



CITY OF BAYTOWN
**PARKS and
RECREATION**

Baytown Parks and Recreation Department

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



FREELY FOCUSED PHOTOGRAPHY



CITY OF BAYTOWN

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Baytown Parks and Recreation Department is to foster lifetime involvement in and an appreciation of public space and recreational activities. Our Department is dedicated to Baytonians – continually striving to not only meet, but exceed community expectations – making Baytown a better place to live, work and play.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

The Parks and Recreation Department enjoyed another busy year that was highlighted by the opening of the Betty Hazelwood Clubhouse at Evergreen Park and the completion of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant project at Jenkins Park. The Department was recognized with several regional and state awards for projects and programs. Pirates Bay Water Park and Calypso Cove entertained 196,232 guests during the 2018 season.

The Department was challenged with transition in two divisions as Aquatics Superintendent, Mike Flinn moved on to take the Lufkin Parks and Recreation Director position and Parks Superintendent, Dustin Schubert moved on to take a Project Coordinator position with the City of League City before taking the Mont Belvieu Parks and Recreation Director position.

The Department was saddened with the loss of a long-tenured volunteer. William “Billy” Barnett, Mr. Barnett served as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board chairman for the past two years and was an ardent supporter of the Baytown Nature Center. Billy passed away in June.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council approved new rules for special events at a limited number of locations to allow alcohol consumption. The rule was changed for the newly opened Betty Hazelwood Clubhouse at Evergreen to attract weddings and galas to the new facility. The special events alcohol permit was later expanded to Town Square, the Wetlands Center, the Baytown Nature Center, Evergreen Park, the new Brunson Visitors Center and the Wayne Gray Sports Complex. The permit was also expanded to the Baytown Art League building and the Baytown Historical Museum. The new policy opens up new opportunities to market the city’s facilities and to attract tournaments and festivals.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council renamed two Park facilities to honor Missy Davidson and Betty Hazelwood.

The Clubhouse at Evergreen Park was renamed the Betty Hazelwood Clubhouse at Evergreen Park in April. Betty Hazelwood was an avid golfer and had the distinction of being the first women’s golf champion at the Goose Creek Country Club. She retained the title for 18 consecutive years. Since the newly renovated Clubhouse was formerly the clubhouse and pro-shop for the Evergreen Point Golf Course that was owned and operated by Mrs. Hazelwood’s three sons, it is fitting that the clubhouse bears her name.



Ward Road Park was renamed Missy Davidson Memorial Park in June. Missy Davidson was born in Baytown. She dedicated over 20 years of service to the City of Baytown as the Human Resources/Civil Service Director and over 40 years of municipal service to the State of Texas through organizations like TML (Texas Municipal League), and TMRS (Texas Municipal Retirement System). Most of the laws and rules we operate by in the municipal realm were written by Missy. She brought many significant changes to the City of Baytown, that are still active today. She was a positive influence on our community in the way she promoted and supported the City of Baytown for so many years. She was a driving force for making the City of Baytown a better place to work and live. Missy spent a considerable amount of time coaching, managing and volunteering at the former East Little League Park.

The Aquatics Division continued to achieve in both attendance and revenue. Both Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove are at, or near, capacity daily. The Department also hosted another large crowd at the annual July 3rd and 4th Celebration despite the challenging July 3rd weather.

In its ninth season, Pirates Bay Water Park remained a popular destination. Both parks were on track to break all records including the combined 200,000 goal until the August rains moved in. During the 2018 season, an all-time record of 176,177 guests passed through the gates at Pirates Bay. This was an increase of 2,743 guests from 2017. 1,310,586 guests have visited the park since its opening not counting 2019.



Calypso Cove, located at N.C. Foote Park saw a slight increase in the total number of visitors despite being affected by 24 rain days. Attendance was up by 477 guests for a season total of 20,055 visitors. Calypso Cove has welcomed 147,808 guests during the first eight seasons.

The Parks and Recreation Department planted 296 trees in various parks and medians. Over 1,900 one to five gallon size trees were given to citizen during the annual Arbor Day Celebration. The Department teamed with Public Works to renovate the Garth Road medians between Decker Drive and Park Street. Public Works dug out the old, deteriorating, gray asphalt medians, provided water taps, and created stamped the concrete around the planters. Parks crews then planted colorful living gardens in the medians, completely changing the appearance of the street.

In December of 2018, the Department added a marketing and special events coordinator to oversee advertising and social media. This position handles marketing for Pirate's Bay, the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center, and the Baytown Nature Center as well. The coordinator's responsibilities also include the planning of outdoor special events, allowing the recreation specialist more time to plan programs and other activities at the Community Center.



The recreation division seeks to offer exciting and diverse activities, programs, and athletic leagues for Baytown citizens to enjoy. The recreation division organizes programs such as youth and adult karate, assorted fitness classes, self-defense, and summer camps, in addition to athletic leagues such as kickball, softball, 7v7 soccer, and youth summer track. The division also oversees all facility rentals, including the Community Center, the Jenkins Park Pavilion, Bicentennial Park, and the recently completed Clubhouse at Evergreen Park.

Programming at Town Square continued to expand in 2018 and 2019. The Baytown Farmers Market includes a free yoga session each month, and the division increased the number of Brown Bag Lunch Concerts to 10 per year. The food truck and chalk art festival, now known as the Arts and Eats Fest, grew in numbers in both attendance and artist entries. The first ever \$1.00 Taco Day, held on Cinco De Mayo, celebrated Hispanic heritage and brought an estimated 5,000 people to Town Square.

On October 6th, the 13th Annual Grito Fest was held at Bicentennial Park. The event featured world famous La Mafia, along with Plan Sonidero and Mariachis Los Gallitos. Between acts the H.O.L.A Ballet Folklorico 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. The 13th annual event was the largest Grito Fest crowd ever; an estimated 8,000 guest attended the festival.

The Department was challenged with a muddy park at this year's Annual 3rd and 4th of July Celebration at Bicentennial Park. The 3rd of July concert started with heavy rain about 3 hours prior to the start of the show leaving a muddy front of stage, but that didn't slow down the crowd as New Orleans based Bag of Donuts rocked the park, followed by classic rock stars the Village People. Several thousand people enjoyed a beautiful evening at the park.



The 4th of July Celebration started off with native Baytonian R.L. Bell, followed by the best 4th of July Parade in years. Country music legends Joe Diffie and Tracy Byrd provided entertainment to a crowd of over 20,000. The festival came to an explosive conclusion with one of the best fireworks extravaganzas in the area, set to a patriotic mix of upbeat music with an impressive grand finale.

The Wetlands Center turned 20 years old this year and celebrated with two events. First, the Wetlands Center hosted a 20-year Anniversary Open House, welcoming around 300 visitors and one giant tortoise. Chris Coats, Lee College's videographer, produced an outstanding video chronicling the Wetlands Center's journey from dilapidated bowling alley to environmental education hotspot. Next, the Wetlands Center hosted a "20th Anniversary Community Support Thank You Celebration" for community partners. Over 40 attendees toured the center, enjoyed the video, and heard the Wetlands Center's amazing story.



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 five half-day summer science camps to complement the ten hosted at the Wetlands Center. The Wetlands Center continued with its tradition of hosting an overnight tent camping experience during summer camp, with campers learning about the geology of Texas during a primitive cave experience and campout in Austin. The Wetlands Center hosted the 2nd Annual Butterfly Bonanza in partnership with Gulf Coast Monarch Project (GCMP), with close to 200 people on hand to learn about pollinators, butterfly life cycles, and gardening for beneficial insects. Lee College Ambassadors joined us this year with STEM related activities for kids of all ages.

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 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's nocturnal residents such as owls and coyotes. Scout workshops and overnight campouts have become regular weekend activities. The annual Nurture Nature Festival was postponed this spring because of rain, but has been rescheduled for October 2019.

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 Covestro "Cleaner Energy, Brighter World" sustainable energy mobile exhibit made appearances at the Houston Energy Festival and a Houston Astros Street Festival, promoting sustainable use of our energy resources.



AWARDS

Texas Recreation and Park Society

Planning Excellence Award

Baytown Recreation Center Feasibility Study

The city of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department and Burditt Consultants were awarded the Planning Excellence Award from the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) for developing the Baytown Recreation Center Feasibility Study. The department received the award at the February 21st TRAPS Institute & EXPO Annual Awards Ceremony in El Paso.

The award recognizes any statewide park, recreation or leisure service organization for displaying professional analysis, principles and value in planning.

The City is excited by the prospect of their first public recreation center that will not only be an outlet for physical activity, but also a social hub for people of all age groups, abilities, and demographic backgrounds—creating a stronger, connected Baytown. The proposed recreation center is a two-story 62,000 square foot facility on a 9 acre site surrounded by existing businesses, residential neighborhoods, and direct access/visibility from a major thoroughfare running through the heart of Baytown.



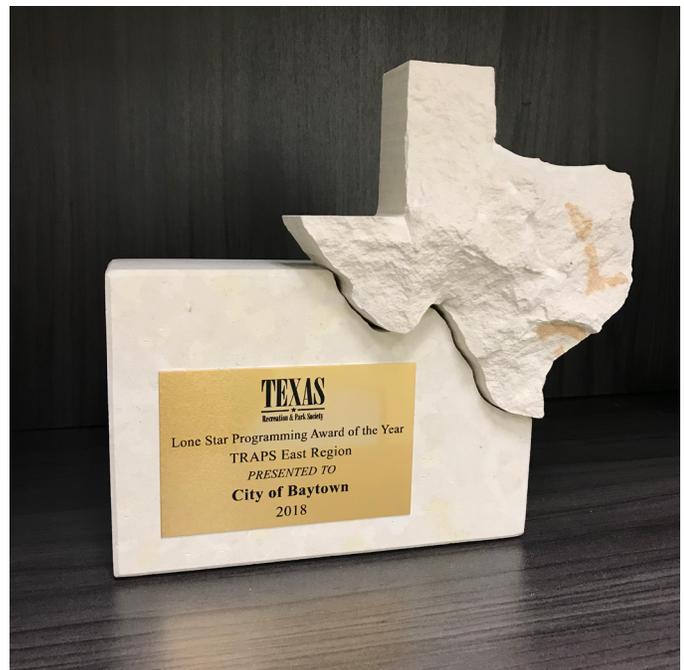
Texas Recreation and Park Society

Arts and Humanities, Class III Award

Chalk-Art and Food Truck Festival

The city of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department was also awarded the Arts and Humanities, Class III Award from the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) for the Chalk-Art and Food Truck Festival featuring chalk artists and food trucks.

Baytown hosted the first-ever Chalk-Art and Food Truck Festival (now called Arts and Eats Festival) as a collaborative effort to showcase the Downtown Art District's amenities while raising awareness and funds for multiple special needs groups in the City. It also served as the unveiling of the beautiful Umbrella Alley in the Downtown Arts District, the first art installation in the new Public Art Program. The chalk art portion of the event was created to feature local artists and raise funds for the Baytown Art League's Rising Stars program for special needs artists.



Texas Recreation and Park Society - East Region

Lone Star Programming Award

Chalk Art and Food Truck Festival

The Parks and Recreation Department received the 2018 TRAPS East Region Lone Star Programming Award at the Annual TRAPS East Region Workshop in Conroe on January 22, 2019.

The Baytown Parks and Recreation Department hosted the first-ever Chalk Art and Food Truck Festival at Town Square on April 28, 2018. The event was the result of the mutual efforts of several departments within the city, in collaboration with the Baytown Downtown Arts District and the Baytown Art League. The event used a large, multifaceted platform to showcase new amenities in the Downtown Arts District while simultaneously raising awareness and funds for multiple special needs groups in the City of Baytown.

The chalk art portion of the event was created to feature local artists and raise funds for the Baytown Art League's Rising Stars, a program for special needs artists around the Baytown area. In addition to the chalk art, more than twelve highly sought-after food trucks from around the Houston area attended, providing a wide range of food options.



Texas Recreation and Park Society - East Region

Innovation in Parks & Recreation Facility Development Award

Jenkins Park Arena Soccer Field

The Parks and Recreation Department received the 2018 TRAPS East Region Innovation in Parks & Recreation Facility Development Award at the Annual TRAPS East Region Workshop in Conroe on January 22, 2019.

The City of Baytown with the aid of a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Recreation Grant added an indoor sized, outdoor soccer field. The idea for this new amenity arose from the success of recently created dual quick, or futsal, courts (soccer played on concrete courts with chain-link goals and walls). These dual courts were created by revamping an underutilized tennis court and have proven very popular with Baytown's soccer players. To give those players even more choices in playing options, staff came up with the idea for an arena soccer field, offering an indoor sized soccer field for play outdoors. This field is used to provide recreational league play since Baytown does not have a Recreation Center. After meetings with staff, equipment and field turf vendors, the Department chose a 175 foot by 75 foot "arena" style soccer field, with a synthetic "field turf" surface and underground drainage making league rain-out days a thing of the past. The City also added a breathable wall system where the ball would play off the walls similar to indoor soccer but still allow wind through to keep temperatures on the field down during hot days. An electronic scoreboard and lighting were added to the facility for extended evening play for both league and open play. The unique field is open to the public except during league play.



Houston-Galveston Area Council

2018 On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500,000

Baytown ADA Boat Ramp and Kayak Launch Renovations

The City of Baytown was honored with special recognition of the Baytown ADA Boat Ramp and Kayak Launch Renovation Project. The City completely renovated the city's three boat ramps and five fishing piers. The project was funded from the San Jacinto Waste Pit grant administered by Harris County and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

2018 Planning Process

Gene and Loretta Russell Park Master Plan

The city of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department and Burditt Consultants received special recognition for the developing the Gene and Loretta Russell Park Master Plan.

