

The FOOP SCOOP

a publication of FRIENDS OF OAKHURST PARK
a 501(c)3 non-profit service organization
Dedicated to maintain, protect, preserve Oakhurst Park
Fall 2018



Oakhurst Park, Fort Worth, Texas, established circa 1920 Friends of Oakhurst Park (FOOP), established October 14, 2015

As residents of Oakhurst, we are so fortunate 1920's real estate developers John P. and Henry King, working with the era's most prominent landscape design firm Hare & Hare, made the forward-thinking decision to designate parkland in Oakhurst, their new urban residential development in Fort Worth, Texas. Located in the center of our neighborhood, that parkland is known today as 'Oakhurst Park'.

We are also fortunate that for many decades, the City of Fort Worth maintained Oakhurst Park, including paying irrigation costs. During the last decade, however, the City of Fort Worth implemented policy to no longer irrigate neighborhood parks even though the City continued to irrigate Oakhurst Park until the Spring of 2015 when the park's irrigation controller failed. At this time, rather than replace the controller and make repairs to the irrigation system, the City of Fort Worth ceased all irrigation of Oakhurst Park.

The results were devastating. Without irrigation, Oakhurst Park's grass and much of the plant material died. The park's beautiful trees were severely stressed because they been acclimated to consistent irrigation for over 40 years. To compound the situation, ONCOR tree-trimming crews swept through Oakhurst Park brutally decimating the trees beneath the electric power lines.

During the Fall of 2015, after considerable discussion, life-long Oakhurst resident Mark Buse and Sharon Kutilek-Buse adopted Oakhurst Park and on October 14, 2015 founded Friends of Oakhurst Park (FOOP). Fully expecting to personally bear the cost of maintaining Oakhurst Park by themselves, Mark and Sharon were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support from friends and neighbors asking, "What can we do to help?" and offering monetary donations.

The following month, FOOP held its first organizational meeting at the Buse residence at 1805 Bluebonnet. Beginning with this very first meeting, the passion felt by those who care about Oakhurst Park was palatable. Long-time residents and newcomers alike joined together to lay the foundation for a service organization with the sole mission to protect, reforest, and conserve Oakhurst Park for future generations.

Dawn Snodgrass created FOOP's initial logo which was utilized until late 2016 when Erin Richardson joined FOOP as a director and webmaster. Erin updated the logo carefully leaving intact the "helping hands of neighbors cradling a gorgeous green Oak leaf." Erin also updated the original FOOP website which was created by Josef Kutilek in 2015. Erin generated a new template, a blog highlighting FOOP projects, and added a PayPal link to make it easy for neighbors to donate.



Since its founding, FOOP has worked non-stop. In addition to adopting a comprehensive set of by-laws researched and developed by FOOP Treasurer Janice Morgan, the Board applied for and was granted IRS 501(c)3 non-profit designation making donations to FOOP tax-deductible.

At the same time the Board was getting FOOP's organizational structure in order, FOOP was also busy implementing multiple projects and improvements to the park. In 2016, FOOP sponsored "Art in Oakhurst Park" a community collaboration project with Riverside Arts District and Carter-Riverside HS Art Instructor and students. Artist Rose Marie Mercado restored the Oakhurst Park toucans in full color and CRHS art teacher Lori Thompson orchestrated an impromptu painting of the dinosaur by neighborhood children attending the event.



Later in the same year, Junior FOOP 'Friends' took a brave stand against bullying in Oakhurst by having children and adults sign a "No Bullying" pledge card and placing their handprint in permanent paint on the "FOOP Buddy Bench". Both projects were valuable lessons in community service and individual responsibility.

During this same year, FOOP partnered to have park safety signs installed; sponsored its first FOOP Cares project, a "Blue-Ribbon Tribute" honoring law enforcement family and friends who make Oakhurst their home; its first Annual "Spruce Up Oakhurst Park" project; and Mark Buses' PCBF Landscape Company repaired the irrigation system replacing wiring and adding new controllers; created a new irrigation station and a flower garden beneath the Oakhurst Park sign; removed dead trees; performed weekly mowing and edging; and spiffed up the park before all ONA social events including the Easter Bunny, 4th of July, and Halloween.



2017 was just as busy as 2016! FOOP held its 2nd Annual "Spruce Up Oakhurst Park" project and partnered with the CFW Park department to install a new OP drinking fountain with ADA and pet accessibility as well as an ADA sidewalk to provide disability access to the picnic tables and the new drinking fountain. In celebration, FOOP threw a big party called "Pets of Oakhurst Park". Special guest included the CFW Animal Shelter mascot dog "Henry" as well as the human family of "Luca", the FWPD National Hero Dog award winner who sadly passed away the day before the celebration.

