasked with setting up and breaking down all of your major events like Juneteenth, 3rd / 4th of July, Gritofest and Nurture Nature Festival.

Our staff is behind the scenes getting the stage and backstage set up, setting out trash cans, moving equipment in and cleaning it all up at the end of the event. During the Christmas parade staff set out miles of barricades to keep the parade on-route and keep people safe. In addition to our major events we assist in many of our other events as well such as Po-Up Parks, Market at Town Square, 5K runs and more.

I have often thought to myself that working for the Parks Department is like working for a city within a city. We do so many of the functions of other departments within our areas of responsibility, such as traffic control in the parks and during events, repair of most of our own equipment when it breaks down and construction and maintenance work by building and repairing everything you see in our parks. We have so many skilled staff that can do and make anything you can think of, but it's the things you can't think of when we get really creative.

We find solutions for any problems that come our way or when someone calls and asks "can you help us with this?" We even get calls for things like cars and boats in the bay and figure out a way to pull them out and haul them off. Even now as I write this letter we have crews preparing for the freeze by wrapping pipes and setting up heaters in our splash pad controls and bathrooms to keep everything working.

Lastly and most importantly I'd like to thank our parks supervisors and staff. Without them none of this work would be possible. These are the staff who come in early and stay late, work on the weekends and go the extra mile to get the job done. We always say we are like a family here, as we tend to spend more time with the people we work with than our own families at times. We are around for the good times and bad times in each other's lives and are always there for one another.

We've seen some internal growth this year as a department promoting several grounds maintenance staff into crew leader positions, promoting a crew leader into a supervisory role and promoting a supervisor into a superintendent. It has been my honor and pleasure to continue to work with such a dedicated group of people who truly live up to our motto of "Baytown Does More".

Abel Carmona

PARKS



FUN FACTS

The Parks Division of the City of Baytown's Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 50 parks along with various trails and construction projects throughout the year.



We are more than just Parks. Our citizens may not know the vast areas our division is responsible for that include maintaining the docks at Bayland Marina and mowing miles of waterways that help prevent flooding.



Some of the most skilled staff in the Region and State compete each year in the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) Maintenance Rodeo.



In collaboration with the Recreation Team, we build and decorate the float every year that the Mayor and Council ride on for the Christmas & July 4 Parades.

PLANNING



LETTER FROM THE PLANNING SUPERINTENDENT

Cornell
Gordon



This was the most impactful year for our team since I have been here. I will use the term team, but our group is a family. We collaborate, eat, spend late nights together. Who does that? Nobody, but family. This year our team (family) truly shined and showcased what we are made of. They had the opportunity to showcase so much of our God given talents and passions like never before. They set the bar high for what is to come next year, and I am excited to see what we can do next year together going forward.

The Construction Team showcased their excellence in fabricating. They made cacti from rebar, concrete bases for Art Sculpture Trail, mushrooms and flowers for the Storybook Trail. They installed three playgrounds and a disc golf course, installed lights poles and bases for the Holloway/Jenkins Trail, built new stairs for the Republic of Texas houses, and poured new stage footing for the new TV and speaker setup for Bicentennial Park. In their spare time on rainy days, they welded and fabricated storage cages for the new Park Facility for guys to store equipment. To say they love their job and what they do is an understatement. When challenged their motto is, "We got this!"

The Beautification Team is the icing on the top when our construction team finishes. They install the sod and plant great landscapes around the work the Construction Team has done. Their hardest challenge in 2023 was replanting all the medians just after the freeze last year and then losing 25% of those plantings due to irrigation main breaks all over the city from the drought. The team just could not repair lines fast enough. Yet, with all of the challenges in 2023 the Beautification Team did not falter. Because of the team's planning, they are already ahead of schedule on maintenance and look forward to a successful 2024. They are looking forward to reviving impacted areas and making our parks and medians something to enjoy even in daily traffic. They put the sparkle into our City.

The Event Team was newly created from the Evergreen Park crew that previously managed the Evergreen Disc Course grounds. They are guys you never notice behind the scenes. They are the ones that set up and deliver the barricades before events and pick up trash to make your park and driving experiences more impactful. During the Holiday Hangout, they were the team that picked up mulch, watered the trees, and picked up trash to help make your hangout experience enjoyable. To show the character of the team, we have a gentleman who had the opportunity to advance his career, and though he was offered a new job, he declined, saying, "I just like making our City clean."

This is a quality that comes from the entire Parks and Recreation Department, one that is full of heart, passion, and drive from within. The Planning Division is a division you can put your money toward and know that you will get a true return with what we do. This division and department as a whole continues to show how dedicated, committed and compassionate they are for the work they are entrusted to do. I hope that Baytown notices and appreciates all that the staff accomplished in 2023 and realizes that they have a jewel in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Our team wants to especially thank our other partners, Public Works Streets, Water Department, Transportation, Library, Police, Harris County Sheriff Department and our Contractors. To them I truly say thank you, for all you have done to help us this year.

Cornell Gordon

PLANNING



FUN FACTS

The Planning Division of the City of Baytown's Parks and Recreation Department focuses on new projects and initiatives to help foster growth, innovation, and vision for the City.



Many people do not know that we do a lot of things in house. Our team fabricated cacti, mushrooms, a sunflower, tree branch braces, & more.



This year, crews planted over 230 cacti and or yucca, 122 shrubs, 328 perennials, 52 grasses, 30 ferns, and 40 trees, for a total of 772 plants and 30 trees.



The Glice Rink at Town Square traveled from Barcelona, Spain: a 12-hour plane flight.



RECREATION



LETTER FROM THE RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT

Kyle Frye



The Recreation Division spent a lot of 2023 revamping, rebuilding and creating new memories for the people in and around Baytown.

Revamped was the Baytown's Farmer's Market. Staff decided to take a deep dive into the Farmer's Market to see what was going well, what needed to be improved and if anything needed to be added or taken away. A survey was sent out to every vendor that had been a part of the Famer's Market that we could find. It was also posted for anyone in the general public that had ever been to one of the markets. We wanted to hear from everyone that had been a part of the market to get their feedback on how to make the market better for everyone involved. One of the major things that came out of this was the name change. People felt that calling it a "Farmer's Market" was misleading since there weren't many farmers selling things. So, it was decided to change it to the "Market at Town Square". This way it would incorporate all of the varying vendors that came out. A few other notable things were the additions of food trucks, live music, kids' activities, alcohol sales, staff helping unload and load vendor items, moving the market back into Town Square and evening times during the hot months.

Rebuilding came in the form of a brand-new Roseland Park Clubhouse. The old clubhouse was torn down a few years ago, and it took a few more for the new one to be built and ready for rentals. The Roseland Clubhouse is 5,800 square feet of rentable space, both indoor and outdoor, and has a seating capacity of 80-100 people. The facility offers the following amenities: tables, chairs, audio/visual equipment, restrooms, two rolling garage doors, a patio, and catering-style kitchen that includes a refrigerator, freezer, warming trays, countertops, sink, and a serving window. The Roseland Clubhouse is a wonderful addition to the already popular Roseland Park.

Creating was accomplished with the new Holiday Hangout at Town Square. Town Square was completely decorated in a holiday style theme with lights, trees and various holiday decor. In previous years, an ice rink was built and managed out at Town Square during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. Due to maintenance costs, the ice rink was no longer going to be available. So, the Parks and Recreation team came up with an idea to replace it as an amenity. We purchased an entire 18-hole mini golf course and rented out a Glice rink. Glice is hard plastic surface that resembles ice and can be skated on with traditional skates. Both of these amenities were available at a cost, but we also wanted to have something that was fun and free. So, the "Hangout" area was born. This would be a part of Town Square where we would put out lawn chairs, yard games, and a toddler area. This was for anyone that just wanted to come and hang out without having to spend a dime if they didn't want to. The Recreation team also hosted various activities and events during the Holiday Hangout season to attract more people out to Town Square. The team dressed up as holiday caricatures and walked around for photo opportunities for guests. The ambiance and feel of the Holiday Hangout was a huge success and is something that we hope to continue in the future.

Heading into 2024, the Recreation Division is hoping to continue providing opportunities for all to make lasting memories here in Baytown.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Frye".

RECREATION



FUN FACTS

The Recreation Division of the City of Baytown's Parks and Recreation Department oversees facilities rentals, events and activities, as well as athletics.



In 2023, the Recreation Division averaged 1 special event a week, which does not include ongoing programs.



4 out of the 5 current full time, Recreation Division Staff members, were born and raised in Baytown.



The 7 Community Center Building Attendants have a combined 89 years and 5 months of service to the city of Baytown.

PARKS BOARD

ABOUT

Community input is vital to our City and this is a great way to be a part of the process. The City of Baytown has many Boards, Commissions, and Committees which are made up primarily of resident volunteers who provide their insight and expertise to support and advise the City Council and Staff on a variety of issues and policies. Parks and Recreation Board members assist and advise the City Council on the proper operation of the City's parks and recreational facilities and resources.



Agustin Loredo



Terry Sain



Michelle Bitterly



Dr. Yvonne Thomas



Thomas Capetillo



Mirtha Morales



Jamari Gilbert

CORE VALUES



CARING

Demonstrate all interactions with respect and appreciation for colleagues and customers.



INNOVATION

Proactively work to improve processes and services to better serve our customers.



STEWARDSHIP

Manage entrusted resources in a thoughtful and responsible manner.



LEADERSHIP

Always be willing and ready to inspire and encourage others.



COLLABORATION

Build strong, inclusive partnerships within the organization and community.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The City of Baytown Parks and Recreation department takes pride in the reputation we have built that "Baytown Does More". As a team, we continue to strive for growth and innovation in everything we do to keep Baytown growing and thriving as a community.



Caring



Innovation



Collaboration



75 WAYS TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS IN BAYTOWN

All Year

SUMMARY

In collaboration with Public Affairs and Tourism, the Baytown Parks and Recreation department promoted the City of Baytown's 75th birthday.

To commemorate the City of Baytown's 75th birthday, we shared 75 ways for residents to celebrate throughout 2023.



75 years ago on January 24, 1948, the communities of Goose Creek, Pelly, and East Baytown officially consolidated into one community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A 75-Year seal was created for all promotions in 2023
- A quarterly calendar of community events was printed on the back of utility bills and distributed to all main lobby areas in the City
- Street pole banners were printed and installed around City Hall and Town Square
- Display banners were printed and shown in all main lobby areas in the City
- Commemorative lapel pins were distributed to the community at various events
- Window clings were printed of the "75" seal for City doors
- All emcees at major events give Baytown's 75th year a shout-out on-stage



The City of Baytown celebrated its 75-year milestone all year long with 75 ways, throughout the year, to recognize the birthday. Read about the celebration at baytown.org/75





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



BE WELL "BAYTOWN MOVES" CAMPAIGN

All Year

SUMMARY

Be Well Communities™ is MD Anderson's place-based strategy for comprehensive cancer prevention and control, working with communities to promote wellness and stop cancer before it starts. They unite individuals, schools, workplaces, government agencies, health care providers and policymakers to plan and carry out sustainable, community-led solutions that will make positive, long-lasting changes in people's lives. Be Well Communities is an initiative of the Cancer Prevention and Control Platform.

The initiative supports the efforts of Baytown Parks and Recreation by funding sun shades, sun-safe clothing, sunscreen dispensers, classes that promote active living, and "Pop Up Parks" that encourage residents to visit parks.

HIGHLIGHTS

They work collaboratively with Baytown to reach residents and community-based organizations with evidence-based strategies that can reduce the risk of cancer with a focus on these key areas:

- Active living
- Sun safety
- Preventive care



Baytown Moves is a citywide campaign all about helping you find ways to stay active and sun safe. It's easy to get moving with so many ways fun activities to choose from.



"Parks have a positive effect on your health, both mental and physical. Parks can lower stress. Residents who visited green spaces more often experienced less stress."

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION



Baytown Moves is supported by Be Well™ Baytown, an initiative of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center sponsored by ExxonMobil.

BE WELL "BAYTOWN MOVES" CAMPAIGN

(continued)

METRICS

In past quarterly reports of this campaign, the metrics focused on measuring engagement rather than reach. The issue that arose was that compared to non-campaign marketing, the campaign analytics would often perform up to 90% lower. When you focus on the message as an awareness campaign, you can focus more on how much exposure you are getting from it rather than how much engagement you are receiving. Shifting the objective from engagement focus to reach meant looking at where the larger audience already was and merely meeting them there with the message of the campaign.

The three largest areas of improvement came from shifts in tactics for print signage, social media posts, and digital media via the website.

Taking the time to define strategies and metrics for success was the first step to having a baseline to analyze. Further monitoring of the data is also a critical step in observing trends and optimizing tactics. In the end, a combination of all these vital steps results in a more effective campaign.



YOY = Year Over Year; Q2 = Quarter 2; FY22 = Fiscal Year 2022; FY23 = Fiscal Year 2023



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ONLINE PROJECT UPDATES

All Year



SUMMARY

Baytown Parks and Recreation is always working on design and construction projects to maintain, improve, and expand Baytown's park system. Check out the list below to see what's going on in Baytown! Stay up-to-date on Park projects at www.baytown.org/866

HIGHLIGHTS

Projects that are currently available online:

- Park Shade Projects
- Pickleball Courts at N.C. Foote Park
- Fire Station Landscaping
- Baytown Gateway Project
- Lakewood Park Project
- Community Center Labyrinth
- Nature Center Kayak Launch
- 18 Hole Disc Golf
- Perfect Trail at Jenkins
- Newcastle Park Project
- Sterling Library Book Trail
- Busch Terrace Park Project
- Roseland Clubhouse
- Baytown Mini Golf
- Duke Hill Park Project
- Park Service Center Storage
- Nature Center Entrance Landscaping
- Art Alley
- Town Square Renovations
- Goose Creek Trail



Did you know that you can follow project updates on our website? Bookmark www.baytown.org/866 and stay up on the latest.



"Baytown parks and their amenities are truly hard to beat. Thank you to the people behind it." **TYSON**



HUGE thank you to William Jones for taking ownership of these pages to keep them updated!



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“PARK OF THE WEEK” SOCIAL MEDIA SERIES

All Year

SUMMARY

This year, we started a social media series called “Park of the Week”. The idea was to highlight a park in Baytown each week for a full year. The highlight included photos, list of amenities, the location address, and an aerial map view.



With just over 50 parks in Baytown, a weekly “Park of the Week” lasts exactly one year (52 weeks)!

HIGHLIGHTS

The benefits to this project were:

- Updating a catalog of recent photos from all our parks as we did not have that previously.
- Informing the community of the parks available to them, especially the lesser known ones that have great amenities.
- The local newspaper liked the series so much, they wanted to take the same concept and highlight in their monthly magazine as well.



“My family has enjoyed visiting each park of the week as a new activity to do together.”

BAYTOWN RESIDENT



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EVENT BRANDING

All Year



SUMMARY

In previous years, there was confusion on which events happening around Baytown were hosted by Parks and Recreation or other organizations.

Because we work hard to create unforgettable memories and set a standard at our events, we wanted to make it clear to the community when an event was hosted by our department.

From that goal, the concept of “event branding” was born. Branded flags were created and a system was set in place to set up flags with our logos at the main entrances and main stages of each of our events.

HIGHLIGHTS

There were unforeseen added values as well:

- The flags doubled as markers for where to turn onto obscure roads or where to enter at a more spread out event.
- The flags ended up as not only on-site branding, but the branding extended in photos that were taken of stage entertainment for the world to see Baytown was the host.



Thank you to the Marketing Recreation Technicians for managing and executing the event branding plan for all events.





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REPURPOSING EVENT ART

All Year



SUMMARY

Something that is often asked is how does the Parks and Recreation Department repurpose or reuse event items that may have been created or used at various events or programs throughout the year.

This is an example of an “Arts and Eats” mural that was created live at the 2022 festival by muralist Whitney Hayden, now being used to brighten the entry way of the Baytown Community Center as well as the winner of the 2022 Sculpture Trail, “Mom Can I Keep Him” by Susan Geissler of Youngstown, NY now being displayed at the Baytown Animal Shelter

HIGHLIGHTS

Other repurposing projects include:

- Live “Holiday Hangout” miniature golf trees will be planted Hunt Road, Town Square, and the Baytown Nature Center.
- 2022 Sculpture Trail sculptures have been moved and installed at Blue Heron and Rolling Brook medians, the Animal Shelter, Sterling Municipal Library, and The Republic of Texas
- Ward Road Letters now used



When you let go of trying to get more of what you don't really need, it frees up oceans of energy to make a difference with what you have. LYNNE TWIST



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POP-UP BIRTHDAY PARTIES

All Year



SUMMARY

The Birthday Party Committee completed its first full year of celebrating staff birthdays with Pop-Up Parties!

Every month, the committee takes a trip around the various facilities where Parks and Recreation team members are working.

For those who have a birthday happening in that month, they receive a surprise “party on wheels”, complete with confetti, party whistles, a special dessert, and a photo opportunity.

HIGHLIGHTS

New additions to the committee included:

- Becky
- Chaun
- Estrella
- Dominique
- Diana
- Levay
- Kayla



Over 80 birthdays were celebrated at our Pop-Up Parties this year!



“That is so great that you are treating your employees this way! We will be sure to help make it a little extra special for them.”

THE LOCAL BAKERY



Thank you to the committee who brought the birthday energy to our team!



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SPECIAL EVENT RECAP VIDEOS

All Year

SUMMARY

We are in our second year of collecting recap videos of our special events. Producing these videos allows us to create an archive of performances as well as use portions of the video for promotional advertising in the next year.

This year's vision was to not only capture the overall event, but to also highlight the behind the scenes of Parks and Recreation employees working hard to make the events run smoothly.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following events received video coverage:

- The Market at Town Square
- Jenkin's Pop-Up Park Relay Race
- Special Olympics
- Juneteenth Weekend
- July 4 Celebration
- Pirates Bay Back to School Splash
- Nurture Nature Festival
- Grito Fest
- Christmas Parade



While we focus on capturing the major events, we also pick one or two more mid-sized events to highlight in video as well.



"The drone footage of the Juneteenth concert is spectacular!"

JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE



Thank you to Andrew McKay Creative for all his talent and dedication to the vision!



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Collaboration



CS-2040B-1

MEDIA CHOICE BILLBOARDS

All Year

SUMMARY

We are in our second year of utilizing billboards through Media Choice for marketing purposes.

At the beginning of the year, the advertisement promoted hiring lifeguards for summer at Pirates Bay. The exposure from the billboard made a significant impact on applications, resulting in starting the 2023 waterpark season with a record number of lifeguards. This feat was especially impressive during a national lifeguard shortage.

Because some of our major events fall so close together, we pair the promotion of two events to one billboard. This creates a longer shelf life for the vinyl in the interest of sustainability.

HIGHLIGHTS

Each season, a new billboard design was installed.

- Spring - Hiring Lifeguards
- Summer - Juneteenth/July 4
- Fall - Grito Fest/Nurture Nature Festival
- Winter - Explore More! Tourism



The billboard location choice stayed on HWY146 but moved from N. Main Street to Market Street. The location shift put the advertisement in closer proximity to drivers.



This year, we collaborated with Public Affairs to add a Tourism-related billboard in the rotation. They promoted visitbaytown.com at the end of the year.



Next year's goal is to expand the reach from not only South Baytown but also include a billboard in North Baytown.



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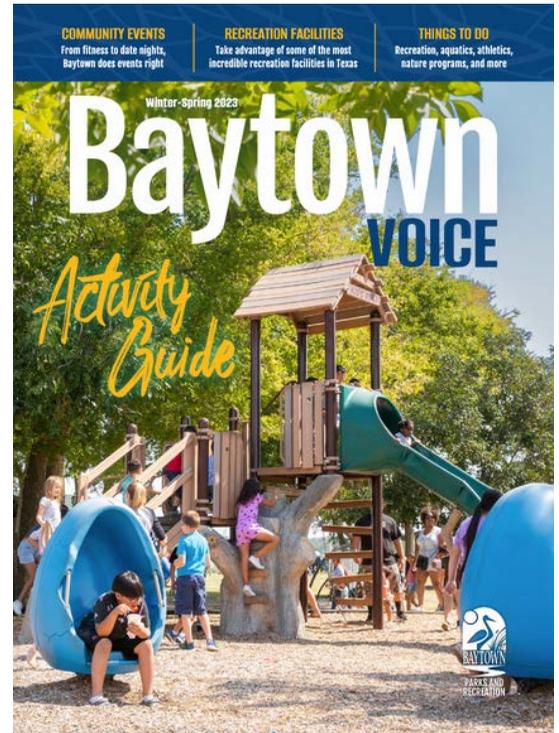
Stewardship



Collaboration

BAYTOWN VOICE ACTIVITY GUIDE

Winter & Summer



SUMMARY

The Baytown Voice magazine is a publication dedicated to the voice of the City under the direction of the Public Affairs Department.

It's a way to showcase our community while having more conversations with our residents. The hope is that you will be able to learn more about what's going on around town while using the magazine as your trusted source of information.

Baytown Voice is sent to every address in the City of Baytown twice annually - the spring/summer edition and the fall/winter edition.

The Activity Guide is a supplemental edition also made available each Summer/Fall and Winter/Spring in limited distribution.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Activity Guide's purpose is to provide the details of all the recreational opportunities available to residents. It features the following content:

- Details about Special Events
- Updates on Park Renovations
- List of Parks and Trails
- Facility Rentals
- Catalog of Programs



For the first time this year, the Activity Guide was put into print. We printed 2,000 for distribution at our facilities and events.



"The vision of the activity guide is to make it the primary printed source of everything we offer the community."

CLIFFORD HATCH



Next year's goal for the Activity Guide will be to offer a translated section for Spanish-speaking residents.



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COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

All Year



SUMMARY

Baytown Engage has been very busy recruiting volunteers for shoreline cleanups, garden maintenance & other projects at the Baytown Nature Center. Community partners have included ExxonMobil, Lee College, high school service clubs, and United Way.

- United Way Day of Caring projects included shoreline cleanup at the Baytown Nature Center and helping EPIC Club members set up for Spooktacular
- High school and community organization projects included shoreline cleanup and weeding flowerbeds



Thank you to Kourtney Bonzo and Baytown Community Engage for their continued efforts toward promoting volunteer opportunities with the Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center!





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WETLANDS CENTER FIELD TRIPS

All Year

SUMMARY

Wetlands Center staff hosts educational field trips for visitors of all ages. TEKS-aligned and age-appropriate programs are offered for preschools, churches, scout groups, home-schoolers, public and private schools within and outside of GCCISD, Lee College, and other area colleges, daycares, and senior citizen groups. Programs can be designed for any nature related topic, but some of the Wetlands Center's staff favorites include:

- Waggle for Pollen, a relay race for students to discover the hard work involved in collecting pollen and nectar
- Incredible Journey, a fun trip through the water cycle where students collect bracelet beads at every stop on their journey
- Owl Prowl, where students explore predator-prey relationships between owls and mice
- Marine Debris in a Box, where students understand how long man-made items take to biodegrade
- Human Impact Jenga, where students remove giant wooden blocks and observe how each change impacts the total system
- Fill the Bill, where students rotate among stations highlighting different bird beak shapes and how that shape impacts the bird's diet
- Human Bird, Insect, Mammal, and Reptile, where students use props to explore the traits of different classes of wildlife
- It's All Downstream From Here, where students play a game demonstrating how trash and litter is washed into waterways

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 900 students from across the Houston area visited the Wetlands Center in 2023



Over 25 school districts have travelled to the Wetlands Center for educational programs and recreational visits.





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WETLANDS WAGON OUTREACH

All Year



SUMMARY

With the Wetlands Wagon Outreach Program, Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center staff spread their message of environmental stewardship at events across the state.

From family nights at local schools to the State Fair of Texas, the Wetlands Wagon Outreach program modifies its programs to fit the audience. Our portable catfish tank has proven very popular at large events, with a whopping 542 catfish caught, released and documented throughout 2023. Our partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has taken us to Fort Worth Mayfest, Poteet Strawberry Festival, Ducks Unlimited Expo and the State Fair of Texas. Other fun events include:

- Jesse Jones NatureFest
- Houston Astros StreetFests with Covestro Energy Trailer
- Mont Belvieu Spring Outdoor Celebration
- Rotary Club of Baytown Catfish Festival
- HERPS Reptile Show
- Baytown Parks and Recreation Pop-Up-Parks
- Harris County Precinct One Earth Day Celebration
- TPWD Take Me Outdoors Houston Festival
- Dozens of family science nights, neighborhood events, pop-up parks, and city festivals

HIGHLIGHTS

The Wetlands Wagon Outreach Program continues to support the mission of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center and the Baytown Nature Center - to provide engaging nature education programs while fostering responsible environmental stewardship.



Thank you to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for their continuing support and inclusion in many of their Get Outside Outreach events!





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Leadership



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Collaboration



BNC EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS

All Year

SUMMARY

ITEKS-aligned and age-appropriate programs are offered for preschools, churches, scout groups, home-schoolers, public and private schools within and outside of GCCISD, Lee College, and other area colleges, daycares, and senior citizen groups. Some of our favorite programs include:

- Outdoor Hazards and how to avoid them
- Birds of the Baytown Nature Center
- Guided walks along Nature Center trails
- Geocaching
- Wilderness Survival and Wilderness First Aid
- Bicycle Rodeo
- Beginning Kayaking
- Plants and Trees of the Baytown Nature Center
- Wonders of Wetlands
- Family Camping
- Citizen Science using iNaturalist and eBird
- Nocturnal Animals

HIGHLIGHTS

Baytown Nature Center staff hosts educational field trips for visitors of all ages.



Baytown Nature Center education programs utilize lessons from Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, Wonders of Wetlands, Flying Wild, Wet in the City, Scout Programs, and other highly rated curriculum





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FULL MOON HIKE

All Year

SUMMARY

One of the Baytown Nature Center's most popular programs, Full Moon Hike gives visitors the chance to see the nocturnal wildlife that calls the center home.

Each month, visitors spend an hour walking one of the Nature Center's trails after dark, listening and watching for the animals that emerge after dark. The chosen trail changes monthly so that repeat visitors can experience different parts of the center after dark. Baytown Nature Center staff supply guidance, safety information, and nocturnal flashlights throughout the program. Wildlife is seen or heard and identified during this safe, informative program.

Wildlife observed during Full Moon Hikes include coyotes, owls, bats, opossums, armadillos, alligators, spiders, bunnies, fireflies, and even a flying squirrel!

HIGHLIGHTS

This guided walk along the Baytown Nature Center's trails is hosted monthly after dark on the closest Saturday to a full moon..





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IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

All Year



SUMMARY

Few people realize all the man hours that lead up to a successful event before a show starts or an event happens. Making sure lights come on, getting the acts on stage or pulling off a successful Pop-Up Park event are the goals of the Parks and Recreation Department... giving our guests a special memory in the park.

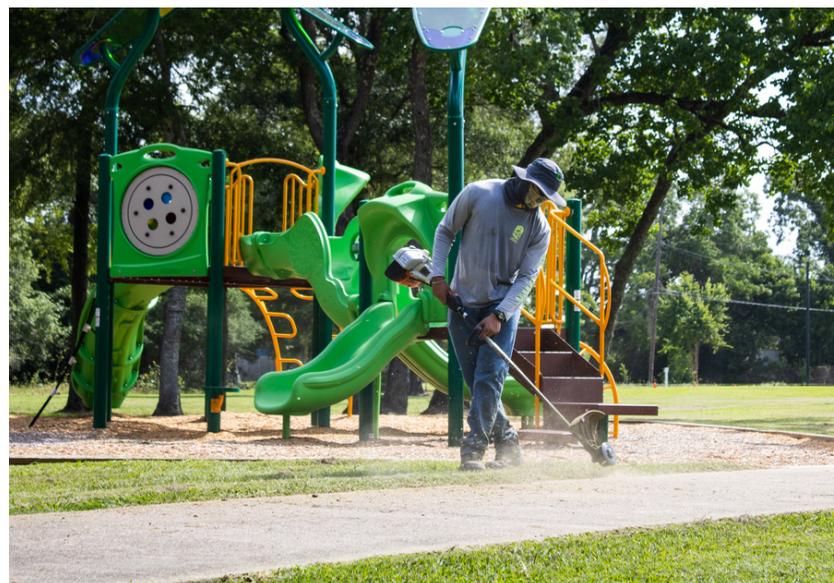


Baytown Parks and Recreation slogan is, "Baytown does more" and we should add "to see your smile".

HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the things behind the scenes:

- Mowing/ Edging to perfection
- Removal of Trash
- Painting/ Graffiti Removal
- Limbing up trees/Mulching/Planting
- Scaffolding and Speaker setup
- Fencing/ Barricades
- Signage
- Table and Chair Set up
- Lighting
- Escorting of Artist
- Overnight Security





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“DID YOU SAY MOWING?”

All Year

SUMMARY

We have several mowing crews within the Parks Division of Parks and Recreation. This busy team moww street rights-of-ways, drainage ditches, parks, some portions of TXDOT properties, and our water treatment plant facilities. They also spray to keep the walkways weed free.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mowing Crews Areas

- Trail Crews
- TXDOT
- Drainage Ditch
- Parks
- Medians
- Spray Truck for Ants and Weeds



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IN-HOUSE FABRICATION

All Year

SUMMARY

Baytown Parks and Planning staff loves to build and fabricate, and sometimes they create things just for the challenge. As a staff, we love hearing the praise from others, but love the actual design and building process even better! Other staff throughout the City has discovered that if they think of a project, Parks can usually find a way to make or build it!

HIGHLIGHTS

We fabricate fabulously

- Dr. Seuss
- Grito Fest
- Dog Races
- Holiday Hangout



“Talent is good, practice is better, passion is best.”

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT



“If you have all three that is special.”

CORNELL GORDON





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ABANDONED ENCAMPMENTS

All Year



SUMMARY

Throughout the year our Parks supervisors and crews, along with the Baytown Police, have been going out at night and clearing out abandoned homeless encampments from the parks. We get calls and complaints from citizens when a park has become almost unusable due to the amount of items and trash that have been left by people. There is also a safety concern as during these runs the crews have also come across things like drug paraphernalia that have been discarded and have even found a few weapons left in the parks and playgrounds. By making these sweeps of the parks we have greatly reduced the number of homeless people in the parks and removed countless cubic yards of trash. This service has become a normal part of our weekly duties to help provide safe and clean parks for Baytown's residents and guests.



We work at night so your day is great!

HIGHLIGHTS

Our parks that have needed the most attention:

- Pelly
- Roseland
- McElroy
- Jenkins
- Goose Creek





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COLLABORATIONS FROM WITHIN AND SOME OUTSIDE

All Year

SUMMARY

Many people do not know how often we work inter-departmentally as a team with other City of Baytown departments and/or the County. Some of those special friends include Public Works Streets, Water, Transportation and Stormwater Departments, Baytown Health Department, Harris County Constables, Baytown Police, and ITS.



It takes a village of a TEAM!

HIGHLIGHTS

Projects:

- Ward Road- Median Construction
- Dr. Seuss- Curb Repair /Water Meter/ Water Line Main
- Holiday Hangout- Concrete Slabs
- Park Service Facility- Concrete Work
- Duke Hill Park- Drainage

Big Events:

- 4th of July
- Juneteenth
- Grito Fest
- Party on the Peninsula
- Christmas Parade
- Daddy and Me Dance
- Nurture Nature Festival



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VANDALISM

All Year

SUMMARY

This year has been one of our biggest years for vandalism. The reality of the vandalism is that it affects our staff who take pride in the work they do and in the things they build and provide for the City. This year we have seen an increase in park trash and damage, wires stolen from light poles, splash pads equipment panel broken into and graffiti. Parks staff continues to address the issues as they occur.



"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

JAY ASHER

HIGHLIGHTS

This year the following parks have been impacted by vandalism:

- Wires stolen at Goose Creek, Pelly, Hollaway Parks
- Graffiti at Unidad
- Trash and debris at Pelly, McElroy, Goose Creek, Jenkins, Roseland





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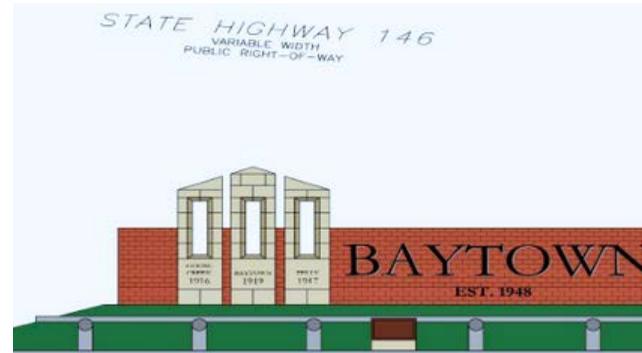
Stewardship



Collaboration

BAYTOWN GATEWAY PROJECT

On Going



CONCEPTUAL PHOTO

SUMMARY

This project does two things: it tells the history of the City of Baytown and is a Gateway into our City. It is a marker that reflects change and a rebirth from what was known as just an oil-workers' town to a family and business hub that is making its mark as a growing city and community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The city of Baytown was originally three separate towns.
- The Gateway's three pillars represent Goose Creek, Pelly and Baytown, which were combined to form Baytown 75 years ago.





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AQUATICS TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

All Year

SUMMARY

The entire Aquatics team is trained in CPR, First Aid, and AED. Lifeguards are trained to meet the standards of an American Red Cross Waterpark Lifeguard. This can be either a Lifeguard or a Shallow-Water Lifeguard.

All Park Service Supervisors are trained in water chemistry in compliance with local and state health codes. During Park Training Park Service Team Members learn how to take care of Pirates Pay behind the scenes to create a better guest experience.

Guest Service Supervisors and Team Members are trained and certified with Food Safe Certification, cash handling, and how to handle a variety of guest situations.

- Offers certifications that can be used in everyday life.
- Promotes bonding between Aquatic team members and gives the management team a chance to meet future staff during pre-season training.
- Gives Aquatic team members the opportunity to pursue greater certifications as Instructors.

HIGHLIGHTS

- We also had a total of 188 lifeguards hired onto the staff by the opening of the 2023 season compared to only 79 lifeguards in 2022; a 138% increase in lifeguard staff, year-over-year (YOY).



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GCCISD LIFE SKILLS

All Year

SUMMARY

Goose Creek ISD Life Skills and the City of Baytown have partnered throughout the year to work on upcoming projects with one another, learn new sports programs, and interact with the members inside the Community.



“Thank you for another wonderful day at the Community Center. We loved the activities planned for the students. We are truly grateful for the experiences you all are providing.”

HIGHLIGHTS

We have:

- Tackled learning pickleball together.
- Community Center Set-ups for events.
- Prepared goodie bags for upcoming events.
- Danced with one another like nobody was watching!
- Handed out Halloween goodie bags to City Hall and the Community Center guests.



Thank you to Linda Rye for partnering with Parks and Recreation. We have so much fun with you guys each and every visit!





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YOUTH TENNIS LESSONS

All Year

SUMMARY

Baytown offers tennis lessons. All classes are taught and directed by tennis instructor Elana Engleman who is a long time member and instructor the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA).

Red/Orange Ball (Ages 5-10) This is an introductory class held on SATURDAY for beginning and advanced beginning level players. Focus is on footwork, eye-hand coordination, and basic stroke development in a fun atmosphere.

Challenger Class (Ages 11-18) This is an introductory class for new players held on SATURDAYS. Focus is on stroke productivity, movement, and match play.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tennis courts newly resurfaced at both Holloway Park and the 5300 E. Rd address near Pirates Bay Waterpark.
- City of Baytown's tennis instructor is a former professional tennis player and a division 1 athlete.
- Coach Elana has partnerships with the coaches at the local high schools in Baytown and works to develop our youth to play and compete at the next level.



Coach Elana worked with over 220 kids in 2023 and over 800 since her time here with Baytown.



"In my 30 years of teaching, I have been named USPTA and USPTR teaching professional of the year. My passion is building grass roots programs."

COACH ELANA



Thank you to Coach Elana for your commitment to helping our community and being a great instructor for the City of Baytown for so many years.

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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PICKLEBALL

Weekly & Year Round

SUMMARY

City of Baytown offers several options when it comes to the game of pickleball. We welcome players of ALL levels to come and join us for some great exercise and fun. We currently offer open court play twice a week in the mornings and the afternoons, clinics taught by professional pickleball players, as well as league play with different cities.



City of Baytown started out with about 5-10 players in our open play sessions to now hosting over 100 people weekly in our indoor auditorium.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Open play sessions at the Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Pickleball clinics can be found at Baytownsports.org. Clinics include beginners classes, intermediate classes, and classes for our youth.
- 50+ League against Galveston monthly



“Playing pickleball has drastically improved my health”.

“We love coming to the Community Center and playing pickleball with our friends”.



Thank you to our instructors, the city of Galveston for partnering with us, and the community for growing pickleball in Baytown.

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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MEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

All Year



SUMMARY

6v6 Men's Soccer is played at Jenkins Park on Thursday evenings. We take pride in our recreational soccer program and welcome anyone interested in playing soccer.



"We love Jenkins Park Soccer arena. We would love to have another arena built next to it because this place gets packed."



Thank you to Parks Crews for their continuous support and repairs on the turfed Soccer Arena at Jenkins Park.





Caring



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SAND VOLLEYBALL

Weekly & Year Round

SUMMARY

The City of Baytown started sand volleyball with the hope of bringing people out for good exercise, laughs, to make new friendships, learn the game of volleyball, and to have a great time. Our adult volleyball league consists of 5 weeks of double headers and the last week is a single elimination playoff. Winning teams receive cool City of Baytown swag such as hats, T-shirts, beanies, and more!



“City of Baytown, thank you for providing an affordable youth clinic for our kid to attend. We loved it, and can’t wait for more”.

HIGHLIGHTS

Roseland sand volleyball offers the following:

- Adult leagues
- Open Play
- Youth Clinic



Thank you to our community members who have helped grow our sand volleyball league over the last few years and to our referees and staff for traveling to Baytown and keeping our court conditions safe.



Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUES

All Year

SUMMARY

The City of Baytown offers coed kickball on Friday evenings. You do have to be 18+ to participate in our adult leagues. Adult kickball is held at Wayne Gray Sports Complex.

All levels of play are welcomed! Our adult kickball league consist of 5 weeks of double headers and the last week is a single elimination playoff.

Winning teams receive cool City of Baytown swag such as hats, T-shirts, beanies, and more!



Over 40 kickball teams participated in our kickball leagues in 2023.



“We love that kickball night is on Fridays. This is our time to wind down for the weekend and hang out with our friends”.

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org



RECREATION



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ADULT SLOWPITCH LEAGUES

All Year

SUMMARY

The City of Baytown offers multiple nights of adult slowpitch leagues. You do have to be 18+ to participate in our adult leagues. Adult slowpitch is held at Wayne Gray Sports Complex.

All levels of play are welcomed! Our adult slowpitch league consist of 5 weeks of double headers and the last week is a single elimination playoff. Winning teams receive cool City of Baytown swag such as hats, T-shirts, beanies, and more!

We have grown tremendously in our slowpitch softball leagues. We have expanded to 4 days a week. Adult softball consist of Senior 50+ play, Men's advanced play, Men's recreational, coed, and Ragball. Over 135 teams registered for our slowpitch leagues in 2023.



"Your fields look amazing all the time. We appreciate all you and your crew does to keep the facility nice and maintained."

"We love Baytown. When you guys get artificial turf on your fields, people will be there every night of the week."



Thank you to our umpires that continuously build relationships and dedicate their time to our leagues. Baytown truly does have some of the best umpires out there!



Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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Collaboration



RAGBALL

All Year

SUMMARY

Rag Ball is a sport similar to baseball or softball. The same basic equipment is used except the ball is slightly larger than a baseball and softer than a softball. A Ragball is made out of a soft cotton material and more challenging to hit. Ragball allows players to focus on developing fielding, hitting, and throwing skills by slowing down the game down to a beginners pace.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ragball returned to our athletic schedule this year.



Adding Ragball to our schedule makes nine (9) total recreational sports programs for adults in Baytown!



“Thank you for adding Ragball to our adult leagues, we love how relaxing and fun the sport is. Our family loves it.”



Thank you to the teams that continue to invest in our adult leagues and programs!

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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YOUTH AND ADULT KARATE

All Year



SUMMARY

The American Society of Karate provides a Beginner to Black Belt program that teaches techniques in the art, sport, self-defense and kidnaping awareness aspects of karate to increase self-confidence. The classes are held at the Community Center.

HIGHLIGHTS

- David Lange has been the Certified Instructor since 1994.
- He also teaches a free self defense class twice a year.
- Each class averages 50 students.





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COMMUNITY CENTER FITNESS

All Year



SUMMARY

Although these classes are geared towards senior adults, they are FREE and open to ALL!



Thank you to MD Anderson – Be Well Baytown for their support of Senior Fitness programs.

Wake up and Walk!

One of the new programs at the Baytown Community Center was, “Wake Up and Walk!”. This first year program was created due to the increasing demand for a walking space at the Community Center. Led by instructor Tisma Bradford, “Wake up and Walk” is a free 45 minute session of simply walking, together as a group, around the Community Center.

Senior Circuit Training

With regular circuit training, participants found that they can walk further, faster and may even improve their balance to reduce the risk of falls. Senior Circuit Training can also help alleviate bodily pains, muscle aches and joint stiffness by strengthening surrounding muscle tissue.

Certified instructor Faviola leads participants using chairs, steps, resistance bands, and more.

Senior Cardio and Strength Training

Cardiovascular and strength training exercises for Seniors were offered for the first time in 2023 at the Baytown Community Center. The class aimed at improving balance and mobility and was specifically designed for beginners or those wanting to “revisit” an exercise routine as part of a healthy lifestyle.

The Cardio Strength Training program quickly outgrew the smaller rooms at the Community Center with an average of 22 participants per class!





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CHAIR & FLOOR YOGA

All Year



SUMMARY

Chair Yoga is a free class offered at the Community Center and one of the best attended. Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair or standing using a chair for support. Chair yoga students are usually unable to participate in a traditional yoga class because of aging or disabilities. Chair yoga is a great practice for everyone, as it deepens flexibility and strengthens personal body awareness.

3 classes of Chair Yoga were offered during the week, following the Cardio and Strength or Circuit Training classes. A core of dedicated seniors attended every week. They have become friends with each other and like to visit afterwards. Instructors Tisma and Faviola do a terrific job keeping the participants engaged and fit!

HIGHLIGHTS

- The instructor providing an accessible way to do yoga from the traditional form.





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SPORTS EXPO

January

SUMMARY

City of Baytown’s annual Youth Sports Expo is a fantastic opportunity for our community to explore all of our youth sports programs offered in Baytown under one roof. A lot of our youth organizations even provide opportunities to register for programs on site. It is really neat to see our community have the chance to interact face to face with multiple youth sports organizations. When you’re young, sometimes seeing different sports/ programs in person and in action can ignite a passion inside of you that just talking about it or seeing it online cannot. I love the community connectivity this event shares and the ability to get kids out of their comfort zones to try new things.



City of Baytown offers the Youth Sports Expo each year in January! Mark your calendars for the next one! You won’t want to miss it.



“I am new to Baytown and this was great for us to see all the City has to offer our youth”

HIGHLIGHTS

- We had representatives for the following sports: Disc golf, tennis, , dance, cheer, basketball, summer track, fastpitch softball, little league baseball, karate, D-Bat training facility, soccer, and football.



Thank you to all of the Youth organizations who participated in the Expo. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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NEWCASTLE PARK

September–January

SUMMARY

This project is large enough to need three phases. Currently two of the phases have been completed.

The first phase was the addition of a new playground, replacing the one that was vandalized in 2018.

Phase Two of the project was started in the fall of 2022. It included the installation of a walking trail and fitness station, new playground equipment, relocation of the picnic shelter, and construction of a new basketball court and painted walkway.

Phase Three will be started soon!

HIGHLIGHTS

Future Improvements to come:

- New Park Entrance Sign and Gate
- New Sculpture
- New walkway improvements





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NEW AMENITIES FOR JENKINS PARK

January



SUMMARY

New features were added to the Jenkins Trail Project to provide users the ultimate park experience.

A portion of the park updates correlate to the The Perfect Trail System project which serves as a pilot program meant to bring safety, ease of use, and consistency to all City of Baytown parks. If this pilot program is successful, the city would like to expand it to other parks around town.

HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the new things added to the park in 2023

- Lights for the trail connection between Jenkins and Holloway Parks
- The bridges at Jenkins Park have received fresh paint
- New Fitness Court
- New Teqball Table
- What-3-Words 911 location signs are being prepared for installation
- The famous Splash Park bird was repaired and reinstalled
- Repairs were made to the soccer arena



Thank you to Blue Cross Blue Shield, MD Anderson – Be Well Baytown, National Fitness Campaign, & Teqball USA





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JENKINS PARK TREE PLANTING

January



SUMMARY

Often times Parks and Rec gets surprise projects from the strangest places. Not only was this project a great project but it was timely due to an infestation of pine bark beetles that caused us to remove many of the pine trees within the Jenkins Park Dog Park. Just as soon as we removed them, we got a call from the Trees of Houston wanting to donate and plant trees within the park. Many of our staff were upset at the loss of the trees we removed so to have it all work out with a donation to replant the trees was awesome.



**Thanks To our Parks Team!
Minh, Robert, Yuka, Minh, Walley,
Candice, Elena, Mitch, and Brian.**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Donation from IKEA and Trees of Houston
- 35 trees added to the park
- Volunteers from Trees of Houston planted trees, with assistance from Parks staff





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TORNADO HITS BAYTOWN

January



SUMMARY

2023 started out with a bang this year with a tornado on the Planning Superintendent's birthday. Unfortunately, the Baytown Nature Center was directly in the path of the tornado. Fortunately, the center only suffered minor damages.

One of the Nature Center Gate Attendants braved the tornado inside the Nature Center Entry Building until it passed. The Parks Department Crews, Public Works Department and EMS immediately dispatched to the storm area as soon as the storm shifted to the east of the Nature Center. Everyone immediately checked on the gate attendant, who was unhurt, before inspecting the grounds to catalogue the damage to the facility and neighbors impacted by the tornado.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Everyone made it safely through the tornado.



"It was a honor to be with a bunch of guys who stayed not knowing what to expect, but knew that we had to do what was needed for the residents of Baytown and our staff. Mostl of our staff that did not have to check on their own families stayed to help. That is a true definition of family and team!"

ABEL AND CORNELL





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SUN & WATER SAFETY PRE-K PROGRAM

Jan-May & Aug-Nov

SUMMARY

Aquatics Sun and Water Safety Pre-K Program was created in collaboration with Goose Creek ISD with hopes of giving the Pre-K students a chance to learn about sun and water safety. When creating the program, we wanted to give the students vital information that will help them anytime they stepped outside. With the information presented to the students, they are able to connect the information we give them inside the classroom to things in the real world, such as a trip to Pirates Bay for swim lessons. They are also being introduced to new vocabulary when learning about sun and water safety through our presentation.

We designed the program to be presented to students in one of the thematic classrooms that is centered around being outdoors and near water. We work with the students to build connections to bridge the gap between the presentation and real-life situations. Students learn best when the information they are acquiring can be connected to some form of background knowledge. This classroom ensures that all the students have at least some prior exposure to the topics we are discussing.

The City of Baytown Parks and Receptions mission is “Working together to create unforgettable memories.” With this mission statement, working with GCCISD to make this happen is creating a memory these kids won’t forget. They are getting to learn about safety skills, while tying it back to the classroom they are in and to Pirates Bay - which most of them have previous knowledge about. This program encompasses not only the Parks and Recreation purpose, but also the core values of The City of Baytown. This program touches each section of our core values in ways that other communities wouldn’t be able to due to the uniqueness of our Early Learning Academy.



2022 Texas Public Pool Council Safety Program of the Year: Aquatics Sun & Water Safety Pre-K Program





Leadership



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LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR CLASS

January 6-8

SUMMARY

The American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor course trains instructor candidates to teach American Red Cross Lifeguarding, Shallow Water Lifeguarding, Aquatic Attraction Lifeguarding, Waterfront Skills, Waterpark Skills, First Aid, CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers, Administering Emergency Oxygen and Bloodborne Pathogens.

This course prepares instructor candidates to use course and presentation materials, conduct training sessions and evaluate the progress of candidates in a professional-level course.



Lifeguard instructor candidates get the opportunity to show their lifeguard abilities and skills to prove they have what it takes. They must demonstrate perfect skills and a critical eye.



“I loved getting the opportunity to perfect my teaching style before stepping in front of my first lifeguard class.”

**BRIEAH ZUERCHER,
OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR**



More than 300,000 lifeguard candidates are certified each year by LGIs across the country.



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LIFEGUARD CLASSES & HIRING

January - April



SUMMARY

The American Red Cross lifeguard course will certify students in Lifeguarding, CPR and AED for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid. Students must be 15 years of age by the last day of class and pass a swim assessment. Attendance at every class day is required.

Swim Assessment

- 300 yards continuously
- Tread water for 2 minutes
- Retrieve a submerged 10-pound brick & return to the designated spot
- *If student is unable to complete pre-test for lifeguard class, all students will be then tested for shallow water lifeguard



Aquatics registered a total of 238 participants for the 2023 lifeguard certification classes compared to 137 who signed for these classes in 2022; a 73% increase in registration, year-over-year.



Our efforts were awarded the 2023 Texas Recreation and Parks Society East Region Promotional Award of the Year: Lifeguard Hiring Campaign



Aquatics had 188 lifeguards hired as staff by the opening of the 2023 season compared to only 79 lifeguards in 2022; a 138% increase in lifeguard staff, year-over-year.





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AUDUBON BIRD COUNTS

January–May

SUMMARY

Monthly counts are led by local expert birders, David Hanson and Chuck Davis, who help identify the number of species and the number of birds to be reported on eBird, an app widely used by birders to find target birds. This information is a valuable citizen science tool used by Audubon ornithologists to track conservation efforts across the region. In 2023, 227 species of birds were documented at the Baytown Nature Center.

The annual Christmas Bird Count was once again led by Sallie Sherman, long-time leader of the Baytown Region. A total of 42 species and 265 birds were documented during the 2023 count!

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023 the Baytown Nature Center documented several birds considered “infrequent” or “rare” on the Audubon Society checklists.

- Yellow headed blackbird
- Brown booby
- Tropical kingbird



National Audubon Society sponsors monthly bird counts at the Baytown Nature Center, offering great opportunities for citizen science and conservation awareness.



The Baytown Nature Center is a documented “Hot Spot” on the popular eBird app, ranking in the top for number of bird species documented monthly.





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EPIC ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

January - May

SUMMARY

The EPIC Club (Environment Protectors Initiating Change) is a high school conservation awareness club open to all Baytown area high school students. The club is sponsored by the Baytown Nature Center and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center. In 2023, 25 students participated in the club, meeting weekly at the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center to discuss conservation issues, plan and execute environmental service projects, and have fun working together while learning about nature.



The EPIC Club continues to grow, with over 25 students attending weekly meetings regularly.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, EPIC students participated in the following activities:

- Floating Island Creation at Golden Bloom Pond at the Baytown Nature Center
- Washed Ashore Sculpture Tour in Galveston
- Environmental outreach at Baytown's Nurture Nature Festival
- Shoreline cleanup and environmental education at the Baytown Nature Center during Trash Bash
- Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup at Morgan's Point
- Spooktacular at the Wetlands Center
- Baytown Christmas Parade Float using recycled materials
- 3 Adopt-A-Spot Cleanups at the Wetlands Center



"EPIC to me is a chance to learn and help my environment while being in a safe work place. It gives me a chance to help and give back to the environment. Love this place!"

FABIAN CERINO



EPIC Club students look forward to the summer of 2024, when they will travel to Costa Rica for an international conservation experience.





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GATOR TALES

WINTER January–February
SUMMER June–August

SUMMARY

Weekly storytime and craft activities presented indoors at the Wetlands Center during the winter and summer introduced nature-based topics for up to 30 preschoolers. 501 registrations were received for the 2023 Gator Tales seasons! Even the youngest of our visitors can understand science!

Summer topics for 2023 included:

- Colors in Nature
- Shadow Play
- Magnet Study
- Dino-Mite!
- Clever Crabs
- Amazing Alligators
- Slithering Snakes
- Leaping Lizards
- Water Bug Hunt
- Sink or Float
- Water Cycle Study
- Water Flow

Winter topics included:

- Migration
- Weather Study
- Ice Melts
- Nature Holiday Traditions
- From Seed to Plant
- Excellent Exoskeletons
- Interesting Endoskeletons
- What Skeleton?
- Mighty Mixtures
- Surprising Sound Waves
- Simple Machines
- Bee My Valentine



2023 was the 16th year of Gator Tales at the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center. Designed as a complement to the spring and fall Tyke Hike, Gator Tales protects the youngest citizens from the harsh cold and heat by being held indoors.



Why Learn Science in Preschool?

- It Promotes Critical Thinking
- It Aids the Development of Other Skills .
- It Fosters a Love of Learning
- It Improves Literacy & Vocabulary





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WILDEST BIRTHDAY PARTIES IN TOWN

January - May



SUMMARY

Birthday parties at the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center continue to be a popular Saturday event. The lucky birthday child gets the chance to meet and greet several of the Wetlands Center ambassador animals, tour the Wetlands Center facilities, and play games and activities based on the party's theme. Birthday child and guests can feed the bearded dragon or help feed the baby alligators, with adult supervision of course!

Birthday party rental includes two hours of room use so the lucky child can celebrate with their friends and family after meeting our critters!

HIGHLIGHTS

The Wildest Birthday Parties in Baytown:

- Offered on Saturdays from 10:00 am - Noon OR 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- Hosted in the Wetlands Center's Salt Marsh Room
- Cost \$150 for up to 15 guests
- 54 birthday parties were hosted in 2023



The Wetlands Center has hosted birthday parties for visitors aged 2 through adults! Wetlands Center parties are fun for all ages!



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WETLANDS WINTER-OLGY CAMP

December

SUMMARY

During this fun three-day camp for 1st-3rd graders, campers learned about the science of winter weather and how wildlife adapts to the colder temperatures. Campers had a blast during their camp-ending "snowstorm", as they enjoyed "snow" at the Wetlands Center! They also enjoyed creating their own snow in the Wetlands Center's science lab and observed the crystal formation of the flakes.

Activities throughout the week included:

- Visiting the Baytown Nature Center, where they learned about snow, clouds and weather prediction
- Building their own thermometer and weather station
- Learning about weather forecasting during a virtual presentation by a Houston National Weather Service Meteorologist
- Making a blubber glove and using it to understand how marine mammals withstand cold air and water temperatures
- Understanding bird migration and its challenges
- Meeting ambassador birds from the Wildlife Center of Texas
- Visiting Baytown's Holiday Hangout at Town Square, where they tried their hand (feet) at skating on Glice
- Creating their own snow slime
- Playing in the "snow storm" created at the Wetlands Center

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wetlands Winter-Ology Camp welcomed 12 students in 1st-3rd grades to a holiday wonderland!



Thank you to the Wildlife Center of Texas and Houston National Weather Service for helping campers during Winter-Ology Camp!



Leadership



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COVESTRO I3 PROGRAM

January - May



SUMMARY

This program is offered as a 4th station during the Wetlands Ecology Program, utilizing Covestro volunteers and Wetlands Center staff to lead the students in program activities in the Science Discovery Lab.

- Students are introduced to the scientific method and asked to demonstrate knowledge of its steps (observe, form a hypothesis, make a prediction, conduct an experiment and analyze the results).
- Students are instructed on the proper use of microscopes, a scientific tool. They then observe live mosquito larvae under the lens, understanding how tools improve the understanding of scientific principles.
- Life cycles of animals are discussed, with complete and incomplete metamorphosis compared and contrasted. The observation of mosquito larvae correlates with this discussion, and students are introduced to the complete metamorphosis that mosquitoes undergo during their life cycle.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Covestro's "Ignite, Imagine, and Innovate" engages 5th-grade GCCISD students in hands-on, inquiry-based STEM education using Covestro employee volunteers.



Thank you to Covestro for its continuing support for the I3 program, providing both funding and volunteers for 25 years!



Leadership



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Collaboration



BACK TO THE BAY PROGRAM

January - May

SUMMARY

150 students truly get "Back to the Bay" as they don waders and pull a seine net to collect marine organisms for identification. They also learn about human impact on the environment and water quality determination in this fun, participatory program.

- Station 1 - Students get a hands-on experience in Crystal Bay as they don waders and enter the bay, pulling a seine net to collect marine organisms (fish, shrimp, crabs, etc.). Students then identify their "catch" before releasing it back into the bay.
- Station 2 - Students are taught how to throw a cast net and then given the opportunity to cast the net into the brackish waters of the Nature Center. Any marine organisms caught are identified and released back into the bay.
- Station 3 - Students are introduced to the importance of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. They then perform bay water "outdoor lab" tests for pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and dissolved nutrients and discuss how their findings impact the health of the ecosystem.
- Station 4 - Students undertake a walking scavenger hunt to identify human impacts on the environment, both negative and positive. The history of the Baytown Nature Center and Brownwood subdivision are discussed.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Select GCCISD 9th-grade aquatic science and biology students from across the district participate in a hands-on field experience at the Baytown Nature Center.
- Students benefit from progressive programs with the Baytown Nature Center and Wetlands Center throughout their GCCISD attendance.



