



**LEVITT PAVILIONS**

*Community through music*



# LEVITT PAVILION — HOUSTON —

in the Brays Oaks District at  
**Willow Waterhole**  
Conservation Reserve





## ABOUT LEVITT PAVILIONS

Levitt Pavilions is a national nonprofit that exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. We partner with cities to transform neglected outdoor spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life.

Levitt venues form the only national network of outdoor music amphitheaters offering free concert series. Every year, each Levitt Pavilion presents 50 or more free professional concerts, featuring an array of music genres. With easily accessible locations, Levitt venues attract diverse audiences and are citywide destinations where everyone feels welcome. Families, friends and neighbors of all ages and backgrounds gather to mingle, relax or dance in beautiful green settings.

Levitt's wildly popular free concerts reflect the best of American city life by bringing people together to enjoy the fresh air, stellar performances and each other. What makes our concerts into celebrations and our outdoor venues into favorite gathering spots is the spirit of community at the heart of both music and our mission.

## LEVITT VENUES\*

- Arlington, TX
- Bethlehem, PA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Memphis, TN
- Pasadena, CA
- Westport, CT

\*Locations in development include Denver, Sioux Falls and Houston.



## EACH LEVITT VENUE FEATURES:

- 50+ free concerts annually
- Relaxed, open lawn setting
- Acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning artists
- Rich spectrum of music genres: R&B, country, rock, Latin, jazz, children's, world and beyond
- State-of-the-art sound and lighting
- Easily accessible location
- Family-friendly environment

## LEVITT IMPACT

- Green spaces are reclaimed
- Public spaces are activated
- Local economies are given a boost
- Communities are safer
- Social and economic barriers are broken
- Access to arts and culture is ensured



November 1, 2012

Joe Turner  
Director  
Houston Parks & Recreation Department  
2999 South Wayside  
Houston, Texas 77023

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation and Levitt Pavilions, we are pleased to pledge our commitment to develop a Levitt Pavilion in partnership with your great city at the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve.

The Levitt program brings communities together through the joyful, shared experience of live music. Each Levitt Pavilion presents the Levitt series of 50 or more professional concerts annually, featuring a diverse lineup of entertainment from acclaimed emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning performers. All concerts are free admission, making the arts available to everyone in your city in a welcoming and beautiful setting. The Levitt program serves as a catalyst to revitalize underused parks and public spaces, providing a place for neighborhoods and communities to connect. The Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation and Levitt Pavilions believe that Willow Waterhole is an ideal site for a Levitt Pavilion – a future community treasure where families, neighbors and Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds will gather to enjoy music under the stars.

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At the core of the Levitt model is a public/private partnership. All Levitt venues are state-of-the-art outdoor venues which are city-owned facilities on city-owned land. Our model requires that a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston, be formed to work in partnership with the City and the national Levitt organization in developing the Levitt Pavilion and sustaining the local Levitt program. Friends of Levitt Houston will be responsible for producing the annual Levitt concert series; accepting and administering grants from the Levitt Foundation and Levitt Pavilions; and local fundraising efforts to raise the balance necessary to sustain the annual concert series.

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Levitt Pavilions will provide lifelong support and assistance to Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston, from formation of the nonprofit entity and development of the pavilion through ongoing operations. Our best practices as well as our experience working with various communities are beneficial in sustaining the annual Levitt concert series. Also, the national network of Levitt venues is a valuable support system, offering opportunities for shared resources, programming and sponsorships.

Working with the City of Houston and its impressive leadership as well as the impressive leadership of Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and Brays Oaks Management District has been a wonderful experience thus far. Developing a Levitt Pavilion is a community effort and we have great appreciation for all the energy of those who are working towards making the Levitt Pavilion Houston at Willow Waterhole a reality.

The Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation and Levitt Pavilions are pleased to provide grants totaling \$100,000 to support the development of a Levitt Pavilion at Willow Waterhole. This grant is provided in partnership with the City of Houston and the national Levitt organization. The grant will be used for the design and construction of the pavilion, as well as for the initial programming and operations of the venue. We look forward to a long-lasting and rewarding partnership.

As the project moves forward, we will begin the process of drafting a tri-party agreement between the City of Houston, Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston, and Levitt Pavilions/Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation. The agreement will outline permanent naming of the venue as the Levitt Pavilion as well as the responsibilities of each party to ensure the long-term success of your local Levitt program.

