

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun Facts about *Waterway Square* in The Woodlands Town Center!

The Fountains at Waterway Square

- The Fountains are currently programmed to perform **multiple family-friendly musical selections**, which play at random according to the scheduled times listed below.
- The **show schedule** runs **every 15 minutes** on weekdays from noon to 2 p.m. and again from 6 to 11 p.m. On weekends, shows run from noon through to 11 p.m. at the same interval.



- Waterway Square has surround sound! There are **20** speakers in **6** locations, and **4,250** watts of power supplied by **5** amplifiers that carry music from the shows mentioned above.
- From the surrounding buildings and from the air, the water wall and fountain look like an **eighth note**.
- The water wall is **120** feet long and water falls **24** stone levels down a nearly-vertical **10-foot** wall to the lower pond. Water also cascades down **seven** terraced levels on each end.
- There is a total of **22** cascade jets; **20** in the lower pond and **2** at the top of the upper fountain which feed the cascading staircase pools on either side.
- There are **50 choreo jets** in the upper fountain arranged in an outer oval ring and an 'S' curve across the middle of the ellipse. All jets are programmed to adjust based on wind speed to avoid overspray. The upper fountain ellipse also contains **3 burst jets** that shoot water up to **50 feet** high – that's 4-5 stories!!

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun Facts about *Waterway Square* in The Woodlands Town Center!

- The pumping capacity of the system that runs the fountains is **12,000 gallons** per minute. That's enough to fill an average backyard swimming pool in just **2 minutes!**
- The Pump & Equipment Room, located on-site but barely visible, is a **3,251 sq-ft** building with vaulted ceilings. In fact, it is directly below the trees at street level!
- Following recent renovations, the ellipse (or "bowl") at the upper level is now a hollow structure with a hatch entry at the top, creating a further **2,000 sq-ft** of maintenance area and making future repairs much safer, quicker, and easier.
- A total of **2 miles** of pipe carries the water in the fountains.
- There are **191** kinetic lights (also known as light emitting diodes – LEDs) in four colors that can be combined to create all the colors of the rainbow spectrum. **53** of these lights are inside the ellipse.
- Enjoy the view from the edge! There is **no swimming allowed** in The Fountains at Waterway Square.



(more)

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun Facts about **Waterway Square** in The Woodlands Town Center!

“Treasures from Grandma’s Purse” Art Feature

- The interactive fountain features a mosaic called “**Treasures from Grandma’s Purse**”, created by renowned artist **Dixie Friend Gay**, who is also the creator of “**At the Water’s Edge**”, a series of mosaics located in niches under the Waterway Avenue Bridge and “**Strata**”, a 700 sq-ft installation along the wall of the stairway in the foyer at 20 Waterway Avenue (next to Waterway Square).
- Here’s a **description** of “Treasures from Grandma’s Purse” **by the artist**:

“Everyone knows that Grandma’s purse is full of treasures. This really cool and prepared for anything Grandma left her purse on the bench. The frogs, lizards, and other “At the Water’s Edge” creatures have taken over. Tumbling from her purse are cell phone, paintbrush, envelope and keys. Spilled onto the plaza and embedded into the terrazzo are some of the other objects: loose pennies, scissors, crayons, MP3 player, camera, action figures, dolls and toy cars. Of course, she is prepared for any emergency with a wine bottle opener and a glass hammer. Also, there are the good things to eat: jelly donut, gum, candy, cookies, and a frozen popsicle. The purse and objects are in cast bronze and cast glass.

The purse is cast bronze and is normal-sized. The fun part is that some of the objects that spill out of the purse are oversized.

If you view the mosaic from the upper floors surrounding the plaza, the overall design is of a giant friendly Petri dish, with the eyes and lips of happy microorganisms sending out jets of water.

The brilliant color of the rustic terrazzo is achieved with the use of exotic mineral aggregates such as turquoise and Lapis Lazuli in addition to the more traditional aggregates of marble and granite.”

- The interactive fountain has a total of **34 choreo jets** enhanced with colored LED lights and **6** laminar flow jets.
- There are **20** cast glass objects, **20** bronze objects, and **100** water-jet cut tiles.
- The features of Grandma’s Purse **dance in rhythm** with some, but not all, of the main Fountains shows.
- While **Grandma’s Purse is primarily an art feature**, the re-circulated water is filtered and chemically treated to remain safe for play by children and adults alike (but no pets, please).

(more)

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun Facts about *Waterway Square* in The Woodlands Town Center!

Waterway Square Bridge and Stage

- The Stage complex consists of an **800 sq-ft** stage with a **20-ft** tall polished stone backdrop; **four** speakers, **16** LED production lights, and a high-quality projector supporting the use of a **15x20-ft** indoor-outdoor projector screen; and a **725 sq-ft** cantilevered fabric canopy standing **23** feet above the stage itself.
- The Bridge, a **pedestrians-only walkway** spanning The Woodlands Waterway, contains an **elevator** on either side of Waterway for ease of access to all points and **under-bridge lighting** that is programmed in sync with the lighting on the Waterway Avenue Bridge for holidays and special events.
- Completed in fall 2015, the **Waterway Square Bridge and Stage** plays host to many Township-produced events including the **Waterway Nights** spring and summer concert series; one site of the **Red, Hot & Blue** Fourth of July celebrations, and the primary location for **Labor Day** celebrations and other concerts.
- Additionally, the stage is also home to the **Inspire Film Festival's Short Films Night**, the free public kick-off event for that annual festival, and has been a host of the **Houston Astros Caravan** when in town.
- Finally, the Township uses the stage A/V **projector system** to show important local and national events such as **bowling games** between local college teams, professional **sports championships**, New Year's Eve countdowns, and more!

Other Features of Waterway Square

- **30** mature Nuttall Red Oak Trees shade the groves at Waterway Square, which contains over **6,500 sq-ft** of maintained grassy areas spread throughout the park at both the street- and Waterway-levels.
- There are **20** three-person benches in the grove and **two** more benches on the east side staircase, which are perfect for a great view of the Fountains light and water shows. (You might get wet!)
- There are **six** picnic tables on the lower level, also within the grove.
- Waterway Square is home to **four** of the **24** totally inspiring **Waterway Art Benches**, a project envisioned and overseen by The Woodlands Arts Council and whose benches are donated to The Woodlands Township and henceforth maintained by the Township's Parks & Recreation Department:
 - **"Crete Bench"** (2014) by Victoria Goldstein of Houston, TX;
 - **"Light Balls Bench"** (2014) by Manfred Kleinhofer of Linz, Austria;
 - **"Mipenipa"** (2016) by Chris Miller of Calais, VT; and
 - **"Why Sit When You Can Play"** (2018) by The Urban Conga of Tampa, FL.
- Waterway Square is the seasonal home to a **43-ft tall** manufactured Christmas Tree, complete with **235** decorated branches and many more LED lights and ornaments. The tree is erected from the week before Thanksgiving through the first Monday in January each year.