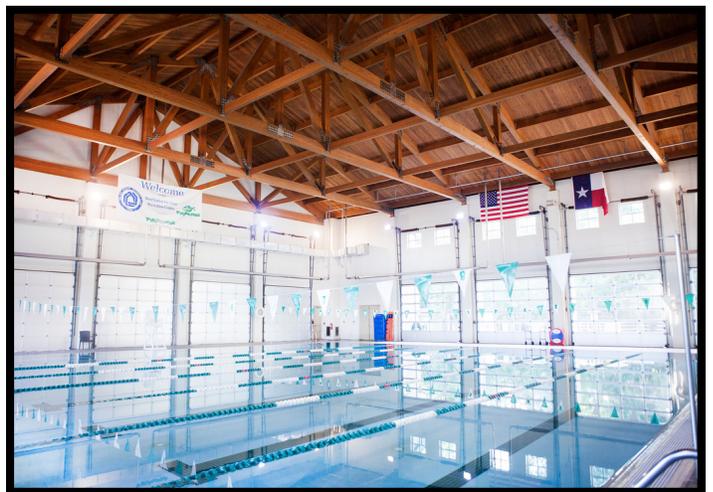




# City of West University Place Parks & Recreation



2023 Year in Review



# West University Place, TX

## Vision

**West University Place Parks and Recreation Department strives to lead Texas as an active and healthy community.**

## Mission

**The West University Place Parks and Recreation Department team offers quality programs, facilities, and services that encourage community participation and promote fun, physical activity and growth, in a safe and wholesome environment.**

## Values – West U Spirit

We **Serve** the West U Community!

We are **Professional!**

We act with **Integrity!**

We produce **Results!**

We look for **Innovation!**

We work as a **Team!**

# Parks & Recreation Department

## Administration

**Susan White, Parks & Recreation Director**

**Charlotte Herling, Administrative Coordinator** *TRAPS East Region Rookie of the Year Recipient*

**Donna LaMond, Friends of West University Parks Executive Director**

## Recreation

**Brittany Bakes, Recreation Manager** *Spirit Coin Recipient, Employee of the Year*

**Willette Middleton, Recreation Operations Supervisor** *Spirit Coin Recipient*

**Lisa Cearfoss, Program Specialist - Aquatics and Recreation**

**James Browning, Program Specialist - Aquatics and Recreation**

## Park Maintenance

**Jeremy Veld, Parks Operations Manager** *Spirit Coin Recipient*

**Jeremy Tucker, Parks Crew Leader**

**Rudolfo Villavechia, Parks Technician II**

## Senior Services

**Toby Brooks - Senior Services Manager** *Distinguished Employee Recipient*

**Patricia Noren - Program Specialist - Senior Services** *Spirit Coin Recipient*

## Coordinators

**Rob Cantu - Recreation**

**Jonathan Aguilar - Recreation**

**Abraham Venegas - Recreation**

**Alondra Cruz - Aquatics**

**Alan Garza - Aquatics**

**Ashley Camarillo - Aquatics**

**Mary Sission - Senior Services**

## Summer Interns

**Eva Veeningen - Recreation**

**Isabelle Louis - Aquatics**

## Fall Interns

**Catherine George - Recreation**



# Parks & Recreation Department

## Parks & Recreation Board

**Stephanie Magers, Chair**  
**Samantha Morrison, Friends Board Rep**  
**Sarah Barrett**  
**Rebecca Brownlie**  
**Richard Cunningham**  
**Stephan Damiani**  
**Ryan Firth**  
**Maryann Grahmann**  
**Lauren Griffith**  
**Laura “Lu Lu” Lopez**  
**Arlene Wells**

## Senior Board

**Ann Crowley, Chair**  
**Diana Ayers**  
**Candyce Beneke**  
**Soraya Brombacher**  
**Kay Bryan**  
**Robin Burks**  
**Teresa George-Hung**  
**George Hilderbrandt**  
**Karen Kenny**  
**Debbie Pedrick**  
**Gloria Nino Monacelli**  
**Eileen O’Neil**  
**Jennifer Sickman**  
**Laura Turley**  
**Geri Wood**

