



SPRING
2014

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND



ELECTION CANCELED

City Council voted to cancel this year's May election after no additional candidates filed for a position on the ballot. See page 3 for more information.

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CREATING A

VISION *for the* FUTURE

**HOW DO DEMOGRAPHICS, TRANSPORTATION
AND HOUSING CHOICES AFFECT A CITY?**

**HOW CAN SUGAR LAND REMAIN A VIBRANT AND
COMPETITIVE DESTINATION IN THE FUTURE?**

**HOW DO RESIDENTS ENVISION THE CITY AS
IT PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND REDEVELOPMENT?**

The City is updating its Land Use Plan, a road map for the vision, goals and priorities for Sugar Land's future use of its land. Citizens have the unique opportunity to participate in this important process. Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on topics such as how to best use the remaining land that has not been developed as well as how we might redevelop existing aging areas to stay competitive and vibrant.

One of the City's eight master plans, the Land Use Plan was last updated in November 2004. The update will establish land use policies that guide development and redevelopment within the City. The plan will incorporate feedback on what Sugar Land residents believe is important for the City's future. See page 5.

STAY
CONNECTED





We often say we want to be a community where people choose to live, work, shop and play. Said in this way, it sounds simple, but we recognize and appreciate that residents, businesses and visitors do not make such choices lightly. We know decisions on where to live, raise a family, locate your business and spend your leisure time are often made after careful consideration of a number of factors – including whether or not you feel safe.

The importance of public safety is not only something that we hear from our residents and corporate community, but it is a deeply held value in Sugar Land. Because of this intentional emphasis on public safety, Sugar Land is consistently ranked as one of the safest cities in America. In fact, we have

been recognized by CQ Press as one of the top three safest cities in Texas every year since 2007, and according to recent citizen surveys, residents feel safe.

Traditional public safety efforts keep Sugar Land's crime rate extremely low and ensure our clearance rate exceeds the averages in Texas and the nation. Recognition as a safe city is also the result of innovative police department strategies, including a soon to be deployed crime prevention camera program (see page 6). Additionally, participation in an eight-city consortium to implement a new computer-aided dispatch and records management system will allow us to utilize new automatic vehicle location technology, ensuring we dispatch the closest vehicle to an emergency for the best response time.

Our reputation as one of the safest cities in America utilizes many City departments, including fire, public works, engineering and parks and recreation. For instance, we will begin a fire-based EMS system in January 2015, and compressed air foam systems will soon be on new fire trucks.

The City also works very hard to design and build streets, trails and sidewalks so that you can move around our City safely. We plan for critical drainage improvements to help protect homes and businesses from flooding (see page 8 for some examples). Further, we inspect new developments to ensure buildings are designed to minimize structural and fire safety dangers, we review food establishments to ensure the prepared food you eat is safe and we regularly test our water in order to provide you with the highest quality drinking water.

We are proud of the awards we have received, but we are even prouder of the fact that our residents consistently recognize the safety of our community when asked why they live here. Thanks not only goes to the City employees who work hard to ensure our safety, but also to our residents and businesses for their vigilance and support. We could not accomplish this without you!

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: CARLOS HERNANDEZ



Sugar Land City Manager Allen Bogard recently named Website Manager Carlos Hernandez as employee of the year. Among his many accomplishments, Hernandez successfully implemented the transition to a new version of the City's website (www.sugarlandtx.gov), one that provides improved tools for citizen engagement, mobile technology and ensured access for people with special needs. He worked with numerous vendors, diverse citizen focus groups, employees and others to design and develop the new website.

Hernandez was chosen as the employee of the year from 634 City of Sugar Land employees. Assistant Communications Director Doug Adolph said, "The traits that best identify Carlos include demonstrating integrity through honesty, treating everyone with respect, loyalty to the team and organization, consistently getting the right things done on time, continuously improving, holding himself and others accountable, keeping commitments and addressing issues head-on."

City Goals

- Safest City in America
- Responsible City Government
- Strong Local Economy
- Great Place to Live
- Building Community

City Council

James A. Thompson
Mayor

Bridget R. Yeung
Mayor Pro Tem
Single Member District Two

Himesh Gandhi
At-Large Position One

Joe R. Zimmerman
At-Large Position Two

Steve R. Porter
Single Member District One

Amy L. Mitchell
Single Member District Three

Harish Jajoo
Single Member District Four

City Management

Allen Bogard
City Manager

Steve Griffith
First Assistant City Manager

Jim Callaway
Assistant City Manager

Mike Goodrum
Assistant City Manager

Contributors

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Sugar Land Today is published quarterly by the City of Sugar Land.

2014 ELECTION CANCELED

MAYOR, TWO AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN

The May election for mayor and council member At-Large Positions One and Two has been canceled as no one filed to run against the incumbents. Mayor James A. Thompson and Council Members Himesh Gandhi, At-Large Position One, and Joe R. Zimmerman, At-Large Position Two, will be sworn into office during the May 20 City Council meeting. For complete bios of the mayor and council members, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/bios.