Back to the Bay Program could not happen without the support of GCCISD and ExxonMobil!



Innovation



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LEE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

February



SUMMARY

Dr. Greg Lattier and Teresa Lattier, both professors at Lee College, travel with a group of business students and future teachers to the Texas A&M University Soltis Research Center in Costa Rica for an international service learning experience. Tracey Prothro, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, accompanied the group as a science consultant.

In 2023, students not only spent time with local elementary school students, they also performed a service project for the school, working in the school yard to clear trees, remove trash, remove and replace soccer field amenities, and remove debris and other materials from the school yard.

This annual collaboration between the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center and Lee College helps develop students into well-rounded adults who understand the challenges facing students in other countries. During the busy week in Costa Rica, students also:

- Visited Proyecto Asis, a local wildlife rehabilitation facility
- Hiked to the local waterfall at the Soltis Center, learning about forest dynamics and observing local rainforest wildlife
- Collected macroinvertebrates from the local stream, and tested the water for pH, salinity, temperature and dissolved nutrients
- Toured Don Juan Finca Educativa, an organic farm where students learned about local crops
- Experienced a night hike in the Soltis Center rainforest
- Spent the day with K-6th grade students at the local elementary school, leading them in bird education activities
- Ziplined through the rainforest near Lake Arenal Volcano



Thank you to Lee College for its continuing partnership with the Soltis Center experience!



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DADDY & ME DANCE

February

SUMMARY

Each year, the Daddy and Me Dance event takes a tremendous amount of effort from everyone within the Parks and Recreation Department. It has continued to grow to be considered a “regional event” as well as a family tradition with dads returning with their daughters year after year. Often, when guests arrive they note how many years they been coming and what special memories are made. Some even show the photos they have collected over the years through the various themes of the event. A highlight of the 2023 event featured live horse drawn carriage rides for guests to enjoy. Thanks to our Parks Division who stepped in to help facilitate the new feature that was the talk of the night.



The 2023 Daddy & Me Dance had the largest single day attendance in Baytown’s history with over 1,800 tickets sold!



Thank you Party House, HEB, Chick-Fil-A, 1st Photo, the Seniors of Baytown, and our other community supporters that helped make the 2023 dance unforgettable .

HIGHLIGHTS

- Horse and Carriage rides
- Professional keepsake photos to take home
- Multiple casual photo ops to share via social media
- Refreshments
- Arts and Crafts
- Impromptu and organized dance lessons with dad
- Door Prizes all evening





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JENKINS POP UP PARK

February

SUMMARY

How do you highlight all the newest features recently added to Jenkins Park? Host a Pop Up Park featuring a relay race with Baytown Police Department, Baytown Fire Department, and our very own Parks and Rec Team!

Race participants completed a course that started at the new National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court, continued on the trail featuring the solar and wind powered lights, then on to J.C. Hollaway Park's new traditional trail lights, and ending at the newly installed Teqball table donated by Teqball USA.

Jenkins Pop Up Park welcomed hundreds of visitors to see all the new amenities that have been installed, witness the ribbon cutting, or just to enjoy a ride though the park on the crowd favorite trackless train

HIGHLIGHTS

- Baytown's first ever fitness challenge held between the Baytown Police, Fire, and Park and Recreation Departments.
- Congratulations to the Baytown Police Department for placing first .



Thank you to Blue Cross Blue Shield, MD Anderson – Be Well Baytown, National Fitness Campaign, Teqball USA, and Martibirds Inflatables.





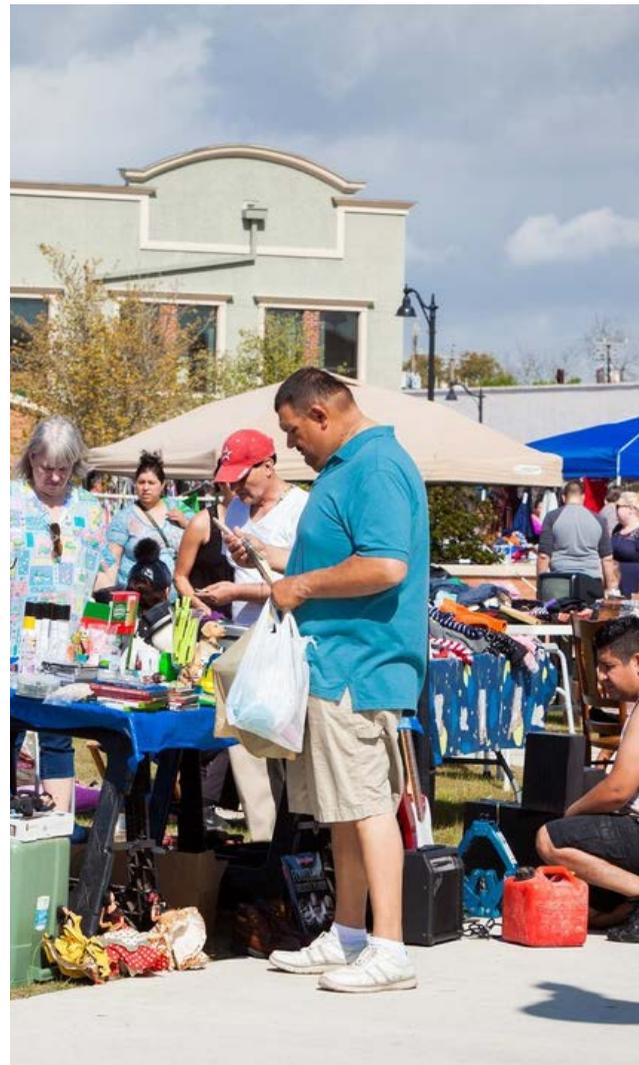
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COMMUNITY YARD SALES

February, May, August, & October

SUMMARY

The Baytown Community Yard Sale is a quarterly event, held at Town Square. Depending on the season, and space available at Town Square, the site typically hosts between 40 to 75 vendors looking to sell their used items at bargain prices.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This is a free event and open to the public.
- Spaces are \$15.00 per 15'x15' space, and \$25.00 per 25'x25' space.
- Staff works with charity groups to collect any unwanted items that didn't sell.





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ACE DISTRICT SCULPTURE TRAIL

February–March



SUMMARY

This year because of the planning from prior years and prefabrication of the sculpture bases and the selection of art work to fit those bases, staff prep work time for bases in 2023 was cut in half. These efforts create a successful product for the citizens and guests of Baytown to enjoy.

The Baytown Sculpture Trail, located in the Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (ACE) District, showcases a diverse collection of outdoor sculptures highlighting a variety of artistic expressions. This trail not only serves as a visual feast for residents and visitors but also plays a vital role in fostering a vibrant cultural environment downtown. It has grown from 20 sculptures in its inaugural year, 2022, to 25 in 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Through its array of sculptures, the Baytown Sculpture Trail contributes to the ACE District's identity as a hub for creativity and community engagement.



"I believe that art is the soul of a community, a language that speaks across generations and cultures. In its myriad forms, art fosters a shared sense of beauty, reflection, and emotion, weaving a tapestry that unites us all in the vibrant mosaic of human experience."

RICHARD SCHMID



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PIRATES BAY - NEW IN 2023

Spring



SUMMARY

- **Pirate Bucks** - Introducing innovative cashless money wristbands at our waterpark! Say goodbye to traditional wallets and cash transactions. Our new wristbands offer a convenient and secure way to make purchases within Pirates Bay. Simply load funds onto your wristband and enjoy hassle-free transactions for food, drinks, merchandise, and more. It's the perfect way to enhance your waterpark adventure with a touch of modern convenience.
- **Concession Menus** - Exciting new menus await you at our waterpark, featuring a delicious array of mouthwatering treats! From refreshing sweet treats to savory bites and healthy options, our revamped menus cater to every palate. Indulge in flavorful snacks and savor the taste of summer with our diverse offerings. Elevate your waterpark experience with these delectable delights that are sure to satisfy your cravings and keep you fueled for a day of fun in the sun! Our new and improved offerings will satisfy all your cravings.
- **Lifeguard Shade Structures** - With the help of Be Well Baytown Pirates Bay Lifeguards were so excited when the brand new shade structures were installed this summer. The structures gave them important UV protection while they were keeping an eye on guests on the NinjaCross Course.
- **Picnic Tables** - Pirates Bay installed 34 brand new colorful octagonal picnic tables. These picnic tables are made from recycled poly-plastic which is very environment-friendly and will last a long time compared to their metal predecessors.
- **Trash Cans** - Our closed lid large capacity trash cans helped to keep guest areas of the park cleaner while making the workload lighter for Park Service Team Members since the new cans have wheels.
- **Website** - Pirates Bay received an upgrade from being merely a part of the City website and instead becoming a stand-alone page that looks more like a Waterpark business operation. The new URL is www.baytownpiratesbay.com



Caring



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BECOMING AN OUTDOOR WOMAN WORKSHOP

Spring and Fall



SUMMARY

Twice a year Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hosts Becoming An Outdoor Woman (BOW) workshops in locations across Texas. In 2023, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director continued her eleven year tradition of teaching sessions at these workshops to women wanting to learn outdoor skills in a safe, welcoming and fun environment.

For 2023, the Spring Workshop was held at the Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood, Texas. Wetlands staff led women in both Nature’s Art (where tree cookie mirrors and pine needle gourds were created) and Wildlife 101 (where Wetlands Center ambassador animals were on hand for the ladies to meet and greet).

In the Fall of 2023, BOW Workshop was hosted at Camp El Tesoro in Granbury, Texas. Wetlands staff again taught two sessions of Nature’s Art (with pebble art creations and woodburned tree cookie ornaments) and Wildlife 101.

HIGHLIGHTS

The highlight of any Wildlife 101 session is always helping the women face their fears. The number of tears from fear and relief cannot be counted, but the number of smiles when someone FINALLY holds a snake or a tarantula are what makes environmental education so special!



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department celebrated 30 years of the Becoming An Outdoor Woman Workshops at the Spring 2023 workshop in Brownwood, Texas.



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GCCISD EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY OUTREACH

Spring and Fall



SUMMARY

Crissy Butcher, BNC Naturalist, leads groups of pre-K students from each of the GCCISD Pre-K Learning Academies in a fun, interactive lesson about plants and seeds and earthworms. The students learn about the life cycle of plants and what they need to survive, hear Crissy's reading of "Plants Just Can't Sit Still", play a game about seed dispersal, and dissect a lima bean to find the "baby plant".

Wetlands Center staff also visits the GCCISD Pre-K learning Academies to introduce the students to wetland habitats and the animals that depend on the wetlands. Pre-K students particularly like meeting the Wetlands Center's baby alligators and turtles!

This is the second year the Baytown Nature Center and Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center staff have partnered with GCCISD to introduce their youngest students to wetlands and plants. These programs help GCCISD teachers establish a foundation of interest in the environment and nature, preparing them for science education programs throughout their GCCISD attendance.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 700 Pre-K students are introduced to wetlands, plants and wildlife in this partnership with GCCISD Pre-K Learning Academies.



Thank you to Kami Johnston, GCCISD's Early Learning Academy Coordinator, for including nature education in their curriculum!



Leadership



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LIQUID SCIENCE PROGRAM

Spring and Fall



SUMMARY

Every 7th grade student in GCCISD attends the Liquid Science Program as part of their science curriculum. Over 2,100 students annually spend the day at the Wetlands Center experiencing interactive labs on the many factors affecting aquatic ecosystems.

- Station 1 - Students are introduced to photosynthesis in aquatic plants in this lab experiment and demonstration in the Discovery Science Lab.
- Station 2 - Students model an aquatic food web, understanding how all levels of the food web are connected and reactive to outside influences. Students also meet and greet one of the Wetlands Center's young alligators.
- Station 3 - Students participate in an interactive demonstration using the Wetlands Center's stream table, observing river processes and coastal formation and the influence of protective measures along coastlines.
- Station 4 - Students utilize a dichotomous key to identify marine organisms.
- Station 5 - Students participate in a fun role-playing activity demonstrating the causes and effects of non-point source pollution.

HIGHLIGHTS

This award-winning Rotary Club of Baytown-sponsored program introduces every 7th-grade student in GCCISD to the importance of aquatic ecosystems.



Thank you to the Rotary Club of Baytown for their continued support of the Liquid Science Program!



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



TYKE HIKE

SPRING March–May
FALL September–November

SUMMARY

Weekly meetings at the Baytown Nature Center during spring and fall introduce nature-based topics for up to 30 preschoolers. Baytown Nature Center staff lead the students and their adults on activities and “hikes” throughout the Center.

Spring 2023 topics included:

- Wiggly worms
- Buzzy pollinators
- Kinder Gardens
- Litter Pirates
- Frogs and Toads
- Snakes
- Signs of Spring
- Trees
- Butterflies
- Alligators
- Wetlands Walk
- Fishing Fun

Fall 2023 brought cooler weather and these topics:

- Cool Crabs
- Super Snails
- Turtles
- Alligators
- Leaping Lizards
- Snakes
- Dino Dig
- Spiders
- Halloween
- Birds
- Fall Walkabout
- Wild Thanksgiving



2023 was the 17th year of the Baytown Nature Center Tyke Hike. In 2006 the program was awarded the Excellence in Programming Award from TRAPS Region IV.



The Baytown Nature Center is the perfect location for our youngest citizens to learn to appreciate nature. After Tyke Hike, many of the children stick around to play in the Billy Barnett Nature Discovery Area, a nature-themed unique play space.





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SPRING BREAK CAMPS

March



SUMMARY

Spring Break camps take place the week of Goose Creek Consolidated School District Spring Break.

Painting Camp

In addition to providing a creative outlet, painting classes can also help children develop their fine motor skills, as well as provide an opportunity for them to learn about different artists, styles, and techniques.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This class involved painting interpretations of famous works by the Dutch post-impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh, as well as some of the cutest dogs.



Music Camp

During Spring Break a music camp was held at the Community Center that provided group piano lessons as well as private drum and private piano lessons.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Playing the piano changes the brain in a positive way!
- Playing the drums accelerates physical healing, boosts the immune system and assists in releasing emotional trauma.





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BROWN BAG LUNCHES

March



SUMMARY

In 2023 Brown Bag lunches offered an opportunity for people to visit Town Square to enjoy their lunch while enjoying the sounds of some local bands. Brown Bag Lunches were held every Friday in March from 11:45pm - 1:15pm.

Local restaurants Bocanegra's, Sabor of Mexico, and Wazabi offered discounted specials for the events.

SCHEDULE

- March 3rd - Brenda Guy
- March 10th - Morgan Ashley
- March 17th - Howard McMichael
- March 24th - The Vibes
- March 31st - Hayden Woollen





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THE MARKET AT TOWN SQUARE

March



SUMMARY

In an ongoing effort to improve programs, Parks and Recreation staff determined that the Baytown Farmer's Market needed to be updated. Input from the vendors and participants was used to identify improvement areas to implement in the new Market.

The newly revamped Market at Town Square kicked off its free outdoor market that showcases over 70 local vendors with unique, hand-made and hand-crafted merchandise.

The Market is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at Town Square from 10:00am-2:00pm with evening markets held June throughout September from 6:00pm-10:00pm to take advantage of cooler nights.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Activities for kids.
- Food trucks on site.
- Alcohol vendor.
- Evening times during the hotter months.
- Youth entrepreneur vendors booths.



Thank you to the vendors and attendees for their input on how to make the market better.





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TOWN SQUARE POP UP PARK GOLD RUSH

March

SUMMARY

The Town Square Pop Up Park featured a St. Patrick's day themed "Gold Rush" for the little ones ages 5 and under and ages 6 and up. Green eggs were filled with gold and green coins with which they could buy small trinkets from the Parks and Rec Booth. Inflatables, yard games and coloring were also enjoyed by guests.

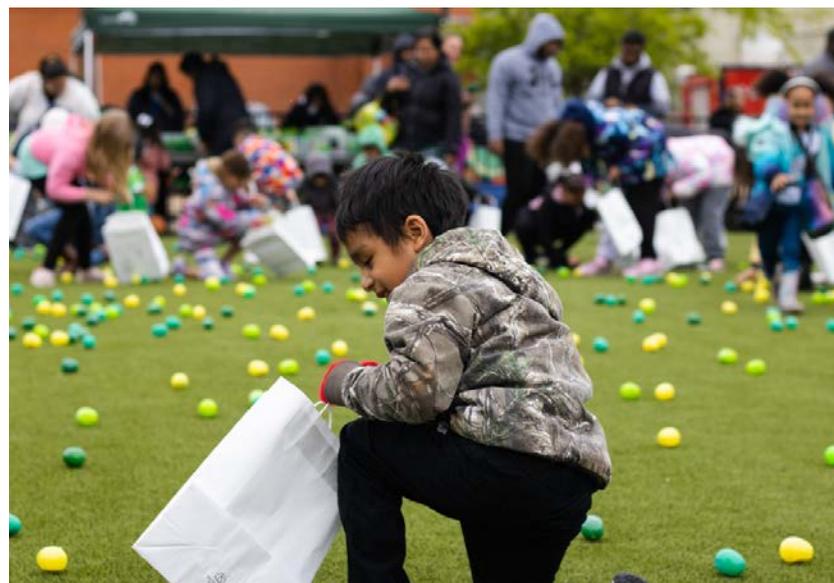
To make the day even more fun, the Market at Town Square Grand Opening was happening at the same time at Town Square. The day was a fun-filled event for all ages!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Doing a fun take on an Easter Egg hunt.
- Over 2,000 eggs were distributed.



2023 marked the first year of the "Gold Rush" – an Easter Egg style event for children at Town Square!





Caring



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ST. CRAWPADDY'S FEST

March



SUMMARY

There's no sweeter combination than St. Patrick's Day with a Bigtime Crawfish Crawfish Boil! St. Crawpaddy's Fest was an event mixing St. Patrick's Day with the opening of crawfish season. Besides crawfish served by Bigtime Crawfish, there was green beer, axe throwing, and entertainment by Velvet Drive as well as DJ Boris. The event was held at Town Square after the Market and the Pop Up Park, the 3rd event that Baytown Parks and Rec team pulled off in one day.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The St. Crawpaddy's Fest was the first event at Town Square that had crawfish as a component.
- The event had a smaller than anticipated crowd size due to the unseasonably low temperatures and light rain.





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OUTDOOR ADVENTURE COURSES

March – June



CONCEPTUAL PHOTO



CONCEPTUAL PHOTO

SUMMARY

In accordance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Baytown’s desire to develop our waterways, we hired a consultant to look at opportunities to provide outdoor adventure areas along our blueways for added value to our park system. This assessment included looking at Jenkins Park, Baytown Nature Center, Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center, and Bayland Marina.

HIGHLIGHTS

Recommendations included:

- Bayland Marina Zipline- A aerial line that would give a birds eye view of the park and bay.
- Baytown Nature Center- Tree Ropes Course and/or a Rappel Wall as an added destination adventure and potential training venue for the Fire Department.
- Roseland Park- A rope netted swing as an added amenity on your kayak stop.
- Jenkins Park- Tree Rope Course/small zipline/ netted rope ball swing.
- Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center/40 Acre Property (Disc Golf) – Zipline across Goose Creek.



CONCEPTUAL PHOTO



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



RIVER, LAKES, BAYS 'N BAYOUS TRASH BASH®

March

SUMMARY

The 29th Annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® returned to the Baytown Nature Center once again in 2023. Baytown Engage was extremely helpful in recruiting volunteers for this worthwhile event. Volunteers removed trash, tires, and other debris that washes up on BNC's shores to help improve the habitat for wildlife and provide a more beautiful location for visitors.

EPIC High School Conservation Club was on hand to host environmental education games, teaching visitors to pick up after their pets, dispose of cooking grease responsibly, and reduce/reuse/recycle when possible!

Parks and Recreation staff cooked and served a hot dog lunch to all volunteers, who also received fun door prizes and Trash Bash t-shirts.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 294 volunteers participated, including 60 scouts
- 4,220 lbs. of trash removed, including 20 tires
- 2.8 miles of shoreline cleaned
- Across the Houston-Galveston area, 81,022 lbs. of trash was removed from 108.22 miles of shoreline on local waterways



294 volunteers spent their Saturday morning improving the habitat in Baytown's waterways by removing 4,220 lbs. of trash, including 20 tires



"The fact that Trash Bash has been such a successful cleanup event for 29 years now is a result of the wonderful volunteers who come out each March to help keep our waterways clean and beautiful."

LORI TRAWEEK, TEXAS CONSERVATION FUND PRESIDENT



Thank you to Houston-Galveston Area Council for sponsoring such a worthwhile program for the past 29 years!





Caring



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



WETLANDS SPRING BREAK CAMP

March



SUMMARY

Wings Over Wetlands Spring Break Camp welcomed students in grades 4th-6th grade to the wonderful world of birds. Campers learned a little avian biology as they explored different bird habitats and why birds are such an important part of a wildlife food web.

During this fun-filled week, campers learned:

- Bird anatomy, using a bird topography work sheet to design their own birds
- Proper usage of binoculars as a birding tool
- How to use a bird field guide to identify birds
- Determine the diet of an owl by dissecting owl pellets, looking for hair, teeth, and bones from the owl's prey
- Build a pine cone bird feeder
- Discover how effective a bird's feet are at latching on to a perch or limb, by practicing themselves on a bird perch
- Measure their own "wingspan" against some of the area's birds
- The destructive effects of acid rain and other toxins on bird eggs, and ultimately bird survival
- Hidden hazards for birds during their migration
- Which bird beaks are best used for different diets using the Fill The Bill activity
- How bioaccumulation in a bird's diet works to harm the bird

Campers also explored Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Baytown Nature Center, Cattail Marsh in Beaumont, Galveston Island State Park, Smith Oaks Rookery and Boy Scout Woods to locate and identify local birds.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Spring Break campers documented over 40 species of birds during their week of exploring!





Caring



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SEASON PASS HOLDER DAY

April 30

SUMMARY

Season Pass Holder Day is a special day to kick off the summer that gives pass holders the opportunity to pick up their passes and perks prior to general admission opening day.

This day also allows the Pirates Bay team the chance to work out any glitches in the operating system with a smaller crowd.



New in 2023: All season pass holders received newly designed wristbands to wear all summer long.



“Pirates Bay Season Passes are the highlight of our summer and we enjoy coming in early to get our favorite spot in the park.”
MEGAN CARPENTER



Aquatics sold 3,376 season passes in 2023.



Innovation



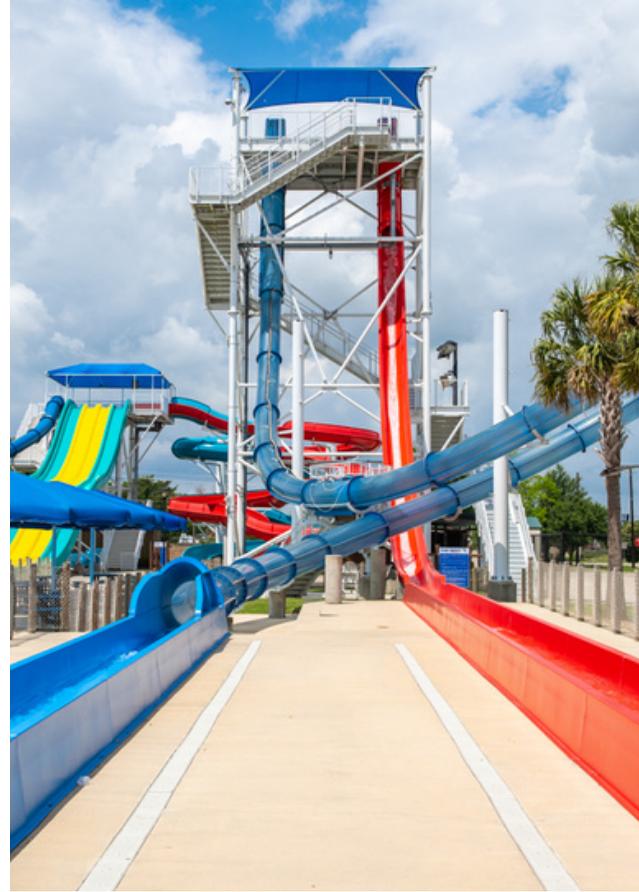
Stewardship



Collaboration

THE NEST BACK IN ACTION

April



SUMMARY

2023 saw the resurgence of The Nest: Pirates Bay's AquaLoop and AquaDrop slides.

The slides were down for maintenance the entire 2022 season. The Aquatics Division worked tirelessly through the off season with White Water, a Canadian based slide company, to repair the slides' mechanical errors. The slides will continue to be available to guests throughout the upcoming 2024 season.

AquaDrop seems simple enough with its straight drop into a run out lane. It's a different story, however, once a guest is standing in the transparent capsule, looking out at the height they're about to free fall from.

AquaLoop starts with a trap door freefall drop into a 360 degree loop. There are few water slides that can beat AquaLoop's trademark looping rider images and intense ride experience.



These slides are 56 feet tall.. riders have a top speed of 60 miles per hour!



Caring



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Collaboration



ROSELAND POP UP PARK

April

SUMMARY

The Roseland Pop Up Park was one of our largest attended in 2023. Attendees had access to the splash pad, inflatable water slides, free snow cones and other activities - including a new sneak peek of the all new Clubhouse at Roseland Park!

The new clubhouse features a private porch, roll-up garage-style doors, private restrooms, and a private grilling area with a clear sight-line to the splash pad, sand volleyball courts and more. The facility can hold up to 100 people, making it perfect for family gatherings.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Staff received very positive reviews from the sneak peek of the new Clubhouse at Roseland Park.
- The Parks and Recreation Team gave out over 1,000 free snow cones.
- Music was provided by Phenius Reb and DJ Boris.



Thank you to MD Anderson - Be Well Baytown whose continued efforts and sponsorships make Pop Up Parks a reality.





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



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Collaboration



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

April

SUMMARY

The East Region Special Olympics Spring Games were held at the Lee High School Track and Field Stadium and sports facilities. Over 1,000 athletes competed in various field events throughout the day. Food was provided by Chic-fil-a and the Knights of Columbus. The volunteers were coordinated through Baytown's Community Engagement Team. The City of Baytown loves hosting this event each year. Goose Creek Consolidated ISD has close to 100 athletes represent the Baytown/ Mont Belvieu area each year in the Special Olympics.



The City of Baytown had over 20 sponsors support the Special Olympics. In 2023, huge shout out to all of the sponsors who helped make this a memorable event for all those who participated.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 1,000 participants and roughly 2,500 medals handed out.
- Over 1,600 spectators from cities such as Beaumont, Texas City, Deer Park, Houston, Conroe, Katy, and many more participated in the East Region Spring Games.
- Over 300 volunteers helped make this a memorable event for the athletes and an overall success.

RECAP VIDEO



Learn more at www.baytownsports.org



RECREATION



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Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

ADAPTIVE RECREATION TRAINING

April



SUMMARY

Staff had the opportunity to be trained in Adaptive Recreation Programs by Lauren Mitchell and her staff from Pasadena. The City of Baytown looks forward to expanding our Adaptive program opportunities in the future.

All of Parks and Recreation staff attended the training to understand adaptive programming better and how to start incorporating it into our activities.



“This was a really great training. We are grateful for the support from Pasadena to guide us in improving adaptive programs”.



Thank you to Lauren Mitchell from Pasadena for bringing your staff over to train our Parks and Recreation department in Adaptive recreation.





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Collaboration



YOU TALKING MAINTENANCE?

April

SUMMARY

Parks and Planning staff work high in the air and on the ground, and work hard to be good neighbors after a storm. But sometimes amenities have to be shut down in order to make them safe and repaired.



