

# WaterSmart Park Comes to League City

The Ghirardi WaterSmart Park is currently under construction on Louisiana Street in League City. Scheduled for completion later this summer, this space is much more than just a park. The 3.75 acre neighborhood space has a pavilion, walking trails and a playground. It also has special features including rain gardens, a cistern to collect rainwater for irrigation, a green roof on the pavilion and WaterSmart landscapes. The park is also home to the 100-plus-year-old Compton Oak tree that was moved there in 2012.

The Ghirardi WaterSmart Park design is based on the three principles of WaterSmart Landscapes:

**Water Conservation:** The recent drought served to remind all of us that water is precious. Collecting and using rain water for irrigation instead of turning on the hose, using native plants that are adapted to our unique climate, and having more native areas and less lawn are all water conservation strategies that will be used at the park.

**Water Quality:** Most of the bayous and creeks in our area have degraded water quality according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Collecting and filtering water running off the land in rain gardens and



swales is an attractive way to improve water quality.

**Habitat:** Our expanding communities take up more and more open area every year, making it harder for wildlife to find homes. Including native plants and water sources in the park provides food, water, and shelter for butterflies, dragon flies, hummingbirds, and song birds.

*This Park is funded by the City of League City and grants from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.*



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