

#BayCityTx4U | Newsletter

www.cityofbaycity.org * 1901 5th St. Bay City Texas 77414 * 979-245-2137

Bay City's Annual HomeTown Christmas



Bay City's 2025 Annual HomeTown Christmas Celebration Will Bring a Month of Holiday Magic!

The Bay City Parks and Recreation “elves” are hard at work preparing for the Annual HomeTown Christmas Celebration, a month-long series of events guaranteed to fill the season with sparkle, laughter, and community cheer.

This year's celebration is bigger than ever with exciting additions — including the Jingle Jog, a lighthearted half-kilometer fun run perfect for adventurous non-athletes, and a Movie in the Park screening of *The Star* under the twinkling night sky.

This year's festivities also invite schools, non-profits, government agencies, and businesses to showcase their holiday spirit by decorating a site in the Wilderness Trail of Lights for the entire season. From dazzling light displays to creative holiday scenes, it's your chance to help light up Riverside Park in true Bay City style.

“We're inviting everyone in Bay City and Matagorda County to be part of the magic,” said Kelly Penewitt, Parks and Recreation Manager. “These events bring our community together, and there's something for everyone, whether you're in the parade, running (or strolling!) the Jingle Jog, or just enjoying the lights.”

Mark Your Calendars for These Festive Events:

16th Annual Christmas in the Park Celebration

Saturday, December 6

16th Annual Wilderness Trail of Lights

Nightly, December 6 – January 1

Trail of Lights Hayride

Saturday, December 6 – Sunday, December 14

Jingle Jog

Saturday, December 13

Movie in the Park – “The Star”

Friday, December 19

How to Get Involved:

For more information on Bay City Parks and Recreation's programs, events, facilities, and parks, visit cityofbaycity.org/190/Parks-Recreation

Follow us on Facebook @BCPAR, Instagram @BCPARD, and Twitter @baycity_parks.

Water Plant Updates

East Water Plant – by Tenaris

The well has been drilled, flushed, and sampled, and well performance testing has been submitted. Concrete slabs have been poured for the well pump station, generator pad, electric transformer, and both Ground Storage Tanks; both ground storage tanks have been constructed. Booster pump roof decking and canopy decking have been completed. Other construction continued during the month of October. Well pump, well discharge piping, and chemical feed equipment installation are estimated to be completed by the end of November. Estimated project completion is May 2026.



WWTP

The headworks lift station and the dewatering building have been completed. The rotary fan press, the polymer skid, and conveyor ceiling supports have been installed. The main electrical building is in progress with the building structure erected; contractor is waiting on electrical components which have long lead times. Contractor continues to work on installation of exposed piping for the dewatering building and yard piping for the return activated sludge (RAS) and waste activated sludge (WAS) pump station. Contractor is awaiting delivery of equipment for the RAS pump station and conveyor equipment so they can begin installation. Contractor has mobilized, has set up by-pass pumping and is beginning the rehabilitation of the Cottonwood Lift Station which is anticipated to take 2-3 months. Lift station pumps will also be rehabilitated during this time frame. This project continues to have a lot of complexities. Estimated completion is March 2027.



Movies in the Park

2017 2025-2026 Lineup

★ Dec 19 – *The Star* | Riverside Park | 6:30 PM
Cost: \$10/car - includes hot cocoa, popcorn, movie and Trail of Lights Hayride

🦋 Jan 23 – *Secret Life of Pets* | USO | 6:30 PM

🌊 Feb 20 – *Moana* | Le Tulle | 6:30 PM

👹 Mar 13 – *Minions* | Riverside Park | 7 PM

♦ FREE admission

🍷 Hot cocoa & popcorn – \$1 each



🧺 Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, family & friends – we'll bring the big screen.

📍 Details:
www.cityofbaycity.org
☎ 979-323-1660

Downtown Events

Bay City
Main Street

OCT 23 WITCHES WHO WINE 5PM-7PM	OCT 31 TRICK OR TREAT 3:30PM-5:30PM	NOV 20 CHRISTMAS AROUND THE SQUARE 5PM-9PM
NOV 29 SHOP SMALL SATURDAY 10AM-2PM	DEC 4 CHRISTMAS PARADE 7 PM - 8 PM	DEC 18 Christmas Sip and Shop 5PM-7PM
JAN 31 CAMOFEST 12PM-6PM	FEB 12 GALENTINE'S SIP AND SHOP 5PM-7PM	FEB 14 VALENTINE'S DAY ALL DAY

Keep Bay City Beautiful

Residents have a new reason to take pride in their community with the launch of Keep Bay City Beautiful, the city's newest initiative dedicated to litter prevention, beautification, and environmental stewardship. The program officially joins the well-established Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) affiliate network, an organization that has spent more than 50 years helping communities across the state stay clean, vibrant, and welcoming.

