



ANNUAL REPORT

Baytown Parks & Recreation

2022



Pictured: July 3-4 Celebration with The Band Perry on stage.

Photo Credit:
Tracy Eason Photography





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 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

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.



CITY OF BAYTOWN

**PARKS and
RECREATION**



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

2022 Annual Report



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2022 Annual Report



Words cannot express how proud I am of the Baytown Parks and Recreation team for the magnitude of new events, programs, and amenities that were added in 2022. This is especially impressive as 2022 was the first year without long-time Director, Scott Johnson. Many of the items in this report were accomplished from his vision and leadership.

Over the last year, the Baytown Parks and Recreation team has undergone many changes. In addition to Scott Johnson's retirement, the department also said farewell to Kevin Troller, the Assistant City Manager who oversaw the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as Park Board Chairman Carmen Torres and Kevin Jones. Despite the turnover in key personnel, the team kept producing award-winning programs, events, and park planning documents. In fact, Baytown's Parks and Recreation Department won the most awards in the Texas Recreation and Parks Society's East Region, picking up five awards in four separate categories! We understand that awards alone don't make a department, yet we are happy to be recognized by our peers for outstanding achievements for our community. Other new initiatives this year included partnering with Baytown Engage to host parks-related neighborhood meetings, facilitating "days of caring" volunteer events, and for the first time ever, surveying Baytown residents to select the concert headliners for the 3rd and 4th of July concert!

2022 also saw many new faces join the team and familiar faces take on more responsibilities in new roles. The Parks Division promoted long-time Crew Leader Leonard Graham to Field Supervisor over South Parks, where he joined newly hired Abel Carmona over Beautification and Construction, Daniel Medina over Right of Ways Mowing, and long-time Supervisor Minh Kotlarz over North Side Parks. Former Park Planner Cornell Gordon was also promoted to Parks Superintendent, tasked with oversight of all operations of the Parks Division. The Aquatics staff also welcomed a couple of new faces after the retirement of Efen Banda, including a new hire Brandon Jones as the Maintenance Coordinator, along with a former Public Works CIP employee, Erica Galloway, shifting over to the Guest Service Coordinator role. Lastly, our Recreation division promoted Robyn Howell to Programs and Special Events Coordinator, a position which was just recently created in 2022, as well as welcomed a new facility specialist, Estrella Cardona, and our first ever Parks and Recreation employee dedicated exclusively to Marketing, Amy Shipley.

The final initiative I wanted to touch on in this annual report. Rather than reporting each division's accomplishments individually, we have decided to report how we embody each of the City of Baytown's Core Values – Caring, Innovation, Collaboration, Leadership, and Stewardship, through our everyday programming and maintenance. I hope that as you read this document, you get a sense of the great work being done by a very dedicated Parks and Recreation Team. Please join me in saying a simple "Thank You" when you see them out working to ensure a fun, clean, and safe environment for our residents and guests to enjoy.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifford W. Hatch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Clifford W. Hatch
DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION



DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



Together, the Aquatics, Natural Resources, Recreation, and Parks 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 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 DIVISION

2022 Annual Report



ABOUT

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 an Ice Rink in the winter.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 01** Recording breaking attendance at Pirates Bay: 218,425
- 02** Held 2nd Annual Back to School Bash which included fireworks, games, a DJ, and a foam zone.
- 03** For the first time ever sent a team to the Texas Lifeguard Championship in July 2022.





**Jenna
Stevenson**

**AQUATICS
SUPERINTENDENT**



AQUATICS SUPERINTENDENT



The Aquatics Division of the Parks and Recreation Department had an outstanding, award winning, record breaking 2022! The year also brought many challenges and creative thinking opportunities.

The off season started with beautification projects around Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove. These projects included; water slide painting on our drop slides, shade cover replacement/repairs, and the polishing/waxing of all slides. All of these projects were completed with teamwork from the Aquatics Park Service Team, Progressive Commercial Aquatics, and USA Shade. In March of 2022 construction was started on a brand-new souvenir shop at the front of Pirates Bay. This shop would be the first of its kind on the property and brought a lot of excitement to the Aquatics Team. Along side this project we also replaced 24 palm trees through out the park that did not survive the freeze of February 2021. It was really neat and interesting to learn about the palm trees, travel to the farm to pick them out, and then see the end result of them being installed. The wave pool at Pirates Bay received a resort style upgrade when all of the plastic lounge chairs were replaced with royal blue sling back lounge chairs.

When the hot, dry summer of 2022 rolled into Baytown so did the crowds. Pirates Bay was at capacity all summer long resulting in a record-breaking attendance of over 218,000 guests. The summer also brought many challenges to the park. A broken FlowRider motor in May, a flooded slide pump room in June, and a lifeguard shortage in July. The national lifeguard shortage impacted Baytown in 2021 and unfortunately 2022 was no different. We started the season with only 115 lifeguards compared to the 150+ we normally have. In mid-July the team made the decision to close the Pirates Bay on Mondays and Tuesdays for the remaining five weeks of the season for the safety of our team and the guests. Despite the many challenges the summer threw at the Aquatics Team the team fought hard and had an amazing summer at both parks. Calypso Cove offered morning and evening swim lessons that were sold out all four sessions. Pirates Bay hosted five Special Pirate Celebrations that had more guests than they have ever had. Our Junior Lifeguard program grew from six participants in 2021 to thirty in 2022 and our World's Largest Swim Lesson had over 300 attendees.

In September the Aquatics welcomed two new full-time team members who are looking forward to their first Aquatics summer in 2023. Brandon Jones was hired as the Park Service Coordinator returning to Baytown after a few years away. Brandon started his career here at Pirates Bay when he was 16 as a part time maintenance employee. Erica Galloway joined the team coming to us from the Public Works department and was hired into the roll of Guest Service Coordinator. Erica hit the ground running attending the World Waterpark Annual Symposium in October and came back with a wealth of ideas to better serve our guests at Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove.

2022 was another award-winning year for Pirates Bay and included many firsts. To start the year Pirates Bay's Special Pirate Celebration was named Special Event of the Year for 2021 by the Texas Public Pool Council. For the first time Baytown placed in the top three at the Gulf Coast Guard Games giving the team a bid to the Texas Lifeguard Championship. At the Texas Lifeguard Championship in Brenham, TX the team placed first in the Scanning Event and came home with the per voted Spirit Award. The lifeguard team competition teams are made of up first or second year lifeguards who want to test their skills and knowledge against lifeguards from other facilities. These competitions are proven to test all of their skills in "real life" scenarios. Another first for Aquatics was being awarded a Wave Review award for Best of Print Material from the World Waterpark Association. To close out the year Baytown Aquatics was nominated for the Aquatic International Best of Targeted Programming for Special Pirate Celebration and will be accepting this award in February 2023 at the Association for Aquatic Professionals Annual Conference.

Aquatics would like to thank the Natural Resources, Recreation, and Parks divisions for supporting our events and helping us with projects through out the year. I would also like to acknowledge Tiffany West, Aquatics Operations Coordinator, for stepping up during the 2022 summer season and playing the role of many positions when the division was short staffed by two full time team members.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

2022 Annual Report



ABOUT

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- 01** EPIC High School Club had a busy year with their 3rd International Conservation Experience in Costa Rica and their record-breaking attendance at the Spooktacular Halloween event.
- 02** The Baytown Nature Center celebrated its 20th anniversary with 5,500 visitors at its 11th Annual Nurture Nature Festival.
- 03** Wetlands Wagon Outreach Program traveled across the state, partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the Poteet Strawberry Festival, Fort Worth Mayfest, Ducks Unlimited Expo, and State Fair of Texas.





Tracey Prothro
NATURAL RESOURCE
PROGRAMS
SUPERINTENDENT



NATURAL RESOURCES SUPERINTENDENT



The Natural Resource Education Division of the Parks and Recreation Department completed another rewarding year, partnering with Goose Creek CISD to offer nature education programs to Baytown students of all ages at both the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center and the Baytown Nature Center. Helping fuel the nature-loving passion in kids from preschool age through high school keeps us all inspired and motivated!

Our Education Interns are a crucial part of our Wetlands Center/Baytown Nature Center family, so it's always difficult when they move on to full-time jobs elsewhere. Over the past year, we said goodbye and good luck to long-time interns, Berenice Rodriguez and Holly Varner, who went on to full-time jobs after their university graduations. We are proud of our "kids"! We welcomed several new interns, and look forward to watching them grow in their careers and their knowledge. We also said goodbye to longtime Outreach Coordinator, Mary Alice Trumble, and transitioned Amina Klair from part-time Administrative Assistant to full-time.

One of our interns, Carla Eppler, revamped the Wetlands Center's preschool playroom, adding new features, new colors, and new activities. Her "Children's Learning Lab" design was so successful that it was awarded the Innovation in Park and Recreation Facility Design Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society's East Region. We are proud of Carla's creation!

This year members of our high school club, EPIC, were rewarded for their three years of environmental stewardship with a week-long international trip to Costa Rica. Five young men created memories of not only fun, awe-inspiring experiences, but also of challenges faced and conquered, discomforts overcome, and new conservation outlooks gained to carry throughout their lives. Two of the students have already committed to working toward a second trip in two more years!

Our partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Community Outreach continues to keep us busy throughout the year. Taking our kid-fishing tank and Wetlands Wagon wildlife outreach on the road with TPWD is exhausting but fun. This year found us traveling to the Poteet Strawberry Festival, Ducks Unlimited Expo, 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.

Baytown Nature Center celebrated its twenty-year anniversary this year with a successful Nurture Nature Festival, welcoming 5,500 visitors to enjoy a beautiful day of outdoor fun. We are working on new amenities at the park, including a new pavilion solar/wind charging station in the Butterfly Garden donated by ExxonMobil in celebration of the center's 20 years. A new bird feeding station on the Chickadee Trail is underway, with help from United Way, Lee College, and ExxonMobil. We are also planning a new kayak launch and considering options for a ropes course or similar recreational amenities to be added in the future. We are always looking for ways to improve the center!

Just because school is out during the summer doesn't mean we get to rest. Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camp, sponsored by Chevron Phillips, continued its expansion with a total of 15 camps offered this summer at 3 locations. 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!

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, Air Products, Friends of the Baytown Nature Center, and Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

RECREATION DIVISION

2022 Annual Report



ABOUT

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- 01** New this year, the Recreation Team offered an all-day summer camp at the Community Center for eight weeks.
- 02** The first ever Youth Soccer League was started for the fall and successfully offered 100 children the chance to play at all levels.
- 03** A Mom and Son Nerf Challenge was hosted at the Community Center under black lights and sold out so fast that a second session was added.





Kyle Frye
RECREATION
SUPERINTENDENT



RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT



The Recreation Division, of the Parks and Recreation Department, made it through another year providing programs, facilities, marketing, athletics, and special events to the community in hopes of creating lasting memories for everyone involved.

In 2022 the Recreation Division had some changes within the staff. Robyn Howell, who had been working as a part-time employee was promoted to the Special Events and Programs Coordinator position. She will be responsible for all of the programs and special events put on by the Recreation Division. Amy Shipley was brought in as the new Marketing Coordinator. She will be over all things marketing for the entire Parks and Recreation Department and helping with many of our special events. Estrella Cardona was hired as our new Customer Care Technician. She will be helping manage the front desk and will also be pitching in at many of our special events. The Recreation Division is excited about the new hires and the direction that it's going in.

The Recreation Division offered some new programs and events in 2022. Wine and Design was a program created to combine arts and crafts with some wine tasting. This was held at the Clubhouse at Evergreen and was available to anyone 21 and up. Each participant was given the choice of two artworks to recreate, two glasses of wine, and hors-d'oeuvres. The Murder Mystery Dinner was an interactive production that followed the case of a who-done-it murder. It was also held at the Clubhouse at Evergreen and the attendees were treated to their choice of a three-course meal and adult beverages. A new event that we offered this year was the Mother-Son Nerf Challenge. This event was held at the Community Center and got moms and their sons to compete with, and against, other moms and sons in a nerf gun battle. Teams were put together and then would take turns going into the Auditorium room, under black lights, and trying to accumulate as many points as possible by hitting different targets with different point amounts. Shirts, prizes, and food were given to all participants. The Recreation Division also offered its very first all-day Youth Summer Camp. This was an eight-week camp for youth ages 7 – 13. We took our usual one-week camps and built a curriculum around those, so we were still able to offer specialty programs every week and kept the kids at the Community Center all day with added activities. The program was so successful that it got fully funded for FY23 with a full staff and field trips.

The Parks and Recreation Department is losing one of its premier facilities, at the end of 2022, in Evergreen Park and the Clubhouse at Evergreen. This facility will be turning back into a somewhat traditional golf course. However, the Department will be bringing online a new facility out at Roseland Park in early 2023. So be on the lookout for that in the near future.

In Marketing, the Department produced some new things not only for advertisement but for promotion within our events and Department itself. The Recreation Division was able to secure its first billboard on Hwy 146 to promote Juneteenth, the 3rd & 4th of July, and Grito Fest. This year we also started doing event wrap-up videos that are then posted on our Facebook and YouTube pages. The really neat one that was done was a video interviewing staff members, from the different Divisions, on why we do what we do. It really got down to the core of what this Department represents and its effect on not only the public but the staff themselves.

2022 was a year of building back up steam from the COVID epidemic to get the Recreation Division back on track to provide quality, cost-effective programs and events for the City of Baytown and its neighbors. Heading into 2023, the Parks and Recreation Department is poised to keep the momentum going in providing opportunities for all to make lasting memories here in Baytown.

PARKS DIVISION

2022 Annual Report



ABOUT

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- 01** Two qualifiers for Regionals and State Maintenance Rodeo 2021-22 and four qualifiers for 2022-2023 as well as placed 2nd overall as a team.
- 02** Replanted approximately 3500 plants that suffered damage from recent storms.
- 03** Installed first trail lighted by Solar/ Wind lights in January 2022.





Cornell Gordon
PARK
SUPERINTENDENT



PARKS SUPERINTENDENT



The Parks Division of the Parks and Recreation Department has sailed through a year of tremendous growth, changes, hurdles, challenges, and rewards. The magnitude of the projects we have worked on, along with the challenges of keeping pace with our regular duties and still being asked to take on additional assignments, with impossible deadlines pushed us, and not once did we falter on schedules or promises beyond our control or acts of God. I truly believe the City does understand the jewel of a team they have to do all they do. I truly, understand the gift I have been given by the team I inherited and the team that we have been slowly building. A team that is not only passionate but "LOVE" the opportunity to create memories for this City. This measure of skill and heart poured into the product they deliver is not replicated anywhere and is rare, yet nearly impossible to find in people in this day and age.

I want to personally thank each individual Foreman for making my job and coming to work each day that much simpler. Not only do you take the vision that we bring forth to life, but you also present opportunities to make it better, Each one of you brings special expertise to the table that is always the right mix to make the product we produce, that special frosting on the cake, to the City and residents we serve. The slow rise to becoming the superintendent has allowed me to learn all of the guys from a different perspective than just being hired off the street. That transition has allowed me to understand and grow to know how to push and how to let go of assignments. Most importantly, I can cheer, joke, cry, pray and laugh with these guys. These guys live by the mantra of "lead by example," as they are willing to put in the hours and sometimes more than their crews. I appreciate all you do and more.

This year I was able to keep Shayna Smith on as an intern, and she has been a valuable asset for helping process and produce designs and other duties and assignments as assigned throughout our department. Who knew a short-term summer internship would turn into almost two years of work? Again, it has been a pleasure to watch her grow and see her learn the process of design and construction firsthand. We have conversations about how much she feels she is ahead of her class based on the experience she has learned here. She has done everything from helping to design a painted basketball court to preparing construction details for projects, learning about putting proposals, and understanding the balance between specifications and designs. As I have been juggling two jobs she has truly, been a safety net to keep me afloat during what I think has been the busiest season for parks since I have been here. Thanks for all you have done to keep me from going under.

Lastly, I want to thank the guys behind the foreman who are the mortar, the brick, the glue, the motor, the tires, and the engines, that we rely on and define the Parks Division. These are the guys who willingly pick up trash, mow and edge the grass in a hundred-degree heat, guys who clean the restrooms after a weekend of events, the ones who fix pipes, act as security, plant and trim trees, and build everything from playgrounds to sculpture bases and decks. The list goes on, but one thing is true, there is no quit, in our team. They may grunt and hem and haw, but they get the work done and always surprise me with the effort to get it done. Most importantly, these guys make me laugh the hardest and they are some of the craziest guys I know. I guess that is what makes this team special. It is that mixture of a little bit of this and a little bit of that which helps us excel beyond the City's Values of, Caring, Innovative, Collaboration, Leadership, and Stewardship, because we add, "love what we do."

