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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**West University Place Parks and Recreation Department
Achieves Statewide Gold Medal Award of Excellence**

WEST UNIVERSITY PLACE, TX - The City of West University Place Parks and Recreation Department was honored with the prestigious Gold Medal Award at the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) Institute Annual Awards Ceremony on February 29 at the Moody Gardens Convention Center in Galveston, Texas. West University Place is the only Class IV (Populations up to 25,000) city in Texas to receive this designation in 2024.

The Gold Medal Award recognizes communities demonstrating excellence in Parks and Recreation Management. Long-range planning, resource and fiscal management, programming and events, public input, community involvement, volunteerism, and marketing/promotional efforts were all considerations for the award.

“Each city is only eligible once every three years, and West University Place is the only agency with populations under 25,000 to receive this honor three times,” said Susan White, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. “This is not by happenstance, this is a testament to our fantastic staff, and continuous support from board members and City Council,” she added.

“I am thrilled to see our Parks and Recreation Department receive this prestigious award,” said Mayor Susan Sample. “Our staff’s hard work and commitment to enhancing the community’s quality of life is truly commendable. In my opinion, we have the best staff in the industry,” she added.

The Friends of West University Parks Fund (Friends) has been instrumental in the overall success of the department’s efforts. Since their inception in 1986, the Friends have raised nearly \$9M to improve West U’s parks.

Friends is a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds for the development and improvement of parks and green spaces in the City of West University Place. For more information, visit www.westuparks.org.

The Texas Recreation and Park Society is a nonprofit 501(c)3 educational and professional organization committed to advancing the field of parks, recreation, and leisure services in Texas. There are over 2,300 professional and citizen-advocate members of the Texas Recreation and Park Society. For more information, visit www.traps.org.

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