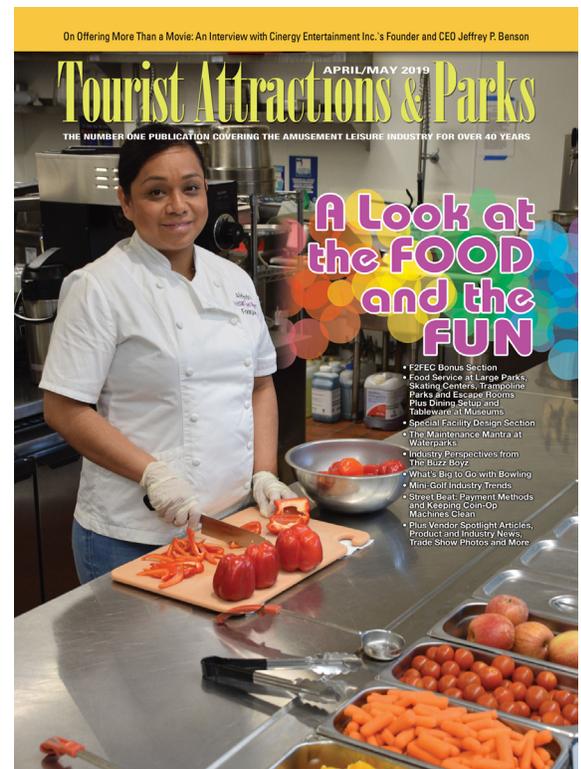
The department created a phased development approach for the Gene and Loretta Russell Park, including preliminary public opinion, probable costs, and additional detail. The City of Baytown's Parks and Recreation Department and donors Gene and Loretta Russell were the guiding force developing the multi-purpose, family-oriented park.



PUBLICATIONS

The Parks and Recreation Department was honored to have Pirates Bay Water Park featured in an article that appeared in the April 2019 edition of Tourist Attractions and Parks Magazine. The article, "The Maintenance Mantra, Waterpark Safety and Upkeep Go Hand In Hand" was written by Karen Appold. The article described the process and challenges of the maintaining large aquatic facilities.

Pirates Bay Water Park was featured in the Tourist Attractions and Parks magazine: <https://tapmag.com/2019/04/12/the-maintenance-mantra-waterpark-safety-and-upkeep-go-hand-in-hand/>.



IN MEMORIAL

The Parks and Recreation Department lost a long-time volunteer and friend who was dedicated to making the city of Baytown a better place to live, work and play.

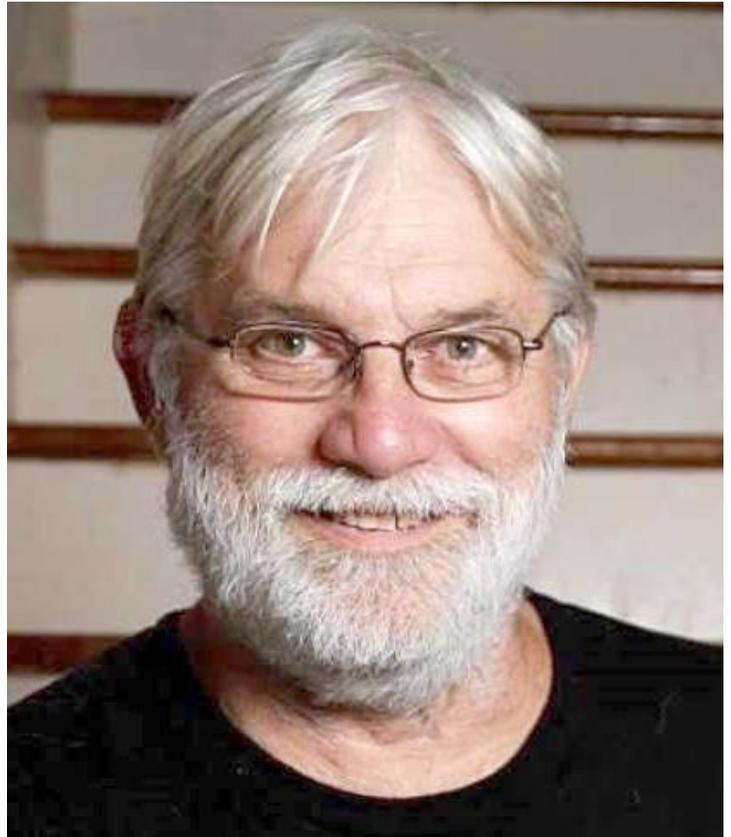
William “Billy” Barnett

November 15, 1947 – June 5, 2019

Billy lived most of his life in Baytown. He attended San Jacinto Elementary, Baytown Junior High, and Robert E. Lee High School, graduating with the class of 1966. He also attended the University of Texas at Austin and became a lifelong Longhorn fan.

Billy spent decades giving back to his community. His volunteerism began in the 1980’s at the YMCA and grew to include Beautify Bayway, the Baytown Nature Center, Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center, City of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department, and numerous others. In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded ExxonMobil’s Baytown Refiner of the Year in 2011.

Billy was a founding member of the Friends of the Baytown Nature Center and worked tirelessly improving the Center. He was especially proud of the Children’s Discovery Playground and coordinating countless “Day of Caring” volunteer events over the years. Billy was a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for 13 years from 2006 – 2019. He served as Chairman of the Board for the last two years.



RETIREMENTS

The Department said good bye to two long-time Parks Division employees this past year.

Lazaro “Larry” Perez began with the city in December 1992 as a crewleader and was promoted to a Heavy Equipment Operator in the mid-1990s. Larry operated a slope mower and was an excellent operator and had extensive knowledge of the city’s streets that he helped maintain for over 26 years.

Dennis Prescott also began with the city in 1992 as a park caretaker. Dennis assisted the horticulture crew that planted and maintained thousands of trees across the city and worked extensively in the city’s tree farm that provided trees for Arbor Day. Dennis also worked to maintain landscape areas across the city for over 26 years.

Both Larry and Dennis personalities and “institutional knowledge” of the park system are greatly missed.

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. While it is not possible to recognize them all individually, we recognize that we could not be successful without them.

We would like to thank Sherman Eagleton and all of Harris County Constables from Precinct 3 for their help with the Christmas Parade, Grito Fest and the 3rd and 4th of July Celebrations. A special thanks to Major David Jones and Sergeant Richard Miranda for their assistance in the assigning and coordinating 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, Lowe's, Home Depot, Awards and Engraving, Community Resource Credit Union, Beacon Federal Credit Union, and Randy Casey State Farm. 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 Como En Mexico, Rooster's Steak House and the ACE District.

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, Grito Fest and the 3rd and 4th of July events. A huge thank you is due 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 Kennie Dobson, Assistant Chiefs Victor Medrano and Dana Dalbey 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 Department would like to recognize and thank the Faith Family Church for stepping up to volunteer when needed, especially during their annual Serve Day where three to four hundred volunteers scatter across the city working on medians, cleaning parks, painting and planting flowers and trees.



The Department would also like to recognize and thank the Keep Baytown Beautiful members for working to make Baytown a cleaner and better place to live.

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 recognize the volunteers that worked in preparation for the 13th Annual Grito Fest. A special thank you as well goes to Whataburger, Ron Craft Chevrolet-Cadillac, Golden Corral, Chick-fil-A, Design Ventures, BDI Resources, Bonito Michoacán Meat Market, San Jacinto Methodist Hospital, Evening Pilot Club of Baytown, Baytown GMC Buick, Starbucks Baytown, HEB, Joey's Glass, Fuller's Tire, Highlands Knights of Columbus, 1ST Photo 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. We would also like to recognize the Finance Department for their assistance with money handling and for making sure our seasonal part-timers are paid every payday.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to express their gratitude for the staff at the Sterling Municipal Library for their assistance proofreading this Annual Report especially, Jamie Eustace, Cherie Morgan, Rachel Philo and intern Pamela.

A special thank you goes to the Parks and Recreation Department staff for providing innovative and cost-effective quality activities and for putting in long hours, many of which are on the weekend or 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.

PARKS

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- A. Missy Davidson Park Trail – Residents in neighborhoods near Missy Davidson Park, formerly known as Ward Road Park, sent a petition to the Mayor requesting a loop walking trail within the park. As a result, the Department constructed a new six foot wide by 3,500 foot long concrete trail along the perimeter of the park that ties into the existing Ward Road sidewalk and completes the loop trail. The trail has been well received by residents that formerly used the Bowie Elementary trail that was removed during the new Bowie school expansion several years ago.
- B. Central Heights Park Improvements – Central Heights Park received some much needed improvements during this past year including:
 - a. Covered Basketball Court – A new metal shade structure was installed over the existing concrete basketball court. This long awaited project provides a brightly lit court that allows for basketball to be played more often during hot or inclement weather. Foul and three point lines were added to the court.
 - b. Port-a-can enclosure – Parks Crew constructed an enclosure to screen the park’s port-a-can and improve the appearance of the heavily used park.
 - c. Drainage improvements – the new structure down spouts were connected to the park’s underground drainage system. During the project, additional inlets were added to drain traditionally wet areas at the back of the park.
- C. Emmett Hutto Parkway Loop Trail Lighting – Ever since the Hutto Loop Trail was completed, staff has received numerous requests for lighting improvements to safely extend the use of the park after dark, allowing users to take advantage of cooler temperatures. The Planning Department negotiated with CenterPoint Energy to remove the existing street lights and install new LED lighting that provided significantly more lighting for the street and the trail. At the Planning Department’s request, the poles were painted black to be more aesthetically pleasing.

D. Eddie Huron Park Lighting – Eddie Huron Park, located on Bush road was constructed without lighting due to neighbors’ concern regarding overspray of lights into their backyards. With the new innovation of LED lighting, overspray issues go away. Staff was very concerned about vehicles that parked at the back of the parking lot after dark and were nearly impossible to see from the street. Plus, the Department received numerous requests to light the sand volleyball court, playground and fitness area to extend the use of the park after sunset. The new lighting system was added during the fall of 2018.

E. Jenkins Park Dog Park Lighting – The Jenkins Park Dog Park has been a large success since its construction. Since its initial install we have received request from residents to light this area to make it possible for them to take their four legged friends out later. New LED lighting for the 5 acre dog park was completed during the winter of 2019. The lights go off every night at 10 PM when the park hours end.

F. Hollaway Park Tennis Court Renovation - The Holloway Park Tennis Courts are heavily used and were last renovated almost 20 years ago. They needed a facelift. The contractor’s first step was to clean and level the courts. The next step was painting the courts. Lines were painted back, leaving perfect playing conditions. A second set of Pickleball lines were added to provide options for the Department.



The second court at the Sports Complex may be repurposed to a Pickleball and volleyball court in the future.

G. Allenbrook Park Trail Improvements – The City’s concrete contractor removed and replaced over 125 feet of cracked and damaged concrete trail. The heavily used trail was damaged over the years by poor, shifting clay soil. The repairs are a welcome improvement to the neighborhood and the surrounding two nursing homes.

H. Santavy Drive Trail – The City’s concrete contractor installed over 2,600 feet of 8 foot wide trail along the south side of Santavy Drive, connecting the new San Jacinto Boulevard Trail to Garth Road. The new trail is planned to connect to the Goose Creek Trail in the next few years.

I. The Betty Hazelwood Clubhouse at Evergreen Park – After two years of planning and renovations, the Clubhouse at Evergreen Park opened for rentals on April 25th. The new pavilion is designed to promote galas, wedding and other formal meetings. The building is equipped with a warming kitchen, dressing rooms and a large open area. The building is catering friendly with a large serving line adjacent to the large room. A quality sound system and two large 90 inch 4K televisions are placed on each end of the building providing the audience with state of the arts multimedia experience.



At the request of Councilman Robert Hoskins, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board considered naming the new clubhouse at Evergreen Park in memory of Betty Hazelwood. Betty Hazelwood was an avid golfer and had the distinction of being the first women’s golf champion at the Goose Creek Country Club. She retained the title for 18 consecutive years. Since the newly renovated Clubhouse was formerly the clubhouse and

pro-shop for the Evergreen Point Golf Course that was owned and operated by Mrs. Hazelwood's three sons, it is fitting that the clubhouse bears her name. Council officially named the facility "The Betty Hazelwood Clubhouse at Evergreen Park" on April 25th.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and staff worked for months on a new rental and alcohol usage policy and rules prior to opening the new facility. The Board and staff want to encourage weddings and formal galas and other groups to use the Clubhouse and to make the process as painless as possible. City Council approved the rules prior to Clubhouse opening.



J. American Little League Park Storage Building – The Baytown Little League Association had been using conex boxes to store equipment. With the consolidation of the leagues, storage for equipment especially during the off season is vital. The Parks crews constructed a new 30 foot x 40 foot metal building prior to the 2019 spring season.

K. Playground Improvements – The department received \$100,000 for playground equipment replacement. The funds were leveraged with a 50-50 match from the playground equipment company, doubling the amount of equipment purchased. Staff planned playground upgrades in five parks. A sixth park was added due to insurance reimbursement following vandalism at Newcastle Park.

- a. Roseland Park – Completed in June 2019
- b. Carver Park – Completed in July 2019
- c. Barkaloo Park – Planned this summer
- d. National Little League Park (formerly Central Little League Park) – Planned this summer
- e. Wayne Gray Sports Complex – planned for September
- f. Newcastle Park – planned for this fall

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

A. Hollaway Park Parking Lot – The existing asphalt parking lot at Hollaway Park will soon be replaced with a new concrete lot and connecting drive to Raccoon Drive. The new parking lot will allow for 28 regular spaces and 3 handicap parking spaces. The Engineering Department designed the parking lot. Contractors are expecting to begin work in early August.