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Sincerely, 



Elizabeth Levitt Hirsch  
President, Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation  
Board Chair, Levitt Pavilions

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**Each Levitt Pavilion shares the common mission of building community through music, by presenting 50 free concerts annually in an open lawn setting.**

The national Levitt Pavilions organization will provide seed funding and annual core operating grants to Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston. This new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization will work in partnership with the City of Houston and the national Levitt Pavilions organization. First and foremost, our local Friends of Levitt nonprofit will fundraise the balance necessary to construct Levitt Pavilion Houston and sustain the annual concert series.

**To successfully do so, a strong and committed Board of Directors is essential.**

Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston is currently actively pursuing such qualified candidates.





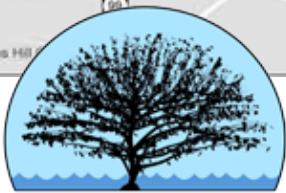
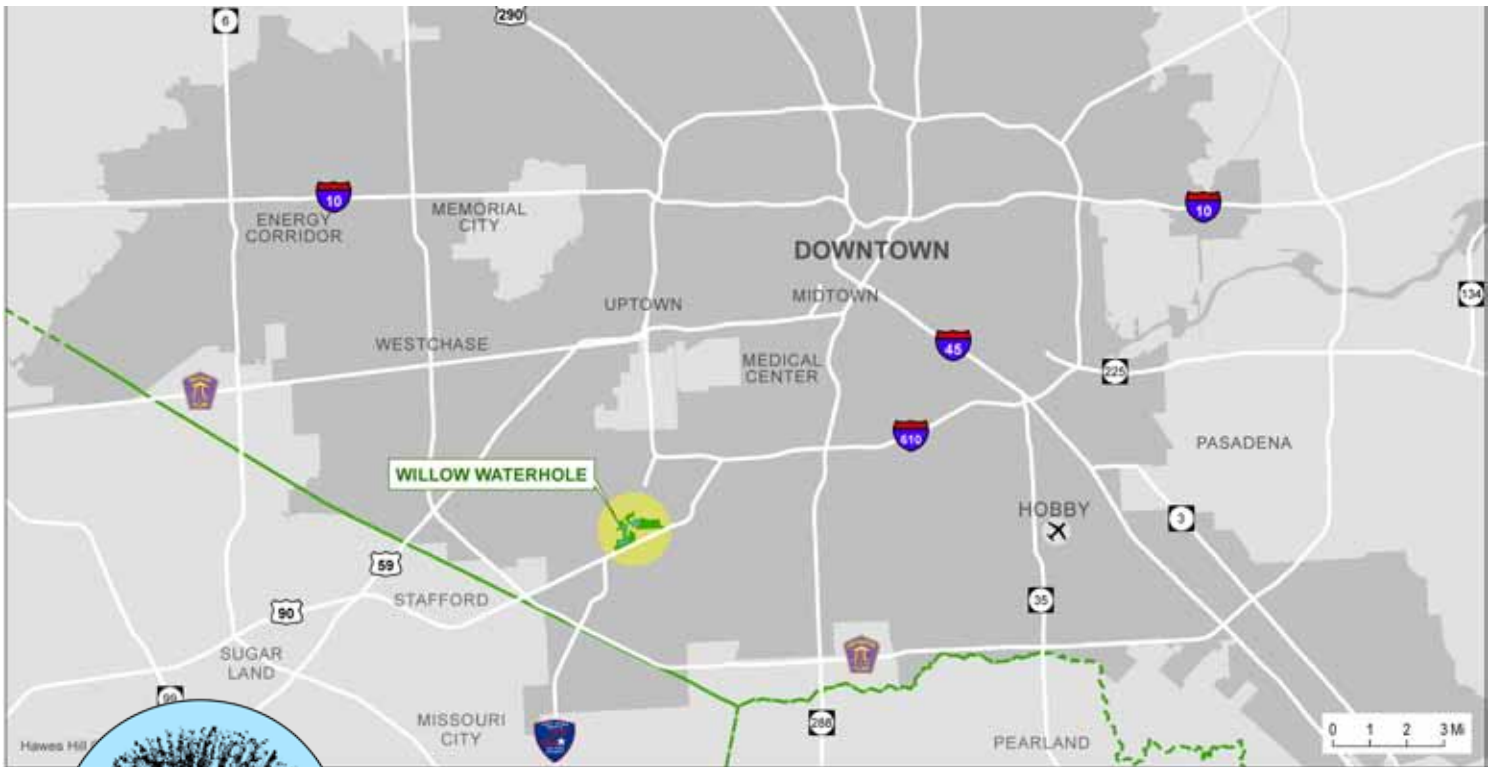
# Westbury Welcomes LEVITT PAVILION HOUSTON!