In 2017 FOOP also sponsored "A Holiday Collection", its second FOOP Cares project collecting toiletries and clothing for our Oakhurst neighbors with disabilities; began its monthly "Playdates in Oakhurst Park"; was honored to have Nancy Grace McKenzie's random hiding of her "Oakhurst Park Rocks" for kids to discover; and hosted an August "Families of Oakhurst Park" social with Kona Ice.



During the first 6 months of 2018, FOOP sponsored its 3rd Annual "Spruce Up Oakhurst Park" project and in addition to performing its annual park cleanup, FOOP also planted 5 new crepe myrtle trees and 7 pallets of grass adjacent to the picnic table and basketball court. Later, FOOP partnered with the CFW to replace the park's 40-year-old basketball backboard.

It goes without saying, FOOP's accomplishments have exceeded all expectations! In addition to the projects completed in the last three years, FOOP plans additional 2018-2019 projects. These projects are highlighted in this newsletter and include the "FOOP Commemorative Brick Fundraiser" project; the "Oakhurst Park Bench Restoration and Replacement Project"; and the "Oakhurst Park Legacy Oak Reforestation Project"; and as it has done each year since its founding, FOOP will end 2018 by decorating the Oakhurst Park sign with the vintage Toy Soldier painted by Bluebonnet Street neighbors in 1985.

We hope you have enjoyed this recap of improvements to Oakhurst Park and you will visit the FOOP website to watch the videos and peek at all the fun photos taken during this three-year journey.

FOOP donors, friends, and Board members are dedicated to fulfilling FOOP's mission to maintain, protect, and preserve Oakhurst Park in perpetuity. Oakhurst park is the heart of our neighborhood and we hope all our neighbors will become a member of FOOP and help keep the grass green and the flowers blooming in Oakhurst Park!

Email: friendsofoakhurstpark@gmail.com
 Website: <https://www.friendsofoakhurstpark.org/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofOakhurstPark/>

Thank you!
 The FOOP Board of Directors,
 Past & Present



UPCOMING PROJECTS

Oakhurst Park Bench Restoration Project

Many years ago, Oakhurst neighbors worked together to donate wonderful period-type park benches for placement at the western end of Oakhurst Park. Today, FOOP is working to restore those benches and to obtain additional benches for placement adjacent to the playground and throughout the grassy areas of the park.

Because the wooden planks in the original park benches have become worn and are in disrepair, FOOP Board Member Johnathan Zimmerer will donate his woodworking skills to replace the existing slats.

FOOP is also working to secure additional benches. Additional new park benches, coupled with the newly restored existing benches will offer park visitors an inviting place to sit and visit with each other while enjoying the tranquility of our beautiful neighborhood park.



Oakhurst Park “Legacy Oak” Reforestation Project

Without doubt, the trees of Oakhurst Park have endured a lot over the years. Just in the last decade, ONCOR crews trimmed the trees beneath the power lines to the point of destruction. Their growth was stunted and their shape disfigured. The severe trimming made the trees more susceptible to disease resulting in generally poor health.

Reforestation of Oakhurst Park has been a priority of FOOP from day one. In fact, reforestation of the park was one of the first projects FOOP discussed at its initial meetings. The Board unanimously made a commitment to work toward a long-range plan to re-forest Oakhurst Park so our children, and our children’s children, would be able to enjoy Oakhurst Park as we know it today. FOOP’s objective is to insure future generations are able to play in the cool shade of the beautiful Oaks, enjoy neighborhood social events, and visit with neighbors just as we have done.



Implementation of the “Oakhurst Park Legacy Oak Reforestation Project” is scheduled for 2019. Working with the CFW Park Department, FOOP will select and plant Oak trees throughout the park. FOOP will plant understory trees be-

neath the power lines. Understory trees, are trees whose growth height and pattern are such that with proper placement will eliminate the need for future trimming or pruning to prevent interference with power lines.

Once FOOP begins implementing the “OP Legacy Oak Reforestation Project” the organization will be responsible for irrigating the trees until they are fully established. Please become an annual member of FOOP and help **Keep Oakhurst Park ‘Shady’**.



2018 Officers and Board of Directors

President: Sharon Kutilek-Buse; Vice President: Julia Marut; Secretary: Josef Kutilek; Treasurer: Janice Morgan
Directors: Robin Barron, Elda Flores, James Milburn, Casey Patterson, Erin Perkes, Sandra Whittenberg, Johnathan Zimmerer,
Webmaster: Erin Richardson

2017 Officers and Board of Directors

President: Sharon Kutilek-Buse; Vice President: Greg Reynolds; Secretary: Josef Kutilek; Treasurer: Janice Morgan
Directors: Robin Barron, Elida Flores, Julia Marut, Director/Webmaster: Erin Richardson, Sandra Whittenberg, Johnathan Zimmerer

2016 Officers and Board of Directors

President: Sharon Kutilek-Buse; Vice President: Greg Reynolds; Secretary: Dawn Snodgrass; Treasurer: Janice Morgan
Directors: Robin Barron, Elida Flores, Webmaster: Erin Richardson, Sandra Whittenberg