B. Goose Creek Trailheads and Signage – The Goose Creek Trail runs from Bayland Park to Baker Road, with the majority of the trail located along side of Goose Creek. Additional trail is planned to extend to the San Jacinto Mall and eventually north of I-10. Several parks are linked to the existing trail. Finding the trails has always been a challenge for citizens as the maps and signage have been inadequate.



The Department plans to install six trailhead signs at locations near parking areas and other strategic locations. Directional signage has also been installed along the trail. The project is expected to be completed by early fall 2019.

- C. Blue Heron Connecting Trail – Crockett Park and Baybrook Place – The proposed 1,800 foot long, 8 foot wide concrete trail will connect both the Crockett Park sub-division and the Baybrook Place sub-division to the City’s existing Blue Heron Trail. The proposed trail will provide safe access for both neighborhoods to nearby Crockett Elementary School and Ross Sterling High School. Staff has been working to obtain five easements with the two subdivisions and the Harris County Flood Control District. The easements with the two subdivisions have been secured. Staff anticipates the HCFC easement agreement to be completed in August with construction beginning in September. The entire project is expected to be completed before Thanksgiving.
- D. New Park Service Center – The Park Service Center, originally constructed in 1973 and designed for 20 employees, has served the department very well. However, the division has grown over the years to 50 employees.

A new 11,600 square foot metal building will be constructed on the adjacent property to accommodate modern levels of personnel and equipment. The building will include four offices, a conference room, and a large assembly/break room. The back of the building will be open work space. The existing parking area will be enlarged and a covered bridge will connect the two properties. The existing property will be used for covered storage, allowing all tractor equipment to be covered. Additional metal shelters will be added in the future to add even more room to park large equipment.

The project is expected to get started in early fall.

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

- A. Arbor Day - Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday, April 26th at the Town Square. Over 1,900 one to five-gallon size trees were given away throughout the day, including Live Oak, White Ash, Cedar Elm, American Sycamore, Bald Cypress, Pecan, Red Maple, Slash Pine, Flowering Dogwood, White Oak, River Birch, Leyland Cypress, Nuttall 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. Park Trees - The Department planted 296 trees, some of which were grown at the Department’s tree nursery. The majority of the trees were planted at Jenkins, Walker and Evergreen Parks.



C. Walker Park Tree Farm - In early 2019, Tree Life Farms donated 200 one-gallon live oak trees to the City of Baytown Parks and Recreation Department. The trees were row planted in an open field at Walker Park located at 704 River Bend Drive near Garth Road. Irrigation was added to the trees at the time of planting, allowing them to thrive in their current location. Once the trees grow to a 3" caliper size (approximately 12-15 feet tall) the Parks and Recreation Department will begin spading the trees to various locations throughout Baytown. The tree spading will allow these trees to be transplanted at a size that will make an impact to the area they are planted. The trees in the front of the tree farm near the residents will remain permanently in their current location to prevent the area from looking bare once the other trees are relocated within the City.



D. 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. San Jacinto Boulevard, when completed, 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.

San Jacinto Phase I was dedicated and opened in October 2018. Kimley-Horn and Associates designed the boulevard, which boasts a heavy amount of landscaping and public art. The roundabout at the intersection with Hunt Road contains a larger-than-life-size sculpture of Sam Houston on his horse pointing toward the San Jacinto Monument. David Adickes designed and constructed the sculpture. Mr. Adickes is the same 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 size and attention to detail, as well as being white or mostly white in color.

Phase II will also be heavily landscaped and is expected to be opened in fall 2019, completing a new north-south connector at the end of Bush Road.

E. Median Improvement - The focus of the median improvements continued with the renovation of existing asphalt medians this year. Park crews teamed with the Public Works Department to improve the Garth Road medians between Park Street and Decker Drive.

Public Works began the project in August 2018 on the narrow medians on Garth Road south of Park Street. Public Works crews removed the existing asphalt medians and installed colored stamped concrete, leaving a three foot wide bed in the center of each median. Public Works provided water taps to the future landscape beds. Park crews filled the landscape bed sites with quality bed mix and planted and irrigated the new beds.



The project made a significant impact on the appearance and image of the South Garth Road thoroughfare.

- 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 in 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 Parks and Recreation Department continued the City’s commitment to freeway appearance this 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.

A new two-person TxDOT Right of Way maintenance crew was included in the 2019 budget. The new crew takes care of litter removal ahead of the median mowing and the crew also weed-eats, trims and cleans along guard rails and sign poles. The crew also maintains areas that the tractor batwing mower cannot mow. The new crew has made a significant impact on the appearance of the freeways.

- G. Faith Family Church Serve Day – On Saturday, July 13, almost 400 members of the Faith Family Church worked on projects all across the city including median maintenance, painting, landscaping City Hall and improving playgrounds. The Parks Division had representatives with each group to ensure the projects were being carried out safely. The group made a tremendous impact on the appearance of the City.



- H. I-10 – Spur 330 Bridge Painting and Welcome to Baytown Sign – The Parks and Recreation Department contracted to have the first underpass on Spur 330 from I-10 East cleaned and painted. The contractor installed the city logo of both bridge abutments facing I-10 and added “Welcome to Baytown” across the beam. The project cleaned and dressed up this main entry to the city.

GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

I. 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 included:

- Spread decomposed granite on trails
- Cleared trails of tree limbs and debris
- Built two osprey nest platforms
- Repaired fence around Children’s Nature Discovery Area (CNDA)
- Replaced privacy wall at CNDA port-a-potties with hardi-plank siding
- Water sealed wooden statues and stage benches
- Painted cannon on CNDA pirate ship
- Replaced painted tarp on CNDA teepee
- Weeded CNDA butterfly garden

II. 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 has been approved by the Texas Department of Transportation and construction began in November 2018. Park crews constructed 3,700 feet of new decomposed granite trail that loops the new park land. A short 945 foot long connecting trail will be added later in the summer. The project is expected to be completed by Christmas 2019.



III. 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, an arena soccer pitch, 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 came from Aquatic Bonds, Municipal Development District funding and in-house labor.

Construction began fall 2016 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 had 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 2017. 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.

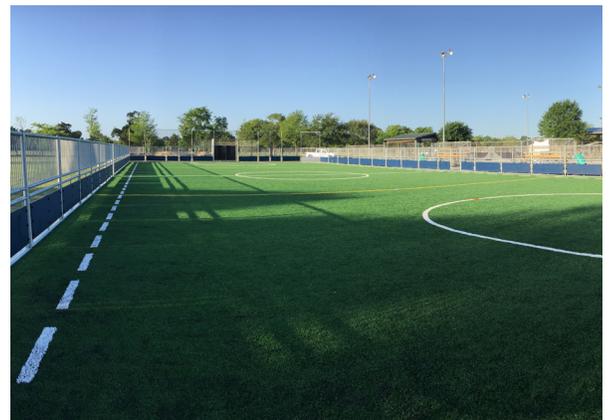
The outside of the building has an exposed truss frame as well as a rock wall façade. Inside the restroom are stainless steel fixtures with air hand dryers and fully washable restrooms. The restrooms are also equipped with a CMS system that automatically unlocks the door at 5 AM and locks the doors at 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.

The spray park and the restroom opened in early spring 2017 and was the City’s match for the grant.

A new lighted and covered basketball court was completed, replacing the much smaller open air court. The old court was repurposed into a covered fitness area, complete with several outdoor pieces of fitness equipment. Both the new basketball court and the fitness area are heavily used all day and during inclement weather.



A new “arena” soccer pitch was completed as part of the grant project. The lighted 6v6-size pitch is lighted, and is the first city facility to have an artificial turf playing surface. The field turf, complete with all the needed lines for play, has allowed continuous use of the pitch even in rainy conditions. A scoreboard was added to enhance league play. The court is available to anyone that wants to play except during scheduled league and tournament nights.



The final components of the grant project were completed this past spring and included relocation of two disc golf goals, two baseball/softball backstops, connecting trails and park signage. The project was closed out with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in July.

IV. GATEWAY 3 – I-10 AND SH 146 – Keep Baytown Beautiful and the City of Baytown won the prestigious the Keep Texas Beautiful – 2018 Governor’s Community Achievement Award. The award provides \$270,000 for a community project. The third gateway has been selected as the City’s project. Funding and construction of the project goes through the Texas Department of Transportation, Beaumont District (TxDOT). Knudson LP was selected to design and coordinate the project for the City. Knudson designed the other two gateways. The project kicked off design in 2018. 30% design plans have been submitted to TxDOT which officially start the agreement phase of the project. Plans are expected to be completed by the end of the year and construction to begin during the spring of 2020.

V. EXXONMOBIL – EPA SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT (SEP) TREE PLANTING PROJECT - The City of Baytown agreed to be part of an ExxonMobil’s EPA Supplemental Environmental Project “Baytown Area Phyto-Pollution Reduction SEP”. The project is designed to improve air quality and achieve other environmental benefits through the planting of trees in the City of Baytown. The City agreed to plant 1,458 trees in various locations across Baytown. Approximately 50% of the total number of trees to be planted will be planted within a 1-mile radius of the ExxonMobil Baytown Facilities. The remaining trees will be planted within a 4-mile radius of ExxonMobil. The environmental benefits include the reduction of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulates, as well as the generation of oxygen, resulting in improved air quality and the reduction of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Trees that will be planted near high-traffic roadways also act as vegetative buffers which reduce the transport of particulate emissions from roadway traffic. Roadside vegetation has been shown to reduce a population’s exposure to air pollution through the interception of airborne particles and through the uptake of gaseous air pollution via leaf stomata, in addition to affecting pollutant transport and dispersion.

Because of weather issues, the project’s first two planting cycles were missed and will be bid as one in August 2019. Construction on the 592 tree project is expected to begin in October. The first sites to be impacted are Unidad Park, Britton Park, along the Goose Creek Trail corridor and Evergreen Park. The project includes irrigation. The next phase is expected to be bid during the spring of 2020.

VI. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG) – The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded two projects for the 2019 CDBG budget. Both projects will provide new equipment and a safer place to play. All work was completed by the Parks Division.

- Unidad Park
 - o Installed a new climber in the existing playground.
 - o Topped off the playground area with a hardwood mulch fall zone
 - o Topped off the volleyball court with mortar sand
- Bergeron Park
 - o Installed a new climber in the existing playground
 - o Topped of the playground area with a hardwood mulch fall zone

VII. MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER AND EXXONMOBIL - “BE WELL BAYTOWN” - The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a grant to help reduce skin cancer by reducing sun exposure for employees and park visitors. The \$259,850 grant provided sunscreen dispensers, hats for Parks Crew, shade structures at Roseland Unidad and McElroy Parks and shade trees.

- Sunscreen Dispensers – Dispensers were installed at Pelly Park, Roseland Park, McElroy Park and Bergeron Park. SPF 30 sun screen is provided to park users free of charge at these locations.
- Parks Crew Long Sleeve Shirts – two long sleeves SPF 30 rated shirts were provided to all Park Division employees to use while working in the sun.
- Parks Crew Hats – large brimmed, UV protected, insect resistant hats were provided for all Parks Division employees to use while working outdoors. The “Be Well Baytown” logo and City of Baytown logo was embroidered on each hat.



- Shade Structures – five large shade structures were installed in three parks to provide sun protection for heavily used park facilities. The structures cover three playgrounds and two splash pads and have made a tremendous impact on the appearance and usage of the parks. The shade structures are located at the following parks:
 - o Roseland Park Playground
 - o Roseland Park Spray Pad
 - o Unidad Park Playground
 - o Unidad Park
 - o McElroy Park Spray Pad
- The “Be Well Baytown” initiative will focus on physical activity and diet in 2020. The Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded a grant that will fund a pop up stage and event supplies to allow for staff to provide programs at different parks across the city.



PROPOSED 2020 PROJECTS

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

I. Municipal Development District (MDD) Funded Projects

- Citywide Landscaping
- Goose Creek Stream Cleanup
- Baytown Sports League Improvements
- Ginger Creek Park – Acquisition and Development
- Goose Creek Trail, Phases VII and VIII Planning, Survey and Engineering

II. City of Baytown Budget Capital Projects

- 2030 Parks and Recreation, Trails and Baytown Nature Center Master Plan
- New Roseland Pavilion

III. Ongoing Projects

- Bayland Marina and Channels Dredging
- ExxonMobil EPA Tree Planting Project
- Firefighter Memorial Repairs
- Painting of Bridges
- Jenkins Park Drainage and Water Line Improvements

2018 - 2019 PROGRAM SUMMARIES

GRITO FEST - Spectators again packed Bicentennial Park for Baytown's 13th annual Grito Fest on Saturday, October 6th, where the sounds of Tejano music and the world-famous Grito could be heard from blocks away. Under clear skies and moderate temperatures, Grito Fest hosted crowd favorite La Mafia, a four-time Grammy Award-winning band from Houston. An estimated 8,000 people attended the event and enjoyed a day of food, music, and of course, the Grito competition. The ever-popular festival celebrating Baytown's rich Hispanic heritage also featured a jalapeno-eating contest, accordion competition, and best salsa contest. After facing down 10 participants in the jalapeno-eating contest, Keith Brown was crowned the winner for the second consecutive year by downing 10 of the notoriously spicy peppers the fastest. La Original Taqueria won the award for best red salsa, El Cacique took top honors for green salsa, and Brandon Ybarra was named the year's best accordion player. The Grito is a celebratory cry of joy made famous during the Mexican War of Independence from Spain. Ten contestants entered the Grito competition, but it was ultimately Jose Esquibel who won over the crowd.