JAMES A. THOMPSON
MAYOR

Thompson will begin his fourth and last term. Thompson served from 1996 to 2005 on Sugar Land City Council as a district and At-Large council member and then served three terms as mayor of Sugar Land. During this time he has been involved with major mobility improvements, the creation of Town Square, the development of Sugar Land Regional Airport, numerous additions to the City's park system, acquisition of land for the Brazos River Corridor, the establishment of the University of Houston campus in Sugar Land and the construction of Constellation Field.



HIMESH GANDHI
AT-LARGE POSITION ONE

Gandhi, a local attorney, will begin his second term as council member. He was first elected to office in May 2012, after serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Sugar Land 4B Corporation, Building and Standards Commission and the Redistricting Committee. Gandhi is a graduate of Sugar Land 101 and both the Citizens Police and Fire Academies. A resident of Sugar Land for 22 years, he is known for his community and civic involvement. Gandhi is an attorney and shareholder with the law firm of Roberts Markel Weinberg, P.C.



JOE R. ZIMMERMAN
AT-LARGE POSITION TWO

Zimmerman was first elected to office in May 2012 and will begin his second term on Council. He is a civil engineer and has lived in Sugar Land since 1990. He served on the Sugar Land Planning and Zoning Commission from 2000 to 2008, during which he served six years as chairman. Zimmerman also served as chairman of the City of Sugar Land Comprehensive Plan Committee. He has been involved in a number of community organizations including the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council, Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce and Literacy Council of Fort Bend.

CALLAWAY AND GOODRUM PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT CITY MANAGERS



Jim Callaway

Executive Directors Jim Callaway and Mike Goodrum were recently promoted to assistant city managers. The promotions were part of a City reorganization to address the loss of two assistant city managers who accepted positions as city managers in other cities. Karen Daly left for Hutto, and Karen Glynn took a position in Bunker Hill Village.

Callaway's management responsibilities now include community development, permits and inspections, planning and engineering, while Goodrum will oversee finance, human resources, information technology, parks and recreation and public works. First Assistant City Manager Steve Griffith will continue to manage fire, police, municipal court, public safety dispatch and aviation.

Callaway joined the City of Sugar Land in November 2001 as development services director. He was instrumental in the development of policies for providing City services to Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) in Sugar Land's extra-territorial jurisdiction and annexation policy for undeveloped property. Callaway led successful negotiations with 10 MUDs serving Riverpark, Greatwood and New Territory, providing for annexation and service agreements with the districts.



Mike Goodrum

Goodrum has been with the City for more than 12 years and most recently served as executive director of management services. He joined Sugar Land in 1999 as an intern and progressed to several leadership positions with the City, including community and environmental services director and director of public works.



RELOCATIONS & EXPANSIONS

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP BRINGS 800 JOBS TO SUGAR LAND

UnitedHealth Group moved into Sugar Creek on the Lake in November 2013, bringing 800 jobs from several divisions under UnitedHealthcare and OptumHealth. UnitedHealth Group chose Sugar Land for UnitedHealthcare in order to provide a high quality workspace for its employees and provide opportunities for better collaboration and alignment among business segments. Sugar Creek on the Lake helped to achieve those goals and greatly increased the company's presence and visibility through market location and building signage. UnitedHealth Group has strong community ties in Sugar Land through OptumHealth, the OptumRx prescription service center that opened in 2012 in Granite Towers II, and the Activate4Kids childhood obesity program in partnership with Fort Bend Independent School District.

PM Realty Group (PMRG), a nationally recognized commercial real estate firm, acquired Sugar Creek on the Lake, a 515,000-square-foot Class A office building located along U.S. Highway 59, in 2012. Accompanying the office building and garage, PMRG acquired the adjoining 14.72-acre surface parking lot in order to accommodate the parking requirements of prospective tenants and growth plans. Along with its equity partners, PCCP and Fuller Realty Partners, PMRG is investing over \$13 million in further capital improvements, including an additional 650 parking spaces, a new HVAC and energy management system and the modernization and retrofit of all elevators.

UPCOMING HOSPITAL EXPANSIONS

Memorial Hermann Health System plans to expand its Sugar Land facilities during the next few years. The \$93 million expansion will occur in phases, with the first phase adding eight emergency center beds, a surgical suite and new scanners. Phase II will include a 100,000 square-foot professional office building and Phase III will be a 120,000 square-foot patient tower. Phase I is expected to be complete by mid-2014, phases II and III are expected to break ground in fall 2014.

In October 2013, **Methodist Sugar Land Hospital** announced a \$131 million expansion that includes a six-story tower that will add 104 beds, bringing the number of beds up to 339. Methodist plans to start construction on this project in the summer of 2015 with completion by early 2016. Methodist is also relocating its Methodist Orthopedic Specialists of Texas building into a new two-story, 60,000-square-foot building at the corner of Sweetwater Boulevard and U.S. Highway 59. Other projects in Sugar Land include a new cardiac catheter lab and heart center and renovations to Methodist's birthing center. Groundbreakings for the tower and orthopedic building at the Sugar Land campus are expected in summer 2014.

