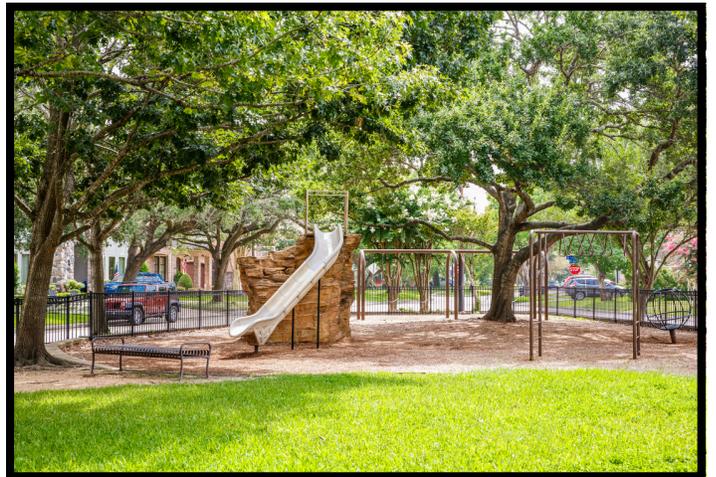




# City of West University Place Parks & Recreation



2024 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**

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

## Recreation

**Brittany Bakes, Recreation Manager**

**Willette Middleton, Recreation Operations Supervisor**

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

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

**Alondra Cruz, Lifeguard Lead**

**Abraham Venegas, Customer Service Lead**

## Park Maintenance

**Jeremy Veld, Parks Operations Manager**

## Senior Services

**Toby Brooks, Senior Services Manager** [TRAPS East Region Recreation Professional of the Year](#)

**Patricia Noren, Program Specialist - Senior Services**

## Coordinators

**Rob Cantu - Recreation**

**Jonathan Aguilar - Recreation**

**Stephany Monsivias - Aquatics**

**Juan Lopz - Aquatics**

**Mary Sission - Senior Services**

## Summer Interns

**Jayla Harrison - Recreation**

## Fall Interns

**Neece Pllum - 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**  
**Megan Nicodemus**  
**Stephen Olson**  
**Christine Parker**  
**Mark Prescott**  
**Katy Turner**  
**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**

Jordan & Andrew Jewett  
Sarah & Travis Covington



#### **Fathers & Flashlights Co-Chairs**

Kelly Beth & Charlie Hapgood  
Megan & Nick Nicodemus  
Katy & Chris Turner

**In 2024, between Park Lovers' Ball and Fathers & Flashlights, Friends of West U Parks netted \$552,000 for West U's parks and green spaces.**



#### **2024 Star Citizen Awards**

2024 Park Lovers' Ball Co-Chairs: Sarah & Travis Covington and Jordan & Andrew Jewett

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

# Parks & Recreation Department

## TRAPS Gold Medal Award

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.

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](http://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](http://www.traps.org).



# Parks and Greenspaces

## Wier Park Improvements

On Saturday, June 29, members of the West University Place City Council, Friends of West University Parks Fund (Friends), and Parks & Recreation staff hosted a celebratory ribbon cutting ceremony to reopen Wier Park.

“This marks our largest park improvement to date. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the citizen user group, Parks and Recreation Board, City Council, and the Friends of West U Parks Fund Board, who, along with architects at Burditt Consultants, LLC, and contractor Jerdon Enterprises L.P., made our ideas come to reality. We can’t wait for the community to enjoy these improvements for years to come!” *Susan White, Parks & Recreation Director*

The renovations were made possible through the generosity of Friends. Through their philanthropic events, the Friends have raised enough funds to cover the entire cost of these improvements. Thanks to their unwavering support, West U taxpayers have been alleviated of funding this project.

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. Visit [www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org) for more information on Friends and all of the wonderful initiatives they have done for West U’s parks.

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 included adding chin-up bars and a cornhole game. Solar and lighting enhancements were also included.

See pictures on next page.

# Parks and Greenspaces



# Parks and Greenspaces

## Harris County Poor Farm Historical Marker Dedication

On Wednesday, December 11, the Harris County Historical Commission unveiled the historical marker for the Harris County Poor Farm located along the Edloe Pathway near the Tangley Street pedestrian bridge.

With the support of Bernice Mistrot from the Harris County Historical Commission, West U resident and local historian Richard Cunningham initiated the process of applying for the state marker in 2021. Their thorough research and dedication were instrumental in meeting the state’s designation requirements to bring their efforts for a marker to fruition.

“This historical designation comes at a pivotal time in our city’s history as this year marked our centennial anniversary,” said Mayor Susan Sample. “The Harris County Poor Farm is a chapter in the development of West U and our neighboring communities, and it is times like this that we are reminded of our shared history and the progress we’ve made together,” she added.



PARD staff with Richard Cunningham

# Colonial Park Pool

## Summer Aquatic Leadership

**Asher Luengas - Captain**

**Thomas Carr - Captain**

**Andrew tan - Captain**

**Will Nickerson - Captain**

**Paige Naughton - Asst. Manager**

**Alex Kurie - Asst. Manager**

## Seasonal Aquatic Staff

**132**

## Memberships Sold

**3,125**

## Member Visits

**23,091**

## Daily Passes

**5,204**



Summer 2024 Lifeguard Staff

# Recreation



Memberships Sold

**4,127**

Member Visits

**40,240**

Daily Passes

**1,362**

Tennis/Pickleball Memberships Sold

**206**

Total Tennis/Pickleball Reservations

**7,990**

Tennis Court Hours Used

**12,483**



# Recreation

Total Classes Offered

**596**

Total Class Participants

**3,162**

Private Swim Lessons Taken

**16,002**



Instructor Stuart Harper teaching a private swim lesson

# Senior Services

Total Classes Offered

**2,756**

Total Participants

**15,488**

Transportation Services: Rides Given

**1,314**



September Theme Meal - Pizza Pajama Jam

# Rentals

Scout House

**94**

Community Building

**202**

Decks (Off Season)

**39**

Decks (Peak Season)

**104**

Judson Deck

**3**

Pavilion

**117**

Colonial Park Pool Exclusives

**78**



Colonial Park West End - Case Deck

# Community Events



## Easter Spring Festival

**900**  
**participants**



## Independence Day Bike Parade & Pool Party

**1150**  
**participants**



## Full Moon Fest

**1100**  
**participants**



## Christmas Tree Lighting

**900**  
**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.**