## City Manager

**Dave Beach**

## Friends of West U Parks Board

**Samantha Morrison, Chair**  
**Donna LaMond, Executive Director**  
**Susan White, Ex-Officio**  
**Judy Cheng**  
**Sarah Covington**  
**Mary Frances DuMay**  
**Kimberly Eads**  
**Dan Fertig**  
**Kelly Beth Hapgood**  
**Katie Hill**  
**Kelly Hill**  
**Michelle Huth**  
**Jordan Jewett**  
**Sarah Knysh**  
**Chandradev Mehta**  
**Stephen Olson**  
**Christine Parker**  
**Mark Prescott**  
**Mitra Woody**  
**Christi Young**

## City Council

**Susan Sample, Mayor**  
**John Montgomery, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Shannon Carroll, Council Member**  
**Clay Brett, Council Member**  
**Matt Hart, Council Member**

# Friends of West University Parks Fund, Inc

**The Friends of West University Parks Fund, (Friends) is a volunteer based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds for development and improvement of parks and green spaces in the City of West University Place.**



**Parks Lovers' Ball Co-Chairs**  
Whitney & Marc Walsh  
Mitra & Josh Woody



**Fathers & Flashlights Co-Chairs**  
Kelly Beth & Charlie Hapgood  
Megan & Nick Nicodemus  
Katy & Chris Turner

**In 2023, between Park Lovers' Ball and Fathers & Flashlights, Friends of West U Parks netted \$421,000 for West U's parks and green spaces.**



### **2023 Star Citizen Awards**

2021 & 2022 Fathers & Flashlights Co-Chairs: Whitney & Marc Walsh and Mitra & Josh Woody  
2023 Park Lovers' Ball Co-Chairs: Katie & Chris Hill and Sarah & Mark Knysch

[www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org)

# Parks and Greenspaces

## Edloe Pathway Project

On January 23, 2023, Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with PMG Project Management Group, LLC, the low bidder, who also scored highest on the bid tabulation, to construct a pervious pathway along the east side of Edloe St. between Albans St. and Georgetown St. Other work not included in the bid was the relocation of some CenterPoint Energy infrastructure and silt fencing installation, both of which were managed by the City.

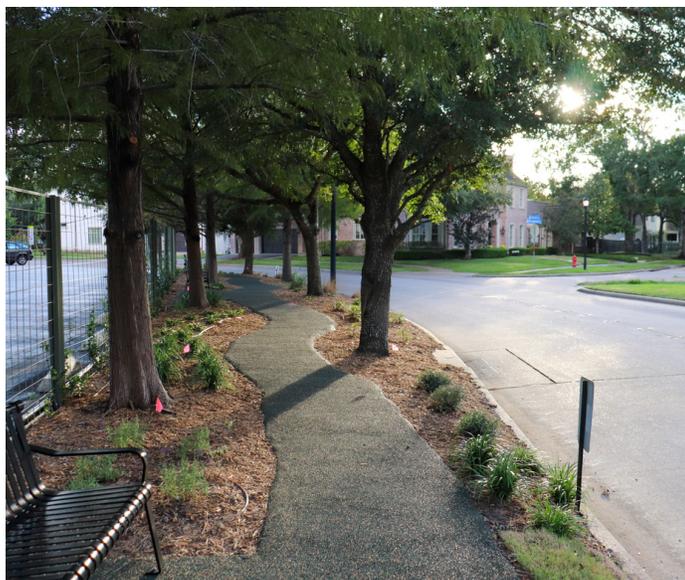
The project includes:

- A pervious pathway using recycled materials. (color mix brown, green, black recycled rubber and pebbles)
- 6-foot high aluminum fencing along west side of Poor Farm Ditch; including an update to the existing fencing located near the three pedestrian bridges to ensure a uniform look and feel.
- Irrigation system
- Benches
- Drinking fountain with pet station
- Pet waste and refuse station
- Landscaping – Sod around trail with enhanced landscaping beds at pedestrian bridges and ground cover to enhance areas visible from perpendicular streets.