CREATING A VISION *for the* FUTURE

Continued from cover

The focus of the Land Use Plan update is to develop a specific vision and set of goals for land use and to identify the tools and policies needed to implement them. When master plans are updated, the gathering of extensive public input is a critical part of the process to ensure the plans reflect the community's preferences. Online Town Hall discussions on land use began last summer, and residents are still able to add to the discussion.

The City began hosting a Land Use Forum in January that provides the community with comprehensive and current information on land use issues and enables the community to participate and offer informed input on policymaking.

This six-part series focuses on important land use topics for the near- and long-term success and sustainability of Sugar Land.

The final Land Use Forum session, with a focus on redevelopment, will be held on Thursday, April 3, at 6 p.m., at Sugar Land City Hall, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North. Residents will have the opportunity to hear from Ellen Dunham-Jones, the author of *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs*, and participate in citizen roundtable discussions.

Previous Land Use Forum sessions explored the impact of changing demographics on market trends, the benefits of local employment options,

elements of successful mixed-use activity centers, the role of housing choices in a community and the link between mobility and land use. Videos of previous Land Use Forum sessions are available online at www.sugarlandtx.gov/landuseplan.

Residents are encouraged to share feedback related to the Land Use Plan and the various topics covered in the forum via the Online Town Hall on the City's home page, by emailing longrangeplanning@sugarlandtx.gov or by calling 281-275-2218. Residents can sign up for periodic plan updates through the Notify Me option found on the left-hand side of the homepage of City's website.

SUGAR LAND HAPPENINGS

The City of Sugar Land has tons of exciting events on the horizon for residents and visitors.

Constellation Field will be buzzing as the Sugar Land Skeeters kickoff their new season with games against the Lancaster Barnstormers from April 24-27. The Skeeters will host the 2014 Atlantic League All-Star Game festivities July 14-17. The multi-day event will feature numerous festivities, including the All-Star Game on Wednesday, July 16.

You may think you have seen all the **Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land** has to offer, but two major exhibits this spring and summer will inspire you to return again and again.

- **Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats** from Jan. 18-May 4

reveals the ecological importance of bats and the wonders of the bat world.

- **Body Carnival - The Science and Fun of Being You!** from May 17-Aug. 24 is an interactive exhibit that uses carnival-themed components to explore the connections between perception and the laws of physics in the human body.

On June 14, Sugar Land welcomes the region's top high school football players to the **Bayou Bowl** at Mercer Stadium. This east versus west all-star football game brings together the best high school graduates in the greater Houston area.

For more information, go to VisitSugarLandTX.com – a one-stop shop for events and activities in the area.





CRIME PREVENTION CAMERAS

A crime prevention camera project planned north of U.S. Highway 90A will give the police department another valuable tool to help identify, arrest and convict criminals. The police department has been utilizing license plate recognition (LPR) systems for approximately five years. Five mobile systems are installed on police vehicles and three fixed systems are installed at locations in Town Square and the First Colony Mall area.

The City is in the process of implementing a project to expand the use of LPR cameras at static locations throughout the City. The license plate photos will be used to help solve crimes once they have occurred by providing police officers a searchable database of license plates. The concept works as follows:

- A crime occurs.
- A witness provides a vehicle description.
- A police officer authorized to access the system searches the database for the suspect vehicle and its license plate number.

In addition, the system may be a deterrent to those wanting to commit crimes in Sugar Land. If criminals know that cameras are in place, they may be less likely to commit crimes in Sugar Land.

The cameras record the outside of vehicles for the purpose of capturing license plates. With the exception of emergency situations or special circumstances, there will be no live monitoring of the system. License plate records will be retained for no more than 30 days, except when used as evidence as part of a criminal investigation. Information will not be shared with the general public, unless required by law for law enforcement matters. The use of the LPR system will be consistent with privacy laws and the constitutional rights of individuals.

PUBLIC SAFETY

2013 IN REVIEW

Safety, quality training and public education ensure Sugar Land remains a "Safe City." Sugar Land was named America's 19th Safest City, a distinction based on an analysis of FBI crime statistics, for 2013. The distinction makes Sugar Land the third safest city in Texas and the safest city in the Gulf Coast region.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Last year, Sugar Land's overall crime rate was 40 percent below the state and national averages. Since 2009, Part 1 crimes in Sugar Land have dropped 18.5 percent. Part 1 crimes include assault, auto theft, burglary, homicide, theft, robbery and auto burglary. In addition, Sugar Land's violent crime rate dropped 9.4 percent last year and has declined more than 16.6 percent since 2009.

The average response time to emergency calls in 2013 was 3:24 minutes. Examples of emergency calls are a robbery in progress, an assault in progress or a shooting. To better respond to emergencies, all sworn officers were trained in dealing with suspects with mental health issues in 2013.