Our IT Specialist Erin said she was afraid of heights so we all went up together to get the job done. She was a trooper that day!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Jenkins Park- Omni lights bridge repairs, soccer pitch
- Baytown Nature Center- Pumps for waterfall
- RHOT-Rebuilding stairs





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Collaboration

ARBOR DAY

April



SUMMARY

Each year in April Baytown Parks and Rec gives away free trees to celebrate Arbor Day and encourage people to plant trees at their homes to help the environment. This year, TreeLife Farms provided the trees, which were sponsored by ExxonMobil.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,000 trees available to the public
- 7 varieties of trees
- Trees were 1 to 1 1/2 inches in caliper size
- All of the trees were gone by 12 noon
- Event was hosted at the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center
- Volunteers to help Parks staff were provided through partnership with Baytown Engage





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TOWN SQUARE ROCK REMOVAL

April-May

SUMMARY

Part of the landscape enhancement plan in 2022 was to reduce the maintenance for landscaping and create hardier plantings. In doing this staff installed approximately 10,000 square feet of rock in Town Square beds. However, we found that people of Baytown love rocks: rocks in the street, rocks in the fountain and rocks in the ice skating rink. Some rocks were used to damage windows on adjacent properties.

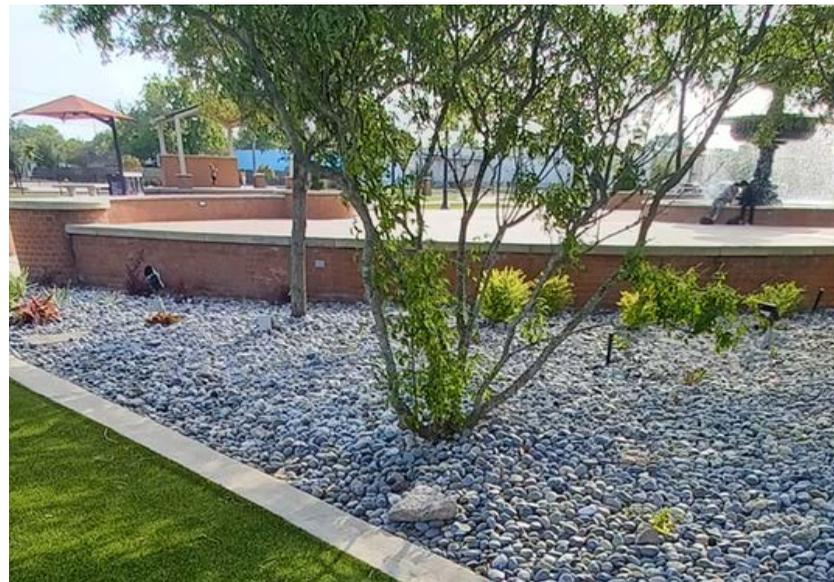
To address this issue we removed the rock and repurposed it in planting beds and medians around the city. Black mulch was established back into the landscaping beds at Town Square.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Beauty added back to the landscape.
- Safer materials for the surrounding areas.



“It really happened!”





Caring



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Leadership



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Collaboration



WARD ROAD PROJECT

April

SUMMARY

This project is proof that every design project does not go as planned.

During the city's Ward Road Project, Parks staff wanted to add something to the design in the form of art work. Staff agreed it should be simple and decided on a letter and number concept that went along with the street names. Due to sight lines for cars all the letters could not be placed perfectly in line with every street. Unfortunately, once installed the letters and numbers did not get the public reception Parks staff had hoped for and the decision was made to remove them from the medians.

Since the art was already constructed, Parks staff needed to find it a new home. In true Parks and Rec fashion, each piece was repurposed in other parks.



"He who never made a mistake never made a discovery."

SAMUEL SMILES



OOPS! You win some and lose some.

HIGHLIGHTS

You can find the Letters at:

- Hollaway Park- look for the "H"
- Jenkins Park- look for the "5" (coming soon)
- Wayne Gray Sports Complex- Look for the "W" (coming soon)



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Leadership



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Collaboration

CITY WIDE LANDSCAPING

April-May



SUMMARY

Spring is a time when our beautification crews spring into action, removing weeds and planting plants. The newly formed Parks beautification team has done a great job in cleaning up the landscaping and planting new plants throughout the year, making the park and driving experience brighter.

HIGHLIGHTS

Continuing to beautify the city one space at a time.





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



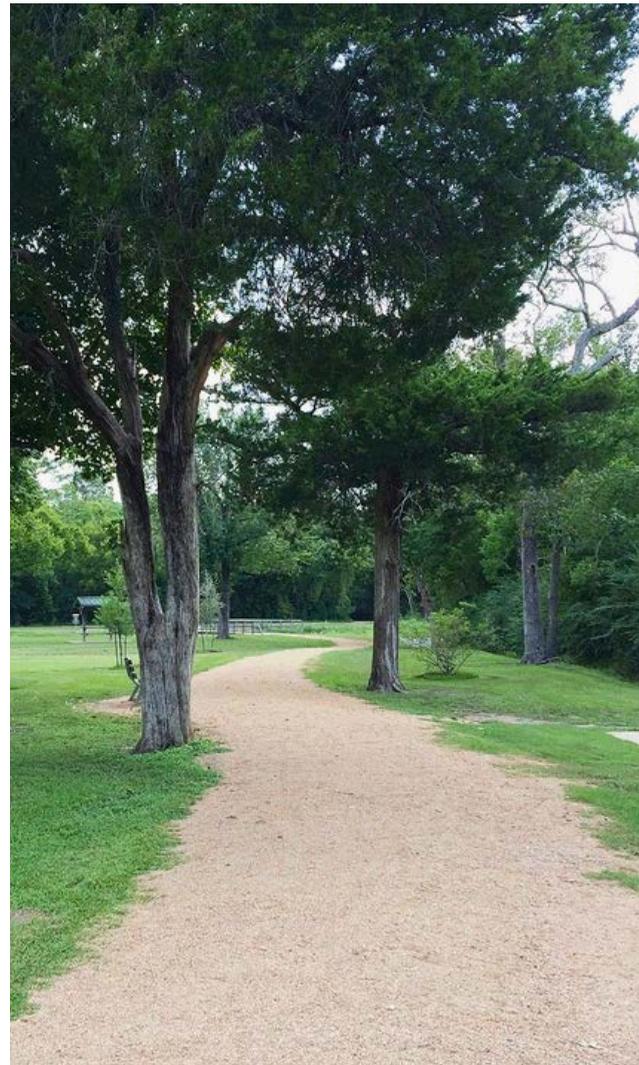
Stewardship



Collaboration

PARK TRASH HIGHEST IN MAY-AUGUST

April-May



SUMMARY

Trash is the number one issue in the City that Parks and Rec staff must address. It seems that no matter how much our staff picks up in an area, it seems to double the next day. Our teams put in a lot of extra work, love and care to manage the trash along Baytown's highways, boulevards and parks.

Residents and guests are encouraged to help Parks and Rec to eliminate the trash in the City by reporting illegal dumping and trucks that have uncovered loads.

HIGHLIGHTS

Our biggest trash problem area being managed.

- Spur 330
- Spur 99
- Evergreen Road
- Goose Creek Trail
- Tabbs Bay
- Alexander Road
- Garth Road



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DUKE HILL PARK PROJECT

April-May



SUMMARY

The final touches of Duke Hill Park went in this year with the addition of a Disc Golf and Foot Golf Course. This course was needed after the lost of Evergreen Disc Golf Course. It is a smaller course and perfect for those just beginning to learn the sport. It is also a complement to the existing Jenkins Park Disc Golf Course and the future 40-Acre Property Disc Golf Course scheduled for 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

Duke Hill Park updates:

- Basketball Court
- Picnic Shelters
- Foot Golf Course
- Disc Golf Course
- Soccer Pitch
- Playgrounds
 - (2-5 year old)
 - (5-12 year old)
- Drainage
- Railings



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MOTHER AND SON OLYMPICS

May



SUMMARY

Our 2nd Annual Mother and Son Olympics was held on what turned out to be a beautiful day for the event! With the threat of storms, Recreation staff had a Plan B in place but luckily didn't have to use it. The team collaborated well by selecting innovative activities as well as "Old School" games that youth may have never participated in before. Activities ranged from Laser Tag and Putt-Putt to Tug of War, 3-legged and Potato Sack Races. The fun activities were followed by lunch and door prizes for moms, and photos and gifts for the boys.



Thank you to Ben E. Keith, Raising Canes, Cristina's Cakes & More, Como En Mexico, Party House, Massage Envy, and Nothing Bundt Cakes for supporting this event.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Seeing some of the moms and sons dressed in personalized uniforms.
- Having Moms returning for the 2nd year in a row.





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Stewardship



Collaboration

PARTY ON THE PENINSULA - \$1 TACO NIGHT

May



SUMMARY

\$1 Taco Night made its way BACK by popular demand! 2023's event was bigger than ever and held on Cinco de Mayo (May 5) at the Baytown Nature Center from 7pm-10pm! Live music was performed by Soul Sacrifice, a Santana Tribute band. Drinks were also available being served by local favorite, The Dirty Daiquiri.

The only admission cost was the regular Baytown Nature Center admission fees of \$4 for adults 13+, \$1 for children 5-12, and \$1 for seniors 65+. Staff encouraged guests to bring lawn chairs, blankets, family and friends for a spectacular evening on the San Jacinto Point Peninsula under the stars.

Taco Trucks in attendance were:

- Spartacos
- Taqueria Bravo
- Taqueria La Flor De Jalisco
- Taqueria Tampico Madero
- Salmex Pupuseria Y Taqueria
- Sin Fronteras Tacos

Each truck offered \$1 taco options as well as additional menu items.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 600 guests enjoyed event day temperatures of 75 degrees with light winds at sunset at the Baytown Nature Center





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MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

May



SUMMARY

We need to put "Memorial" back in Memorial Day. On this special day, let us reflect on the freedoms we all enjoy for which many have died. To the families of our fallen heroes who gave their hearts to this country, we say thank you. We owe you and your loved ones our heartfelt gratitude and more. On this Memorial Day, we join fellow Americans in a national day of remembrance in honor of America's fallen. One Nation, One Day—let us never forget.

On this day, our hearts go out to the spouses and loved ones of those who have given all they can give in service to our nation. We share their sorrow, but we cannot know their grief. What we can do – and must do as a nation – is remember those who have fallen. Remember what they did; why they did it; and appreciate what that sacrifice means to us. It means freedom. It means security. It means strength, and the motivation to stay strong in freedom's cause. To do any less – to not remember – would defile the hopes and dreams of those we honor today.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony was held at Bicentennial Park. There were over 100 people in attendance to pay their respects to the fallen men and women of our armed forces.



"If you have never attended a Memorial Day service in Baytown please, if possible, come this year. They would thank you if they could."

"BAYTOWN BERT" MARSHALL





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RUN FOR YOUR WILDLIFE 1K/5K

May

SUMMARY

Run for Your Wildlife was a fun, new event bringing together a collaboration of partners from MD Anderson Hospital and Be Well Baytown (sponsors of the event), Baytown Engage (recruitment of volunteers), Baytown Parks and Recreation (event hosts), Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center (site hosts), and EPIC High School Conservation Club (wildlife ambassadors for the event).

The event offered two routes: a 1K option for children to enjoy the Myra C. Brown Bird Sanctuary Trail, or a 5K natural surface route that took participants along the Myra C. Brown Bird Sanctuary Trail, past the Golden Bloom Pond and the A. Jean Shepard Butterfly Garden, and to the Brownwood Educational Hill. Although the participants' times were recorded, there was no competition to the event, reducing the stress level and giving even novice runners a comfortable location in which to participate.

The event was sponsored by MD Anderson Hospital and Be Well Baytown as an active living initiative. All registration fees for the 146 participants were earmarked for wildlife conservation efforts at the Baytown Nature Center, giving the event a unique purpose. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to meet the Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center ambassador wildlife, including snakes, alligators, and tarantulas, which were presented by the high school EPIC conservation club members. For these reasons, the event was awarded the "Innovative Programming" Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society East Region .

HIGHLIGHTS

- Promote active living in a fun, unique location
- Introduce local wildlife to encourage conservation and wildlife awareness
- Introduce Baytown Nature Center as a public trail run location
- Raise \$\$ for wildlife habitat improvements (bird feeding stations, butterfly plants, beneficial trees for wildlife and birds)



Run For Your Wildlife 1K/5K Run received the Texas Recreation and Parks Society East Region "Innovative Programming" Award!





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

ART ALLEY REJUVENATED

May



SUMMARY

In collaboration with the ACE District, Sterling Library, the Parks Department and various artists in the area, the rebirth of the area formally known as Umbrella Alley was achieved. Due to integrity issues with the wall supports for Umbrella Alley, a temporary structure had to be removed. After many meetings with Library staff, a new vision was realized for the alley. Art Alley now has an interactive Love Lock Wall surrounded by murals painted by local artists on the walls.

Art Alley now attracts attention and traffic to the ever-burgeoning West Texas Avenue (and thus, Baytown itself).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Art Alley has played a part in many new and existing programs and events such as Holiday Hangout's Date Night
- Park Crews added additional lights to the Alley so that guests can enjoy the space after dark.



"Located at the site of the former Umbrella Alley, this collection of colorful, vivid murals (and, as popularized in Paris, a wall onto which visitors can attach their own locks) is a part of the City's extended effort to reinvigorate West Texas Avenue, this time through the creativity of its local community."

THE BAYTOWN SUN



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

PARK SHADE STRUCTURES

May- July

SUMMARY

We all know that living in Texas we can deal with extreme heat. One of the Parks Departments goals is to provide a shade structure over every full-court basketball facility within the city. So far we have been successful in providing shades for multiple courts throughout the city.

HIGHLIGHTS

Covered Courts

- Jenkins Park
- Bergeron Park
- Unidad Park
- NC Foote Park
- Allenbrooke Park





Caring



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Collaboration



PIRATES BAY SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

May 15-26

SUMMARY

Pirates Bay is open the last few weeks of school for field trips to come and enjoy the park as an incentive from their schools. This provides the Aquatics Team a jump start to the season before the park is open for full operation, 7 days a week.



"I feel like a kid again when I get to come to Pirates Bay."

CHANNELVIEW HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

HIGHLIGHTS

- 6,693 students visited the park in 2023 for school day celebrations.



Caring



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Collaboration



BARKALOO POP UP PARK

June

SUMMARY

The Barkaloo Pop Up Park featured a Donut Dash. This was a fun run that provided donuts along the route. There were also giant puzzles, kites to create, bubbles and popsicles. The Samy Jo Band provided the music.



This was the first “Donut Dash” fun run hosted by the Baytown Parks and Recreation Department.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parks and Recreation team facilitated this event on the same day as the Market at Town Square.





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

PARTY ON THE PENINSULA - CRAWFISH AND ZYDECO

June



SUMMARY

This Party on the Peninsula featured crawfish and Zydeco music on San Jacinto Point Peninsula at the Baytown Nature Center. Event guests were asked to relax and unwind with The Dirty Daiquiri and Big Time Crawfish on Saturday, June 3 from 7pm-10pm.

Step Rideau & The Zydeco Outlaws performed live on stage and Bigtime Crawfish provided all-you-can-eat crawfish for \$25 along with \$2 fish fillet and fries. Taqueria Bravo was also present to provide an alternative food option.

Gate fees were waived for event-goers starting at 6pm. Several options for parking were available: staff collected \$5 parking fee per vehicle for on-site parking OR guests could park for FREE at Wooster Baptist Church (7007 Bayway Drive) with a shuttle bringing them to all the fun.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parks and Recreation team continued to develop an improved traffic and parking plan by working with the Public Works Traffic Division in preparations for the large turnout.



“We had a great time. A lot better organized at the entrance gate. Music was awesome. Please get more food trucks. Thanks”

TERRY M. ARAUJO, EVENT GUEST





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

June

SUMMARY

The annual Juneteenth Celebration at Bicentennial Park was another success. The large crowd was entertained by DJ Boogie, Curtis Poullard, Brandi Holmes, Chalie Boy, Big Pokey, Lil Keke and Slim Thug. The evening was concluded with a fireworks show.



Thank you to the Juneteenth Committee, HEB, HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast, The Baytown Sun, KWWJ Gospel 1360, 97.9 The Box, Majic 102.1, Harris County Constables Precinct 3, Lee College, Goose Creek Consolidated ISD, Beacon Federal Credit Union, and City Departments.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The craft vendors were moved onto Market Street to open up space in the park for more viewing areas for the concert.
- Baytown's Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom event won the 2023 Texas Travel Award for Best Community Event! The Texas Travel Awards shine a spotlight on the most exciting, innovative, and inviting places around the state. The 2023 winners represent uniquely Texas places and experiences worthy of any traveler's itinerary.
- A video recap of this event can be found at <https://youtu.be/3nrmspBSn34>



RECAP VIDEO



RECREATION



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

BUSCH TERRACE PARK PROJECT

June–November



SUMMARY

The Busch Terrace Park playground was removed in 2016 due to age and vandalism. Parks and Rec received many calls from the neighborhood, asking about the park and if we would ever put something back.

Mr. Ronnie, a resident of the neighborhood, asked staff for two years if the community would ever get a playground again. Cornell Gordon, Planning Superintendent, kept his name and phone number on his desk so that he could call Mr. Ronnie and let him know that the playground had been purchased installed.

This extra mile of service is what Baytown Parks and Rec loves to do to not only please the kids but the family too.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This is the only hill slide in Baytown.
- Due to the topography it just made sense to provide a unique element and experience for the kids at Busch Terrace Park.



“Are we ever going to get a Playground back at Busch Terrace Park?”

MR. RONNIE





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

HARRIS COUNTY SPONSORED BIKE RACKS

June- July



SUMMARY

Harris County sponsored Bike Rack and Bike Stations to be installed at several parks this year. These added amenities offer bike riders a safe place for storing their bikes, and maintenance stations for addressing low tires, slipped chains and other minor issues.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Pelly Park- Bike Rack
- Britton Park- Bike Rack and Bike Stations
- Unidad Park- Bike Rack and Bike Stations
- Briarwood Park- Bike Rack



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POLLY'S SWIM SCHOOL - SWIM LESSONS

Summer

SUMMARY

Learning to swim significantly reduces the risk of drowning. Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury death for children under 14, with the highest rates among children ages 1-4. Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove are the perfect places for swim lessons, whether a swimmer is new to the water or simply learning to become a stronger swimmer.

Aquatics instructors are passionate about teaching people how to swim and water safety.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Private and group lessons for all ages; infant to adult
- All swim lesson participants learn how to use life jackets and their surroundings to be safer around all bodies of water



790 participants in 2023 bringing our 13 year total of teaching people how to swim to over 5,800 participants.



With the help of Be Well Baytown, Aquatics taught the Pool Cool Safety Program during the 2023 swim lesson sessions.



GCCISD Early Learning Academies were awarded 24 scholarships for swim lessons in 2023.





Caring



Collaboration

ITTY BITTY BEACH PARTY

Summer



SUMMARY

Littlest Pirates make big splashes.

This event is for ages 5 and under to enjoy the play structures and lazy river with an adult. It offers guardians time to spend with their little ones in the water without the rowdy older kids. This event offers the same number of lifeguards as a regular day but with the smallest crowd.



"I love bringing my child to Itty Bitty Beach Party because it gets them nap ready!"

ROBERTO GATA, SR.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Partnered with the Sterling Municipal Library to pass out free books
- Partnered with Chick-Fil-A Baytown to attend all events and hand out free breakfast to guests



"I enjoy working IBBP because I get to see the joy and smiles on toddlers faces as they experience the park for the first time."

**MARIAH AUGUSTE,
PARK SERVICE SUPERVISOR**





Caring



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Collaboration



SPECIAL PIRATE CELEBRATION

Summer

SUMMARY

Pirates Bay offered four nights & our first ever morning event to the Special Needs Community.

We hold the events in the evening to accommodate many of our guests that have expressed that their children could not be in the sun or the heat. We also turn the music off and lifeguards are instructed to only use their whistles in a lifesaving emergency in order to lessen the stimulants around the park. We staff our normal full team and add 25 additional team members to serve as interactors. The staff interact with families to assist them with the attractions.

We partner with Baytown Special Olympics, Goose Creek Consolidated ISD's Special Education Program, and other school districts in the area. Our nights include the Baytown Fire Department bringing out trucks, the Police Department (SWAT, K9 Units, Bike Patrol), the Eddie V Gray Wetlands Center with animals to hold, and our very own theatre troupe of real life Pirates, who stay in character all night.



Many children with special needs are unable to ride our FlowRider independently due to varying reasons. We ordered FlowRider boards with handles on them and specially trained our FlowRider instructors to ride with children on the FlowRider boards. These two things allowed children who normally would not be able to ride the FlowRider to ride and feel secure while doing so.



"Thank you! You don't know how great it is to be able to watch your kid have so much FUN and not worry about other people staring or getting hurt by other rough kids. I could see the happiness in all the other parent's faces. I'm glad there was such a great turn out so hopefully you can continue doing this for us. The staff was awesome with the kids! Cannot thank you enough!"

KIESHA GONZALES





Caring



Innovation



Collaboration



PIRATE PARTY NIGHTS

Summer

SUMMARY

Guests are invited to the Pirates Bay Wave Pool for after-hours entertainment on Thursday evenings. Pirates Bay hosted 5 dive-in movies and 5 entertainment acts during the 2023 season. Each night was themed and included different activities that related to the theme.

2nd Annual Kick off to Summer Back Yard Pool party, Dive-in Movie: Sonic The Hedge Hog 2, Luau Party, World's Largest Swim lesson & Dive-in Movie: Puss in Boots the Last Wish, Touch a Truck Event, Dive-In Movie: Lightyear, Country Night, Dive-In Movie: Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantomania, Shark Week, Float Night & Dive-In Movie: Family Camp.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Watching 500+ guests learn how to swim during the WLSL.
- Collaborating with department across the City for Touch a Truck and other theme nights.
- Having Line Dance instructors at Country Night and watching all of the teenagers learn how to line dance.



“Pirates Bay Dine-In Movie nights were our favorite family activities of the summer! We can’t wait for more next summer!”

KATHY BRAY



Thank you to Brandon Jones for working tirelessly to make sure the movie screen was up and running for each Dive-In movie.





Caring



Innovation

PIRATES BAY WATER AEROBICS

Summer



SUMMARY

Join us in a trip around Pirates Bay while getting your heartbeat up and having a great time! This class offered fun but challenging exercises designed for anyone from beginners to advanced! Water buoyancy allows for less impact on the joints, and water drag allows for work to be accomplished in all planes of movement. The class consists of stationary water exercises as well as moving water exercises.



“Water Aerobics was the most fun I have ever had exercising.”

SAMANTHA POULAND



This was a first year program and it was sold out each session!





Caring



Innovation



CALYPSO COVE LAP SWIM

Summer

SUMMARY

Open lap swim at Calypso Cove was a first year program offered free of charge to the community. It allowed participants a safe, lifeguarded, opportunity to swim laps and enjoy the pool before the crowd arrives.



First year program with 62 participants.



Caring



Innovation



Leadership

JR. LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

Summer



SUMMARY

Shaping our lifeguards of the future!

Jr. Lifeguard is an American Red Cross program that provides students from ages 11-14 the chance to learn lifeguarding and water skill safety. Participants learn lifeguarding while navigating as a team through communication, hands-on learning experiences, and applicable skills for life.



Sold out program during all sessions in 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- All participants become CPR, First-Aid and AED certified
- Opportunity to shadow certified lifeguards at Pirates Bay while the park is open to the public



Thank you to Savannah Griffith, Operations Supervisor, for heading up this program in 2023.





Caring



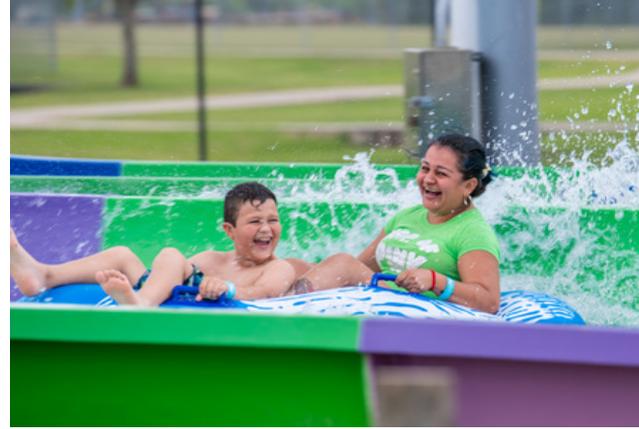
Innovation



Collaboration

PIRATES BAY BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Summer



SUMMARY

Pirates Bay birthday packages offer several benefits, making the celebration more enjoyable and convenient for parents and children! With a birthday package, you can save time and minimize stress on planning and organizing, as many details are already taken care of. Some birthday packages bundle mermaid, pirate, or “game on” themed decorations and services at a discounted rate to help parents save time and money.

Purchasing a birthday package streamlines the planning process, offers cost savings, and enhances the overall experience, making it a convenient and enjoyable option for celebrating special occasions at Pirates Bay.



"My child had an absolute blast at the Pirates Bay for their birthday! Seeing them enjoy every moment with friends was priceless. Grateful for the unforgettable memories created at Pirates Bay!"

MONICA GARCIA



Caring



Stewardship

CARDIO DANCE

June



SUMMARY

As temperatures began to elevate in the spring of 2023, staff was approached to modify the newly organized and successful, "Wake Up and Walk!" program. After talking to participants, and brainstorming with the instructor, Cardio Dance was created. This class provides a fun way to increase cardio fitness through dancing inside of the Community Center.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Staff developing an alternative class to take the place of another, instead of cancelling it altogether.





Caring



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Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



CAMP WANNAHAVE FUN

June



SUMMARY

This was the second year for the Youth Summer Camp at Camp Wannahave Fun at the Community Center. Every day was full of different activities from arts and crafts, to team sports and board games, movie and popcorn afternoons, a weekly visit to Calypso Cove and for the first time, a weekly field trip. The trips included Moody Gardens, NASA, Interactive Aquarium, Museum of Natural Science, Pirates Bay, Movies and Bowling, and a special “Learn about Baytown” tour going to the Animal Shelter, Municipal Court, Police Station, the 911 Center and a Fire Station.



Thank you to MartiBirds Inflatables, Fred Haise American astronaut, and Enterprise Car Rentals.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosting Apollo 13 astronaut, Fred Haise, and witnessing how patient he was fielding questions from curious minds.
- Seeing how quickly campers develop a new “best friend.”





Caring



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Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

YOUTH SUMMER TRACK

Summer



SUMMARY

City of Baytown’s vision for our youth summer track program is to create a program that allows kids to try something new, develop, grow, create friendships, make memories, and learn a skill that they can take with them and utilize in the future. Our summer track program starts towards the end of May and runs through July. Athletes have the opportunity to compete in Regionals and the state Summer Games of Texas.



City of Baytown’s Youth Summer Track Program has grown to having over 200 athletes register per year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2023, 18 athletes qualified for state and traveled to Brownsville, TX to compete in the summer Games of Texas.
- Baytown had 6 finalists place in the top 4 in the state of Texas.



“This track season has been unbelievable and far surpassed our expectations. It is an honor to provide these athletes with an opportunity to grow and get stronger and to see the strides they have made.”

Rene Romero (Track Coach) helped get one of our athletes a scholarship to Graceland University. Rene runs for Graceland, a NAIA school in Iowa. Rene has been working hard this summer with our Youth Summer Track program. Recently the head coach for Graceland has been in contact with Moses Ridley, one of Baytown’s athletes, and has extended a scholarship offer to him. This athlete will be signing to go run in college for Graceland. Quote from Rene: “I have been working with Moses Ridley since the beginning of the season and to say he works hard would be an understatement. Moses has shown me diligence and a good attitude to the sport of running. I decided to place Moses in contact with my current Coach in university and they discussed amongst each other for a few weeks. In the end Moses was awarded a scholarship and will be signing this weekend to run for Graceland University in the fall of 2023. Moses has earned this for his endless dedication paired with his positive personality he brings to the team. I’m forever thankful for having the opportunity to coach him. Now I’ll be racing alongside him.”





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

BNC PLANT POWER SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

June 5-9



SUMMARY

During this half-day Baytown Nature Center camp for students in 1st-3rd grades, campers learned how plants grow, what plants grow naturally in the Baytown area, and how to harvest fruit, vegetables and flowers. The Baytown Nature Center is an ideal living laboratory for observing both native and introduced species due to its history as the Brownwood subdivision.

