

Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park Design Process

White Oak Studio was selected for the design phases and construction management of the project. White Oak Studio led the 2000 and 2015 Parks Master Planning process and was responsible for the design and construction management of Friends Park and the Colonial Park East end. In addition, the 2015 Parks and Open Space Master Plan identified the area between Buffalo Speedway and Edloe/Poor Farm Ditch as the largest area that does not have a park within a 1/2 mile effective walking radius of residents. Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park is located within the identified area.

City Council appointed a 19 member Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park Citizens Task Force comprised of several park neighbors, Parks Board, Friends Board and Senior Board representatives, a Hughes family representative and a City Council liaison to form a development recommendation for Council. Five Task Force meetings and one Town Hall meeting have been held to date, and a [conceptual plan](#) has been approved by the Task Force for recommendation to Council. The Parks and Recreation Board and the Friends of West U Parks Board have also approved the recommended plan.

On October 9, the conceptual plan recommended by the Task Force was presented to City Council. Council directed staff to have architect prepare [two new concepts](#) to address the setback by bringing the Pittsburg and Sewanee fence lines to the sidewalk - one concept having the "front porch" and one without. The other elements remain the same.

The two additional concepts were presented to City Council October 23. After discussion, Council approved [Revised Concept 1](#) for Jennie Elizabeth Hughes (JEH) Park. It is a modified plan of the Front Porch/Backyard concept recommended by the JEH Park Citizens Task Force. Please note that the plan will require a Council variance to locate the front fences, retaining walls, steps, and front porch in the locations shown.

3/27/18 Update

Staff and the architects have completed the design development and construction document phases for the park, and the bid phase is currently underway. The legal bid notice will be published in the City's official paper on March 28 and April 4, and several prospective bidders will be notified regarding the project. During the design development process, there were only a few minor modifications to the [concept](#) Council approved in October, such as:

- East side seating area - This is the location for interpretive signage about the Hughes family, which faces inside the park. The opposite side of the interpretive sign faces Sewanee and reflects the name, "Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park." The four single chairs have been replaced with a bench. The decomposed granite surface in this area was replaced with pavers for the Friends of West U Parks donor program.
- Addition of a bench on the west side park.
- Little Free Library deferred until volunteer sponsorship available (Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Silver Award, etc.)
- The log seat areas have been scaled back. There are five log seats located near the water feature area - three on the north side and two on the west side.

The bid documents include two alternate "deducts." One alternate is to remove the porch cover above the brick columns so the brick porch base and columns would remain, but with no cover. The other alternate is to eliminate the perimeter brick wall and replace it with a double-

sided cedar fence. Both of these alternates will be submitted for Council's consideration when the bids are presented. A May 2018 Council date is targeted; however, once the actual bids are received on April 19, a firmer timeline will be established. Another update will be distributed to the Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park Subscriber List once the Council meeting date has been set. Sign up for updates at myparks@westutx.gov.