The Police Department formed a Special Response Team (SRT) that could be activated in times of civil unrest. This team conducted a large scale exercise at Constellation Field in 2013. The team practiced handling situations such as unruly protesters outside of events and violent protesters inside venues.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Sugar Land responded to 7,362 calls for service during 2013, an increase of 691 over 2012. The average response time to calls in the City was 5:20 minutes. SLFD also increased its firefighter training hours by 20 percent in 2013.

Firefighters responded to 22 structure fires in 2013 compared to 27 in 2012. With 4,517 emergency medical responses, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) represented more than 60 percent of SLFD's call volume, while structure fires were about .3 percent.

In August 2013, the City announced that SLFD would be implementing its own emergency medical service. The effort is the result of a strategic project to improve the delivery of lifesaving emergency medical service in Sugar Land.

The department educated 26,098 citizens on fire safety through a variety of community outreach programs, including presentations, the installation of smoke alarms, programs delivered in schools, station tours, home safety surveys, business inspections, fire drills, fire extinguisher trainings and special events.



Members of the Critical Incident Team brainstorming approaches to stress management.

WHEN FIRST RESPONDERS NEED 911

In the wake of an officer-involved shooting in 2013, a major reorganization of the City's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team resulted in a broader focus, larger membership and multi-divisional training to address the needs of the City and surrounding agencies.

The goal of CISM is to address post-traumatic stress and offer coping mechanisms to responders and referrals when needed. The CISM team responds after critical incidents to provide services ranging from demobilizations to formal debriefings. This group of specialized officers has assisted many surrounding agencies during cases such as officer-involved shootings and line-of-duty deaths.

Employees from the police and fire departments, emergency management services and public safety dispatch are assigned to the team. The Sugar Land team trains quarterly and works cooperatively with the Fort Bend County Sheriff Office's CISM team. Sugar Land's team provides service to all City departments as well as first responders throughout the county and state when necessary.



The City of Sugar Land was recently awarded the Operations Excellence Award from the Texas Public Works Association for its solid waste and recycling program. The award recognizes innovation with a significant impact on public services and environmental preservation. Sugar Land was honored for its increasing diversion rate (the amount of material kept out of landfills) and overall recycling program success.

Sugar Land's recycling success continues to climb. The City's diversion rate was 34 percent in 2013. That number has increased each year thanks to residents actively recycling. The City's goal for 2014 is to achieve a 40 percent diversion rate.

RECYCLE REDUCE REUSE
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY
APRIL 26**
— 1-5 P.M. —
SUGAR LAND
TOWN SQUARE

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVITY BOOTHS**
— and —
PERFORMANCES
— at the —
Sugar Land
Town Square Plaza

- Reptile shows by Texas Snakes & More
- Family entertainment by David Chicken
- Poetry contest hosted by Keep Sugar Land Beautiful
- A natural gas collection vehicle for kids to explore

PAPER SHREDDING
— at the —
CITY HALL
— PARKING LOT —

FOR MORE INFORMATION
281-275-2450 • www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste

DRAINAGE PROJECTS

SUGAR MILL

Drainage improvements have been approved for Sugar Mill. City Council recently approved a \$1.1 million contract with Metro City Construction, L.P. The improvements are identified in the City's master drainage plan and will reduce the risk of street ponding and flooding previously reported in sections one, two and three of Sugar Mill, an area surrounded by Eldridge Road, Lakeview Drive, Wood Street and Greenbelt Drive.

The project builds on drainage work that was completed in 2011. Since then, the City has focused on acquiring easements and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Construction on two storm sewers along Rolling Mill and Hillary Circle that will divert water to Cleveland Lake. The project is expected to last about six months.

RAGUS LAKE AND COVINGTON WOODS

Drainage improvements are continuing in the Ragus Lake and Covington Woods subdivisions. The year-long \$4.4 million project began last November and will be completed in phases. The Ragus Lakes project includes the installation of box culverts along Ragus Lake Drive, Vickery Drive, Kathi Lynn Lane, Jo Ann Lane and Baytree Drive and a drainage pipe along Jo Ann Drive between Vinehill and Mary Sue Court. The planned improvements continue into Covington Woods along Vinehill Drive to Baytree and Maygrove.

A map of the area can be seen online at <http://bit.ly/I5jcax>. For more information, contact Ragus Lake project manager Idahosa Igbinoba at 281-275-2780 or email cityengineer@sugarlandtx.gov. Construction updates are posted at www.sugarlandtx.gov/raguslakes.

MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN UPDATE

A draft Master Drainage Plan update will be posted online in early spring. Citizens are encouraged to view the draft plan and visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/drainage to sign up for email updates and provide feedback.

The updated plan will document drainage facility ownership and responsibilities, identify improvements needed for flood protection and establish policy direction on detention pond maintenance. The plan will also ensure the City:

- is prepared for all hazards;
- has clean, well maintained waterways;
- has well designed, well maintained infrastructure; and
- uses effective stormwater management to protect neighborhoods.

For more information about Sugar Land's Master Drainage Plan or to provide feedback, email cityengineer@sugarlandtx.gov or call 281-275-2780.

