

## **Baytown Nature Center: How Did it Happen?**

**Bobby Rountree**  
**City Manager, Baytown**

Education	B.S. - Texas Tech - 1971
Employment History	Recreation Supervisor - Lubbock State School - 1970-72 Parks & Rec. Dept. - City of Lubbock - 1972 Rec. Supt. - City of Baytown - 1972-75 Director of Parks & Rec. - City of Baytown - 1975-86 Asst. City Manager - City of Baytown - 12-1-86 Acting City Manager - City of Baytown - 5-1-89 City Manager - City of Baytown - 10-6-89 to Present
Professional or Civic Assoc. Memberships	Texas City Management Association - B.O.D. Past Pres. Of Texas City Manager Assoc. Reg. IV International City Manager Association Baytown Area/West Chambers County Economic Development Foundati B.O.D. United Way Campaign, Past Chairman Baytown Chamber Commerce - B.O.D. Past Pres. Of Texas Rec. & Park Society Past Pres. Texas Amateur Athletic Assoc.
Honors & Awards	"Young Professional Award" - 1981 Texas Recreation & Park Society "Young Professional Award" - 1982 National Recreation & Park Assoc. "Outstanding Young Man Award" - 1983 Baytown Jaycees

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For the better part of 27 years, I have been in a position to be directly involved in the transformation of the Brownwood subdivision from a beautiful residential neighborhood, to a neighborhood suffering from the effects of subsidence and frequent flooding. I have lived through Hurricane Alicia in 1983 that destroyed the area and was the Baytown Parks and Recreation Director responsible for developing the first park plan for the area after residents were not allowed to rebuild. After several years of court battles and negative national publicity, the Brownwood subdivision has become an asset rather than a liability. Although nature has done most of the work, local government, industry, and a group of dedicated volunteers have provided the vision and resources for this amazing transformation.

I have lived through the Brownwood story and have had a unique opportunity to be directly involved in all of the trials and tribulations during the early years and am now enjoying the positives. I was the Parks and Recreation Director from 1972 through 1986, the Asst. City Manager from 1986 through 1989, and have been the City Manager since then.