A bustling center for civic and environmental activism, the Westbury neighborhood was recently described "**as one of Houston's most impressive comebacks**" by *Houstonia* magazine in its 2013 list of Houston's "**25 Hottest Neighborhoods**". The Westbury Civic Club (WCC) represents the 5,000 single-family homes. The Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC), a non profit corporation, represents the businesses, schools, churches and the approximately 3,500 multifamily residences. Together these two organizations form the Westbury SuperNeighborhood Council.

Looking to build community and to hopefully create a climate for economic growth, the Westbury SuperNeighborhood started a program Working on Westbury (WOW) in 2004. The WCC received an award this year from Neighborhoods USA for its monthly newsletter, *The Westbury Crier*. For more information, go to [www.WestburyCrier.com](http://www.WestburyCrier.com). The WCC sponsors an annual "**Trick or Tree**" tree giveaway and has given away more than 3,500 trees since 2006 and won several awards from Trees for Houston. Started in 2010, the Westbury Community Garden, has received awards from both Keep Houston Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful, and the garden continues to "**Build Community through Gardening**". Westbury volunteers or projects have also earned awards from Keep Houston Beautiful in 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2013. Current Westbury SuperNeighborhood projects include: raising funds to purchase the leased 7-acre site of the Westbury Community Garden, ongoing efforts to improve city parks and beautify public greenspaces, and advocacy on behalf of local schools.

Westbury has been involved since the conceptual planning phases for the stormwater detention site located in Westbury that has become the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve. The WCC, WAIC, Westbury schools, and residents of the Westbury SuperNeighborhood continue to work in partnership to support programs and events at Willow Waterhole. Parker Elementary, Johnston Middle, Westbury Christian School, and Westbury High School serve the Westbury area and have acclaimed music and performing arts programs which have been featured in concerts at Willow Waterhole.

The Levitt Pavilion is the culmination of Westbury's dreams to bring together these civic and environmental pieces to create this incredible venue. Creating community through music in this beautiful greenspace will be a transforming asset to not only Westbury but to the surrounding communities of Southwest Houston and beyond. Westbury and Southwest Houston have long needed an economic boost. With 50 free professional music events annually, the Levitt Pavilion is just the economic driver that the community needs.



Willow Waterhole  
Greenspace Conservancy

# WILLOW WATERHOLE CONSERVATION RESERVE

The Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve, located in Southwest Houston, is an outstanding example of how a \$75M flood damage reduction project has been transformed into a significant greenspace. Activities include picnicking, walking, and bird watching, as well as on-site events, providing additional sources for enjoyment.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