During this “it’s okay to get dirty” camp, budding horticulturists:

- Learned how to identify different plants growing at the Baytown Nature Center
- Dissected a seed to discover how plants grow from seeds of all shapes and sizes
- Planted a small garden for future observations
- Determined what plants need to survive and experiment with light, water and space for plants
- Plant Chia Head planters
- Drawing themselves as a plant and determining if they would be a flower, have thorns, eat bugs?
- Hike down the Goldenbloom Trail to search for decomposers
- Understand how water and nutrients travel through roots to plants
- Determine the difference between beneficial and harmful insects in the garden
- Learn how bees pollinate flowers and communicate with each other
- Create their own terrarium
- Discuss seed dispersal methods and hunt for seeds in the Baytown Nature Center
- Understand why plants how flowers and why they are all so different



Thank you to Fisher’s Hardware in La Porte for supplying some of the materials for Plant Power Camp





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND PIRATES SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

June 5-9

SUMMARY

Campers gained an understanding of what Parks, Planning, Aquatics, Recreation, and Natural Resource Education are all about. During this action-packed week, campers:

- Became junior lifeguards at Pirates Bay Waterpark, shadowing lifeguards in their daily duties, learning CPR and AED procedures, and touring the pump rooms where they saw first hand how complicated running a waterpark can be
- Toured different several athletic facilities with Baytown's Athletics Coordinator, getting in some practice with pickleball, sand volleyball, softball, and soccer
- Prepared meals and cleaned enclosures for Wetlands Center ambassador animals before taking out the fleet of kayaks on Goose Creek to collect trash and improve the waterway
- Learned how to pull a seine net and throw a cast net, as well as test local bay water for factors influencing the health of local aquatic organisms.
- Became junior Parks crews, mentored by Baytown's Parks division staff who taught the students how to operate a backhoe, use a backpack blower, drive a nail, pull a trailer with a mower, and operate a zero-turn mower in a junior "Maintenance Rodeo"
- Designed a park under the direction of Baytown's Park Planner
- Planned their own event (location, amenities, budget, theme) and presented their idea at a simulated Council meeting

HIGHLIGHTS

- This camp for 7th-10th graders introduced the WIDE variety of careers in the Parks & Recreation Department.



Special thanks to ALL of the Parks and Recreation staff who showed these campers what it means to be a Parks and Recreation professional!





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

WETLANDS WARRIORS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

June 12-16



SUMMARY

IfThe Wetlands Center’s namesake camp! This week-long camp for 1st-3rd grade campers introduces wetlands to the youngest campers, who learn why wetlands are such a vital ecosystem to both people and animals. During this fun week, campers enjoy:

- Creating their own “wetlands in a pan”, and observing how wetlands plants protect shorelines
- Tour the Baytown Nature Center, where they meet marine organisms collected with a seine net and cast net
- Meet the coastal wetlands critters in the Wetlands Center’s coastal touch tank
- Tour Shangri La Botanic Gardens and observe the wetlands from the Shangri La Outpost Boat Tour
- Visit Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, where they observe the birds and alligators that call the wetlands home
- Participate in their own Wetlands Olympics, seeing how well they can compete as wetlands wildlife
- Tour Crocodile Encounter and observe their resident alligators, crocodiles and other wildlife
- Visit Brazos Bend State Park, where they observe alligators and birds in their natural wetlands habitat
- Learn the proper way to use binoculars as a tool for observing wildlife
- Tour Galveston Island State Park and learn about wetlands plants
- Create their own wetlands watercolor paintings



None of the Wetlands Center’s Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camps would be possible without the continued support of Chevron Phillips, the lone sponsor of summer camps since 1998!





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

BNC FEATHERED FRIENDS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

June 12-16



SUMMARY

This Baytown Nature Center half-day camp for 4th-6th graders introduced birding as a hobby. Campers learned about the birds that call Baytown home, how to attract birds to their homes, and why birds are such an important species in nature.

During this fun-filled week, campers learned to:

- Identify birds by sight and sound
- Learn proper use of binoculars and spotting scopes as tools to identify birds
- Build a bird feeder to attract local birds
- Build a birdhouse to give local birds a home
- Identify what makes a bird a bird (hint: feathers!)
- Learn about bird adaptations around the world
- Journal daily about their bird observations
- Feed the local birds by filling the Nature Center's bird feeding station

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Baytown Nature Center is listed as a spot on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail and is considered a Hot Spot on the eBird app.
- Over 300 birds have been documented at the Baytown Nature Center.



Thank you to Houston Audubon for supporting the Baytown Nature Center's efforts in bird conservation!





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

FISHING FRENZY SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

June 19-23



SUMMARY

Following Texas Parks & Wildlife's Angler Education curriculum, 4th-6th grade students learn to fish in this fun, hands-on camp. At the end of this busy, fun-filled week, campers earn a TPWD Junior Angler pin by completing components of the class. Daily fishing trips give campers lots of time to practice! Skills developed include:

- Rods, reels, tackle and bait identification
- Knot tying and casting practice
- Fish biology
- Identifying habitat for different water bodies
- Fishing ethics and safety
- Crabbing and cast-net throwing

Campers are able to practice their new skills in both fresh water and brackish water. 2023 Fishing Frenzy Camp week was very rainy, but campers were still able to fish at the Wayne Grey Sport Complex pond, Lake Friendswood, the Baytown Nature Center and Sylvan Beach Pier. They also enjoyed catching crabs off the Wetlands Center's dock!

HIGHLIGHTS

Fishing Frenzy is one of the Wetlands Center's most popular camps and fills up quickly! Fish caught during Fishing Frenzy Camp:

- Bluegill
- Largemouth Bass
- Channel Catfish
- Croaker
- Black Drum
- Red Drum
- Speckled Trout
- Hardhead Catfish



Special thanks to Canon Comanich and Slate Hrabina, former campers who volunteered their time to help new fishermen learn new skills!



Caring



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WORLD'S LARGEST SWIM LESSON

June 22



SUMMARY

Pirates Bay hosted their 5th annual World's Largest Swim Lesson. The World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ (WLSL) is a global drowning prevention event launched by the World Waterpark Association in 2010. The program is supported by the leading aquatics and safety organizations and takes place at all types of aquatic facilities from huge waterparks to small community pools and swim schools. WLSL serves as a platform to help communities build awareness about the fundamental importance of teaching children to swim. Swimming is a life-saving skill for children and a vital tool to prevent drowning, the number one cause of death for U.S. children ages 1-4, and second leading cause for children 5-14.

Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics shows risk of drowning can be reduced by 88% if children participate in formal swimming lessons between the ages of 1-4. Yet, a survey conducted by the American Red Cross in 2020 found that more than half of Americans (56%) either can't swim or don't have the necessary basic swimming skills. TEAM WLSL™ is on a mission to make everyone aware that swim lessons are vital.

The WLSL allows guests who are unable to afford a full session of swim lessons to get a lesson with main points to take home and practice.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 22 Swim Instructors taught 4 different time slots of a 30-minute free swim lesson throughout the day.
- 502 participants in 2023



TEAM WLSL™ holds five Guinness World Records™ for the largest simultaneous swimming lesson conducted at multiple venues including the current official record which was set in 2014 with 36,564 participants in 22 countries.



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

CONSERVATION CREW SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

June 26-29



SUMMARY

Time to roll up your sleeves and help save the earth! This camp for 7th-10th graders focused on environmental issues facing the earth and how people can help. It's also the only camp offered that includes an overnight campout!

During Conservation Crew camp, participants were able to:

- Discuss conservation and ways in which humans can help the earth
- Visit Crocodile Encounter Park, where they were able to learn about alligator and crocodile conservation efforts at one of the few zoos with successful breeding programs of several crocodilians
- Learn about Leave No Trace and practice its 7 principles
- Kayak on Goose Creek while collecting trash and disposing of it properly
- Ride an airboat with Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Clean-Up technicians to learn how oil spills are identified and cleaned
- Listen to a presentation from the US Forest Service on forest restoration efforts
- Visit Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network in Galveston and stage a mock recovery of a stranded dolphin
- Participate in a beach cleanup with Texas A&M University Galveston Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research
- Patrol Galveston beach for sea turtle nests and participate in mock sea turtle nesting activity
- Tour LEEDS certified Sea Star Base Galveston building
- "Camp out" at Sea Star Base

HIGHLIGHTS

Principles of Leave No Trace for minimum impact on the environment:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others



Thank you to Sea Star Base Galveston for the wonderful overnight accommodations!





Caring



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Leadership



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Collaboration



JULY 3RD & 4TH

July



SUMMARY

The annual event at Bicentennial Park featured wonderful talent across various genres in 2023.

Grammy-award winner LeAnn Rimes brought all of her hits to Baytown as our July 4th headliner. She was joined by Warner Recording artist, and LeAnn's primary opening act, Madeline Edwards. Local favorite, R.L. Bell, who is known for his performances on NBC's hit show America's Got Talent, was also on site to open the show!

On July 3rd, two Grammy-award winners performed on stage as Siggnò headlined and Sunny Saucedá opened at 6pm.

Lastly, an amazing fireworks show ended the evening in front of one of the largest crowds to date.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The two day event featured a total of three Grammy Award winners: Sunny Saucedá, Siggnò and LeAnn Rimes.
- July 4th was voted THE BEST Community Event by The Baytown Sun 2023 Reader's Choice Awards.



Thank you to Bob Hope School, Harris County Constables Precinct 3, Lee College, Goose Creek Consolidated ISD, Beacon Federal Credit Union, City Departments, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard



RECAP VIDEO





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



ADVANCED FISHING SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

July 5-7

SUMMARY

Advanced Fishing is an accelerated Angler Education program offered to campers who have demonstrated their fishing prowess in prior Angler Education camps at the Wetlands Center. This camp moves at a fast pace, and gives campers the chance to dive in a little deeper into the sport of fishing.

During this 3-day camp for 7th-10th graders, advanced anglers were able to:

- Learn how to fish with a fly rod and fly following Texas Parks and Wildlife's Basic and Intermediate Fly Fishing curriculum. Anglers identify the parts and purpose of fly tackle, how it differs from other types of rods and reels, how to perform a four-part fly cast and how to tie a fly to the tippet.
- Tie their own fly and use it to fish in a local pond.
- Collected macroinvertebrates and used them to predict the health of the water in which they were collected.
- Go kayak fishing in Goose Creek, fishing from kayaks for local fish.
- Visit a local fish market, where they learned about the economics of fishing in Texas.
- Clean a fish and prepare it for cooking.
- Visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Texas, where they learned about stocking and conservation efforts throughout the state before fishing onsite

HIGHLIGHTS

Did you know?

- A TPWD fishing license if not required in Texas public waters for anyone under 17 years of age
- Baytown has several public fishing piers for brackish water fishing



Special thanks goes out to Michael Scherer, Program Director at Fishing's Future, who spent the day with us teaching the kids how to fly fish! "To learn to fish, is to learn the fish"
~ Michael Scherer





Caring



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Leadership



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Collaboration



DUKE HILL POP UP PARK

July

SUMMARY

The Duke Hill Pop Up Park featured the Baytown Nature Center, Baytown's Fire Department, DJ Jose, and our dedicated Parks and Recreation staff defeating the heat with plenty of entertainment at the recently renovated Duke Hill Park.

Duke Hill Park has access at 1400 Riggs Street and extra parking on Barrymore Boulevard. It is the perfect mid-sized park for any activity. Recent additions to Duke Hill include a playground, a toddler play area, and new disc golf and foot golf courses. If those aren't your games of choice, this park also features a recreational basketball court, a backstop for baseball or softball, and a concrete soccer arena with space for two separate games.

Covered picnic tables are available near the playgrounds with BBQ pits close by for cooking burgers or hotdogs at a park picnic. A paved trail connects areas of the park and crosses through wooded areas frequented by birds such as mockingbirds, blue jays, woodpeckers, and hawks.

Whether visiting for play, recreation, or looking for local wildlife, Duke Hill Park has a little piece of everything to enjoy.

Explore Duke Hill Park and all other parks and trails across Baytown at <https://baytown.org/863/Parks>

HIGHLIGHTS

- Receiving thanks from the community on all of the improvements that the Parks crews did at the park.



"It [Duke Hill] has become my favorite park in Baytown. Cool little park. Has futsal, foot golf and disc golf. Great little trail as well."

BAYTOWN RESIDENT





Caring



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Stewardship



Collaboration

COUPLES DATE NIGHT

July



SUMMARY

Couples date night saw 300+ adults enjoying a wonderful breezy balmy night filled with entertainment at Town Square.

Guests were asked to first stop by the Parks and Recreation booth to pick up dinner coupons to area restaurants. From there, participants started the night with dinner at any of the restaurants on Texas Avenue that provided exclusive date night deals, including discounts of 10% off at Bocanegra's, a Happy Hour menu at Wazabi, and a \$6 banana split special from Sabor of Mexico, and more.

The free games for the night included Kahoot trivia, along with yard games such as axe throwing, cornhole, and jumbo pong (ongoing through the night).

Lastly, guests were asked to stop by Art Alley and purchase a love lock install together on the newly renovated lock wall in the alley.

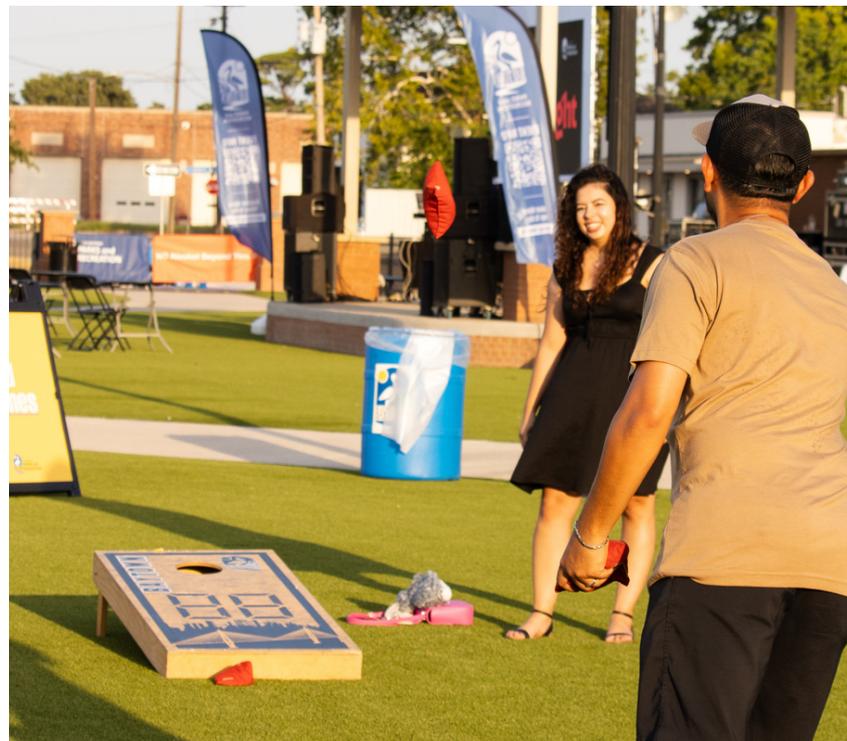
HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parks and Recreation Department received rave reviews on the Kahoot trivia portion of the evening, with many guests requesting to make it an ongoing event.
- Many event attendees were excited to see the newly renovated Art Alley for the first time.



Had a great date night thanks to Baytown Parks and Recreation! Even won two movie tickets for another date night.

AMETHYST WARE, EVENT GUEST





Leadership



Collaboration



LIFEGUARD COMPETITION

July

SUMMARY

Lifeguards polish skills in order to perform real life scenarios at a competitive level.

Gulf Coast Aquatic Association and Texas Public Pool Council host regional and state-level competitions. Lifeguard teams from across Texas participate and compete against each other in different scenarios that allow the lifeguards to show their skills and training in “real life” scenarios.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2023 Gulf Coast Guard Games
 - Spirit Award Champion
 - 2nd Place CPR Scenario: The Undercurrents
 - 2nd Place Spinal Injury Scenario: The Undercurrents
 - 3rd Place Spinal Injury Scenario: Pirates Bay Piranhas
 - 4th Place Overall: The Undercurrents
 - 5th Place Overall: Pirates Bay Piranhas
 - Golden Ticket to Texas Lifeguard Championship: The Undercurrents & Pirates Bay Piranhas
- 2023 Texas Lifeguard Championship
 - Spirit Award Champion
 - 5th Place overall: The Undercurrents
 - 9th place overall: Pirates Bay Piranhas



2023 was the first time ever that Baytown has had 2 teams qualify for the Texas Lifeguard Championship.



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GUEST SERVICE OLYMPICS

July 25



SUMMARY

The Guest Service Olympics is an event hosted by Pirates Bay’s Guest Service Supervisors for the Guest Service Team members. Our guest service team members compete in a series of thrilling challenges, showcasing their teamwork, communication, and customer service skills. From relay races to musical chairs, this event celebrates the spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie among guest service staff. The event not only fosters teamwork but also creates a fun and memorable experience for team members as they grow as one team. Awards and recognitions are given out, adding an extra layer of excitement and motivation for dedicated staff.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Team Leaders are decided by the Guest Service Team Member with the most bead points.
- The Black team won the 2023 Guest Service Olympics!



The team with the highest score at the end of the guest Service Olympics gets to pie their supervisor of choice!





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



UNDER THE SEA SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

July 10-14

SUMMARY

Time to dive under the sea! This fun camp for 1st-3rd grade students introduces them to the beautiful underwater world of the oceans and the animals that call the oceans home. Campers also learn about the challenges that marine animals face in their salty homes. During this camp, campers enjoy::

- Creating their own model of the water cycle, and watching the water condense and “rain” throughout the week
- Visiting the Kemah Aquarium where they touch and feed stingrays, observe the fish and other critters that live in an ocean, and learn from the Coral Communities Program
- Learning about seashells and observing their own experiment demonstrating how acid (vinegar) affects the calcium in the shells
- Designing and creating their own phytoplankton model to test against each other’s models for effective buoyancy
- Growing their own zooplanktom in an aquarium
- Learning about ocean food webs and how the sunlight affects them
- Creating their personal marine biologist self-portrait
- Watching the Sharks 3D Movie at the Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Practicing oil spill recovery methods
- Visiting Moody Gardens and watching Secrets of the Sea 3D Movie
- Creating their own coral reef model and their own edible coral polyp, which they have to eat with no hands!
- Removing marine debris from the Baytown Nature Center

HIGHLIGHTS

What did the campers list as their goals as future marine biologists?

- Save the dolphins!
- Study “a octerpus”
- Learn more about the pink dolphins in the Amazon
- Be a scientist that studies sea turtles





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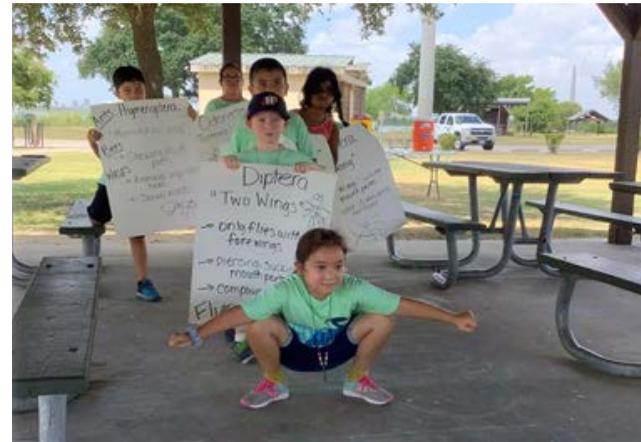
Stewardship



Collaboration

BNC INCREDIBLE INSECTS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

July 17-21



SUMMARY

This half-day Baytown Nature Center camp for 1st-3rd grade students introduced campers to the wonderful world of insects. Campers learned that there is a difference between an insect and a bug, and had fun collecting and identifying the smallest inhabitants of the Nature Center.

Campers learned about insect biology, life cycles, and survival adaptations of insects and bugs. During the week they were able to:

- Identify the characteristics of insects as they created a “human insect”
- Understand the life cycles of insects and bugs
- Collect insects using nets and observe using hand lenses and microscopes
- Identify Coleoptera and Orthoptera (beetles, grasshoppers, locusts and crickets)
- Identify Lepidoptera and Odonatoptera (butterflies/moths and dragonflies)
- Identify Hemiptera and Hymenoptera (stink bugs and ants, bees and wasps)
- Identify Diptera and Blattodea (flies, mosquitoes, and roaches)
- Identify Mantodea and Arachnids (mantids, walking sticks and spiders)

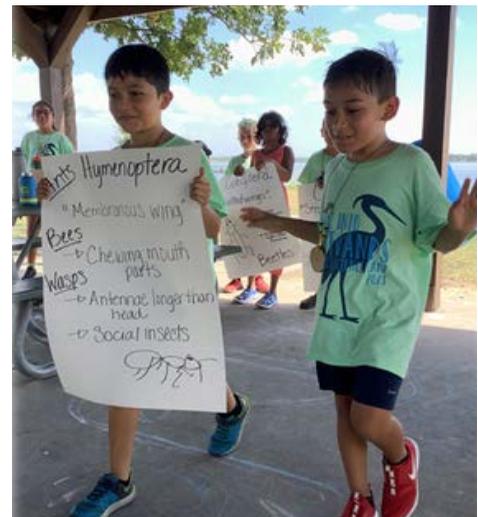
HIGHLIGHTS

What makes an insect?

- 3 body parts: head thorax, and abdomen
- 2 eyes and 2 antennae
- Grow from eggs (complete metamorphosis)
- Exoskeleton
- Compound eyes

What makes a true bug (which is also an insect)?

- Oval, flattened body
- 2 pairs of wings
- Straw-like proboscis
- Triangle shape on back
- No larval stage (incomplete metamorphosis)





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

BNC TREASURE HUNTERS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

July 24-28



SUMMARY

This Baytown Nature Center half-day camp for 4th-6th grade students was a week-long experience for future explorers! Campers learned how to utilize tools to explore the center, including a compass, GPS receivers, maps and other tools.

Throughout the week, campers engaged in the following fun skills and activities:

- Observation hikes looking for specified items along the trails
- Identification of poison ivy and other hazards along the trails
- Create their own scavenger hunt and decoder to find secret items
- Identify trees and flowers in a scavenger hunt
- Create their own letterbox stamp
- Geocaching throughout the Nature Center
- Understand latitude and longitude and how to navigate using a map and lat-long coordinates

HIGHLIGHTS

What is letterboxing? Letterboxing is an intriguing “treasure hunt” style outdoor activity.

Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly-accessible places (like parks) and post clues to finding the box online on one of several Web sites. However, clues to finding some of the most highly-sought boxes are passed around by word of mouth.

There are about 100,000 active letterboxes listed on LbNA alone. Individual letterboxes usually contain a log book, an often hand-carved rubber stamp and occasionally an ink pad. Finders make an imprint of the letterbox’s stamp on their personal log book, and leave an imprint of their personal stamp on the letterbox’s logbook.



The Baytown Nature Center is the perfect spot to look for hidden treasure! Campers were able to look for clues of the Nature Center’s subdivision history.





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Leadership



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Collaboration

MOVE SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

July 24-28



SUMMARY

MOVE! camp for 7th-10th graders is the perfect way to sneak in some physics lessons during the summer! Campers had a great time learning about the principles of motion in this action packed, fun-filled week.

During this action-packed, fun-filled week, MOVE campers were able to:

- Travel to iFly, experiencing first hand the principle of free fall
- Built cardboard boats and test them for buoyancy in Goose Creek
- Observe roller coaster physics in person during a field study session at the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier
- Test out some of their own roller coaster creations at Pirates Bay Waterpark
- Demonstrate Newton's Laws of Motion with fun experiments throughout the week
- Build their own rockets and compete against other campers for longest flight time and highest altitude
- Experiment with Playground Physics at Roseland and NC Foote Parks
- Build marshmallow catapults and test them against each other



HIGHLIGHTS

Newton's Laws of Motion:

- First Law- An object at rest will remain at rest unless acted on by an unbalanced force
- Second Law - Acceleration is produced when a force acts on a mass. $F=ma$
- Third Law - For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.



Special thanks to Thomas Butcher, physics teacher at Sterling High School, for spending time with our campers!



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Collaboration

SENSATIONAL SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

July 31-Aug 4



SUMMARY

Ever wonder how humans experience the world around us? This week-long camp for 1st-3rd grade students introduces the five senses with fun, interactive experiences. Campers are invited to touch, smell, hear, see and taste their way through nature! Campers enjoy:

- Using their sight to explore Sheldon Lake State Park birds and other wildlife
- Learn the proper use of microscopes
- Visiting the Houston Health Museum, where they learn about the biology of the five senses
- Demonstrations of echolocation to experience how bats hear
- Playing Owls and Mice - a predator/prey game
- Making their own rain stick
- Exploring the sense of smell at Mercer Botanical Gardens
- Getting to use their taste buds at Creamistry Ice Cream
- Making oobleck
- Visiting the Baytown Nature Center and taking a touch-walk
- Learning about Braille and practicing with a Braille challenge

HIGHLIGHTS

What is oobleck? This NON-EDIBLE recipe is named after the strange material that falls from the sky in the Dr. Seuss book, Bartholomew and the Oobleck. It's a really fun recipe to be used as a science experiment of sorts with young children. -
---Is it a solid? ---- Is it a liquid?

- 2 cups cornstarch
- 3 drops food coloring
- 1 cup water



None of the Wetlands Center's Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camps would be possible without the continued support of Chevron Phillips, the lone sponsor of summer camps since 1998!





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Collaboration

WILD FOR SURVIVAL SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

July 17-21

SUMMARY

Why do some animals fly and other swim? What is so important about feathers, scales or hair? This week-long camp for 4th-6th grade students identifies different features that make individual animals special. The students investigate the different adaptations that animals use to help with their species survival. During this fun week of exploration, campers are able to:

- Meet the crabs, shrimp, anemones and others in the Wetlands Center coastal touch tank and identify their adaptations for living in brackish water
- Visit the Kemah Aquarium and perform a squid dissection, understanding the squid's unique adaptations
- Identify marine organisms caught in seine net and cast net at the Baytown Nature Center
- Tour the Houston Museum of Natural Science Butterfly Pyramid and learn about insect adaptations
- Collect and view macroinvertebrates collected in the Wetlands Center's pond
- Try their luck in an Adaptation Escape Room activity
- Connect with their inner animal in the Mammal Olympics
- Create blubber glove and learn about marine mammal adaptations
- Visit Moody Gardens and learn about bird adaptations and hazards that face birds in the wild
- Dissect an owl pellet to determine the owl's diet
- Tour Crocodile Encounter and learn about reptile adaptations





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Collaboration

DROUGHT

July–September

SUMMARY

The winter of 2022 was tough, with freezing temperatures taking their toll on Baytown’s landscaping and vegetation.

Then, as if that wasn’t challenge enough, the summer of 2023 saw Parks and Rec teams battling to keep plantings and vegetation alive during a historic drought. For 6 weeks, June - August, there was very little rainfall in Baytown, or the entire state.

Not only did staff have to battle to keep plants alive, but the drought wreaked havoc on Baytown’s irrigations systems. Many had to be replaced due to drought impacts on waterlines and athletic fields.





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“BIG BELLY” TRASH CAN WRAPS

August

SUMMARY

There are “Big Belly” branded trash and recycle receptacles installed at various parks around town. They have designated areas that can be utilized for advertising and design.

The previous designs were getting worn down in the weather, so this year, we set out to replace the worst of them.



Since updates were needed to the wraps, the branding was also updated to align with the new guidelines for the City.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following designs were refreshed and updated this year:

- Roseland Park
- Wayne Gray Sports Complex
- Jenkins Park
- Hollaway Park
- Town Square



The trash can designs for Town Square tied into the newly painted murals in Art Alley, bringing the art in Downtown full-circle.



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RECREATION ON-BOARDING WORKSHOP

August



SUMMARY

In the fall, Recreation had a large amount of new staff joining the team, so leadership hosted an on-boarding workshop to help the new team members get to know each other, learn the basics of office operations, and facilitate a deeper team bond.

The newest team members went on a field trip to every Parks and Recreation facility, completing a scavenger hunt for faces of other team members to help gain familiarity. All participants also received a crash course on helping at the front desk if the need arose.

Finally, they received information on branding and marketing and how everyone's jobs play a role in creating unforgettable memories for the community.

HIGHLIGHTS

Core Value awards were given out to the following team members:

- Sydney Gordon - Stewardship
- William Jones - Stewardship
- Catherine Quintana - Leadership
- Dominique Gutierrez - Leadership
- Christopher Olaya - Caring
- Diana Herrera - Caring & Innovation
- Denzel Porche - Caring & Collaboration
- Kayla Garza - Innovation



The facilitation included an activity for each participant to discover their “why” to help them work more purposefully in their role.



“When you know your ‘why’, your ‘what’ becomes more impactful because you’re walking towards or in your purpose.”

MICHAEL JR.



Thank you to Clifford Hatch for supporting opportunities like this workshop to grow as a team.



