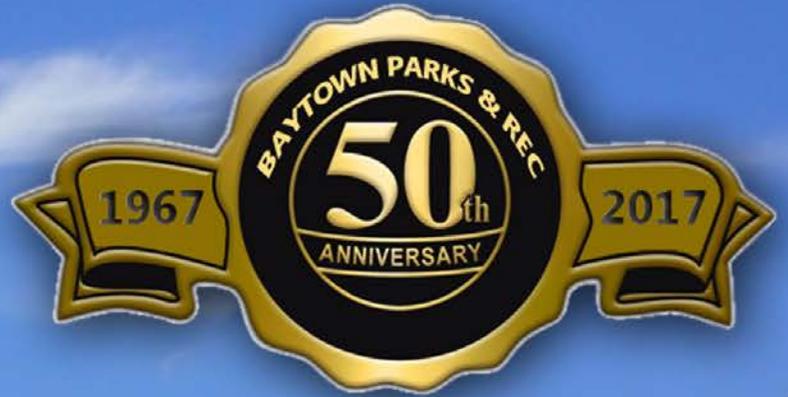


BAYTOWN

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



2016 - 2017

ANNUAL REPORT

City of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department Annual Report 2016 – 2017

Mission Statement

The City of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department genuinely cares about its customers and continually strives to not only meet, but also exceed their expectations. Our department is dedicated to improving the lives of our citizens and visitors, and enhancing the image of the City of Baytown through effective and efficient recreational, educational, cultural, fitness and environmental programs and services. We subscribe to the philosophy that parks and recreation positively impacts health, crime prevention, the environment, the economy and the overall quality of life of the Baytown community.

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 / status report on most of our current programs and plans
3. A brief overview of our plans for the upcoming year

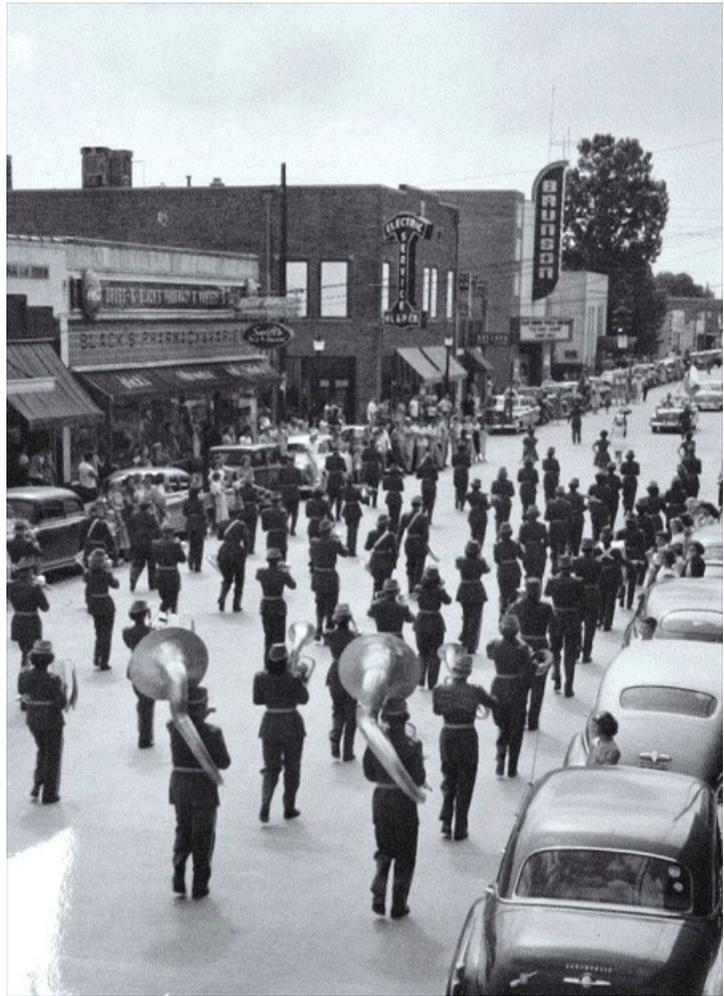
This report is made pursuant to Ordinance No. 885, adopted in September 1967, which states that, annually, the Board shall make a study of the parks and recreation facilities and policies of the City, and make recommendations concerning any changes, modifications or improvements.

In 1967, a half-century ago, protests erupted around the world against the Vietnam War, Montreal hosted Expo 67, race riots in the U.S. destroyed parts of Detroit and other northern cities, Elvis Presley married Priscilla in Las Vegas, O.J. Simpson was a running back for the University of Southern California, and Israel fought and won the Six - Day War against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The Beatles released "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and the first human heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christian Barnard in South Africa.



Locally, Channel 39 in Houston began broadcasting, a brand new 1967 Ford Mustang convertible cost \$2,898, and regular leaded gasoline cost less than 25¢/gallon. *El Dorado* starring John Wayne and Robert Mitchum was the top movie playing at the Brunson. Loop 201 (or as it is known today, Highway 146) and Spur 330 were just lines on paper cutting through the growing city of almost 40,000 residents.

And in 1967, the Baytown City Council, led by Mayor Seaborn Cravey, unanimously passed Ordinance #885 creating the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. With the City's recreational opportunities growing and the Community Center under construction, the city fathers created the seven member board.

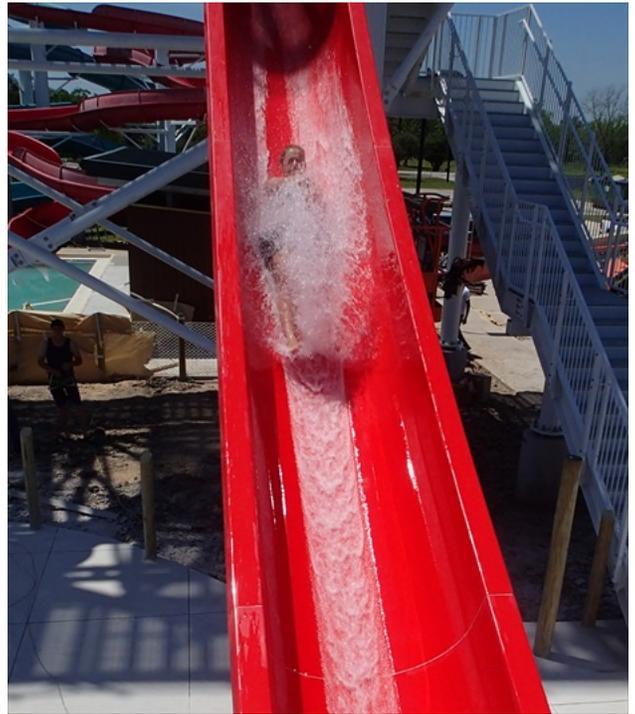


The original members included Norman Foote, Chairman, Wayne Gray, Ora Mae Harding, Bobby Sutphin, Sammie McPhail, Cecil Kirkland, Robert Barnes, Justin Kollmeyer and J. T. Adams. The City had one park, Roseland Park, but thanks to the Board, that didn't last long. The Board identified ten tracts of land that were included in the first bond election following their appointment. The bond for \$690,000 was approved by the voters, and the dollars were then leveraged with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Federal grants. All ten sites, including Pelly Park among others, were purchased and the Board has never looked back.

Five men have had the honor of leading the Parks and Recreation Department as Director for the past 50 years including (in order) – Kenneth Persenaire, Terry Dobson, Bobby Rountree, David Ondrias and Scott Johnson.

A lot has happened in the past 50 years. The Department has grown from only a few employees, a park and a Community Center to over 450 employees; 52 Parks with over 1,200 acres of parkland; several miles of trails; the Baytown Nature Center, which was the thriving Brownwood subdivision in 1967; the Eddie Gray Wetlands Education Center, which was a successful bowling alley in 1967; Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove, recreational leagues, special events that draw thousands, Town Square and even an ice rink and of course the Community Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department enjoyed another busy and successful year that was highlighted by the opening of the Jenkins Park Spray Park, the completion and opening of the Aqua Loop/Aqua Drop Slides at Pirates Bay and the connection of the Goose Creek Trail. The Department was excited about the acquisition of the Evergreen Bluff property for a future park. Acquisition of the 21 acre tract overlooking Tabbs and Galveston Bays has been a long term goal of the Department. The Aquatics Division continues to break records in both attendance and revenue as both Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove are at, or near, capacity daily. The Department also hosted another huge crowd at the annual July 3rd and 4th Celebration.



With a generous donation from Covestro, the new “Cleaner Energy, Brighter World” sustainable energy mobile exhibit was unveiled in July. The trailer will be available for tours at the Wetlands Center, and will travel statewide promoting the use of sustainable and renewable energy.

Pirates Bay Water Park continued its popularity from the past seven seasons despite 34 rain days during the season. During the 2016 season, 168,312 guests passed through the gates at Pirates Bay which was a drop of 4,913 guests from last year. 960,975 people have visited the park since its opening. If projections are on target, staff anticipates over 175,000 people through the gates during the 2017 season. On June 12, 2017, Pirates Bay welcomed guest number one million to the park.

Calypso Cove, located at N.C. Foote Park, also was affected by 27 rain days seeing a drop in the total number of visitors by 1,016 resulting in a total of 19,434 visitors. Calypso Cove has welcomed 108,175 guests during the first six seasons.

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted the 2017 Annual Texas Recreation and Park Society East Region Workshop in January. The Super Bowl themed event drew over 400 delegates from all around the Southeast Texas for a full day of educational sessions, vendors and networking. The Department was selected by the Region to host the 2018 Workshop as well.



The Parks and Recreation Department planted 61 thirty-gallon size trees in various parks and gave away over 2,000 one-gallon size trees for the annual Arbor Day Celebration. The Department painted several bridges across the city, improving the appearance of the roads and medians that cross those bridges.

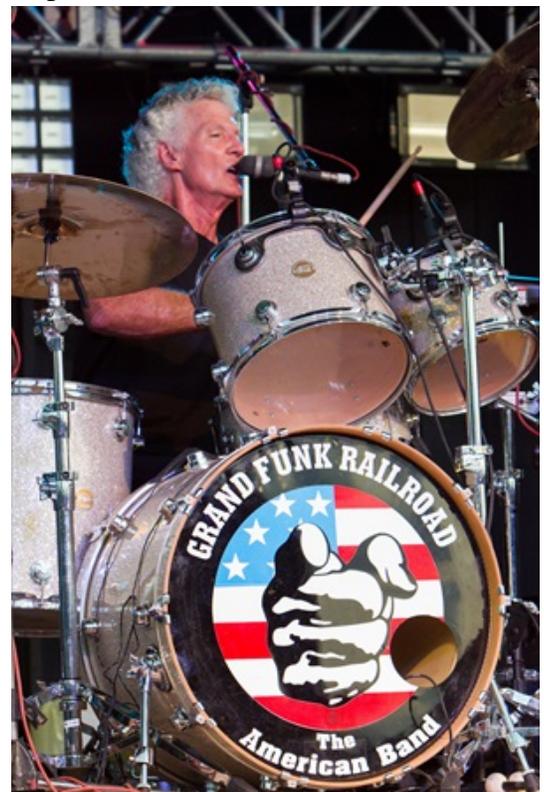
The first full year of programming for Town Square on Texas Avenue brought thousands to the downtown area. The City's monthly Farmer's Market was a complete success bringing fresh locally grown produce and other crafts to Town Square each month. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Food Truck Fest, Snow Day and Brown Bag Lunch and other special events packed the park. Ice skating came back to Town Square with 4,368 guests over the seven week season.

The goal of the Recreation Division is to offer exciting and diverse activities, programs, and sporting leagues for all of the citizens of Baytown to enjoy. The recreation division organizes programs, classes and athletic leagues that include youth and adult karate, Zumba, self-defense, adult softball, flag football, kickball, soccer, youth summer track and more while simultaneously handling the rentals and daily operations of the Community Center, two park pavilions and athletic fields. In 2017, the Recreation Division continued to add multiple new family friendly events to Town Square by partnering with other organizations such as Cork Grinders and Lee College. Events such as the Halloween Festival, Farmers Markets, Shakespeare in the Park and the Brown Bag Lunches topped the list of the new additions.

On October 1st, the 11th Annual Grito Fest was held at Bicentennial Park. The event featured the popular Kumbia Kings along with The Hometown Boys and Mariachis Los Gallitos. Between acts the H.O.L.A Ballet Folklorico out of Houston entertained the crowd with traditional costumes and dance. Festival goers enjoyed a Grito Competition, Salsa and Jalapeno Eating Contest, and an Accordion Competition. An estimated crowd of 5,000 attended the festival.

The City's Annual 3rd and 4th of July Celebration at Bicentennial Park was tremendously successful as tens of thousands attended the two-day event. The 3rd of July concert was highlighted by rock-n-roll legends, The Grand Funk Railroad. The 3rd of July rock-n-roll night continues to grow in popularity as the event enjoyed its highest attendance in its short history.

