



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 68, ISSUE 4

JUNE-JULY 2023

2023 HURRICANE SEASON

The Atlantic hurricane season started on June 1. Being prepared and knowing what to do are key. There is no need to panic if you are prepared and have a plan. Pages 8–10 contain helpful articles about storm prep, flood insurance, weather resources, and more.

It has been over a decade since the Galveston-Houston region has experienced a true major hurricane. The damage from a direct hit of a major hurricane is more than flooding. Major hurricanes in Houston are typically major wind events that can cause long power outages.

We live in a very large city near the coast, so advice is different for each area of town. It is important to know where you live. Westbury is NOT in an evacuation zone. A long-time hurricane saying is, “Run from the surge, hide from the wind”. This means that the average Westbury homeowner should remain at home, inside, sheltered in place, during the event. **See page 10 for tips on what to do if a hurricane is coming.**

When there is an active storm in the Gulf of Mexico, you should always pay close attention to trusted weather sources on what is happening with the storm. **Page 8 has a list of weather sources.**

Hurricanes can bring localized flash flooding with heavy rain bands. **Page 9 gives the links to the flood gages and how to look up that information and how the Westbury gage and weirs work.** Make a plan, be prepared, and stay safe.

NEW Owner Portal & Website Launched

The wait is finally over! The brand new owner portal and website are ready! The WCC board is very excited to offer this new and improved service. If you use the handy QR code to the right, it will take you straight to our Westbury PayHOA sign-up page. The new owner portal will allow owners to view invoices, pay directly online, send requests and more. Sign up now!



The new website for the WCC is www.westburyhouston.com The website includes new Park Pages, New Useful links, all the deed restrictions, policies of the WCC, past Westbury Crier issues, and much more! Make sure to check it out and keep up to date.

Learn more about the new owner portal and website on page 7.

WWW.WESTBURYHOUSTON.COM

Westbury Pool Closed

The Westbury Civic Club is sad to announce that the Westbury Pool will not open for the 2023 Summer season. We are very disappointed that the City did not prioritize the repairs for Westbury Pool. The Westbury Pool has been closed since May 2022 due to mechanical failure. The City claims that repairs should be made this year and the pool will reopen for the 2024 Summer season.



IN THIS ISSUE:

WCC Board/Contact	2
President Message	3
Platou Center Calendar	4
Event/Trash Calendars	5
New Online Owner Portal	7
Weather Resources	8
Westbury Flood Gage Info	9
Hurricane Prep Tips	10
Port of Houston	11
Crime & Security	12-13
Westbury Community Garden	14
Willow Waterhole	15

STAY INFORMED

Like and follow the **Westbury Houston** Facebook page



Join the 2024 WCC Board Nomination Deadline: August 10, 2023

Consider joining the WCC team!

Learn more about this volunteer opportunity on page 7.



NEXT WCC Board Meeting
June 21, 7PM
August 16, 7PM
Westbury Baptist Game Room

HEAVY TRASH

July 2023
 Thursday, July 13
TREE WASTE ONLY

August 2023
 Thursday, August 10
JUNK WASTE

RECYCLING

July 2023
 Thursday, July 13
 Thursday, July 27

August 2023
 Thursday, August 10
 Thursday, August 24

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE

5322 W. Bellfort #100, Houston, TX 77035
Jennifer Edmondson.....WCC Office Manager

Westbury Civic Club Office
Monday—Thursday—Appointment needed
WCC Office Closed Friday—Sunday

NOTARY SERVICES— available to paid WCC members

CONTACT US

WCC Office Telephone.....713-723-5437
WCC Office Email.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net
Deed Restrictions.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net
WCC President.....wccpresident@westburycrier.com

Visit our website at www.westburycrier.com
“Like” us on Facebook at Westbury Houston

SECURITY

Pct. 5 Constables (WAP).....281-463-6666
Report property crimes, suspicious activity, and vacation watch
Emergency.....911
Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency..... 713-884-3131
Southwest HPD Station832-394-0400

CITY OF HOUSTON

District K CM, Martha Castex-Tatum.....832-393-3016
District C Council Member, Abbie Kamin.....832-393-3004
Deed Restriction Enforcement (City Legal).....832-393-6333
Platou Community Center.....713-726-7107
Mayor’s Citizen Assistance Office.....832-393-0955
Houston Help & Information.....311
*For missed garbage pickup, water line breaks, potholes
sewer repairs, dead animals, traffic signals, heavy trash
violations, neighborhood nuisances, and other city services*

CENTERPOINT ENERGY

Electric outage.....713-207-2222
Suspected natural gas leak.....713-659-2111
Street light repairs.....713-207-2222
Make sure to give pole number

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

County Commissioner Rodney Ellis.....713-755-6111
County Commissioner Lesley Briones.....832-927-4444
Graffiti.....www.braysoaksmd.org
Shopping Cart Removal.....www.braysoaksmd.org
Brays Oaks Mgmt. District - Use “report a problem” link
Poison Control.....1-800-764-7661
Harris County Tax office.....713-368-2000
Harris County Appraisal District.....713-957-7800

2023 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contact the Westbury Civic Club at 713-723-5437 or
westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Cindy Chapman
wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President.....Marcia Hartman
Secretary.....Susan Brock
Treasurer.....Becky Edmondson

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Deed Restrictions.....Maggie Donovan
Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Jennifer Edmondson
Greenspace Beautification.....Mat Funk
Security.....VACANT
At-Large 1.....Martha Kinn
At-Large 2.....VACANT
At-Large 3.....VACANT
At-Large 4.....VACANT

SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1..... Santiago Caraballo
Westbury 2.....Lindsey Pollock
Westbury 3.....Jeff Benavides
Westbury 3.....Jonathan Hansen
Westbury 4.....Eugene Sirls
Westbury 4.....Becky Pate
Westbury 5.....Andrew Jefferson
Westbury 5.....VACANT
Westbury South.....VACANT
Parkwest 1..... VACANT
Parkwest 2.....Bob Droubi
Parkwest 3Alan Hirshman

**POSTED WCC BOARD VACANCIES CAN BE FILLED AT
ANY REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING.**

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Edited by.....WCC Publication Committee
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endorses an advertisement in the newsletter. Perform
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WESTBURY IS A DEED RESTRICTED COMMUNITY. DEED RESTRICTIONS ARE ACTIVELY ENFORCED.