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Collaboration

KIDVENTORS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

August 7-11



SUMMARY

Kidventors is a week long camp for 4th-6th grade students who like to exercise their creativity. Campers learned about inventions of the past, and were encouraged to create their own inventions with provided and scavenged materials. The week ended with a fun trip to Pirates Bay Waterpark where the campers were able to test their inventions by dropping them from the towers, testing their strength and durability.

Campers in Kidventors visited some fun locations and participated in fun activities:

- Toured Lone Star Flight Museum, where they learned about the Bernoulli's principle and how it relates to flight. They also explored the museum's collection of vintage aircraft.
- Created their own paper airplanes and eggstronaut parachutes, which they used to compete against each other for longest flight and most resilient parachute
- Visited Children's Museum of Houston, where they learned about simple machines
- Toured Houston Museum of Natural Science Sugar Land and learned about architecture
- Created their own gum drop structure and tested its strength
- Climbed the towers at Pirates Bay Waterpark to test their eggstronaut parachutes
- Baytown Nature Center where they flexed their creativity with Imagination Blocks

HIGHLIGHTS

This camp for 4th-6th graders is for aspiring inventors! Campers from this week learned about being pilots, architects, engineers, astronauts, and a number of other scientific occupations.





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Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

BNC YOUNG NATURALISTS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

Aug 7-11



SUMMARY

In this fun half-day camp for 1st-3rd grade students, campers learned what it takes to be called a naturalist. Crissy Butcher, the Baytown Nature Center's Naturalist, led the campers on activities focused on plants and trees, birds, insects, fish, mammals and reptiles, and why it's important for a Naturalist to identify proper habitat and wildlife needs in the environment.

During this active week, campers were able to:

- Go fishing at the Baytown Nature Center, learning about the fish that call Baytown's local waters home
- Identify local birds using binoculars and spotting scopes
- Practice identification of plants and trees
- Collect specimens throughout the Baytown Nature Center on daily hikes
- Learn about echolocation and how bats use it to find insects
- Create art with leaves collected during camp
- Learn to identify animal scat, and make and eat their own edible "scat"
- Dissect and recreate a bird nest, understanding how complex a nest can be
- Collect seeds and understand their importance to wildlife as a food source
- Make their own dream catcher
- Learn about the water cycle and make their own rain cloud, tornado bottle and water cycle bracelets
- Go crabbing at the Baytown Nature Center

HIGHLIGHTS

Ingredients for Edible Scat

- Chocolate Chips
- Sprinkles
- Crispy Rice and Other Cereals
- Melted Marshmallows
- Crushed Oreos
- Jelly Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Shredded Coconut
- Crushed Pretzels



Telling a camper that they are going to eat "scat" (animal poop) elicits nervous laughter and lot of groans!





Caring



Collaboration



PIRATES BAY BACK TO SCHOOL SPLASH

August 11

SUMMARY

The Back to School Splash has been our end of season event at Pirates Bay Waterpark for the last three years. In 2023, we experienced an increase in attendance of 51%.

We partner with Chick-Fil-A, Sterling Municipal Library, Sonic, and many other vendors to bring a large-scale event to the community to celebrate the end of summer and the kids going back to school.

We have a foam zone, back to school bags for all kids who come, and a fireworks show over the wave pool to close out the evening.



"I love ending the summer season with a show while on stand watching all of the guests get excited when the count down starts."

**JOY GOODGINE,
OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR**



"What a perfect day as our summer is coming to an end."

MONICA ROARK

"It was an amazing evening!"

CYNTHIA TAYLOR BROWN



In 2023, we experienced an increase in attendance of 51% and SOLD OUT!

RECAP VIDEO





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Leadership



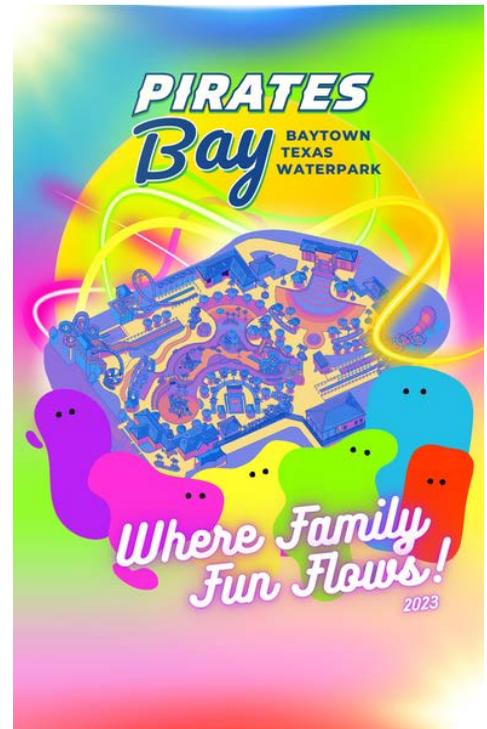
Stewardship



Collaboration

PIRATES BAY POSTER OF THE YEAR

August



SUMMARY

A first for Pirates Bay, posters were designed as a souvenir for the team members at the end of the season.

The Marketing team members each designed a poster to be entered for votes and the Aquatics team members voted on their favorite.

The winning poster was printed and given out at the end-of-season banquet.



Congratulations to Dominique,
the designer and winner of
“Where Family Fun Flows!”



RUNNER-UP POSTERS





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BUSCH TERRACE POP UP PARK

August

SUMMARY

The Busch Terrace Pop Up Park had a nice turnout considering the heat. Baytown Nature Center, Serling Library, and Baytown Police Dept.'s D.A.R.E. Program were in attendance along with Babies in Baytown. The free snow cones were also a great hit as always.



Thank you to MD Anderson – Be Well Baytown and Babies in Baytown (BIB) for supporting this event.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parks and Recreation staff did a great job on facilitating all of the games and getting the park looking nice.





Innovation



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POOCH-A-PALOOZA

August



SUMMARY

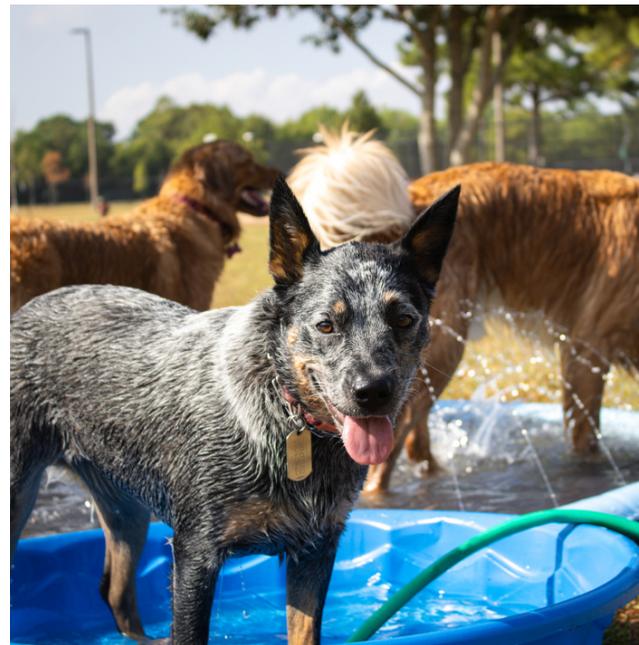
The Pooch-a-Palooza was a new event at Jenkins Park that was held on August 4, 2023 - National Dog Day. Besides being a fun day for dog-lovers, it was also a way to help with adoptions of dogs, as the Baytown Animal Shelter was at capacity and on hand to adopt out new friends. The event featured a Doggie Dash where owners could run, jog or walk with their furry friend, a costume contest for their pups, and weenie dog races that kept the crowd highly entertained.



Thank you to all our participants in our first time Doggie Dash, Mutt Strutt, and Weenie Dog Races. Your furry friends did not disappoint!

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parks crew built the starting gate for the weenie dog races.
- Winners of the “weenie dog races” received a trophy, in addition to bragging rights for their owners.
- Each racer had an entry fee of \$10 that raised over \$650 for Animal Services.





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END OF SEASON AQUATIC AWARDS

September 2

SUMMARY

Congrats to our 2023 Aquatics Team Members of the Year! These team members exemplify everything we stand for at Pirates Bay and Baytown Parks and Recreation. They always have a positive attitude, are willing to go the extra mile, are guest-focused, and team players. Thank you for your dedication to the 2023 waterpark season!

- Manager On Duty (MOD) of the Year: Kaylei Payne
- Guest Service Supervisor of the Year: Trenity Arceneaux
- Park Service Supervisor of the Year: Mariah Auguste
- Operations Supervisor of the Year: Brieah Zuercher
- Guest Service Lead of the Year: Jose Mendez
- Head Lifeguard of the Year: Roberto Gaeta
- Guest Service Team Member of the Year: John DeAnthony
- Park Service Team Member of the Year: Ti'Ocean Crump
- Lifeguard of the Year: Tyler Nagin





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Leadership



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Collaboration

PARKS AND RECREATION BOAT REGATTA

September 15



SUMMARY

Baytown Parks and Recreation Staff gathered at Pirates Bay for a team-building tradition called "The Cardboard Boat Regatta". Teams were broken up into groups of 3 to 4 and tasked to work together to build a boat using only cardboard, tape, and one plastic trash bag. The first team to cross the finish line in the lazy river with their boat and driver still afloat is the winner.

12 TEAMS COMPETE FOR THE PRIZE



RECAP VIDEO



1ST PLACE WINNERS



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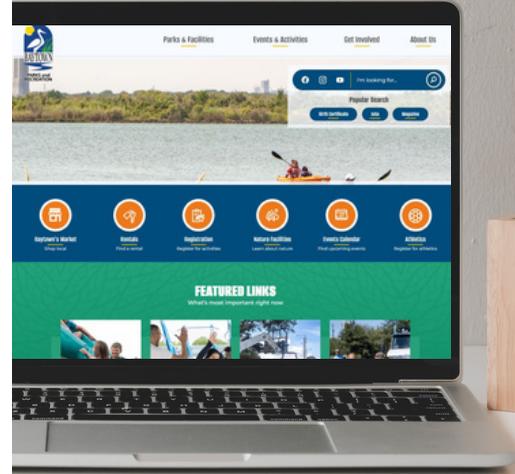
Innovation



Collaboration

A NEW WEBSITE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

September



SUMMARY

Last year, the Public Affairs team collaborated with every marketing liaison in the City departments to develop a new website concept.

The new website was re-branded to match the City guidelines, comply with accessibility requirements, and add new features.

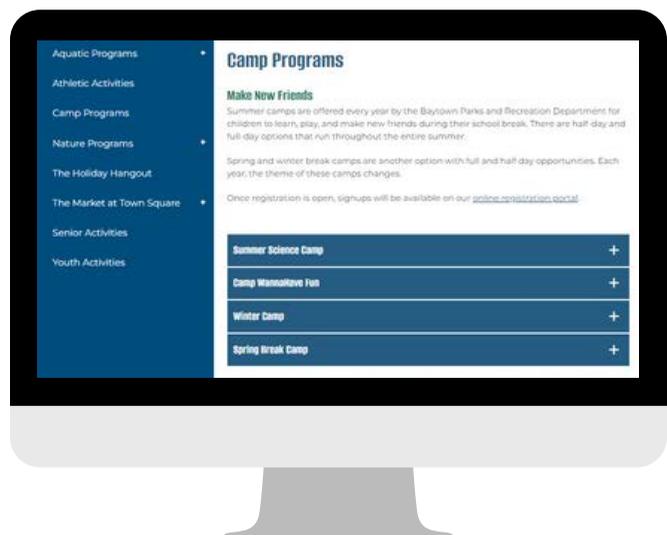
The Parks and Recreation team's focus on their pages was to portray the department as one team rather than different divisions. For example, previously the Nature and Recreation divisions had their camp information on their own pages. The update brought all the camp options together on one page for the community have easier access to options.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The departments now have their own news section on their homepage to update the community with more frequent information.
- The online registration portal we use for sign ups and tickets also received a facelift to match the new look.
- Rental facility information was updated to be more user friendly and offer photo previews.



The main goals in updating the Parks and Recreation website content was to 1) consolidate from all divisions to one source and 2) reduce the amount of clicks to get to information online.





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“BAYTOWN DOES MORE” UNIFORMS

September



SUMMARY

In the fall of 2023, it was determined there was a need to offer the Parks and Recreation team winter gear earlier in the season to be prepared at the first cold snap.

Hoodies were designed in a bright color for safety purposes, as our crews often work around traffic, in the dark of evenings, and other areas where high visibility is needed.

They were immediately put to use and appreciated by the team members so much that later in the season, shirts in the same design and color were ordered and distributed to the team. The shirt option was for the purpose of staying uniform regardless of temperature preference.

HIGHLIGHTS

When several divisions of the department collaborated at the Holiday Hangout through the winter season, the uniforms being the same across the team created a branded and high-visibility uniform for the team.



In the work environment, it is key for staff to be easily identifiable with uniform clothing so they can offer better customer service and generate community trust.





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NATURE CENTER ENTRANCE LANDSCAPING

September–October

SUMMARY

This project was inspired from destruction by the tornado and a desire from Council Member Kenrick Griffith wanting to enhance the Bayway corridor. We thought this would be a good time to restore the fountain and turn it back into a great feature.



Thank you to Council Member Kenrick Griffith for supporting this project.

HIGHLIGHTS

Plantings for butterfly habitat:

- Coneflower
- Variegated Yucca
- Salvia.
- Fruit Trees





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MUSIC CLASSES

September



SUMMARY

Due to the popularity of Music Camp, the instructor created an ongoing music class at the Community Center for piano and drum lessons.

In September 2023, 25 students registered for the first classes, with 22 returning in October. Currently there are plans to continue the new program for 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Playing the piano changes the brain in a positive way!
- Playing the drums accelerates physical healing, boosts the immune system and assists in releasing emotional trauma.





Innovation



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GRITO FEST PRE PARTY

October

SUMMARY

Baytown's Grito Fest is one of the area's most popular festivals celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Pre-Party took place at Baytown Town Square, located at 213 W. Texas Avenue, on October 6, 2023 and featured pinatas every hour, chihuahua races, gift bags for all children, a preview of the Holiday Hangout's miniature golf, and great food vendors! The event was a success with almost 3,000 in attendance!

Music was provided by Mariachi Bands featuring members of Grupo Veridad Musical, Mariachi Los Gallitos, & Grupo La Reaccion, Hometown Boys, Ballet Folklorico Herencia Mexicana de Houston, and Gary Hobbs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- First time to host a Chihuahua race.
- 2023 saw the stage be repositioned on Texas Ave as the Town Square Turf Project is now complete.
- The above average crowd danced the night away on Texas Ave.





Leadership



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GRITO FEST

October



SUMMARY

La Leyenda headlined day two of Grito Fest at Bicentennial Park, located at 1001 Market Street, on October 7, 2023. This FREE and family-friendly outdoor festival features musical performances by Mariachi Band featuring members of Grupo Veridad Musical, Mariachi Los Gallitos, & Grupo La Reaccion, Sandy G y Los Gavilanes, Mixteco Ballet Folklorico, Ruben Ramos & the Mexican Revolution, Mejikenze Ballet Folklorico, and La Leyenda. It wouldn't be a Grito Fest without the accordian, grito, jalapeño and salsa contests.



Thank you to the Grito Fest Committee, Whataburger, Telemundo, Rapid Care Emergency Room, Exxon Mobil, Tachus Fiber Internet, Harris County Constables Precinct 3, Lee College, and Goose Creek Consolidated ISD

HIGHLIGHTS

- For the first time we also had Faith Family Church and Raising Canes be a part of Grito Fest. They provided free giveaways, photo ops and yard games for all attendees.
- Added a toddler soft play area as a new option.



RECAP VIDEO



RECREATION



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TREATS ON THE TRAIL

October

SUMMARY

The Annual Treats on the Trail Halloween event welcomed a record breaking attendance of 7,255 people. For 2023, Recreation Division changed the layout to ensure people had enough space to walk comfortably and enjoy all the activities without the long lines at Wayne Grey Sports Complex. Treats on the Trail has become a major event for the City, with 34 vendors, including some City Departments, handing out free candy from their decorated booths.

A Balloon Twister, Costumed Characters, the Parks Crew serving S'mores on a special pit that was fabricated from scrap material, a professional photographer who sent photos digitally to your phone, and our DJ pumping out great music were all hits.



Thank you to the 22+ community partners who hosted a booth and handed out candy!

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parks Division provided a custom fabricated s'mores making station.
- Baytown's ITS Department, Municipal Court, and others hosted an interactive booth or haunted house.



RECAP VIDEO





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INSTALLING SOUND PANELS

October



SUMMARY

When it comes to the staff requirement of “performs other duties as assigned”, Parks and Rec staff are there.

This is one of those projects. Upon moving into the new Clubhouse at Roseland Park, staff knew immediately that the echo in the room must be addressed. A sound consultant was hired and he recommended the installation of acoustic sound panels. Once received, Baytown Parks’ Construction team accepted the challenge of installing them.

HIGHLIGHTS

Hellooo Helloooooo

- Solving the echo problem.



There are always those projects when our staff says, “Hmmm? Yeah, we can do that!”





Caring



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MINIATURE GOLF

October

SUMMARY

Council Woman Sarah Graham approached Parks and Rec Department about adding a fun public amenity in her district. The idea of adding a Miniature Golf course was born! Parks and Rec purchased 18 holes of putting fun and put them together for the first time during the inaugural Holiday Hangout.

The Mini Golf was a huge success during Holiday Hangout. Don't be surprised if you find the course at an event near you!

HIGHLIGHTS

- The community took to this activity well and all families were able to enjoy themselves.
- The possibilities are endless!



Thank you to Council Woman Sarah Graham for supporting this project.





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NURTURE NATURE FESTIVAL

RECAP VIDEO



October 14

SUMMARY

The 12th annual Nurture Nature Festival at the Baytown Nature Center highlighted local wildlife and gave visitors a chance to experience fun family events outdoors. Thirty-six organizations from around the state presented their programs and opportunities, including these favorites:

- Stage shows by Wildlife Center of Texas, Crocodile Encounter, and Texas Snakes & More
- Live animals for visitors to meet and greet
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Archery, Angler Education, Coastal and Inland Fisheries, Game Wardens, and State Parks
- Catfish tank for kids to catch live catfish
- Games, crafts, and other activities from a wide variety of exhibitors



The 2023 Nurture Nature Festival celebrated 12 years of fun and nature education!



Close to 6,000 visitors attended the 2023 Nurture Nature Festival

HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 Nurture Nature Festival was made EXTRA special by the Annual Solar Eclipse that happened during the festival. All attendees were given free eclipse viewing glasses so they could enjoy the event safely!



Thank you to Baytown Engage, EPIC High School Conservation Club, Friends of the Baytown Nature Center, and Parks and Recreation staff who made the 2023 Nurture Nature Festival a huge success!



Innovation



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SPOOKTACULAR

October 21

SUMMARY

Spooktacular is an annual fundraiser hosted by the EPIC High School Conservation Club. EPIC members are raising money for their 2024 International Conservation Experience in Costa Rica. In this fun evening, EPIC members and Wetlands Center/Baytown Nature Center staff welcomed 650 visitors to the Wetlands Center where they enjoyed a safe, family-friendly night of trick-or-treating, games, and crafts. Madame Gertrude the fortune teller and the Mad Scientist added to the fun evening! Attendees showed off their costumes as they also enjoyed meeting live animals, playing games, creating spooky crafts and hearing storytime with CeCe!

HIGHLIGHTS

Stations of Spooktacular

- Storytime with Aunt CeCe - volunteer Celeste Eppler read a fun Halloween book to rapt listeners
- Mad Scientist - Wetlands Center staff created magic bubbles along with other fun science experiments
- Craft Time in the Science Lab - EPIC members helped visitors create their own spider web to take home
- Madame Gertrude - volunteer Linda Cooper tells fortunes to visitors using her magic ball
- Live animals and games - visitors meet the Wetlands Center's ambassador animals and play fun games hosted by staff and EPIC Club members



Spooktacular is in its 5th year with attendance growing each year!



"My kids have been coming to Spooktacular since 2019 and look forward to it every year!"

AMINA KLAIR



Special thanks to Baytown Facilities Department who arrived onsite quickly to tweak the parking lot lights for a safer experience.



Collaboration



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FRIENDS OF THE WETLANDS CENTER GALA

October 28

SUMMARY

The Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting the environmental education mission of Wetlands Center. Each year they host a fund raising gala to raise money to support Wetlands Center programs.

For 2023, the Baytown Nature Center was chosen as a Gala sight for the first time. The event celebrated the 25-year anniversary of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center as a beautiful full moon illuminated the surrounding bays. A silent auction included a variety of items donated by the community.

Lee College Honors Program students helped with setup and volunteered at the event throughout the evening. Park and Recreation staff were also on hand to keep the event running smoothly.

The annual Gala raised over \$25,000 in 2023. Funds will be used for the Wetlands Wagon Outreach Programs, Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camp scholarships, and support for the EPIC High School Conservation Club.

Eddie Gray has been the President of the Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center since its inception in 1998.





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LUMINA SPARK PERSONALITY TRAINING

October 31



SUMMARY

Lumina Spark reveals your whole personality, providing a unique portrait of who you really are in order to increase self-awareness, reveal hidden potential, cope better under pressure, and discover practical actions for improved communication, teamwork and leadership.

The administration and management team each took the personality test and received individual insight on understanding their strengths and weaknesses in the workplace.

After individual reviews, the team gathered for a one-day training to learn how to use their differences to grow and excel as a team.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following team members and their main personalities were identified as:

- Clifford - Outcome Focused
- Tracey - People Focused
- Holly - Discipline Driven
- Amy - People Focused
- Kyle - People Focused
- Jenna - Outcome Focused
- Cornell - Big Picture Thinking
- Abel - Collaborative Introvert



The personality training happened to fall on Halloween day, so the team decided to take advantage of the occasion.



“I used to think everyone thought the same way as me, I was just better at it.”

JAMIE EUSTACE



Thank you to the Baytown Library team for facilitating our training!



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AQUATICS GETS MASCOTS

Fall



SUMMARY

Say hello to the new faces around Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove. In the fall of 2023 we welcomed Bluebeard the Pirate and Polly the Parrot to our parks. Be on the look out for them around the parks in the 2024 season!



Don't worry, these suits are cooled from the inside out.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Bluebeard's costume will give you the muscles you have always dreamed of having.
- These mascots will make their appearance at birthday parties and special events.





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A NEW EVENT CREW

Fall-Winter

SUMMARY

This year during the Parks and Recreation reorganization, a new team was formed. The “Event Crew” is comprised of the trash removal team and the former Evergreen Park maintenance crew.

The Crew is dedicated as a support team to our Recreation Division for event setup and prep and as a support team during events to facilitate the clean-up of trash at the parks.

This year the Crew took on the duty of overseeing prep and maintenance during the Town Square Holiday Hangout. This meant preparing Glice Rink surface for skating, daily charging of the Glow Swings, trash pickup, shoring up the mini-golf edging and sweeping the turf in time for opening hours.



Thanks for your flexibility and good spirit in support of giving the residents and guests of Baytown a great holiday season!





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PARK SERVICE STORAGE COMPLETED

November



SUMMARY

With the loss of Evergreen Park and its storage facility, the Parks Department had to be creative in meeting the challenges of storage for holiday decorations, chemicals, tractors and other supplies. Over 18,000 sq. ft. of storage was lost and Parks needed to find a solution fast.

The purchase of two 8' x 40' storage units and eight 8' x 20' units returned approximately 2,000 sq. ft. of storage space to the Department. These ten storage containers were moved onto new concrete slabs poured behind the new Parks Service Center. These units provide space for storage of holiday decorations, chairs and equipment in a safe, controlled area.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Providing quick solutions to still accommodate for unseen circumstances.



Taking care of home-base.





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STERLING LIBRARY IMPACT SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PLANTING

November



SUMMARY

This year Parks staff got to work with six students from Impact Early College High School, who volunteered to work on the Dr. Seuss Storybook Trail at Sterling Library. As part of the partnership, staff reviewed the background story of the project and discussed the planting and plant types that were selected for the project.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our staff and the kids had a blast planting that day.



Shout out to the Beautification Team who teach others about what they do. Shaila, Robert, Nick, Elena, and Woody.





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EQUIPMENT RODEO

November



SUMMARY

Every year the cities of East Region compete in the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) Maintenance Rodeo. In 2023 the event was hosted by Baytown Parks and Recreation. We turned the Pirates Bay parking lot into a competition field where teams competed in skill events using the equipment we use every day. Mowers, backhoes, backpack blowers, and truck and trailer were put to the test by running obstacle courses and having staff show off their skills in using them as they competed against rival cities. We also called in a plant expert from Nature Division who used her knowledge to identify plants and weeds seen and used in our parks and landscapes. Precision and speed were put on display in the nail driving competition and irrigation assembly contest.

Baytown added its own spin to the competition by hosting a dump truck pull, where each city used a team of six to pull a dump truck 75ft. in a timed race. It was a great day of competition and camaraderie for all of the cities who participated and we set a record for the highest attended rodeo in our region ever! In the end Baytown walked away with several awards, including 2nd Place Overall. Our award winners will be competing at the state rodeo in February 2024 in Galveston TX.

HIGHLIGHTS

- There were over 27 Cities represented and over 475 participants. Competition range from nail driving, to dumpster pull. **WE FINISHED 2nd OVERALL.**
- 1st place nail driving
- 2nd place truck and trailer
- 3rd and 4th place in backhoe skills
- 5th place backpack blower skills

RECAP VIDEO



SCAN ME!





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YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM

November

SUMMARY

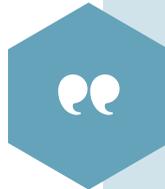
One of the many positive aspects of youth soccer in Baytown is every child who wants to participate. Nobody sits on the bench and nobody is cut from the team. We welcome and encourage anyone who is willing to compete in the sport and contribute to our team and program. We value attitude and commitment as much as athletic ability. Individual improvement and personal accomplishment are two of our primary goals. We look forward to continuing to grow our program and see kids staying active and having fun.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 120 athletes participated
- 25 Coaches volunteered to mentor and coach our athletes
- 18 teams (Ages 4-10)



This program not only taught our youth the game of soccer, but also brought new friendships, and many memories along the way!



"I am really going to miss all of the friends I made. We can't wait for next year!"

"I was excited and nervous to coach, but the kids truly inspired and motivated me. That was so much fun."



Thank you to all of the volunteer coaches, referees, parents, and vendors who supported our youth soccer season.

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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TURKEY TROT

November

SUMMARY

Another event that continues to grow is our Annual Turkey Trot. With over 280 participants, we may soon outgrow Jenkins Park parking, which is AWESOME. This event has grown each year, and will continue to be a fun tradition for Baytown. Seeing the smiles on families' faces, watching them achieve desired goals, and push themselves to new levels is really what Parks and Recreation is all about.



Thank you to MD Anderson - Be Well Baytown, Susan Harper- Chick-Fil-A Baytown, Cherie Sinclair - Traveling Toms Coffee, and Baytown Police Department for being a part of the 2023 Turkey Trot.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Having city officials participating in this event.
- Involvement with the Baytown PD and Mounted Patrol Unit.
- Partnerships with local businesses that continue to add value each year.





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"I CAN" MOVIE

November

SUMMARY

"I Can" is a story about Katelyn overcoming adversity, and her dad eventually finding genuine forgiveness. Based on a true story.

We had the pleasure to communicate back and forth with Tyler Sansom, the director of the movie "I CAN". This inspirational movie was only released and shown in certain parts of the country. The City of Baytown was able to purchase the movie and showcase it to the community in hopes of inspiring others.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to weather impacts, the original location was changed from Wayne Gray Sports Complex to the Baytown Christian Academy Gym.



City of Baytown was one of the only local cities to offer this exclusive movie on a big projector screen for the community to watch.



"This movie was so Inspiring. Thank you for taking the time to put this together and allowing our family to come out and enjoy a movie with one another."



Thank you to the athletics staff who came out and made the community feel right at home offering everyone refreshments and snacks throughout the movie.

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org





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VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

November



SUMMARY

"On this Veteran's Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free." — Dan Lipinski



Thank you to VFW Post 912 and Captain Bryan T. Schmidt

HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to weather, this year's Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the Community Center instead of Bicentennial Park.
- All branches of the military were acknowledged and recognized during this event.





