



Paseo Trails

A publication of the Paseo de la Resaca Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District

A Texas Public Improvement District

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Spring Migration Lands on Paseo de la Resaca! It's a Fallout!

Spring in the Rio Grande Valley always means bird migration. Most of the time this annual event goes unnoticed but not this year! This April of 2013 was special. A strong norther blew into us with winds so strong that birds (that were already tired) simply could not continue their trek. They "fell-out". Some, particularly the smaller species, were so tired that they could be seen walking on the ground. This was true all over deep South Texas but especially concentrated in Cameron County. As our neighborhoods mature in vegetation, we become a refuge. Warblers, Buntings, Tanagers, and Orioles brought a wave of color – reds, blues, yellows that became a daily treat. It won't happen every year – but when it does all of us get that chance to open our eyes and see what nature can be.



Baltimore Oriole.
Photograph by Brad Doherty

P.S. You need a good bird book! Just a suggestion... The National Geographic Birds of North America is a quality book.



Sailfin Catfish. Photograph by Andres Garcia

Water Quality

We know our Resaca is clean because we test it regularly. No heavy metals or coliforms are present. The primary factor has been salinity but after 16 years the salt has leached out to a point now where we average less than k-ppm and is continuing to decline.

This means fresh water fish are living and reproducing. Here are some examples of what we have in Resaca Calmada.

Sailfin Catfish

Introduced from South America, probably released from aquariums. Present in all Brownsville resacas, fish for them as any other catfish. Not shown is the Channel Catfish which is abundant. This is the only

game fish intentionally stocked by *Texas Parks and Wildlife* for our special fishing tournament. The annual tournament KIDS GONE FISHIN' - HOOKED FOR LIFE is held at the Special Events Center on Resaca Calmada.

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Call your local group leader and let them know what bothers you, tell us your concerns and give us some good suggestions. They will let us know. Here is a list of the HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION Presidents or Managers in random order:

Villa de la Resaca	Rick Gonzalez	956-554-3919 or 956-341-2349
Seville Gardens	Barbara Kruger	956-541-3022
Emerald Cove	Miguel de Pau	956-542-8987 or 956-542-4611 (fax)
Emerald Valley	Eric Rodenbaugh	956-465-3463
Havenwood	Dan Brama	956-466-0250
Deerfield	Ana Lozano	956-459-6504
Fox Hollow	Alfonso de la Torre	956-455-9555
Brookhaven	Dan Brama/Eric Rodenbaugh	956-466-0250 or 956-465-3463
Regency Park	Dan Brama/Eric Rodenbaugh	956-466-0250 or 956-465-3463
Arbor Park	Dan Brama/Eric Rodenbaugh	956-466-0250 or 956-465-3463
Creekwood	Elise Garza	956-504-6550
Parkview	Dan Brama/Eric Rodenbaugh	956-466-0250 or 956-465-3463
La Villita	Bill Harris	956-592-1442
	Analís Figueroa	956-639-8435
Portofino	Elise Garza	956-504-6550
Wildflower	Elise Garza	956-504-6550

Paseo de la Resaca Service Plan Board - Board of Directors

William Hudson	<i>Chairman: President - Paseo de la Resaca, Inc.</i>
Barbara Kruger	<i>Member: President – Seville Gardens HOA</i>
Daniel Brama	<i>Member: President – Havenwood HOA</i>
Jim McNeil	<i>Member: Director Brownsville Tennis Association</i>
Estella Chavez-Vasquez	<i>Member: Brownsville City Commission</i>



We are in a drought. Help Brownsville save water

Due to the lack of rain, the city of Brownsville, and the entire Rio Grande Valley, is in a drought. Our lakes are at one of their lowest levels in history. Please watch your water use by: watering your lawn no more than twice a week from the hours of 7pm to 7am and reduce or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes, such as washing paved areas. Please use common-sense measures to help our city and save water.

*A publication of Paseo de la Resaca Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District
A Texas Public Improvement District (PID)*

2335 Hudson Boulevard, Brownsville, Texas 78526
<http://facebook.com/PaseoDeLaResaca>

www.paseodelaresaca.net

By Steve Walker
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All photos by Andres Garcia



Blue Talapia

An introduced species. They are abundant – use a small hook under a cork. Bait with a pinch of white bread. They have been known to hit a small spinner. The key is “small hook fits a small mouth.”



Rio Grande Ciclid

A native species that is less abundant than Talapia. We suggest catch and release.



Black Bass

A native species. It is present but not abundant in our Resaca. In turbid water this species shows a whiter color. We suggest catch and release.



Diamond Back Water Snake

It is non-venomous but can be very aggressive. This is a big one. It was electro-shocked by UTB Biology students. That is the only reason they were able to handle it. Avoid this snake.