Despite the very hot July temperatures, a steady breeze kept the thousands that attended the annual event comfortable. County music star Josh Turner entertained the large crowd, much to the delight of a multitude of his fans that crowded next to the stage. Local bands including Picture Book and Al White warmed the crowd up for the main act. The concert was followed by the traditional fireworks show.



The Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center and Baytown Nature Center continue to offer outstanding programs to GCCISD and Baytown area students with the Back to the Bay, Wetlands Ecology and Liquid Science Programs. The award-winning Nurture Nature Series draws visitors from across the state to the Baytown Nature Center on a monthly basis, and Gator Tales and Tyke Hike programs target our preschool citizens. The *Wade Into Wetlands* Summer Science Camp continues to fill to capacity, as do the Winter Holiday and Spring Into Nature camps. This year the Baytown Nature Center hosted three evening summer science camps to complement the eleven hosted at the Wetlands Center. The Wetlands Center continued with its one-year-old tradition of hosting an overnight tent camping experience during summer camp, with campers enjoying ziplining and camping out at Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area in Nacogdoches. EPIC (Environmental Protectors Initiating Change), the Wetland Center's after school teen club, continues to grow and is busy planning its upcoming conservation education trip to the Texas A&M University Soltis Research Center in late summer.

The Baytown Nature Center educational programs continue to provide opportunities for outdoor activities and scout workshops. The Back to the Bay Program allows area high school students to practice their water testing and analysis skills, as well as their ability to catch and identify marine life in cast nets and seine nets. The Nature Center attendance remains steady as visitors have discovered it is not only a prime location for fishing and birding but also for kayaking, biking and hiking. Staff offers a guided Full Moon Night Hike each month on the Saturday closest to full moon. Participants walk the trails and look for the Nature Center residents that only come out at night such as owls and coyotes. Scout workshops and overnight campouts have become regular weekend activities. The annual Nurture Nature Festival brought out record crowds this year as 5,200 folks visited to learn about wildlife and nature in the Texas coastal region and the brand new Seedflying Wingding Festival introduced visitors to pollinators and ways to improve butterfly habitat.

The Wetlands Wagon Outreach Program often finds Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center staff on the road throughout Texas promoting both facilities and the City of Baytown as an environmentally friendly destination. The Wetlands Wagon partnered with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department again this year to promote the Wetlands Center and the Baytown Nature Center in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio. The addition of the "Cleaner Energy, Brighter World" sustainable energy mobile exhibit gives the Wetlands Center one more tool to promote responsible environmental stewardship.



Awards

Texas Recreation and Park Society East Region

Lone Star Programming Award

1st Annual Gulf Coast Monarch Project Seedling Wingding Festival

The City of Baytown and the Gulf Coast Monarch Project was awarded the Lone Star Programming Achievement East Region Award from the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) at the 2017 TRAPS East Region Workshop on January 12, 2017 at the Baytown Community Center.



The Lone Star Award Programming Achievement Award is presented for the best new first-time recreation program in the East Region.

The Baytown Sun

2016 – 20 Under 40

Clifford Hatch

The May 21, 2017 edition of the Baytown Sun honored 20 of the Baytown Area’s rising leaders for their business success and community impact. Superintendent of Recreation, Clifford Hatch was selected by the Baytown Sun as one of Baytown up and coming stars.



Texas Recreation and Park Society
State Maintenance Rodeo
Second Place

The City of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department qualified five employees for the State TRAPS Equipment Rodeo that was held in Irving on March 1, 2017. All five advanced from regional tournament held in Houston in November. The employees competed in four events: Nail Driving, Irrigation, the Backhoe Competition and Truck and Trailer. Mike Mueller and Minh Kotlarz are state champions in the Irrigation competition and Terry Dean took 4th place in the Backhoe competition. Baytown took home the 2nd place overall trophy. The winning team consisted of Joe Gonzalez, Mike Mueller, Minh Kotlarz, Terry Dean and Jose Flores.



Special Recognition

The Board expresses its sincere appreciation to the Mayor, City Council Members and City Management for their support of the Department, as well as to allied groups including Friends of the Baytown Nature Center, Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center, The Bay Area Heritage Society, The Baytown Historical Preservation Association, Lee College, Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District, the Baytown YMCA, The Rotary Club of Baytown, The Kiwanis Club of Baytown, Historic Goose Creek Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Baytown Lions Club, Baytown Optimist Club, Evening Pilot Club and the Pilot Club of Baytown. Collectively, these groups, organizations and others contribute a great deal to the success of many of the Department's programs and events. The Board would also like to acknowledge the numerous contributions of volunteers, businesses and industries noting that it is not possible to recognize them all individually, while conceding that we could not be successful without them.



On a special note, we would like to thank Ken Jones and Sherman Eagleton, Harris County Constables Precinct 3, and their deputies for their help with the Christmas Parade, Grito Fest and the 3rd and 4th of July Celebration. A special thanks to Chief Bob Wooten and Sergeant Richard Miranda for their assistance in the coordination of the deputies.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank several local industries for their contributions of money and labor during the past year. Most notable are ExxonMobil, Covestro, Air Products, Chevron Phillips LP, Calpine Energy, Lowe's, Home Depot, Awards and Engraving, Community Resource Credit Union, Beacon Federal Credit Union, Randy Casey State Farm and TPC Group. Without their support of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center, the Baytown Nature Center and several special events, many of the activities that are provided to the public would not be possible.

The Department would also like to thank the Texas Avenue merchants that have embraced the new Town Square and have participated or sponsored several events at the new Town Square including the Dirty Bay Beer Company, Como En Mexico and Rooster's Steak House.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our utmost appreciation to several City Departments including Information Technology Services, Public Works and Engineering whose employees have provided noteworthy assistance to the Department this year. The Traffic Control staff has helped with many events during the year, most notably the Town Square Events, the Christmas Parade, Grito Fest and the 3rd and 4th of July events. A huge thank you to the Police, Fire, Communications and Health Departments for their support and assistance with numerous events including this year's July 3rd and 4th Celebration and Grito Fest. Special thanks go out to Chief Keith Dougherty and his staff, including Lieutenant Glenn Slaven and Corporal Russell White. A special thank you to Fire Chief Shon Blake, Fire Marshall Bernard Olive and Firefighter (Driver) Mike Wooster for their assistance in planning and coordinating a variety of activities for the July 3rd and 4th Celebration including the parade and providing meals to event staff, volunteers and entertainers.



The Parks and Recreation Department sends out a special thank you to the Baytown Police Department for providing weekend security at the Pirates Bay Water Park.

We also would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this past year a success, especially the annual Daddy and Me Dance and the Summer Track program. We would like to especially recognize the volunteers that worked in preparation for the 11th Annual Grito Fest. A special thank you as well goes to Chick-fil-A, Whataburger, Houston Methodist and all the many sponsors and volunteers for the annual Special Olympics Track Meet. Thanks also go to the numerous volunteers that help staff during the various programs at the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center and at the Baytown Nature Center.

We would also like to recognize the Human Resources Department for going over and beyond the call of duty, with all they do to assist in the recruitment, staffing and training of over 350 lifeguards, cashiers, concessions and maintenance employees in the Aquatics Division.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to express their gratitude for the staff at the Sterling Municipal Library for their assistance proofing and printing of the Annual Report.

A special thank you goes to the Parks and Recreation Department staff that continues to provide innovative and cost-effective quality activities and for the long hours, many of which are after normal work schedules. The staff continues to strive to make Baytown a better place to live and work.

The remainder of this report describes in more detail the status of our projects and programs. It also notes a number of completed improvements and concludes with a review of a few specific goals for the upcoming year.



Park Land Acquisition

The City's parkland inventory grew by 21.89 acres this past year.

- A. **Evergreen Bluff Park (21.89 Acres)** – The acquisition of the 21.885 acre tract of Tabbs Bay frontage located west of Evergreen Road for a city park will provide long term waterfront access to the public. Historically, this particular tract of land was once known as the “swimming hole” of Baytown. The land is located near the Ashbel Smith home site and may have areas of historical significance.

The property was acquired with funding provided by Harris County as part of the San Jacinto Waste Pit Grant Program. The project includes an environmental survey, topographic survey, an archeological survey and some fencing. Funding for the development of the property was not approved; however, the needed base maps and archeological surveys will be complete when the property is ready for development.



Parks

Completed Projects

- A. **Baytown Soccer Park Field Renovations** – The heavily used soccer fields at Village Lane were renovated this past year. The fields were very uneven and holding water in multiple locations and had poor turf due to multiple years of abuse. The Department plowed the fields, added top soil, graded the fields and then replanted with common Bermuda. The fields are expected to be playable in the fall.

B. San Jacinto Boulevard Roadway Design, Landscaping and Public Art -

In 2016 the City of Baytown began construction for a new north/south roadway that will parallel Garth Road to the east. The road, to be known as San Jacinto Boulevard, will run from I-10 near the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) Administration Building to the intersection of Cedar Bayou Lynchburg and Bush Road.

Kimley-Horn and Associates are designing the boulevard which will boast a heavy amount of landscaping and public art. A roundabout at the intersection with Hunt Road will contain a larger-than-life-size sculpture of Sam Houston on his horse pointing toward the San Jacinto Monument.

David Adickes is designing and constructing the sculpture. Mr. Adickes is the artist who built the large statue of Sam Houston, located along I-45 in Huntsville. He is also responsible for several other “larger than life” sculptures in the Houston area and across the country. Mr. Adickes’ statues are distinguished by their huge size and excellent attention to detail; also all are white or mostly white in color. Baytown’s sculpture is expected to be completed in September and set in the roundabout in 2018.



C. Travis School Park Special Needs Playground - A second inclusive playground is in the planning stages for Travis School Park. Like Bowie School Park, Travis School Park and the City have an existing joint use agreement for the park. This playground will be slightly different than Bowie as it will be designed to address the needs of hearing and vision impaired children. GCCISD Special Education Staff is working closely with Baytown Parks and Recreation Staff in the development of the concepts and solutions. In addition to financial contributions from the City, the Rotary Club of Baytown, GCCISD, the Lions Club and the Kiwanis Club plan to participate either monetarily, through volunteering or both. The project is planned for construction in August 2017 to be ready for the new school year.

D. Blue Heron Park Sod and Landscape Improvements – The turf at Blue Heron Park has been a challenge to establish. The soil conditions in the upper section of the retention basin are mostly sand and thus does not have nutrients in the soil to promote turf. Parks staff contracted with Pfitzner Enterprises to grade off the site and add a layer of good organic top soil to assist the turf in growing. The entire site was hydromulched with Bermuda and rye blend. Once the turf has fully established, the erosion control fence will be removed.

E. Restroom Improvements at the Sports Complex next to Pirates Bay

A new restroom facility was installed at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex near the playground area outside of the Pirates Bay Water Park. The restroom will be open to park users year round. The facility will provide a restroom for water park guest



waiting to enter Pirates Bay and will alleviate confusion and requests to enter the park to use the restroom while waiting in line to get into Pirates Bay. The new pre-fab restroom was installed in March prior to the opening of the waterpark on April 28th.

F. Park Playground Replacement

• **Lincoln Cedars Playground**

Parks staff replaced a 20 year old play unit at Lincoln Cedars Park. The new playground is a blend between typical post and deck structure and new climbing athletic pieces. Installation included replacing the wood mulch fall zone.



• **Britton Park Playground**

Parks staff replaced the playground at Britton Park.

The playground was the original park playground when the park was constructed in 2003. The new unit will similar in size and should give the neighborhood a great amenity.

G. Little League Improvements – Several renovations to the City’s Little League facilities were made this past spring in time for opening day.

- American Little League Park – the grandstands were renovated to include replacing all the bleacher boards. The asphalt area under the bleachers and the spectator area were replaced with concrete.
- The dugouts were replaced at both the American and National Parks. The new dugouts are open and will provide shade for the teams.
- Parks Crews also provided the league with paint materials and other items to enhance the look of the facilities.

H. Evergreen Park Improvements – Parks staff has been hard at work turning an old golf course into a traditional park. The land has beautiful views and nice large trees, however the old cart paths did not connect nor did it have park amenities such as benches, signage and trash cans. Several hundred feet of new eight foot wide concrete trails have been added this past year providing connecting segments for the now almost three mile multi-use trail. With the aid of professional disc golf players, staff designed and installed a new 18-hole disc golf course. The new course attracted the 2017 State Disc Golf Championship tournament in April. Staff felt that some aspects of the old golf course needed to remain intact. The driving range, chipping green and practice putting green are currently open for business. Future plans include irrigation on the greens and an 18-hole FootGolf course.



Planning and design is currently underway for extensive renovations to the Evergreen Clubhouse. The project will include removal of the cupola, expanding the main room, and renovations to the restrooms and kitchen. Renovations are expected to begin later this fall.

