



Out of the Blue

A Proactive Approach to Safety and Security

Volume 2, 2003

Oyster Creek Park - Sugar Land, TX

The manicured landscape of Sugar Land, Texas, would likely make the ideal setting for a contemporary Norman Rockwell painting of an inhabited America. With expansive communities, country clubs, tree-lined roadways and a shopping mall dotting the landscape, the charming setting is more than just skin deep. Citizens enjoy a low crime rate, superior schools and a prosperous economy. These aspects, shared with an assertive capital improvements program, contribute to the City's continued growth. With a population of 65,000, Sugar Land is ranked among the fastest growing cities in Texas. During the next ten years, it is expected to double in size.

Planned development through public-private partnerships has been significant to the City's ability to grant first class facilities, including 347 acres of community and neighborhood parks. While Sugar Land is a city of moderate size, its master parks plan is symbolic of what might be found in larger metropolitan cities. A city survey showed that the number one priority of residents was passive park settings and extensive trail systems. As a result, an Open Space Master Plan was put into operation shortly thereafter that has resulted in the design of one of the City's signature park complexes.

Once a barren source of fill dirt surrounded by a utility easement, Oyster Creek Park is now a source of community pride. Since it opened in July 2000, the facility has progressed into a source of pride for the entire area. Prior to the design of the park, residential developers considered the 110 acres as unusable except for excavation purposes, but city park planners saw a diamond in the rough. Located among residential districts, the renovation of the pit into a signature park facility has exceeded all expectations.



Oyster Creek water complex & trail system

The craters left by fill dirt operations served as a foundation for what is now the facility's focal point, a free-flowing water complex that separates an amphitheater from an enormous open area suitable for events of a grand scale.

The call boxes are intended to serve as a crime deterrent as well as help for trail users that may become injured or require emergency assistance while out on the trail.

Building on the area's environmental amenities, the water feature accentuates the natural undergrowth and forest lining of Oyster Creek and contributes to a spectacular entrance. To access the park, visitors cross a pedestrian bridge spanning the abundant vegetation of Oyster Creek and are immediately confronted with the football field-length water feature, which includes lights, water falls and fountains surrounded by

stone boulders and river rocks.

A unique aspect of the park is a 10-foot wide trail system connecting Oyster Creek Park to nearby Lost Creek Park. The trail system, built in part on a utility easement owned by Reliant Energy HL&P, facilitates a regional incorporated park system, with Oyster Creek accommodating passive use and citywide events and Lost Creek Park providing more active amenities.

Joggers, cyclists and walkers who are able to access the parks from the surrounding neighborhoods continuously use the trail system connecting the two parks.

While the term "passive" may

New Product

Introducing the **NEW** InterAct™ 500, "A Cost Effective Communication Solution", inside this issue of **Out of the Blue.**



describe the official designation of Oyster Creek Park, it's certainly not the way residents view the facility. On a daily basis, the park is bustling with activity. As many as 1,000 people visit the park each day, whether to fish or just enjoy the peaceful surroundings. A resident living near the park probably best describes the facility: "My husband and I use the trail system to enjoy quiet talks in the evening while getting our exercise. When the grandchildren arrive, it's off to the park for everything from impromptu softball games to cycling. I can assure you that the trail system connecting Oyster Creek Park to Lost Creek Park was a magnificent idea."

In 2002, Oyster Creek Park and Trail was recognized for its excellence in park development from the Texas Recreation & Park Society.

Emergency call boxes were recently added to Oyster Creek Park. These boxes have a push button speakerphone that directly dials the Sugar Land Police Department. Police can determine which location along the trail has been activated, and each unit has a blue beacon light to alert the responding officer to where assistance is required.

The call boxes are intended to serve as a crime deterrent as well as help for trail users that may become injured or require emergency assistance while out



on the trail. "The call boxes are intended to provide our citizens with a quick access to emergency services."

According to Joe Chesser, the Parks Development Manager, the three most important benefits of having call box units installed throughout the 3 mile trail is crime deterrence, quick response to an emergency and good public relations.

When asked if there are plans to add additional units, the Parks Development

When they see these highly visible units, they form a favorable perception that the park has taken a proactive stance on protecting them through a positive approach to safety and security.

Manager replied, "This is a pilot program for us. If it is determined to be successful, we believe we will be adding many more units throughout the park system."