PLAYHOUSE IN THE SQUARE - "Remembering Harvey" was performed by the Lee College theater department free of charge to over 100 spectators at Town Square on Friday, October 5th, and Saturday, October 6th. The show reflected on the experiences of residents of the Baytown and greater Houston area in August 2017, when Hurricane Harvey devastated much of the Texas Gulf Coast with record rainfalls and unprecedented flooding.



BAYTOWN VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY - The City of Baytown partnered with VFW Post 912 to host approximately 70 people at the annual Veteran's Day ceremony at Bicentennial Park on November 11th. Opening remarks and a warm welcome were provided by Baytown City Councilman Charles Johnson, while the guest speaker was Gideon Jones (US Army Air Corp, WWII Veteran, POW), who joined the 760th Squadron of the 460th Bombardment Group, a storied group that dropped bombs all over Italy, Germany, Greece, Yugoslavia, France, Poland and other nearby countries. Jones' bomber squadron was among the first to be protected on the way to their targets by the Tuskegee Airmen, who flew the fighter planes of the 332nd Fighter Group.

GENERATION POUND- POP UP - On Saturday, December 15th, GENERATION POUND®, a youth-oriented program that fuses movement and music to improve focus, coordination, physical fitness, and teamwork skills, hosted its first-ever free camp at the Baytown Community Center. By combining exercise and interactive activities, participants learned new ways to explore movement, embrace their creativity, and ROCK OUT while ultimately building strength, confidence, and self-awareness.

CHRISTMAS PARADE - The Christmas Parade was revamped in 2018 in an effort to improve the customer's parade-viewing experience. The most dramatic change made was the parade route itself, which was almost doubled in length to reduce overcrowding and to give spectators more options to find a special spot to view the parade with friends and family. The new 1.5-mile route was designed to avoid train tracks on Commerce Street, pass Town Square twice, and maximize participant and spectator safety by starting and finishing at the same location. Other

improvements carried over from 2017's rainout included barricading multiple areas and turns throughout the route to allow parade participants to move more freely in heavily crowded areas. Parks and Recreation staff also created a children's entertainment area within Town Square complete with food trucks, bounce houses, children's activities, and a giant 16' x 8' screen to broadcast live video from the judges' stand during the parade. The Parks and Recreation Department received numerous compliments on the parade itself, as well as the staff's efforts on parade night, which helped to ensure everyone had an enjoyable night. Below is a list of 2018 winners:



2018 Baytown Christmas Parade

Winners

Best Antique Car: David & Anita Westermann
Best Church: Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Club/Organization: EPIC
Company/Business: HEB
First Responders: ExxonMobil
Novelty Vehicle: Baytown Shrine Club
Non-Motorized Novelty Vehicle: Angels in Heaven
School CHEER: Ashbel Smith Elementary
School BAND: Lee High School
School CHOIR: Sterling Signing Symphony
School DRILL: GCM
Best Theme: TIE: ExxonMobile and HEB
Entertainment Value: Baytown Blue Santa
Best Use of Lights: Altus Emergency Center
Best Overall: Patients Emergency Room

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas Parade a success!



ART SHOW & EXHIBITION - The 52nd annual Art Show & Exhibition held on Friday, December 7th featured almost 100 professional along with almost 600 amateur art pieces throughout the Community Center. An estimated crowd of 300 attended the event to browse the art, congratulate winners, and of course meet Santa. Winners were presented awards by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Billy Barnett at a short reception following the gallery viewing times. We also would like to thank Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member Carmen Torres for once again helping with the event.



CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT - Heavy rains moved in shortly after the Baytown Christmas Parade and pushed the Christmas Movie night back from Friday, December 7th to Saturday, December 8th. Although the temperatures were in the 40's and the grounds were wet from heavy rain, Town Square saw an estimated crowd of 300 come out and enjoy The Star and Home Alone on an 16'x 8' LED screen. Event goers also enjoyed complementary fresh popcorn and hot chocolate, which were provided once again by Councilman Charles Johnson. Due to the success of Christmas Movie Nights, the Parks and Recreation Department will now also include a new "Halloween Movie Night" scheduled for October 26th 2019.

YOUTH SPORTS EXPO - The athletic division held the annual Youth Sports Expo at the Community Center on January 19th - 20th. This expo gave the local youth sports programs a chance to distribute information and register

participants all in one location. The event was successful enough for the organizations that we agreed to hold a second expo in June, to allow a chance for registration for fall sports. The following youth sports clubs attended. Information and contacts for these organizations can be found on the City of Baytown website under Youth Sports.

Participants

- Girls Fast Pitch Association
- Baytown Ponies Teenage Baseball
- Optimist Youth Football
- Baytown Little League
- Dirty Bay Aquatics
- Baytown Saints Soccer Club
- Baytown Summer Track
- Bay Area Chargers Football
- Baytown Stingrays Lacrosse
- Baytown Broncos TIFI Football

SNOW DAY - On January 12th, Baytown Parks and Recreation brought over 75 tons of snow to Town Square for Snow Day 2019. The event featured two large slides, one medium slide, a four-lane bunny hill for smaller children, and two play areas filled with snow. Two food trucks, Nom Mi Street and Luv Me Tenders, were in attendance, and penguin and polar bear mascots mingled and took photos with guests throughout the event. Reverend Butter, an ice sculptor from Houston, carved a fun photo prop in which kids could stand in as the “1” in 2019, with two egrets on either side as a nod to the Baytown logo. Reverend Butter also provided three corn hole boards made of ice, each of which contained the City of Baytown and Town Square logos. The event concluded with an exciting ice battle between Reverend Butter and Billy the “Viking”.



In spite of warmer than usual weather and a last-minute time change, the event still brought over 1,000 guests to Town Square. Guests commented that the clear plastic that was laid under the slides and play areas by our parks crew helped keep the kids and the snow clean and mud-free.

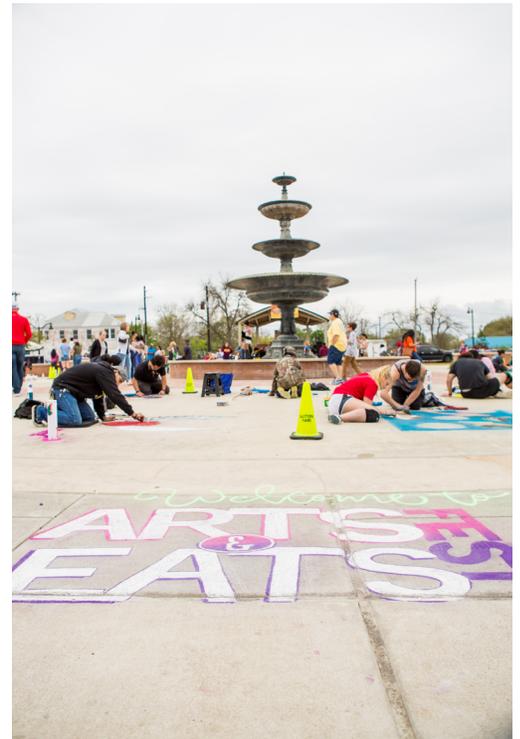
DADDY AND ME DANCE - The Parks and Recreation Department’s annual daddy-daughter dance took place on Friday, February 8th and Saturday, February 9th. This year was a 50’s themed sock hop style dance complete with classic cars, a full sized jukebox carved from ice, and live band Pitch Perfect. Other notable features included the HEB diner that was set up in the Meeting Room with HEB on site serving free hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks! The event sold 1,092 tickets and raised a total of \$13,147. Staff is already planning the 2020 event, which will be a “Fiesta” theme.



GOLDEN GROOVE DANCES - Starting March of 2019, the Parks and Recreation Staff began hosting an all-new bi-monthly dance open to members of the community who are ages 50 and above. The dances are designed to provide a safe, welcoming environment for seniors in the community to meet and mingle at no cost. Each dance will feature live music, food, drinks, and fun.



BROWN BAG LUNCH CONCERT SERIES - The Brown Bag Lunch Series brought five bands of different genres to Town Square on each Friday in the month of March. The Parks Crew set up tents to accommodate the drizzly weather on the first two Fridays, but guests were able to enjoy the sunshine for the remaining three concerts. Each of the five lunchtime concerts was well received by all, and the overall attendance increased from approximately 30 at the first concert to around 50 at the last. Members of City Management, City Council, and Mayor Capetillo each attended at least one of the concerts.



ARTS AND EATS FEST - The Arts and Eats Fest brought approximately 2,000 guests to Town Square on March 23rd. The event, which included a chalk art competition, nine food trucks, a fire truck pull, and two stages of live entertainment, raised a total of \$2,664 for special needs programs within the community. The chalk art competition included 17 entries, each of which completed a unique chalk art composition in a 5 ft. x 5 ft. square in the flat concrete near the fountain. The chalk art competition alone raised \$1,464 for the Rising Stars of Baytown; a special needs group within the Art League. Five teams competed in the first-annual Baytown Fire Truck Pull, which raised \$1,200 for Special Olympics Texas. The Mambo Jazz Kings and Gary-Michael Dahl Band kept guests entertained as they sampled items from an impressive lineup of food trucks, which included seven savory trucks and two sweet trucks.

SELF DEFENSE CLASS - Recreation staff also hosted the annual Self Defense class on Saturday, March 23rd at the Community Center. Fifty-five students attended the class that taught basic self-defense skills to help students use their own body in order to counter any move an assailant would try to use against them. Guests could register online, over the phone or in person the day of the class.

EASTER EGG HUNT - In spite of the location and date change, over 2,000 people attended the Baytown Easter Egg Hunt this year. Due to the threat of bad weather, staff decided to host the Easter Egg Hunt at the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center on April 14th. Five hunts were held from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, and the kids were split into two sections: 0-5 years and 5-12 years. Over 30,000 eggs were distributed in the areas in front of and behind the pavilion. In addition to the egg hunt, kids also enjoyed a 90-ft. zip line, inflatables, coloring their own Easter bags, photos with the Easter Bunny, and exploring the Wetlands Center.



FREE RANGE FRIDAYS – During the month of October 2018, Parks and Recreation ran Free Driving Range Fridays at Evergreen Park as a way to promote the driving range. Through that month, staff introduced the golf range to a number of people that all stated they were unaware that the range was still open after the golf course closed. Since

then, we have seen an uptick in sales at the driving range. Because of this, we brought back Free Golf Range Fridays in April 2019, where anyone could come and hit a bucket of balls for free from 4 - 6pm every Friday beginning on April 5th. This was an even better success than in October, and will continue to be a reoccurring program in future months. Below are some numbers that demonstrate the large rise in traffic we have witnessed since the inception of this program in October of 2018.

<i>DATE RANGE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>	<i>REVENUE</i>	<i>TOTAL BUCKETS</i>	<i>BUCKETS PER MONTH</i>
10/1/17 - 5/1/18	No events	\$54	90 buckets	12 per month
10/1/18 - 5/1/19	2 events	\$3,837	640 buckets	92 per month

700% Increase

BIKE TO THE MARKET - The first ever Bike to the Market was held in conjunction with the monthly Farmers Market on Saturday, April 20th. Due to construction issues at the Bayland Marina, we shifted the starting point to Britton Park then traveled the Goose Creek Trail to Texas Ave, then down to the Market. The first time event garnered considerable attention on social media with the map of the route being shared 26 times, and the overall event reaching over 8,000 people. Due to those efforts, over 20 people (and one dog) showed up to bike or ride to the market.



EVENING AT EVERGREEN - The Evening at Evergreen was held on April 25th, 2019 from 5:00 to 8:00 at the Betty Hazelwood Clubhouse at Evergreen Park. Six vendors attended to showcase everything from décor and floral to food and photography. Over 100 guests attended the event to get a look inside the recently completed facility. Vinyl Fuzion provided live entertainment, and light refreshments and cake were provided. The event was attended by all members of City Council, Mayor Capetillo, Former Mayor Stephen DonCarlos, and Parks Board member Gregory Griffin.



Vendors included:

- Innovative Linens
- LNN Planning and Design
- Compton’s Florist
- Black Orchid Florist
- Dot’s Catering
- Executive Catering

SPECIAL OLYMPICS - Our 38th Annual Special Olympics Track Meet took place on Saturday, April 27th at Lee High School. This year we partnered with Special Olympics of Texas to incorporate our event into their annual Spring Games that also brought Soccer and Tennis to the same venue. This year we had 34 teams for a total of 446 athletes – (more than 200 more than 2018) participate in multiple sports without having to choose between multiple venues.



In addition to more athletes, we were also able to bring in more volunteers and sponsors in 2019. 625 volunteers preregistered with Baytown, registered through Special Olympics, or simply walked up to help in various areas including the all-new athlete's village throughout the day.

Lastly, we had 23 local sponsors including nine new Special Olympic sponsors donate a total of \$12,600 that will go directly towards the event. 2019 Sponsors are as follows:

Platinum Level Sponsors

- Whataburger
- Shehzad Sami, MD

Gold Level Sponsors

- Swagelok Southeast Texas
- Ron Craft
- El Toro Mexican Restaurant

Silver Level Sponsors

- Awards & Engraving
- Chicken Express
- BDI Resources Inc.
- The Great 8 Dog Treats
- Houston Methodist
- Evening Pilot Club of Baytown
- Lalji Dental PC/Royal Dental
- LD Signs
- HEB Baytown

Bronze Level Sponsors

- Pilot Club of Baytown
- Bay Area Rehabilitation Center
- ECO Services Baytown
- Knights of Columbus 9629
- INSURICA
- 1st Photo
- Kiwanis Club Baytown
- Luna's Mexican Restaurant and Catering
- Harris County Insurance Center



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE - On Monday May 27th, we hosted our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Bicentennial Park; we are honored every year to be able to host such a powerful ceremony. The ceremony included the posting of the colors, reading of the names we have lost, the placing of wreaths around the Veterans Memorial, and guest speaker Major General Maynard Sanders (US Army, Retired) who in his last military assignment, served as the Deputy G4 for US Army Reserve Component Integration, Army Headquarters in the Pentagon as a Major General. We had a great turnout of approximately 300 guests.