A Message from the Westbury Civic Club President

Summer is here! This edition of the Westbury Crier newsletter has helpful information about Hurricane Season. My husband and I moved into our Westbury home many years ago, and like some of you, we moved from an area of the country that did not experience hurricanes or flooding concerns. Over the years we have experienced several hurricanes and tropical storms, and, I admit, I still get nervous every time.

The best advice I can give is to assume that bad weather or loss of electricity can happen at any time of the year here in Houston, so now is a perfect time to evaluate what supplies you have, what supplies you want to keep on hand, and what preparation steps to take for various possibilities. You can creatively re-use items for your stash of bad weather supplies or get cheap items from a dollar store. For example, we use empty plastic kitty litter containers for storing water to flush toilets if the city water fails. We keep cheap battery-operated flameless candles and dollar store glow necklaces on hand. Wearing a silly glow necklace during a power outage somehow makes the dark seem like a fun adventure.

When we first moved to Houston, we didn't buy flood insurance because we didn't live in a flood zone and it wasn't required for our home mortgage. Now we purchase flood insurance every year, even though we don't live in a flood zone and we have never flooded. I have grown a bit wiser over the years, and am now aware that the Harris County Flood Control District recommends that everyone in Harris County and Houston should have flood insurance for their home. Any

location in Harris County is capable of flooding if enough rainfall falls at that spot. If you are interested in purchasing a flood insurance policy, keep in mind that it can't be purchased if a storm has entered the Gulf of Mexico and a flood policy does not go into effect until 30 days after it has been purchased. In other words, if a storm is headed to Texas it is already too late to purchase a flood insurance policy. Read more on page 8 about flood insurance.

In the hurricane section of this Crier, we have information about the stormwater detention system at the Willow Waterhole (Page 9). My husband and I visit Willow Waterhole on a regular basis, and we are grateful that this marvelous amenity is conveniently located here in the Westbury Super Neighborhood. Harris County Precinct One (Commissioner Rodney Ellis) has already started work on improving the trail systems at Westbury Lake (near Westbury High School and the Westbury Little League fields), and trails around the other 5 lakes will be coming soon due thanks to large donations from foundations like the Kinder Foundation. Willow Waterhole Greenspace membership fees are used for conservation projects.

As we enter begin the hottest months of summer, keep in mind that some children will be attending summer school and that reduced speed zones will still be in effect during summer school. If you will be traveling out of town this summer, ask a trusted friend to keep an eye out on your house. If you pay your Constable fees for the Precinct 5 Westbury Patrol, contact the Constables to set up a Vacation Watch on your home.

Exciting news! Our new website and online owner portal are ready! Our office manager has spent many, many hours converting and updating all 5,000 homes to the new system. The new website, www.westburyhouston.com is updated with all the current WCC documents, policies, past and current issues of the Westbury Crier and more!

The new online owner portal will allow for better communication between the WCC office/WCC board and residents. We have heard the complaints and are trying to improve. We are really hopeful that once the kinks get worked out, this new system will provide for quicker communication. During the transition, all of our previous ways of collecting money and communicating are still open. Thank you for your financial support.

The WCC learned in mid-May that the Westbury Pool will NOT be open at all this summer. We are very disappointed in the lacking of timely repairs. The City claims that the pool will be open for summer 2024. There are many City pools open throughout the City as well as splashpads.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer.
Cindy



WCC Board Notes — April 2023

- WAP Sgt. Derkowski: Remind your lawn crews and construction contractors to lockup their valuables and equipment. There have been fewer incidences Year to Date compared to last year in Westbury; however, assaults and disturbances are higher. Theft of yard crew equipment continues to be a problem.
- Discussion of proposed trail for Hillcroft esplanade. Precinct One is seeking federal funding for the project. The Board approved a motion for a letter of support for the trail project.

WCC Board Notes — May 2023

- WAP Sgt. Derkowski, gave a crime update for the month. This month – 2 mental illness cases and 6 property crimes (tires, leaf blower, package theft) and one home aggravated robbery/home invasion.
- A study by Public Works, the Willowbend Connectivity Study, was summarized by Susan Brock. The first meeting focused on challenges along Willowbend.
- WCC Board voted to not meet in July. The next WCC board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 21 and then on Wednesday, August 16.

NEXT
WCC Board
Meeting
Wednesday
August 16
7PM
 Westbury Baptist Church
 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room

Platou Community Center at Chimney Rock Park

11655 Chimney Rock Rd
713-726-7107 * platou@houstontx.gov



New Supervisor— Dajai Tennard
Email—Dajai.Tennard@houstontx.gov

**Platou Center is open from 9:30AM—6PM,
Monday—Friday**

Summer Enrichment Program

Platou Community Center will have a daily Summer Enrichment Program from June 5 through August 18 for children 6 to 13 years of age. At this time, the program is full, however, you may still call to verify availability. The Program is led by Platou Center Supervisor Dajai Tennard.