As part of the KTB family, Keep Bay City Beautiful gains access to valuable tools, including grants, training, educational resources, and connections to successful programs throughout Texas. These resources will help Bay City expand efforts around community cleanups, recycling education, youth engagement, and neighborhood beautification.

The mission is simple yet powerful:
“to inspire, educate, and empower the citizens of Bay City to sustain and enhance the natural beauty and environment of our City.”

Residents can expect new opportunities throughout the year to get involved, whether through community cleanups, beautification projects, recycling initiatives, or educational events for families and youth. Volunteering with Keep Bay City Beautiful is an easy and rewarding way to make a visible impact right in your neighborhood.

With the support of Keep Texas Beautiful and the passion of local volunteers, Keep Bay City Beautiful is poised to help make Bay City an even better place to live, work, and play. Keep an eye out for upcoming events and learn how you can take part in shaping a cleaner, more beautiful future for our community.

For more information on how you can volunteer to Keep Bay City Beautiful, contact Bay City Parks and Recreation at 979-323-1660 or email parks-rec@BayCityTX.gov



Go Wild! with the Riverside Rangers

Riverside Park and the Bay City Parks and Recreation Department invite families to Go Wild! @ Riverside Park with the Riverside Rangers. Each month brings a fun outdoor program designed to help the community connect with nature—from hikes and crafts to wildlife activities.

Upcoming highlights include:

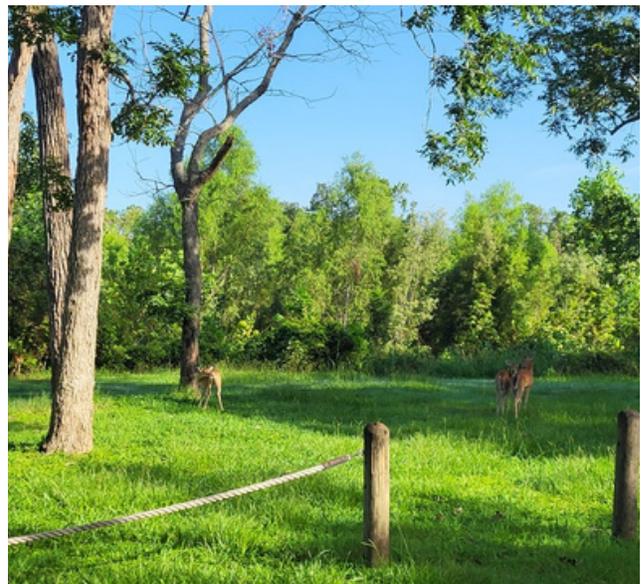
- January: First Hike of the Year
- February: Grassheads Planters
- March: Clam Shell Necklaces
- April – Leaf Identification & Sketching

“All our Go Wild! programs are designed to help people explore and enjoy the outdoors,” said Kelly Penewitt, Parks and Recreation Manager.

All programs meet at Tejas Pavilion in Riverside Park.

For details, call Riverside Park at 979-245-0450 or Parks & Recreation at 979-323-1660.

Get Outside and Play in Bay City!



KEEP BAY CITY BEAUTIFUL RECYCLING CHALLENGE



Help Parks & Recreation & the Recycling Center collect 1000 lbs. of plastic in 1 year and Bay City will receive a free Park Bench made from recycled materials!

What can be recycled? 

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Starting on Monday, October 6th, drop your plastics off in the marked bin at the Recycling Center.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department. 979-323-1660 parks-rec@cityofbaycity.org



Santa's Fly-In Storytime

Presented By
Bay City Regional Airport, Bay City Public Library & Van Vleck HS Theatre

*Save
The
Date*

December 11, 2025

Bay City Regional Airport
3598 FM 2540 North

*Admission is completely free, so
bring your entire family!*

*Join us for a story, cookies and
milk, and pictures with Santa.*





ACO UPDATE SCAN HERE
Animal Control Ordinance Update Public
Input Session - Your voice matters.