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.

\$1.00 TACO DAY! - On Sunday, May 5th, Baytown Parks and Recreation hosted the first-annual \$1.00 Taco Day in Town Square. Nine taco trucks attended to serve nearly 3,000 hungry event goers from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Aside from \$1.00 tacos, guests also enjoyed a caricature artist, live music from USA Tropical Band, and a piñata smash every 30 minutes. Nearly every taco truck had sold out of at least one product by the end of the evening, and we received glowing reviews from the Baytown Parks and Recreation Facebook following.

COMMUNITY YARD SALES - Due to the continued success of past community yard sales, the recreation staff expanded the amount of yard sales from two in 2018 to four in 2019. We now host yard sales in March, May, August, and November. Also, in addition to the nearly 60 vendor spots within Town Square, we have recently began to block Texas Avenue to expand the event to Texas Avenue and offer 12 additional spots for anyone to sign up to sell a variety of goods and products. Lastly, another new feature is our two new food vendors selling BBQ and snow cones.

STAR STUDDER SQUAD - The Parks and Rec 4th of July Parade dance group that was created last year is back for 2019! This year our Parks and Recreation Dance Fitness instructor, Reanna Arreola, has created an all new dance routine for the 17 girls and 10 boys all ready to add excitement to our ever growing 4th of July Parade. This FREE program includes 4 practices, a July 4th T-shirt, and a spot in the July 4th Parade. Due to the high demand for the call, we will grow the program to two groups in 2020



3RD AND 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION - In 2019, Baytown's 3rd and 4th of July festival kicked off on Wednesday, July 3rd at Bicentennial Park with day 1 headliner The Village People who are known for hits like "Y.M.C.A.," "In the Navy," and "Macho Man," as well as for featuring singers dressed as a policeman, Native American, cowboy, sailor, construction worker, and biker. Before their highly anticipated performance, the New Orleans based quartet Bag of Donuts took the stage and gave a truly unique performance with their kabuki makeup and colorful costumes and performing a variety of what they call "superpop", which is any popular song from any era of music.



Day 2's celebration continued on July 4th at 4pm with former America's Got Talent, and Baytown native RL Bell followed by Joe Diffie at 6pm, and headliner Tracy Byrd who took the stage at 8pm. Nearly 20,000 guests enjoyed Tulsa, Oklahoma native Diffie who is best known for hits like "Bigger Than the Beatles," "If the Devil Danced," and "John Deere Green.", and Tracy Byrd's performances of hits such as "Watermelon Crawl," "Keeper of The Stars," and "I'm From the Country,".



In addition to the concerts, guests enjoyed shopping row after row of arts and craft vendors, feasting from a large assortment of food vendors, and enjoying the patriotic parade between musical acts.

The festival came to an explosive conclusion with one of the best fireworks extravaganzas in the area as patriotic music accompanied a 20 minute firework show with one of the best grand finales to date!

FARMERS MARKET - The 3rd year of the Baytown's Parks and Recreation Department's Farmers Market at Town Square saw a few notable changes. First, due to the growth of the market, vendors were moved from Texas Avenue to inside of Town Square to allow for more vendors. Secondly, upon request from the ACE district, the hours were changed from 8am – noon, to 8am – 1pm to allow more shoppers to take advantage of the longer hours. Lastly, staff decided to rotate in new performers to showcase live music at each market. As in years past, 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. All the new additions continue to improve the market which has seen continued growth and vendors selling a wide variety of goods 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.

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 well attended.

ATHLETICS PROGRAMS - The City of Baytown strives to provide its citizens with a number of options for both recreational and competitive athletics. In the past year, the City of Baytown has built on the leagues that were already in place and brought multiple new leagues to all new facilities. Currently, the City of Baytown offers leagues on a weekly basis with a current enrollment average of 34 teams per season, or 650 individuals, visiting our facilities on any given week. Among our existing Adult Programs are Men's 7v7 Soccer, Adult Men's/Coed Slow-Pitch Softball, Coed Kickball, and 6v6 Arena Soccer Leagues at Jenkins Park. All leagues are sanctioned by the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) and the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF). Each league operates on an 8-10 game schedule, followed by a single elimination tournament at the end of each season to decide the overall league champions.



In addition to all the current leagues that the City offers, staff also work extensively with outside organizations to bring Softball Tournaments to the Wayne Gray Sports Complex nearly every weekend. These organizations include The Senior Softball Association, 24/7 Softball, Amateur Softball Association (ASA), Global Sports Authority (GSA), National Softball Association (NSA), and Circuit Tournament Softball. Throughout 2018-2019, the Wayne Gray Sports Complex has hosted 36 tournaments with a total annual attendance of approximately 10,500 athletes and spectators visiting the Sports Complex on the weekends.

BAYTOWN SUMMER TRACK PROGRAM - The 2019 season began on April 29th and ended at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) Summer Games in College Station, Texas on July 28th. This year the program was led by 6th year Head Coach Leon Smith, returning Assistant Coaches, Daniel Stagg, Danielle Smith, and Teclesha Blanchard. The Summer Track program registered 65 athletes from ages 5-18. The program involved practicing four days a week at Sterling High School as well as weekly circuit meets at various surrounding communities including Galena Park, La Porte, Deer Park, Texas City, Beaumont and Pasadena. All the participants ran at the TAAF regional meet on July 11th and 12th in La Porte, Texas.



2019 TAAF Summer Games were held July 25th - 28th in College Station, Texas. The Olympic-style competition for amateur athletes included 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 four state qualifiers to the TAAF Summer Games to represent Baytown in their events. William Raymond finished 4th overall in the 14 & Under 110 meter Hurdles, Juan Hernandez made the finals but did not place in the 16 & Under 3200 meter run. Olivia Greene participated in the 12 & Under Shot Put, and Jaylnn McNichols in the 8 & Under 800 meter run.

TENNIS LESSONS - A new program introduced in 2019 was our tennis lessons at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex and Lee College. For this program, the City of Baytown partnered with Tennis Instructor Elana Engleman who is a long time member and instructor for the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). Lessons are available for all ages and skill levels, beginning at age 4 through adulthood. In its inaugural session, the program had 18 participants across all age groups.

With the resurfacing of the tennis courts at JC Holloway Park, all lessons that took place at Lee College will be moved to JC Holloway Park for the fall session to take place entirely in Baytown Parks.

LEISURE PROGRAMS –Baytown Parks and Recreation leisure programs utilize rooms at the Community Center as well as park facilities throughout the City of Baytown. Recreational staff works to offer many new and exciting programs around the Community Center’s full rental schedule. Currently, we offer Cooking Classes, Fitness Classes, Youth and Adult Karate, Chair Yoga, 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 as our department and who are willing to offer their time and effort. Programs offered or expanded this year were as follows:

- Karate – The youth and adult karate classes taught by David Lange at the Community Center continue to be one of the best attended and most requested classes offered. Mr. Lange has brought a professional attitude that shows in his full classes each session.
- Messy Mitts - Back by popular demand is the Parks and Recreation Department’s way of introducing toddlers to science while enhancing early development, shaping personalities through stimulating brain growth, and building future leaders. These classes, designed for students 2 to 5 years of age, originally started in 2005 and made their return in April 2019!
- Super Shero Scavenger Hunt - The first ever “Super Shero Scavenger Hunt” held on Saturday, May 25th from 10am- 1pm encouraged teams of mothers and sons to explore Baytown, while performing good deeds in the process. Teams competed against one another to see who could take more pictures of their team doing good deeds around Baytown’s parks, buildings, and attractions. A total of 72 participants broken down into 21 teams enjoyed the donations from sponsors: HEB, Chicken Express, Papa John’s, Texas Roadhouse, Showbiz



Baytown, Wetlands Center and Pirates Bay.

- 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.
- Letters to Santa –A new program for the 2017 – 2018 year, letters to Santa was back again for Christmas 2018. The custom made red box complete with the Town Square logo was installed at the front of the park, just in time for our first ever Christmas Movie Night and remained at the park throughout the holiday season. The box gave everyone a way to send a letter directly to Santa himself. Everyone who wrote a letter received a custom handwritten replay from one of Santa’s helpers.
- Summer Programs at the Community Center - Almost 400 youth signed up to participate in various summer camps at the Baytown Community Center. Each Camp targeted students age 4 -17 and promoted fun through STEM education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Below is a short description of camps offered in the summer of 2019.
 - Safe Sitters - Designed to prepare students in grades 6 - 8 to be safe when they are home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. This instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students learn: Safety Skills, Child Care Skills, First Aid & Rescue Skills, and Life & Business Skills.
 - LEGO® MASTER JEDI ENGINEERING - The Force Awakened in this advanced engineering course for young Jedi, who discovered key engineering concepts such as gear trains, worm drives, pneumatics, and eccentric motion. By building projects from LEGO® Materials such as X-Wings, AT-AT walkers, Pod Racers, Star Destroyers, Cloud Cities, Settlements, Fortresses, and other complex machines and structures from a galaxy far, far away.
 - Sizzling Science - Campers explored the three main branches of science - biology, chemistry, and physics - while engaging in animal encounters, performing fun chemical reactions, and exploring the laws of motion with fun experiments, many of which our future scientists took home.
 - Harry’s Potions and Spells - Calling All Muggles! Campers experienced the wonder of Hogwarts, the deliciousness of Butterbeer, and the excitement of magic classes while participating in fun activities like House Sorting, Patronus Classes, and more. While we can’t promise that your child became a DADA master or defeated the Dark Lord, we can guarantee that this camp was magical.
 - Magic Science Camp - Kids learned the secret tricks of real magicians: they made coins disappear; pulled a rabbit out of a hat; read minds; made potions change color; made writing disappear and reverse direction; created incredible optical illusions; performed amazing card, rope and cup tricks; and so much more! Of course, there is science to be discovered in every trick, and along the way kids explored chemistry, optics, physics, engineering, life sciences and



more. Camp ended with a big magic show.

- Crazy Critters - If your child loves animals and nature, then this was the camp for them! Campers engaged in safe animal encounters as they learned more about vertebrates and invertebrates, and even got to take home their very own caterpillar to watch it metamorphose into a butterfly.
- Circus Camp - In this fun camp students experimented with balloons, popcorn, and games to discover how force, motion and gravity are used in the circus.
- Slime Camp - The All About Slime Camp gave kids the opportunity to play with oozy, fluffy, edible, slimy, glittery goop in a fun, instructor-led setting. Back by popular demand, this camp was filled with brand new activities that added up to a slime-tastic time.
- Veterinarian Camp - In this one-of-a-kind camp, kids learned all about what veterinarians do, the tools and instruments they use, and the kinds of animals they take care of. Campers viewed x-rays, explored anatomy, made models and learned how to tell whether an animal is sick- all while learning lots of useful information about household pets, barnyard animals, zoo mammals, aquatic animals and backyard critters. Several special visitors made an appearance throughout the week.
- Star Wars Camp - Calling All Jedis! Campers engaged in light saber battles, made Galactic Goo, battled Darth Vader, and more! May the Force be with you.
- Pirates and Princesses - Aargh! Calling all ye Pirates and Princesses! Campers made crowns and eye patches, searched for buried treasure, built/took home permanent sand castles and more.
- All About Me Series

- i. Passion for Fashion - Kids learned basic sketching techniques, coordination colors for the best effect and mixing textures and patterns for perception and scale.
- ii. Beauty Boot Camp - Campers learned about hygiene and cleansing techniques, how they should carry themselves, healthy habits for mind and body including some nutrition knowledge and created a “swag bag” to take home all with a fun twist.
- iii. Passion for Fashion 2 - Students learned how to sew by hand to make small items (such as mini bags, purses), made small accessories (bracelets, necklaces, headbands, etc.), created fashionable ideas using mood boards and other creative materials to show their vision and walked in a mini fashion show.



- Cooking Camps - Instructor Chef Win provided participants a cooking experience with the sense of achievement and self-sufficiency, math skills, making household chores fun, and working in a group setting

- i. Baking Basics - The perfect introduction to all things baking and pastry. Featuring cookies, brownies, Character cakes and cupcakes.
- ii. American Comfort Food Favorites - Students took a culinary journey of the US while learning about different foods from a variety of regions. A fun, hands on class for the budding chef! Featuring burger sliders, pomme frites (home fries), milk shakes, fried chicken tenders and waffles, macaroni and cheese, and peach cobbler, puff pastry, chicken pot pies, chopped Italian salad, mini no-bake cheesecakes, and more.
- iii. Italian Favorites - Featuring spaghetti and homemade meatballs with fresh garlic butter bread, Italian cream soda floats, calzone, biscotti, ice cream sandwiches, chicken Alfredo rolls, and mini strawberry cheesecakes.



- iv. Cake Decorating - Perfect for kids that love everything baking! Featuring cupcake filling and decorating, 2 -layer cake decorating, and character cake decorating.
- v. Latin Favorites - Featuring tacos, Mexican rice, quesadillas, sopapilla cheesecake, tamales from scratch, tres leches cake with fresh berries, enchiladas and churros w/ Mexican chocolate sauce
- vi. Tasty Desserts - The perfect camp for aspiring bakers interested in learning a variety of kid friendly desserts. Students learned all about baking, preparing and decorating deliciously beautiful desserts. Featuring mini cheesecakes, glazed fruit tarts and key lime pies, cupcake decorating, sea salt and caramel coconut macaroons, and chocolate dipped rice crispy treats.
- vii. Cake Decorating 2 - Perfect for kids that love everything baking! Featuring cupcake filling and decorating, 2 -layer cake decorating, and character cake decorating.