First Meeting

Sharon Kutilek-Buse, Mark Buse, Josef Kutilek, Beth Price, Julie Curtis, Greg Reynolds, Janice Morgan, Dawn Snodgrass, Sheri Meyers

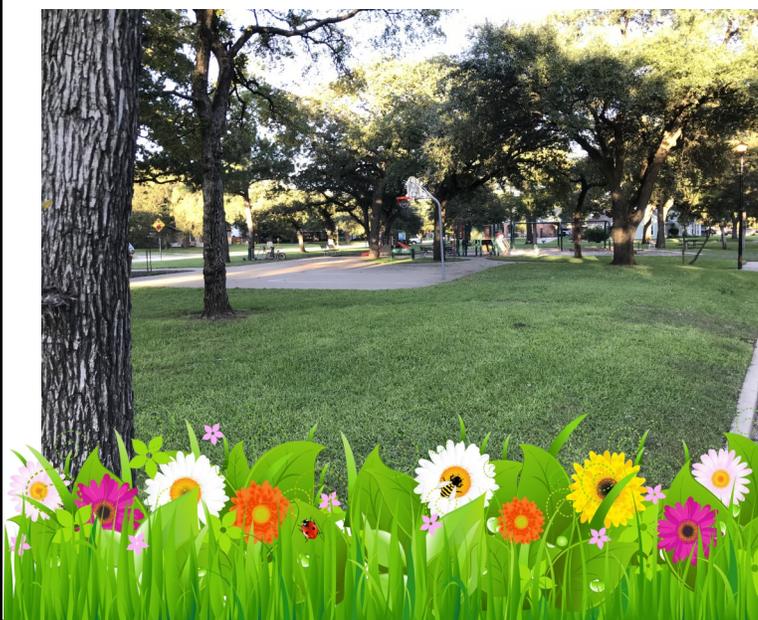
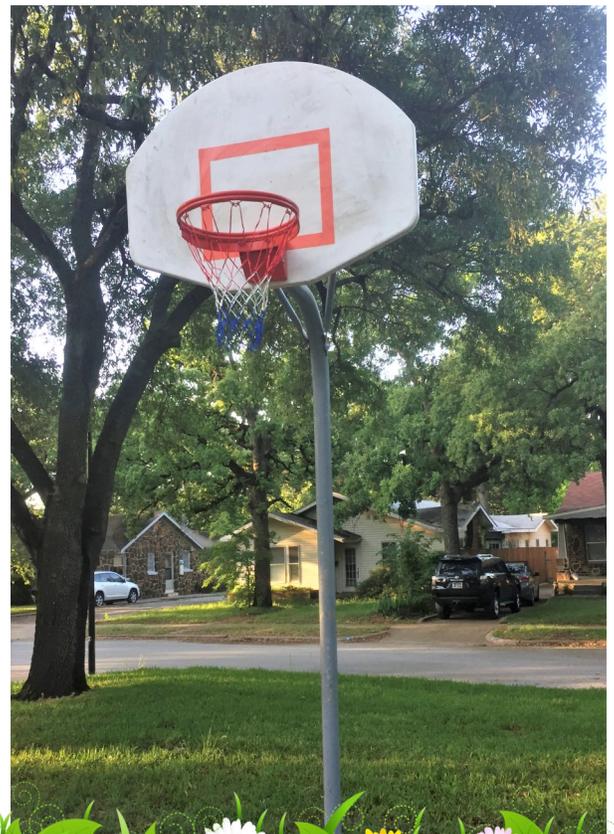
2015 Founders

Mark Buse, Sharon Kutilek-Buse, Josef Kutilek

Oakhurst Park Before FOOP



Oakhurst Park After FOOP



A Day in Oakhurst Park!



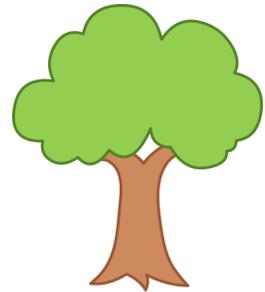
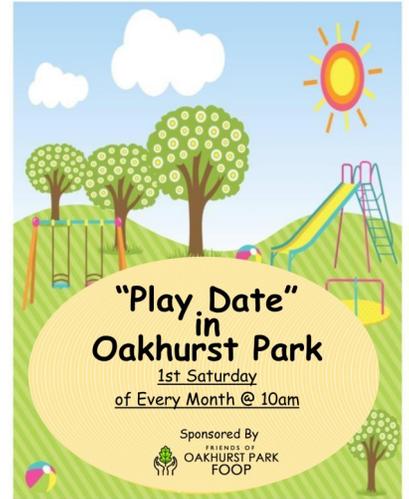
**Kids of Oakhurst Park (KOOP's)
Use your Crayons
Color the Toucan
Put on Your Fridge
Don't Miss the Next
"Playdate in Oakhurst Park"**



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TOUCAN!



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