To all my team, that I love working with and keeps the fun in working. You are "Number One" and I would not want to work with any other team.

"OUR SHIRTS SAY TEAM, BUT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WE ARE TRULY A PARK FAMILY."

PARKS BOARD MEMBERS

2022 Annual Report

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.



Terry Sain



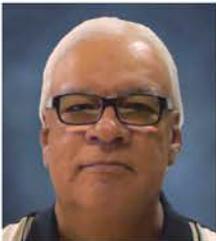
Agustin Lored



Michelle Bitterly



Dr. Yvonne Thomas



Thomas Capetillo



Mirtha Morales



Jamari Gilbert

PAST BOARD MEMBERS

2022 Annual Report

Carmen Torres

Mrs. Carmen Torres was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in September 1993. Carmen was a great asset to this particular advisory board over her tenure of service and was elected to be Chairwoman in September 2018.

Carmen would attend the annual Art Show to announce the names of the participants and hand out ribbons to the winners as well as attending many events over the years. Thank you, Carmen, for your services to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the last 28 years.

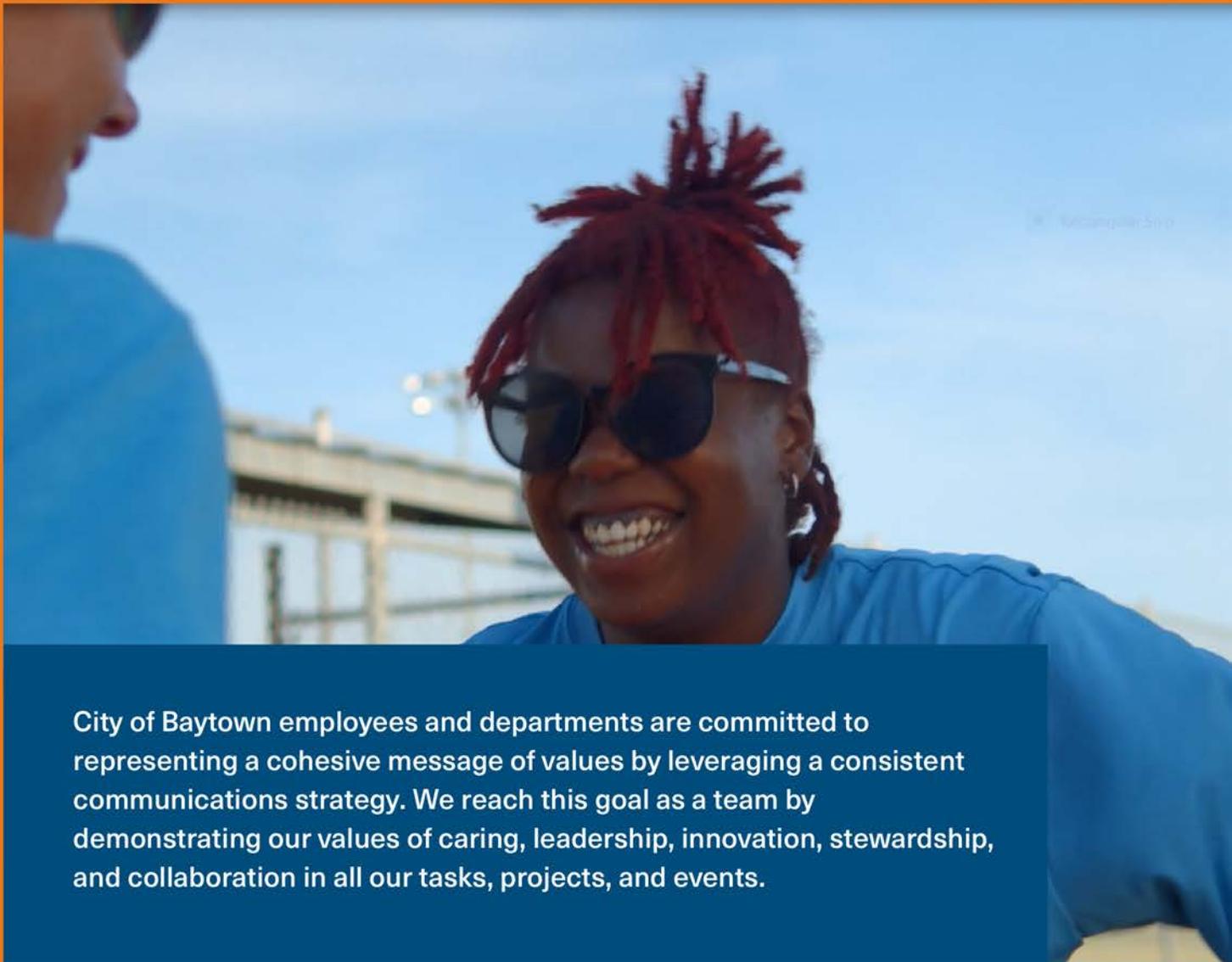
Kevin Jones

Mr. Kevin Jones was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in October 2007. Kevin was a great voice for the advisory board over his years of service and was elected to be Chairman in April 2022 which was gladly accepted. Kevin and his family enjoyed attending many of the events over the years.

Thank you, Kevin, for your service to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the last 15 years.



CORE VALUES



City of Baytown employees and departments are committed to representing a cohesive message of values by leveraging a consistent communications strategy. We reach this goal as a team by demonstrating our values of caring, leadership, innovation, stewardship, and collaboration in all our tasks, projects, and events.

CORE VALUES

2022 Annual Report



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 willing and ready to Inspire and encourage others.



COLLABORATION

Build strong, inclusive partnerships within the organization and community.



PROJECTS & PROGRAMS



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.

GCCISD PRE-K OUTREACH

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Caring



Stewardship



The Wetlands Center & Baytown Nature Center have teamed up with GCCISD to introduce 700 Pre-K students to wetland habitats and plants & seeds.

- 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. 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".
- Tess Graham, the GCCISD Assistant to the Coordinator of Agriculture and Natural Resource Outreach, utilizes the Wetlands Center's baby alligators to introduce the students to wetland habitats and the animals that depend on the wetlands.



AUDUBON BIRD COUNTS

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Caring



Stewardship



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

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. This information is used by Audubon ornithologists to track conservation efforts across the region.

The annual Christmas Bird Count was once again led by Sallie Sherman, long-time leader of the Baytown Region. A total of 62 species and 997 birds were documented during the 2022 count!



BACK TO THE BAY PROGRAM

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



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.

450 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.

- Cast net and seine net marine organism collection
- Bay water testing for pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients
- Walking scavenger hunt to identify human impacts, both negative and positive



EPIC ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

2022 Annual Report



The EPIC Club (Environment Protectors Initiating Change) is a conservation awareness club open to Baytown's high school students.

EPIC students participate in environmental service projects and activities throughout the year. It is sponsored by the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center.

For 2022, EPIC students jumped in to help with the following activities:

- Environmental outreach at the Galveston Bay Foundation's Bay Day Festival
- Environmental outreach at Baytown's Nurture Nature Festival
- Prairie Plantathon at Sheldon State Park
- Shoreline cleanup and environmental education at the Baytown Nature Center during Trash Bash
- Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup at Morgan's Point

COVESTRO I³ PROGRAM

2022 Annual Report



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

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

- Scientific Method review
- Proper use of microscopes, studying live mosquito larvae under the lens
- Life cycles of animals with complete and incomplete metamorphism

WETLANDS ECOLOGY PROGRAM

2022 Annual Report



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

Over 1,700 students annually spend the morning at the Wetlands Center rotating between activities introducing the wetlands ecosystem.

- Wetlands In A Pan modeling activity lets students build their own model of a wetland
- Salt Makes A Difference activity highlights the difference between salt, brackish and freshwater ecosystems
- Coastal Touch Tank and live animal intro give students hands-on experience with crabs, anemones, shrimp, and snakes

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



LIQUID SCIENCE PROGRAM

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



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

Over 1,700 students annually spend the day at the Wetlands Center experiencing interactive labs on the many factors affecting aquatic ecosystems.

- Photosynthesis lab using aquatic plants
- Aquatic Food Web Modelling and alligator meet and greet
- Stream Table Demo on river processes and coastal formation
- Dichotomous Key activity identifying marine organisms
- Water testing for abiotic factors, including temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.



TOWN SQUARE ICE RINK

2022 Annual Report



Innovation



Collaboration

NOV-JAN
2021-2022



An outdoor ice rink in Texas? Baytown has it!

Open throughout the holiday season in the evenings and during special events held at Town Square. The rink also offers private rentals for birthday parties, school functions, company parties, and family get-togethers.

- Over 3,000 guests skated at the rink
- Only closed 4 days due to ice conditions compared to 12 in the 2020-21 season
- The rink hosted a toy drive in conjunction with Councilman Charles and Mrs. Latoya Johnson.



TEXAS AVENUE SCULPTURE TRAIL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



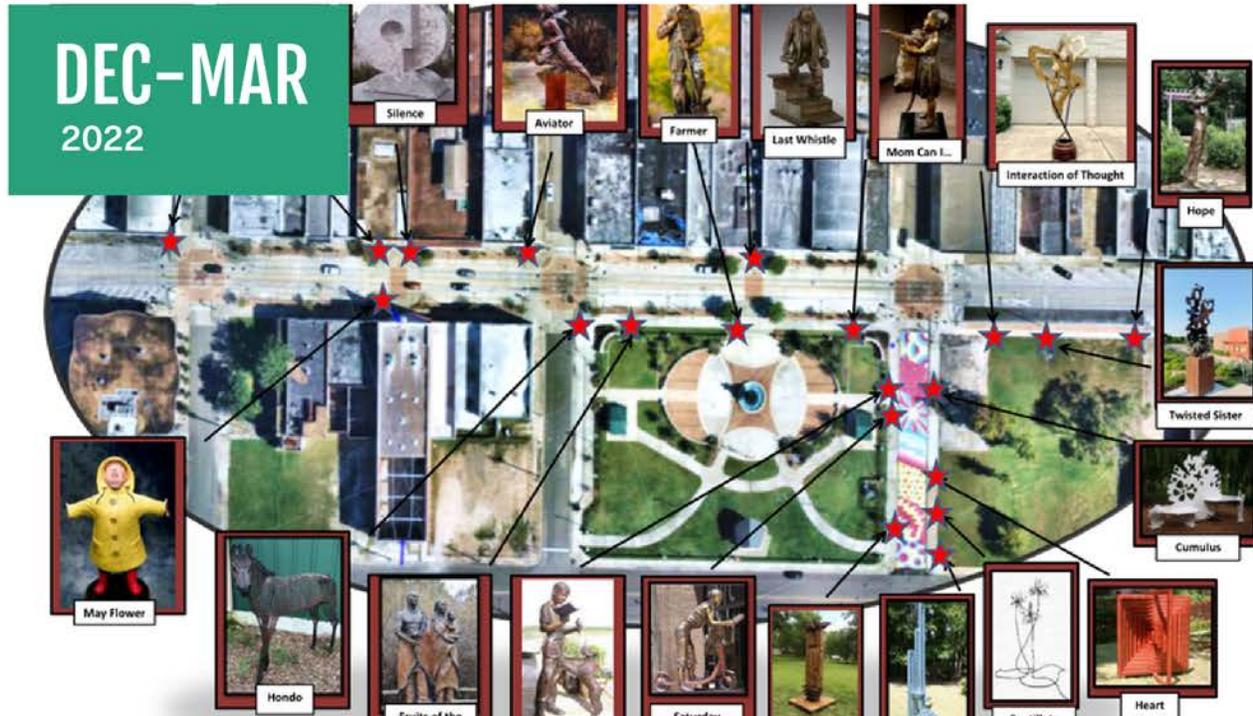
Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Parks crews can even install art!

Crews fabricated 20 concrete pedestals/pads for the ACE District Sculpture Trail Project for Texas Avenue. The bases came in all shapes and sizes to support the various genre of Art Sculptures along the trail.

- In December crews started planning and developing concepts of the pads, finishes, and sizes to address weight and stability concerns for the approval of the type of concrete pads the Ace District desired.
- Crews worked overtime to do the formwork for the sculpture bases.
- All the bases and pads were done in time for the project installation.
- Crews worked with the artists during installation to make sure their items were displayed in a manner that addressed the artist's needs and even after the event made additional pads to address the artist's final touches.



JENKINS PERFECT TRAIL PROJECT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



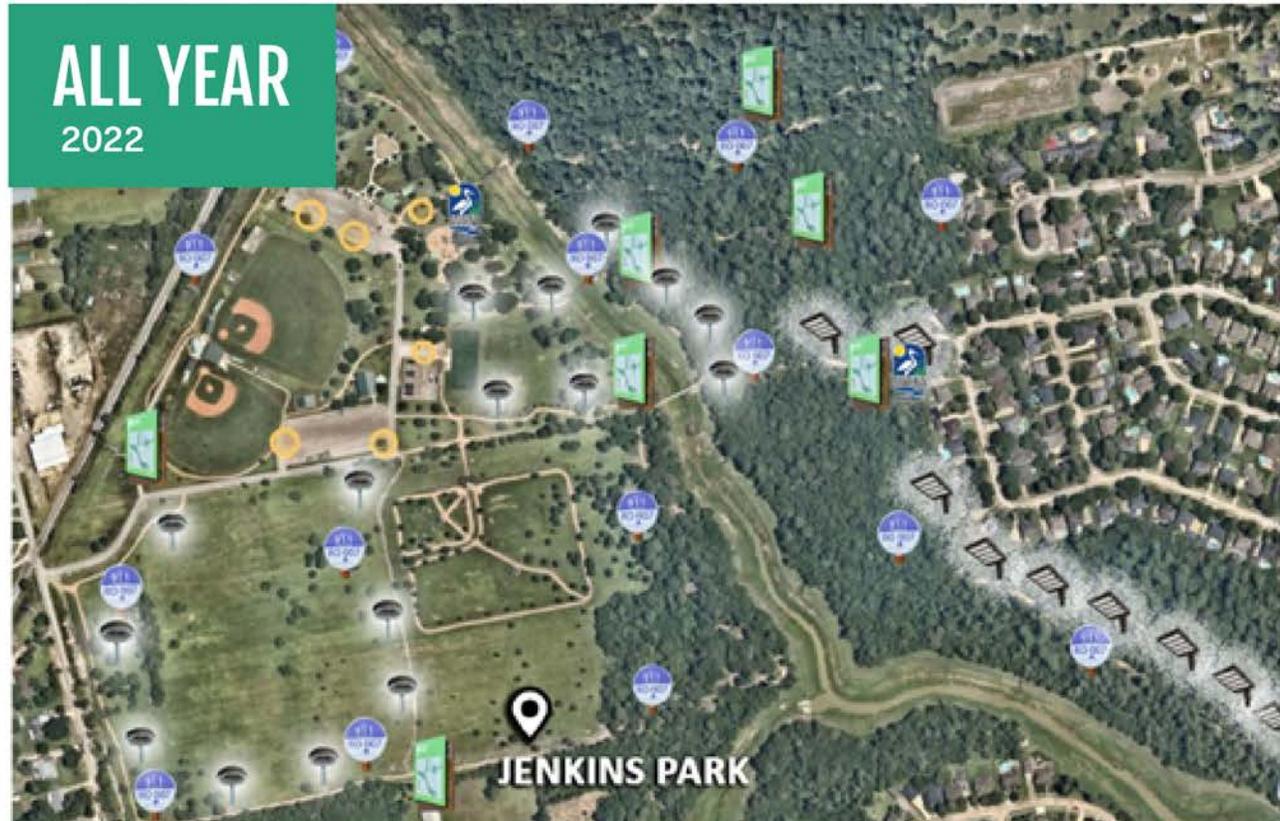
Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



We are off to a great start towards making our trails safe & easy to navigate.

After the planning process ended for the Jenkins Perfect Trail Project, the first phase of construction began with the installation of the Omni-Flow Solar Wind Lights.

- Thirteen light bases installed
- Seven light poles and lights installed
- The remaining lights installed by the first part of February
- Testing of lights ran from Jan 24th - Feb 15th
- New marquee sign installed
- Continuing to install urban toys with installation of Teqball



WETLANDS WINTER HOLIDAY CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship

DECEMBER

2021 & 2022



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

Campers were introduced to adaptations that wildlife use to survive in the cold and how their habitat is impacted by people from as far away as Texas. Campers had a blast during their camp-ending "snowstorm", as they enjoyed snow just like the penguins they observed on their field trip to Moody Gardens. They also enjoyed creating their own snow in the Wetlands Center's science lab and observed the crystal formation of the flakes.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



DECEMBER
2021

Time to party at AR's Entertainment!