TOWN SQUARE FITNESS

- Free Fitness Classes at Town Square
- FUTURE: Fitness class: Tuesday and Thursday

MARKETING - In December of 2018, Baytown Parks and Recreation hired a full time staff member for marketing and special events. This position is responsible for promoting each of the Department’s four divisions through digital and print media. One of the primary goals associated with the creation of this position is the unification of the four divisions under one singular brand image.

A new logo, which incorporates the iconic City of Baytown logo, was introduced and is now consistently used on all official Department communications. Official colors, fonts, graphic styles, photography standards, and proper logo use were established in a department-wide brand guide. The Department also established a hashtag, #BetterBaytown, to create awareness for the “Life is Better in Baytown” campaign, which is set to debut in January of 2020.

Since December of 2018, the Baytown Parks and Recreation Facebook following has increased by 1,700 followers, and continues to grow. The Department also established an Instagram account in May of 2019.

The first edition of the Baytown Parks and Recreation Activity Guide was released in May of 2019. This publication is released quarterly, and acts as a comprehensive guide to all Baytown Parks and Recreation activities within the season. The first edition of the guide featured a “bucket list,” which encourages readers to get out and experience new Parks and Recreation activities; instructor highlights designed to increase transparency and personalize programs; and a “did you know?” section which highlights lesser known features in some of Baytown’s parks.

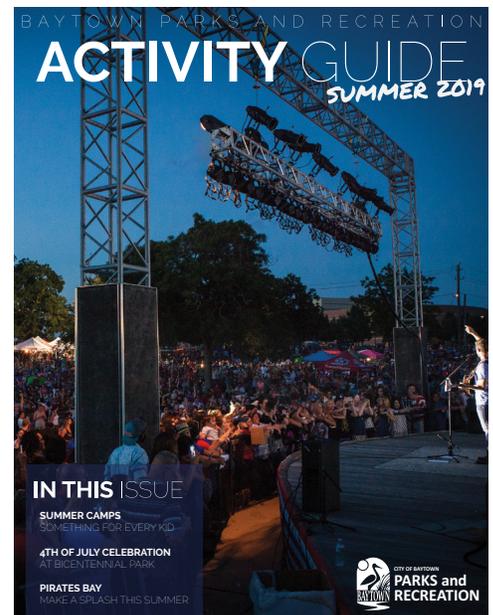
REMAINING PROGRAMS FOR 2019

- Grito Fest – Saturday, October 6
- Treats on the Trail - Saturday, October 26
- Dia De Los Muertos Celebration - Saturday, November 2
- Veterans Day Ceremony – Monday, November 11
- Christmas Parade – Thursday, December 5
- Christmas Movie Night - Friday, December 6
- 32 • Baytown Art Exhibition & Reception – Friday, December 6



CITY OF BAYTOWN

PARKS and RECREATION



AQUATICS

The Aquatics Division enjoyed another great year as the Pirates Bay Water Park and Calypso Cove welcomed 196,232 guests during the 2018 season. Attendance was on track to finish over 200,000 for the first time, until the rainy month of August and Labor Day weekend killed attendance during the last month of the season. Both parks continue to be near or at capacity every day.

The management of the Aquatics Division was impacted by turnover, as three of the five full time positions are new, including the Superintendent. Jenna Stevenson began as the new Superintendent in December. Two former supervisors were promoted to Guest Services Manager and the Aquatics Operation manager: Heather Hooey and Chloe Rupp, respectively.

Staff worked on several off season projects to “keep the park new” including refurbishing the bowl slide, matt racer and both tube slides. Whitewater West’s warranty gel-coat repairs were applied to the Boomarango and Colorado Drop slides. This improved their look and ride. The Calypso Cove slide was also repainted. All slides were waxed prior to the 2019 season.

A new video camera system was added to both Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove. Both parks are completely covered by video surveillance. A new 40 space parking lot was added adjacent to the employee parking area before the season.

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. Funds remaining after all expenses are set aside for future capital maintenance costs. The maintenance account has been very helpful the past few years as the park has needed additional care between seasons to continue to have a “fresh” look. The maintenance account has also been used to replace expensive pumps and equipment as needed.

The Aquatics Division includes five full time employees and 382 seasonal employees that staff the two waterparks. Beginning in January, the aquatics staff hired and trained over 382 local employees in various positions from lifeguards and concession operators, to ticket takers and custodial workers. The lifeguards are all certified through the American Red Cross in Waterpark Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR, Emergency Oxygen Administration and AED usage. Staff is trained on all slides and rides including the FlowRider. The aquatics staff is cross-trained to work at both Pirates Bay and Calypso Cove.

During the 2018 summer season, the Aquatics Division expended \$1,454,731.76 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.

The Parks and Recreation Department assessed current and previous advertising for Pirate’s Bay, and made changes in an effort to maximize impact and reach. The Department worked with Houston Chronicle Media Group to create and promote sponsored Facebook posts, banner ads, and connected television commercials. The Department continued its longstanding



partnership with Cox Media Group for radio ads. Print advertising was placed in local publications such as Greater Baytown Magazine, Houston Family Magazine, and the Bay Area Houston Magazine, as well as national publications such as USA Today's Go Escape: Summer Travel Edition. The Pirate's Bay Facebook account (@piratesbaywaterpark) took a different direction, with posts focused on the customer experience and events within the park, in addition to standardized graphics to be posted when the park reaches capacity, closes for rain, etc.. The Department also began to focus on creating a consistent appearance for all marketing materials, in order to establish brand recognition and credibility.

PIRATES BAY WATER PARK - The Pirates Bay Water Park continued its popularity from the first nine 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. The addition of the Aqua Loop and Aqua Drop slides prior to the 2017 season provided a new "thrill" ride experience to the park. The 57 foot tall slide tower is designed for three different thrill rides including an Aqua Loop and an Aqua Drop slide.



Staff continued several successful programs including morning swim lessons, FlowRider private lessons, Dive-in Movies, and the Itty Bitty Beach Party. The Itty Bitty Beach Party is open to little pirates up to age 5 and their parents once every other 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 twice a month special needs night. On these nights, the park is open from 7:30 to 9:30 PM exclusively for special needs children, special needs adults, and their families. During the 2019 season two morning Special Pirate Celebrations were added to cater to the younger special needs kids who cannot stay up late. For the award winning event, the park has 25 additional staff members that are in the water, serving as park ambassadors. They interact with the special needs community and their families. The event has received great reviews from parents.



REGIONAL LIFE GUARD COMPETITION – The Gulf Coast Aquatic Association Regional Lifeguard Completion was held at Pirates Bay for the first time on July 22nd. Fifteen teams competed in various scenarios with the top three advancing to the State Championship Competition in College Station. The scenarios are comprised of rescue skills, medical training - which can involve spinal back boarding, CPR, choking, and a physical relay. The relay was a new event for 2019 and was composed of four lifeguards, but only two could be from the same organization. The relay promoted collaboration, communication, and encouraged all of the participants to meet other guards from around the state. Pirates Bay won the 2019 GCAA Spirit Award and had two lifeguards on the winning relay team. Pirates Bay will be hosting the competition again in 2020.

CALYPSO COVE – Calypso Cove is a smaller, Caribbean-themed water located at N.C. Foote Park on West Main. Attendance for the 2018 summer season was heading toward a new record; however, the season ended with

heavy rain during the Labor Day weekend. The park still had 20,055 visitors for the season, averaging 218 visitors a day. Staff continued another successful summer of morning and evening swimming lessons at Calypso Cove.

SPRAY PARKS AND SPLASH DECKS - The popular facilities are open daily from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The facilities will be open daily until November 3rd. All six spray parks will reopen for the 2020 season on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at 10:00 AM.

MCELROY PARK SPRAY PARK – The McElroy Park Spray Park opened for its eighth season on March 9th. 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. A shade structure was added to partially shade the spray area in May 2019 thanks to a MD Anderson Cancer Center and ExxonMobil - “Be Well Baytown” grant to reduce users exposure to the sun.

PELLY PARK SPLASH DECK – The Pelly Park Splash Deck opened for its eighth season on March 9th. 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 ninth season on March 9th. 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 17th season this spring. A shade structure to partially shade the spray area was added in May 2019 thanks to a MD Anderson Cancer Center and ExxonMobil - “Be Well Baytown” grant to reduce users exposure to the sun.

CENTRAL HEIGHTS PARK SPLASH DECK – The Central Heights Park Splash Deck opened for its sixth full season on March 9th. The project was funded by the Community Development Block Grant. The project funding was secured thanks to the hard work of the neighborhood and this splash deck has been a nice addition to the popular neighborhood park.

JENKINS PARK SPRAY PARK – The Jenkins Park Spray Park opened for its third season on March 9th. The very popular wetlands-themed spray park has several fun spray features including an alligator slide, cattail shaped spray features, a dumping bucket, water wickets, and a 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 turned 20 years old this year and two events welcomed visitors to help us celebrate. First, the Wetlands Center hosted a 20-year Anniversary Open House, welcoming around 300 visitors and one giant tortoise. On the screen we played an outstanding video produced by Chris Coats, who chronicled the Wetlands Center’s journey from dilapidated bowling alley to environmental education hotspot. Next, the Wetlands Center hosted a “20th Anniversary Community Support Thank You Celebration” for community partners. Over 40 attendees toured the center, enjoyed the video, and heard the Wetlands Center’s amazing story. We look forward to celebrating another 20 years!



B. The Wetlands Center conducted the “ExxonMobil Wetlands Ecology Program” (20th year) and “Covestro i3 Program” (19th 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 sends their 5th graders to the Wetlands Center for the Wetlands Ecology Program as well.

C. The “The Rotary Club of Baytown Liquid Science Program” for GCCISD 7th graders was conducted for the 11th year. Approximately 1,760 GCCISD 7th graders participated in the program, which focuses 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. The addition of a stream table exercise modeling the effects of erosion and deposition, and a dichotomous key activity to identify marine organisms continues to make this program a favorite for Goose Creek students. The Rotary Club of Baytown continues to sponsor the program.



D. Chevron Phillips again sponsored the Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camp for the 19th year. The program grew slightly this year as the Wetlands Center hosted 11 camps and the Baytown Nature Center hosted 5 camps. This year the Wetlands Center’s camp offerings included “Exo-llent Arthropods”, “Wings Over Wetlands” and “Mad Science” for 1st – 3rd graders. For 4th – 6th graders “Hooked”, “Forest Adventures”, “Aqua World” and “Creeping Things” was offered. The 7th – 10th graders were able to participate in “Wild Jobs”, “MOVE!”, “Advanced Anglers” and “Lit-early Rocks.” We continued our tradition of overnight tent camping with the older kids at Ellen Long Metropolitan Park in Austin. The children

enjoyed a morning of cave exploring with City of Austin Park Rangers after the campout. The Baytown Nature Center increased its offerings and hosted “Bug Week” and “Young Naturalist” for 1st-3rd graders, “Green Thumbs” and “Time Travelers” for 4th-6th graders, and “Alive!” for 7th-10th graders. The Friends of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center awarded \$7,000 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 10th Annual Spring Break Camp for 4th - 6th grade students. Students had a great time with “Up and Away” camp, learning about things in the air and sky. Field trips included Lone Star Flight Museum, Galveston Island State Park (to fly kites), Jumping World, Moody Gardens (to meet flightless penguins) and Space Center Houston.

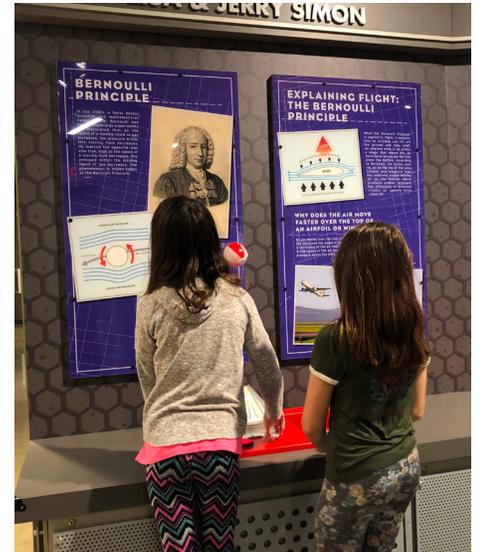
F. Wetlands Center staff conducted the 8th Annual “Winter Holiday Camp”. The three-day camp hosted 8 campers who had an Antarctic Holiday, learning how animals adapt to live in the cold and how humans impact their Arctic environment from right here in Texas.

G. Wetlands Center staff hosted educational field trips for pre-schools, churches, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, home-schoolers, 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 programs include Channelview ISD, New Caney ISD, Barbers Hill ISD, Crosby ISD, Liberty ISD, and Houston ISD.

H. The Wetlands Center’s teen environmental club, EPIC (Environmental Protectors Initiating Change) continued to grow as high school students from each of Baytown’s high schools met 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, volunteering at Nurture Nature and Butterfly Bonanza Festivals, Rotary Tree Planting) as they strive to make a difference in their environment. They also designed and built a “Give Trash the Boot” float for Baytown’s “Christmas Texas Style” Christmas Parade to promote recycling awareness in Baytown. The float was awarded the “Best Overall Club/Organization” Award for their efforts. EPIC kids worked hard to raise funds for their upcoming return trip to the Texas A&M Soltis Research Center in Costa Rica.

I. EPIC kids hosted their 3rd annual Spooktacular evening, which continues to grow. Over 300 attendees enjoyed the kid-friendly event in the Wetlands Center Exhibit Hall. Proceeds will be applied to next year’s Soltis Center experience.

