



Ten Facts To Know About Sandbranch

Fact 1 – Sandbranch, located in the southeastern corner of Dallas County, is an unincorporated community meaning no city has responsibility for its water, sewage, fire, or police services.

Fact 2 – It is a historically African-American community created in the 1930s - 40s and thought to have been settled even as early as post-slavery years as a freedman's settlement. The population today is 87% Black, 10% Hispanic, and 3% White.

Fact 3 – Estimates show Sandbranch has 40 active households with about 80-100 residents all of whom live below the federal poverty levels. None of the homes have running water, sewer service, or trash pick up.

Fact 4 – In the 1960's, unregulated hog pens, sand gravel pits, and junkyards began locating in Sandbranch contributing to the community's decline.

Fact 5 – Annexing Sandbranch to the City of Dallas, which could provide water/sewage service and police and fire protection, has been thwarted because of the presumed high cost of providing these services.

Fact 6 – Prior to 1985, Sandbranch had very few public amenities---1986 street signs installed; 1988, 911 services provided; 1995, Dallas County Sheriff's Office began community policing; 1996, smoke alarms provided to all residences and street lights installed by citizens; 1999, first community playground created.

Fact 7 – For years, residents got water from wells; however, in the '80's, the County Health Department determined two-thirds of the well water unsafe to drink because of contaminants leaked into the water supply; the source has not been clearly identified.

Fact 8 – In 1987, 1998, and 2002 efforts to provide water through the Dallas County Water Control Improvement District 6 were stalled because of lack of funds. In 2003, Sandbranch was declared to be in a floodplain, and all efforts to provide sewage and water services halted; residents were given 30 days to bring homes into compliance. Consequently, some residents were given a relocation buyout averaging \$350 for their homes then their houses were bulldozed. Recently, FEMA declared, though Sandbranch is in a 1% floodplain, residents cannot be denied water and sewer services.

Fact 9 – Mt. Zion Baptist Church provides access to the community's only water supply and social services.

Fact 10 – Residents of Sandbranch have a strong sense of community, and they want to stay in the area they consider home.

For more information: www.sandbrancheverybodyscommunity.org or like Sandbranch Everybody's Community on Facebook, or call Pastor Eugene Keahey 214-957-0751.