Parks and Recreation Christmas Party 2021 was hosted at AR's Entertainment Center for all the employees to come out and enjoy a little fun with one another. Staff received three hours of laser tag, mini golf, bumper cars, bowling, virtual games, pool, and a \$10 arcade game card for everyone to enjoy. Pizza, cookies, and soft drinks were served for lunch in appreciation for all the hard work throughout the year and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

GATOR TALES (WINTER)

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership

DEC-FEB
2021-2022



Preschool visitors to the Wetlands Center are introduced to hands-on fun learning about nature.

Free weekly meetings indoors during the cold winter introduced nature-based topics for up to 30 preschoolers. Winter is the time for rest in nature! Topics included:

- Animals prepare for winter
- Animal migration
- From Seed to Plant
- Ice Melts
- Magnets: Sink or Float
- Alligators, snakes, bees and crabs



THE MELTDOWN

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



JANUARY
21, 2022

An event to commemorate the end of the Ice Rink season.

The Meltdown ended up being postponed to January 21st due to weather and was actually held at Town Square after the Ice Rink closed down for the year.

- There were various-sized snow slides for attendees to go down.
- Reverend Butter, with DLG Ice Factory that's showcased on TLC and the Discover Channel, had Ice Age movie-themed ice sculptures and a live demonstration.
- Showed the movies Ice Age, and Ice Age: The Meltdown, with hot chocolate and candy provided.



KARATE LESSONS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



ALL YEAR
2022

An affordable program for learning self-defense & self-respect.

The American Society of Karate, in partnership with Baytown Parks & Recreation, offers a year-round Karate Program that consists of 4 sessions, 10 weeks each.

Average Attendance:

- Adult – 15
- Youth – 61.75
- Advanced (One-time session held on Thursdays) – 20



PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Learn & grow in the field of photography at all levels.

A group of photographers from all levels gathers to learn from each other, network, and share their passion. Each month, the instructor will teach a new topic related to cameras and photography. You can bring your camera for hands-on learning, but a camera is not required.

The Baytown Photo Club averages 6 participants per meeting.



TOWN SQUARE FITNESS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



The most fun you'll ever have sweating!

Town Square Fitness Zumba and Pound sessions, held Monday through Thursday moved temporarily to the Community Center while Town Square was being renovated.

Both POUND and Zumba classes combined averaged 12.62 people per class.



SENIOR FITNESS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Where seniors can keep moving!

Low-impact workouts are designed for seniors to stay active. Classes are free and open to all ages. Chair Yoga is hosted 2 times a week, and a Floor Yoga Class has been added on Thursdays after the Senior Cardio Training.

Average Participation:

- Tuesday Chair Yoga – 13.8
- Thursday Cardio Fitness & Strength Training – 9.5
- Friday Chair Yoga – 11.25
- Line Dance – 7.5



BALLROOM DANCE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



ALL YEAR
2022

Seniors dress up & dance the night away.

Seniors were invited to a monthly ballroom dance. The dance was free. Music was provided by DJ Ken. Participants were also offered dance lessons 30 minutes prior to the event.

Attendance averaged 21.25



ADULT SAND VOLLEYBALL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



“Can you dig it?”

In 2022 we completed construction on an addition of a whole new sand volleyball court at Roseland Park. The addition of the court increased sand volleyball interest in Baytown as well as league play. Our league was a fun 6v6 coed recreational league. Maybe you're not interested in playing league sand volleyball? No problem! In March, we will open the courts for anyone to come and play on Monday and Wednesday evenings!

- Over 152 officiated 6v6 league games in 2022 were played at Roseland Park.
- More than 9-11 teams registered for every league!
- Registration is only \$100 per/ team per season!



ADULT SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Known for its well-kept facility & accommodating staff, we take pride in Wayne Gray Sports Complex.

We currently offer the community multiple days a week to come out and enjoy the game of slow-pitch softball. Tuesday nights, we have men's recreation teams come out and play at Wayne Gray. On Thursday evenings, we have co-ed teams come out and play.

Our veteran umpire staff has a combined 150 years of experience umpiring softball games. We have some of the best in South Texas.

- Over 730 games umpired in 2022 for slowpitch softball in Baytown
- Over 23 Slowpitch Tournaments hosted at Wayne Gray in 2022
- Over 130 teams played in our Slowpitch Leagues throughout 2022

ADULT KICKBALL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



ALL YEAR
2022

**"Just because you're older,
does not mean it's easier."**

On Friday evenings, we offer a fun coed kickball league for you to come and have a good time and unwind from the work week. Our Kickball league is full of laughs, mistakes, and great times! So, if you have never played and are interested, you'd be a great fit.

- Over 25 Kickball teams have consistently played in our leagues throughout the year
- Each league champions get T-shirts/ hats/ beanies and other kinds of cool gear each league season.
- Over 130 games played out at Wayne Gray this year.



ADULT SOCCER

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



"You'll never score a goal if you don't take a shot."

The City of Baytown offers both men's arena 6v6 soccer, and regular field 7v7 soccer throughout the year. We have professional certified referees come out and call our games each Thursday evening. We continuously play throughout the year. Between each league, we will take a 2-3 week break to allow teams to get registered for the next league.

- Offers Grass and Turf leagues
- Don't have a team? No problem, register as a free agent and be placed on a team



YOUTH TENNIS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

ALL YEAR
2022



"You have to start somewhere; you might as well start with the best."

The City of Baytown also offers tennis lessons, all classes are taught and directed by tennis instructor Elana Engleman. We offer a Red/ Orange ball introductory class held on Saturdays for beginning and advanced beginning-level players. (Ages 5-10) This class is intended to focus on footwork, hand-eye coordination, and basic stroke development. We also offer a Challenger session (ages 11-18) which is an introductory class for new players to focus on stroke productivity, movement, and match play.

- Elana has had over 210 athletes register for her sessions throughout 2022.
- All of our sessions are held at the tennis courts next to Pirates Bay.



YOUTH FALL SOCCER

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Just play, have fun, & enjoy the game.

The City of Baytown Parks and Recreation is thrilled to announce the overall success of its first-ever youth fall soccer program. The City of Baytown's Youth Soccer program was intended solely for recreational purposes. Teams and athletes that participated were encouraged to focus on improving fundamentals, skills, team values, and most importantly to have fun. This was a coed program that consisted of the following age groups: 6U, 8U, and 10U. We had a total of 14 teams among these age groups and over 100 athletes for the first fall season. The season consisted of six weeks of play, with one practice a week. Our volunteer coaches and parents were so dedicated that most teams practiced twice a week. The City of Baytown wants to thank all of the parents and volunteer coaches for their time and dedication to these players.

"This was one of the most rewarding opportunities I have had as an Athletic Programs Coordinator, the commitment and dedication from the volunteer coaches were unbelievable, when you come together as one big team and get to watch the kids have fun and learn, this is what it's all about.

Can't wait for our next Youth Soccer League and expanding in the future." – Lauren Siple

Thank you to all of the vendors who came out and supported our Youth Soccer Program throughout the season: Gelu Italian Ice, Baytown Library, Baytown Animal Services, Houston Dynamo, Healthy Sip, Monkey cones, Face Painting, and All-in-one.

OPEN COURT PICKLEBALL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Try something new & stay active!

Interested in starting a new hobby? Come check out our open-court pickleball play on Mondays. Morning session 8:30 am-10:30 AM, afternoon session 6 pm-8 pm. We offer both sessions at the Community Center building in the auditorium. 2407 Market St. Baytown, TX 77520. Just this year we have had over 500 sign-ins for our pickleball play on Mondays.

In October of 2022, we had a senior pickleball league form and we started competing against senior pickleball players from Galveston. We traveled to Galveston, and Galveston traveled to Baytown. Our seniors have strongly committed to getting better for their league and we look forward to expanding our league play with different cities in 2023.



FARMERS MARKET

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Supporting local small businesses & farmers.

Farmer’s Market continues to get applications and phone calls just about on a daily basis. If approved for the merchandise they are selling, they are put on a waiting list. If current Farmer’s Market vendors choose not to take a booth the next month (they have 1st shot at obtaining a booth), then the waiting list is consulted for vendor items we are short on, and that is how waiting list vendors are determined to receive a booth space. We continue to have all 45 spaces filled.



WARD ROAD STREET PROJECT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Plan, design, & construction to beautify our city medians.

The Parks Planning and Construction Division, along with Public Works Construction Team, designed and beautified the Ward Road Corridor medians.

- Parks designed and created the median plans.
- Public Works Team demolished and constructed the new medians and stamped concrete.
- Parks Construction installed the planting and mulch.

ICE RINK REMOVAL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Collaboration



The new year started with the removal of the ice skating rink.

Each year after all the enjoyment of the holidays our year starts off with a bang with the removal of the ice rink. We hammer away and demolish and polish and remove the Christmas bling.

- Removal of the ice rink
- Removal of the Christmas tree
- Reveal the fountain and sounds of running water



PARK SERVICE CENTER: "THE MOVE"

2022 Annual Report



Stewardship



Collaboration



Parks Service building construction was completed to allow Parks staff to move into the new offices & dream about fun things to do in their new space.

Crews begin moving of furniture and all storage from the old Parks Storage Building that is located at 2101 Market Street.

- Parks Department was able to finally move into their new offices and maintenance facility after waiting two years.
- Painting, decorating, and sprucing up offices well deserved and long overdue.

TREES OF HOUSTON PLANTING EVENT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Replanting at the Nature Center.

Trees of Houston donated 40 trees to be planted at the Nature Center. Parks crews drilled holes for the trees to be planted, and helped Trees of Houston volunteers with the planting.

15 Gallon trees:

- 8 wax myrtles, 8 bald cypress, and 9 live oaks

7 Gallon trees:

- 5 sweetbay magnolias, 3 live oak, 2 sycamores, 3 loblolly pines, and 2 sweetgum

Trees were planted in 4 different locations throughout the Center, including San Jacinto Point, Golden Bloom Pond, Butterfly Garden and the wayfinding triangle



SAN JACINTO ROUNDABOUT REPAIR

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



JANUARY
2022

San Jacinto Roundabout went under repair due to an unfortunate accident.

Many repairs were needed to the wall of the San Jacinto Roundabout wall due to an accident that damaged the wall.

- Repair of Corten steel and retaining wall
- Repair of all the lights and lettering

AQUATICS TRAINING

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



ALL YEAR
2022

Certifying all Aquatics staff in American Red Cross Courses.

The entire Aquatics team is trained and certified 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.

- 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.



SCOUT PROGRAMS, CAMPOUTS, PROJECTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship

ALL YEAR
2022



Scout groups of all ages enjoy the amenities of the Baytown Nature Center & Wetlands Center for badge workshops, Eagle Scout projects & campouts.

- BNC Naturalist leads many badge workshops, group hikes, night prowls, and guided tours for boy and girl scout groups throughout the region.
- In 2022 the Baytown Nature Center hosted a Webelo Woods campout for 100 Raven District Boy Scouts. The troop had such a good time they have already booked BNC again for 2023!
- Zach Lewis designed and built sustainable energy games to include with our energy trailer to earn his Eagle Scout honor

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



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 planting flowerbeds, clearing brush and trees for a new bird feeding station, building and installing bird feeders, and water-sealing wood structures
- High school club projects included shoreline cleanup and weeding flowerbeds
- ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions donated \$20K towards a new pavilion and charging station at the Butterfly Garden



FULL MOON HIKE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



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

Walks change location each month so that repeat visitors can experience different parts of the center after dark. Wildlife is seen or heard and identified during this safe, informative program.

- Coyotes, owls, bats, opossums, armadillos, alligators, spiders, bunnies, fireflies, and even a flying squirrel have all been observed



BNC* EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



ALL YEAR
2022

Baytown Nature 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. 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



COMMUNITY BIKE RIDES & RUNS

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



ALL YEAR
2022

XRacers & ExxonMobil utilize the trails for community bike rides & races.

XRacers, a local organization dedicated to increasing awareness and opportunities for kids to bike and run, hosted both a Children's Bike Ride and a 1K, 3K, and 5K run on the Baytown Nature Center trails. ExxonMobil also chose the Nature Center for their annual Relay For Life 5K run.

- Family-oriented bike rides for all ages
- Family-oriented runs, with opportunities for all levels of runners
- Community involvement supporting cancer awareness



WILDEST BIRTHDAY PARTIES IN TOWN

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Collaboration



Leadership



ALL YEAR
2022

Birthday fun with critters & cake at the Wetlands Center!

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



WETLANDS WAGON OUTREACH

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Wetlands Center & 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 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:

- Yoakum Tom-Tom Festival
- Jesse Jones NatureFest and Fall Fright Night
- Houston Astros StreetFests with Covestro Energy Trailer
- Dozens of family science nights, neighborhood events, pop-up parks, and city festivals



WETLANDS CENTER FIELD TRIPS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

ALL YEAR
2022



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. Some of our favorite programs 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



COMMUNITY YARD SALE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



An event where anyone can come out to find great deals on things that others have.

Baytown's Community Yard Sale is held at Town Square and it's an opportunity for members of the community to come together in one space to sell and/or buy items from one another.

- Held February 26 and September 24
- Over 40 booths and hundreds attended on each date.

MAGICAL VALENTINE DATE NIGHT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



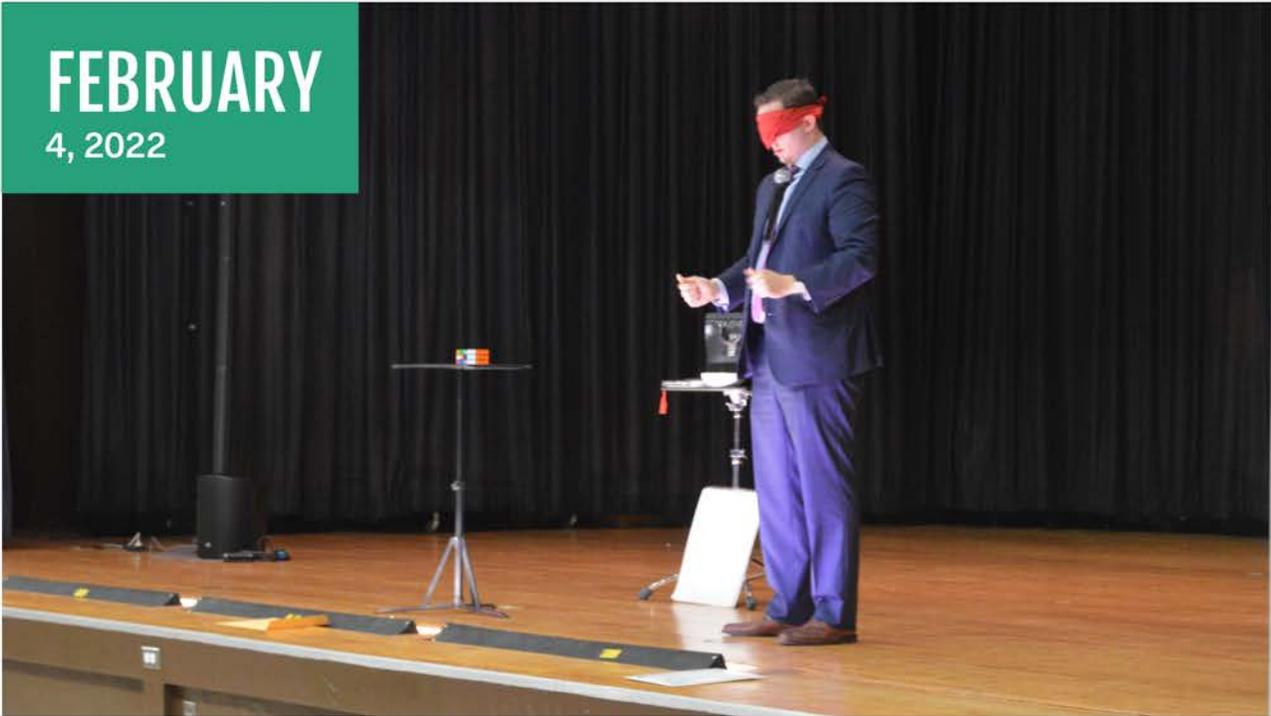
Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



An early Valentine's treat for couples to enjoy a night of food & entertainment.

Magical Valentine Date Night was held at the Community Center with food from Dot's Catering, couple's photos & a magic show.