No Adult Program During Summer

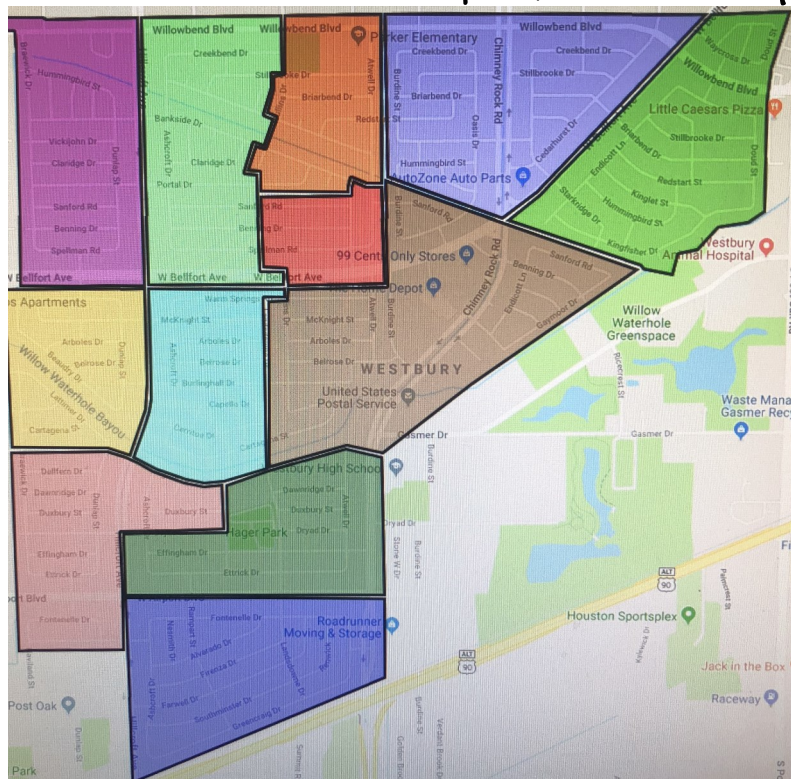
Adult programs will resume on Tuesday, September 5 with the Quilting group. Stretching exercise and the Games group will also continue. New programs are welcome. Platou programs for adults are volunteer led. Contact Dajai Tennard at 713-726-7107.

Visit Chimney Rock Park 11655 Chimney Rock





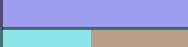





Chimney Rock Park is the smallest of the three City parks located in Westbury, but it still has a lot to offer. The park has a nice playground with a swingset, shaded picnic tables next to the playground, basketball courts, and tennis courts. There is a small parking lot located off Chimney Rock.



Map of Westbury by Section



Westbury is the 2nd largest neighborhood in the City of Houston with 5,000 homes. One reason Westbury has remained such a viable and desirable neighborhood is because of the very active Westbury Civic Club. The WCC has been advocating and working hard for the neighborhood for over 60 years. We often refer to different sections when talking about current or upcoming city projects, crime, or events. This handy map can also be found on our website, www.westburycrier.com.

	Parkwest 1	198 homes
	Parkwest 2	445 homes
	Parkwest 3	311 homes
	Westbury 1	543 homes
	Westbury 2	530 homes
	Westbury 3	853 homes
	Westbury 4	834 homes
	Westbury 5	501 homes
	Westbury 5	150 homes
	Westbury South	563 homes

What's Happening in Westbury

JUNE 2023 Events/Meetings

Thurs 8	Heavy Trash - JUNK WASTE	
Sat 17	Audubon Society Bird Survey 5310 South Willow Monthly bird survey	7AM
Wed 21	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting Zoom Meeting	9:30AM
Wed	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room	7PM

JULY 2023 Events/Meetings

Tues 4	Happy July 4th!	
July 3-7	WCC Office Closed	
Thurs 13	Heavy Trash - TREE WASTE ONLY	
Sat 15	Audubon Society Bird Survey 5310 South Willow Monthly bird survey	7AM
Wed 19	NO WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting	
Wed 19	NO Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting	

AUGUST 2023 Events/Meetings

Thurs 10	Heavy Trash - JUNK WASTE	
Thurs 10	WCC Board Nomination Deadline See page 7	
Wed 16	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting Zoom Meeting	9:30AM
Wed 16	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room	7PM
Sat 19	Audubon Society Bird Survey 5310 South Willow Monthly bird survey	7AM
Mon 28	Houston ISD First Day of School	

All About Trash

Trash, yard waste, recycling, and heavy trash are picked up by the City of Houston.



Regular Household Trash

Pick-up is EVERY Thursday. Regular household trash goes into the black trash can.

Yard Waste

Pick-up is EVERY week either on Thursday or Saturday or any day the City decides to come by. Yard Waste MUST be placed in the correct City bio-degradable bags.



Recycling in Westbury

All of Westbury recycles on Schedule A. Recycling is every other week. Recycling goes into the green trash can.

July 2023

Thursday, July 13
Thursday, July 27

August 2023

Thursday, August 10
Thursday, August 24

Heavy Trash Schedule

All of Westbury is on the same schedule for Heavy Trash. Pick-up is on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Odd months are TREE WASTE ONLY and even months are JUNK WASTE months.

July 2023

TREE WASTE ONLY
Thursday, July 13

August 2023

JUNK WASTE
Thursday, August 10

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday.
- ♻️ Recycling is every other Thursday.
- ♻️ Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- ♻️ Yard waste is picked up on Saturdays.
- ♻️ Westbury is on Recycle Schedule A
- ♻️ NO Plastic Bags in green recycling bins
- ♻️ Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM each Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM each Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- ♻️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- ♻️ Yard waste MUST be in correct biodegradable bags with City logo
- ♻️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ♻️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
 - SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr - 10785 SW Frwy**
Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM;
Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables.
 - Environmental Service Center - 11500 S. Post Oak**
Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM.
Accepts Hazardous Household & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ Refer to www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

NEW Online Owner Portal

Owners can now easily pay your assessments or dues online and also be able to access invoices, track payments, make requests and much more!

Read more on pages 1 and 7.

Use the handy QR code to start your PayHOA account today.

**ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1 & 2**

Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments. These assessments may be adjusted annually by the most recently published annual percentage change for the US Urban Wage Earners, US City Average, in accordance with the deed restrictions.

The 2023 Mandatory Assessments are \$267.35.

Please send this form in with your payment

2023 Westbury Civic Club Dues

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Online payment:

www.westburyhouston.com

www.paypal.com to email

westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Make sure to include your address

Make checks payable to:

Westbury Civic Club, Inc.

Mail to:

PO Box 975182

Dallas, TX 75397-5182

Westbury Civic Club Dues

\$60 \$

Westbury Area Patrol

\$315 \$

Subtotal **\$375** \$

Additional Contributions:

Westbury Civic Club

\$

Westbury Area Patrol

\$

Total

\$

By filling out this form, you are giving the WCC permission to send you communications. We DO not sell your information or give it out to other entities.

Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday Each Month at 7PM

Westbury Baptist Church, 10425 Hillcroft

→ Live streamed on Facebook, Westbury Houston

Next WCC Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 16, 7PM

IN PERSON MEETING

Westbury Baptist

Topics– Update on City projects,

Deed restriction revision,

Committee reports

**WESTBURY IS A DEED RESTRICTED
COMMUNITY.**

**DEED RESTRICTIONS ARE ACTIVELY
ENFORCED.**

WCC Contacts, Forms, and Services**Contact the WCC Office**

westburycc@sbcglobal.net, 713-723-5437

Message Westbury Houston Facebook page

Contact the WCC President

wccpresident@westburycrier.com

House Plan Review**New Homes, Solar Panels, additions, etc.**

Form is online at www.westburyhouston.com

Submit plans and completed form to the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Statement of Account

Email the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Resale Certificates

Form is online at www.westburyhouston.com

Return payment and completed form to the WCC office

Deed Restrictions, Policies, By-laws

Available online at www.westburyhouston.com

Join the 2024 WCC Board Nomination Deadline - August 10

Elections for the 2024 WCC Board of Directors will be conducted in September at the WCC Annual Meeting. All nominations must be received before 4 PM on the second Thursday of August, which is August 10, the deadline specified in our bylaws.

Come join a great group of volunteers who strive to keep our neighborhood a great place to call home! The board does this in many ways from flood advocacy, esplanade beautification, park workdays, security, enforcement of the deed restrictions, and much more.

Please express your interest in running for the board of the Westbury Civic Club by letter or by email. If you send an email, please use the subject line of WCC 2024 Elections. Email westburycc@sbcglobal.net. The mailing address is 5322 W. Bellfort, Ste. 100, Houston, TX, 77035.

- ➔ All board members must be a listed Owner of Record for a property in Westbury, Parkwest, or Westbury South.
- ➔ Section Directors must be a listed Owner of Record of home that is in the section they wish to represent.
- ➔ Candidates must submit interest to serve on the board by the deadline and must include the following statement filled out. "My name is ____ and I declare that I am eligible to be a Director or Officer of the Westbury Civic Club. I am the listed Owner of Record for ____ (street address)."
- ➔ Candidates may submit a statement, up to 100 words in length.
- ➔ All candidates must include contact information including address, phone number, email, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 713-723-5437.



New Online Owner Portal & Website

The wait is finally over! The WCC now has an interactive online website that allows each owner to have access to their own home portal. You will be able to view payments, make payments, make requests, and much more. Our new host, PayHOA, has many great modules that we will be activating over the next year. They have message boards, surveys, and more. Don't worry, we are not becoming an HOA, that is just the name of their company! You can still pay via the form on the previous page.

Westbury Civic Club Office
5322 West Bellfort
Houston, Texas 77035

Your address and home photo

Account History

View invoices

View payment history

Scan me!

Setup Your NEW Online Owner Portal Today!

Once you scan the QR code to the right or visit our new website for the direct link, follow the prompts to request access to your portal. This will send the WCC office an email to approve and then you will be granted access to set up password and see your account.

Check out our NEW website Today!

www.WestburyHouston.com

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JACKIE MURRAY
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KENDYL MAURER
(281) 904-8199

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JackieKendylTeam@WayneMurray.net



The Murray Group

(713) 728-2300



We're Local We're Global



10702 Landsdowne - 4/2/2 • \$460's



11906 Renwick - 3/2/2 • \$290's



5427 Hummingbird - 3/2/2 • \$340's



HOUSTON • KATY • SUGAR LAND • THE WOODLANDS

Helpful Weather Sources

Does rain make you nervous? Are you unsure on the weather forecasts? Does listening to the news weather reports make you panic? You are not alone. Houston weather over the past couple years has made us all very wary, if not scared, of storms.



Houston gets rain. The trick is to know where and how much. There are many good websites and apps available that can help guide you before rain events or during them. One good piece of advice is to look for warnings and alerts from the actual source, for example the National Hurricane Center. This is not a complete list but just one meant to help guide you and add to your storm preparations.

Harris County Flood Warning System www.harriscountyfws.org

This website is extremely helpful during a rain event. It shows real time bayou levels and rainfall amounts at gages that have been installed along the bayous. **Gage 445** is located in Westbury on the Willow Waterhole Bayou at the Landsdowne bridge. Gage 440 is located on Brays Bayou at S. Rice. A new tool just introduced is the ability to sign up for Flood Alerts by gage. Another tool available on the website is a Flood Inundation real time map that can help residents make critical decisions regarding life and property during events. If you are ever curious about the rainfall amounts and rate, you can also look up historical data.

National Hurricane Center www.nhc.noaa.gov

If there is a chance of a named storm or there is a current named storm, the National Hurricane Center is your go-to source. During an active named storm, there will be multiple updates issued along with many different maps. These include the wind probability, the storm track cone, storm surge, tides, and many more.

Hype-free Weather Forecast www.spacecityweather.com

This website is dedicated to covering Houston weather news and forecasting with accuracy and without hype. Space City Weather was founded in October 2015. This website isn't about making money or getting "hits", it is truly about providing residents and business owners a quality forecast to make informed decisions. Eric Berger and Matt Lanza provide the best forecast for Houston weather. You can also follow them on Facebook.

Be Alert. Be Weather Smart.

Sign Up for Power Outage Alerts

A helpful alert service about Centerpoint power outages is Power Alert Service (PAS) which can notify you, friends and family of a power outage, its restoration progress, and when the electricity comes back on.

Thanks to upgrades, you can send alerts to up to five texts, five emails and five phone numbers.

<https://www.centerpointenergy.com>

Do You Have Flood Insurance?

While the majority of Westbury is not in the 100 or 500 year flood plains, floods can happen anywhere given the right circumstances. **Anywhere it can rain, it can flood.** There is no such thing as a no flood zone. Only 15% of the structures that flooded during Harvey had flood insurance. Did you know the record for rainfall in a 24-hour period is held in nearby Alvin, Texas? 44 inches! The good news is that, if you are not in a flood plain, then you can buy peace of mind for just a few hundred dollars a year.