The city of Sugar Land wanted to be pro-active in providing security for trail users. That is the factor that prompted their interest in emergency call boxes. SecureNet, the dealer involved, and Code Blue's National and Central District Sales Managers, met with the chief of police and several other city officials to demonstrate the Code Blue products. They did this by the use of the "Traveling Trade Show" van. Charley Townsend

with I.D.M.C., a Code Blue representative for the state of Texas, believes the on site product demonstration helped provide the information needed to meet the design criteria for this application.

Scott Hall, Code Blue's Central District Sales Manager says, "It's important for the public to realize that emergency phones aren't only installed on college and hospital campuses. The market has expanded and people are using our call boxes for assistance and emergencies as well. There's a true need for hiking and biking trails to have phones for these purposes."

SecureNet, Inc. is a privately owned and operated security system integrator and installation contractor. SecureNet designs and installs security solutions utilizing the finest product lines in the electronic security marketplace. Robert Villeneuve with SecureNet/Houston, TX. states, "The comments from the community have been overwhelming! I've personally had people thank me for trying to make that area more secure."

The installation of call boxes along the trail in Oyster Creek Park offers security, assistance and peace of mind to the visitors. When they see these highly visible units, they form a favorable perception that the park has taken a proactive stance on protecting them through a positive approach to safety and security. The park guests and trail users know that help is available at the touch of a button.

Introducing the InterAct™ 500 Series

Cost Effective Communication Solution



InterAct 500-s
single button -
surface mounted

InterAct 500-d
dual button - surface
mounted



InterAct 501-s
single button - flush
mounted with
mounting box

InterAct 501-d
dual button - flush
mounted with
mounting box



Operational Features

- ◆ Phone line powered
- ◆ Remotely programmable
- ◆ ADA compliant, Cast construction, faceplate bezel
- ◆ 3.5 inch - 12 watt speaker
- ◆ Two Hi-intensity LED indicators
- ◆ Peizo-electronic buttons
- ◆ Exclusive microphone chamber & assembly
- ◆ Vandal resistant protective screen
- ◆ Weather proof silicone diaphragm
- ◆ Silk-screened text
- ◆ Optional "Info" button
- ◆ Operating temperature range of -22F to 150F (tested to -40F) for indoor or outdoor applications.
- ◆ Built in contact closure (auxiliary) output for strobe or camera activation
- ◆ 0 to 16 digits touch tone location ID
- ◆ Built in dialer accommodates six 16-digit numbers or ring down setting
- ◆ Capacitor integrated circuit design, no batteries required
- ◆ Automatically redials or dials new phone number on busy signal or ring no answer
- ◆ Disconnects on busy, #, return of dial tone, programmable timer, CPC or repetitive tones
- ◆ Compatible with the following monitoring stations: Ademco Contact ID, Ademco High Speed, 4+1 Express and 4+2 Express formats
- ◆ Model 500 series - 16 gauge stainless steel housing and backplate
- ◆ Model 501 series - 12 gauge stainless steel faceplate assembly. Flush mounting box is 14 gauge painted steel
- ◆ Electronic boards are conformal coated for outdoor operation

For additional information on this new product, refer to the Code Blue web page at www.codeblue.com for the name of your representative or call 800-205-7186.

What's Available at Our Web Site?

- ◆ CAD Drawings for each unit
- ◆ All past Press Releases
- ◆ Previous issues of Out of the Blue
- ◆ Technical Specs in Word format
- ◆ Installation and setup instructions
- ◆ Available Sales Support materials
- ◆ Request Forms for Services
- ◆ Code Blue Policies and Procedures

2003 TRADESHOW SCHEDULE

ASIS - New Orleans, LA
(Industrial Security)
September 15 - 17

IACP - Philadelphia, PA
(Chief of Police)
October 21 - 25

IFMA - Dallas, TX
(Facility Management)
October 19 - 21

NLC - Nashville, TN
(National League of Cities)
December 10 - 12



**“help at the touch
of a button”**

For updated information on Programs and Products from Code Blue, visit us at www.codeblue.com. For the office of the Code Blue representative near you, click on the “Sales Offices” link.

- ◆ 2003 Tradeshow Schedule
- ◆ NEW PRODUCT / InterAct 500
- ◆ Oyster Creek Park - Sugar Land, TX

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