- Magician Ben Jackson has been on NBC's Today Show, the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, TV Land's Candid Camera, and the Four Seasons Hotel Houston.
- 3 Course meal and coffee bar were provided to guests.
- All attendees were given a free pass to one of our Murder Mystery Dinners.



DADDY & ME VALENTINE DANCE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

FEBRUARY
5, 2022



A special night for fathers & their daughters.

The Daddy & Me Dance is an annual event that provides a themed space for dancing, refreshments, photos, games, and prizes.

- Multiple personal photo opportunities and professional pictures.
- The Seniors of Baytown helped with handing out gift bags, refreshments, and monitoring games for all attendees.
- 1,100 fathers and daughters came out for this event.



PARKS MAINTENANCE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

FEBRUARY
2022



We achieved a lot in a small amount of time.

Even though we have events, and special and construction projects we still have work that needs to be done. Here are a few of those things.

- Replacement of swing brackets in North District Parks
- Fabricated/ Installed new signage for NC Foote Park
- X-Racer Setup
- Briarwood Park- Graffiti Removal
- BNC Butterfly Garden- irrigation replaced
- Alexander Medians-Started removal of planting damaged by last year's freeze to prepare for replanting
- Worked on repairs for the Goose Creek Trail bridge
- Opened up spray parks
- Britton Park- Book trail project
- BNC- Covestro Table Installation

ROSELAND SHELTER: "THE BIG SHIFT"

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Stewardship



Collaboration

FEBRUARY
2022



Relocated a picnic shelter to a new location for the construction of the Roseland Clubhouse.

- Staffed poured a new 30 x 40 concrete pad
- Moved 20 x 30 foot Picnic Shelter and loaded on a trailer and installed it on the new slab

LITTLE LEAGUE SCOREBOARDS

2022 Annual Report



Innovation



Stewardship



Innovative new scoreboards installed.

The installation of new scoreboards for the American Little League Sports Complex.

- Parks crews installed the scoreboard
- Scoreboards run from an app on cell phones
- Wireless signals control scoreboards

GINGER CREEK PHASE II

2022 Annual Report



Caring



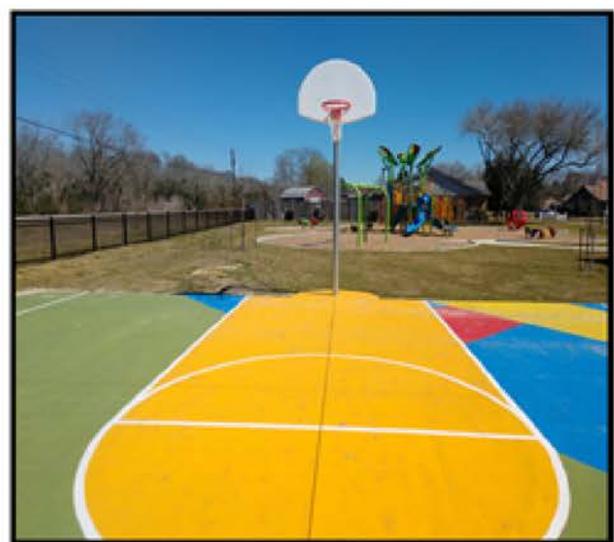
Innovation



Basketball with style!

The completion of Ginger Creek Park Phase II was completed with the installation of a basketball half-court.

- First Art in Park Project by Parks with a painted court



COVESTRO CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Crews spruced up Town Square for Covestro's 50th anniversary.

Crews went the extra mile to make sure that the Covestro event was spectacular.

- Replanted and mulched
- Fabricated brackets for the banners
- Removed Town Square Banners and Replaced them with Covestro Banners
- Repaired fountain lights



UNITED WAY WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Parks & Recreation staff contributed over \$8,000.

City of Baytown Annual United Way Workplace Giving Campaign runs during the month of February. This campaign connects us with our community, supporting the wellness of the people we serve. The city goal was \$50,000 and the city came in at \$42,491 overall for contributions. Thank you Parks and Recreation staff for your participation and contribution of over \$8,000. Below is a breakdown for each division within the Parks and Recreation Department. Way to go TEAM!

- BNC/Wetlands: 15 active employees 8 pledge sheets = 53%
- Recreation: 27 active employees 20 pledge sheets = 74%
- Aquatics: 21 active employees 12 pledge sheets = 57%
- Parks: 44 active employees 29 pledge sheets = 66%

BROWN BAG LUNCHES

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



You bring the eats; we'll bring the beats.

The Brown Bag Lunch series invites you to lunch away from the office to enjoy live performances from a talented lineup of musicians out at Town Square.

- Free Radicals
- Keyun & the Zydeco Masters
- Samy Jo Band
- Mojo Faction

COMMUNITY CENTER SPRING BREAK

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A safe, fun place for children to spend spring break.

Paint on Canvas Doodles Class – Instructor Delencia West taught how to turn the method of “Doodling” into an art form. This was a 3-day class that 4 students participated in. They were able to bring their canvases home at the end of the class.

Safe Sitter Class – Instructor Marilyn MacFarlane taught a group of 4 students basic life-saving techniques on mannequins and dolls, along with how to deal with emergency situations. Students were given a certificate for “Safe Sitter” upon graduation.

WETLANDS SPRING BREAK CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Innovation



Leadership



This fun, intriguing camp welcomed students in 4th–6th grades into the Wetlands School of Magic.

Campers had a great time concocting awe-inspiring potions, meeting the live animals of the Center, and solving house challenges and puzzles as they investigated the science behind "magic". Campers also enjoyed field trips to Crocodile Encounter, Houston Wilderness Park, Houston Audubon Raptor Center, and local Baytown parks. Some of their favorite activities included:

- Quiditch Tournament at N.C. Foote Park
- Potions classes in the Science Lab
- Care of Magical Creatures
- Transfiguration
- Defense Against the Dark Arts



PARTY ON THE PENINSULA

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A Beatles tribute band, crawfish & adult drinks at the Baytown Nature Center.

Party on the Peninsula was an event at the Nature Center that featured a performance by Beatlemania64, food from Big Time Crawfish, and drinks provided by Dirty Daquiri.

- The department developed and implemented a parking plan in the grass due to the lack of paved parking.
- There was help from Harris County Constables with traffic control and security.
- The cost of entry for the event was the Nature Center gate fee of \$4. Anyone already in the park could stay and attend.



MISSY DAVIDSON PARK

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Honored to do special things for special people.

As a part of the vision to be more innovative and creative, the Parks Planning Division designed a memorial for Missy Davidson at Missy Davidson Park.

- Using the latest technology from Finland, form liners were created with the family portrait of Missy Davidson embedded into the concrete as part of the design memorial.
- Park Crews along with Kraftsman, LP installed the memorial at Missy Davidson Park.



RIVERS, LAKES, BAYS AND BAYOUS TRASH BASH

2022 Annual Report



This annual Houston Galveston Area Council event recruits volunteers to clean shorelines & public areas.

Chevron Phillips once again served as the local sponsor. 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.

- 205 volunteers participated, including 90 scouts
- 4,000 lbs. of trash removed, including 5 tires
- 2.8 miles of shoreline cleaned



TYKE HIKE SPRING

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

MARCH-MAY

2022



Preschool visitors to the Baytown Nature Center were introduced to hands-on fun learning about nature.

Free weekly meetings during the spring introduced nature-based topics for up to 30 preschoolers. Springtime is the time for planting flowers and celebrating Earth Day! Other topics included:

- Seeds, wildflowers, trees, and gardens
- Bees and pollinators
- Nature detectives
- Litter and recycling
- Spring weather
- Feathers, scales, scutes, and fur
- Fishing fun!



WINE & DESIGN

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



ALL YEAR
2022

An opportunity to enjoy painting, hors d'oeuvres & some wine.

Five Wine and Design events were held at the Clubhouse at Evergreen (March, May, July, September, and December). Artistic Procreations lead a painting course on various canvases and items. All supplies, food, and 2 glasses of wine were provided to each attendee.

- The participants got to choose between two options to paint
- The ambiance and location were perfect for this type of an event
- This was the Department's first programmed series that allowed alcohol



POP UP PARKS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Party with Parks & Recreation at your neighborhood park.

The Pop Up Park events are an initiative of, and funded by, Be Well Baytown to bring community programming to the areas that may not get it on an annual basis. All activities, entertainment, and refreshments are free and open to the public.

- Hosted 5 events (March, April, May, October, December)
- Unveiled new artwork at McElroy, Pelly, and Unidad Parks
- Highlighted new playground equipment at Ginger Creek, Newcastle, and Duke Hill Parks
- Opened new disc golf course at Duke Hill Park



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

This was our first year back to host since COVID. What an absolute honor to be asked to host the Special Olympics each year. We had over 10 businesses/organizations sponsor the event to help make it great, over 40 volunteers, and over 150 athletes participate in the spring games. Our athletes competed in Track and Field and softball throw. Throughout this event, we always feed our athletes, staff, and volunteers.

We can't wait to host for 2023! We have been asked to host ALL games for 2023 including tennis, cycling, track and field, soccer, and more! These events will take place at Lee High School. Please follow Special Olympics to volunteer for the Baytown East Region Spring games in April!

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A night of dining, mystery, mayhem, & murder.

The Murder Mystery dinners were themed evenings where the attendees were a part of the show. They got to try and solve whom the murderer was while having dinner, drinks, and a lot of laughs. It was held at the Clubhouse at Evergreen, the food was provided by Dot's Catering, and drinks by El Toro.

- Acting performances from the Murder Mystery Company
- Themed nights were "I Love The 80's" and "50's Sock Hop"
- Selected people were able to play a role in the program

TOWN SQUARE ENHANCEMENTS

2022 Annual Report



Problem-solving & advancing usability.

The vision for this project was created from a need to not cancel an event every time it rained. Staff not only took this time to address usability needs but also to create innovative uses, built into the facility.

Also began installing urban toys with the installation of permanent checker board and chess tables as part of the Town Square Improvements.



PIRATES BAY SPECIAL PROJECTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Parks crews worked on preparing Pirates Bay to open for the New Year.

The Parks team started working on several unexpected/new projects to help facilitate the opening of Pirates Bay.

- Fabrication/installation of new marquee sign over the wave pool
- The building supports for life jacket racks
- Framing and pouring a concrete slab for new lockers and a concrete counter for the new drink machines
- Fabrication/installation of new signage for concessions
- Welding/building new gates for the entrances to Pirates Bay and Crow's Nest
- Installation of new plantings
- Removal of the old gift shop
- Graffiti removal



PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Construction continues to roll into the month of April.

The Planning Division for the Parks Department started off the first quarter of the year with new projects.

- Newcastle Park- \$571,000 in park amenities
- Goose Creek Trail- \$540,765 in trail improvements
- Jenkins Park Perfect Trail- Phase II improvements begin
- Roseland Park- Construction begins



GOOSE CREEK TRAIL 7

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



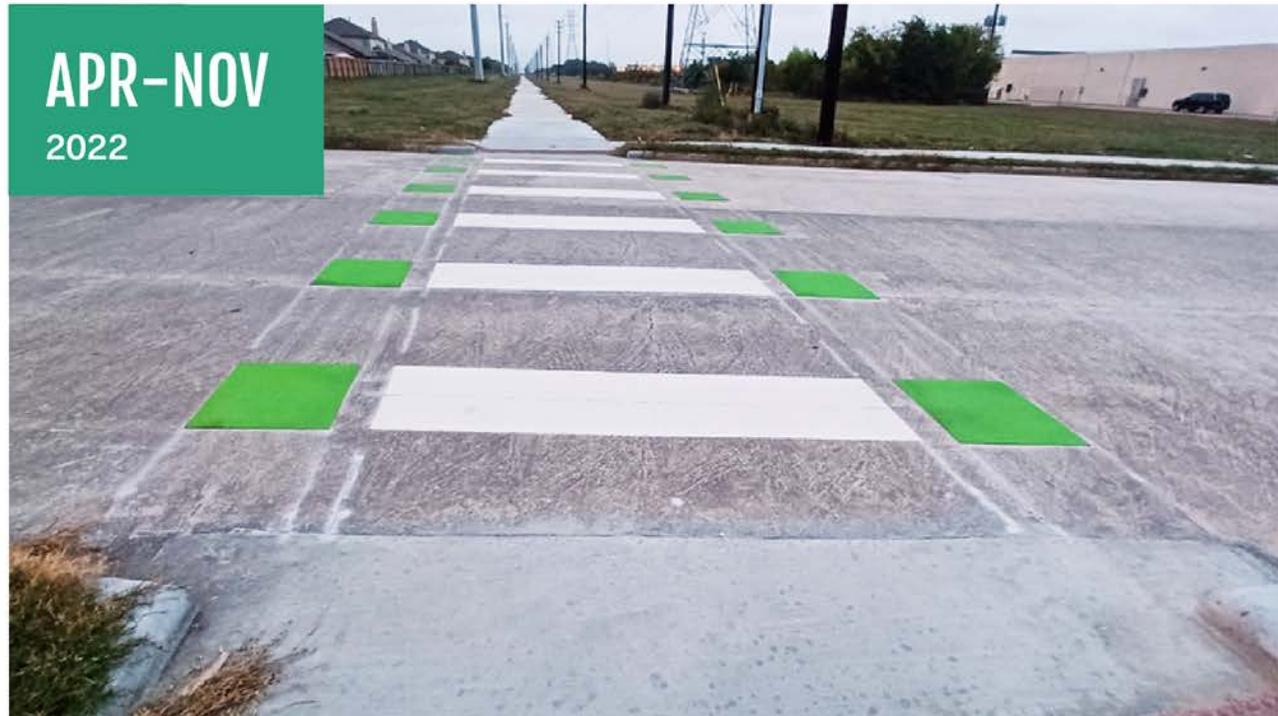
Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



APR-NOV
2022

Goose Creek Trail Phase 7 adds 4,000 linear ft. of trail to the Parks & Recreation trail network.



BECOMING AN OUTDOOR WOMAN WORKSHOP

2022 Annual Report



Innovation



Leadership



Collaboration



Superintendent teaches workshops to women who want to learn outdoor skills.



For the spring 2022 workshop, Superintendent taught three sessions to 36 women at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, Texas.

- Coastal Creations was a fun crafty class, using materials from nature to create palm frond fish and shell-adorned flower pots
- Wildlife 101 introduced women to some of the animals that call Texas home
- Secrets of the Gulf was a fun class for women to identify marine organisms, practice throwing a cast net and pulling a seine net, and learn about coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico
- Texas Parks and Wildlife event



PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



MAY
2022

May started off with a bang for our mowing crews, spring cleaning & fun stuff

- TXDOT Rights of Ways- I-146, I-10, 330 Spurs
- City Parks- two-week mowing cycles begin
- City Rights of Ways and Medians
- City Storm Water Pond
- Eddie Huron- Repair shade structure covers for the playground
- Holloway Park- Replace the damaged slide
- Special Olympics- setup
- Unidad Pop Up Park- Spruce up and setup
- Painted 35 new trash cans to spruce up our parks
- Mulch refills at Murdock/ Jenkins/ Dale Street Parks
- Emmitt Hutto= Median clean up



\$1 TACO NIGHT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

MAY
6, 2022



Is there any need to say more?

\$1 Taco Night was held at Town Square. There were four taco trucks and an Italian Ice vendor on site. Mariachi bands walked around and played music for everyone. Also, piñatas, inflatables, craft bags, and trackless trains for the kids.

- Well over 1,000 people turned out
- Brought out picnic tables for extra seating
- The entire event space had to be put into the street due to the construction at Town Square



MOTHER & SON NERF CHALLENGE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



This was a first-time event due to requests for something similar to the Daddy & Me Dance.

The Mom and Son Nerf Challenge is an event that got moms and sons to team up and compete against other moms and sons for prizes and bragging rights.

- This event was held in the Auditorium under black lights
- Staff created targets and obstacles throughout the room
- All of the sons got to keep the nerf guns that were provided

PIRATES BAY SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Stewardship



Collaboration



Two weeks of end-of-year celebrations for all grades.

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.

- 7,289 students visited the park in 2022 for school day celebrations.
- Gives students a look at what becoming an Aquatics team member looks like.
- Tested the new pizza oven in Bluebeard's Beachside Snack Shack by cooking over 3,500 pizzas in the month of May.

EPIC INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION TRIP

2022 Annual Report



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

MAY-JUNE

28-5, 2022



EPIC members had an eye-opening, educational experience visiting the Texas A&M Soltis Research Center in Costa Rica.