The Harris County Flood Control District advises that EVERY HOME in Harris County should have flood insurance, whether or not you live in a mapped flood plain. The current flood plain maps do not fully warn where flooding might occur. Homeowner's policies do not include flood coverage, and, because no insurance company wanted to write an unprofitable line of business, the federal government stepped in. In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners.

If you don't have flood insurance, ask your insurance agent for a quote. Make sure that you check the coverages and understand EXACTLY what you are purchasing. If you don't have an insurance agent, then look for one online at the FEMA site. Put in your address and it will give you a local agent. <https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance-provider>

PLEASE NOTE— You cannot purchase flood insurance when a named storm is in the Gulf of Mexico. Once purchased, there is a 30 day waiting period before coverage takes effect.

Dog Boarding and Daycare (713) 668-7297

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Web: www.youluckydoghouston.com
Email: info@youluckydoghouston.com

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Ad (\$30 Value)

Sign Up for Alerts from The City



Sometimes it is easy to become complacent with weather alerts, but emails, texts, and phone calls sent from the City Alert System can be extremely helpful. If you haven't signed up to receive City alerts, you may do so with AlertHouston. Timely information during emergencies is important. AlertHouston delivers critical information to Houston residents regarding current conditions, expected impacts, and protective actions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

These alerts are issued by City of Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Messages are issued for citywide and neighborhood level emergencies. They are sent through email and social media (Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor). You must opt-in to receive these alerts.

More information is available at www.houstonemergency.org/alerts/

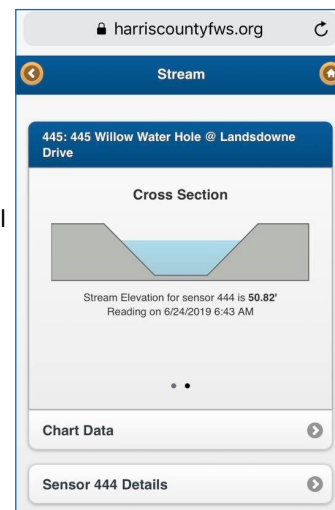
Register for emergency alerts through email, text message, voice call, or mobile app push notification. You may download the Everbridge app free of charge from the Apple or Andoid app store. Most alerts are geo-targeted; subscribers with loved ones around the city may register up to five physical addresses per contact record.

Sign up for Flood Gage Warning Alerts

The regional Flood Warning System measures rainfall and monitors water levels in bayous, creeks, and rivers on a real-time basis to inform area residents of potential flooding conditions. This system relies on a network of 250 gage stations that have been strategically placed throughout Harris and surrounding counties. Westbury has one of these gages located on the Willow Waterhole Bayou (#445). This information is available at www.harriscountyfws.org.

You can now sign up for alerts on a specific gages near your home or work. You can receive default rainfall and water level alerts or create custom water alerts.

The Willow Waterhole Bayou at Landsdowne rises quickly and it's imperative for surrounding homeowners to know what is happening. It is important to remember that this gage will likely stay at a certain level (approximately 51-52ft) when flood waters are going over the weirs downstream at the Willow Waterhole detention basins.



Alert received on June 24

Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) Gages

- #445 – WWB at Landsdowne (Westbury)
- #435 – WWB at Willowbend

Brays Bayou (BB) Gages

- #440 – BB at Rice Ave.
- #460 – BB at S. Gessner
- #465 – BB at Beltway 8



Westbury Flood Gage Explained

Westbury has a flood gage located on the Willow Waterhole Bayou at Landsdowne (gage 445). The gage can be accessed here, <https://www.harriscountyfws.org/GageDetail/Index/445>.

Once the Willow Waterhole Bayou reaches a certain level, the water will overflow the weirs into the basins at the Willow Waterhole complex. The Westbury flood gage (which is upstream of the basins) will read steady at this point, typically around 51.2-51.5ft. It is also at this same level, that the flood control system will show that flooding is possible in Westbury and the news will start reporting it as such. While this is technically true and flooding can happen anywhere, it is important to remember that we have the basins downstream. Watch the gage levels to really know. If the gage holds steady, it is likely water is flowing into the basins not homes. If the gage were to start rising again, flooding would be very likely in Westbury homes. The unknown factor is how full the basins are or will get once it starts raining. There is no gage or camera at the basins.

The gage in Westbury is set to only update when there is a change in water level. If we are in the middle of a rain event and the gage stops updating, while at a level of 51.2-51.5ft, it is likely the water is overflowing the weirs downstream.

CONCERNED WITH YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?



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Hurricane Preparation Tips

No one likes to hear that there is a possible direct hit of a major hurricane coming, but it is the reality of living so close to the coast. Knowing what to do and having a plan is extremely helpful. There is a chance every year that our storm will come, we just hope not. If a major hurricane is predicted to hit Houston, you need to prepare for the wind and rain during the storm itself and for the aftermath of no power for 2-3 weeks.

Should I stay or should I go now? The first decision ultimately is when to stay and at what point, if ever, do you leave. A longtime hurricane saying is "run from the surge, hide from the wind". If you are medically dependent on electricity and do not have a generator, you need to have a plan for a place to stay during and after the storm. Most residents can stay in their Westbury homes during a major hurricane. You hunker down and prepare for the wind (discussed to the right). Houston residents do not need to be on the roadways as those will be needed for coastal evacuations. The question is: do you stay in your home with no power after the storm, or do you leave town at that point? This decision will help with how you plan for buying food, water, gas, charcoal, etc. Some needs are for the storm itself and others are for the aftermath of no electricity for weeks.

The two lists on this page were created by Westbury residents and are meant to be a helpful guide. There are official hurricane prep lists available on all the major news channels websites, which are also helpful tools to help plan. Be prepared and be safe.



Immediate Hurricane Preparation Tips

(This would ideally be done over several days leading up to landfall).

