

# Certified Retirement Community Community Assessment

## Tab 2-K – Recreational Areas and Facilities

West Columbia was a wonderful climate to enjoy the great outdoors year-round.

### West Columbia City Parks



#### Loggins Street Park

- Open park area
- Located in the 800 Block of Loggins Drive
- Includes playground equipment and picnic tables
- Wheelchair accessible



#### First Capitol Park

- Located at North 13th Street / FM 2852
- Fishing lake stocked with trout and catfish
- Playground equipment
- 1/2-mile walking trail
- Three lighted softball fields  
(available for rental, call (979) 345-3123)
- Volleyball Court
- 16 RV hookup's with water, gray water, and electricity - for more information or reservations, call (979) 345-2760
- Covered pavilion with restroom facilities and picnic tables (for rental call (979) 345-3123)
- City pool - for more information or reservations, call (979) 345-7153
- Wheelchair accessible



#### Josiah Bell Park

- Located at 247 E. Brazos Ave.
- Adjacent to Columbia Historic Museum



**Capitol of Texas Park – A Walk Through the Birth of Texas**

- Unique walking path with Seal of the Republic plaza
- 20 black granite stations each depicting the people and events of the early Republic
- Historic cistern possibly provided water for the capitol building and first congressmen
- Located at 17th St. and Brazos Ave.
- Wheelchair accessible

**West Columbia Senior Citizens Center** provides hot lunches Monday through Friday. Meals-on-Wheels are delivered by volunteers to citizens who are unable to get out. The center provides activities such as quilting, card games, domino games, hair cuts, puzzles and many other favorite pastimes. These activities give seniors hours of visiting and fellowship with one another.

**Brazoria County Library – West Columbia Branch**

518 E. Brazos – Phone 979-345-3394

Library Hours

Monday 10 am to 8 pm  
Tuesday 10 am to 6 pm  
Wednesday 10 am to 8 pm  
Thursday 10 am to 6 pm  
Friday Closed  
Saturday 10 am to 5 pm  
Sunday Closed

Yearly events include Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Used Book Sale, National Library Week, Summer Book Reading and Children's Story Time (every Wednesday at 10:30 am)

Internet service is available

**The West Columbia Civic Center, San Jacinto Meeting Room and American Legion Hall host numerous events throughout the year. The Masonic Lodge, Rotary Club, Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce also support the community with special events. West Columbia has churches of many different faiths who organize ladies groups, Golden Age groups, study groups and various activities.**

**Brazoria County Parks** (Source: [www.brazoria-county.com/parks](http://www.brazoria-county.com/parks) )

- **Camp Mohawk County Park** is a 35-acre day-use park with overnight facilities in a wooded setting along Chocolate Bayou between Angleton and Alvin. Camp Mohawk features self-contained cabins, climate-controlled dormitories with kitchens, tent camping areas, a meeting hall, covered pavilions, picnic areas with grills, a three-acre lake with a canoe launching area, swimming pool, playground, basketball court, baseball field, extended trail system, paved parking areas and restrooms. Natural attractions at Camp Mohawk include the only stand of native pine trees in Brazoria County, a guide for identifying tree species along the trails, bird watching and nature viewing, and fishing. Historically, the site was in use by area natives in the pre- European era, served as a training ground for Texas soldiers in 1861, and was a private meeting ground from 1930 until acquisition by the county in 2001. Camp Mohawk County Park is located at 110 County Road 193 in Alvin (approx. 28 miles / 35 minutes from West Columbia)
- **Surfside Jetty County Park** is a 4-acre day-use beach park. Jetty Park features include a paved parking area with handy access to the beach, harbor channel, and the jetty. Natural attractions are fishing, bird watching, wildlife viewing, beachcombing, and shelling. Historically, Jetty Park sits along what was the most important harborage during the time Texas was a republic; the site of historic For Velasco is just outside the park. Surfside Jetty County Park is located at 101 Parkview Rd. in Freeport (approx. 34 miles / 45 minutes from West Columbia)
- **San Luis Pass County Park** is a 15-acre bay park with both day-use amenities and overnight facilities. San Luis Pass features paved full service RV camping, cabins, a climate-controlled meeting room with kitchenette, interpretive center, restrooms, a playground, fish cleaning stations, paved parking, and a boat launch. Natural attractions include bay fishing from the park, boating, bird watching, nature viewing, and beachcombing plus shelling on nearby beaches. Historically, San Luis Pass has been a popular back entry into Galveston Bay for smugglers and pirates. San Luis Pass County Park is just west of the Brazoria-Galveston County toll bridge at San Luis Pass at 14001 Bluewater Hwy. in Freeport (approx. 45 miles / 1 hour from West Columbia)
- **Quintana Beach County Park** is a 45-acre beachfront park with day-use amenities and overnight facilities. Quintana Park features paved full service RV campsites, self-contained cabins, tent camping, restrooms and showers, a meeting room complete with kitchen, covered pavilions, picnic tables, grills, playground, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, paved trail, pedestrian beach, wooded lighted fishing pier, access to the west jetty, and paved parking. Natural attractions include bird watching, fishing, nature viewing, beachcombing, and shelling. The historical aspect of the park includes the site of Fort Bates (1862), the remains of the Freeport Harbor Defense (1942) and two historically significant houses inside the park. Quintana Beach County Park is located at 330 5th St. in Freeport (approx. 30 miles / 45 minutes from West Columbia)

