

Volente Park Update

The Volente YaYas formed in 2003 when the Village of Volente incorporated. Their **purpose** was to promote **community involvement** for the benefit of the village.

We **hosted** three festivals known as “**Viva Volente**” featuring barbecue cook-offs and more. These were held on the annual **Village of Volente Election Days**.

We also **hosted** a **Carino’s Celebrity Waiter Dinner**, created t shirts, sponsored **candidate forums** at **The Crossings**, published a **newsletter and calendar** and planted **blue bonnets**,

The **YaYas** became inactive after a few years leaving a balance of about **\$4,000** in the bank. The **YaYas** had previously voted to put any balance into Volente parks.

A few of us met in February **2010** then again February **2012** voting to upgrade the little park across from the Volente Fire Department. **Missy Thoast** researched the legality of dissolving the **501c funds** for this purpose.

The Volente Neighborhood Association adopted **Volente Park** with the **Travis County Adopt-A-Park Program** about **four** years ago.

Travis County Parks delivered three picnic tables, painted them colorfully, added a trash can and continued to mow and maintain the park.

I met with the **VNA** in February 2012 about the **YaYas** taking over the improvements of **Volente Park**. They were **all** in agreement.

Travis County Parks district manager, **Dan Perry**, and park supervisor of our area, **Joe Sibley**, agreed to work with us to plan upgrades in a couple of **site meetings** in 2012. **Joe Sibley** continued to proceed on upgrades with more **park visits** and many **emails**.

Travis County Parks surveyed the property last spring. The survey showed the park was **larger** than previously thought, **reclaiming** an area of **26 x 90** ft. This is **2,340 sq ft**. This resulted in **Travis County Parks** marking the

boundaries and removing the old fence next to VJ's. Then they cleaned up the area delivering a dumpster for the trash.

John Fetzko drew to scale the park area for planning purposes.

Eight concrete anchors were bought and delivered for making a border on 2769. The **Village of Volente** donated four more. **Travis County Parks** delivered **road base** for this project. **Bob Steichen** used his tractor to landscape and place anchors on the border of 2769 to **block vehicle traffic** into the park.

Two benches from the outdoor chapel at **St. Luke's on the Lake Episcopal Church** were **donated** to the park. Bob stored them on his trailer until **Travis County Parks** picked them up, set them in concrete and painted them (again colorfully) donating the extra paint cans, as well.

Recent cleaning and mowing the area produced 50 large bags of brush which were picked up by **Texas Disposal Services** on the **large items pickup day**.

We have installed and sealed a **beautiful 90 ft. red cedar horizontal fence on the boundary of VJ's**.

Robert Nelson is working with us on parking areas on Reed Drive including two handicap spaces. His bid on these improvements is **pending** as we continue with the planned upgrade.

In April, we learned that Volente Park actually has belonged to the Village of Volente since incorporation. Travis County Parks only learned of this when they were planning to install a new fence. Thus, all services from Travis County Parks were a GIFT.

Of course, they no longer can service Volente Park.

We recommend that the Village Council use Parkland Funds to complete the improvements to Volente Park and to provide maintenance and trash pickup in the future.

Anne Steichen
June 18, 2013