The EPIC club visits the research center every other summer, experiencing international ecotourism, learning a bit about Costa Rica's national conservation efforts, and having fun! Highlights in 2022 included:

- Sea turtle egg collection at Camoronal National Park
- Nighttime bioluminescent kayaking in the Gulf of Nicoya
- Visit to Scarlet Macaw Recovery Network
- Visit Projecto Asis Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
- Tour of Conelectra Hydroelectric Dam



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



MAY
30, 2022

For those that gave their lives fighting for this country.

The Memorial Day event is held at Bicentennial Park. The guest speaker reads the names of the fallen and wreaths are placed at the memorial service.

- Guest Speaker - Lt. Col. Kelly Bean, TXANG
- Pledge of Allegiance - Boy Scout Troop 134 & Cub Scout Pack 134
- Master of Ceremonies - Jerry Johnson, Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 912



LIGHTS OUT! POUND + ZUMBA

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A different way to workout.

Dance to great music, with great people, and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it. Wear your most reflective clothing and come ready to ROCK! POUND® is the world’s first cardio jam session inspired by the infectious, energizing, and sweat-dripping fun of playing the drums. Zumba® is the class that started the dance-fitness revolution and changed the way we look at a “workout” forever.

- The program is indoors and under black lights
- Over 80 total participants during the two sessions
- Staff decorates the auditorium so that it illuminates under the black lights



BICENTENNIAL PARK- COUNCIL VIP AREA

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Creativity, skill, and passion are what it takes to get a massive build done in three weeks time for the Juneteenth Celebration Event.

Planning and Parks Crews designed and built a 1000 square foot deck to be used as a VIP area for City Council members and guests to enjoy the concerts.

- A retaining wall and grass area were removed to accommodate a 120-square-foot slab for speakers and stage equipment.
- 1000 square foot elevated deck was constructed.
- 150 feet of fencing was relocated and the facility was completely repainted.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



JUNE
18, 2022

An annual event to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans.

The Juneteenth Celebration is an event filled with live entertainment, food, shopping, and fun for the whole family. Performances by the Piano Vibes, Mambo Jazz Kings, and headliner The Four Tops entertained the crowds.

- The first event ever marketed on a billboard
- First-ever video board at Bicentennial Park
- Had fireworks for the first time at this event



PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



June is here and we are half way there & just getting started.

- Maintenance of the Republic of Texas Porch
- Mowing of Police Firing Range
- 22 dead trees in total were removed at Jenkins/Parkwood/Holloway Parks
- Paint the men's restroom to remove graffiti
- Public Works- Cleared public works fence line



NATURE CENTER BUTTERFLY GARDEN

2022 Annual Report



Innovation



Collaboration



JUNE
21, 2022

New Butterfly Garden entrance signs installed.

The A. Jean Shepherd entrance sign for the Butterfly Garden was created using recycled structural posts from the Westwood Park bleacher shade structures.

- Park Planning created the sign design
- Parks crews installed footings and beams
- Collaborated with a metal fabricator to make the metal butterfly
- Had a steel company install the corten steel and make the letters



WORLD'S LARGEST SWIM LESSON

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Leadership



Collaboration



Aquatic facilities from across the globe come together to participate in the same swim lesson on the same day to raise awareness about drowning. Swimming is a life-saving skill that all should learn.

Pirates Bay hosted their 4th annual World's Largest Swim Lesson featuring a City of Baytown firefighter speaking about his personal story of his son drowning and how important learning to swim and being safe around water is.

- 20 Swim Instructors teach a 30-minute free swim lesson
- 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
- 347 participants in 2022

PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Construction continues to roll into summer.

The Planning Division for the Parks Department started off the first quarter of the year with new projects.

- Town Square Enhancements- \$600,000 in enhancements
- Newcastle Park- \$571,000 in park amenities
- Goose Creek Trail- \$540,765 in trail improvements
- Jenkins Park Perfect Trail- Phase II improvements begin
- Roseland Park- Construction begins



TRAIN RIDES AT JENKINS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

SUMMER
2022



Bringing a popular attraction from events to the park.

The trackless train is very popular at our events, so we brought it out to Jenkins park for four Saturdays in June and July.

- Completely free to everyone
- Approximately 350 people participated



SUMMER CAMP "WANNA HAVE FUN"

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A first all-day camp for the Recreation Division

All-day summer camp was held Monday through Friday from June 13th - August 5th from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM at the community center. Every day kids did different activities, from arts and crafts to team sports and board games, movies, and popcorn afternoons. They visited Calypso Cove once a week and there was one special activity taught by a professional instructor such as Cooking, Painting, Crime Scene Investigation, and Robot Building. The camp averaged 16.125 kids per week, and the success of the camp was able to get us a fully funded camp for 2023, with seasonal staff and field trips.



YOUTH SUMMER TRACK

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



**"Don't stop when you're tired,
stop when you're done."**

On April 1st of each year, our Youth Summer Track Registration opens. This year we were absolutely blown away. We ended up having a total of over 165 kids enrolled in our Youth Summer Track Program, not to mention the Texas High school State winner running for our program as well. Our coaching staff had over 100 years of combined coaching experience under their belts. We hosted our local track meet at Lee HS bringing in over 500 spectators, athletes, and coaches. Our track program had 15 athletes advance to the TAAF state track meet held in Corpus Christi. We had at least one athlete from every age group offered to qualify for state. We are looking forward to have 5 returning coaches in 2023!



PIRATE PARTY NIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Stewardship



Collaboration



This is where the fun happens!

Guests are invited to the Pirates Bay Wave Pool for after-hours entertainment on Thursday evenings. Pirates Bay hosted 7 dive-in movies and 3 entertainment acts during the 2022 season. Each night was themed and included different activities that related to the theme. The themes corresponded with the movies or the entertainment acts that were being featured that week.

- Saw an 85% increase in guests over 2021
- Brand new to 2022, we brought in a DJ to host two different theme nights and had a steel drum band join us as well
- Collaborated with City of Baytown local heroes for our first ever Touch a Truck night at Pirates Bay in conjunction with the feature movie, Paw Patrol

JR. LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Future lifeguards in the making!

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.

- 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
- 30 participants in 2022 which was an increase from 4 participants in 2021



POLLY'S SWIM SCHOOL - SWIM LESSONS

2022 Annual Report



Summer is the perfect time to learn to swim!

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.

- Private and group lessons for all ages; infant to adult
- 426 participants in 2022 bringing our 12 yr total of teaching people how to swim to over 5,000 participants
- All swim lesson participants learn how to use life jackets and their surroundings to be safer around all bodies of water



ITTY BITTY BEACH PARTY

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Special mornings for our littlest pirates.

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 time with their little ones in the water without the rowdy older kids.

- Partnered with the Sterling Municipal Library to pass out free books
- Guardians can witness our swim lessons in full effect and gather information for them
- Partnered with Chick-Fil-A Baytown to attend all events and hand out free breakfast to guests



SPECIAL PIRATE CELEBRATION

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

SUMMER
2022



Pirates Bay & Special Needs Community come together to offer a 5-night event.

Pirates Bay modifies its operating procedures in order to lessen the stimulants around the park to better accommodate our special pirates. Aquatics collaborates with different city departments (Fire, PD, Public Works, and Animal Services) for each event to offer different activities for all guests to enjoy.

- Texas Public Pool Council awarded Special Pirate Celebration the 2021 Special Event of the Year
- Over 5,700 guests in attendance, a 129% increase from 2021
- Additional team members serve as interactors whose sole purpose is to make every special pirate's experience incredible by riding rides, playing games, and interacting with them and their families



GATOR TALES

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Preschool visitors to the Wetlands Center were introduced to hands-on fun learning about nature.

Free weekly meetings indoors during the long hot summer introduced nature-based topics for up to 30 preschoolers. Summer is time for playing in the water and learning about aquatic animals. Session topics included:

- Exoskeletons and endoskeletons
- Turtles, lizards, egg-citing animals
- From caterpillar to butterfly
- Water cycle, water flow, and hunting for water bugs
- Under the Sea



BAYTOWN VOICE ACTIVITY GUIDE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

Baytown VOICE
CITY OF BAYTOWN
ACTIVITY GUIDE

SUMMER-FALL 2022

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Sunrise view during a
stroll through the Jenkins
Park Perfect Trail.

Photos by:
Baytown local,
David Berkowitz



BAYTOWN PARKS & RECREATION **3**

Everything Parks & Recreation has to offer in one publication.

The Baytown VOICE Activity Guide is a supplemental publication that focuses on Parks and Recreation activities as well as project updates and rental facility options. The main publication is printed and mailed by Public Affairs to all Baytown residents in the Spring and Fall whereas the supplemental Activity Guide is currently published online only in the Summer and Winter. There are plans to print them in the future and distribute at offices and events.

ALLENBROOK PARK
With accessible trails

BLUE HERON PARK TRAIL
With scenic views

ATHLETICS

Join the Fun!

BLAST FROM THE PAST SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



Campers in 4th–6th grades explored how the first settlers of Texas lived off the land in this pioneer history camp.

When students actually enjoy a history lesson, it must be fun! This week gave them the chance to play pioneer games, write using a quill and ink, make homemade ice cream and apple pie, and churn their own butter. Field trips to enhance their learning included:

- Tour of George Ranch Historical Park
- Visit Blue Heron Farm, meet goats and drink fresh goat milk
- Tour of Tall Ship Elissa to learn about settlers arriving in Texas



BNC* DIG IT! SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



BNC naturalist & plant enthusiast had a fun week teaching campers in 1st-3rd grades all about plants!

These budding horticulturists dug into the science of plants, learning how plants grow and which ones grow well in our area. The campers learned about fruit, vegetable, and flower plants, and even practiced harvesting some fruits and vegetables of their own. Campers dissected a seed and learned how plants grow from all different shapes and sizes of seeds. Any camp that lets kids dig in the dirt is a hit!



PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, & PIRATES SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship

JUNE

6-10, 2022



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

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

- Became junior lifeguards at Pirates Bay Waterpark
- Played different sports at several athletic facilities
- Prepared meals and cleaned enclosures for Wetlands Center ambassador animals
- Learned how to operate a backhoe and other heavy equipment in a junior "Maintenance Rodeo"
- Designed a park and planned an event, and presented their idea at a simulated Council meeting



GREAT OUTDOORS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship

JUNE

13-17, 2022



This camp for 7th–10th grade students is full of favorite activities rolled into a week-long adventure.

Physically active and fun, this action-packed week gives campers the opportunity to enjoy all of their favorite activities:

- Geocaching
- Photo scavenger hunt at Brazos Bend State Park
- Marine Biology Tour in Galveston
- Archery and Edible Plant Hike at Lake Houston Park
- Kayaking on Goose Creek
- Fishing at Evergreen Park
- Crabbing at the Wetlands Center



CRAZY FOR BIRDS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



In this camp for students in 4th-6th grades, campers learned all about feathered friends that call Baytown home.

Campers learned the proper way to use binoculars as they practiced identifying the common birds of Baytown. Bird biology, bird adaptations, and bird calls were also introduced. The week ended with building bird feeders and birdhouses to attract birds to our yards.



ECOSYSTEM EXPLORERS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



1st-3rd grade students took a virtual tour of Earth as they explored different ecosystems from around the world.

Campers discovered the different wildlife, plants, and more that make each ecosystem unique. Favorite activities included:

- Desert plant study at Houston Botanic Garden
- Ocean exploration at the Downtown Aquarium
- Prairie education at Deer Park Prairie
- Rainforest intro at Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid
- Wetlands dip-netting at Chenier Plains Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge



BNC* WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



Campers in 7th–10th grades learned what it takes to survive in the wild.

During this fun, hands-on week, campers practiced making a shelter, finding edible plants in the wild, and collecting water that they prepared for drinking safely. They also learned how to build a fire safely and constructed their own shelters.



FISHING FRENZY SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



Following Texas Parks & Wildlife's Angler Education curriculum, 4th-6th grade students learn to fish in this fun, hands-on camp.

Campers earn a TPWD Junior Angler pin by completing components of this week long 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



BNC* GET BUGGY! SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



Bug enthusiasts in 1st-3rd grade spent the week exploring the wonderful world of insects.

Campers learned that there is actually a difference between bugs and insects, and how to identify each. They spent time collecting and identifying the smallest inhabitants of the Baytown Nature Center.. what they eat, their life cycles, and how we can help them survive.



BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER PAVILION TRAIL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Public safety is a priority.

This project involved the complete redesign and reworking of the existing trail. It was necessary to relocate the trail due to tripping hazards, gaps in the trail, and undermining that was causing issues with the concrete walkway.

- Addressed slope failures
- Relocated trail away from the creek embankment that was sloughing off
- Redesigned trail in a clockwise rotation to the pavilion



JENKINS PERFECT TRAIL PROJECT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A sign can make all the difference.

Part Two of the Jenkins Trail is underway with the installation of the new marquee sign. This sign will be used as a template when developing new signage for our larger parks within the City.



SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



We provide experience & various scenarios to practice.

Self Defense class will give you the building blocks and self-confidence to defend yourself. Learn to defend yourself from different attacks by front, rear, or side.

- This class is free to anyone 13 and up
- Our Karate Instructor, David Lange, has been instructing the Self-Defense classes for the past seven years
- Over 70 participants during the two sessions



PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Going the extra mile to address the unexpected.

You never know who, what, when, or where it will happen. We do know in Parks that it will happen and we live in the moments of transforming those things.

- Unidad- Removed artwork because it was too slick for the skaters
- Worked with volunteers on Faith Family Serve Day at multiple parks throughout the City
- Goose Creek Park- Homeless Event
- Baytown Nature Center- Put up poles to stop people from driving into protected areas
- Removed a tree that was leaning for the safety of our neighbors and fixed a fence



OUR FIRST BILLBOARDS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A first-ever for Baytown Parks & Recreation!

Baytown Parks & Recreation had its first-ever vinyl billboard installed to promote the July 3-4th celebration. The City also began an agreement with the local digital billboard companies to receive five, two-week placements per year at no cost.

- Digital billboard at I10 and Thompson (Summer)
- A vinyl billboard was installed at W. Main and 146 (Summer)
- A vinyl billboard was installed at Market St. and 146 (December)



3RD & 4TH OF JULY

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

JULY

3 & 4, 2022



A concert event to celebrate the nation's independence.

The 3rd & 4th of July is a two-day event and one of the largest put on by the Parks and Recreation Department. On stage this year were, The Spazmatics, Vanilla Ice, David Lee Garza, Cody Hibbard, and The Band Perry.

Highlights:

- Unveiled the newly renovated VIP area backstage
- Shortened the fireworks show time to 12 minutes, without cutting back on the amount fired
- Vanilla Ice headlined the 3rd while The Band Perry headlined the 4th



TO INFINITY & BEYOND... SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



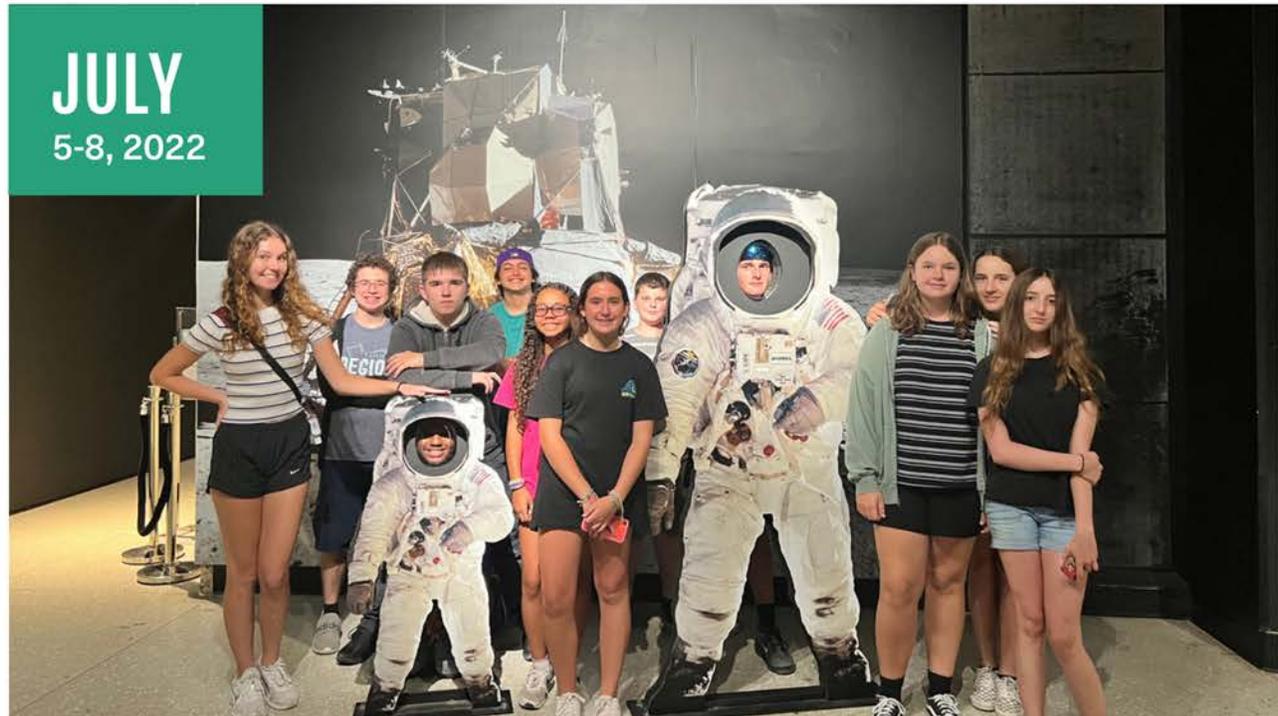
Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



JULY
5-8, 2022

7th-10th grade students discovered the night sky through fun field trips, challenges & an overnight campout.