REDUCE WATER USE

You can have a beautiful, green lawn and conserve water too. The City's irrigation zone schedule and the "cycle and soak" method are lawn care practices that help grass and plants develop deep roots that are vital to healthy, drought-tolerant

lawns and landscapes. Assigning different watering days to different zones in the City diffuses the demand for water throughout the week, reducing daily stresses on the water system. Residents can find out which zone they are in and what days to water by visiting www.sugarlandtx.gov/irrigation.

The cycle and soak method works well enough that watering once or twice a week is sufficient for a healthy and beautiful yard. If using an automatic sprinkler, calibrate it so

that it is set to two 5-minute cycles with an hour break between the cycles. This strategy allows the water to penetrate into the soil. A third 5-minute cycle may be needed to reach depths of 6-8 inches. Watering longer than this does not give the water enough time to soak into the soil. Excess water runs off lawn, into the street and down the storm drain. The water is essentially wasted. Residents can help conserve Sugar Land's water by using this watering method and by only watering on the days assigned to their zone.

IT ALL FLOWS DOWN THE DRAIN

Stormwater pollution, known as runoff, is a tricky problem. Pollutants come from many sources, and vehicles are one of them. When oil and other dangerous fluids leak onto the street, they are eventually carried into local waterways through storm drains. Automotive fluids and even soaps for car washes are toxic to fish and wildlife. Following the tips below will help reduce the amount of runoff discharged from cars, motorcycles and trucks:

- Check your car regularly for leaks to prevent oil, antifreeze and other fluids from washing into a storm drain.
- While working on a vehicle, always use a drip pan to collect oil or other fluids.
- Clean up drips and spills immediately with a dry absorbent such as kitty litter. Do not wash them away with a hose.
- Recycle used motor oil, oil filters and antifreeze.
- Wash your vehicle at a do-it-yourself carwash to prevent dirty water from running into a storm drain. Car washes have drains that are connected to the sewage system, which is filtered; storm drains connect directly to the nearest waterway.

For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/stormwater.

NOTICE OF MINOR SURFACE WATER MONITORING OR REPORTING VIOLATION

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires public water systems to monitor drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. On January 31, 2014, the City of Sugar Land Public Water System's contractor did not monitor the chlorite level in the water as it was leaving the treatment plant. The City cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during the time after we did not properly monitor and before the next test. Routine testing resumed on February 1, 2014, and additional samples were taken in the water distribution system for chlorite; all results were within regulatory limits. Although the City's contractor missed this one test, the results of the additional testing indicate that the water was safe to drink.

The City is working with its vendor to assure compliance. For more information about the nature and significance of this violation, you may contact Howard Christian, assistant director of public works for the City of Sugar Land, at 281-275-2450. Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.

BUZZ OFF, MOSQUITOS!

Mosquito season is fast approaching. Sugar Land uses a comprehensive approach to mosquito control. The City sprays for mosquitos every Friday during the months of May through October, mosquito season. The application of Kontrol 30-30, a broad-spectrum insecticide, will start each Friday at approximately 9 p.m. The City also treats ditches and storm drains with Altosid briquets and pellets. These reduce the mosquito population by killing the mosquito larvae, thereby preventing the emergence of breeding, biting adults.

There are a number of ways residents can protect themselves against mosquito bites. This is especially important for elderly and small children, who are at a high risk for disease if bitten by a mosquito carrying West Nile Virus. The following are tips to avoid being bitten:

- Wear DEET to repel mosquitos and ticks. Wash off the spray when you are finished outside.
- Avoid outside activity at dusk and dawn during mosquito season.
- Drain standing water in flower pot saucers, plastic swimming pools and other containers.

For more tips and information on how the City controls the mosquito population, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/mosquitocontrol.

MAKE A FRIEND FOR LIFE



Come meet a new friend at the Animal Shelter!
There are lots of great animals available for adoption.

281-275-A-DOG (2364)

2014

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS

The City of Sugar Land's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) serves to meet today's infrastructure needs as well as those of the future. From work on underground water and sewer lines to more visible projects, such as major roadway projects, the CIP addresses the needs of the City through responsible government and a comprehensive approach that ensures efficient use of public funds.

This is a map of the projects to be worked on in 2014, including some projects continuing from previous years. To find out more details on these projects, go to this link: www.sugarlandtx.gov/cip. Click on the menu on the left and select the type of project you are interested in learning more about. For any questions, call the engineering department at 281-275-2780.

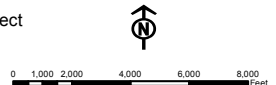
FY14-FY18 Total CIP \$267.52M

- Airport: \$2.8M
- Drainage: \$19M
- *Municipal: \$95M
- Park: \$5.29M
- Street: \$39.8M
- Traffic: \$3.56M
- Wastewater: \$68.1M
- Water: \$21.5M
- Surface Water: \$12.3M

*Municipal projects include construction and improvements to City facilities, as well as planning and construction for the indoor concert venue south of US 59 near the UHSL campus.