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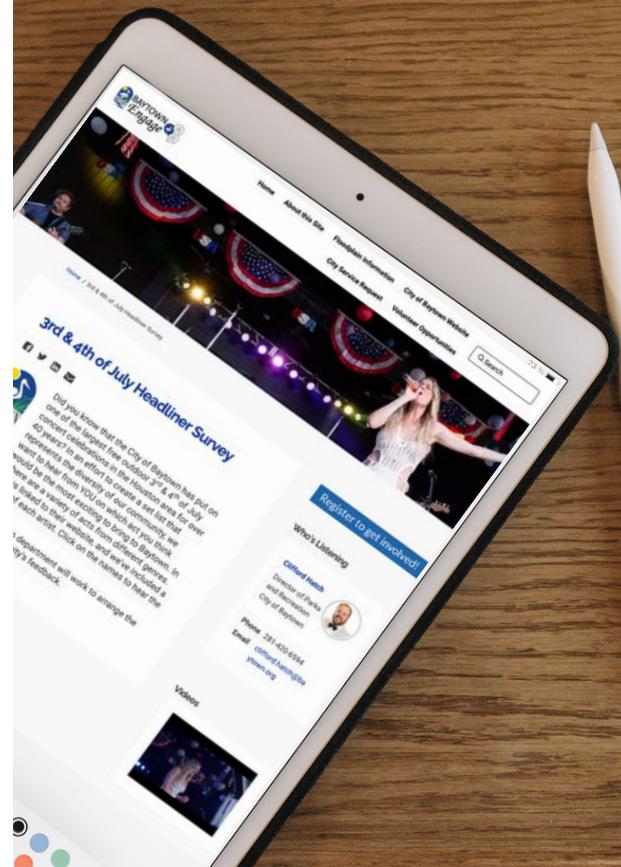
Stewardship



Collaboration

JULY 3-4 HEADLINER SURVEY

November



SUMMARY

For the second year, the department asked the community to vote on possible headliners for Baytown's 4th of July Celebration.

Last year, the results were utilized to not only book a headliner, but also portions of the remaining lineup as well as Grito Fest.

This year, the top choices did not accept the offer to play in Baytown and due to the delay in waiting for the top bands to accept or decline, the follow up winners of the survey were already booked at the time of proposal.

As a result, the department had to use a back-up plan to choose a headliner. The local radio stations were consulted on bands within our price range that had high-rated air play.



A total of 2,791 participants completed the survey.



The top votes were:

- Salt-N-Pepa
- Bush
- The Bellamy Brothers
- Andy Grammer



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COMMUNITY CENTER LABYRINTH PROJECT

November–December



SUMMARY

This Project was initiated by Council Member Laura Alvarado of District 1 to foster a place for mindfulness in Baytown.

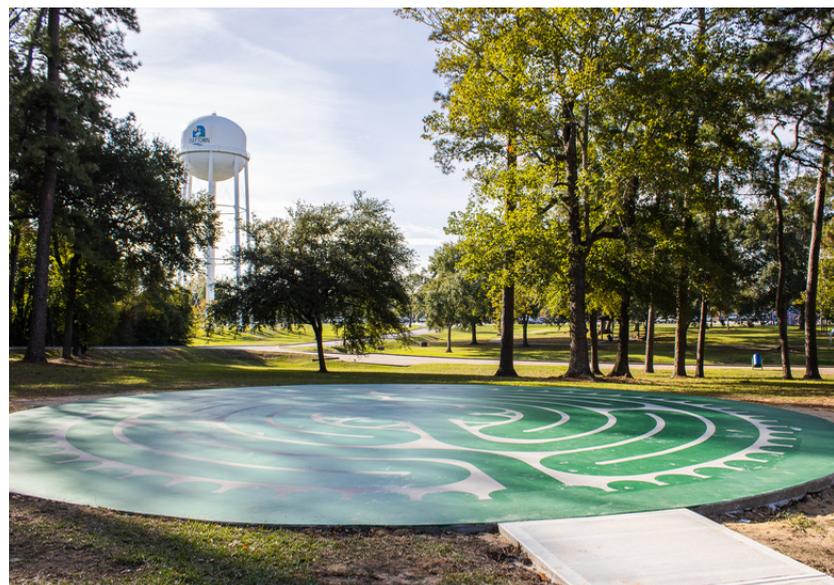
Labyrinths are geometrical patterns used for walking or tracing, as a tool to assist the consciousness. They have been in existence for thousands of years. A labyrinth differs from a maze in that there is only one way in and one way out. They have one continuous path that twists and turns, eventually leading to the center. There are no dead ends. There is nothing to figure out as you walk or trace a labyrinth. You enter the labyrinth and follow the path as it winds its way toward the center. You pause in the center as you like, then turn and exit the labyrinth on the same path you came in, just going the opposite direction.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Eva Benavides was the first Hispanic woman to be elected as Council Member for District No. 1 in 1992 and spearheaded health initiatives, including emotional wellbeing.
- The labyrinth is painted green as it was the favorite color former Council Member, Eva Benavides
- The labyrinth is nestled between the trees as a nod to green and peaceful nature.



Special thanks to Council Member Laura Alvarado for supporting this project.





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ART IN MEDIANS PROJECT

November–December



SUMMARY

As a way to enhance Baytown’s medians with something in addition to plants and in an effort to provide a better driving experience, Parks and Rec added art pieces chosen by the Arts, Culture and Entertainment into the medians.

The beautiful pieces of art along with landscaping in the medians provides a sense of calm and peace for drivers commuting each day. The collaboration between Baytown Parks and Recreation and the ACE District is one more successful partnership to benefit Baytown residents and guests.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Providing art to the community daily with these installed sculptured pieces.



“In an experience, flow is from something to something.”

JOHN DEWEY



“The beautiful work of art brings consolation in sorrow and affirmation in joy, It shows human life to be worthwhile. “

ROGER SCRUTON



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WAYNE GRAY SPORTS COMPLEX AND CHAMPIONS FIELDS

November–December



SUMMARY

This much-needed project involves the renovation of our little league facilities at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex and Champions Field. Parks and Rec staff, partnering with Baytown’s Facilities Maintenance Department, repaired outfield fences, put in new foul ball poles and fence pads, replaced dugout benches, and installed new dugout fences and tin roofs.

Parks staff are currently regrading the infields for all the facilities that suffered from the drought, in time for the 2024 season to kickoff.



We don’t renovate places, spaces and things... we transform them.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Little League fields updated.



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FIRE STATION PROJECT

November–December

SUMMARY

Parks and Rec staff were approached by the Baytown Fire Department to help them spruce up their building. Staff decided that xeriscaping (utilizing low-maintenance plants that need little to no irrigation) would be the best approach for guys that are busy maintaining a fire station and equipment, making sure they are ready for a call.



Lending a hand in sprucing up around Baytown.

HIGHLIGHTS

Beautification Team

- When asked to to go help our other divisions within the city, our team has no stop button. They are excited to help others, just as they are doing their own work. Thanks for going the extra mile.



It is what you do for your neighbors that counts!



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CLUBHOUSE AT ROSELAND PARK

November–December

SUMMARY

The Baytown Sun published an article outlining the challenges that have faced Roseland Park. According to Preslie Cox, contributing reporter, “Roseland Park Pavilion was demolished Wednesday January 19, 2019, after it flooded during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The pavilion took on water about halfway up the structure and Baytown Parks and Recreation Department decided to demolish the building with hopes to rebuild a new pavilion on higher ground on the opposite of the park. Since 1983, the pavilion has been damaged and rebuilt due to two previous storms. In 1983 Hurricane Alicia put 3 feet of water in the pavilion, which required a rebuild. And when Hurricane Ike hit in 2008, 5 feet of water once again flooded the structure.”

The newly built Roseland Clubhouse facility hopes to avoid all the issues of the past. It has been built on the highest part of the property and elevated 5 feet above the ground to avoid future flooding issues. The new clubhouse features a catering kitchen, outdoor seating areas, restrooms, a TV with built-in sound system and roll-up garage doors so visitors can have an indoor/outdoor experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Worth the wait!



“We’re Open, Yes!”





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STERLING LIBRARY DR. SEUSS STORYBOOK TRAIL

November–December



SUMMARY

Who said reading is not an outdoor adventure? It is not often that you get to do a project that brings back your childhood memories, but for many of the Parks and Planning staff, this was that project. The team was approached by Sterling Library to create a unique Dr. Seuss Storybook Trail. The entire Parks staff, Sterling Library staff, Public Works Water and Streets Department, and outside talents from Ace and Triple G Powder Coaters brought this vision to life as an exciting amenity to Sterling Library for all to enjoy.

HIGHLIGHTS

Special Features:

- Crank up music and storytelling Music Ball
- Life size Dr. Seuss Hat
- Unique landscaping
- Giant Books
- Giant Mushrooms/ Sunflower
- Fun seating



Big shout out to everyone who endured the process from design to installation to bring this project to life. Thank you is not enough.





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TEAM THANKSGIVING GATHERING

November 17



SUMMARY

The team hosted a potluck for Thanksgiving. Everyone gathered to eat, enjoy each other's company, and play yard games such as gaga ball, cornhole, and ping pong.

Everyone also received a new uniform shirt to use for future events. Each team member received a short sleeve and a long sleeve option to keep us uniform across the department.



Brandon's ribs received the highest accolades and disappeared the fastest.



Thank you Tracie Keene for picking up all the meat for the team to enjoy and to all the staff who helped bring and set up food!



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TEAM CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 15



SUMMARY

Parks and Recreation’s Team Christmas Party was hosted at AR’s Entertainment Center for all the employees to come out and enjoy a little fun with one another. The party package included arcade game cards, laser tag, mini golf, bowling, and billboards.

Pizza, cookies, and soft drinks were served for lunch in appreciation of all the hard work of the team throughout the year and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

HIGHLIGHTS

During the gathering, the following was also announced:

- Christina Butcher was named Baytown Parks and Recreation’s Jack of All Trades for 2023
- Clifford Hatch was recently awarded Texas Recreation and Parks Society East Region’s Director of the Year



Congratulations to Christina Butcher, Baytown Parks and Recreation’s Jack of All Trades for 2023!



Thank you to the entire department for all your hard work and dedication to giving our community unforgettable memories!



Leadership



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WETLANDS ECOLOGY PROGRAM

January - May

SUMMARY

Over 2,500 students annually spend the morning at the Wetlands Center, rotating between stations and activities introducing the wetlands ecosystem and its importance.

- Station 1 - The Wetlands In A Pan modeling activity lets students build their own model of a wetland using everyday materials. During the activity, their model is subjected to “storms” and “winds”, demonstrating that soils covered in wetlands grasses are much more resilient to erosion and help mitigate flooding in the surrounding areas.
- Station 2 - The Salt Makes A Difference activity highlights the difference between salt, brackish and freshwater ecosystems. Students build models of each ecosystem, adding appropriate substrate, salt, and wildlife. Students also learn about biodegradation timelines of materials inadvertently washed into the local waterways.
- Station 3 - Students enjoy meeting crabs, anemones, and shrimp in the Coastal Touch Tank, often getting their first chance to touch and hold these live animals. Students also meet the Wetlands Center’s snakes and alligators in this hands-on station.

After the Wetlands Center activities, students travel to the Baytown Nature Center for a valuable field experience, identifying local marine organisms, birds, and wetland plants.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This ExxonMobil-sponsored program introduces every 5th-grade student in GCCISD to the importance of wetlands.



Thank you to ExxonMobil for their continued support of the Wetlands Ecology Program!. ExxonMobil has sponsored this program since the Wetlands Center opened in 1998.





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TWINKLE, SPRINKLES AND THE GRINCH RETURN

December



SUMMARY

The Wetlands Center welcomed back Twinkle the Elf, their official ambassador in the holiday season, for her second year of fun and hijinx! Twinkle brought some friends in 2023... Sprinkles the Reindeer, who has been out of the spotlight for a few years, and the Grinch himself, along with a very different-looking Max, the dog (who suspiciously looks very much like a badger in 2023!).

Twinkle, Sprinkles, the Grinch and Max had a great time visiting multiple locations throughout Baytown, posting their adventures on Wetlands Center's social media for all of the Wetlands Center's friends to enjoy.

HIGHLIGHTS

The original idea of utilizing a holiday mischievous elf was born at the State Fair of Texas, when a noticeable resemblance to a famous elf sitting on a shelf was made by the Wetlands Center's Education Coordinator sitting on a table. Jingle, the original ambassador elf, was born and has inspired several subsequent ambassador elves at the Wetlands Center throughout the years!



Twinkle the Elf returned in 2023 with friends! Welcome back Sprinkles the Reindeer, good to see you Grinch and Max!



"My kids and I always look forward to seeing what Twinkle and Sprinkles are going to do next!"

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWER



Wetlands Center Ambassador elves: Jingle, Jangle, Belle, Crinkle, Crankle and Twinkle, Sprinkles the Reindeer





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DUCK SOUP "SOFTBALL"

December

SUMMARY

City of Baytown Athletics hosted the annual Duck Soup toy drive league and delivered over 150 toys to the Baytown Blue Santa who wrapped and disbursed them to kids in need within our community for Christmas.

Duck Soup is a fun adult league combined of several mini games offering something different to play each inning. Each player on every team has to bring one unopened toy to be donated to the Baytown Blue Santa for kids in need.

It's great to see the adults having fun, but even better to know that our community is coming together for a greater cause.



Duck Soup is a tradition in athletics that our community looks forward to each year.



"You don't have to be good at it, you just have to have fun. I laugh so hard playing Duck Soup."



Thank you to Baytown Blue Santa for allowing us to partner with you and provide the children of Baytown with toys for Christmas.

Learn more at www.baytownsports.org



RECREATION



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EGG NOGG JOGG

December



SUMMARY

The Egg Nogg Jog is a new event that created a fun run around the holiday staple of eggnog. Participants ran laps around Town Square. However, each lap they would have to take one shot of eggnog and collect on 1 of 4 items. Once they had all four items, and finished their fourth lap, they completed the run. The items included a light up shot glass necklace, light up ring, Santa beard and Santa hat. All participants also received an Egg Nogg Jog t-shirt.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This was such a success that we are planning more fun runs in the future.
- Over 60 participants registered in this first time event.
- Winners received free tickets to "The Holiday Hangout" attractions



"A BIG shout out of thanks to the entire Parks & Rec team for all they do for our City. They continue to plan and execute fun and new events for everyone to enjoy. This jog was around Town Square which was festively decorated. Each lap was about 1/4 mile. After each lap you drank a shot of egg nog, grabbed a trinket, and continued to the next lap. At the end you crossed the finish line wearing a glowing ring, Santa hat and beard. 1 mile worth of steps and Much fun !!! Thank you Team Parks & Rec !!!! Merry Christmas."

KEVIN TROLLER, EVENT PARTICIPANT





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MAYOR'S JINGLE RIDE

December

SUMMARY

The Mayor's Jingle Ride is a bike ride that starts and finishes at Town Square. Participants are encouraged to decorate their bikes in holiday attire, but decorations are provided just in case. Mayor Capetillo leads the lit up bikes and riders, along with Baytown PD, down streets and trails for this fun and safe nighttime event.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Mayor leads this bike ride, and lights and decorations are provided for the participants.



Special Thank You to Corporal Kenneth Hockless and the Baytown Police Bike Patrol for developing the route, and participating in the event to ensure the safety of all event participants!





Caring



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“FAMILY SWITCH” MOVIE NIGHT

December

SUMMARY

Movie Night is an event that’s held at Town Square. This year’s movie night featured, “Family Switch”. When family members switch bodies with each other during a rare planetary alignment, their hilarious journey to find their way back to normal will bring them closer together than they ever thought possible. For many guest, this was the first opportunity to see the Holiday Hangout! Many stayed and played Mini Golf or Glisce Skating.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Free popcorn was provided to all attendees.





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ART SHOW

December



SUMMARY

The Art Show is an annual event held at the Community Center that showcases artwork from local students and professionals. This year, our 57th, started out with a reception and refreshments followed by the program. There were 617 pieces of art from the students and 28 pieces of art from the professionals. Winners are announced and presented at the show with medals or ribbons, along with a slide show.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Santa was also available for pictures at the event.
- Seeing all of the proud parents in the audience.
- A significant increase in homeschool student art.
- Crockett Elementary received the highest number of ribbons.
- City Council Member Laura Alvarado announced all the 2023 Art Show winners at the reception, both in English and in Spanish.





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CHRISTMAS PARADE

December



SUMMARY

The Annual Christmas Parade is the largest event that Parks and Recreation puts on during the year. Celebrating the end of Baytown's 75th birthday we themed the parade "Let's Sparkle, Shimmer and Shine for Baytown's 75th". It was all hands on deck for this event

The parade route is 1.5 miles long and featured 138 registered entries with over 200 vehicles and 1,600 walkers. Approximately 20,000 spectators come out for the Christmas Parade.

Congratulations to this year's Christmas parade float winners:

- Best Club or Organization – Baytown Little League
- Best Local Business – RQ's Furniture
- Best Use of Theme – GCCISD Transportation
- Best Holiday Spirit – St. James House
- Best City Department – Baytown Public Works and Engineering
- Best Antique Vehicle – Carl Chaffin – Classic Corvette
- Best First Responder – Chevron Phillips
- Best Low Rider – Latin Cartel Car Club
- Best Walking Marching/Drill/Dance – Fantasy Carnival Weekend Group

HIGHLIGHTS

- This year's parade included the first ever "Candy Zone" where entries were allowed to throw candy into the crowd.



Events of the Christmas Parade Size could not happen with out the help from so many! Thank you to Baytown Police, Baytown Fire/EMS, Baytown Public Works, Harris County Constables Precinct 3, Goose Creek ISD, Lee College, and Baytown Community Engagement Team



RECAP VIDEO



SCAN ME!





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HOLIDAY HANGOUT SETUP

November–December

SUMMARY

This is the most magical time of the year when Parks and Rec gets to bring cheer and fun to all during the Christmas Season. This year we rebranded, renamed and redeveloped a new Christmas themed activity called Holiday Hangout.

It was challenging to change the whole Christmas layout to omit an ice rink and include mini-golf and Glice rink instead. We also faced building the rink and setting up the event with a tight schedule but in the end it was worth it. Plus we got to skate around a little to make sure it was safe for all.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Miniature Golf
- Glice Rink
- Glow Swings
- Replica of the Fred Hartman Bridge



“During this challenging setup, I was reminded of this Bible verse – ‘To every man whom God has given wealth and possessions, he has also given him the ability to eat from them, to receive his reward, and to find enjoyment in his toil; these things are the gift of God (Ecclesiastes 5:19)’.”

CORNELL GORDON





Caring



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HOLIDAY HANGOUT ATTRACTIONS

November – December

SUMMARY

During the 2023 holiday season, Town Square was transformed into a winter wonderland of string lights, evergreen trees, Christmas decorations, holiday lights, and of course Baytown’s star-of-the-show, the 38-foot Christmas tree at the center of the square.

Among the wintery atmosphere were two new attractions – an 18-hole mini golf course around the fountain area and a Glice (synthetic ice) rink on the painted street next to Town Square.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Glice (11 and older) - 561
- Glice (10 and under) - 711
- Mini Golf (11 and older) - 780
- Mini Golf (10 and younger) - 650
- Combo (11 and older) - 292
- Combo (10 and younger) - 378



A total of 3,372 tickets were sold for the Holiday Hangout attractions.



“This is awesome!!! Way to go City of Baytown!!!”

BAYTOWN RESIDENT



Aquatics team members ran operations on the attractions and snack bar while the Recreation team members oversaw the lounge area with yard games and food trucks and the Parks team covered security and maintenance. It was an all-out team effort!



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

HOLIDAY HANGOUT LOUNGE AREA

November–December



SUMMARY

During the 2023 holiday season, Town Square was transformed into a winter wonderland of string lights, evergreen trees, Christmas decorations, holiday lights, and of course Baytown’s star-of-the-show, the 38-foot Christmas tree at the center of the square. Among the wintery atmosphere were two new attractions – an 18-hole mini golf course around the fountain area and a Glice (synthetic ice) rink on the painted street next to Town Square.



Baytown Parks and Rec are doing such a great job growing and engaging the community! Keep up the amazing work!! – Terri George, Facebook

HIGHLIGHTS

- Opening weekend included inflatables, rock climbing, and bungee trampolines.
- Specials
 - "2 For Tuesday" every week. Buy one attraction, get the same attraction free (of equal or lesser value).
 - "Thirsty Thursday" every week starting December 14. Adults only from 6pm to 9pm with alcoholic drinks available for purchase from an outside vendor.
- The toddler area allowed for a space for the little ones to play with other similar age and size kids.
- On closing weekend, Papa Monky's provided free hot dogs to the first 50 kids.





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Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

HOLIDAY HANGOUT TEAM EFFORT

November – December

SUMMARY

To Parks and Planning/Construction Staff:

We are so thankful that we have a team that is dedicated and committed to living our motto of “Baytown Does More.” You not only live the motto, but set the standard high when it comes to making the sacrifices that you make when needed. When we created the Holiday Hangout we had lots of roles that changed, additional responsibilities assigned, and more work required. All of this was necessary to make eight weeks of fun for an entire City.

Abel and I can truly say that we are more that blessed to have a staff that will give as much as you do. It is because of that we know whatever is put before us will not only be completed, but that it will exceed expectations.

Again, we say thank you for all you do and we are so grateful to have a team such as this.

Sincerely,
Abel and Cornell





Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

TEXAS PUBLIC POOL COUNCIL AWARDS

2023



SUMMARY

2023 TPPC Class I Agency of the Year: City of Baytown – A Class I Agency must be a City with a population over 75,000, a school district, or a private organization. This honor is awarded to one agency in the state that demonstrates effective and quality aquatic programming. When the award was being presented the award committee said this about Baytown, “This agency is working hard to reach the people who need water safety education. In a country where half of all Americans can’t swim or can’t swim well enough to save themselves the aquatics community needs to be proactive as aquatics professionals and this agency is doing just that through a Pre-K program each month that teaches all Pre-K students in their school district about sun and water safety. They also off swim lesson scholarships to these students so they can put what they learn in the classroom into action in the pool.”

2023 TPPC Water Park of the Year: Pirates Bay Waterpark – For this award a water park is defined as an amusement park that consist of more than 75% play areas and/or more than a dozen water features. Private and public water parks may apply for this honor. For this award Baytown submitted two applications: one for Pirates Bay and one for Calypso Cove. In each application we touched on the programs, events, water features, and staff at each facility. In the Pirates Bay application we highlighted our school day field trips we hold in May every year and our expansive swim lesson program where in 2023 we taught over 790 people how to swim.

2023 TPPC Member Scholarship: Brandon Jones, Aquatic Park Service Coordinator – This scholarship is awarded to a member of the TPPC for school or continuing education that will contribute to the field of Aquatics. Brandon received this scholarship to continue his educational journey and become a Certified Pool Operator Instructor. Receiving this certification will give him the ability to certify all Park Service Supervisors in proper water chemistry and pool maintenance.

2023 TPPC Vera Solis Student Scholarship: Brieah Zuercher, Aquatics Operations Supervisor – This scholarship is awarded to a high school senior or college student that is pursuing a degree which may contribute to the field of aquatics. A student must be currently enrolled full time in school and maintaining at least a 2.5 GPA. This year Baytown had 4 students apply for this scholarship. Brieah has worked in Baytown aquatics for 4 years and moved through the ranks winning the trifecta of awards over the last 3 years: Lifeguard of the Year in 2021, Head Lifeguard of the Year in 2022, and in 2023 Supervisor of the Year. She is attending school at Lee College and working for the City of Baytown to pay her own way through school. Brieah was instrumental in putting together our GCCISD Pre-K Sun and Water Safety program and is in charge of all lifeguard certification classes. In the future she hopes to graduate with a degree in Psychology and work with elementary and middle school students.

Aquatic Staff/Training Photo Contest & Aquatic Facility Photo Contest: 2nd Place



TOP 16 PRIORITIES

AS LISTED IN THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

- ✓ 1.Strategy 2.2.1 Improve facilities at Jenkins, Wayne Gray, Evergreen, and Baytown Soccer Parks to enhance the overall quality of these parks and increase their capacity for large events.
- 2.Strategy 5.2.2 Relocate the Eddie V. Gray Wetland Center to the Baytown Nature Center location to improve the alignment of educational programs and remove logistical impediments.
- 3.Strategy 5.2.5 Develop George and Freda Chandler Arboretum at the Baytown Nature Center site.
- ✓ 4.Strategy 1.1.5 Implement improvements in undeveloped parks and prioritize the development of waterfront parks; specifically, Lannie Park, as described in Action 1; Bayland Marina Park, as outlined in Action 2 and illustrated in Figure 4.1, Bayland Marina Park Conceptual Design; and Gene and Loretta Russell Park, as described in Action 3.
- ✓ 5.Strategy 1.1.4 Update and improve all neighborhood parks.
- 6.Strategy 1.1.2 Seek to formulate a Parkland Dedication Ordinance to require the dedication of neighborhood park space as part of new development.
- 7.Strategy 2.2.5 Improve facilities at Pirates Bay to enhance visitor experience.
- 8.Strategy 4.1.1 Construct 10-foot wide off-street multi-use paths along key major and minor streets throughout Baytown to create an interconnected network of trails for cyclists and pedestrians connecting homes, neighborhood facilities, and recreational destinations.
- 9.Strategy 4.1.5 Utilize the Goose Creek corridor segment between Lynchburg Reservoir Canal and West Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road to connect neighborhoods north of Interstate 10 to Baytown Soccer Park and other recreational facilities in central Baytown.
- 10.Strategy 2.2.10 Develop full-sized rectangular practice and game fields with lighting for soccer.
- 11.Strategy 5.1.2 Develop a blueway program for Baytown’s waterways.
- 12.Strategy 2.2.3 Conduct a site selection study to determine the location of a proposed recreation center and natatorium with an eight-lane competition swimming pool.
- ✓ 13.Strategy 2.2.4 Conduct a feasibility study for the development of a golf course in Baytown.
- ✓ 14.Strategy 5.1.5 Develop nature-based recreational programming at Baytown Nature Center and proposed George and Freda Chandler Arboretum, Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center, Goose Creek Park, Evergreen Bluff Park site, Roseland Park, and Dittman Family Park for fishing, birding, boating, and nature-based educational events and competitions.
- 15.Strategy 1.1.1 Formulate a long-range parkland acquisition program to ensure that all areas in Baytown are within a 10-minute walking distance to a park.
- ✓ 16.Strategy 2.2.6 Update existing sports facilities, including constructing additional parking, upgrading playing fields to artificial turf, and improving spectator experience.

✓*Check mark indicates progress towards 2030 goals.

ACTION TOWARDS

THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

The Park Department Needs Assessment was created as part of the master plan process. The categories created from the assessment were defined as; Demand Based, Standards Base, Operations Based, Park Conditions, Resource Based, Resilience Based, Nature Based/ Tourism Based, and a Health Assessment. From the assessment, strategies were created to improve, develop, and strengthen our park system/programs as a whole.

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 1.1.5 IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN UNDERDEVELOPED PARKS AND PRIORITIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATERFRONT PARKS

- **ACTION: OUTDOOR ADVENTURE STUDY**
 - Hired Adventure Solutions as a consultant to recommend outdoor adventure solutions within our Park facilities. The focus was on parks along our waterways and within or Regional Park Jenkins and Pirates Bay as an added amenity.
 - Recommendations included amenities that would require staffing and non-staffing elements, with a range of costs based on that scale.
 - Bayland Marina and Evergreen Bluff Zipline- An aerial line that would give a bird's eye view of the park and bay
 - Baytown Nature Center- Tree Ropes Course and or a Rappel Wall as an added destination adventure and could be a training venue for Fire and is part of the Master Plan design for the George and Freda Chandler Arboretum.
 - Baytown Wetlands Facility/ 40 Acre Property- Zipline and Ropes course crossing the channel between the two properties.
 - Roseland Park- add a netted rope climber/ swing as an added amenity on your kayak stop
 - Pirates Bay- add a possible water zipline to the water park.
 - Jenkins Park- Tree Rope Course/small zipline/ netted climber/ rope ball swing
 - Current Status: Was funded for FY2023 MDD funding
 - (Other Objectives: Strategy 1.3.5, Strategy 5.2.3 page 6.1, Strategy 5.1.2 page 6.3, page 5.1.5)
- **ACTION: BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER KAYAK LAUNCH**
 - Designs were completed in 2022
 - The USACE Permit was submitted and obtained in August USACE.
 - Purchased the Kayak System to be delivered in January 2024 and to be installed in late February or early March.
 - Current Status: Funded in progress
 - (Other Objectives Achieved- Strategy 1.1.3, MP page 5.1.5, page 6.19, page 6.24)
- **ACTION: 40 ACRE PROPERTY DISC GOLF COURSE**
 - An agreement was executed with Kimley Horn to develop a disc golf course to replace the Evergreen Course due to the redevelopment of the Evergreen Property back to a golf course.
 - Plans were completed in November 2023
 - Possible award of contract for construction in late March 2023.
 - Current Status: Funded and in progress.

