

Leisure Legacies

SUMMER 2024

MESSAGE

From the Director

Welcome to **Leisure Legacies!**

I'm thrilled to introduce our newest initiative to keep you — our valued Dallas Park and Recreation retirees and former employees — informed and engaged with each other and the Department. I cherish the many years of service you gave to Dallas families and the legacy you created as park and recreation professionals.

We want to hear from you! Your contributions — whether sharing stories from your time here or updates on what's happening in your life now — will enrich **Leisure Legacies**. Your participation will make this newsletter a great way for all of us to reminisce and reconnect.

John D. Jenkins
Director, Dallas Park and Recreation Department

Call for Contributions:

Leisure Legacies needs your stories. As a quarterly digital publication, share your new adventures, photos, anecdotes, retirement tips, and all the things that make retirement enjoyable.

Your contributions will enrich **Leisure Legacies** and inspire others beginning this exciting phase of life. Click here to send your contributions today or email andrea.hawkins@dallas.gov.

We Listened!

Thank you for participating in our recent survey! Your feedback will guide the content for future newsletters. Here's what you told us:

Over 80% of respondents want updates on recent retirements, Dallas Park and Recreation news, and announcements about colleagues who have passed away.

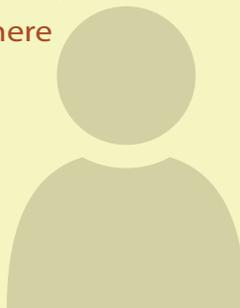
More than 70% want retiree-submitted stories on topics such as retirement projects, travel adventures, and volunteerism.

Over 60% are eager to read retiree-submitted insights on enjoying retirement and see photos capturing memorable moments from retirees' time with the department.

SPOTLIGHT

Life After the 9-to-5!

Be featured here! Share new passions, travels, or reflections on the joys of retirement. Share your story along with a photo and [click here](#) to be in Spotlight!



NEWCOMERS

Recent Retirements

Constance McLouth
Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives Division

Lana Denson
Recreation Services Division



CROSSING THE LINES

Colleagues We Will Miss

Logan Jacinto
Planning, Design, and Facilities Services

DOWN MEMORY LANE

"One of my most cherished moments came after retiring when I was asked to lead warmups for the Mayor's Back To School Fair at Fair Park. I would kick off the event with entertainment for the kids and their families. A highlight was when Mayor Rawlings showed up and joined the fun. He was such a good sport and would always participate in the Cupid Shuffle, but I would always call it "the Mayor's shuffle."

Jill Beam, 2015 Retiree

[Click here to submit your most memorable recollection.](#)

RETIRE WELL

Wellness and Fitness

Now that you have more time for activities that nurture the body and mind, Dallas Park and Recreation has put together a summer fitness lineup tailored for you.

Water Fitness and Water Aerobics: Dallas Aquatics offers morning and evening water fitness classes at aquatics centers and community pools. For schedules, visit [Dallas Aquatics](#).

Senior Summer Camp: Rediscover the joy of exploration with Senior Summer Camp! Specially designed field trips to enrich your cultural experiences will take you to Studio Movie Grill, and George W. Bush Library. [Click here for Active Senior and Adult Program information](#) or visit a Dallas recreation center.

Share Your Expertise!

Whether you're interested in volunteering, becoming an ambassador, or connecting with former colleagues, the Dallas Park and Recreation Department's Volunteer Services offers opportunities perfectly suited to your new lifestyle. [Click here to find out how you can get involved!](#)



Tai Chi for Arthritis: Improve balance, flexibility, and overall well-being with Tai Chi for Arthritis at WellMed Senior Activity Center and Willie B. Johnson, Umphress, Reverchon, Pleasant Oaks, and Harry Stone recreation centers.

What's Going On!



We launched a two-year, \$140-million renovation project to modernize the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium at Fair Park with new escalators, more restrooms and concessions, and premium suites.



Dallas is 38th on the Trust for Public Land 2024 ParkScore index, a national ranking of the top 100 most populous U.S. cities' park systems. Up five spots from last year, Dallas ranks highest of the major Texas cities. Read complete ParkScore Index findings here.

Bachman Lake Park is destined to become a popular skateboarding spot again when a 45,600-square-foot, concrete inground skate park opens in December, becoming the city's first inground skating facility.



Texas Historical Markers were unveiled at Martyrs Park to remember victims of 19th century racially motivated violence.

The markers memorialized Jane Elkins - the first woman legally hanged in Texas - and the three men lynched in 1860 after being accused of starting a Dallas fire.



When it opens next year, the new 1.25-mile Farm-to-Market Road 1382 Sidepath will create a continuous trail connecting Grand Prairie, Dallas, and Cedar Hill with a cycle and pedestrian path. View the groundbreaking in the news!