**County Day-Use Parks:**

Hanson Riverside County Park - West Columbia  
 Brazos River County Park - Angleton  
 Albert Finkle Memorial County Park – Liverpool  
 Buffalo Camp County Park – Lake Jackson  
 Resoft County Park – Alvin

All county parks are handicap able

Texas Parks & Wildlife oversees **The Brazos Bend State Park** located at 21901 FM 762 in Needville (approx. 20 miles / 25 minutes from West Columbia). The park consists of 5,000 acres of wildness including 3.2 miles fronting the Brazos River. Popular activities include camping, picnics, hiking, biking, horse back riding and fishing in six (6) lakes. The Nature Center is open daily for interpretive programs. The George Observatory is located in the park and is open Saturdays for star gazing. Outdoors enthusiasts will delight in viewing more than 300 species of birds sighted; 21 species of reptiles and amphibians including the most famous – American Alligator; 17 species of mammals including bobcat, white-tailed deer, raccoon and gray fox; 39 species of dragonfly; 500 species of plant life all from observation towers and platforms throughout the park. The park is open 7 days a week year-round except when closed for emergencies or scheduled closures.

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/brazos\\_bend](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/brazos_bend)

### **Birding**

West Columbia is located along **The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** and Brazoria County has a total of twenty-seven (27) sites. These include all of the Bluewater, Coastal Plains, Brazoria and San Bernard Loops plus the Brazos Bend State Park on the Clear Lake Loop. From West Columbia, it's just a half-hour drive to the **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory** in Lake Jackson, a research and education facility. A migration trap in both spring and fall, **Quintana Neo-Tropical Bird Sanctuary** in Freeport is the place to find trans-Gulf migrating passerines such as warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers, buntings, kingbirds, and thrushes along with raptors, shorebirds and wading birds. Other area birding spots include:

- Carolyn Raizes Davis Bird Sanctuary (63 acres), Liverpool
- Freeport Wetlands Preserve Park (50 acres), Freeport
- Wilderness Park (483 acres), Lake Jackson
- Dow Centennial Bottomlands (350 acres), Lake Jackson

The **Texas Mid-Coast Refuges** – Brazoria, San Bernard (both located in Brazoria County) and Big Boggy. These vital coastal wetlands harbor more than 300 bird species. For waterfowl it is the end of point of the Central Flyway; and the entry point for neotropical migratory songbirds tired from crossing the Yucatan Peninsula. Freshwater and saltwater marshes, prairies and bottomlands home for an abundant number of species.

**Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge and Discovery Center** – 45 minutes from West Columbia in Clute has more than 42,000 acres. More than 247 bird species have been identified there. The 5,000 acres of native bluestem prairie represent one of the largest coastal prairies in Texas. In winter, more than 100,000 snow geese, Canada geese, pintails, northern shovelers, teals, gadwalls, American widgeons, sand hill cranes and mottled ducks fill the ponds and sloughs. In summer, 10 species of herons and egrets, scissor-tailed flycatchers, roseate spoonbills, black skimmers, seaside sparrows and many other species come to nest.

**San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge** – 35 minutes from West Columbia. Less than one-half of this beautiful 34,679 acre refuge is open to the public, leaving a sanctuary for wildlife. A drive on the three-mile auto tour or a hike on one of three trails can make a full day of wildlife watching. The largest live oak in Texas can be found on the property with its circumference of 386 inches and height of 67 feet in the year 2003. Visitors can view the tree from the observation platform at the end of a three-quarter mile trail. Open 7 days a week daylight to dusk.

Our Neighboring Matagorda County (35 minutes southwest of West Columbia) is another birder's paradise! More species are identified at **The Nature Conservancy Mad Island Marsh Preserve** during Christmas Bird Count than at any other site in North America. An additional twelve (12) birding sites on The Great Texas Birding Trail are also located in Matagorda County.

## **Fishing**

West Columbia is ideally located for the avid fisherman. Freshwater fishing can be enjoyed at First Capitol Park in our one-acre lake stocked with trout and catfish. Experience the thrill of fishing for trophy sized bass in Columbia Lake's 300 acres of private, stocked fishing lakes (catch-and-release vacation package available at Columbia Lakes Resort). The Brazos River is located one mile east of the city limits and the San Bernard River is located two miles west of town. Mallard Lake is also nearby.