I. Goose Creek Trail Phases V and VI – The Phase VI trail is the final link that connects the Goose Creek Trail that begins at Bayland Park and now extends to Baker Road and Hutto and beyond. The project connected the end of the Goose Creek Trail at Busch Terrace Park near the northbound Highway 146 service road to the Hutto Parkway. The Phase V and VI trail connected across from the Animal Control facility on the southbound Highway 146 service road. The official ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the Phase V and VI was held on April 13th. Future Goose Creek Trail expansions are planned for north of Baker Road and eventually San Jacinto Mall.



Beautification Projects

A. Arbor Day - Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday, April 28th at the Town Square. Over 2,000 one-gallon size trees were given away throughout the day, including Live Oak, Red Maple, Nutal Oak, Sycamore, River Birch, Yaupon, Bald Cypress, Pecan, Eastern Redbud, Bur Oak, Water Oak, and Texas Avenue Live Oak trees. The trees were either grown from seed at the Parks and Recreation Department's tree farm or donated seedlings from the Apache Corporation. Restoration of natural trees is a key component of efforts to enhance and beautify the appearance of a community. Staff also created descriptions for each tree type to assist residents in the proper care and maintenance of their new trees.



B. City Bridge Painting - The Parks staff was tasked with improving the aesthetics of the bridges throughout town. Parks crews painted the Texas Avenue/Goose Creek Bridge as part of another project in 2015, and it made a huge difference in the appearance of the street. The Municipal Development District funded \$50,000 the past two years to paint as many bridges as possible. Parks crew have pressure washed and painted thirteen bridges this past year including Highway 146 Feeder North Side near the Animal Services Building, West Cedar Bayou Lynchburg near North Little League Park, Park Street at Goose Creek, West Main at Goose Creek and Decker Drive near the Peter Hyland School. The chain link safety barriers have also been replaced where needed. Park crews plan to continue the project until all the bridges in Baytown receive a fresh coat of paint. This project has made a tremendous improvement in the appearance of the City's streets.



C. Park Trees - The Department planted 61 thirty gallon size trees grown from the Department's tree nursery. The majority of the trees were planted at Evergreen, Jenkins and Russell Parks.



D. Goose Creek Trail Cleanup- Parks crews used a hydro-ax to clear the underbrush along Goose Creek between West Texas Avenue, Decker and Highway 146. The project has opened up a beautiful view of Goose Creek that has been hidden for years. Crews also used the machine to underbrush several areas along the newly completed Goose Creek IV and V Trails. The clearing of the underbrush led to the discovery of tons of litter and debris that had been washing up along the shoreline for the past 40-plus years. Parks crews spent weeks cleaning up the litter, leaving the Goose Creek Trail in much-improved condition.

A new two-person Trails crew is included in the 2018 budget to take charge of keeping the trail and shoreline clean and well maintained.

E. Texas Department of Transportation Tree Planting on Highway 146 – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Landscape Department completed a mass reforestation project in Baytown this year. With the assistance of the Parks staff, TxDOT landscaped the Spur 330 – Highway 146 flyover as well as other open areas along Highway 146. In total, 8,844 trees ranging from three-gallon to thirty-gallon size were planted. TxDOT also planted 3,078 oleanders along the edges of the plantings to provide color along the roadway. The landscaping contract requirements include two year maintenance for the mowing and watering of these trees. These trees when fully grown will be a major improvement to the roadway.



F. TxDOT Right of Way Maintenance – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Right of Way Mowing Program was developed to alleviate the number of complaints caused by the lack of TxDOT contractors’ mowing major highways. Started on January 2009, the program continues to be a success and staff has added broadleaf weed control to continue to improve the appearance of Spur 330, Business 146 and Highway 146.

The Department continued the City’s commitment to freeway appearance again this past year. One day each month, the Parks crew removes litter from the right-of-way along Spur 330, Highway 146 (Hartman Bridge to Cedar Bayou Bridge) and Business 146.

TxDOT reimburses the City for three of the mowing cycles and for the monthly litter removal.

Grants and Special Projects

I. San Jacinto Waste Pit Grant

The San Jacinto Waste Pit site is a 14 acre area located on the west bank of the San Jacinto River immediately north of the I-10/San Jacinto River Bridge.

In 1965, Champion Paper Mill, which was located in Pasadena, contracted with McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Corporation to dispose of Champion's industrial waste. McGinnis dug pits along the San Jacinto River and dumped toxic waste there until 1967 when the unlined pits reached capacity. The following year McGinnis's board of directors voted to abandon the site. Over the next four decades, the riverbank that separated the pits from the river gradually eroded until large sections of the pits were submerged beneath the water. The site was basically unknown to anybody else until 2005 when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department realized what was there. In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted the site Superfund status but initially did nothing to stop the flow of poisons, such as dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known to man, from the pits.

In 2010, two years after the EPA added the San Jacinto pits to its National Priorities List, the agency ordered the responsible parties to install a temporary armored cap over the site, which was intended to prevent the waste from escaping while the site was still being evaluated. In 2012 part of the cap eroded during a rainstorm.

In 2011 the Harris County Attorney's Office filed a lawsuit against International Paper (which had merged with Champion Paper years earlier), McGinnis and Waste Management (McGinnis's parent company) for violating the Texas Water Code, Health and Safety Code, Solid Waste Disposal Act, and Hazardous Substances Spill Prevention and Control Act and conspiring with one another to violate these codes and acts. McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Corp. settled before the end of the trial and agreed to pay \$29.2 million to the State and County.

Harris County and the State of Texas each received about \$10 million as a result of the lawsuit. As part of a long-term effort to assess and mitigate environmental impacts from toxic waste pits along the San Jacinto River near I-10, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Harris County used the remaining \$10 million for grant opportunities that provide new or expanded public recreation and access facilities along the river, plus fund environmental awareness and education efforts.

The City of Baytown submitted three grant applications in early April totaling over \$6 million for park improvements at the Baytown Nature Center, all three of the city's public boat ramps and Britton Park, and the acquisition and development of Evergreen Bluff Park located west of Evergreen Road. The city was notified on June 28, 2016, that two of the applications were successful.

- A. **Baytown Boat Ramps Repair and Improvements** - \$1,634,415. The project includes complete renovation of the public boat ramps at Roseland Park, Bayland Park and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center. The renovations will include parking and lighting improvements as well. The project also includes fishing pier renovations at WC Britton Park.

Resource Planning Associates were selected to plan, design, and engineer and obtain the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) permits needed to renovate all three boat ramps and fishing piers. Four separate permit applications were submitted as required by the ACE. Two of the four permits have been approved. Once all the permits are secured, the renovation project will be bid. Construction is expected to begin later this fall.

Municipal Development District-funded kayak launches will be added at Roseland Park and Bayland Park Boat Ramps during the renovation project.

Other improvements including replacing the lighting at all four sites with new LED fixtures that have improved the lighting levels and save electrical cost have already begun.

Improvements to the Bayland Park “Buddy McBride Boat Ramp” included the removal of the existing milled asphalt parking area at the Buddy McBride Boat Ramp, leveling and compacting the subgrade and replacement with six inch thick concrete. The project also included constructing two grass medians and restriping the lot.



- B. **Evergreen Bluff Land Acquisition** - \$467,000. The land acquisition of a 21+ acre future waterfront property added a significant tract of land for future generations to enjoy. The city had requested a total of \$3 million including both the acquisition and development of the property; however, the development portion of the project was not funded.

The 21.3311 acre tract fronting Evergreen Road and Tabbs Bay and Galveston Bay was acquired on December 13, 2016. The grant included a topographic survey, environmental survey and archeological study that will all be used in the future planning and development of the park.

The topographic survey and the environmental survey have been completed. The archeological survey is being completed by Moore Archeological Services. The land may have historical significance since it is very near the location of the Ashbel Smith homestead. The consultants reported several very interesting finds on the property and are busy documenting the information with the Texas Historical Commission.

II. Baytown Nature Center

Day of Caring Projects - The Friends of the Baytown Nature Center, ExxonMobil staff and Parks crews worked on several projects at the Baytown Nature Center for the United Way Day of Caring.

Improvements include:

- Built deck and boardwalk to extend seining boardwalk
- Replaced door jamb and door on Tracey's Theatre storage room
- Painted interior and exterior walls of Tracey's Theatre
- Repaired instruments in Bayer Music Garden
- Weeded Children's Nature Discovery Area Butterfly Garden
- Repaired Children's Nature Discovery Area fence
- Recoated and sealed decks and wood carvings



III. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Recreational Trails Grant – Cary Bayou Trail Phase III - Staff received a \$44,044 grant to construct 3,940 feet of new trail at Jenkins Park.

Jenkins Park was expanded in 2007 with the purchase of an additional 56 acres of land. With the additional parkland, the City of Baytown has constructed a five acre dog park and a disc golf course. The proposed Cary Bayou Trail Phase III project will add an additional 3,940 feet of trail made from decomposed granite, providing a natural surface walking/jogging trail loop around the newly acquired 56 acres. The project will also add a short connection to Crosby Cedar Bayou Road, allowing future connectivity to the planned Blue Heron Park trail at the end of Blue Heron Parkway.

The trail will be designed and constructed by City of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department employees and will include signage and benches. The decomposed granite will provide a soft, user friendly surface. The proposed construction will utilize in-house labor, which will be the City's match for the project. The trail itself will be eight feet wide, with a milled asphalt base and a decomposed granite overlay for the wearing surface matching the existing 11,513 feet of trail in the heavily used 100 acre Hollaway-Jenkins Park. When complete, there will be nearly three miles of multi-use trail for park visitors to enjoy.

The Recreational Trails Grant now must go through the Texas Department of Transportation, which has added several additional requirements and has delayed trail projects all across the state of Texas.

Part of new requirements is the need for an archeological survey. The survey has been completed and staff is waiting on clearance from the Texas Historical Commission. The City received the contract with the State in June.

Trail construction is expected to begin in January 2018.

IV. Jenkins Park – Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Grant – The City of Baytown received a \$500,000 matching grant for improvements and upgrades to Walter Jenkins Park.

Staff applied for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Grant in October 2015. Improvements planned for the park include a covered basketball court, a covered quick soccer park, a spray park, playground, picnic shelters, fitness equipment, connecting trails, two practice pony league size baseball fields and other park amenities. The City's match will come from Aquatic Bonds and in house labor.

Construction began last fall with the Public Works Department's installation of a six-inch water main into the park from the new twelve-inch water main along Crosby Cedar Bayou Road. Limited water supply has hampered the growth of Jenkins Park since the property was acquired in the early 70s. The new water line is a tremendous improvement to the water quality, availability and water pressure to the park.



Construction of the new spray park and restroom began in January. The triangular shaped 5,000+ square foot spray park has a wetlands theme complete with cattails, an alligator slide, a shore bird dumping bucket and other wetlands-related features. The spray park has five Coolbrellas with picnic tables and benches.



Jenkins Park also received a new pre-fabricated restroom, pre-engineered and constructed to local standards and codes. The restroom was delivered, set on a site near the new spray park and was in operation for opening day.

The outside of the building has an exposed truss frame as well as a rock wall façade. Inside the restroom are stainless steel fixtures with air hand dryers and fully washable restrooms. The restrooms are also equipped with a CMS system that automatically unlocks the door at 5 AM and locks the doors at close of park at 10 PM. The system also has the capability to reduce vandalism by shutting off the water during a vandal event as well as notifying the Department if someone attempts to sleep in the facility overnight.

A ribbon cutting for the new Spray Park and Restroom was held on April 12, 2017. Melanie Zertuche's name was drawn and she had the honors of being the first to turn on the new spray park.

The spray park and the restroom are the City's match for the grant. Construction will begin later this summer on a new lighted and covered basketball court, an indoor size all weather soccer field, two baseball/softball backstops, fitness equipment, connecting trails and other park amenities. The project is expected to be completed before the end of the year.



- V. **Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center Relocation Project – RESTORE Act Grant** – A goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to someday relocate the Wetlands Center to the Baytown Nature Center. The two Centers go hand in hand with programming and the move would enable staff to grow the programs without the physical limitations of two separate locations.

The July 2012 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) dedicates 80 percent of all administrative and civil penalties related to the BP Deepwater Horizon spill to a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund and outlines a structure by which the funds can be utilized to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands and economy of the Gulf Coast region. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is responsible for issuing compliance and auditing procedures for the entire Act and procedures for two grant programs administered by Treasury.

Staff worked with consultants for the layout and conceptual designs of a new Wetlands Center that would be located near the former West Little League baseball facilities at Westwood Park. The two level, 27,700 square foot building will house the Environmental Education staff, an exhibit hall, meeting rooms and a roof terrace that could be used for receptions and weddings. The Department submitted this as a RESTORE Act grant application in an amount of over \$11 million in April 2016.

Unfortunately, staff was notified in late spring that the application was not successful.