City of Bay City Holidays

Dec. 25-26 (Christmas)
Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve)
Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)
Jan. 19 (MLK, Jr Day)

Bay City Updates Residents on Animal Control Ordinance and Public Engagement Opportunities

The City of Bay City is moving forward with updates to the Animal Control Ordinance to improve public safety, protect neighborhoods, care for animals in need, and support our Animal Control staff. These updates aim to reduce the risks from loose and feral animals, promote responsible pet ownership, and protect local wildlife.

During the City Council meeting on August 26, 2025, the Animal Control Ordinance Task Force presented proposed updates, outlining goals such as reducing euthanasia rates, humanely managing the growing stray cat population, and encouraging responsible pet care.

The City Manager shared an official statement on September 26, 2025, noting that the ordinances have not yet been adopted. A public engagement campaign is underway to ensure residents have opportunities to provide input and feedback.

The first step in this campaign was a public survey, shared through newspaper ads with a QR code and on social media. Survey results will be presented at the City Council meeting on December 9, 2025, giving the community insight into the feedback collected so far. Residents will also have a chance to participate in a Public Input Session on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at the Bay City Service Center (USO), 2105 Avenue M, Bay City, TX 77414. The Task Force will use input from both the survey and this session to guide the development of the updated ordinances.

The updated ordinance proposals are expected to be presented to City Council on January 13, 2026, where the public and Council members can provide additional feedback before adoption. A full implementation plan will follow at a later date.

Bay City's efforts will address out-of-date ordinances and align with successful programs in other cities, including Austin, TX; Houston, TX; and Mansfield, TX, which have implemented limits on the number of pets per household, mandatory spaying/neutering, and pet microchipping or registration.

The goal is simple: keep Bay City safe, protect neighborhoods and wildlife, care for animals responsibly, and promote a community where pets and people thrive together. Residents are encouraged to stay engaged and attend the upcoming public input session.

CITY OF BAY CITY ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP

Sponsored by



DECEMBER 6, 2025
8AM—12PM

WCJC Parking Lot
4000 Avenue F

OPEN TO ALL CITY RESIDENTS

Proof of Residency Required
(Bring water bill or driver's license/ID)

RECYCLING TRAILERS WILL BE ON-SITE

Bring us your cardboard, plastic bottles, tin/aluminum cans, paper & magazines, and used motor oil and cooking oil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
PUBLIC WORKS AT 979-323-1659



ITEMS ACCEPTED

- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Household waste
- Used lawn implements (must be fuel free)
- Freon-free appliances (must be certified)
- Scrap Tires—limit of 8 tires per household

NOT ACCEPTED

- Building & construction materials
- Tires on the rim
- Agricultural & off-road tires
- Paint
- Batteries
- Chemicals
- Electronics
- Automotive fluids

Brush & Tree limbs must be taken to the brush site located on Skelly Rd

8AM-12PM on Saturday
1PM-4PM Monday thru Friday

Polar Plunge 2026

Saturday, January 10, 2026

9:00 a.m.

(Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Hilliard Pool - 3020 Le Tulle