- Parks
- Drainage
- Traffic
- Water
- Airport
- Streets
- Municipal
- Wastewater
- Surface Water
- Wastewater Line Project
- Parks Project
- Streets Project



»» UPDATES TO «« CITY ROAD PROJECTS



Construction on University Boulevard North

WILLIAMS TRACE RECONSTRUCTION

City Council awarded a contract to Costello Engineering, Inc. to conduct preliminary engineering for the stretch of Williams Trace Boulevard between Lexington Boulevard and Austin Parkway. This section was constructed in segments from 1975 to 1980 and has been identified by the recent citywide pavement assessment as needing major repair. Based on the amount of deterioration in the pavement and volume of traffic, it has been targeted for reconstruction.

The preliminary engineering is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. Final design and construction will be scheduled into the five-year capital improvement program as funding is allocated. The project will be designed and constructed in phases—Austin Parkway Boulevard to State Highway 6 and State Highway 6 to Lexington Boulevard. This project is part of an annual citywide pavement assessment that allows the City to address the maintenance and reconstruction of roadways throughout Sugar Land. The entire network of City of Sugar Land streets have been surveyed and evaluated. The highest priority maintenance and reconstruction projects are under design.

UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD NORTH

Construction is underway on a segment of University Boulevard North that will tie into U.S. Highway 90A, located behind Walmart and Sam's Club. The contractor is working on the retaining walls and is getting ready to install beams (girders) in the coming weeks. Turn lane improvements and median improvements along U.S. Highway 90A are nearing completion. The project is approximately 40 percent complete and is scheduled to be finished by August.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

TELFAIR

Telfair is located to the north and south of U.S. Highway 59 near University Boulevard and consists of more than 2,000 acres.

- The Texas Instruments campus on the south side of U.S. Highway 59 at University Boulevard and Lexington Boulevard is expected to be complete in April.
- Construction continues on the Telfair Lofts residential project of 317 residential units at Branford Place in Telfair.
- Construction of Addison Avenue at U.S. Highway 59, along with a commercial office park area across the street (Telfair West Office Park), is underway west of University Boulevard.

IMPERIAL

The Imperial development contains 716 acres located north of U.S. Highway 90A and east of State Highway 6 and includes the former Imperial Sugar refinery.

- Preparations for single family home construction are ongoing in Imperial's new neighborhood subdivisions of Silent Manor and Quiet Cove, totaling 143 residential lots, including 27 townhome lots.
- Construction continues for the Ballpark Lofts project for residential units directly adjacent to Constellation Field. The project has 254 units and connects to the Imperial trail system being developed.
- The lanes for the bridge over Oyster Creek connecting to Ulrich Street have been installed, and the Imperial trail system along the creek is being phased in.

RIVERSTONE

Riverstone is located on 2,170 acres in the southeast corner of the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), an area outside the City's corporate limits that is available for annexation in the future.

- Continued platting of residential single-family neighborhoods is occurring throughout Riverstone, including the Avalon at Riverstone property on the north side of University Boulevard. The extension of University Boulevard at the western portion of Riverstone connects the ETJ to the city limits of Sugar Land. New commercial plans are underway for a CVS Pharmacy and Timewise Store, and construction at the Retreat at Riverstone residential community is ongoing.

PARKS AND REC EARNS GOLD

Sugar Land Parks and Recreation was recently named the 2014 Texas Gold Medal Award Winner by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) in the 50,000-100,000 population category. This award honors communities that demonstrate excellence in long-range park planning, park and recreation resource management, community programs and events, public input, marketing efforts and agency recognition during the past three years.

Being named a TRAPS gold medal winner is an impressive designation and one that is a result of the collective efforts to serve the community by the citizens, elected officials and City staff. Sugar Land was credited with a number of accomplishments during the past three years, including the following:

- The Sugar Land Legacy Foundation was established as a 501(c)3, a group that facilitates donations for parks and civic projects.
- The City is developing an “Art in Parks & Public Spaces” program, completed a “Cultural Arts Strategic Plan” for the community and installed pieces by world-famous sculptor Bernar Venet in Oyster Creek Park.
- The City’s first Indoor Recreation Center opened in July 2011.
- The City completely renovated its space for seniors with the opening of the T.E. Harman Center in 2012.
- More than 281 acres of land were acquired for future parks.
- In 2012, the City’s Hike and Bike Trail Master Plan was updated.
- Voters approved bonds totaling \$31.5 million in 2013 to fund two parks projects.

A PLAYGROUND FOR ALL CHILDREN



The Sugar Land Legacy Foundation and the City’s Parks and Recreation Department are working together to build the first fully accessible playground in the City. The new playground, to replace the current playground at First Colony Park, will provide a place where children of all abilities can play together.

The playground surface will be a bonded rubber surface that makes it easier for wheelchairs and others who need a more even surface to access the equipment. Platforms on the equipment will be longer and have ramps to make every piece accessible to everyone. Sensory-stimulating playground products that are specifically designed to encourage personal, social and emotional development will be included as well.