Campers learned that the stars at night actually ARE big and bright but why we can't usually see them! Campers enjoyed:

- Creating their own constellation inside their indoor planetarium
- Completing the "Mission to Mars" assignments at the Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Visiting the Houston Planetarium and the campus Planetarium and Observatory at Stephen F. Austin University
- Tent camping overnight at Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area in Nacogdoches to observe the night sky



FLAP, FLUTTER, FLY SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



Mesmerized by wings? This camp for 1st–3rd graders explored many types of winged wildlife!

It's not just birds that have wings. Campers learned about birds, bats, insects, fish, and even a few mammals with "wings". During this camp students enjoyed:

- Meeting the butterflies at the Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Birds and insects of the Baytown Nature Center
- Hearing and smelling the bat colony at Waugh Dr. in Houston
- Meeting birds of prey from the Wildlife Center of Texas
- Hatching their own baby chickens from eggs!



SPLASH!! SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



Campers in 4th–6th grade discover what makes water one of the most critical substances on Earth.

Experiments, games, and water activities help campers discover the properties of water and why it's so important. Field trips to further enhance this lesson include:

- Flow Works at the Children's Museum of Houston
- Wetlands dip netting and macroinvertebrate sampling at Chenier Plains Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
- Moody Gardens discussion of salt vs. brackish vs. freshwater ecosystems
- Water testing at Baytown Nature Center
- Pirates Bay Waterpark Fun in the Sun!



BNC* YOUNG NATURALISTS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



What does a naturalist do? This camp for 1st-3rd graders allowed the kids to discover the answer to that ongoing question!

Campers stayed very busy birding and fishing, identifying insects, fish, and plants, and learning how to take care of the environment. Baytown Nature Center's Naturalist put them to work catching bugs, digging in the dirt, and observing the activity in the Butterfly Garden as they began to understand the wide variety of nature topics that a naturalist embraces.



GEOLOGY ROCKS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



7th-10th grade students unearthed their inner "rock star" in this fun camp.

Budding geologists learned all about the earth's rocky past through science experiments, fun field trips, and hands-on activities. Favorite activities included:

- Creating their own volcano
- Breaking geodes to discover hidden crystals
- Kayaking at the Nature Center to observe soil layers
- Ocean Star Museum visit and scavenger hunt
- Dinosaur "dig" at the Nature Center
- Tour of Morian Hall of Paleontology
- Mineral identification
- Rock climbing at inSpire Indoor Climbing Center



WE RISE UP!

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Recognizing our employees & bringing them relief from high heat indexes.

Baytown Parks and Recreation joined the National Recreation and Park Association in We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation Month to bring attention to all the Baytown Parks and Recreation professionals who faithfully serve our community all day, all year, all-weather, and all hours. Baytown Parks and Recreation Management sent out a little surprise to all the hard-working staff (and our summer campers) to help them stay safe and cool in this heat and say THANK YOU for all you do! The management team organized Gelu Ice and Kona Ice to make rounds for all the employees and camp children to give out free treats.

#RiseUpJuly

LIFEGUARD COMPETITION

2022 Annual Report



Leadership



Collaboration



Showing what Baytown's Lifeguards are made of!

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.

- GCAA Regional Competition: 3rd place overall, qualifying for state competition, Spirit Award winner voted on by judges
- 2022 is the first time Baytown has qualified a team for state
- Texas Lifeguard State Championship: 1st place in Scanning Event, Spirit Award winner voted on by other contestants



EVERGREEN PARK

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



It is hard to say goodbye.

Council approved a portion of Evergreen Park to be converted back into a golf course. The now-ranked disc golf course is to be relocated possibly to the 40-Acre Property within the City.

- Close disc golf course and foot golf course
- Removal of all signage, baskets, and flagging for the disc golf course and foot golf to be repurposed for the Duke Hill 9-hole course
- Clean out the maintenance office and equipment storage facility for the contractor to use



ARTISTIC ANIMALS SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

2022 Annual Report



Collaboration



Leadership



Stewardship



1st-3rd grade budding artists spent a week creating their own masterpieces during this nature-based arts and craft camp.

Crafty kids practiced their art with a variety of media, creating projects using chalk, watercolors, paint, and oil pastels. Trips to the Baytown Nature Center allowed them to create nature-inspired pieces and collect items for a nature-inspired collage. Campers ended their week with their own art show, presenting their works of art to family and friends.



PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



The fall season brings more projects for Parks.

- Abandoned business mowing
- Baytown Nature Center touchups
- Playground mulch at various Parks
- Graffiti, graffiti, graffiti
- Mow Harris County overgrown ditches until they can mow
- Holloway Park- Remove fallen tree on fence line
- Jenkins Park- Add DG to dog park and trail
- Bowie Park- Playground painting



PIRATES BAY BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Collaboration



The last bash in the park before school is back in full swing.

Partnered with multiple city departments and local businesses to come out and help celebrate the end of the summer at Pirates Bay Waterpark. Guests enjoy kicking off the school year with a fireworks display while hanging out in the wave pool.

- 1,300 guests in attendance, up 70% from 2021
- FIREWORKS!!!
- New addition to the party in 2022: FOAM ZONE!



BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER SHELTER

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

AUGUST
2022



A. Jean Shepherd Butterfly Garden gets an addition.

Construction began in August on the new picnic shelter funded by ExxonMobil to provide a shady area for visitors of the Butterfly Garden.

The Parks Department construction division constructed a new shelter that will be a place for relaxation while enjoying the scenic views of the bay and the garden.



40 ACRE PROPERTY-DISC GOLF PARK

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

AUGUST
2022



Bringing Disc Golf Back

With the agreement to allow the repurposing of Evergreen back to a golf course, City Management thought it was best to move forward with the immediate design of a replacement disc golf course facility.

The Parks Department was assigned the task to find a property and a consultant to move forward with designing a new course. In preliminary discussions with the golf course promoter and designer, the 40-Acre Property was chosen as the location to build a new wooded disc golf course.

Parks Department also was tasked with designing a preliminary layout and finding a contractor to do some clearing for a possible access trail, along with helping the designer navigate the woods of the property.

The proposed course will be 18 holes with a signature hole that overlooks the water, a parking lot, and an outdoor pavilion as a gathering place for tournaments, players, and park patrons.



EMERGENCIES CAN HAPPEN

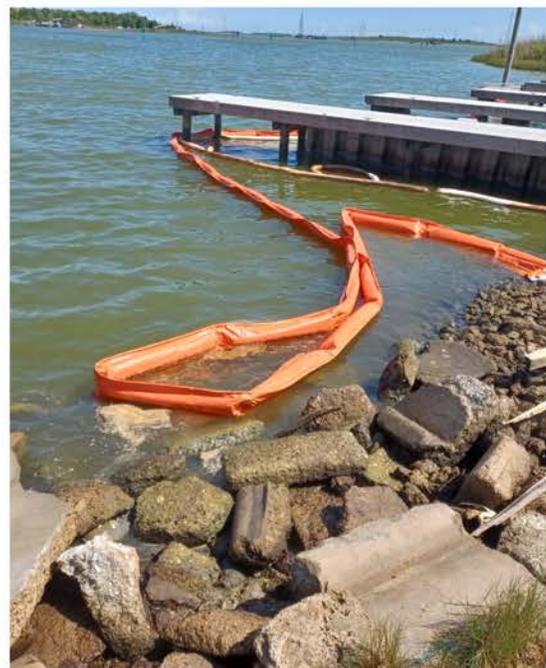
2022 Annual Report



This year was tough, as we even had to fit an oil spill into our projects that affected the shores of our Bayland Marina Park.

On August 15, 2022, an oil spill occurred just southeast of Bayland Marina Park. Unfortunately, the currents brought the oil spill directly into the marina and forced the closure of our Buddy McBride Boat launch for a period of up to three weeks.

The Coast Guard and various other emergency team members helped guide us through the process to get the park cleaned and boat owners safely back into the water.



PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



September brings late summer touches before closing out the fiscal year.

- League of Women Voters Park- Added annual mulch
- Prepare Sports complex for the 55-team tournament
- Mark and paint soccer fields for the fall soccer season kick-off
- Town Square- Fabricate a new steel door for ice rink lines and install a new gate for the parking lot
- Redesigned trail in a clockwise rotation at the Baytown Nature Center pavilion
- Newcastle Park- Pop Up Park preparation and relocation of picnic shelter

TEAM HIGHLIGHT VIDEOS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

SEPTEMBER

10, 2022



Showing the behind-the-scenes daily operations of Parks & Recreation.

A video campaign was coordinated and produced following every division of the department in their daily operations. These videos served three main purposes:

- Recruitment of future team members
- Appreciation of our hard-working team members
- Interest in future events the public can enjoy



GRITO FEST

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



SEPT/OCT
2022

This two-day event brings Tejano & Norteno music talents to town.

Grito Fest celebrated the Mexican and Hispanic cultures with concerts at Town Square and Bicentennial Park. There were food, crafts, and game vendors as well as contests for prizes donated by Whataburger.

- Jay Perez headlined Friday night at Town Square
- Grupo Pegasso headlined Saturday night at Bicentennial Park
- Featured Las Fenix, the very first all-female band at the Festival



SAN JACINTO ROUNDABOUT FACELIFT

2022 Annual Report



SEPT-NOV
2022



Due to the last winter storm, many of the plantings for the San Jacinto Blvd Roundabout had to be replanted with hardier plantings.

The Parks Department was given the task to redesign and develop a plan for sustainable planting and replacing over 70% of the plantings affected by the February storm of 2021.

The project planted over 1000 new plants ranging from Sunshine Ligustrum, Red Yucca, Driftwood Roses, and Mexican Feather Grass to name a few.

This was Phase I of the plan and Phase II will be the replanting of the trees impacted during the storm event.



PARK MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

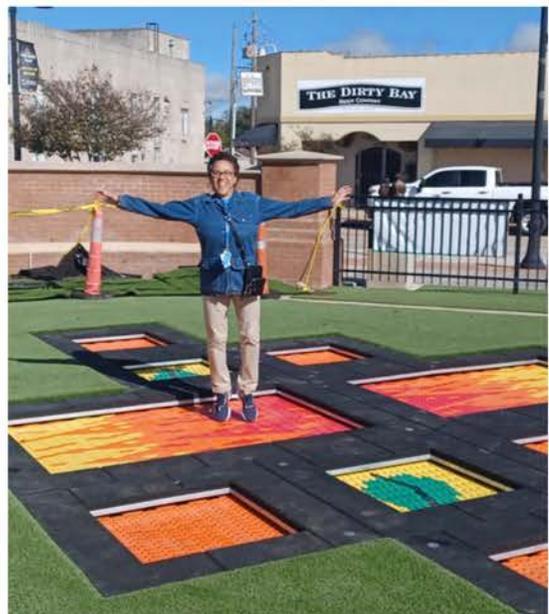
OCT-NOV
2022



Construction continues October–November.

The Planning Division for the Parks Department ended the year by opening portions of Newcastle Park with a Pop Up Park event. Town Square will open with the ice rink and all the enhancements. Great way to end the year.

- Town Square Enhancements- Completed
- Newcastle Park- Completed
- Goose Creek Trail- Completed



TYKE HIKE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Preschool visitors to the Baytown Nature Center were introduced to hands-on fun learning about wildlife & nature.

Free weekly meetings during the fall introduced nature-based topics for up to 30 preschoolers. The 12-week session concludes with a Thanksgiving Feast for the wildlife. Other fall topics included:

- Wetlands walkabout
- Alligators, turtles, and snakes
- Rolly Pollies and grasshoppers
- Hermit Crabs and birds
- Fall walkabout



GCCISD PRE-K OUTREACH

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Collaboration



Aquatics has teamed up with GCCISD to educate Pre-K students about Sun & Water Safety.

The aquatics team visits all three pre-k schools and offers knowledge about safety around the sun and water. The students also get hands-on practice on how to apply different items to help protect and keep them safe.

- Building a partnership with GCCISD
- Getting information out about Polly's Swim School and offering free swim lessons to pre-k students
- Familiarizing students with lifejackets for future visits to a pool



NURTURE NATURE FESTIVAL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



This annual family festival welcomed over 5,550 visitors to learn about nature in Texas.

This free event highlights not only the local wildlife but gives 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



JULY 3&4 HEADLINER SURVEY

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



The community was asked to vote on next year's headliners for July 3&4.

For the first time this year, the community was asked to vote on the next year's headliner for July 3&4, 2023 Celebration. In the list, there were a variety of acts from different genres including a couple of comedians to choose from. The survey was hosted on the Baytown Engage website and had an overwhelming response with the survey only being active for seven days resulting in 2,963 survey responses. This was the most survey responses ever for a Baytown Engage survey.

The top votes were:

- Scotty McCreery - Country
- Siggno - Tejano
- Leann Rimes - Country
- Shaggy - R&B/Reggae

DAYS OF CARING

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



The Baytown Parks & Recreation team joined United Way Days of Caring through Baytown Serves.

The City of Baytown hosted five Days of Caring projects in partnership with United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County. Volunteers cleared out a bird pond, planted fresh flowers at the Nature Center, weatherized wooden structures, and painted a mural along Goose Creek Trail.



SPOOKTACULAR

2022 Annual Report



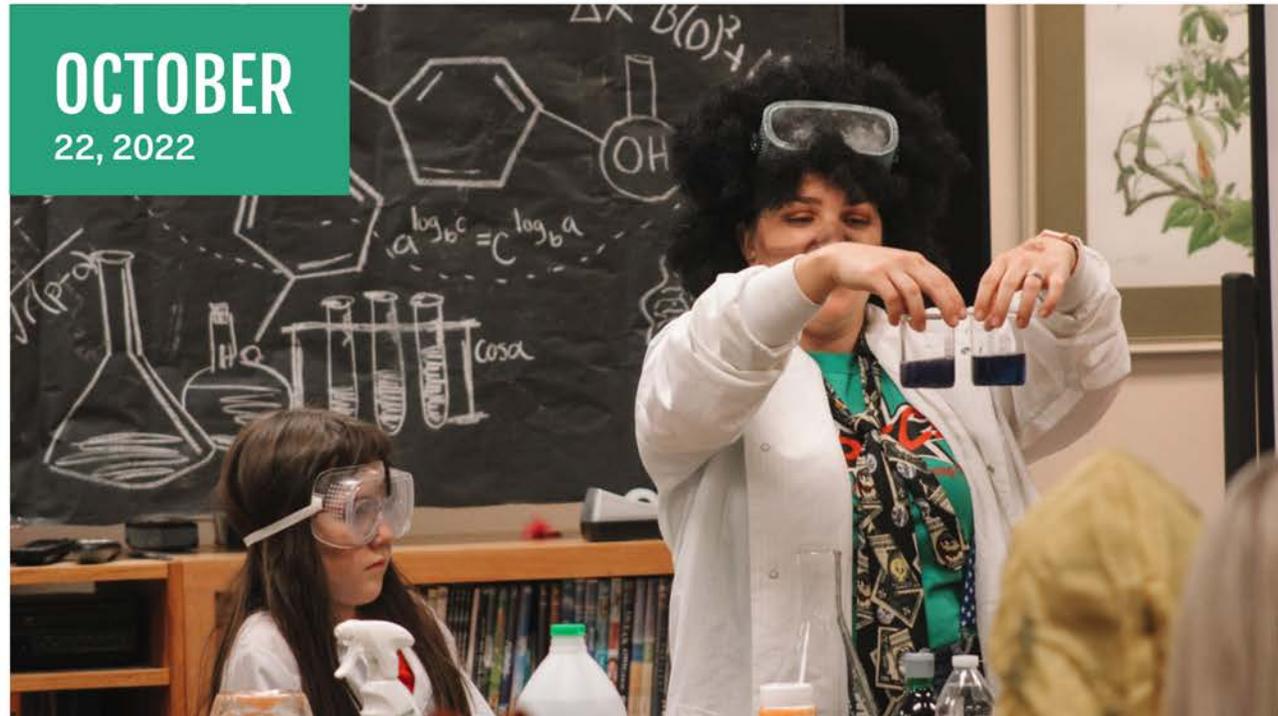
Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



OCTOBER

22, 2022

EPIC Club hosted this family-friendly Halloween experience for children of all ages.