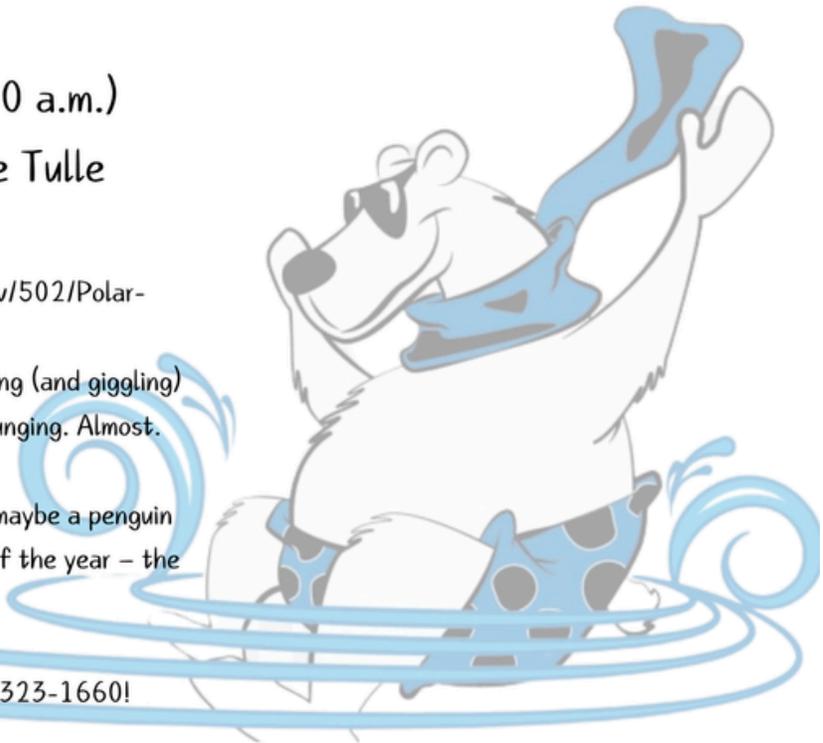
\$10

Registration: <https://www.baycitytx.gov/502/Polar-Plunge>

Spectators are welcome – after all, cheering (and giggling) from the sidelines is almost as fun as plunging. Almost.

So grab your swimsuit, your courage, and maybe a penguin onesie, and join us for the coolest event of the year – the 2026 Polar Plunge!

Got questions? Give us a ring at 979-323-1660!



Freezin' for a Reason!

Bay City Polar Plunge Returns January 10th, 2026

Ready to chill out? Bay City Parks & Recreation dares you to start the new year with a splash at the 2026 Polar Plunge on Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 a.m. at Hilliard Pool, 3020 Le Tulle. This bone-chilling tradition calls on the bold, the brave, and maybe even the slightly bonkers to leap into the icy waters of the Colorado River. Whether you belly flop, cannonball, or tiptoe in, one thing's for sure – it's going to be snow much fun!

After the plunge, participants can thaw out with hot cocoa, donuts, and plenty of bragging rights. Costumes are encouraged (because nothing says "polar bear chic" like a tutu or superhero cape in 50-degree water). "Every year we're amazed at how many people are willing to put the brrr in bravery," said Kelly Penewitt, Parks and Recreation Manager. "It's not just about the plunge – it's about laughter, community spirit, and starting the year with an unforgettable story to tell."

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. (Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Location: Riverside Park, Bay City

Registration: <https://www.baycitytx.gov/502/Polar-Plunge>

Spectators are welcome – after all, cheering (and giggling) from the sidelines is almost as fun as plunging. Almost. So grab your swimsuit, your courage, and maybe a penguin onesie, and join us for the coolest event of the year – the 2026 Polar Plunge!

For more information, call 979-323-1660 or visit <https://www.baycitytx.gov/502/Polar-Plunge>.

Celebration of National Aviation Month in Bay City!



November is National Aviation Month in Bay City!

The City of Bay City, Texas, was proud to announce the proclamation of November as National Aviation Month! Mayor Robert K. Nelson officially recognized the vital importance of the aviation industry and its significant impact on our community.

Bay City Regional Airport serves as a critical transportation hub, connecting us globally and supporting local economic growth. Aviation plays a crucial role in fostering business, tourism, and recreational opportunities, significantly enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

We also recognized the dedicated professionals at Bay City Regional Airport who work tirelessly to ensure the safety, efficiency, and accessibility of air travel.



Airport Upgrade

The Airport had a new septic system installed by a local company, Sure'Nuff Septic Service. The long-awaited approval took shape on November 7th. The system was upgraded from a 600-gallon to an 800-gallon tank capacity due to the growth of the airport's popularity and increase in tenant business located at the airport. This new system will help with the influent of rain water into the system as well.



Bay City Parks & Recreation: Pavilion and Park Rentals

Host your next event in Bay City's beautiful parks!

Bay City Parks and Recreation offers pavilions, gazebos, and facility rentals at well-maintained parks across the city—perfect for family gatherings, birthday parties, and community events.

Available Facilities and Amenities:

Amistad Park Pavilion – Avenue C

Splash pad, playground, basketball court, GaGa ball pit, corn hole, BBQ grills, and a rentable pavilion. Ideal for summer fun and neighborhood gatherings.

Duncan Park and Pavilion – Duncan Street

Pavilion, BBQ pit, swings, playground, basketball and volleyball courts, horseshoes, and restrooms. Perfect for family outings and group events.

Liberty Park Gazebo – Downtown Bay City

Historic 1905 gazebo, picnic tables, and grills. Charming for small gatherings, photos, or quiet afternoons outdoors.

Le Tulle Park and Pavilions – 53-acre natural retreat DreamScape Playground, picnic areas, three pavilions, lake, 24-hole disc golf course, birding stand, and shady Live Oaks. One of Bay City's largest and most popular parks.