**“Music in the Park”, “Movies in the Park”,**  
and nature-oriented events.



# WILLOW WATERHOLE

## CONSERVATION RESERVE









MUSIC  
CONNECTS  
US



MUSIC  
UPLIFTS  
US



MUSIC  
CREATES  
COMMUNITY





**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Lawn Area: 120,000 sf.

Lawn Seating: 5,000

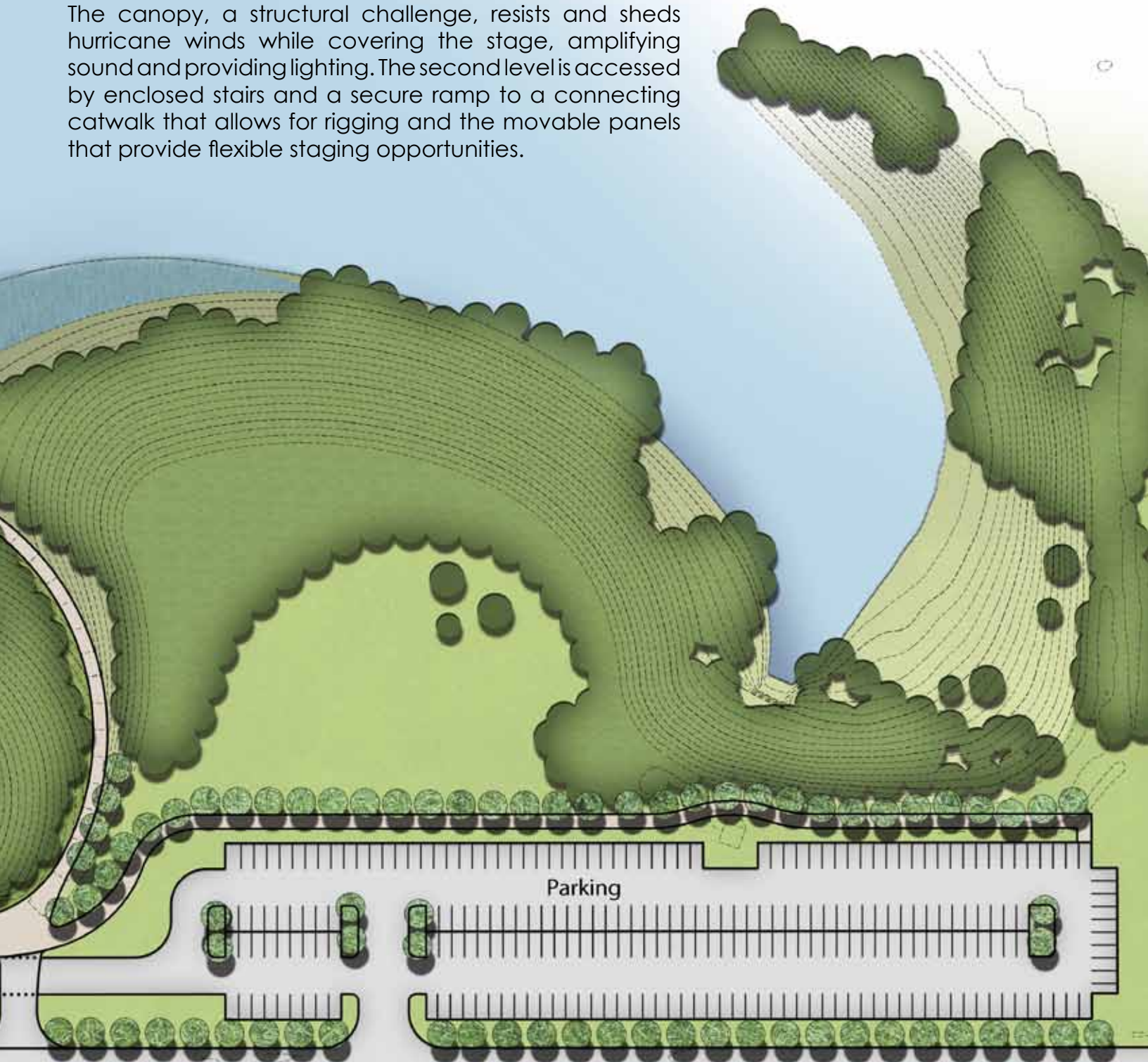
Stage Area: 40' X 60'

Sustainable design & materials

Willow Waterhole's unique environment is visible from South Post Oak, a point of easy access to its jewel, Levitt Pavilion Houston. 200 parking spaces provide for daily park use, accessible parking, and entry drives for shuttle buses. Sidewalks connect to neighborhood street parking. A marquee, concessions and restrooms frame the entry.

Using detention pond excavation, a bowl for performance is sculpted, creating a stage at waters edge and a hill to mute traffic noise. Periodic flooding requires raising the stage support function on columns. This creates a park pavilion that also provides cover for food trucks, buses, or company road trucks.

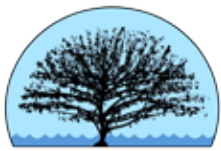
The canopy, a structural challenge, resists and sheds hurricane winds while covering the stage, amplifying sound and providing lighting. The second level is accessed by enclosed stairs and a secure ramp to a connecting catwalk that allows for rigging and the movable panels that provide flexible staging opportunities.



**SOUTH POST OAK**



[LevittPavilions.org](http://LevittPavilions.org)



Willow Waterhole  
Greenspace Conservancy

**WWGC.org**

[facebook.com/WillowWaterhole](https://facebook.com/WillowWaterhole)

@WWGC

PO Box 35676 Houston, TX 77235

*in partnership with...*



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@BraysOaksMD

10103 Fondren Rd, Ste. 300 | Houston, TX 77096 | 713.595.1221