- Fill all vehicles with gas.
- Buy gas for your generator if you have one. Fill up any extra tanks.
- Get extra cash.
- Make sure to have at least 2 weeks worth of all medicines. Get prescriptions filled if needed.
- Secure all items outside that can blow in the wind. Move patio furniture inside garage. Move potted plants to secure location. Secure or place your grills inside.
- Don't forget the kids items. Take off swings from swing set. Flip, disassemble, secure trampolines as they can fly. Lay basketball goals down on sides. Move all toys and bikes inside.
- Move your trash cans to your garage or secure them very well to a tree or post. Duct tape the lids shut.
- For major storms, put plywood over your windows. It is not recommended to tape your windows, as this can cause more dangerous shards of glass than if it were to break naturally.
- Freeze bottles of water to make ice that will extend life of your freezer or refrigerator. Make as many as possible as they can be used in an ice chest as well.
- Have flashlights and batteries. Buy extra batteries if needed. Having a battery operated lantern for main room or head flashlights for each person are handy. Kids might enjoy glow sticks.
- Have candles or oil lamps ready
- Get matches or lighters for candles, grill, or your gas stove.
- Have a battery operated radio so you can listen to alerts. Some new models have charging ports and special NOAA channel.
- Buy at least one week's worth of non-perishable foods. Suggested items include peanut butter crackers, bread, muffins, fruit with longer shelf life such as apples and oranges, snack bars, granola, beef jerky, trail mixes, applesauce, fruit cups and canned goods.
- Ensure you have enough pet food and supplies such as kitty litter for at least 2 weeks.
- Buy charcoal or propane for your grill so you can cook outside if power goes out.
- Get extra water. (And wine!)
- Charge all devices and keep fully charged until power goes out. You can sit in your car later for some AC and charge your phone.
- Do all laundry. Wash sheets. Start with clean slate to minimize problems with heat and sweat.
- Wash all dishes.
- Fill bathtub or large buckets with water. If there is no City water available, you can use the stored water in your toilet to flush.
- Have a secure place in your house already planned and ready with a blanket and pillow and radio/phone. Ideally away from any windows. In many Westbury homes, that is likely your hallway, even if it has no doors, you can shut the individual bedroom doors that have windows so hallway is more secure.
- If you have kids, have them help with preparations and explain why you are preparing. It helps with anxiety to have a plan and be a part of it. Have them grab a book and a lovey if they have one.
- Clean storm drains and gutters in front of your home.



Long-term Hurricane Preparation Tips

- ➔ Keep your trees trimmed. Wind is the biggest threat to Westbury in a major hurricane. Keeping your branches off your home, garage, fences, and power line is important.
- ➔ Buy a portable gas generator. It is easy to get a generator when there isn't a storm aimed straight at us. They quickly become hot items. Plan ahead.
- ➔ Measure your windows and have plywood stored in the garage to place over your windows when needed. Some new windows are hurricane strength but the original Westbury home windows are not.
- ➔ Make a hurricane prep box containing flashlights, batteries, battery operated radio, candle, lighters, matches, etc., so it's already on hand.
- ➔ Save a stash of empty water bottles to fill up for your freezer to make ice or cold water.
- ➔ Copy important documents, place in sealable plastic bag, ready to take with you quickly.

Martha's President Advisory Council

District K Councilmember Martha Castex-Tatum created a Presidential Advisory Council, inviting presidents of the Civic Clubs, HOAs, and Super Neighborhoods within District K to participate. The council met in April for a tour of the Port of Houston. The special guest was Director of Solid Waste, Mark Wilfalk. Mayor Turner recently unveiled his "One Clean Houston" initiative, which is a strategic plan for a cleaner city.

District K has long been committed to clean neighborhoods and has a special HOT team dedicated to picking up illegal dumping. (The District K HOT team is a team funded by District K that responds quickly to illegal dumping problems; sometimes this is called a Hot Spot team).

The City is also launching an online form for reporting illegal dumping and to aid HPDs investigation effort. The public can also submit tips to Rat-on-a-Rat (713-525-A-RAT).

WCC President Cindy Chapman, WAIC President Becky Edmondson, WCC Vice President Marcia Hartman, and WCC office manager, Jennifer Edmondson, all attended the Port of Houston Tour. The tour of the Port was eye opening. While it was a beautiful day, it had rained the night before and the Ship Channel was full of floating debris that had been washed down from the city's storm sewers. Remember everything that is thrown into the street, eventually goes into a storm drain and then eventually flows into the Ship Channel before entering Galveston Bay and the ocean.

Are you interested in touring the Port of Houston? Visit porthouston.com to book a tour aboard the M/V Sam Houston. The M/V Sam Houston has been operating as Port Houston's public tour vessel since its inaugural voyage on July 30, 1958. This free service offers a leisurely, 90-minute round-trip, educational tour along the Houston Ship Channel. Individuals and groups are invited aboard to learn more about the port and maritime industry.



PORT OF HOUSTON

Houston has been a port city from its earliest days, despite being more than 50 miles from the ocean. Houston is built upon land purchased in 1836 near the upper navigable reaches of Buffalo Bayou. Houston was incorporated in 1837 and the first steamship visited in 1837. For decades, Houston was a small town with big ideas, but the real wealth and the main port was on Galveston Island.

But then, disaster struck. In 1900, a devastating hurricane, the deadliest in US history, hit Galveston. More than 6,000 people died and the property damage was massive (about \$900 million in 2019 dollars). A year later in 1901, oil was discovered in Texas.

As Galveston struggled to rebuild, both Houston and its port grew. Originally, Buffalo Bayou was shallow and unable to handle larger vessels. In 1902, Congress authorized \$1 million for work on the channel to Houston. In 1910, Congress agreed to a plan proposed by Houston leaders for the federal government and the City of Houston to combine funds to develop the Houston Ship Channel. In 1911, Houston voters approved \$1.25 million in bonds to pay for Houston's share of the Ship Channel improvement project. By 1914, the channel had been deepened to 25 feet deep. By 1948, the Port of Houston ranked second nationally in total tonnage.