Riverside Park – Tejas and Colorado Cove Pavilions 100 acres along the Colorado River, featuring camping, fishing, kayaking, wildlife watching, RV sites, trails, and family-friendly amenities.

Historic Venues

MOPAC Train Depot (1907): Meeting room, kitchen, patio, seating for up to 50.

USO Building (1942): Auditorium, stage, meeting rooms, full kitchen, seating for up to 400.



Bike Patrol at The Day of the Dead Festival.

Reservation Process

All rentals require a refundable deposit, due at the time of reservation. Deposits are returned after the event if the facility is clean and undamaged.

Rental fees (except USO) are due 5 days prior; USO fees are due 30 days prior.

Cleaning and Deposit Return

Renters are responsible for leaving the facilities clean and in original condition. Deposits are refunded within 15 days following satisfactory cleanup.

How to Reserve

In person: Parks and Recreation Admin Office, 1209 10th St (Mon–Fri, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.)

Online: BayCityTX.gov/190/Parks-Recreation
Click Facilities/Pavilions or Buildings

Park Policies

Restrooms available at all parks

Bounce houses allowed with a generator

Water slides are not permitted

Questions? Call us at 979-323-1660.

Bay City Parks and Recreation looks forward to helping you plan a successful event at one of our beautiful municipal parks!



City General Election May 2nd

The City Secretary's Office is already gearing up for the next City General Elections to be held May 2, 2026.

Council Positions up for election are:

Position #1

Position #2

Filing dates for candidacy is
January 14th through February 13th.

File in person at the City Secretary's office, located at 1901 5th street, office hours 8 to 5, or email your application to citysecretary@baycitytx.gov.

Visit our election page for more information and updates.

<https://www.baycitytx.gov/168/Municipal-Elections>

10
YEAR
Anniversary
WILD GAME
AND WINE
CAMOFEST
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BAY CITY

≡ **SAVE** *the* **DATE** ≡
January 31st, 2026

LEGO BUILDERS CLUB

Friday Jan. 9, 2026
From 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Challenge: Build your name with Legos



If you are interested in joining our
Lego Builders Club
Please call 979-245-6931
or
Email: pburrell@baycitytx.gov

Make-up Day!
Sat. Jan 10, 2026
10 am-12 pm





Bay City's Historic USO Service Center Now Available for Community and Private Events

The City of Bay City is proud to announce that its historic USO Service Center, located at 2105 Avenue M, is available for community gatherings and private rentals.

Built in 1942 to serve servicemen stationed at Camp Hulen and Foster Field, the USO quickly became a hub for social life in Bay City. It is the only surviving Gulf Coast facility constructed under the Community Facilities Act, recognized as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1999 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

Following recent upgrades—including a new roof, flooring, air conditioning, and fresh paint—the USO has been restored as a versatile event venue. It can accommodate up to 400 people and features:

- A large auditorium
- Three meeting rooms
- A full kitchen
- A welcoming foyer

“The USO is more than just a building, it’s a piece of Bay City’s history,” said Kelly Penewitt, Parks and Recreation Manager. “By opening it up for both community use and private events, we’re ensuring that this landmark continues to serve our residents while preserving it for future generations.”

Reservation Information

In person: Parks Administration Building, 1209 10th Street, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Details and contact: 979–323–1660 | parks-rec@baycitytx.gov

Follow Bay City Parks & Recreation on Facebook:
@BCPAR

Make history part of your next celebration—reserve Bay City’s USO Service Center today!

Senior-Cize: No Gym Required – Senior Fitness in Bay City!

The City of Bay City, Texas, is proud to offer a dynamic and enduring program that helps its seniors stay active, healthy, and connected. It’s called Senior-Cize, and it’s the perfect way to stay strong, stay active, and stay social for adults 55+ who are young at heart.

This free, low-impact fitness program has been a staple in the community for over 15 years, a testament to its effectiveness and popularity!

Senior-Cize is a comprehensive fitness class designed specifically for older adults. It requires no membership fee—no cost, just show up and move! Regular exercise is vital for overall health, and this program is structured to support your muscles, bones, heart—and even your brain!

The low-impact routines include a mix of:
Fall prevention drills
Strength & endurance exercises
Low-impact cardio
Chair & standing routines

Classes are led by the dedicated Carolyn Irvine, who has been helping our community stay healthy for years.

Location: USO Service Center – 2105 Avenue M
Schedule: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Time: 8:30–9:15 a.m.

If you are an adult 55 or older looking for a fun, friendly, and free way to enhance your physical well-being, we encourage you to attend!