- VI. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Waiver of Retroactivity for the Gene and Loretta Russell Park** – the acquisition of the additional 17 acres adjacent to the Gene and Loretta Russell Park presented an opportunity to leverage the purchase as a possible Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Grant match. Since the purchase was prior to the application, the City was required to request a “Waiver of Retroactivity” with TPWD to use the purchase value up to \$500,000. Staff applied for and received a Letter of Retroactivity from TPWD Recreation Grants in May just prior to the purchase closing. The waiver allowed the city to purchase the property and hold it for up to two years before being required to apply for an acquisition and development grant using the value of the property as the city’s grant match. The staff at the TPWD Recreation Grants Division moved very quickly to provide the waiver.

TPWD has extended the waiver deadline to August 31, 2019.

- VII. Gene and Loretta Russell Park Master Plan** – The City Council A&E Committee selected Burditt Consultants LLC to provide a Master Plan for the future 60+ acre park. The consultants, starting in May 2017, met with major stakeholders, including friends and family of Gene and Loretta Russell, park neighbors,



and the Goose Creek CISD and set up a survey with area subdivisions that would be the primary users of the future park. The consultants are gathering as much information as possible to develop a base map for the future design of the park.

The plan will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and to City Council in August.

Proposed 2018 Projects

Several major park improvement projects are proposed for the upcoming year:

I. Municipal Development District (MDD) Funded Projects

- A. Evergreen Clubhouse Renovations
- B. Travis Park Special Needs Playground
- C. McElroy Park Restroom Replacement
- D. Champion Park (formerly East Little League Park) Trail
- E. West Baytown Medians Landscaping
- F. Goose Creek Trail Widening (along Laredo Street)
- G. Eddie Huron Park Lighting
- H. Goose Creek Stream Cleanup
- I. Baytown Sports League Improvements

II. City of Baytown Budget Capital Projects

- A. Goose Creek Trail Wayfinding, Signage and Benches
- B. Replacement Play Equipment

III. Ongoing Projects

- A. Fire Fighter Memorial Repairs
- B. Kayak Launches at Bayland Park and Roseland Park
- C. Painting of Bridges



Recreation

2016 – 2017 Program Summaries

Grito Fest - Grito Fest was a big success this year, bringing in an estimated attendance of anywhere between 5,000 and 10,000 people to Bicentennial Park on October 1st. It is believed to be the largest crowd to date for the 11-year-old event. Along with live music, there were shopping, children's activities and the Grito competitions for which the festival is named. The 2016 festival started at 4 PM with a performance by Mariachi Los Gallitos, then followed by the accordion and Grito preliminary rounds of competitions. Live music continued at 6PM with the Hometown Boys, which was followed by the jalapeno and salsa contest at 7:30. Finally, Kumbia Kings closed out the evening with their headlining performance at 8 PM. 2016 marked the 2nd straight year of sold out food vendor spaces as the event continues to grow.



Kumbia Kings – Baytown Grito Fest 2016



Senior Olympics - The Senior Olympics were held at the Baytown Community Center on October 11 – 13th. Over 100 seniors competed in multiple events including washers, darts, walking relays, golf putting and chipping challenges, and more. The Parks and Recreation staff also agreed to play the winning Senior Olympic Dart Baseball team. The Parks and Rec staff won 11 – 0. Senior president, Dave Weber, is planning to offer more events in 2017.

Town Square Halloween Fall Festival 2016 marked the first year that the Parks and Recreation Department hosted a Halloween festival at Town Square. An estimated crowd of over 900 people came out to take part of the 2 day event. On Saturday October 29th the Parks and Recreation Department hosted a crowd of an estimated 600, and on the following night, Cork Grinders hosted an estimated 300 more. Both nights featured bounce houses, live music, costume contests, and more.

Baytown Veterans Day Ceremony

- The City of Baytown hosted the Baytown Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 AM. on Friday, November 11th at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at Bicentennial Park. “This is a day to honor all vets,” said Jerry Johnson, past commander of VFW Post 912. “It does not matter if they served in peace or in wartime, they are all being remembered and honored.” 2016’s guest speakers were



District 3 Councilman Brandon Capetillo and Vice Commander of the Department of Texas VFW Inge Conley. Over 150 people attended this year’s Veterans Day ceremony.

Christmas Parade - The annual Baytown Christmas Parade themed “Miracle on Texas Ave” had 128 entries. A lot of different organizations and businesses participated as well citizens with their families. It was rewarding to see such a great interest in the Christmas Parade. The focus at the parade was Town Square with its Tree Lighting Ceremony, ice skating rink, judges’ stand and food trucks. 2016 marked the 2nd year of having multiple food trucks at Town Square for the Tree Lighting, ice skating, and Parade. Food truck D’lish Curbisde Bistro, Nom Mi Street and El Hacendado offered a variety of food at different price levels.



Art Show – The 2016 Art Show displayed 578 pieces of artwork from GCCISD students as well as 44 paintings and photography from artists. Staff continued the tradition to have Santa visit during the Art Show. Due to the increased volume of artwork, staff expanded the Art Show to the additional Meeting Room and hallway with vendor display and free cookies and punch. It is a great honor to be able to display all of the art at the Community Center and to see the proud students walk up on the stage to receive their awards.

Snow Day– The Baytown Parks and Recreation Department hosted their 2nd annual “Snow Day” at Town Square event on Saturday, January 7th. The relatively new event has quickly become one of the most popular Town Square events with an estimated crowd of over 1,000 visitors. This year we added a smaller “bunny hill” activity for smaller children, as well as two additional 8-foot slides for anyone over 42” tall. Also, due to the completion of construction of Town Square, the recreation division was able improve the flow of foot traffic, and improve the overall event.

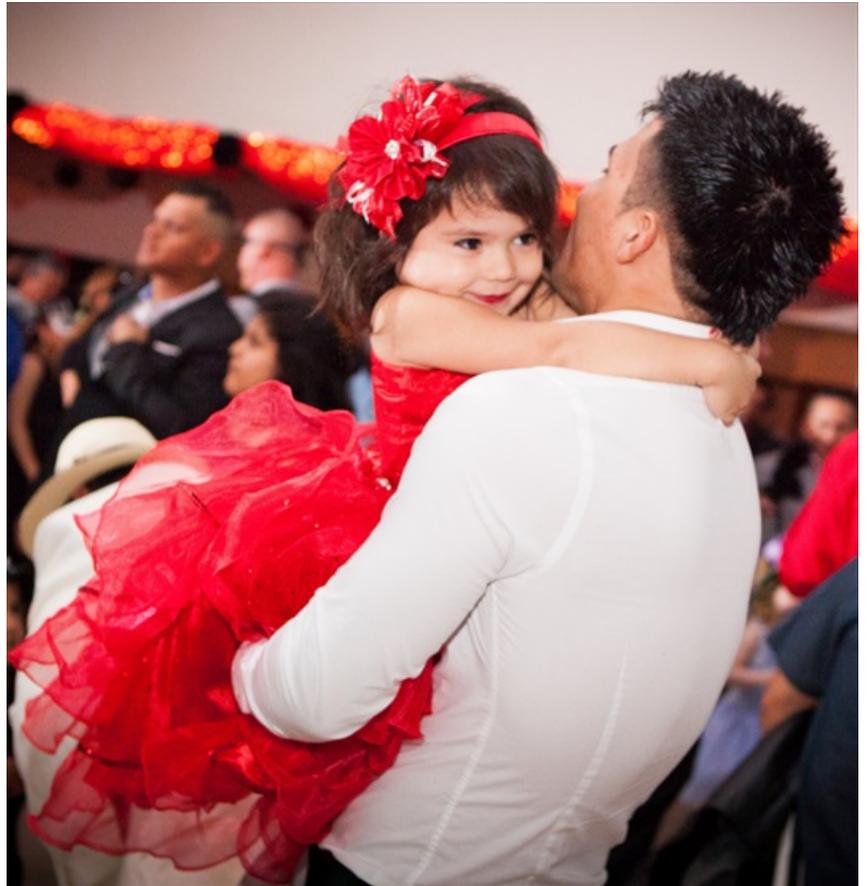
Ballroom Dances – Dances were held on the third Friday of each month. Participants enjoyed dancing the Fox Trot, Mambo, Tango, Swing, Cha Cha and more. Each month an average of forty participants attended.

Youth Sports Expo – The 2017 Youth Sports Expo was held on January 14th and January 15th. Representatives from the Baytown Little League, Girls Fast Pitch Association, Teenage Baseball Association, Baytown Saints Soccer, Optimist Youth Football, Texas Rebels Basketball, Awards & Engraving, and the Baytown Track Team were in attendance. We estimate that nearly 300 people visited the expo over the 2 day event.



Daddy and Me Dance – The Parks and Recreation department hosted the annual Daddy and me Dance on Friday, February 11th. The event was themed as a “masquerade ball” and event goers were given a mask upon arrival. This was the first year for many changes to the event. Primarily, moving the professional photo booths to the Tejas room and adding a tiki-lit exterior walkway for guests to follow around the back of the Community Center, which opened the courtyard for overflow guests. Since the event continues to grow, we will be offering two nights in 2018. Ticket sales were as follows:

Pre-purchased tickets – 1,481;
Tickets sold at the door – 531
Total tickets sold – 2,012



Dine with Your Valentine- The first Dine with Your Valentine event was held on February 11th. Thirty couples attended the progressive evening style event. Dine with Your Valentine involved couples taking a keepsake photo by the Town Square fountain, receiving a dinner special at Rooster’s, a dessert special at Como En Mexico, drink specials at Dirty Bay, and a flower gift from Black Orchid florist.

Food Truck Fest Recap –Another first time event at Town Square was The 2017 Baytown Food Truck Festival held on March 25th from 11am-4pm. At the conclusion of the event the estimated crowd of around 1000 attendees nearly bought every item from all seven food trucks. The band, “4-Barrel Ramblers”, was fantastic and was a great addition to the event. In addition to the food trucks and live music, there were also a rock wall and arts & craft activities for children. During the event several people approached staff to share how much they liked the event and would like to see more on the schedule for 2018.



Brown Bag Lunch Series - The City of Baytown hosted their first ever Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series during in the month of March 2017. Every Tuesday in March from 11:30am - 1:30pm featured live local music at Town Square, however, the first Tuesday was cancelled due to weather. The other three Tuesdays went according to plan and featured music by Phillip Moreno, Clint Glaze, and finishing with a combo of Dexter Gutierrez and Ryan Guidry to make up for the rainout. We estimate that 60 to 80 citizens attended each of the Brown Bag Lunches.



Easter Egg Hunt- The 2nd annual Town Square Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 8th. This year the Department partnered with Bayshore Fine Rides to expand the event to offer a car show that included almost 200 classic cars around the egg hunt. An estimated crowd of 1,500 to 2,000 people attended the event that also included an infant (baby bunnies) area, toddler (little hopper) area, and five rounds of egg hunting fun for children ages 4 - 12.



Texas Disc Golf Championship - The 2017 Texas State Disc Golf Championship was held from April 6th – 9th at our newest Disc Golf Course, Evergreen Fly Way. Jeremy Richards did an amazing job organizing the event. The Department worked hard to really make the course a show piece for the first time event. We received countless compliments on the crews, and how easy it was for them to work with the City Baytown Parks and Recreation Department.

The highlight of the event was a hole in one by Nathan Sexton, the video of which was featured later that night on ESPN's Top 10 Plays of the Day at number 6.



Special Olympics – The 36th annual Special Olympics were held at Lee High School on April 22nd. The event hosted around 350 athletes running almost 80 racing heats and competing in six field events and registered 206 volunteers. This event raised \$3,500 in sponsorship donations to cover all expenses, plus Whataburger supplied lunches for all coaches, athletes, and volunteers.



Shakespeare in the Park - On Friday, April 28th the Baytown Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the Lee College Performing Art Division to offer a free family friendly performance of William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”. Kim Martin from Lee College started the show by explaining that he wanted the performance to feel like an old town performance, and invited everyone to move close to the stage as they were not using any microphones. Friday’s performance had around 200 in attendance, but Saturday’s performance had to be canceled due to weather. Kim Martin thought the event was great and is already planning future performances at Town Square.



Community Yard Sales – They 2016 – 2017 event schedule featured a change to the annual Community Yard Sale event. Previously the department offered the event twice annually (May and June) with tremendous success. Due to the demand for the event the Department added a date in September, and shifted the May date to March to offer three evenly spaced events for the spring, fall, and summer. Each sale features 40 - 10' x 10', 8 - 25 x 25', and two food vendors. Staff raffled off various door prizes that included a free spot at the next yard sale, Whataburger swag bag and a family pass to the Baytown Nature Center.



Memorial Day Ceremony - The 2017 Memorial Day Ceremony began with the welcoming remarks from Baytown Councilman Robert Hoskins followed by the presentation of colors by the Baytown Veterans Honor Guard. The guest speaker was Khambrel Marshall, from KPRC-TV.