This fundraiser for the EPIC International Conservation Experience welcomed 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! 650 attendees showed off their costumes as they also enjoyed meeting live animals and hearing Storytime with Carla.



TREATS ON THE TRAIL

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

OCTOBER

29, 2022



Dress up in Halloween costumes for candy, trinkets & fun.

Treats on the Trail is our annual Halloween event held out at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex.

- Over 5,000 people were in attendance
- Multiple photo opportunities for the whole family
- Hired characters to walk around the event area: Mickey Mouse, Minions and others



REPLANTING BAYTOWN MEDIANS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



The February 2021 freeze not only affected electricity & sewers but also plantings throughout the City.

Council approved funding for the planting and restoration of the medians, streetscapes and parks. A major portion of the funding went to the restoration of planting for San Jacinto Blvd. However staff was able to complete the following projects and begin a few others.

Projects included:

- Alexander Street- Completed
- Emmitt Hutto- Completed
- Town Square- Completed
- Ward Road- Completed
- Blue Heron-50% Complete
- Baker Road-50% Complete



TRAPS EQUIPMENT RODEO

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

NOVEMBER
3, 2022



Placing in 5 out of 7 events, Baytown takes 2nd overall at the Texas Recreation & Park Society's East Region Maintenance Rodeo.

Baytown once again showed why they are a perennial power house at the annual TRAPS East Region Maintenance Rodeo by placing in the Nail Drive, Backpack Blower, Backhoe, and Zero Turn competitions. The 2022 team was made up of Crissy Butcher, Leonard Graham, Jeremy Brasseaux, Minh Kutlarz, Trimonthly Lewis, Jonathan Longoria, and Brian Hernandez. Each of the four qualifiers earned the right to represent Baytown Parks and Recreation on the State level at the TRAPS Annual Institute on March 21st, 2023 in Frisco, Texas.

- Brian Hernandez – 1st Place: Zero Turn Obstacle Course
- Minh Kutlarz – 2nd Place: Nail Drive Competition
- Leonard Grahm – 3rd Place: Backpack Blower Obstacle Course
- Jeremy Brasseaux – 3rd Place: Backhoe Competition
- Crissy Butcher – 5th place: Plant and Weed Identification

DISNEY TRAINING

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

NOVEMBER
7, 2022



Working together to create unforgettable memories!

As a final farewell to Evergreen Clubhouse, the Parks and Recreation team held a training day in the facility that focused on customer service. The following questions were discussed:

- Who is our customer?
- Do we have customer-focused processes in place?
- What is our team purpose?



VETERANS DAY

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

NOVEMBER

11, 2022



A celebration for all of those that have fought to defend our country.

The Veterans Day event is held at Bicentennial Park. The ceremony consists of an invocation, speaker, and service recognition.

- Invocation by Chaplain, (Lt. Col.) Calvin Dixon, USAF, (Retired)
- Guest speaker - Chaplain, (Col.) John D. Laing, Senior Army Chaplain, and Joint Forces Command Chaplain
- Master of Ceremonies - Jerry Johnson, Past Commander Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 912



ARTS & EATS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



NOVEMBER
12, 2022

This award-winning event brings local artists and food trucks to Town Square.

The Arts & Eats Festival is an event where amateur artists can try out their chalk drawing talents and win prizes, as well as professional artists showcase their abilities with live demonstrations.

- Sold youth drawing spots as a fundraiser for the Art League
- Music performed by Gary Michael Dahl
- The Turkey Leg Hut came out as a food vendor



ART SHOW

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A night to celebrate the art created by all ages in the area.

The Annual Art Show is an event that showcases artwork from the local area schools and awards the best of the best. Amateur artists also submit their work for award consideration as well.

- All winners are announced and receive a medal and certificate and their work is displayed to everyone in attendance
- 537 pieces of art were submitted
- Staff provided a reception area with cookies and punch



FARMERS MARKET REIMAGINED

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Farmers Market is getting a makeover!

The last Farmers Market for 2022 was held in November so that staff could evaluate and get feedback from the vendors and the public. There will be a full revamp of the Farmers Market based on survey results from Baytown Engage. The market will start up again in and around Town Square starting in March 2023.

TURKEY TROT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

NOVEMBER

19, 2022



“Conquer before you eat.”

The Turkey Trot is a fun run that has a 5k for adults and a 1k for kids. These runs are officially timed, food is provided by different vendors such as HEB, and Chick-Fil-A, there are photo opportunities with one of our Turkey mascots, and face painting too! Don't miss this chance to come out and run and also enjoy the atmosphere around you. Despite the rainy weather, we had some real warriors come out this year and battle through the rain and cold.

- 217 registered for the 5k
- 52 registered for the kids 1k

Look forward to this event every Saturday before the Thanksgiving Holiday! Make sure and register ahead of time. Registration usually opens for this in October!



POP-UP BIRTHDAY PARTIES

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Parks & Recreation birthday parties come to you!

Parks and Recreation has created a new Pop Up Birthday Party committee that goes to each division or location if you will, to spotlight the birthdays of each month. The party committee members are Holly Pinkston, Amy Shipley, Christina Butcher, Erica Galloway, Tracie Keene, Elena Tanner, and Amanda Garcia. The very first Pop Up Birthday was in November 2022 to spotlight 3 of our amazing Parks employees. The committee met at the designated location and decorated the van with “HAPPY BIRTHDAY” and balloon magnets, then took off to the Parks Service center to surprise Mitch Dasent, Elena Tanner, and Christian Marsiglia with an individualized personal treat, then extras to share with the team. A “Birthday Certificate” was given as well as the employee will receive ½ day off with pay during their birthday month.



SPECIAL EVENT RECAP VIDEOS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



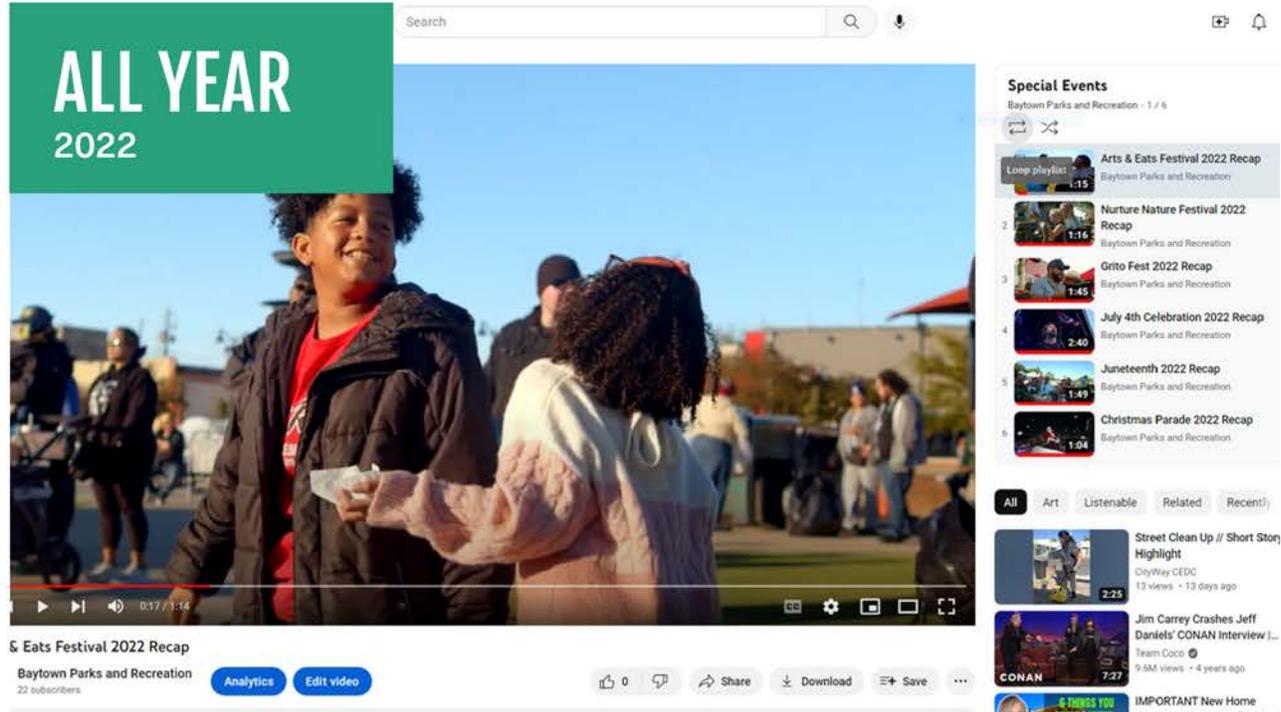
Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



A picture is worth a thousand words, but a video is worth a million!

The initiative of the project was to create videos of our major events for three main purposes: 1) Create recap videos of our major events in order to return memories back to the community, 2) Preserve a historical account of our events as a look back on our past accomplishments to create a sense of pride and high morale within our team, 3) Produce b-roll video clips that allow our department to create future commercials for event promotion and sponsorship requests.

- Arts & Eats Festival
- Nurture Nature Festival
- Grito Fest
- July 4th Celebration
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Christmas Parade

CHRISTMAS PARADE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



DECEMBER

1, 2022

Lighted floats, bands, dancers, specialty vehicles & Santa.

This year's annual Christmas Parade was themed, "Lights on Parade". A new system that was implemented this year was having speakers installed at the lineup for entries to listen to ongoing announcements as well as holiday-themed music.

- Entries – 112
- Vehicles – 230
- Walkers – 1,219



DOUBLE FEATURE MOVIE NIGHT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

DECEMBER
2, 2022



Movie, popcorn, hot cocoa, & ice skating at Town Square.

- Over 200 people attended
- Popcorn and hot cocoa were served for free
- Enchanted and Disenchanted by Disney were streamed as double features
- Ice rink and trampolines were open for more family fun



COMMUNITY CENTER MAKEOVERS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Our meeting room has a new look.

The Mockingbird Room has been completely renovated in order to host city meetings. The walls have been repainted, and new carpet, a wall mural, glass dry erase boards, sticky bulletin board, 98-inch television with computer access, camera for virtual possibilities, built-in microphones and speakers, new modular desks and chairs, and a new podium with work station have all been installed.

The previous Director's office is turning into a small conference/break room with new paint, carpet, desks, chairs, television, small refrigerator, microwave and counterspace.



TWINKLE HOLIDAY ELF

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Collaboration



Innovation



The Wetlands Center welcomed a new holiday ambassador elf to promote Baytown amenities and bring a little daily fun to the holidays!

Twinkle followed the tradition of certain holiday elves that find daily mischief during the holiday season. This holiday ambassador visited multiple locations throughout Baytown, posting her adventures on Wetlands Center's social media for friends to enjoy.



LAST STOP CHRISTMAS SHOP

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Santa photos, Grinch photos, brunch-style food trucks, over 45 vendors, and inflatables.

This was a first-ever holiday market for Parks and Recreation:

- Invited vendors from Farmers Market and other events
- Hosted a Children's Shopping Booth
- Houston Skyline Band performed live holiday music



DUCK SOUP

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



DECEMBER
2022

The rules make no sense & laughter wins every time!

The City of Baytown Parks and Recreation athletics department puts on a fun quirky toy drive league each year called “Duck Soup” in order to collect toys to donate to the Baytown Blue Santa Organization. Together the community managed to collect and donate over 150 toys in this year’s toy drive!

Duck Soup is not only a fun league for our community, but one of the things we look forward to the most is coming together and collecting toys for those in need around Christmas time. This is what it’s all about. We want to thank everyone who donated toys, as well as thank the Baytown Blue Santa for taking the time each year to make sure kids’ Christmas’s are special.



ROSELAND PARK CLUBHOUSE

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration

DECEMBER
2021-2022



Due to continued flooding, we said goodbye to the old park rental facility & today marks a new beginning for Roseland Park with a new Clubhouse.



DECEMBER RAINSTORMS

2022 Annual Report



December storms may come but we keep on moving.

December storms added some more work but we weathered the storm and got back on track.

- Removal of debris in all the parks
- Installed concrete bases for the new Jenkins Perfect Trail Lights
- Repaired and installed drainage for a portion of Central Heights Trail
- Winter maintenance and cleaning
- San Jacinto Median Repairs



HOLLOWAY TRAIL LIGHTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership



Stewardship



Collaboration



Pedestrian & bollard footlights coming soon to Holloway Trail.

Parkgoers who use the trail connection between JC Holloway and Jenkins Park will soon notice the installation of over a dozen pedestrian light poles and bollard footlights.

Please excuse our mess during this installation process. We aim to be able to keep this portion of the trail open as much as possible. This trail connection is the only portion of the trail being affected. This installation is just one of many phases in the Perfect Trail System project. This entire project aims to enhance the community’s experience at the park and alleviate safety concerns.



BAYTOWN GATEWAY 3 PROJECT

2022 Annual Report



Caring

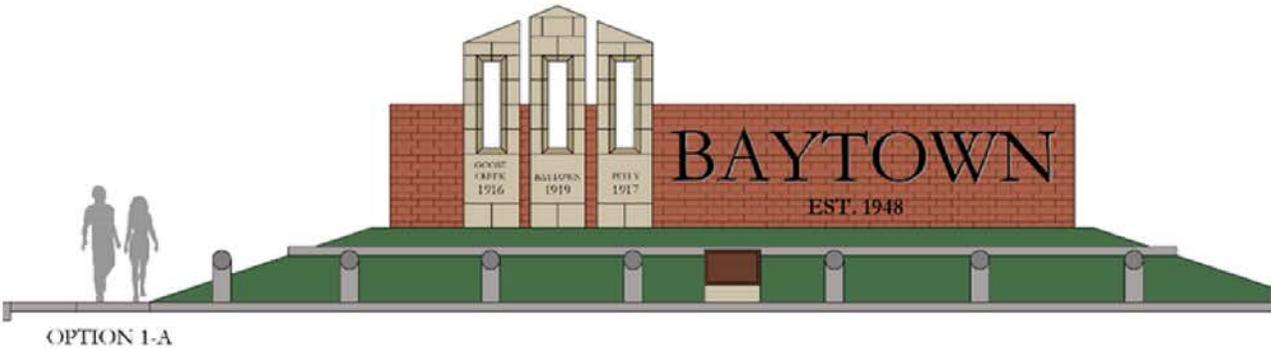


Innovation



Collaboration

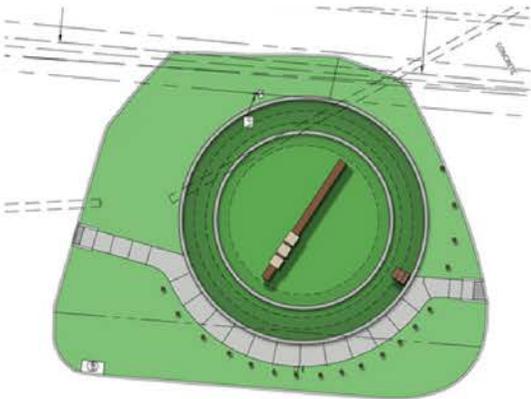
COMING SOON
2023



A new City of Baytown sign coming Spring 2023.

This project is a new Gateway sign that will be located at the 146 and I-10 Highway Corridor. The Parks Department managed the design and the construction is being managed by TXDOT.