The Friends of West University Parks Fund garnered donations for 8 benches along the pathway. Friends is a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds for the development and improvement of parks and green spaces in West University Place.

In 2015, the city adopted the Parks and Recreation Department's Master Plan which recommended adding a walking path within West U, especially along Poor Farm Ditch. The city is excited to cross this recommendation off the list.

The project was substantially complete in October of 2023.



# Parks and Greenspaces

## Wier Park Improvements

The Parks and Recreation Board and staff have been working in conjunction with Burditt Landscape Architects and a citizen user group on improvement recommendations. Overall, no major changes are recommended for the park layout and programming. With the extension of the artificial turf in the play areas and the new artificial turf in the fitness area, the park will gain approximately 6,500 square feet of usable space. The Parks and Recreation Board met on June 14, 2023, and recommended the concept shown below for City Council's approval. On Monday, July 10, City Council approved the concept design.

The main items include:

- repainting the current play structures
- replacing the artificial safety turf
- refreshing the picnic tables and benches
- removing the decomposed granite and adding connective pathways and shade structures
- expanding play areas with new features such as a play mound and signature swing
- installing a new gate entry off Nottingham Street and pavers
- adding a gathering area conducive for small parties and picnics
- resurface and restripe tennis and basketball courts
- additional seating
- removing the parking space on Nottingham Street to increase open green space, which is an initiative identified in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Improvements for the space west of the basketball court include adding chin-up bars and a cornhole game, space permitting. It has also been recommended to level out the court areas. Lastly, solar and lighting enhancements will be considered.



What to expect:

- Construction is estimated to cost between \$865,000 - \$1 million.
- The project is estimated to start in February 2024.
- Construction would take three months minimum from start to finish.

Staff has recommended construction be completed continuously in lieu of phasing to limit interruptions to park users.

# Parks and Greenspaces

## Colonial Park West End

In 2023 both decks at the West End of Colonial park got a much needed face lift.

Byron deck was demolished except for a few structural supports that were still good. The walkway from the pool leading to the deck was originally wood but was changed to a concrete path so issue wouldn't arise with wood sitting on the ground like previously. The contractor added more supports and framing structure to mirror the Case Deck and added additional seating around the trees and perimeter to match the Case Deck.

Proceeds from the 12th annual West U Halloween 5k & Fun Run were used for the improvements to the Byron Deck.

Approximately half of the Case Deck was removed to improve airflow, and the remaining portion was repaired. An adjoining, low-maintenance artificial turf lawn and picnic tables were installed in place to create an enjoyable greenspace under the grand Live Oaks. The new turf expands to the fence line creating more recreational and event space.



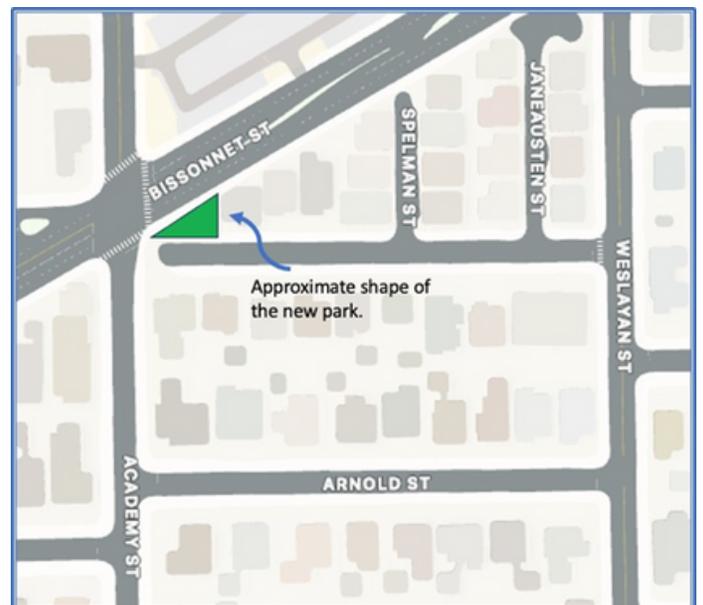
Byron Deck



Case Deck

## New Park Land

Staff were contacted by a townhome resident on Browning to learn who pays for the irrigation serving the adjacent greenspace west of 4040 Browning. Public Works confirmed that the City is the owner of the account. The plat shows the land west of 4040 Browning labeled as "Park Reserve" for the townhomes. However, after the legal team further researched county records, it was determined that the builder deeded this property and the area with the West U sign (Bissonnet at Wesleyan) to the City of West University Place in 1999. The entry sign property is approximately 900 sqft, and the greenspace west of the townhome is approximately 2,140 sq ft.