J. Baytown Tourism worked with the Wetlands Center and Houston artist, Armando, to design and paint a huge alligator mural on the side of the Wetlands Center’s storage container outside. The mural is also a geocache site and draws visitors to the Wetlands Center daily.



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, Covestro, and Beta Sigma Phi have all gathered at the Wetlands Center.

L. The Wetlands Center continues to host Texas Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education workshops. Jose Flores, with TPWD, teaches the workshops in both English and Spanish.

M. The Wetlands Center hosted the 2nd Annual Butterfly Bonanza in partnership with Gulf Coast Monarch Project (GCMP). Over 150 people attended, learning about pollinators, participating in a butterfly parade, and making butterfly-themed crafts.

N. The Wetlands Center hosted “The Swamp School” Wetlands Delineation Workshop along with the workshop facilitator from North Carolina. This was a good collaboration with an outside wetlands training source and we look forward to working with them again. Wetlands Center also hosted the Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Program with the Texas Water Resources Institute, and a Venomous Snake Removal Workshop with Texas Snakes and More.

O. Wetlands superintendent partnered with Lee College instructors for a 4th 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, rock cycle science and macroinvertebrate organisms of tropical aquatic systems (“bug picking”) to Lee College and local students.

P. Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center staff and volunteers represented Baytown at many outreach events across the state, including:

- NatureFest at Jesse Jones Park (Humble)
- Galveston Bay Foundation’s Bay Day (Kemah Boardwalk)
- Texas Forest Service’s Woodland and Wildlife Festival (The Woodlands)
- Fort Worth Mayfest (with TPWD) (Fort Worth)
- State Fair of Texas (with TPWD) (Dallas)
- Rotary Club of Baytown’s Catfish Festival at Royal Purple Raceway (Baytown)
- Houston Zoo Educator Day (Houston)
- Sam Houston Area Council Scout Fair (Houston)
- Nature4Health Festival (Spring)
- Lee College Career Madness Day, ‘A Purposeful Place’ class, and STEM Day (Baytown)
- Harris County Earth Day at Deussen Park (Humble)
- Baytown Special Rodeo (Baytown)
- Crosby ISD Kindergarten AgVenture Days (Crosby)
- Holy Rosary Catholic School Nature Day (Rosenberg)
- Area 5 Mini-CAST Educator’s Conference (Orange)
- Mont Belvieu Spring Outdoor Celebration (Mont Belvieu)



- Fiesta de los Ninos (with TPWD) (San Antonio)
- Artist Boat's World Ocean's Day Festival (Galveston)
- GCCISD Career Night (Baytown)
- Venom Experience Herp Show (Conroe)
- STEAM Town USA Graduation (Baytown)
- Pearland Earth Day Celebration (Pearland)
- Village Apartments of Baytown (Baytown)
- Covestro Safety Fair (Baytown)
- ExxonMobil Safety Fair (Baytown)
- ExxonMobil Earth Day Celebration (Baytown)
- Ipsco Family Day (Baytown)
- San Jacinto Methodist Hospital Family Day (Baytown)
- Harris County Precinct 2 Boo Bash (Crosby)
- Covestro Energy Trailer at Houston Energy Festival (Houston)
- Covestro Energy Trailer at Houston Astros Street Festival (Houston)
- Safari Club International Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience (Houston)
- Beaumont Children's Museum Critter Day (Beaumont)
- Dallas Travel & Adventure Show with VisitBaytown (Dallas)
- Yoakum Tom Tom Festival (Yoakum)

Outreach activities also included onsite student classes at local libraries, churches, 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.

Q. The Center participated in the City of Baytown's 4th of July Celebration with its touch tank, nature education displays, live animals, and portable catfish tank. Festival attendees enjoyed catching the channel catfish, which were relocated to Blue Heron Park Pond after the event.



R. Gator Tales, the preschool program at the Wetlands Center, continues to meet in the summer and winter. Kids have story time, then they get to 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 complementary program to Tyke Hike, which is held at the Baytown Nature Center during the spring and fall.

S. 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.



T. The Friends of the Wetlands Center hosted their annual fund-raising gala, "Twilight on Burnet Bay",

at the home of Jimmie Pierce. Approximately 225 people attended and the event fundraised close to \$22,000. These proceeds help fund extra staff hours and summer science camp scholarships at the Wetlands Center.

- U. The “Land of Milk and Honey” beehive continues to thrive, with volunteer Clarence Shepherd, a local beekeeper, helping to maintain the hive’s health. A small hive at the Baytown Nature Center was re-established following the loss of all hives during Hurricane Harvey. We hope to start bottling honey again for thank-you gifts next summer.
- V. 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 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.
- W. Four issues of the Wetlands Center/Baytown Nature 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. The Wetlands Center is receiving positive comments from the general public.
- X. Superintendent taught “Nature’s Art”, “Wildlife 101”, and “Water, Water, Everywhere” at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s “Becoming an Outdoor Woman” Conferences at Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood, Texas. These workshops are a great outreach opportunity for Wetlands Center and Baytown Nature Center.
- Y. BNC Naturalist and Wetlands staff hosted scout workshops for Webelos, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cadets and Girl Scouts at the Wetlands Center.
- Z. Scouts completing their Eagle Scout badge requirements at the Wetlands Center and BNC included Christian Dadd, who built and installed a mobile display unit about wetlands and the animals who live there, and William Green, who built and installed a mobile stream table to demonstrate the processes of erosion, deposition and supposition.



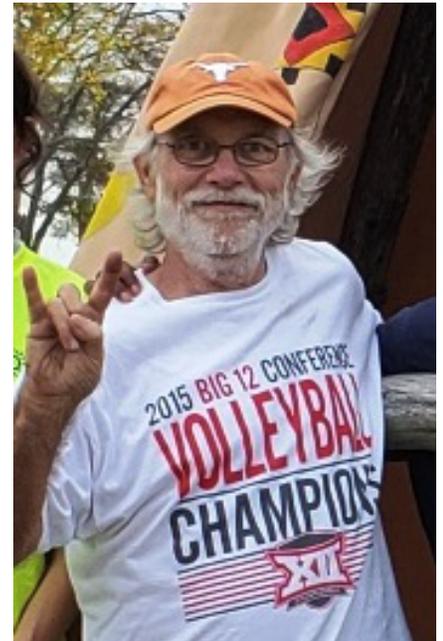
AA. Jingle the Elf returned to the Wetlands Center in December. Each day a new adventure with Jingle and/or Sprinkles the Reindeer was posted on the Wetlands Center and BNC FB page as a way to promote the facilities. Jingle and Sprinkles had fun “jingling” 17 city staff offices throughout the city, and spent a Saturday at the Bryan Museum in Galveston as their resident strolling elf during the museum’s Winter Festival. Jingle also hosted a “Pictures with Jingle” session to raise funds for Wetlands Center animal food.

AB. Wetlands Center Education Coordinator and Baytown Nature Center Naturalist attended TPWD’s Community Archery Program Training, and are now certified Archery in Schools instructors. The Education Coordinator also attended the Space Exploration Educator’s Conference at NASA, where she learned several new educational activities that we can use in camps and other programs.



BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER

- A. The Friends of the Baytown Nature Center were saddened with the death of long-time volunteer and friend, Billy Barnett. Billy was instrumental in the creation of the Nature Center and many of its amenities, including the Children’s Nature Discovery Area. His absence will be felt by all for a long time. The Baytown Nature Center would not be the success that it is today without Billy’s love and attention.
- B. The BNC presented the 8th year of the “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 traveled 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.
- C. 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, and Texas A&M University at Galveston), public and private schools (both Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) and other districts), area summer camps 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, and other local groups.
- D. “Tyke Hike,” the 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 attended with their children.
- E. The “Nurture Nature Series” continued at BNC on the first Saturday of each month. Topics this year included Kayaking, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Reptiles, Wilderness Survival, iNaturalist Bioblitz, Birding, Geocaching, and Angler Education. Guest speakers and Baytown Nature Center/Wetlands Center staff present the topics.
- F. BNC hosted the United Way Fishing Tournament for the Parks and Recreation Department employees. There were 11 participants and the money raised benefitted the United Way.
- G. The Full Moon Hike program continued as a successful monthly event. An average of 25 people attended and walked 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!
- H. The BNC hosted the annual North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Count, with results posted



on their national website. In addition, BNC hosted the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The national exposure on these events promotes BNC as an ecotourism site.

- I. Scout interest in workshops and camping at BNC remains strong. The BNC Naturalist hosts workshops for Webelos, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Royal Rangers, and Daisy Groups. Several troops have also camped overnight at BNC.
- J. The 8th Annual Nurture Nature Festival was postponed due to weather. We have rescheduled for October 12, 2019.
- K. The BNC hosted several community service groups, including ExxonMobil college co-op interns, who cleaned the shoreline, cleared brush and trees from trails, spread granite on trails, weeded the butterfly garden and other beds, and completed minor construction and repair projects.
- L. 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 the TexBirds and Houston Audubon's websites, with pictures taken by the Hansons. This is great exposure for BNC in the local birding community. Sightings of rare birds (i.e. bald eagle) guarantee an increase in attendance at BNC.
- M. The BNC hosted the Raven Chapter of the "Order of the Arrow" district for their "Call Out Ceremony". The Ani-Lati Chapter of the "Order of the Arrow's" annual "Ordeal" was planned but had to be cancelled due to the ITC Fire Incident.
- N. The BNC felt the effects of the ITC Fire Incident, as it was closed for a week due to hazardous water and air conditions. Sadly, the center's resident osprey was a casualty of the event, and had to be euthanized due to chemical burns on her body. Attendance was low for several weeks following the event.
- O. 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 spread crushed granite on trails, cleared trails of tree limbs and debris, built two osprey nest platforms, repaired fence, replaced privacy walls, sealed wooden statue and stage benches, painted the cannon on the play area ship, and weeded the small butterfly garden. BNC is grateful for United Way's continued support. Several of the Friends of BNC also helped out.

- P. The BNC again served as a host site for Rivers, Lakes, Bays and Bayous' Trash Bash event. Chevron Phillips and Covestro served as site sponsors, and the Sterling High School Go Green Club cooked for the 218 volunteers who showed up to clean both the BNC shoreline and the Goose Creek Trail.



Baytown Nature Center
Five Year Comparison of Annual Attendance and Revenue
April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2019

	<i>April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015</i>	<i>April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016</i>	<i>April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017</i>	<i>April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018</i>	<i>April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019</i>
Day Permits Sold	26,599	43,219	27,636	33,124	35,660
Revenue	\$79,797	\$100,969	\$94,752	\$107,131	\$114,542
Annual Individual Passes Sold	305	355	142	109	140
Revenue	\$6,100	\$6,010	\$4,260	\$3,270	\$4,200
Annual Family Passes Sold	153	223	167	168	205
Revenue	\$7,650	\$9,615	\$10,855	\$10,920	\$13,325
Total Amount Revenue	\$93,547	\$116,594	\$109,867	\$121,321	\$132,067

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. Begin the 2030 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan that will include a comprehensive Citywide Trails Master Plan.
3. Continue to demonstrate sensitivity to the community’s needs through the involvement of citizens in the planning and development of facilities, programs and policies.
4. Work to incorporate the recommendations of the Imagine Baytown – Community Based Strategic Plan.
5. Begin implementation of the Gene and Loretta Russell Park Master Plan.
6. Begin implementation of the Recreation Center Feasibility Study.
7. Continue support for “Quality of Life” initiatives, community appearance and economic development projects.
8. Continue to acquire CDBG funds for the development/renovation of target area parks.
9. Continue to provide adequate annual funding for quality maintenance and operation of the Department.
10. 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.
11. Expand athletic program offerings and partner with area facilities to broaden our participation base.
12. Continue to submit tournament bids for future, TAAF and USSSA softball and flag football tournaments on the regional, state and national level.

13. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Aquatic Facilities Master Plan, as well as the Pirates Bay Expansion Master Plan.
14. Work to secure future parkland that will correspond to the future growth of the City especially east of Cedar Bayou.
15. Expand the recreation and educational programs offered to attract all age groups.
16. 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.
17. Work to complete the goal of the Goose Creek Trail to connect Bayland Park to I-10 and the San Jacinto Mall.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. Continue to expand the City's Sidewalk Master Plan to make Baytown a walkable community.
21. Continue progressive park planning and recreational programming by offering the newest activities and amenities throughout the city's parks.
22. Continue to work with the "Be Well Baytown" initiative to further improve community health awareness.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott Johnson, Director
Parks and Recreation Department



Carmen Torres, Chair
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

APPENDIX

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members
Parks Division Staff
Aquatics Staff
Environmental Programs Staff
Recreation and Administrative Staff
Recreation Division Stats
2010 – 2018 Pirates Bay Water Park Attendance Summary
2011 – 2018 Calypso Cove Attendance Summary
2019 Aquatics Attendance Summary

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

(Left to Right) Michelle Bitterly, Gregory Griffin, Vice Chair Kevin Jones, Terry Sain, and Chair Carmen Torres
Not pictured: Agustin Loredo



PARKS DIVISION STAFF



AQUATICS STAFF



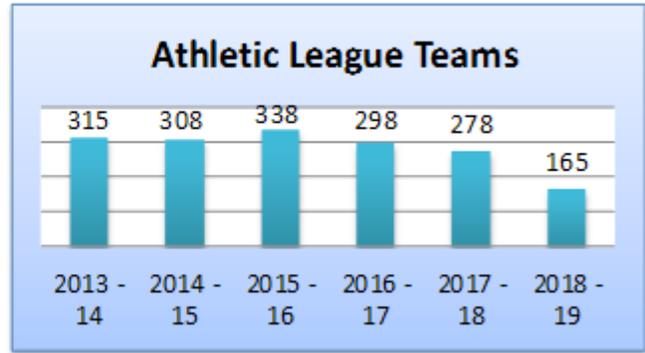
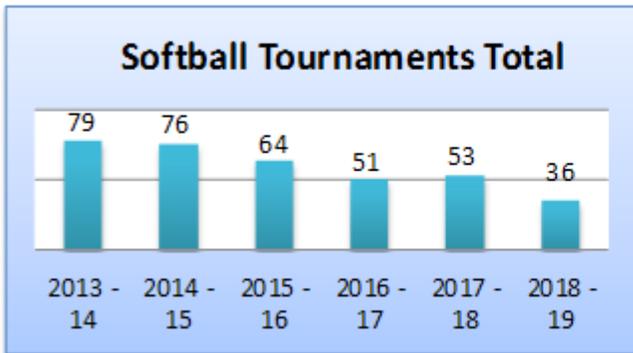
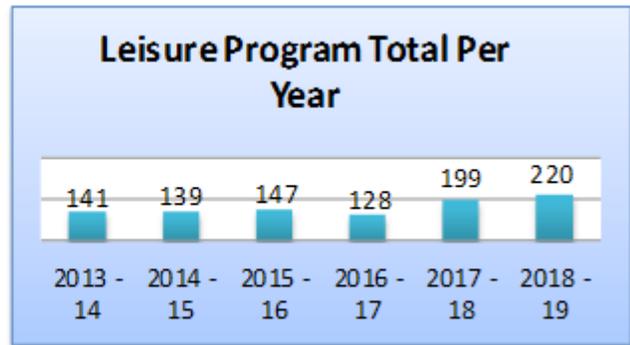
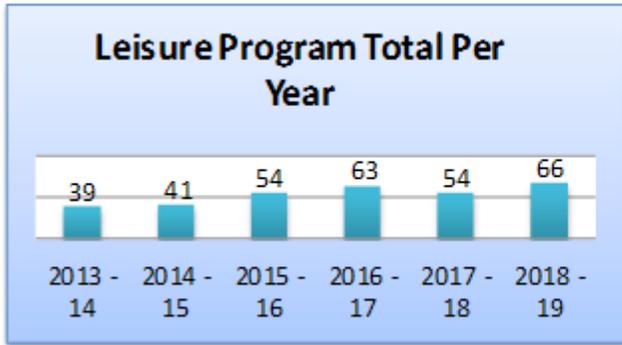
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STAFF



RECREATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

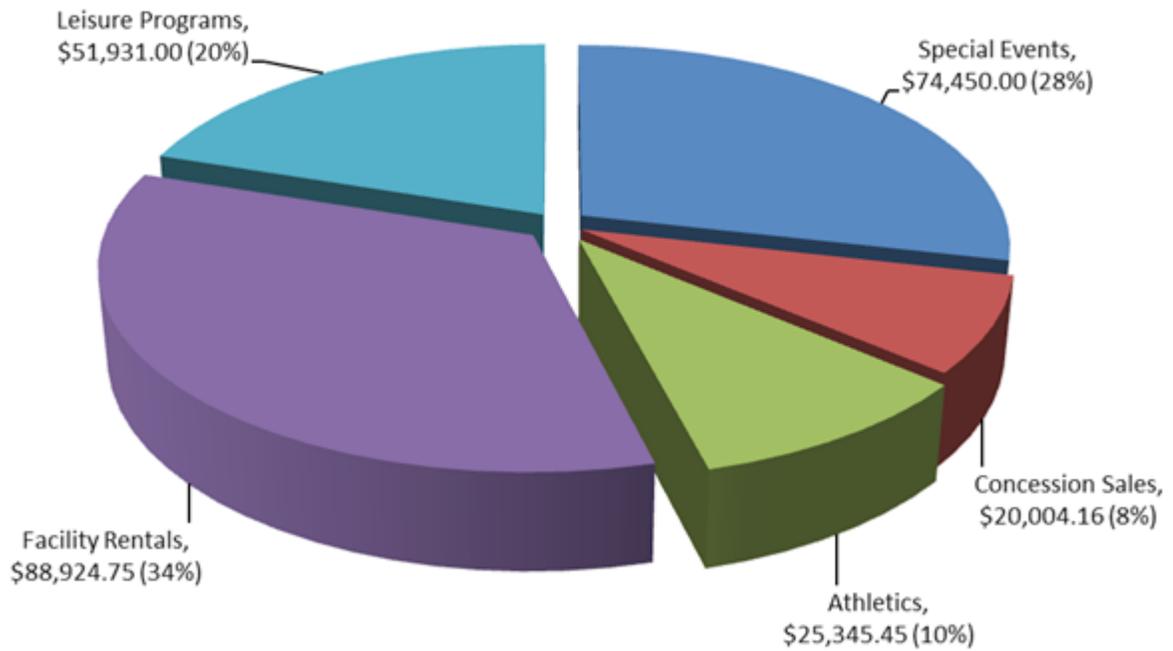


2018-2019 RECREATION DIVISION STATS 10/1/2018-7/1/2019

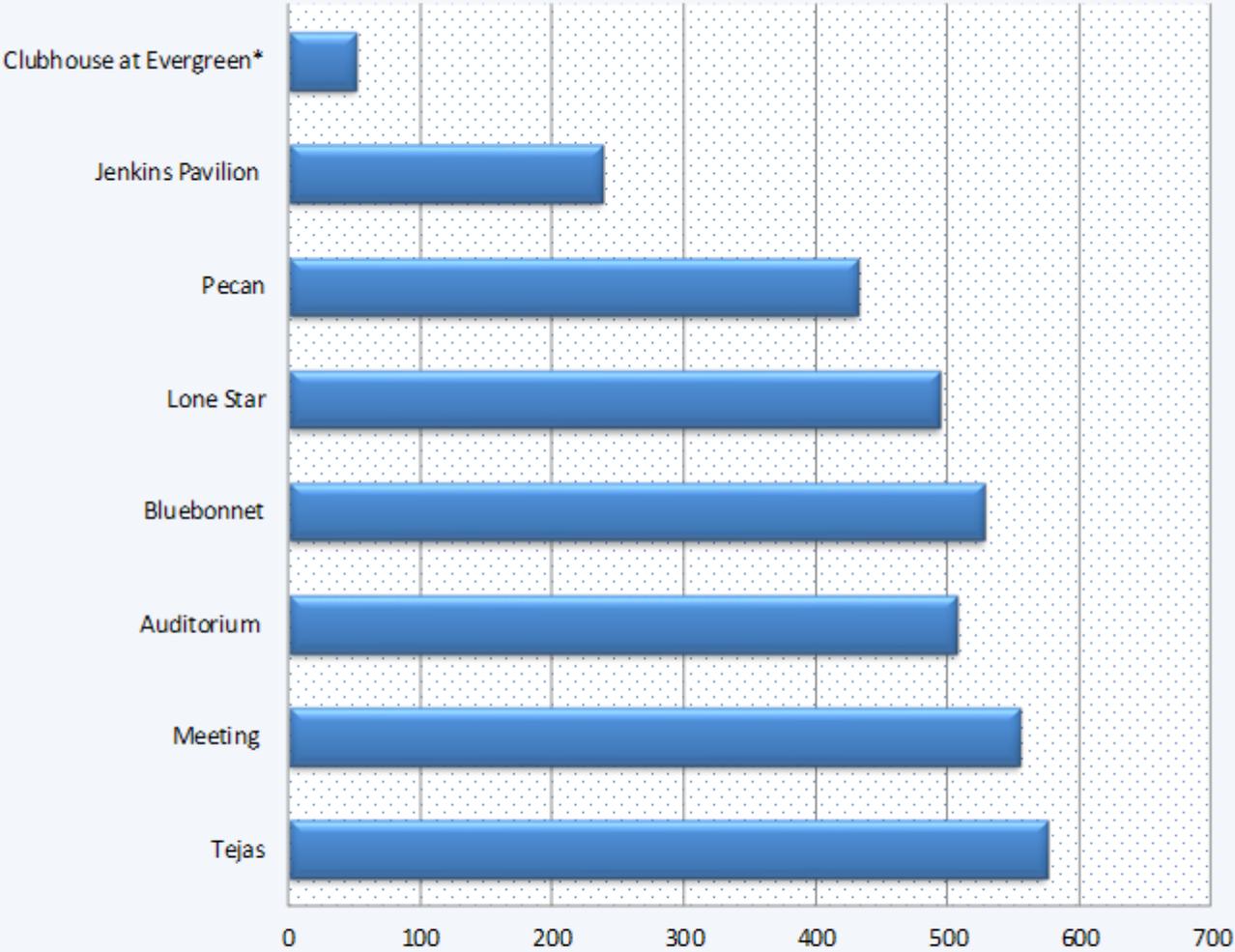


*Totals through July 2019

2018 - 2019 Account Revenue



Total Rental Amount - Per Room



	Tejas	Meeting	Auditorium	Bluebonnet	Lone Star	Pecan	Jenkins Pavilion	Clubhouse at Evergreen*
Rental Per Room	574	553	506	527	493	431	237	50

*The Clubhouse at Evergreen Park opened May of 2019

Pirates Bay Water Park Attendance Summary 2010 - 2018 Seasons

Pirates Bay Water Park



Daily Attendance Summary	Daily Attendance								
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Days Open	74	102	115	110	106	95	96	103	98
Monday	6,930	15,926	13,301	14,321	20,681	22,519	19,969	16,292	18,552
Tuesday	6,220	13,232	10,037	11,147	14,800	15,792	14,202	15,400	13,872
Wednesday	5,561	12,283	11,626	12,355	17,040	16,891	17,284	17,500	16,508
Thursday	7,154	13,046	12,489	15,267	17,657	23,202	22,298	16,438	17,841
Friday	10,171	16,236	16,098	19,072	19,503	23,794	24,244	26,015	26,517
Saturday	19,518	32,418	31,965	34,604	40,648	39,513	39,240	44,486	46,511
Sunday	15,022	27,556	23,010	26,542	35,702	31,814	31,075	37,303	36,376
Total	70,576	130,697	118,526	133,308	166,031	173,525	168,312	173,434	176,177
Average Per Day	954	1,281	1,031	1,212	1,566	1,827	1,753	1,684	1,798
Attendance Goal Per Day	480	600	794	887	1,701	1,684	1,771	1,844	1,912
Above/Below Goal	474	681	237	325	(135)	143	(18)	(160)	(114)
Total Revenue	\$ 1,048,030	\$ 1,652,730	\$ 1,819,113	\$ 2,041,054	\$ 2,977,577	\$ 3,376,927	\$ 3,224,920	\$ 3,289,873	\$ 3,715,372
Average Revenue per Day	\$ 14,163	\$ 16,203	\$ 15,818	\$ 18,555	\$ 28,090	\$ 35,547	\$ 33,593	\$ 31,941	\$ 37,912
Average Dollars Spent per Guest	\$ 14.85	\$ 12.65	\$ 15.35	\$ 15.31	\$ 17.93	\$ 19.46	\$ 19.16	\$ 18.97	\$ 21.09
Days Closed Due to Bad Weather	2	0	3	0	0	4	1	3	4
Rainy Stormy Days	3	14	19	19	34	30	32	40	20

Calypso Cove Attendance Summary 2010 - 2018 Seasons

	<p style="color: blue; font-size: 1.2em;">Calypso Cove</p> 							
Daily Attendance Summary	Daily Attendance							
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Days Open	74	89	85	87	88	87	96	92
Monday	2,452	2,051	2,256	2,083	2,195	2,345	1,884	2,080
Tuesday	Closed	1,635	1,994	1,873	1,786	1,802	2,133	1,909
Wednesday	2,350	1,954	1,971	2,038	1,753	2,409	2,320	1,921
Thursday	2,138	2,082	2,165	2,102	2,389	2,441	2,273	2,180
Friday	2,212	2,313	2,409	2,243	3,458	3,384	3,721	3,633
Saturday	3,334	3,048	4,121	5,101	4,857	4,028	4,358	4,871
Sunday	3,331	2,529	3,143	3,363	4,012	3,025	2,889	3,461
Total	15,817	15,612	18,059	18,803	20,450	19,434	19,578	20,055
Average Per Day	214	175	212	216	232	223	204	218
Attendance Goal Per Day	200	200	200	194	191	207	183	183
Above/Below Goal	14	(25)	12	22	41	16	21	35
Total Revenue	\$ 84,638	\$ 78,215	\$ 89,927	\$ 87,761	\$ 93,318	\$ 90,690	\$ 86,111	\$ 92,278
Average Revenue per Day	\$ 1,144	\$ 879	\$ 1,058	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,042	\$ 897	\$ 1,003
Average Dollars Spent per Guest	\$ 5.35	\$ 5.01	\$ 4.98	\$ 4.67	\$ 4.56	\$ 4.67	\$ 4.40	\$ 4.60
Days Closed Due to Bad Weather	1	2	2	2	6	4	6	4
Rainy Stormy Days	8	16	15	32	22	21	42	20

2019 Aquatics Attendance Summary May 4 – July 31, 2019

	Pirates Bay Water Park	Calypso Cove
		
Daily Attendance Summary	Daily Attendance	Daily Attendance
Monday	12,539	1,733
Tuesday	8,397	1,248
Wednesday	11,407	1,175
Thursday	13,309	1,268
Friday	19,790	2,416
Saturday	34,290	3,120
Sunday	23,175	2,327
Total	122,907	13,287
Average Per Day – 77 / 63 Days	1,596	211
Projected Attendance - 100 / 89 Days	159,600	18,779