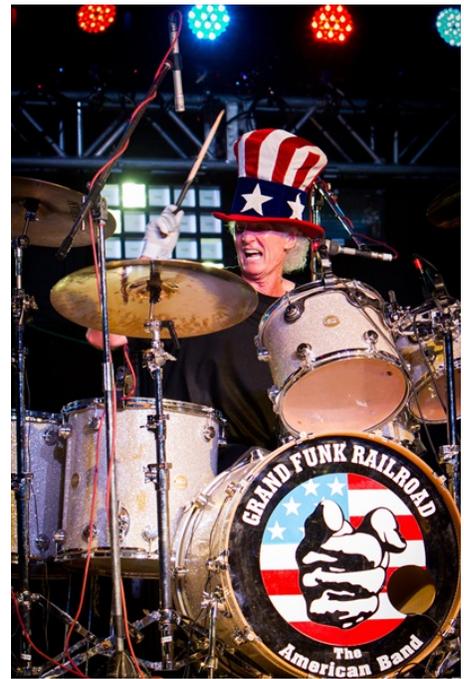
Memorial Wreaths were provided from the following: *American Legion Post 323, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 126, Daughters of the American Revolution, Pilot Club of Baytown, Evening Pilot Club of Baytown, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Rotary Club, POW/MIA wreath, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 922, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 912, Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Unit 912.*

Wet & Wild Wednesdays- The Parks & Recreation Department was excited to host the 2nd Annual Wet & Wild events at Town Square. Wet & Wild Wednesdays were a series of water-based activities for children of all ages held throughout the 2017 summer. The free events included multiple waterslides supplied by local Martibirds Inflatables, snacks and water provided by Kroger and Altus Emergency and snow cones by Snowies of Baytown for children to enjoy. We estimate that nearly 1,500 people attended the three events combined.



Independence Day Celebration – The Baytown Parks and Recreation Department kicked off its two-day annual Independence Day festivities on Monday, July 3rd at 6 PM with the Mambo Jazz Kings, followed by headliner Grand Funk Railroad. The July 3rd classic rock night continues to grow as several thousand attended the evening show.

July 4th started early with hundreds of runners participating in the final Baytown Bud Heat Wave 5 Mile Run that started at Bicentennial Park and ended at Wismer Distributing on South Main. Vendor booths opened at 4 PM followed by Picture Book who kicked off the live entertainment at 4:30 PM. The Annual 4th of July Parade with former Mayor Pete Alfaro serving as this year's Parade Marshall was followed again by live music from Al White and the Chaparral Band. Lastly, headliner Josh Turner excited an estimated crowd of over 20,000 with his live performance starting at 8PM. The 20 minute fireworks extravaganza finished off the two-day celebration with a bang.



Farmers Market - The Baytown Parks and Recreation Department hosted the first ever Farmers Market on Texas Avenue in front of Town Square on Saturday September 17, 2016, and hosted the market each 3rd Saturday from September to May. With the addition of the market, the Recreation Division worked closely with the Baytown Health Department to set up multiple rules and guidelines to insure that all products and goods were truly locally made or grown. All items sold at the Baytown Farmers Market must be grown or made within a 120 mile radius of Town Square, and adhere to all state and local health codes. Recreation staff members also toured multiple other Farmers Markets around the greater Houston area, to better understand what worked and what didn't. The first year of the Farmers Market was a success. Each market grew when new vendors selling a wide variety of good and products such as soap, honey, micro greens, mustard greens, turnip, kale, pickles, basil, onions, cactus, tangerines, lemons and baked goods such as scones, biscotti, bundt cake, toffee, and cobblers. In addition to the products, each market featured local bands or musical acts and free Parks and Rec grab bags featuring sunglasses, water bottles, Town Square event schedules, and more. The Recreation Division will again work with the Health Department to try to add multiple new vendors for the next year.



Leisure Programs – Baytown Parks and Recreation leisure programs utilize rooms at the Community Center as well as the park facilities throughout Baytown. Recreation staff works to offer as many new and exciting programs around the Community Center's rental schedule. Currently, we offer Line Dancing, Fitness Classes, Two Step Dance, Youth and Adult Karate, Zumba, Pound, and much more.

Staff is continuously growing, expanding and adding programs and activities throughout the year by listening to the needs and interests of the public. We are very fortunate to work with qualified instructors in our community that share the same values and goals of our department and who are willing to offer their time and effort. Programs offered or expanded this year were as follows:

Children/Youth:

- Karate
- Sumer Art Camp
- Art Class
- Kindermusik with Ms. Erynn
- Music Class for Pre-K to 1st grade
- Recorder and Ukelele Instrument Class for 2nd-5th
- Summer Programs at the Community Center:
 - a. Lego Mania
 - b. Lego Designer
 - c. Lego Logo
 - d. Lego Expert
 - e. Camp Barbie
 - f. Fashion Designer
 - g. Art Camp

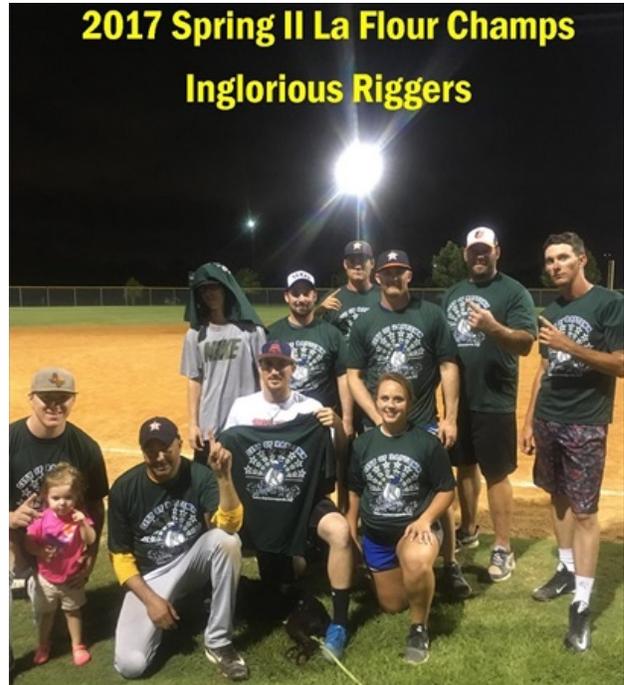


Adults:

- Walk Exercise Group
- Ballroom Dance
- Two Step Dance Class
- Karate
- Self-Defense Class
- Pound Fitness Class
- Monthly Baytown Photo Club Meeting
- Baytown Photo Club Exhibition
- Free Fitness Classes at Town Square
- Fitness Classes for City Employees
 - a. Yoga
 - b. Core & More – DVD Work out
 - c. Work In Progress – DVD Work out



Athletics Programs – The City of Baytown’s goal is to continually offer the community as many new and exciting recreational and competitive sporting activities as possible. Within the past year, we have grown and expanded many of our existing sports and plan to introduce many new sports in the near future. Games are offered throughout the year with our Fall, Spring, Spring II, Summer and Winter leagues as well as many various year round softball tournaments. Currently, the City of Baytown offers leagues Monday through Thursday with 70 teams, or 1,400 players and spectators, visiting our sports complexes each week. Our existing adult programs include men’s 7 vs. 7 soccer, Coed kickball, and Men’s/Coed slow pitch softball. All leagues are sanctioned by the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) and the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) and play an eight to ten game schedule followed by a single elimination tournament at the end of each season. To date, 312 teams have registered and participated in our sport leagues this year.



Along with our current leagues, staff also works with ExxonMobil, The Senior Softball Association and various other tournament organizations such as 24/7 Softball, Global Sports Authority (GSA), Amateur Softball Association (ASA), National Softball Association (NSA) and Circuit Tournament Softball to assist in hosting league or tournament games at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex. Throughout 2016 - 2017 the Wayne Gray Sports Complex has hosted nearly 55 tournaments with a total attendance of approximately 12,000 athletes and spectators visiting the Sports Complex on the weekends annually. The City of Baytown athletics staff also hosted four softball toy drive tournaments during December collecting 300 toys which were donated to local Baytown charities.



The **2017 Baytown Summer Track Program** began on April 17th and ended at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) Summer Games at McAllen, Texas on July 31st. This year the program was led by 5th year Head Coach Leon Smith, returning Assistant Coaches Teclesha Blanchard, Kerwin Lewis, Daniel Stagg, and Daneille Smith, as well as new assistant coaches Chirell Frank and Josey Rogers. The Summer Track program registered 169 athletes, a nearly 53% increase from 2016, and over a 100% increase from 2015. The program involved practicing four days a week at Lee High School Track, as well as weekly circuit meets at various surrounding communities including Galena Park, La Porte, Deer Park, Texas City, Conroe and Pasadena. All the participants, ages 6 – 18, ran at the TAAF regional meet on July 13th and 14th in Galena Park, Texas.

2017 TAAF Summer Games were held July 27th – July 30th in McAllen, Texas. The Olympic-style competition for amateur athletes includes events in a number of sports including track, swimming, softball, bowling, tennis, gymnastics, boxing, golf, flag football, volleyball, baseball and soccer.

The Baytown Track Team was able to send 28 state qualifiers to the TAAF Summer Games to participate in 49 events. Of those 28 qualifying athletes, 21 made it to the finals in 11 events. The boys 14U 4x100 Relay team took third place overall and took home the bronze medals.



Senior Recreation Center - The seniors continue to enjoy the weekly programs each month, including Bridge, Quilting, Bingo, Dominoes and Cards. The monthly dances with live bands are always popular. Each quarter, the seniors host a luncheon, where they plan new and exciting activities for the months ahead. President David Weber continues to offer monthly casino trips that are always fully attended. The Baytown Community Center will be a host site for the regional 2017 Senior Olympic Games in October.

Remaining Programs for 2017

- Community Garage Sale – Saturday, September 9th at Town Square
- Grito Fest – Saturday, October 7th
- Senior Olympic Games, October 16th – 20th
- Veterans Day Ceremony – Saturday, November 11th
- Baytown Art Exhibition & Reception – Friday, December 1st
- Baytown Christmas Parade – Thursday, December 7th

Aquatics

The Aquatics Division enjoyed another great year as the Pirates Bay Water Park and Calypso Cove welcomed 187,746 guests to the two facilities during the 2016 season. Both parks continue to be at or near capacity every day. On June 12, 2017, Pirates Bay welcomed Dennis Villatoro to the waterpark as guest number one million, less than 8 years since opening the park in June 2010.

Staff worked on several off season projects to “keep the park new” including repainting the Pirate Head Play Structure at Pirates Bay, refinishing the slides and replacement of the Boomerango and adding the Aqua Loop and Aqua Drop which has increased capacity by 200.

The City’s Aquatic programs and facilities are quickly becoming one of the best in the State of Texas. Pirates Bay was ranked 14th Best Waterpark in the State of Texas and 3rd among municipally operated facilities by the “Only in Your State” web site.

The Aquatics Division is set up as a self-supporting enterprise fund with revenue paying for all



operational expenses including personnel, utilities and routine maintenance for both Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove. The operating costs for the two facilities have no impact on the City's operations budget. In addition, one dollar from every admission ticket sold at both parks is set aside for future capital maintenance costs. Following the 2016 season, \$1,121,120 has been set aside in the Capital Replacement account since the park opened in 2010. The maintenance account has been very helpful the past couple of years as the park begins to need additional care between seasons to continue to have a "fresh" look and to replace expensive pumps and equipment as needed.

The Aquatics Division includes four full time employees and 350 seasonal employees that staff the two waterparks. Beginning in January, the aquatics staff hired and trained over 350 local employees in various positions from lifeguards, concession operators, ticket takers and custodial duties. This year, approximately 47% of lifeguards and 33% of guest services staff returned from the 2016 season providing continuity on the staff. Five employees returned for their seventh year at the park and one for their eighth. The lifeguards are all certified through the Red Cross in Waterpark Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR, Oxygen Administration and AED usage. Staff is trained on the large slides and rides including the FlowRider. The aquatics staff is cross-trained to work at both Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove.

During the 2016 summer season, the Aquatics Division expended \$1,146,641 in personnel costs to 350 high school and college students that worked at Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove. The City's aquatics facilities continue to be an excellent opportunity for summer employment for our youth.

Staff continued to come up with new and innovative ways to advertise the water park. The Parks and Recreation Department ran a commercial across the greater Houston area on Comcast Cable. The City also utilized Houston and Beaumont area radio stations, scoreboard advertisements, website ads, advertising at the new Showbiz Cinema Theater, along with traditional print ads in local and Houston area newspapers and magazines, as well as state-wide publications. The Department also utilizes Facebook and Twitter (@pbwaterpark) along with the City of Baytown's websites: www.baytown.org/piratesbay and www.baytown.org/calypsocove.

Pirates Bay Water Park – The Pirates Bay Water Park continued its popularity from the first seven seasons drawing visitors from all over southeast Texas and beyond. The expansion completed in 2014 added much needed capacity that reduced the long entrance lines; however, the popular waterpark is at or near capacity from Thursdays through the weekend.



Staff continued several successful programs including swimming lessons, FlowRider lessons, Dive-in Movies, the annual Flowrider Competition and the Itty Bitty Beach Party. The Itty Bitty Beach Party is open to little pirates up to age 5 and their parents once a week from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.