Today, Port Houston owns, manages, and operates eight public terminals along the 52-mile waterway, including the area's largest breakbulk facility and two of the most efficient container terminals in the country. The Houston Ship Channel is one of the world's busiest waterways. A 2018 study reports that businesses related to the Houston Ship Channel contributed to 1,350,695 jobs in Texas and generated more than \$339 billion in state economic value.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL COMPLEX

1st ranked U.S. port in foreign waterborne tonnage – 193.8 million short tons (2021)

1st ranked U.S. port in total foreign and domestic waterborne tonnage – 276 million short tons (2020)

3rd ranked U.S. port in terms of total foreign cargo value (\$169.7 billion) 2021 Largest

Texas port with 35% of market share by tonnage



Home Squatters in Southwest Houston

Did you see on the news the newest scam where people moved into a house in Meyerland on S. Braeswood with a fake lease and the homeowner had to go through the time and expense of evicting them? The Westbury Civic Club has been notified that this has happened to a home in Westbury.

We received some advice from another homeowner who was a victim of renters with false identities who used the home as their crime headquarters. They recommend using a property management service. Property management companies have more resources for background checks, and criminals would have a harder time getting past background checks with them. These scammers usually look for individual landlords. They also don't recommend a "lease sign" in the yard. This attracts thieves who know the home is vacant and also attracts unqualified renters. Most qualified renters have a real estate agent and use HAR to find a rental. Finally, if your home is vacant please keep the yard maintained as squatters often look for derelict property where they know the owner is not checking on the property.

Good Example of Community Policing

Early Friday morning on April 28 our night deputy, Deputy Ropka, observed a 2023 Chevrolet pickup sitting on blocks with all 4 tires missing. He made contact and took a stolen tire report. Pct. 5 had deputies out patrolling and looking for the suspect when Deputy Nguyen found a 2022 Toyota Corolla missing two wheels with a Chevy Impala parked next to it with the door open. The Corolla's wheels were in the Impala! The suspect was not located. The tires were returned to the owner, the Impala was towed away, and other evidence gathered.

Thanks to Deputy Ropka's and Deputy Nguyen's quick actions, more vehicles were not targeted that night. If you can't park your vehicles in the garage, you can get locking lug nuts for your wheels to make them harder to steal.

Brays Oaks District Joins Crime Fighting Camera Network

The board of directors of the Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) has approved \$57,000 for 20 automatic license plate reader cameras to be located strategically throughout the Brays Oaks District to help locate crime suspects and individuals for whom arrest warrants have been issued. Westbury is located in the Brays Oaks area.

The license plate reader cameras, supplied by Flock Safety, will be placed along relatively high-traffic thoroughfares in the District and automatically alert police when they capture images of license plates, and/or other vehicle characteristics, associated with criminal suspects or previously charged criminals.

The use of these cameras in other Houston management districts has led to several arrests. Last year, witnesses to a stabbing provided the license plate number of the suspect to HPD (Houston Police Department). HPD entered the information into the camera network, and the cameras found the vehicle driving on a local road minutes later. The suspect was arrested shortly after and admitted stealing the vehicle and stabbing the victim.

Funded by an annual assessment on the values of commercial properties, the BOMD spends at least half its funds on public safety programs, such as paying Houston Police Department patrol officers' overtime to focus on potential crime hotspots. The entire Westbury community is located within the BOMD boundaries.

Being Followed Home, Do You Have A Plan

By Anonymous Westbury resident

When you read a news story about someone being followed home from the bank, do you think "that will never happen to me"? That's what I thought too. Although as a female I think we are taught to pay attention to cars that follow us, and I often turn down a side street if there is a car behind me when I am on my street.

On Friday, May 19, I made a quick stop into Chase bank and headed home. On my way home, I noticed a white car made the same turn I did, so I took a side street, they followed, I turned again and they followed. I called Pct 5 dispatch and gave them my location. But I only had half a plan. I knew to watch for followers, I have Pct. 5 programmed into my phone under favorites and on the letter "C". But that's where my plan ended. I thought I saw the car leave and so rather than drive to the police station I decided to drive home. As I went to pull into a driveway and turn around, suddenly there they were again creeping around the corner. As I reversed, so did they so they could see which way I was going to go next. I again called dispatch to let them know they were right behind me. I turned again and they went straight and when I circled back I ended up behind them. They realized I was behind them, taking a picture, so they quickly sped away.

I was lucky. But I will have a better plan next time. I was surprised how panic set in and made it hard to think clearly once I had identified that I was being followed and called Pct. 5. I urge all of you to have a plan. If you have older parents, talk to them about safety precautions. These thieves often target older people. An 85 year old friend left Walmart at West Airport and the Beltway at 4:30 pm and as she walked to her car in a close in handicapped spot, a young punk threw her to the ground and took her purse.

I was so thankful to be able to call Pct 5 and know someone would be there in minutes. If I'd been thinking more clearly I'd have led them right to a patrol car or police station.

Be safe out there; be wary; don't become a victim. And please pay your dues so that the Constable program remains in place!

New Ownership at the Heights at Post Oak Apartments Near Community Garden

The Heights at Post Oak Apartments is a huge apartment complex of 940 units located near the Westbury Community Garden. Over the years, this apartment complex has gone through a series of owners and management companies, contributing to a history of instability and public safety challenges. During the February Westbury Super Neighborhood meeting, HPD Commander Hassig listened to and discussed concerns about public safety issues in the area around these apartments and nearby commercial businesses on Hillcroft.

During the Brays Oaks Management District Public Safety committee meeting in May, it was announced that the property again changed hands in April 2023. The new owners are aware of the troubled history of this complex. During the meeting it was mentioned that some of the unleased apartments have been taken over by squatters, and the new owners plan to remove the squatters and board up the units until they can be renovated. The situation will continue to be monitored.