The cost of an accessible playground is much higher than for a standard playground. The proposed playground, with 5,500 square feet of rubber surfacing, is estimated to cost \$400,000. To date, the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation has received nearly \$280,000 in pledges from the City of Sugar Land, the Fort Bend Junior Service League, the Rotary Club of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County and others. Additionally, this project will also be the beneficiary of a “Heart Your Park” matching grant from Macy’s and the National Recreation and Park Association. Organizations, businesses or individuals that are interested in helping to raise the remaining funds for the playground can donate by visiting the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation’s website at www.sugarlandlegacy.org or by calling the foundation at 281-980-8981.

REMEMBRANCE TOWER

The remembrance tower at Sugar Land Memorial Park built in partnership with the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation serves as a beautiful tribute to our veterans. The memorial features an obelisk recognizing the branches of the military, accessible through a symbolic flag entryway and bridge that leads to the peninsula. Visitors are able to walk within the obelisk and experience rays of sunlight reflecting through a vertical opening.

The names of Sugar Land veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country will be etched in the interior walls as a lasting expression of gratitude. To start, 14 individuals will be inscribed on the monument before the City’s Memorial Day Ceremony, and the list will be updated on an annual basis.

Veterans with a home record of Sugar Land, Texas, who died while on active duty from 1950 to the present will be included automatically. Soldiers who died while on active duty prior to 1950 may be added with approval from the director of parks and recreation based on documented proof of eligibility. If you believe you have the name of a veteran that should be added to the remembrance tower, call 281-275-2825.



SPECIAL EVENTS

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 12, noon–3 p.m.

Eldridge Park

2511 Eldridge Road | Sugar Land, TX 77478

Hop on over to Eldridge Park for Sugar Land's 30th annual EGGStravaganza! The first 200 families to arrive will receive free pictures with the Easter Bunny. Little ones who are 4 years old and younger can participate in an egg hunt that will be ongoing throughout the event. For children ages 5 and older, scramble times will be divided by age group. Children with special needs will be able to enjoy a sensory-friendly egg hunt.

All activities are free. Food and drink will be available for purchase. For more information or scramble times, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/eggstravaganza.

KIDS FISH

Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m.-noon

Sugar Land Memorial Park

15300 University Blvd. | Sugar Land, TX 77479

Calling all kids! It is time for the third annual Sugar Land Kids Fish, a free children's fishing tournament. Never fished before? Don't worry! Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on as well as fishing gear. Everything from the rods and reels to the bait and instructions will be provided if needed. Carnival games, activity booths, giveaways and more will make this event a splash.

For more information, contact Tanya Dannhaus at 281-275-2890 or tdannhaus@sugarlandtx.gov.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sugar Land Memorial Park

15300 University Blvd. | Sugar Land, TX 77479

The City of Sugar Land is hosting its sixth annual Memorial Day Ceremony. The morning will include a presentation of colors, moving tributes from members of the community and patriotic performances with choral and musical selections. Attendees can partake in educational and commemorative activities during the event.

Free shuttle services will be provided at the University of Houston Sugar Land campus, 14000 University Blvd. For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/memorialday.



Friday, July 4 * 7-10 p.m.**
CONSTELLATION FIELD

SUGAR LAND RESIDENTS *Pick up your* **FREE**
EVENT TICKETS!

STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

Calling all residents! Join the City of Sugar Land and the Skeeters at FanFest at Constellation Field, 1 Stadium Dr., on Saturday, April 19 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and collect your free Star Spangled Spectacular tickets.

Starting April 12, tickets will be provided to Sugar Land residents ages 18 and older and can be obtained at the Imperial Park Recreation Center, 234 Matlage Way, until June 23. When retrieving tickets, residents must provide their driver license or water bill with Sugar Land address as proof of residency.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 281-275-2885.

★★★ *Ticket Location* ★★★

LOCATION

**IMPERIAL PARK
RECREATION CENTER**
234 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
SATURDAY, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SUNDAY, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

IMPERIAL PARK RECREATION CENTER

234 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-275-2885



Interested in becoming an instructor? Fill out an instructor proposal form, or call **281-275-2339** for more information!

LEISURE CLASSES

The IPRC offers numerous leisure classes for all ages and skill levels. To see the playbook, leisure class schedule and open play schedule, visit www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org or come by 234 Matlage Way. All classes taking place at the IPRC require a facility usage card that costs \$10 for residents and \$46 non-residents. The card is valid for one year.

ADULT LEISURE

Aikido
Bridge
Jazzercise
Karate
Line Dancing
Restore the Core

Tae Kwon Do

Tai Chi

Yoga

Zumba

YOUTH LEISURE

Archery

Karate

Tae Kwon Do

YOUTH SPORTS

Soccer Tots

CPRG Tennis

Fort Bend Tennis

AND MORE!

For additional IPRC classes, see the IPRC playbook online.

KEEP COOL AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL!

Located in City Park
225 Seventh Street (at the corner of Wood Street)
281-275-2897

Whether you already swim like a fish or want to learn how, Sugar Land's municipal pool is staffed by well trained, certified lifeguard instructors.