Special Pirates Night - In a partnership with Goose Creek CISD Special Education and Baytown Parks and Recreation, Pirates Bay has continued to host a monthly special needs night. On these nights, the park is open from 7:30 - 10 PM exclusively for special needs children and their families. For the award winning events, the park has 25 additional guards that are in the water serving as park ambassadors who interact with the kids and their families. The event has received great reviews from parents. Due to weather, we were only able to host one event that drew 1,115 guests in 2016.

The 5th Annual Pirates Bay Flowrider Competition was held at Pirates Bay Water Park on Saturday, September 17th. The extremely exciting event attracted 34 local and regional contestants. The event had several divisions including Youth (12 and under) and Adult and Masters Divisions. In order to try to attract more spectators, the park also opened up the wave pool and charged \$10 for admission.

Calypso Cove – Calypso Cove is a smaller Caribbean-themed water park and is located at N.C. Foote Park on West Main. Attendance for the 2016 summer season was exceeding expectations until we had a stretch of bad weather in August with 19,434 visitors for the season. The pool has a capacity of 125 people and averaged 223 visitors per day in 2016.

Pirates Bay Expansion Phase II – Before the close of the 2016 swim season on Labor Day, the new slide tower and thrill rides, the Aqua Loop and Aqua Drop were ordered and fabricated by Whitewater West. Since the project was very straightforward with a limited number of construction contractors, the Parks and Recreation Department acted as the general contractor, contracting directly with Whitewater West, Baytown Electric and Progressive Commercial Aquatics. The consulting team of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. and Counsilman-Hunsaker Associates planned and engineered on the second phase of the “Expansion Master Plan” assisted all along the way.

The project provided a new “thrill” ride experience to the popular water park. The project includes a 57 foot tall slide tower that is designed for three different thrill rides including an Aqua Loop and an Aqua Drop slide. The project also includes space for the future addition of a Flat Line Loop slide. The two slides will include the Aqua Launch Capsules for added thrill value.



In addition to the slide tower project, three additional shade canopies with 12 picnic tables were added. The expansion increased capacity by 200 additional guests to the park.

The new Aqua Loop and Aqua Drop officially opened on April 28th just in time for the opening of the 2017 season.

In addition to the slide project, a new restroom was installed outside the entry gates that serve the long lines waiting to enter Pirates Bay and to service the Sports Complex. The new pre-fab restroom was installed in March prior to the opening of the waterpark on April 28th.

Spray Parks and Splash Decks - The popular facilities are open from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday through Saturday and from 12:00 noon until 8:00 PM on Sundays. The facilities will be open daily until November 5th. All six spray parks will reopen for the 2018 season on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 10:00 AM.

McElroy Park Spray Park – The McElroy Park Spray Park opened for its sixth season on March 11th. The large 4,511 square foot spray park features three large picnic shelters, sixteen picnic tables, large family size grills, connecting trails and a 20 space parking lot.

Pelly Park Splash Deck – The Pelly Park Splash Deck opened for its sixth season on March 11th. The very popular splash deck served the Pelly area neighborhoods during the long hot summer.

Bergeron Park Splash Deck – The Bergeron Park Splash Deck opened for its seventh season on March 11th. The very popular splash deck served the West Baytown neighborhood during last summer’s extremely hot weather cooling off kids of all ages.

Roseland Spray Park – This city’s first spray park opened for its 15th season this spring.

Central Heights Park Splash Deck – The Central Heights Park Splash Deck opened for its fourth full season on March 11th. The project was funded by the Community Development Block Grant. The project funding was secured thanks to the hard work of the neighborhood and has been a nice addition to the popular neighborhood park.

Jenkins Park Spray Park – The brand new Jenkins Park Spray Park opened April 12, 2017. The very popular wetlands-themed spray park features several fun spray features including an alligator slide, cattail shaped spray features, a dumping bucket, water wickets and slithering snake. The area also features five shade canopies, picnic tables and nearby playground and restrooms.



Environmental Programs

Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center

A. The Wetlands Center conducted the “ExxonMobil Wetlands Ecology Program” (18th year) and “Covestro i³ Program” (17th year) for 1,700 Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) 5th grade students. Students participated in educational activities at both the Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) - aligned activities center around wetland ecosystem awareness, marine debris and biodegradation timelines, estuary modeling, animal adaptations, scientific methods and use of microscopes, life cycles and metamorphosis, and live animal biology. Barbers Hill ISD sends their 5th graders to the Wetlands Center for the Wetlands Ecology Program as well.



B. The “The Rotary Club of Baytown Liquid Science Program” for GCCISD 7th graders was conducted for the 9th year. Approximately 1,760 GCCISD 7th graders participated in the program, which focus on water sampling and analysis, watersheds and pollutant awareness, abiotic and biotic parameters affecting an ecosystem, and the aquatic ecosystem requirements and biology of blue crabs. This year we added a stream table exercise modeling the effects of erosion and deposition, as well as adding a dichotomous key activity to identify marine organisms. The Rotary Club of Baytown continues to sponsor the program.

C. The Wetlands Center partnered with the Advanced Soil Science class from GCCISD’s Stuart Career Center for students from Lee, Sterling and Goose Creek Memorial (GCM) High Schools. Students met weekly at the Wetlands Center to learn about soils, plants, agriculture, biology, science careers, wetlands, and wildlife.



- D. The Chevron Phillips-sponsored *Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camps* grew even bigger this year as both the Wetlands Center and the Baytown Nature Center hosted camps. This year the Wetlands Center hosted a record 11 camps, including “Artful Antics”, “Naturally Selected”, “Wonderful Wetlands” and “Under the Sea” camps for 1st - 3rd graders, “Hook, Line, and Sinkers”, “Creepy Critters”, “Forest Adventures”, and “Water World” for 4th - 6th graders, and “MOVE” and “Extreme Outdoors” for 7th - 10th graders. We continued our tradition started last year with an overnight tent camping experience for the older kids. An “Advanced Angler” camp was also added for kids who had completed basic Angler Education. The Baytown Nature Center increased its offerings and hosted three half-day evening camps, “The Amazing Race” for 6th - 10th graders, and “Time Travelers” and “Wilderness Survival” for 4th - 6th graders. The Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center awarded \$7,200 in low income and academic scholarships, and the Friends of the Baytown Nature Center awarded academic scholarships to campers attending the BNC camps. Private donors sponsored eight campers from La Porte’s Boys and Girls Harbor to attend Wetlands Center camps.



- E. Wetlands Center staff conducted the 8th Annual Spring Break Camp for 4th - 6th grade students. Ten students had a great time with “Mad Science” camp, learning about carnivorous plants, mummies, and other unusual science offerings as they visited the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Houston Health Museum, Big Thicket National Forest, Kemah Boardwalk, and Texas City Dike.

- F. Wetlands Center staff conducted the 7th Annual “Winter Holiday Camp”. The three-day camp hosted 12 campers who had a Charlie Brown Christmas, spending the day at BNC, cutting down their own tree, and decorating it with homemade ornaments. They ended their camp in 9 degree temps at Moody Garden’s Iceland Exhibit.



- G. Wetlands Center staff hosted educational field trips for pre-schools, churches, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, homeschoolers, public and private schools within and outside of GCCISD (elementary through high school), Lee College

and other area colleges, daycares and senior citizen groups. School districts attending Wetlands Center include Barbers Hill ISD, Crosby ISD, Liberty ISD, and Houston ISD.

H. The Wetlands Center’s after-school teen club, EPIC (Environmental Protectors Initiating Change), continues to grow as high school students from each of Baytown’s high schools meet bi-weekly to discuss contemporary environmental issues and ways to be involved in the community. Each month the club participates in a local event (i.e. shoreline cleanup, trash pickup, marsh planting, etc.) as they strive to make a difference in their environment. They also designed and built a float for Baytown’s “Miracle on Texas Avenue” Christmas Parade to promote recycling awareness in Baytown. This year their “Everything Has a Re-Purpose” float won Best Overall Use of the Theme.

I. EPIC embarked on a fund-raising campaign for an international conservation trip to the Texas A&M University Soltis Research Center in Costa Rica, which is planned for late summer 2017. Fund-raising efforts include the first annual Spooktacular event which hosted 118 people at the Wetlands Center. Visitors enjoyed fall crafts, a Glow in the Dark Dance Party, fortune telling, creepy critters, and slime creation in the science lab. EPIC kids also offered winter holiday and Valentine’s Day babysitting to raise funds for their trip.



J. The Wetlands Center was once again named a beneficiary of TPC Group's Annual Golf Tournament. These funds allow the "Wetlands Wagon Outreach Program" to travel across Texas promoting nature education and the City of Baytown to schools, festivals, and other group events. This year TPC Group invited the "Wetlands Wagon" to their golf tournament, where it was visited by many golfers on the first tee box of the Forest Course. Thank you to the TPC Group for this donation.



K. The Wetlands Center continues to host monthly meetings for community groups. Houston Galveston Area Council, Hill of Rest Cemetery Board, Rotary Club of Baytown, Goose Creek Country Club Garden Club, and Beta Sigma Phi have all gathered at the Wetlands Center. Baytown Bert, aka Bert Marshall, hosts "Cache In, Trash Out" Geocaching workshops and a geocaching "Block Party" at both the Wetlands Center and the Baytown Nature Center.

L. Wetlands Center received a \$190,000 donation from Covestro to design and build a sustainable energy mobile education trailer for statewide outreach. Activate, a design company in Cincinnati, OH, won the bid and designed and built the mobile exhibit, which was debuted in July to special guests from the city and Covestro (including Covestro's Global CEO, who travelled from Germany for the unveiling). The "Cleaner Energy, Brighter World" sustainable energy mobile exhibit will be used across the state to promote sustainable and renewable energy.



- M. The Wetlands Center continues to host Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Hunter Education workshops. Jose Flores, with TPWD, teaches the workshops in both English and Spanish.
- N. Wetlands superintendent partnered with Lee College instructors for a 2nd year hosting Lee College biology and education students at the Soltis Center, Texas A&M University's Research Center in San Ysidro, Costa Rica. Superintendent served as staff hydrologist, and taught hydrologic cycle, properties of water, the science of geodes and macroinvertebrate organisms of tropical aquatic systems ("bug picking") to Lee College and local students.



- O. Wetlands Center and BNC staff presented a session called "Environmental Education on a Budget" at the East Region Texas Recreation and Parks Society's Workshop in Baytown. Staff also served as room host for three Environmental Education sessions.
- P. Wetlands Center and BNC staff hosted Texas A&M University's GeoX Summer Workshop for 40 students from around the country (and Puerto Rico). Students and university staff enjoyed our science lab, met our animals, learned to throw a cast net and pull a seine net, and identified wetlands coastal species in this day-long adventure.
- Q. Wetlands Center staff and volunteers participated in many outreach events, including:
- Altus Emergency Center Family Back to School Day
 - NatureFest at Jesse Jones Park in Humble
 - Galveston Bay Foundation's Bay Day at the Kemah Boardwalk
 - Sam Houston Council's Scout Fair
 - Texas Forest Service's Woodland and Wildlife Festival
 - University of Scouting Conference

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Take Me Outdoors Houston Festival at Discovery Green Park
- Fort Worth Mayfest (with TPWD)
- State Fair of Texas
- Rotary Club of Baytown's Catfish Festival at Royal Purple Raceway
- Boy Scout Learning for Life Event
- Houston Zoo Educator Day
- MyON Summer Reading Program Celebration
- Sheldon Lake Halloween In The Park
- Lee College Welcome Week
- Harris County Earth Day at Deussen Park in Humble
- Harris County WaterWeek in Humble
- Baytown Special Rodeo
- Crosby ISD Kindergarten AgVenture Days
- Holy Rosary Catholic School Nature Day in Rosenberg
- Area 5 Mini-CAST Educator's Conference
- Chick Fil A Toddler Time in Baytown
- Mont Belvieu Spring Outdoor Celebration
- Kid's Day at Texas Avenue
- Baytown's Fall Festival at Town Square
- Crocodile Encounter's Croctoberfest
- Houston ISD FFA Stock Show and Expo
- REI Baybrook Outdoor Expo
- Fiesta de los Ninos in San Antonio (with TPWD)
- Artist Boat's World Ocean's Day Festival in Galveston
- Sam Houston Area Council Twilight Camp
- Spring Creek Nature Center
- Harris County Precinct 2 multiple locations



Outreach activities also included onsite student classes at local libraries, churches, Texas Master Naturalist class, and many visits to GCCISD schools and preschools in Baytown. GCCISD and other local schools also hosted the Wetlands Wagon exhibits at numerous fall and spring festivals, career days, and family science nights.

- R. The Center participated in the City of Baytown's 4th of July Celebration. The huge crowd enjoyed the coastal touch tank, microscope lab, marine debris display, and especially the live animals.

- S. Gator Tales, the preschool program at the Wetlands Center, continues to meet in the summer and winter. Kids have story time, then meet live animals and participate in an activity or do a craft. Weekly sessions included hands-on nature activities to introduce reptiles, insects, spiders, fish, and many other nature-based topics.