- Construction began on the project in September 2022
- The expected completion date is late January/early February 2023



NATIONAL FITNESS COURT

2022 Annual Report



Caring



Innovation



Leadership

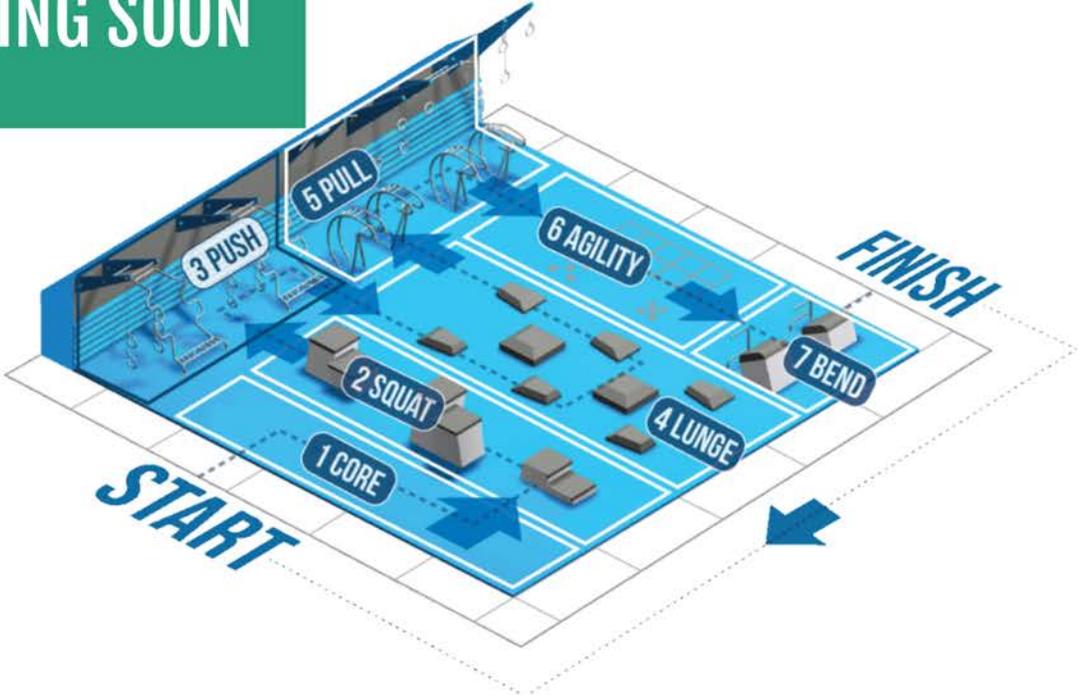


Stewardship



Collaboration

COMING SOON
2023



Jenkins Park will soon have a National Fitness Court installed.

The Municipal Development District approved funding for the installation of a National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court at Jenkins Park. The cost of the equipment is being covered by a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas grant and reimbursement from the MD Anderson Be Well Baytown campaign.

Free workout programs are available through the Fitness Court app, this will promote a healthier Baytown. Baytown Parks and Recreation is planning to have this open in spring 2023.



BEHIND THE SCENE PARK PROJECTS

2022 Annual Report



Caring

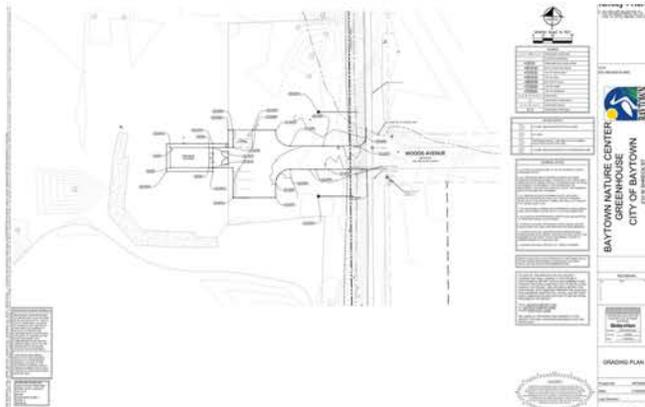
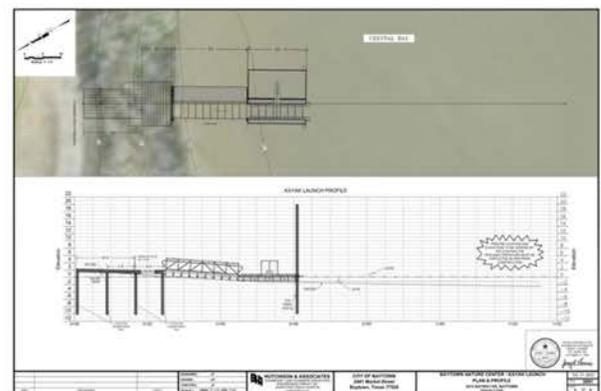
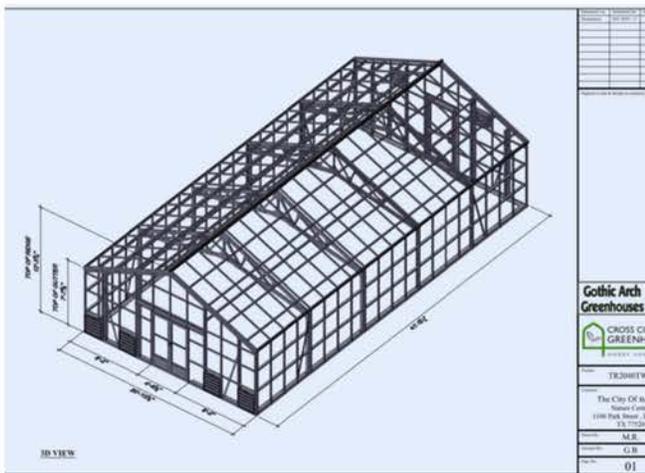


Leadership



Stewardship

Projects that are in various stages of designs we have been working on and are coming soon.



Baytown Nature Center Greenhouse Project from a grant with Port of Houston Authority. Architectural and Construction plans almost complete.



Tompkins Property- Texas Parks and Wildlife grant started Yellowbook Appraisal portion of project along with hiring consultant to perform wetland delineation as part of the grant requirements.

2023 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

2022 Annual Report

February

4th – Daddy & Me Dance 11th – Yard Sale
18th – Pop Up Park, Jenkins

March

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st – Brown Bag Lunches
18th – Market at Town Square 18th – Pop Up Park, Town Square

April

15th – Pop Up Park, Roseland 21st-22nd – Special Olympics
24th-28th – Senior Olympics 28th – Arbor Day

May

5th – Party on the Peninsula/\$1 Taco Night
13th – Yard Sale 13th – Mom & Son Olympics
20th – Pop Up Park, Duke Hill 29th – Memorial Day Ceremony

June

3rd – Party on the Peninsula/Crawfish & Zydeco 6th – Special Pirate
17th – Juneteenth Celebration 29th – Special Pirate

July

3rd & 4th – July 4th Celebration 6th – Special Pirate 15th – Pop Up Park, Bergeron
22nd – Summer Track Meet 17th – Special Pirate 22nd – Couples Night

August

11th – Back to School Bash 12th – Yard Sale
19th – Pop Up Park, Bush Terrace 26th – Pooch-A-Palooza

September

16th – Texas' Largest Trail Party

October

6th & 7th – Grito Fest 14th – Yard Sale 14th – Nurture Nature
27th – Spooktacular 28th – Treats on the Trail

November

11th – Veterans Day Ceremony 18th – Turkey Trot

December

1st – Art Show 7th – Christmas Parade 8th – Movie Night
15th – Jingle Bell Bike Ride 16th – Christmas Festival



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



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.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Scott Johnson

Mr. Scott Johnson graduated from Texas A&M University in 1981 with a degree in Parks and Recreation Administration. He immediately began his career with the City of Baytown and was named the Parks and Recreation Director in November 2000. Scott announced he would be retiring in October 2021, where he oversaw a Parks and Recreation Department that had grown to include 65 Full Time staff members, 51 parks, 5 special use facilities, the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education Center, the Baytown Nature Center, Pirates Bay, and Calypso Cove. Scott's leadership has been recognized statewide over the years for his outstanding service to the Parks and Recreation field. Thank you, Scott for so many years of remarkable service.

Tony Sorolla

Mr. Tony Sorolla graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1982 and was hired by the City of Baytown as a Parks Caretaker on the horticulture crew, planting trees and maintaining landscape beds in May 1986. In October 1987 Tony was promoted to Equipment Operator, mowing parks and right of ways. In January 1989 Tony was again promoted, this time to Construction Crewleader where he finished out his career building and repairing playgrounds, trails and picnic shelters among many other projects. Thank you, Tony for 35 years of excellent service.

Kevin Troller

Mr. Kevin Troller, City of Baytown Assistant Manager, announced his retirement for September 2022. Kevin oversaw many departments throughout the city including the Parks and Recreation Department. Kevin was an outstanding leader as well as colleague over the last 14 years. Kevin was one whom looked out for the best interest of the staff as well as the residents of Baytown in every aspect. Thank you, Kevin for your dedicated service.



IN REMEMBRANCE

In May of 2022, Samuel Compton passed away at his home. Sam began his part-time position as a Gate Attendant at the Baytown Nature Center in August 2018. Sam was married to Virginia Compton, whom also worked as a Gate Attendant at the Baytown Nature Center. Sam's intelligence and wit are missed.

Department Awards

2022 Annual Report

2021 Texas Public Pool Council Special Event of the Year: Special Pirate Celebration

Aquatics Division

2022 Gulf Coast Guard Games: Spirit Award Champion

Aquatics Division

2022 Gulf Coast Guard Games: 3rd Place Guard Team

Aquatics Division

2022 Texas Lifeguard Championship: 1st Place Scanning Event

Aquatics Division

2022 Texas Lifeguard Championship: Spirit Award Champion

Aquatics Division

2022 World Waterpark Association Wave Review: Best Print Media

Aquatics Division

2022 Aquatics International Best of the Best in Targeted Programming: Special Pirate Celebration

Aquatics Division

Park Planning Excellence Award for the 2030 Master Plan for 2022

Parks Division

2022 TRAPS* East Region's Maintenance Rodeo: 1st place in the Zero Turn Course

Parks Division

2022 TRAPS* East Region's Maintenance Rodeo: 2nd in the Nail Drive Competition

Parks Division

2022 TRAPS* East Region's Maintenance Rodeo: 2nd Overall in the Competition as a Team

Parks Division

2022 TRAPS* East Region Park Professional of the Year – Minh Kotlarz

Parks Division

Department Awards

2022 Annual Report

**2021 TRAPS* East
Region: Most awarded
Department in our
region**

Parks & Recreation

**2022 Advocate of the
Year Award: BeWell
Baytown Initiative by MD
Anderson Sponsored by
ExxonMobil**

Parks & Recreation

**2021 TRAPS* East
Region: Lone Star
Programming Award –
Juneteenth Celebration**

Recreation Division

**2021 TRAPS* East
Region: Photography –
Special Events**

Recreation Division

**2021 TRAPS* East
Region: Photography –
Leisure and Cultural Arts**

Recreation Division

**2022 TRAPS* East
Region: Photography –
Outdoor Recreation**

Recreation Division

**2021 TRAPS* East
Region: Parks
Professional of the Year
– Tracey Prothro**

Nature Division

**2021 TRAPS* East
Region:
Innovation Award –
Children’s Nature
Discovery Lab**

Nature Division

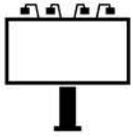
 **STATISTICS**



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.

Marketing Reach

2022 Annual Report

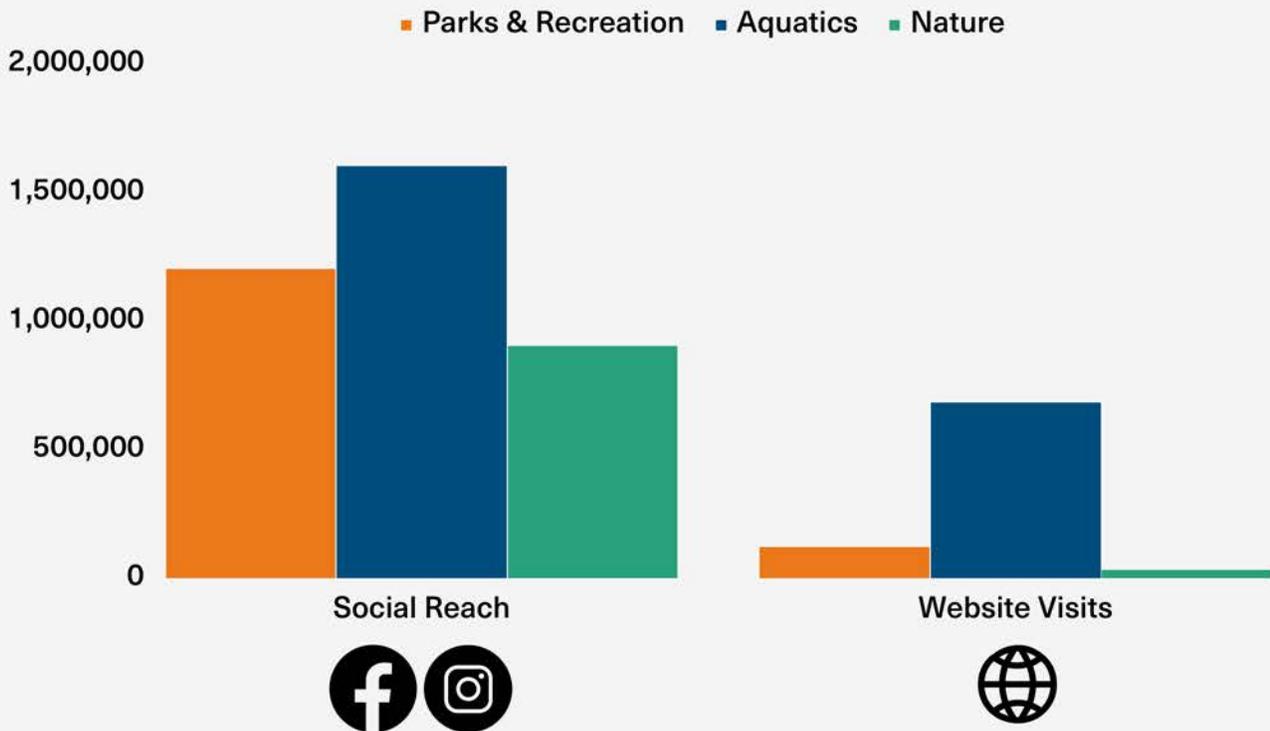


7,500,000
Billboard Views



1,500,000
Radio Listeners

Online Audience



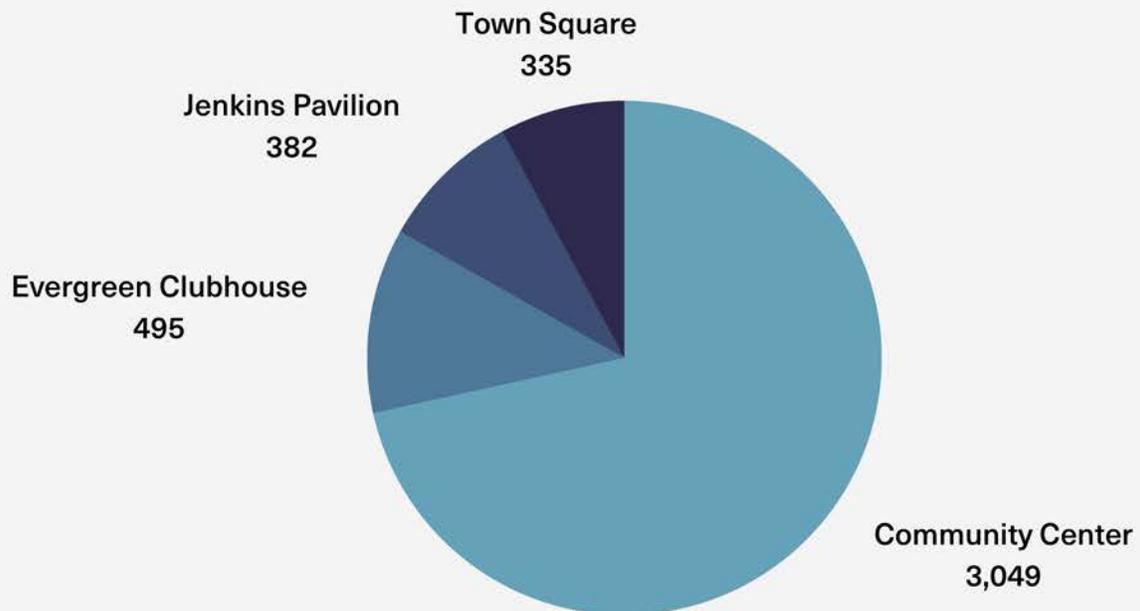
Community Impact

2022 Annual Report

Total Attendance



Total Rentals



Working together to create
unforgettable memories!

BAYTOWN
DOES MORE

SCAN
ME!



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281-420-6597

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pard@baytown.org



VIEW THE ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE:
baytown.org/parkreports