

INSIDE WILLOW FORK DRAINAGE DISTRICT



Enhancing Our Community
through Drainage, Parks & Trails

September 2023



Funding Awarded for Fry Road Underpass and Trail

Thanks to a matching grant awarded by Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones through her Places 4 People initiative, WFDD plans to add a 1.9-mile trail that includes a pedestrian underpass at Fry Rd. just north of Westheimer Pkwy. The near \$1.8 million project is being funded jointly by Harris County and WFDD, in collaboration with Memorial MUD, which also received matching funds to construct a pedestrian bridge and trail connecting into WFDD's trail system.

"This partnership is a great example of government entities working together to benefit taxpayers and residents to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and provide easy access to a larger network of trails and open space in George Bush Park and beyond," said WFDD Director Sarah Hubbell, who also serves on the District's parks committee. "The board is also especially thankful to landscape architects Matt Klein and Maeve Burns at TBG Partners for preparing the grant application that made funding possible."

Expected to break ground early next year, the project also will include wayfinding maps and emergency contact information, marking another milestone in the District's 2011 Parks Master Plan. [View WFDD's Parks Master Plan on its website](#), which to date has added 10 school parks, approximately 15 miles of off-street trails, and Central Green, Willow Fork and Exploration parks.

WFDD Parks Master Plan



Step into Fall at Willow Fork Park

As temperatures cool and leaves begin to fall, programs at Willow Fork Park are starting to pick up! The fall lineup includes:

- Oct. 7 – Participate in a bioblitz! At this citizen-science effort learn to record as many species as possible at the park within a designated time frame, including how to use fun mobile apps to record your finds while at the same time benefitting science. Learn about several nature apps that can be used at Willow Fork Park and home.
- Oct. 28 – View budding artists and works of art at the fourth annual KISD Plein Air Painting Event, featuring live landscape paintings by high school students, followed by an awards presentation.
- Nov. 4 – Get in gear with Greater Katy Biking. Learn about existing bike trails and plans for new trails and road underpasses. After a short trails program, participate in a round trip bike ride from Willow Fork Park.

Find out the latest on these events and future Willow Fork Park happenings at [Friends of Willow Fork Park on Facebook](#).

Willow Fork Park Facebook

Exploration Park Gets a Facelift!

EXPLORATION PARK

Exploration Park will temporarily be closed for playground resurfacing on:

November 1 - 15

We will reopen for more fun and adventure on:

November 16

Playground Resurfacing

Opened in 2015, Exploration Park, which receives approximately 30,000 visitors annually, is planned to be closed Nov. 1-15 to allow for resurfacing of the rubberized play surfaces within the park. In keeping with the original design, the refurbishment will feature shades of blue with white to resemble water droplets that are part of the park's overall water theme. Exploration Park, one of three parks built and maintained by WFDD, is located at 15020 Cinco Park Rd. off Mason Rd., directly behind the Ballard House and alongside the district's diversion channel. [Learn more about Exploration Park on our website](#).

Exploration Park

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