Parents/grandparents attend with their children. Gator Tales serves as a good complementary program to Tyke Hike, which is held at the Baytown Nature Center during the spring and fall.

- T. Birthday parties continue to be a popular Saturday event at the Wetlands Center. Promotional flyers advertise “Wildest Birthday Party in Town,” which includes two hours of room use, tours of the Wetlands Center exhibits, an activity based on the party theme, and a chance to touch and handle the Wetlands Center’s live animals.

- U. The Friends of the Wetlands Center hosted their annual fund-raising gala, “An Evening Under the Bridge”, at Bridgewater Events. Approximately 275 people attended and the event raised close to \$24,000. These proceeds help fund extra staff hours and summer science camp scholarships at the Wetlands Center.

- V. The “Land of Milk and Honey” beehive continues to thrive, with volunteer Clarence Shepherd, a local beekeeper, helping to maintain the hive’s health. Additional hives at the Baytown Nature Center supply honey which is bottled as thank-you gifts for volunteers and guests.



- W. The Friends of the Wetlands Center and Lee College continued their partnership to provide educational interns for the Liquid Science Program. Selected students teach and/or assist with education stations during the Liquid Science Program and receive a \$500 scholarship funded by the ExxonMobil Lee College fund for their next semester.

X. Four issues of the Wetlands Center’s newsletter, “Marsh Matters,” were written and published. Most subscribers are now receiving the newsletter by email. Current issues are also linked to the www.baytown.org website for public enjoyment. Both the Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center are on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest and receiving positive comments from the general public.

Y. Superintendent taught “Wildlife 101” “Fish Biology”, “Water, Water, Everywhere” and “Nature’s Art” at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s “Becoming an Outdoor Woman” Conferences at Camp For All in Burton, Texas and Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas. These workshops are a great outreach opportunity for Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center.



Z. Superintendent taught “Reptiles and Amphibians” Advanced Training workshop for Texas Master Naturalists. Wetlands Center also hosted a half-day reptile workshop for Master Naturalist spring class.

AA. BNC Naturalist and Wetlands staff hosted scout workshops for Webelos, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cadets and Girl Scouts at the Wetlands Center.

BB. Scouts completing their Eagle Scout badge requirements at the Wetlands Center and BNC included Hayden Bernard, who built and installed shelving in the Wetlands Center Outreach trailer, and Tre Cardenas, who painted the Wetlands Center’s exhibit hall floor.

CC. Jingle the Elf returned to the Wetlands Center after her absence last year to have Belle, her little elf. Every day in December a new adventure with Jingle, Belle and/or Sprinkles the Reindeer was posted on the Wetlands Center and BNC FB page as a way to promote the facilities. Jingle also hosted a “Pictures with Jingle” session to raise funds for Wetlands Center animal food.



Baytown Nature Center

A. The Naturalist and BNC staff continue to host educational field trips for scout groups, bird watching clubs, seniors groups, church groups, universities (College of the Mainland, Lee College, Lamar University, Texas A&M University at Galveston), public and private schools (both Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) and other districts), and tourists to promote the natural resources and cultural history of the center. BNC staff also spoke in the community, with talks at ExxonMobil, Lee College, Kiwanis, Katy Canoe and Kayak Club, Rotary and other local groups.



B. “Tyke Hike,” Baytown Nature Center’s (BNC) preschool program and part of ExxonMobil’s “Discovering Nature’s Secrets” program, continued during the spring and fall. Weekly sessions include hands-on nature activities introducing reptiles, insects, spiders, fish, and many other nature-based topics. Parents/grandparents attend with their children.

C. “Nurture Nature Series” continues at BNC on the first Saturday of each month. Topics this year included Paddleboarding, Kayaking, Family Camping, Reptiles, Wilderness Survival, Biking, Backpacking, Winterizing for Wildlife, Birding, Geocaching, and Angler Education. Guest speakers and Baytown Nature Center/Wetlands Center staff present the topics.

D. Hosted the first Annual Gulf Coast Monarch Project’s Seedling Wingding Festival, focusing on pollinators and butterfly plants. Attendance was around 350 people, a respectable number for a first year festival. Mayor DonCarlos signed the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge, committing to completion of 8 items during the next year to increase pollinator habitat in Baytown. The festival won the Texas Recreation and Parks Society’s East Region “Lone Star Programming” Award, which was awarded during the East Region Workshop held in Baytown.



- E. The Full Moon Hike program continues as a successful monthly event. An average of 25 people are attending and walking the trails to see what BNC has to offer after dark. So far, coyotes, raccoons, bats, snakes, fireflies, and opossums are the most common nocturnal creatures spotted. Screech owls trilling in the night are also crowd favorites!
- F. Hosted the annual North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Count, with results posted on their national website. Also hosted the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. National exposure on these events promotes BNC as an ecotourism site.
- G. The BNC presented the 6th year of “Back to the Bay” high school biology program. This program complements the Wetlands Ecology Program and the Liquid Science Program from the Wetlands Center. Select 9th and 10th grade biology students from GCCISD travel to the BNC to participate in water analysis, seining and cast netting for species identification, introduction to invasive and exotic species, and a historical perspective on human impact on the local environment. This year we added a nature scavenger hunt to the curriculum. The program is funded by ExxonMobil through the school district. Several other area schools have also participated with the Back to the Bay Program.
- H. Scout interest in workshops and camping at BNC remains strong. The BNC Naturalist host workshops for Webelos, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Royal Rangers, and Daisy Groups. Several troops have camped overnight at BNC.
- I. The 6th Annual Nurture Nature Festival hosted 53 exhibitors, up from 32 exhibitors last year, and 5,200 visitors, an increase of 1,000 visitors from last year. The offsite parking at Wooster Baptist Church and Harris County shuttle buses helped the traffic situation. Stage presentations by Crocodile Encounter, EarthQuest Birds of Prey, and Texas Snakes and More entertained the guests. Food vendors kept the visitors well fed, and the nature/environmental exhibitors enjoyed teaching the visitors how to appreciate the outdoors. TPWD was on hand with an even larger presence than years past, with their Angler Education, Archery, Backyard Bass, Inland Fisheries, and Water Education exhibits.
- J. BNC hosted several community service groups, including ExxonMobil and Covestro college co-op interns. ExxonMobil volunteers cleaned shoreline, cleared brush and trees from trails, spread granite on trails, weeded the butterfly garden and other beds, and completed minor construction and repairs. Covestro interns designed and constructed a gravity-fed irrigation system for the Children’s Nature Discovery Area Butterfly Garden, and a wind-powered aeration system for the Golden Bloom Freshwater Pond.
- K. Monthly bird counts continue on the third Thursday of every month at BNC. These are led by volunteer and wildlife photographer, David Hanson. Results

from the bird counts are published on TexBirds website and Houston Audubon's website, with pictures taken by the Hansons. This is great exposure for BNC in the local birding community. Sightings of rare birds (i.e. brown boobies) guarantee an increase in attendance at BNC.



L. The Raven Chapter of the "Order of the Arrow" district again chose the Baytown Nature Center as the site of their "Tap Out Ceremony" and "Ordeal". The 35 Arrow candidates spent a Friday night at BNC, then worked in silence all day on Saturday cleaning trails and shorelines. Projects included building 3 footbridges, spreading granite on trails at the Butterfly Garden, and shoreline cleanup on the Goose Creek Trail.

M. The Ani-Lati Chapter of the "Order of the Arrow" returned to the Baytown Nature Center for their annual "Ordeal". 60 Candidates bagged oyster shells for a reef creation project, built a cover over the seining bridge dock, cleaned and weeded the Butterfly Garden, removed old flagstone and pump from the small water feature in the Butterfly Garden, spread mulch and gravel in the Butterfly Garden, cleaned out sensory boxes and rebuilt a rotten one, and cleared trails.

N. Staff from ExxonMobil's BTEC facility chose the Baytown Nature Center as their project site during United Way's Day of Caring. With the help of Parks crews, volunteers worked on siding, decking and door at Tracey's Theater, built a deck and boardwalk extending the scenic boardwalk, repaired instruments in the Bayer Music Garden, weeded butterfly garden and repaired fence in the Children's Nature Discovery Area, and recoated and sealed wood carvings. Several of the Friends of BNC also helped out.



- O. BNC served as a Trash Bash site for the first time in 8 years. Chevron Phillips served as site sponsor, and Sterling High School Go Green Club cooked for the 72 volunteers who showed up on a stormy day to clean both BNC shoreline and Goose Creek Trail.



- P. BNC continues to attract Eagle Scout candidates. Riley Adcox revamped the Butterfly Garden, weeding, replanting appropriate pollinator plants, mulching beds and spreading granite.
- Q. BNC hosted Cub Scout Fish-A-Ree for approximately 100 scouts. Staff taught casting safety, fish i.d., habitat and tackle basics, and TPWD regulations.
- R. Galveston Bay Foundation and Crouch Environmental partnered to plan and oversee restoration of 150 feet of oyster reef. Ordeal candidates bagged oyster shell, GCCISD Advanced Soil Science students bagged oysters and started reef installation, and EPIC kids completed the reef installation and planted smooth cordgrass.



**Five Year Comparison of Annual Attendance and Revenue
April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2017**

	April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013	April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014	April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015	April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016	April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017
Day Permits Sold	22,055	24,556	26,599	43,219	27,636
Revenue	\$66,165	\$73,668	\$79,797	\$100,969	\$94,752
Annual Individual Passes Sold	302	312	305	355	142
Revenue	\$6,040	\$6,240	\$6,100	\$6,010	\$4,260
Annual Family Passes Sold	152	151	153	223	167
Revenue	\$7,600	\$7,550	\$7,650	\$9,615	\$10,855
Total Annual Revenue	\$79,805	\$87,458	\$93,547	\$116,594	\$109,867

Recommendations

1. Continue to incorporate the recommendations of the *Playbook 2020, The Strategic Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Baytown, Texas*.
2. Continue to demonstrate sensitivity to the community's needs through the involvement of citizens in the planning and development of facilities, programs and policies.
3. Work to incorporate the recommendations of the *Imagine Baytown – Community Based Strategic Plan*.
4. Begin implementation of the *Gene and Loretta Russell Park Master Plan*.
5. Continue support for “Quality of Life” initiatives, community appearance and economic development projects.
6. Continue to acquire CDBG funds for the development/renovation of target area parks.
7. Continue to provide adequate annual funding for quality maintenance and operation of the Department.
8. Enhance the promotional and marketing efforts for all special events and programs, as well as Town Square, Pirates Bay, Calypso Cove and the Baytown Nature Center.
9. Expand athletic program offerings and “partner” with area facilities to broaden our participation base.
10. Continue to submit tournament bids for future, TAAF and USSSA softball and flag football tournaments on the regional, state and national level.
11. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Aquatic Facilities Master Plan, as well as the Pirates Bay Expansion Master Plan.
12. Work to secure future parkland that will correspond to the future growth of the City especially east of Cedar Bayou.
13. Expand the recreation and educational programs offered to attract all age groups.
14. Continue to improve and expand the environmental, recreational and educational programs of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center and the Baytown Nature Center.
15. Continue to improve the City's image and tourism through the City's environmental and recreational opportunities, by hosting and promoting special events that increase the exposure of our facilities in an effort to attract visitors to Baytown.

