

Neighborhood Associations Information

Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association

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Bel Meade Home Association

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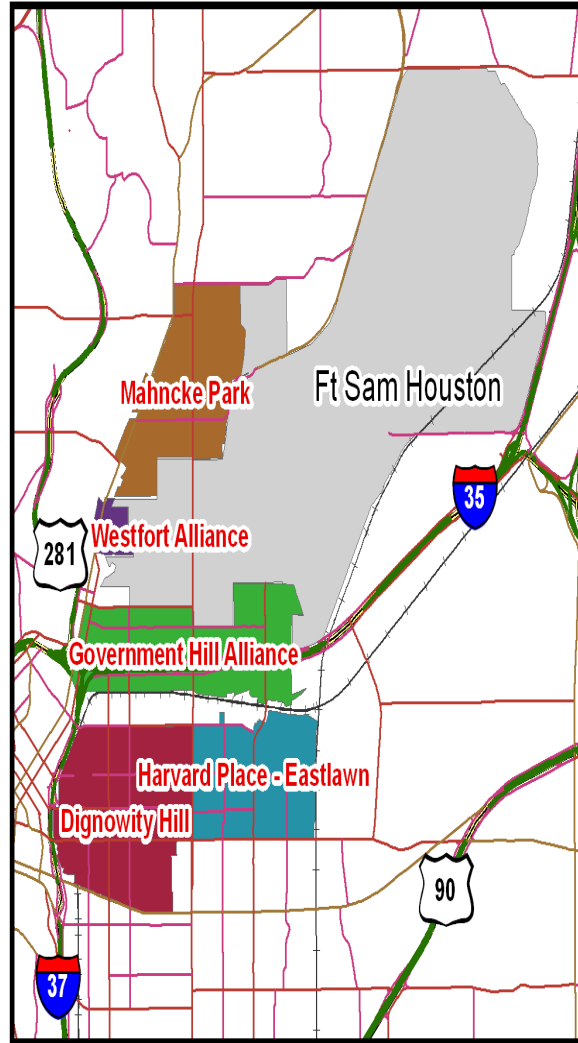
Westfort Alliance Association

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Neighborhood Surrounding Fort Sam Houston



FORT SAM HOUSTON AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS



MAHNCKE PARK



The City Parks Commissioner, Ludwig Mahncke, was given the task of improving the land, and he lost no time. As a close friend of Brackenridge, he enjoyed the donor's full cooperation and support. Mahncke designed a series of drives totaling seven miles that wound through the trees and along the river, converging at the north end of the park. By 1902, there was a fenced deer preserve and enclosures for buffalo and elk. Animals were pastured along River Avenue near today's Lions Field, and were fed with hay raised in an adjacent pasture. Though successful and popular, Mahncke resigned in 1906 after a political dispute with Mayor Bryan Callaghan, a bitter enemy of his friend George Brackenridge. Mahncke died within several months and was honored by his friends who dedicated a monument to him that stands today in Mahncke Park.

George Brackenridge continued to donate land to enlarge the park. His gifts included Mahncke Park, which he asked to be named in honor of his friend Ludwig, as well as property comprising the today's golf driving range (formerly the polo field).

Most of the homes in the neighborhood range in size from 1,000 sq ft (100 m2) to 2,000 sq ft (200 m2) and were constructed during the 1920s through the 1950s. Pre-WWII housing architecture consists primarily of bungalows built in styles of Mission, Four Square, California and Cottage Tudor. Post-WWII housing architecture consists mainly of Ranch-style dwellings. The neighborhood today has an eclectic mix of residents from all backgrounds.



Westfort Alliance

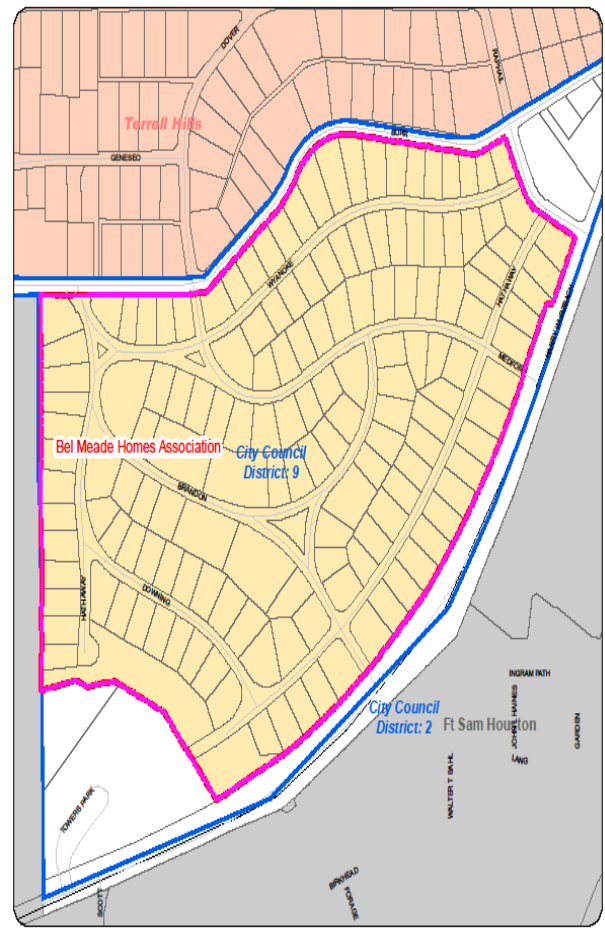
The Bel Meade neighborhood between Terrill Hills and Fort Sam Houston was once the estate of George W. Brackenridge. Before the property was sold in 1945 to Albert Steves, Jr. for development, it contained the Brackenridge home, Fernridge.