# Colonial Park Pool



## Summer Aquatic Leadership

**Sarah Behan - Captain**  
**Callie Hester - Captain**  
**Adeline Lasics - Captain**  
**Will Nickerson - Captain**  
**Paige Naughton - Captain**

## Memberships Sold

**3,469**

## Member Visits

**23,121**

## Seasonal Aquatic Staff

**136**

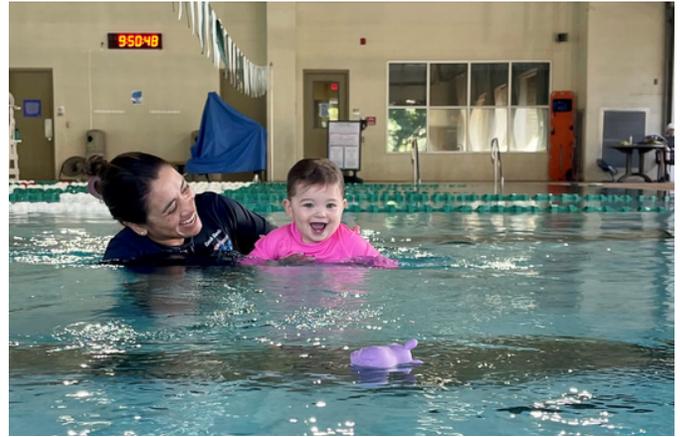
## Daily Passes

**6,628**



Summer 2023 Lifeguard Staff

# Recreation



Memberships Sold

**3,271**

Member Visits

**45,317**

Daily Passes

**1,179**

Tennis Memberships Sold

**130**

Total Tennis Reservations

**7,864**

Tennis Court Hours Used

**11,562**



# Recreation

Total Classes Offered

**412**

Total Class Participants

**2384**

Private Swim Lessons Taken

**23,011**



Wally's Pool School Instructor teaching a private lesson

# Senior Services

Total Classes Offered

**2,719**

Total Participants

**14,028**

Transportation Services: Rides Given

**1,019**



October Theme Meal - Monster Mash

# Rentals

Scout House

**101**

Community Building

**256**

Decks (Off Season)

**37**

Decks (Peak Season)

**103**

Judson Deck

**10**

Pavilion

**126**

Colonial Park Pool Exclusives

**73**



Scout House

# Community Events



## Easter Spring Festival

**850**  
**participants**



## Independence Day Bike Parade & Pool Party

**1000**  
**participants**



## Full Moon Fest

**1100**  
**participants**



## Christmas Tree Lighting

**1100**  
**participants**

# Parks & Recreation Department

Thank you to our West U residents and supporters of the West U Parks & Recreation Department for giving us another successful year!

[Need to Call Us?](#)

**Recreation Center: 713-662-7420**

**Senior Services: 713-662-5895**

**Friends of West U Parks: 713-662-7430**

**Colonial Park Pool: 713-662-7460**

[Need to talk to specific member of our team?](#)

**Visit [www.westutx.gov/contactparks](http://www.westutx.gov/contactparks)**

[Want to rent a deck or pavilion?](#)

**Visit [www.westutx.gov/rentals](http://www.westutx.gov/rentals)**

[Want access to our Members Only events at Colonial? Get your membership now!](#)

**Visit [www.westutx.gov/reg](http://www.westutx.gov/reg)**

Recreation  
Center

**4210 Bellaire Blvd.**

Community Building/  
Senior Services

**6104 Auden St.**

Colonial Park  
Pool

**4130 Byron St.**