16. Enhance the Parks and Recreation Department's section of the City's website, as well as improve the appearance and the interactive usability of the Pirates Bay, Calypso Cove and Baytown Nature Center sites.
17. Continue to expand the City's Sidewalk and Trail Master Plan to make Baytown a walkable community.
18. Work to complete the goal of the Goose Creek Trail to connect Bayland Park to I-10 near the San Jacinto Mall.
19. Continue progressive park planning and recreational programming by offering the newest activities and amenities throughout the city's parks.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott Johnson, Director
Parks and Recreation Department



Wayne Gray, Chairman
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Appendix: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members
Parks Division Staff
Recreation and Administrative Staff
Environmental Programs Staff
Aquatics Staff
Recreation Division Stats
2010 – 2016 Final Aquatics Attendance Summary
2017 Aquatics Attendance Summary
Tentative 2017 – 2018 Town Square Schedule





2016 - 2017

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

Seated (Left to Right), Michelle Bitterly, Chairman Wayne Gray, Carmen Torres
Standing, Kevin Jones, Vice Chairman Billy Barnett, Agustin Loredo and Howard Hunt



Parks Division Staff



Recreation and Administrative Staff



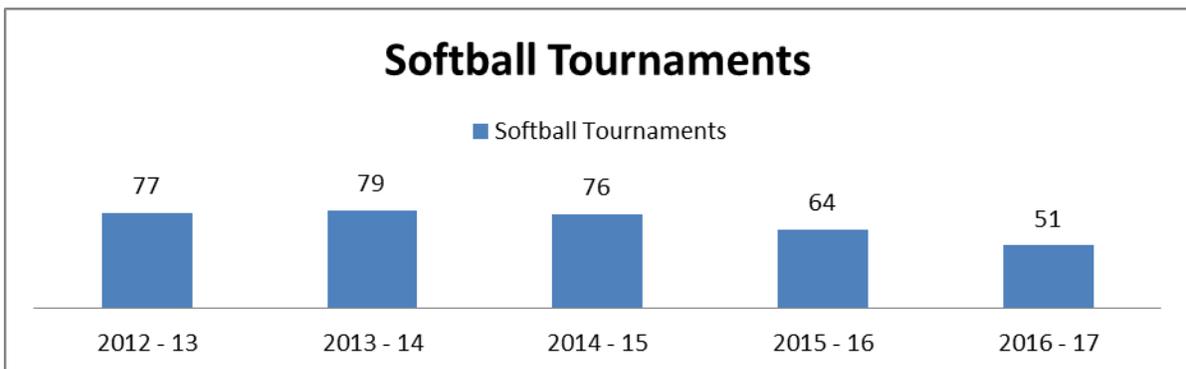
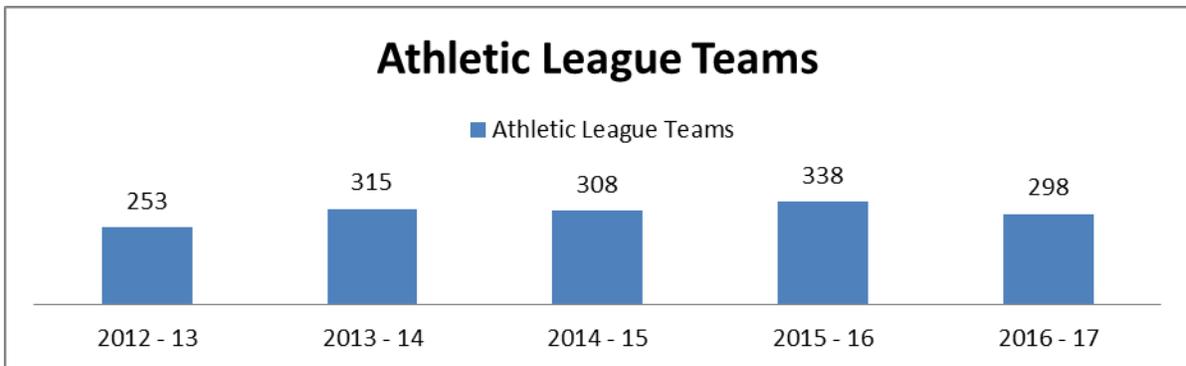
Environmental Programs Staff



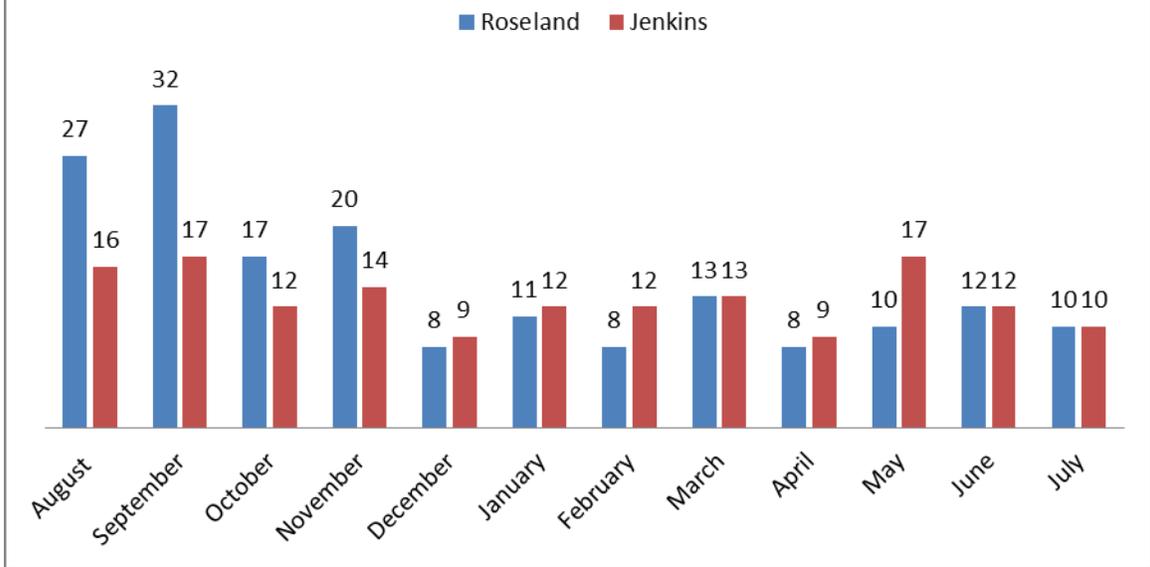
Aquatics Staff



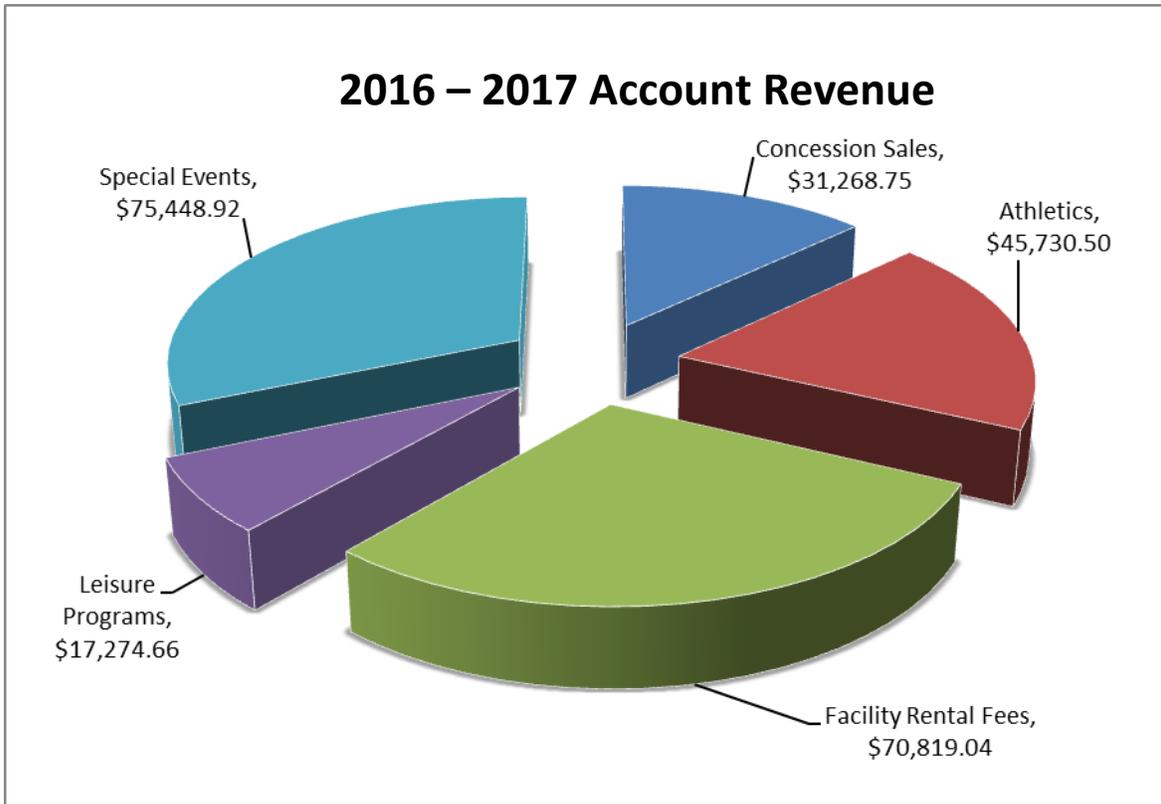
Recreation Division Stats



2016 - 2017 Monthly Pavilion Rentals



2016 – 2017 Account Revenue



Final Aquatics Attendance Summary 2010 - 2016 Seasons

	Pirates Bay Water Park							Calypso Cove						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Daily Attendance Summary	Daily Attendance							Daily Attendance						
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of Days Open	74	102	115	110	106	95	96	74	74	89	85	87	88	87
Monday	6,930	15,926	13,301	14,321	20,681	22,519	19,969	2,452	2,452	2,051	2,256	2,083	2,195	2,345
Tuesday	6,220	13,232	10,037	11,147	14,800	15,792	14,202	Closed	1,635	1,994	1,971	2,038	1,786	1,802
Wednesday	5,561	12,283	11,626	12,355	17,040	16,891	17,284	2,350	2,138	2,082	2,165	2,102	2,389	2,441
Thursday	7,154	13,046	12,489	15,267	17,657	23,202	22,298	2,212	2,313	2,409	2,243	3,458	3,384	
Friday	10,171	16,236	16,098	19,072	19,503	23,794	24,244	3,331	3,334	3,048	4,121	5,101	4,857	4,028
Saturday	19,518	32,418	31,965	34,604	40,648	39,513	39,240	3,143	3,363	3,143	3,143	3,363	4,012	3,025
Sunday	15,022	27,556	23,010	26,542	35,702	31,814	31,075	18,059	15,612	15,612	18,059	18,803	20,450	19,434
Total	70,576	130,697	118,526	133,308	166,031	173,525	168,312	15,817	214	175	212	216	232	223
Average Per Day	954	1,281	1,031	1,212	1,566	1,827	1,753	200	200	200	200	194	191	207
Attendance Goal Per Day	480	600	794	887	1,701	1,684	1,771	14	14	(25)	12	22	41	16
Above/Below Goal	474	681	237	325	(135)	143	(18)							
Total Revenue	\$ 1,048,030	\$ 1,652,730	\$ 1,819,113	\$ 2,041,054	\$ 2,977,577	\$ 3,376,927	\$ 3,224,920	\$ 84,638	\$ 78,215	\$ 89,927	\$ 87,761	\$ 93,318	\$ 90,690	
Average Revenue per Day	\$ 14,163	\$ 16,203	\$ 15,818	\$ 18,555	\$ 28,090	\$ 35,547	\$ 33,593	\$ 1,144	\$ 879	\$ 1,058	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,042	
Average Dollars Spent per Guest	\$ 14.85	\$ 12.65	\$ 15.35	\$ 15.31	\$ 17.93	\$ 19.46	\$ 19.16	\$ 5.35	\$ 5.01	\$ 4.98	\$ 4.67	\$ 4.56	\$ 4.67	
Days Closed Due to Bad Weather	2	0	3	0	0	4	1	1	2	2	2	6	4	
Rainy Stormy Days	3	14	19	19	34	30	32	8	15	16	32	22	21	

2017 Aquatics Attendance Summary April 28 – July 31, 2017

	Pirates Bay Water Park	Calypso Cove
		
Daily Attendance Summary	Daily Attendance	Daily Attendance
Monday	13,431	1,652
Tuesday	11,609	1,615
Wednesday	12,939	1,852
Thursday	13,162	1,784
Friday	19,933	3,087
Saturday	33,873	3,407
Sunday	26,333	2,298
Total	131,280	15,695
Average Per Day – 83 / 74 Days	1,582	212
Projected Attendance - 115 /106 Days	181,930	22,472

Thru July 31, 2017



BAYTOWN TOWN SQUARE



2017 - 2018 EVENT SCHEDULE

- 11/24 - ICE RINK OPENS
- 11/24 - 01/13 - ICE SKATING
- 12/07 - CHRISTMAS PARADE
- 12/09 - CHRISTMAS ON TEXAS AVE
- 12/16 - HOLIDAY & FARMERS MARKET
- 01/13 - SNOW DAY
- 01/20 - FARMERS MARKET
- 02/17 - FARMERS MARKET
- 03/02 - BROWN BAG LUNCH 1 OF 5
- 03/09 - BROWN BAG LUNCH 2 OF 5
- 03/16 - BROWN BAG LUNCH AT 3 OF 5
- 03/17 - FARMERS MARKET
- TBD** - FOOD TRUCK FEST
- 03/23 - BROWN BAG LUNCH 4 OF 5
- 03/24 - EASTER EGG HUNT
- 03/30 - BROWN BAG LUNCH 5 OF 5
- 04/14 - BAYSHORE FINE RIDE CAR SHOW
- 04/21 - FARMERS MARKET
- 04/27 - ARBOR DAY EVENT
- TBD** - SHAKESPEARE AT THE SQUARE
- TBD** - SHAKESPEARE AT THE SQUARE
- 05/05 - BAYTOWN YARD SALE
- 05/19 - FARMERS MARKET
- 09/01 - BAYTOWN YARD SALE
- 09/15 - FARMERS MARKET
- 10/20 - FARMERS MARKET
- 11/23 - ICE RINK OPENS
- 11/17 - FARMERS MARKET



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AN
EVENT PLEASE CONTACT THE
BAYTOWN RECREATION DEPARTMENT
AT 281-420-6597 OR VISIT BAYTOWN.ORG