For more information about Senior-Cize and other programs offered by the City of Bay City Parks and Recreation, call us at 979–323–1660 or visit www.baycitytx.gov/190/Parks-Recreation.





CAMPING ADVENTURES

Join us at Riverside Park as we explore nature, the Colorado River and create memories that will last a lifetime.



Events



Boating



Camping



979-245-0340

www.campriverside.org



A Place to Play, Connect, and Grow

If you have a little one between the ages of 0 and 3, get ready for a wonderful opportunity right here at the Bay City Public Library.

We're so excited to host our Parent/Child Workshop, a free, five-week program that is truly a gift for our community.

This isn't your average library visit! Our workshop is modeled after the national Family Place Libraries initiative, and it's all about giving you and your child dedicated time to play, learn, and connect.

Imagine an hour where you can simply relax while your toddler explores a room full of fun, educational toys and engaging art activities. It's a chance for your child to learn through their favorite thing—play!

This workshop is just as much for you as it is for your child.

It's completely free. Come see why play is the best way to prepare your little one for a lifetime of learning.

Mondays, 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
January 5 through February 9, 2026.
Bay City Public Library
1100 7th St., Bay City, TX 77414



PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOP

Have fun playing with your toddler (0-3 years) at this 5-week play-based program for toddlers and their caregivers presented in an informal early childhood setting arranged with toys, art activities, and material resources pertaining to parenting and early childhood.

FREE!

**MONDAYS 10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
JANUARY 5-FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

**BAY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
1100 7TH ST., BAY CITY TX 77414**

Family Place Libraries

BAY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The flyer features a yellow and blue color scheme with confetti. It includes three photos: a family holding a baby, a woman with two children playing with blocks, and a man with a child playing with a toy car. There are also images of colorful stacking toys and a toy truck.

Protect People, Pets, Pipes, & Plants from cold weather



People

- Minimize time outdoors.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Check on elderly & other vulnerable people to make sure they're ok.



Pets

- Keep your pets warm, dry & indoors as much as possible.
- Ensure their food & water doesn't freeze.
- Limit outside time & keep them bundled up.



Pipes

- Insulate pipes if possible.
- Open up sink cabinets to expose pipes to heated air.
- Disconnect hoses & turn off water to sprinklers.



Plants

- Know their temperature thresholds.
- If possible, cover them before the cold weather sets in to help retain some heat.



CITY OF BAY CITY, TEXAS RECENT PROCLAMATIONS

Bay City, Texas proclaimed a
“Tourism Friendly Community.”

Month of October 2025
“Domestic Violence Awareness Month”
“Fire Prevention Month”
“Hispanic Heritage Month”

October 5-11, 2025
"Fire Prevention Week"

November 2025
“National Aviation Month”

November 18, 2025
"Priscilla Ann Robinson Day"



The Annual Wilderness Run!

Lace up and get wild! The City of Bay City Parks and Recreation Department invites you to the annual Wilderness Run on Saturday, Feb. 7th at Riverside Park. Choose between the 2K or 5K course and adventure through hayfields, wooded trails, and the camping area before finishing at the Ranger Station.

This family-friendly event welcomes walkers, runners, strollers, and even leashed pups! Warm up at the finish line with free hot cocoa, fruit, and snacks, and stick around to cheer on your fellow adventurers. Medals? Absolutely. Costume contest? Yes. Fun? Guaranteed. All fees include an event bag, medal, and shirt.

- 2K Run/Walk: 9:30 a.m.
- 5K Run/Walk: 10:15 a.m.

Pre-Registration

- 12 & under (2K): \$30
- 13 & older (5K or 2K): \$35
- Combo Race (2K + 5K): \$40
- Senior/Military (active or retired): \$5 discount

Day-Of Registration

- 12 & under (2K): \$35
- 13 & older (5K or 2K): \$40
- Combo Race: \$45
- Senior/Military (active or retired): \$5 discount

Register in person, by phone, or online:

- Online Registration:
(<https://www.baycitytx.gov/499/Wilderness-Run>)
- More Info: 979-323-1660
- Email: parks-rec@baycitytx.gov

For more information on the contents of this newsletter or any event or program hosted by the City of Bay City, we encourage you to visit our website at: baycitytx.gov and follow the City’s social media accounts.





THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AND ATTENDEES THAT HELPED MAKE THE 45TH ANNUAL LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE A HOLIDAY MEMORY