MUNICIPAL POOL SWIM LESSONS

Swim lessons are held at the City pool in the summer. The classes will be offered for all levels and are taught by certified swim instructors. Pricing for two-week sessions are \$60 for Sugar Land residents or \$75 for non-residents. Visit www.takeaswimlesson.com for more information, or call 281-275-2885.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday-Monday, May 24-26
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Weekend Operations

Saturday and Sunday, May 31-June 1
Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Summer Operations

June 10–Aug. 17
Tuesday–Friday, noon–7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Weekend Operations

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 23-24
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Labor Day Weekend

Saturday-Monday, Aug. 30–Sept. 1
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

FEES

RESIDENTS

Before 5 p.m.

\$1/ages 18 and younger
\$2.25/ages 19 and older

After 5 p.m.

\$.50/ages 18 and younger
\$1/ages 19 and older

NON-RESIDENTS

Before 5 p.m.

\$1.25/ages 18 and younger
\$2.85/ages 19 and older

After 5 p.m.

\$.65/ages 18 and younger
\$1.25/ages 19 and older

VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

To register for volleyball camp, call 281-275-2885 or go to the Imperial Park Recreation Center.

FUNDAMENTALS

This camp is for students who would like to learn how to play volleyball and prepare for middle school tryouts. Campers will learn the skills needed to play the game of volleyball: passing, setting, hitting and serving. The kids will participate in volleyball drills, multi-skill drills, fun lead up games and simulated game play. Campers need to wear tennis shoes, t-shirts and comfortable shorts.

Date: July 14-18

Time: 9 a.m.-noon

Fee: \$100

ADVANCED

This camp is for students who have played on an organized volleyball team or attended the Fundamentals Volleyball Camp. This advanced camp is full of fast pace drills that will elevate the campers' performance to the next level. Campers will take part in two-on-two, four-on-four and six-on-six tournaments. Come ready to work hard! Campers will need to wear t-shirts, comfortable shorts, knee pads and tennis shoes.

Date: July 28-Aug. 1

Time: 9 a.m.-noon

Fee: \$125

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Monday-Friday, June 9-Aug. 22

This 11-week summer camp for children ages 5 to 13 is full of fun, adventure and new friends. Each week will feature a new and exciting theme, a fieldtrip, a pizza party and pool days. Campers are asked to bring a lunch, wear weather appropriate clothing and bring a swimsuit.

Visit www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org for more details and a full schedule of events.

Regular Session

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Resident

\$150/child per week

Non-resident

\$185/child per week

Early Bird Session

7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Resident

\$180/child per week

Non-resident

\$225/child per week



T.E. HARMAN CENTER

226 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-275-2893



For more information on senior activities and registration, call 281-275-2893 or email seniors@sugarlandtx.gov. Monthly calendars are available at www.sugarlandtx.gov/teharman.

POSTAL CUSTOMER

CALENDAR

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR: VIETNAMESE 101



	Date	Event	Time	Location
APR	3	Land Use Forum	6 p.m.	City Hall
	1, 15, 22	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	8, 24	Planning and Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	12	Eggstravaganza	Noon-3 p.m.	Eldridge Park
	18	Good Friday City offices closed Regular solid waste collection		
	26	Earth Day Celebration	1-5 p.m.	Town Square
MAY	6, 20, 27	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	13, 22	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	26	Memorial Day City offices closed No solid waste collection		
		Memorial Day Ceremony	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	SL Memorial Park

Did you know that the Vietnamese community makes up nearly 5 percent of Sugar Land’s population based on the 2010 U.S. Census?

The City Manager’s Multi-Cultural Advisory Team recently hosted a “Vietnamese 101” session for staff in an effort to enhance the City’s ability to meet the needs of all residents. To help promote a better understanding of Sugar Land’s many cultures among neighbors, we also want to share what we learned with the community.

We learned one of the most important aspects of the Vietnamese community is its respect for elders and the ways in which its lives revolve around family—with multiple generations often living within one household. Vietnamese culture also celebrates many special holidays, including Vietnamese New Year—or “Tết”—and Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival, also known as “Tết Trung Thu.” Additionally, we learned it may not be uncommon to still see the former flag of South Vietnam displayed within the Vietnamese community. Finally, we had the opportunity to hear about several residents’ journeys to the United States, many of which included fleeing Vietnam by boat in the 1980s. While hard, experiences such as these have generated deep appreciation and gratitude for the United States—and now Sugar Land, where many Vietnamese residents choose to live because of our strong family values and recognized school districts.

Overall, we found that Vietnamese culture is certainly unique, but it is also clear we have many commonalities to celebrate as well.

“Know Your Neighbor” is written by members of the City’s Multi-Cultural Advisory Team. These columns are intended to help residents get to know the customs and traditions of their neighbors.

save the date

BIKE TO WORK/SCHOOL DAY : **STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR**
May 8 : July 4

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov to confirm City events.
Visit www.visitsugarlandtx.com for convention and visitor services.
For Sugar Land Town Center events, visit www.sugarlandtownsquare.com.
For updates on legal notices, bids, public hearings and more, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/legalnotices.