In 1945, the corporations of Steves Brothers, Inc. and Ed Steves and Sons purchased the estate of Colonel George W. Brackenridge and engaged the firm of Hare and Hare, city planners and landscape architects of Kansas City, to lay out the plat of a high class residential suburb. The area was divided into 163 lots and named Bel Meade, "Beautiful Meadow." All streets were named after English places or characters. Albert Steves, Jr. who had attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia for a Virginia suburb that he admired named the name, Bel Meade, according to some early residents. Other residents believe that Steves' son, David, who had attended Vanderbilt and liked the suburb of Nashville, Bel Meade, suggested the name.

Bel Meade was a post-war, boom-time development with all of the lots being sold 120 days from the inception of the offering. Lots were priced for \$3,500 to \$3,700 and the entire area was country like in its version of the romantic 'garden city' approach to urban design. The outcome is a 60- acre haven of suburban streets dotted with magnolia and mature live oak trees, tufted with bamboo and mimosa. As part of its 'garden city' or 'country club community' character, the Bel Meade layout left green space running through the center of a number of the blocks to be shared as common back yards. Traces of it are still evident between Medford and Wyanoke. The absence of sidewalks is another feature of 'country club communities.'

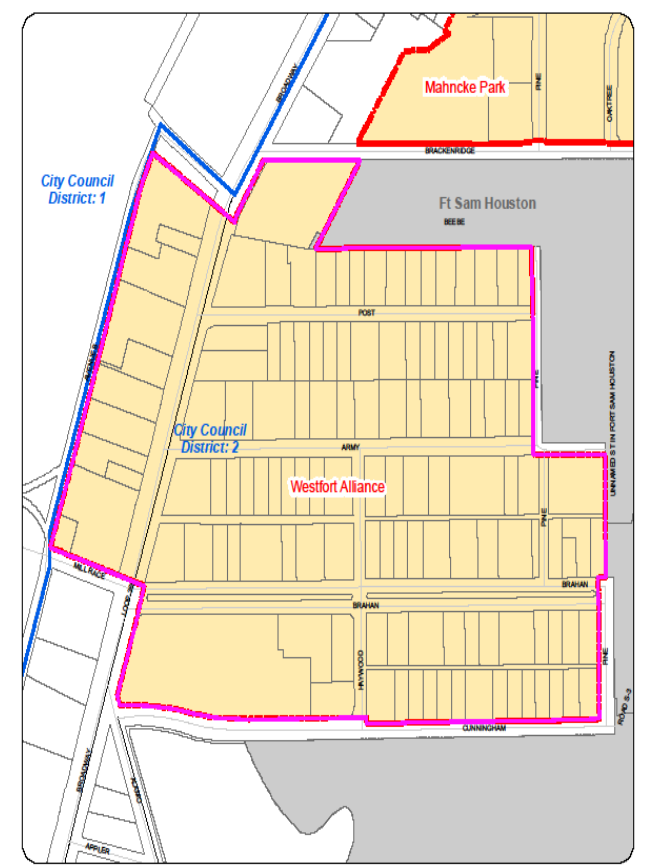
Westfort Alliance is located a short distance from Fort Sam Houston. Westfort Alliance is distinct among San Antonio neighborhoods because of its diversity. Residents and visitors to Westfort Alliance think it is desirable as a community because it is an up and coming neighborhood with room for growth.

As the San Antonio River Walk extends north, Westfort Alliance will be reaping the benefits. The community is close to all the festival and events that take place in the area. When visiting Westfort Alliance Neighborhood, make sure to visit the Brackenridge Park and Golf Course and The San Antonio Zoo and Aquarium.



City of San Antonio Planning and Community Development Department
 Bel Meade Homes Association

- Mandatory
- Mandatory/Voluntary
- Voluntary
- San Antonio City Limits
- San Antonio ETJ
- Military Bases
- Cities and Towns
- City Council Boundary
- Highways
- BCAD Parcels
- Bexar County



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