Enjoy the challenge of saltwater fishing! Freeport / Surfside are just 35 minutes away. The Texas Gulf Coast has abundant fishing opportunities within a two hour drive or less, you can fish in Matagorda, Sargent, Palacios, Port Lavaca or Galveston. Inshore fishing includes many piers and jetties as well as wade fishing and surf fishing. Bay fishing and off shore fishing by boat can also be enjoyed and charter and party boats are available for memorable fishing expeditions.

**Columbia Lakes Golf Course** – 18 hole public championship golf course designed by Tom Fazio. Enjoy 7,000 yard golf course weaving through numerous tall, mossy oak and pecan trees and several beautiful lakes. The facility includes a pro shop, practice greens, driving range, clinics, programs and lessons. Columbia Lakes hosts a number of tournaments throughout the year. Plays par 72. Cart rental is available.



## **Golfing at our Neighboring Cities...**

### **Lake Jackson:**

Wilderness Golf Course, 501 Hwy 332 West // Phone: 979-798-9300 (public)  
18-hole plays to par 72; driving range, pro shop [www.thewildernessgc.com](http://www.thewildernessgc.com)  
Jackson Oaks Golf Club, 3007 Hwy 332 West // Phone 979-798-2102 (private)

### **Brazoria:**

West Brazos Golf Center, 4199 CR 507 // Phone: 979-798-4653 (public)  
9-hole fully lighted par 29; lighted driving range, practice green and pro shop

### **Angleton:**

Double Eagle Golf CO, 2016 CR 220 // Phone: 979-849-2984

### **Freeport:**

Freeport Golf Course, 830 Slaughter Rd // Phone: 979-233-8311 (public)  
18-holes; driving range, pro shop, lessons [www.golfersweb.com/golfhous/freeport](http://www.golfersweb.com/golfhous/freeport)

### **Bay City:**

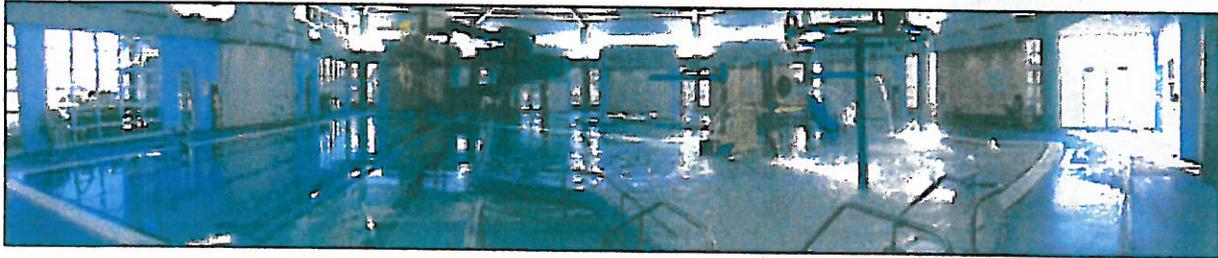
Bay City Country Club, Hwy 35 // Phone: 979-245-3990 (private)  
9-hole features 3,215 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par 36  
Rio Colorado Golf Course, FM 2668 // Phone: 979-244-2955 (public)  
18-hole built in 1993 & designed by Gary Player; driving range, practice greens, pro shop  
[www.riocoloradogolfcourse.com](http://www.riocoloradogolfcourse.com)

**Recreation Centers**

The City of West Columbia has two recreation centers in the area:

The **Angleton Recreation Center** has something for everyone. A Full fitness facility featuring a gymnasium, locker rooms, cardio-fitness machines, weight room, fitness classes for all levels of fitness, and an indoor swimming pool. The fitness room is equipped with elliptical trainers, upright and recumbent bikes, and treadmills. The weight room has a variety of machines and free weights. The natatorium includes a zero depth entry, an interactive play structure with water blasters, mini slides, a water curtain, lazy river, and a giant tipping bucket of water spilling periodically. Swimmers can also enjoy a 26 foot slide which winds its way down into a 4-foot pool of water. Attached to the interactive play structures is a 25-meter pool used primarily for fitness programs, lap swimming, and recreational swimming.

The **Lake Jackson Recreation Center** is 65,500 square feet of fun and fitness. The facility includes: two indoor swimming pools, full size gymnasium with two full basketball courts, six racquetball courts, aerobics, weight and cardiovascular training room, locker rooms, shower facilities and vending area.



Angleton Recreation Center Indoor Natatorium

**Fitness Centers:**

Fitness Centers in the area include:

Family Fitness Center located at 333 FM 2004, Lake Jackson

Kittie Nash Groce Memorial Rehabilitation Center located at 301 Dance Drive, West Columbia