New Feature on Trail of Trees

It’s picnic time for the residents of Havenwood, Seville Gardens, and Deerfield, along with the residents in La Mansion and Resaca Palms Apartment Complexes. Located right behind Hudson Elementary is a brand new “Palapa” style family friendly structure designed with fun, fellowship, and shade in mind. This structure is “over built”; the roof and supporting columns can handle up to an F2 Hurricane. The corner supports, the table, the benches are all bolted deep into a solid, one piece floor of the highest grade concrete. All the “Palapa” needs is ‘you’ to use it!

Irrigation Overhaul

It is one of the largest projects the Public Improvement District has undertaken since the gravel sidewalks were replaced with cement. Starting at the southeast terminus of Resaca Calmada (next to the new palapa between Hudson Elementary School and Havenwood) and then following the sidewalks all the way to the Brownsville Special Events Center, a private company, using experienced employee technicians, is methodically searching for, identifying, and replacing each and every piece of worn-out, damaged or vandalized piece of equipment in the entire system. Certain elements of the system will be “hardened” against vandalism but, and this is the key-the system needs protection, it needs everyone to be vigilant. If you see someone up to no good, pull your cell phone out and take a picture! Things change when people get fed up - and never doubt that this District Board will insist upon prosecution – and see it through to the end. All repair costs are paid by all of us. We need your eyes and help.

Security Issues

One picture is worth a thousand words. Most cell phones have a camera function. If you see vandalism, take a picture. If you see someone roaring down the sidewalk on a three-wheeler, take a picture. If you see a crew of suspicious individuals cruising the sidewalk then take a picture. Send these photos to elise@pdlrmail.us. Again, we need your help.

Paseo de la Resaca Landscape and Maintenance District

The PID was created in 1997 in order to assure the perpetual integrity and quality of the Paseo de la Resaca Park System, a City of Brownsville Park, providing public access to recreational facilities and natural flora and fauna in the heart of North Brownville. The Paseo de la Resaca Park System is connected with downtown Brownsville and the Palo Alto National Battlefield Park by a walk and bike trail built on the old Southern Pacific Railway.

Physical aspects of the park are:

- 128 acres of public park, including marinas;
- 4.1 miles of Resacas;
- 9 miles of Hike and Bike Trails;
- 32 million cubic feet of excavation for Resaca Calmada, which is up to 9 feet deep;
- 300 acre feet of water of storage, additional 300 acre feet of storm water capacity.

Total costs of creating the core elements of the park were about \$5.6 million. Land, valued at approximately \$3.7 million, was donated as park was created, consisting of trails, water fountains, lighting and benches. Major participants in the creation of the Paseo de la Resaca Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District are the Brownsville Beautification Committee, and many private foundations, businesses and families.

Major amenities of the park at present are:

- Public Facilities: Brownsville Events Center; Brownsville Tennis Center and Margaret Clark Aquatic Center.

The Texas Trail of Trees (south of FM 802 – “South Parkway”) is a 14-acre portion of the park featuring 100 species of Texas Trees with 5,900 linear feet of hike and bike trail, public parking, water fountains, exercise and play stations, and benches. The trails connect to schools and neighborhoods. Once in the trail system, there is no need to cross the streets; North Brownville Park, an 18-acre section park along Resaca Calmada with hike and bike trails, bird watching stations, benches and water fountains.

Maintenance of the Paseo de la Resaca Park System is assured through the assessments on property owners within the District. Assessments are planned to continue to be twenty cents per \$100 valuation.

Where Does the Money Go?

This question has come up a few times. In rough numbers: October 1, 2011-September 30, 2011 (Fiscal 2012) from assessments, revenues total about \$500,000.00.

Expenses:

- Bank and Certificate of Obligation Interest and Principal: \$120,000
- Maintenance and Irrigation: \$45,000
- Audit, legal and consultant fees: \$26,000
- Other Expenditures: \$10,000
- Surplus: \$345,000

As you can see, almost half of the money coming in goes to debt retirement. As of October 31, 2011, total indebtedness is about \$870,000.00. The PID Service Plan Board has committed \$50,000.00 annually to the City for extra maintenance or capital improvements within the District. The District hopes to be able to retire all indebtedness within the next 5-10 years. At such time as the debt is retired, it is expected that the assessment may or will be reduced.



Welcome to the Neighborhood

Shipley's Doughnuts is coming! Their store will be located on Paredes Line Road between *Bank of America* and *McDonald's* –bringing us that unmistakable aroma of American style baking at its best. Stand up and cheer – because a policeman (or two) will always be near.

Sasi's Thai Restaurant will be opening soon in Paseo Real. It’s important that we understand something about Thailand and its cuisine - no colonial power ever conquered Thailand, never even tried; and that’s because Thais are as tough as a mesquite root and that’s because of what they eat! Do yourself a favor and visit *Sasi's* – at least once a week.