

# Revenue from Proposed Enterprise Projects at WRL Park

The proposed restaurant at Mockingbird & Buckner is being pitched in part as a means to contribute funds to WRLP. That may be the intent, but our experience, as the White Rock Boathouse, is that monies earmarked to improve the park are lost in the general fund.

Contrary to popular belief, none of the private or enterprise operations at the park generate revenue for the park. Rental of Winfrey Point and the Big Thicket, race fees, sailing club leases - all go to the City, not the park.

When we entered into a lease with the Water Dept. on the Filter Building, we intentionally earmarked a share of our revenue to a trust fund at the City for the beautification of WRLP. We have to date paid over \$100,000 into that "fund" and have no accounting on whether any of those funds have been spent at the park - despite numerous request for such an accounting.

The notion that the DUC or the restaurant is going to earmark rent or revenue sharing to go to the park is, from our perspective, specious - the money might be paid to the City, but it will not be spent on the park.

This underscores the need to vet projects on their merit - will they benefit the park, the users of the park, and the ecosystem of the park? Or are they simply taking advantage of the ambience? Clearly the proposed restaurant falls into the latter category. While the park users could benefit from food service, it would be more appropriate to deal with that need seasonally, via food trucks and kiosks. The proposed restaurant would clearly detract from the park's ambience, utility and ecosystem. And none of its revenue would go to the park. Do not be deceived in that regard.

-Chip Northrup