ACTION TOWARDS

THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE (CONTINUED): STRATEGY 1.1.5 IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN UNDERDEVELOPED PARKS AND PRIORITIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATERFRONT PARKS

- **ACTION: TOMPKINS PROPERTY**

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Agreements signed for the development of the future park. The following has been done:
 - Yellowbook Appraisal - Completed December 2022
 - Environmental Survey - Completed January 2023
 - Wetlands Survey - Completed February 2023
 - Phase 1 ESA - Orig. Draft 2020 Comp. update Mar 2023
 - Game Time Revised Concept Design - Completed June 2023
 - Kayak Concept Design - Completed July 2023
 - Topographic Survey - Completed September 2023
 - Archaeological Survey - Contract awarded Nov 2023
 - USACE Permit - Permit filed in December 2023
- Current Status: In Progress

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 1.3.1 CONDUCT A PARK SAFETY AUDIT TO EVALUATE THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND THE PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY FOR PARK VISITORS.

- **ACTION: CITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT**

- The Parks Department participated in a city-wide assessment program with Accessology Too, LLC, that evaluated all City and Park Facilities for compliance with ADA standards.
- Current status: Completed 2023

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 1.1.4 UPDATE AND IMPROVE ALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.

- **ACTION: BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER**

- Phase 1 PER Development Plan for George and Freda Chandler Arboretum and Wetlands Center Building
- Current Status: Was Funded for FY23 MDD

- **ACTION: BAYTOWN MARINA PARK**

- Phase 1 PER Development Plan for the development of the Bayland Marina Park Area
- Current status: Was funded for FY23 MDD
 - *(Other strategies met: Strategy 1.2.2 Ensure that all park facilities, including play equipment and passive amenities, are accessible for people with disabilities.)*

- **ACTION: NEWCASTLE PARK**

- Revamped and upgraded the park with amenities such as exercise equipment/ walking opportunities for exercise.

- **ACTION: DUKE HILL PARK**

- Revamped and upgraded the park with amenities such as a disc golf course/ foot golf course, new playgrounds, and a painted court.
- Installed new drainage to alleviate flooding for the new playground.

- **ACTION: BUSCH TERRACE PARK**

- Installed a new playground that was removed in 2016 due to vandalism and age.
- Current Status: Completed

ACTION TOWARDS

THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE (CONTINUED): STRATEGY 1.1.4 UPDATE ALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.

- **ACTION: BERGERON / ALLENBROOK PARK**
 - Two new shaded structures to our inventory to help in providing year-long accessibility and use for our park patrons.
 - Current Status: Completed
- **ACTION: JENKINS PARK**
 - Through a partnership with IKEA trees were planted at the park to replace ones removed due to a beetle infestation. Enhancing the park experience with landscaping.
 - Current Status: Completed
- **ACTION: PELLY/UNIDAD/BRIARWOOD/BRITTON PARKS**
 - Working with Harris County we were able to obtain bike racks and pump stations at our parks to provide and promote bike use at our parks with trails and along trail routes.
 - Current Status: Completed
- **ACTION: NATURE CENTER ENTRANCE LANDSCAPING**
 - The Tornado in January made way for improvements and landscaping enhancement to the Nature Center entrance fountain.
 - In conjunction with Council Member Kendrick Griffith's vision for enhancements along Bayway Drive, we were able to revamp the entrance waterfall at the Baytown Nature Center.
 - Repaired the pumps can clean the waterfall
 - Created a new landscape plan and installed it.
 - Current Status: Completed
- **ACTION: ROSELAND PARK CLUBHOUSE**
 - Removed the old Roseland Pavilion in 2019 and opened a brand new facility 2023
 - Current Status: Completed

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 1.3.2 IMPROVE PARKS AND TRAIL DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING TO HELP SAFETY.

- **ACTION: JENKINS/HOLLOWAY PARKS**
 - In a collaborative effort, we were able to get lighting installed by Park Staff and McKinstry Inc. for the trail linking Jenkins and Holloway Parks.
 - The addition of 14 street lamps and 14 bollards.
 - Tested a paving machine for restoration of the trail DG damaged during construction and will be implementing that method for future trail restoration. Provided for a more efficient and durable application.
 - Current Status: Completed February 2023
 - *(Other strategies met: Strategy 1.3.4: To improve lighting in City Parks and along trails, Strategy 1.1.3 Conduct a park safety audit to evaluate the physical environment and the perceptions of safety for park visitors.)*

ACTION TOWARDS

THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE (CONTINUED): STRATEGY 1.3.2 IMPROVE PARKS AND TRAIL DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING TO HELP SAFETY.

- **ACTION: NIGHT TIME CLEANUP PROGRAM W/ POLICE**
 - To address the issues of homeless and debris in parks and provide a safe environment for our park users, we partnered with the police on night excursions to remove homeless and homeless debris.
 - Patrols of parks were increased during the day to reduce park user and homeless interactions.
 - Reduced the amount of calls associated with homelessness and dirt in the park.
 - Current Status: Implemented
- **ACTION: VANDALISM AND SAFETY**
 - Purchased a security camera/ with a monitoring service to dispatch police about behaviors after and during park hours.
 - Current Status: Completed but ongoing
- **ACTION: RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**
 - Scheduling of programs during evening hours to ensure the presence of park users throughout the day.
 - Party on the Peninsula is now scheduled in the evening to allow parkgoers that are already at the Nature Center when it's open, the ability to enjoy an evening event after the park technically closes.
 - Current Status: Completed but ongoing

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 2.1.2: CONSIDER CREATING PROGRAMMING AND FACILITIES FOR ADAPTIVE RECREATION.

- **ACTION: RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**
 - Include adaptive recreational programming and facilities in all programs and events offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.
 - Met with the Adaptive Recreation staff from the Verne Cox Adaptive Recreation Center in Pasadena to learn about their program and how we could try to implement some of their programming.
 - Current Status: In development

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 2.1.4: ENHANCE MULTI-GENERATIONAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL RECREATIONAL, PROGRAM OFFERINGS, AND EVENTS.

- **ACTION: CULTURALLY ENGAGING PROGRAMS**
 - Reviewed current offerings at the Community Center to determine gaps in the types of culturally engaging programs offered to various age groups.
 - Now offer four new exercise programs for seniors.
 - Now offer music lessons.
 - Now offer a Physical Education class for homeschooled children.
 - Current Status: In development

ACTION TOWARDS

THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE (CONTINUED): STRATEGY 2.1.4: ENHANCE MULTI-GENERATIONAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL RECREATIONAL, PROGRAM OFFERINGS, AND EVENTS.

- **ACTION: DEVELOP A GYMNASIUM AND FITNESS CENTER FOR ADULT SENIORS**
 - Now offer a Pickleball Program that utilizes the Community Center Auditorium space.
 - Offered a walking group program that utilized the area around the Community Center.
 - Current Status: In development
- **ACTION: ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL PERSONNEL**
 - Evaluate the need for additional recreational personnel as part of the development or modification of recreational facilities, programs, and events.
 - Requested a “Programs Coordinator” position in the FY 2024 budget.
 - Hired 3 Part-time Recreation Technicians to assist the “Special Events and Programs Coordinator” in FY 2023.
 - Current Status: Completed
- **ACTION: VARIOUS TYPES OF PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS**
 - Continue to see community input at events and programs to determine the need for various types of recreational programming and events.
 - Now offer a Mom and Son event that was requested by moms due to the Daddy & Me Dance.
 - Now offer a dog event (Pooch-a-Palooza) for all of the dog owners who want to show off their pups.
 - Now offer a bike riding event (Mayor’s Jingle Ride) for all of the bikers who want something organized to do.
 - Now offer a Youth Summer Camp.
 - Current Status: Completed
- **ACTION: PROGRAMS THAT CURATE CULTURAL ARTS**
 - Continue to develop programs and events that engage a variety of age groups and cultures. This should include curated cultural arts – music shows, or concerts, visual art exhibitions, outdoor theatre, dance shows, and classes, and craft exhibitions and classes – that reflect the multicultural identity of the Baytown community and have recreational value for families, youth, and seniors.
 - Offered multiple painting classes.
 - Current Status: Completed; on-going

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 2.2.2 IMPROVE PARK AMENITIES AT TOWN SQUARE TO INCREASE THE PARK’S APPEAL AS A PROMINENT DOWNTOWN DESTINATION FOR REGIONAL EVENTS.

- **ACTION: TOWN SQUARE**
 - The addition of 4 new pole lights and string lights throughout the square enhances the user and event experience, along with added visibility and security.
 - Current Status: Completed with FY23 maintenance budget increase

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 2.2.6 UPDATE EXISTING SPORTS FACILITIES, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL PARKING, UPGRADING PLAYING FIELDS TO ARTIFICIAL TURF, AND IMPROVING SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE

- **ACTION: WAYNE GRAY SPORTS COMPLEX**
 - Plans are 90% complete towards the design of new parking and the addition of turf fields.
 - Current Status: In progress

ACTION TOWARDS

THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE (CONTINUED): STRATEGY 2.2.6 UPDATE EXISTING SPORTS FACILITIES, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL PARKING, UPGRADING PLAYING FIELDS TO ARTIFICIAL TURF, AND IMPROVING SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE

- **ACTION: PIRATES BAY**
 - The City acquired additional land to add parking for the facility.
 - Plans are 90% complete towards the design of new parking.
 - Current Status: In progress

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 2.2.7 ENHANCE THE STREETScape ALONG EXISTING TRAILS, AND PROVIDE WAYFINDING SIGNS AND INTERPRETIVE ART INSTALLATIONS.

- **ACTION: MEDIANS/ PARK STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS**
 - Per the master plan we installed art in Medians at Rollingbrook and Blue Heron medians
 - Newcastle and Duke Hill Parks painted courts
 - Art Alley art installation
 - Current Status: Completed; ongoing

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 2.2.9: DEVELOP FIELDS WITH LIGHTING FOR SOCCER.

- **ACTION: CREATE A CITY-SPONSORED OR CITY-LED SOCCER LEAGUE**
 - To bridge the gap from the select soccer league that moved to the Harris County-run soccer complex, the department created a city-run league to address the demand for soccer in the community.
 - Now offer a Youth Soccer league.
 - Current Status: Completed; ongoing

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 5.1.5 DEVELOP PROGRAMMING AT THE NATURE CENTER

- **ACTION: BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER RUN FOR YOUR WILDLIFE**
 - Implemented the first run in the Nature Center as part of expanding the uses within the nature center experience as suggested in the master plan.
 - Current Status: Completed; ongoing

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 5.2.5 DEVELOP THE GEORGE AND FREDA CHANDLER ARBORETUM AT THE BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER;

- **ACTION: BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER GREENHOUSE**
 - Submitted for a grant with the Port Authority to purchase and install a Greenhouse as a first phase toward the development of the George and Freda Chandler Arboretum.
 - The Greenhouse will allow for the Nature Center staff to grow plants and further expand the programming capabilities for the Wetland facility.
 - Greenhouse purchase designed May 2023
 - Purchased for fabrication September 2023
 - Arrival in 2024
 - Current Status: In progress
 - (Other strategies met: Strategy 5.2.7 Implement the programmatic elements in the Master Plan)

ACTION TOWARDS

THE 2020-2030 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 6.1.4. HIRE ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF IN THE PARKS DIVISION

- **ACTION: CREATE ADDITIONAL STAFF**
 - With the increased number of amenities offered at Jenkins Park in the upcoming years for sports events. The recommendation is to hire three full-time equivalent positions for athletic programming and parkland maintenance.
 - To hire new staff in the future we had to evaluate the current staffing level and comparative salaries offered by other cities and similar jobs.
 - We worked with Human Resources from 2022 to 2023 to do a comparative study in which we found that our grounds technicians and construction teams were found to be paid below market.
 - In 2023 Human Resources implemented the comparative rate and this will help gear up for hiring in 2025.
 - Added Classes to lower-level staff for advancement and training.
 - Offered CDL classes for lower-level staff for advancement
 - Current Status: Completed; continue to monitor
 - (Other strategies met: Strategy 6.2.1 Promote professional development opportunities)

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 6.3.1: CREATE ADDITIONAL STAFF POSITIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS OUTREACH TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN PARD EVENTS.

- **ACTION: CREATE ADDITIONAL STAFF**
 - Create additional staff positions for special events outreach to increase participation in PARD events.
- **ACTION: CREATE ADDITIONAL STAFF; ENHANCE OUTREACH FOR PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS**
 - The recommendation was to increase social media outreach and online advertisement.
 - Hired 3 direct support part-time staff for social media under the Marketing coordinator.
 - Hired 3 direct support part-time staff for the event coordinator
 - Advertised on billboards; won a marketing award.
 - Attendance over the events this year along with preparation increased for the following: Treats on the Trail, Party on the Peninsula, Taco Night, Cinco De Mayo, Juneteenth, 4 of July, Grito Fest, Newcastle Popup Park, Night Time Farmers Market, St. Patrick's Day/ Farmers Market
 - Current Status: Completed; ongoing
 - (Other strategies met: Strategy 5.4.2 Create and advertise adventure racing competitions and programs)
- **ACTION: EVENTS STAFF TEAM CREATED**
 - Create an Event Set up and Support Team for Recreation Field Maintenance during tournaments and Event Setup to reduce the impact to staff duties during this time.
 - This team is also support staff for trash cleanup in parks and trash runs on weekends.
 - Current Status: Completed

OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY 6.3.4 DEVELOP A MAINTENANCE PLAN MANUAL FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS.

- **ACTION: DEVELOPMENT OF A PLANT ID/ MAINTENANCE BOOKLET FOR THE PARK BEAUTIFICATION TEAM**
 - This booklet is to help identify plants, plant maintenance, fertilization requirements, and list diseases to look for, along with specifying watering requirements. A maintenance spreadsheet for inventory was developed for inspection and maintenance of planting.
 - Current Status: Started; will continue to develop

PARTNERS

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board expresses its sincere appreciation to the Mayor, City Council Members and City Management for their support of the Department. The Board would also like to acknowledge the numerous contributions of volunteers, organizations, other City departments, businesses and industries noting that we could not be successful without them.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

- AR's Entertainment Hub
- Aramark
- Awards and Engraving
- Aztec Rental
- Babies in Baytown
- Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol
- Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union
- Baytown Girls Fastpitch
- Baytown Municipal Police Association
- Baytown Sun Magazine
- Beacon Federal Credit Union
- Ben E. Keith
- Bobcat of Houston
- Bob Hope School
- Bocanegra's Kitchen
- Chevron Phillips
- Chick-fil-A
- Como En Mexico
- Community Resource Credit Union
- Covestro
- Cristina's Cakes & More!
- Cunningham Recreation
- Eco Services
- ExxonMobil
- Faith Family Church
- Family First E.R.
- First Photo
- First Three Years Program
- Fischer's Hardware La Porte
- Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center
- Friends of the Nature Center
- Gelu Baytown
- Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District
- Harris County
- H.E.B.
- Healthcare HCA
- Heart & Whisk Bakery
- Hyatt Regency
- IKEA
- Joey's Glass
- John Deere - King Ranch
- John's Trim Shop
- Kraftsman
- Landsdowne-Moody
- Lee College
- Lodge @ Pine Creek
- Lone Star Recreation
- Massage Envy
- Mayo & Poland PLLC
- MD Anderson – Be Well Baytown
- Mustard Seed Tea Room
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Party House
- Pilot Club of Baytown Inc
- Professional Turf Products
- Raising Canes
- RapidCare Emergency Room
- Rotary Club of Baytown
- Sabor of Mexico
- SE Harris County
- Showbiz Cinema
- Star Cinema Grill
- State Farm – Jenny Montes
- Sterling High School
- Tachus Fiber Internet
- Telemundo Houston
- Texas Road House
- Texas TickKids
- TreeLife Farms
- United Clearing Services
- West Chambers Hearing Center

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the businesses, clubs, faith-based groups, and families, and individuals who came out to serve at many of Baytown's 2023 events and programs. We are grateful for all the volunteers who continuously serve our community and contribute to the success of our City.



THANK YOU FOR SERVING AT:

- Adopt-a-Spots in Parks
- Market at Town Square
- Arbor Day Tree Giveaway
- Faith Family Serve Day
- Nurture Nature
- Days of Caring
- Summer Track Meet
- Turkey Trot 5k
- Wetlands Teen E.P.I.C. Club
- Month of Service Refresh
- Special Olympics
- Run for your Wildlife 5k
- Mother and Son Olympics
- Barkaloo Pop Up Park
- Donut Dash
- Story Trail Planting
- Trash Bash
- Christmas Parade

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2023 Annual Report



The Parks and Recreation Director, Clifford Hatch, was recently recognized as the 2023 Director of Year by Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) East Region.

Working for and with Cliff is never dull. He has a big personality, a big voice, and a big heart. His passion for improvement and excellence leads him to continually challenge “the way things have always been”. He is constantly amazing his staff with his innovative ideas, new program suggestions, and off-the-cuff comments often starting with “why can’t we.....?”. He is always reminding his staff to look at any program/event/activity from the customer’s standpoint and to consider what it would take to make that customer happy.

He is extremely customer-oriented. He has a passion to create experiences for our citizens that leave positive memories. He is also one of the most creative people I know, always ready with a new idea to address challenges head-on. He is a leader who is not afraid to stand up for his beliefs and his staff, demonstrating his support by finding fun ways to show his department how much they are appreciated.

Cliff’s dedication to creating memorable experiences for the citizens of Baytown is rivaled by his dedication to his staff. Cliff believes in teamwork, encouraging all five divisions of Baytown Parks and Rec to work together and play together. He loves finding ways to celebrate staff. Since becoming Director, Cliff has taken team-building to a higher level, implementing “we are a team” initiatives with in-depth personality workshops, colorful staff apparel, and opportunities for fun team building activities.

He also leads by example. He is always willing to jump in and try anything that is required of his staff, refusing to ask them to do anything he is not willing to do. He takes great joy in new experiences. His smile is genuine and contagious as he observes Baytown’s citizens enjoying themselves in events/activities presented by Baytown Parks and Rec. His pride in a successful event is evident, and makes his entire staff happy to work in Baytown.

Every Parks and Recreation department needs a cheerleader like Cliff, and Baytown is lucky to have him onboard.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Tracey Prothro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracey Prothro

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

2023

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

TRAPS

EAST REGION

TEXAS RECREATION
& PARK SOCIETY



CONGRATULATIONS CLIFF!



CLIFFORD W. HATCH
Baytown Parks and Recreation

RECOGNITION

TRAPS* NOMINEES



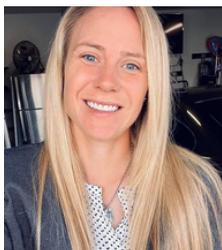
BRANDON JONES

2023 TRAPS* East Region
Rookie of the Year Nominee



KAYLEI PAYNE

2023 TRAPS* East Region
Part-Time Employee of the
Year Nominee



LAUREN SIPLE

2023 TRAPS* East Region
Recreational Professional of
the Year Nominee



LEONARD GRAHAM

2023 TRAPS* East Region
Park Professional of the
Year Nominee

44 UNDER 40

Each year, the community nominates young professionals who are making significant and impressive contributions to the community in which they live. Baytown Parks and Recreation is pleased to present our employees who made The Baytown Sun 44 under 40 Class of 2023. Pictured left to right: Lauren Siple, Jina Faith, and Amy Shipley.



CONGRATULATIONS!

*Texas Recreation and Parks Society

RECOGNITION

MILESTONES



JINA FAITH

- Education Coordinator
- 10 Years Full-Time



JOSE LOPEZ

- Aquatics Maintenance
- 5 Years Full-Time



JOSHUA WILSON

- Crew Leader
- 5 Years Full-Time



JENNA JACOBS

- Aquatics Superintendent
- 5 Years Full-Time

TRAINING

The Parks and Recreation Department prioritizes the continuing education, skills advancement, and leadership training of team members. We are proud of the accomplishments the following individuals have achieved this year in addition to those in previous years who have championed the growth mindset.

MANAGER'S TRAINING

Brandon Jones, Cornell Gordon, Kyle Frye, Lauren Siple, Minh Kotlarz, Robyn Howell, Terry Raymond, Clifford Hatch, Daniel Medina, Tiffany West

GREEN BELT CLASS

David Galvez, Robyn Howell, Chaun La'a-Oili, Luis Mendoza, Amy Shipley, Victoria Ramirez

GREEN BELT PROJECT

Victoria Ramirez, Abel Carmona

BLACK BELT

Holly Pinkston (2023), Brandon Jones (2023), Victoria Ramirez (2023), Lauren Siple (2020), Christina Butcher (2019), Tracie Keene (2019), Clifford Hatch (2018)

AWARDS



TRAPS* East Region Director of the Year
Clifford Hatch



Best Community Event: Juneteenth
Texas Travel Award



Best Community Event: 4th of July Celebration
Baytown Sun Reader's Choice Award



2nd Place Overall City
TRAPS* East Region Maintenance Rodeo



TPPC Class I Agency of the Year**
City of Baytown



TRAPS* East Region Innovative Program of the Year
Run for Your Wildlife 5K



TRAPS* East Region Promotional Award of the Year
Lifeguard Hiring Campaign



TPPC Waterpark of the Year**
Pirates Bay Waterpark



Spirit Award Champion
Gulf Coast Guard Games



Spirit Award Champion
Texas Lifeguard Championship



1st Place Nail Driving
TRAPS* East Region Maintenance Rodeo: Minh Kotlarz



2nd Place Truck-Trailer
TRAPS* East Region Maintenance Rodeo: Minh Kotlarz & Leonard Graham



3rd Place Backhoe
TRAPS* East Region Maintenance Rodeo: Josh Wilson



Baytown Parks and Recreation Jack of All Trades
Christina Butcher



Baytown Sun's 44 Under 40
Amy Shipley, Jina Faith, & Lauren Siple



2nd Place CPR Scenario
Gulf Coast Guard Games: The Undercurrents



2nd Place Spinal Injury Scenario
Gulf Coast Guard Games: The Undercurrents



3rd Place Spinal Injury Scenario
Gulf Coast Guard Games: Pirates Bay Piranhas



TPPC Scholarships**
Brandon Jones & Brieah Zuercher



TPPC Safety Program of the Year (2022)**
Sun & Water Safety Pre-K Program

*Texas Recreation and Parks Society
**Texas Public Pool Council

STATISTICS

Department statistics are used to conduct research, evaluate outcomes, develop critical thinking, and make informed decisions regarding future programming and strategies. We utilize this data to monitor growth and adjust goals to have the greatest impact on the Baytown community.

Aquatics



790

People Learned to Swim this Summer

Which we like to think of as lives saved!

27,872

Chicken tenders sold at Pirates Bay, this year's top selling concession.



Nature



810

Guided Hikes at Nature Center

Including Full Moon Hike & Tyke Hike

6,510

Students participated in a field trip, camp, or scout program.



Parks



924

Google Reviews left for Baytown Parks

Throughout 2023

4.3

Average star rating on our park reviews.



Recreation



52

Events hosted this year

Not including on-going programming

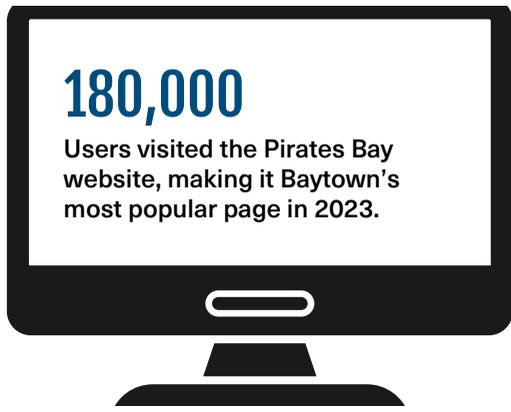
25,000+

Guests attended the 2023 Juneteenth ceremony.



STATISTICS

Marketing



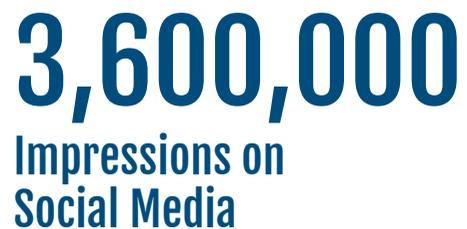
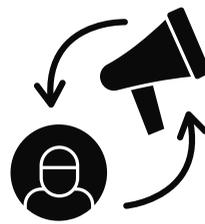
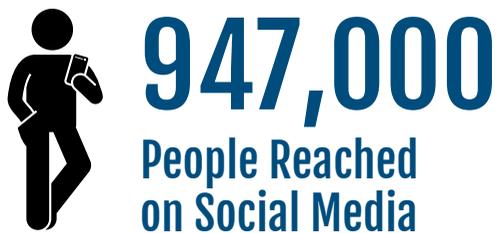
Hottest Social Post of the Year:

Holiday Hangout Opening

2,206
Interactions

Saves, shares, reactions, & comments

140,000
People Reached



Volunteers



City of Baytown Presents

2024 SPECIAL EVENTS

**BAYTOWN
DOES MORE**



FEB 3 **DADDY AND ME DANCE**
COMMUNITY CENTER

APR 20 **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**
LEE SPORTS FACILITIES

JUNE 15 **JUNETEENTH WEEKEND**
BICENTENNIAL PARK

JUL 3-4 **4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**
BICENTENNIAL PARK

AUG 9 **BACK TO SCHOOL SPLASH**
PIRATES BAY WATERPARK

OCT 4-5 **GRITO FEST**
TOWN SQUARE/BICENTENNIAL

OCT 12 **NURTURE NATURE FEST**
BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER

OCT 26 **TREATS ON THE TRAIL**
SPORTS COMPLEX

DEC 5 **CHRISTMAS PARADE**
TOWN SQUARE

DISCOVER EVEN MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

- MARKET AT TOWN SQUARE
- YOUTH CAMPS
- YOUTH ATHLETICS
- TODDLER STORYTIME
- POP-UP PARKS
- FITNESS CLASSES
- ADULT SPORT LEAGUES
- OPEN PLAY SPORTS
- NATURE HIKES
- COMMUNITY YARD SALES
- FUN RUNS & RIDES
- MOVIE NIGHTS
- HOLIDAY EVENTS
- PIRATES BAY
- & MORE!



facebook & Instagram
@BAYTOWNPARKSANDREC

BAYTOWN.ORG/EVENTS



One memory that never seems to fade, is how much fun our community has at our annual Turkey Trot event. I can't wait for the next one.

Lauren



My fondest memory of 2023 was participating in the Team Building Boat Regatta. It was a great team experience, I got to meet new people, and of course, winning 1st place was just the cherry on top.

Chris

There are so many memories this year, from riding on the trackless train, seeing Dr. Seuss and Holiday Hangout transform from paper to life. Newcastle Park, Busch Terrace, Duke Hill, to revamping waterfall BNC, Treats on the trail, kids at daddy and me, and just watching the love that goes into each and every job and just watching the faces of people at the concerts we work on. How do you choose one?

Cornell

My fondest memory would be the Special Olympics and watching all those kids in the competition giving their all and having so much fun doing it.

Minh

I will never forget being behind the scenes of the Juneteenth Celebration and meeting some of my favorite Hip Hop Artists.

My favorite memory was hosting the annual Nurture Nature Festival during the solar eclipse! The look and sounds of amazement really made the day special.

Crissy

I REALLY ENJOYED JUST HANGING OUT AND BONDING WITH FELLOW CREW MEMBERS AT THE TRAPS EAST REGION EQUIPMENT RODEO HOSTED AT THE WAYNE GRAY SPORTS COMPLEX.

NICK



My favorite memory for 2023 was the Juneteenth concert. The performers were great and the attendance was record breaking for the third year for the event!

Terry

I want to thank God for the opportunity to be a part of the greatest department in the City of Baytown. I love giving back to my community!

Catherine

I love the Christmas parade! I admire how every department had a vision and came together as one to make a vision come true for the City of Baytown residents to enjoy. The smiles on every faces let me know the late nights an early work mornings was worth it.

Jasean



4th of July is always a successful event and the fireworks make it even better to be there to enjoy with family.

Luiz

Hosting the East region Equipment rodeo was a little over whelming at times planning it. I couldn't have done it without everyone's help and could not have been happier by the way it turned out.

Abel

**Working together to create
unforgettable memories!**

**BAYTOWN
DOES MORE**



**PARKS and
RECREATION**

**SCAN
ME!**



VIEW THE ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE:
baytown.org/parkreports

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