**Pct. 5 Constable Dispatch
Westbury Area Patrol
281-463-6666**

Crime Statistics for Westbury SuperNeighborhood

May 1—June 15, 2023

Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

KEY

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W
5700	Alvarado	Simple Assault	5/18	8pm	Westbury South
5600	Arboles	Auto Theft	5/22	12pm	Westbury 3
10600	Ashcroft	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	5/13	12am	Parkwest 2
12220	Ashcroft	Theft—Other	5/11	5pm	Westbury 4
11100	Atwell	Theft from Motor Vehicle	6/3	5am	Westbury 5
5900	Benning	Auto Theft	5/8	10pm	Westbury 5
10700	Carlota Ct	Burglary, Breaking & Entering	5/28	1am	Westbury 5
10700	Carlota Ct	Theft from Motor Vehicle	5/16	12pm	Westbury 5
10600	Dunlap	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	5/12	7pm	Westbury 5
5800	Duxbury	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	6/1	12pm	Westbury 4
5800	Ettrick	Theft from Motor Vehicle	6/15	11am	Westbury 4
5800	Farwell	Driving Under the Influence	5/7	12pm	Westbury South
6000	Fontenelle	Simple Assault	6/13	8am	Westbury 4
11300	Gaymoor	Theft from Motor Vehicle	5/23	9am	Westbury 3
10800	Hillcroft	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	5/15	11pm	Westbury 5
11700	Hillcroft	Theft from Motor Vehicle	5/10	10pm	Parkwest 3
5100	Kingfisher	Theft from Motor Vehicle	6/11	9pm	Westbury 1
12000	McClearen	Robbery	5/30	8pm	Westbury 4
5800	McKnight	Simple Assault	5/2	9am	Westbury 3
5400	Spellman	Theft—Other	6/10	2pm	Westbury 3
5200	Stillbrooke	Theft from Motor Vehicle	5/25	11am	Westbury 1
5300	Stillbrooke	Sexual Assault	5/4	10pm	Westbury 2
5600	W. Airport	Simple Assault x2	5/21	2pm	Westbury 4
5700	W. Belfort	Auto Theft	5/1	11pm	Parkwest 2
5300	Willowbend	Theft from Motor Vehicle	5/20	5pm	Westbury 2
5400	Willowbend	Robbery	5/8	10pm	Westbury 2

-  Theft from Motor Vehicle
-  Auto Theft
-  Vandalism
-  Robbery
-  Burglary
-  Simple Assault
-  Theft—other

The crimes listed took place between May 1 – May 31, 2023. They are in alphabetical order by street. The crimes are highlighted by type. Please see key to the right.

Crime by the Numbers

Crime Type	Homes	Apts./TH	Comm./Business	Park/Public
Aggravated Assault		15	3	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle		7	1	3
Burglary		7	2	0
Robbery		2	2	0
Simple Assault		27	4	1
Shoplifting		0	7	0
Drugs, Narcotics		1	1	0
Vandalism, Damage		8	3	1
Auto Theft		9	5	0
Theft of Vehicle Parts		0	0	0
Theft—Other		3	4	0
Theft—From Building		0	1	0
DUI		1	0	3
Disorderly Conduct		1	1	1
Sexual Assault	1	0	0	0
Murder/Homicide	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		81	34	9

Pct. 5 Constable Dispatch
Westbury Area Patrol
281-463-6666
SW HPD Station
832-394-0400
HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

VACATION WATCH

Are you going on vacation over the summer? If you pay your Westbury Area Patrol dues, make sure you request a vacation watch by the Constables. Vacation Watch is a great service that is included in our contract.

A deputy will check out your property at least once a day to make sure it is secured and no suspicious activity.



You can register for a
 vacation watch online at <https://constablepct5.com> or call 281-463-6666



WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN

12581 DUNLAP

WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

12581 Dunlap (77035) is off Hillcroft between W. Airport and South Main.

Heading south on Hillcroft, turn right onto Greencraig, follow it around the bend where it turns into Dunlap. The large blue roof on the WCG Pavilion is readily visible.

Street parking.

Tomato Tasting Returns Better Than Ever

After a 3 year hiatus, the Westbury Community Garden Tomato Tasting returned stronger than ever on June 3. It was a beautiful morning as 55 tomato loving friends came together to taste the 45 varieties of tomatoes. It is amazing the variety of tomatoes that can be grown here in Houston. After a morning of tasting in the four categories—Cherry, Plum, Saladette and Slicers— the tasters cast their votes for their favorites.

The winners were: Cherry - Golden Gem; Plum - Amish Gold; Saladette - Jaune Flamme and Verona; and Slicer – Jubilee. Details on these tomatoes are on the Westbury Community Garden’s website, www.westburycommunitygarden.org

Seen in the crowd were District K Councilmember Martha Castex-Tatum, At-Large Councilmember Sallie Alcorn and HCC Trustee Pretta Stallworth. The garden appreciates the support of these elected officials.

If you’ve always wanted to grow your own tomatoes, the WCG is a great resource for learning how to be successful. Make sure to check out the next Tomato Tasting in June 2024.



www.westburycommunitygarden.org



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Willow Waterhole

More than Just Flood Control
TRAILS * BIRDS * WILDFLOWERS



Photo—Mark Mulligan, Houston Chronicle

Visit the Willow Waterhole TODAY! The main Westbury Lake trails and gazebo are easily accessible via the new parking lot at the end of Dryad. Additional trails and parking are available on the street off Ricecrest.

New Trail Construction Underway

The Willow Waterhole will soon have eight miles of ADA accessible trails usable throughout the year, no more mud and weeds! Construction has started on trails at Westbury Lake. Below is picture of work being done along the Little League, Dryad Drive and down to the pier.



Construction will continue through 2024, when all six lakes will have trails. Thanks to all the funders - Harris County Precinct One Commissioner, and the following foundations: Kinder, Brown, Cullen, Wortham, Fondren, and Powell.

Volunteer Opportunities with the WCC at the Willow Waterhole

Five high school students from St. Agnes Academy and Strake Jesuit volunteered at the Willow Waterhole on a Saturday morning in late May. They collected trash from around the basin and trails. Do your teens need service hours? The Willow Waterhole is a great location!

Check future Criers for more Working on Westbury days. Starting in the Fall, the WCC will host workdays at different parks and greenspaces throughout Westbury.



PARKING NOTICE for Dryad Parking Lot

Starting June 14th there will be periods where limited or no parking will be available in the Dryad parking lot due to construction. Alternate parking for visitors is available along 11350 Ricecrest. Contractors are removing bad concrete trails that will be replaced, starting at the Schwartz Gazebo area. This is another step in the process to improve the Willow Waterhole.

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