



Parks & Recreation Department

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For Immediate Release

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WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE CELEBRATION, CEREMONY SET FOR APRIL 21-22

WACO, TEXAS (March 31, 2023) — The City of Waco is excited to announce a Texas-sized celebration to commemorate the reopening of the iconic Waco Suspension Bridge.

On April 21-22, the community is invited to join us at Indian Spring Park along the Brazos River. The festivities will begin on Friday night with a Brazos Nights concert, featuring Asleep at the Wheel, Jackie Venson and Mariachi Azteca Waco. The evening will also include a unique aerial show with 150 drones creating displays above the Brazos River.

On Saturday, the official ribbon-cutting ceremony is set to take place at 11 a.m. in front of the Suspension Bridge arches at the park. The ceremony will conclude with a symbolic longhorn cattle drive across the bridge, along with food and festivities for guests.

Originally constructed in 1870, the Suspension Bridge is a state historic landmark and a Waco treasure. For the past two years, the bridge has undergone a \$14 million renovation project and has been closed to the public. A multitude of structural enhancements, including new support systems, decking, and cables, were made to ensure the bridge is preserved for generations to come. Landscaping, establishment of new grass, irrigation, and lighting enhancements will complete the final phase of the renovation.

Schedule of Events:

- Friday, April 21
 - 7 p.m. Mariachi Azteca Waco
 - 7:45 p.m. Jackie Venson
 - 8:30 p.m. Drone Display over the Brazos River
 - 9 p.m. Asleep at the Wheel
- Saturday, April 22
 - 11 a.m. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
Cattle Drive across the Waco Suspension Bridge

About the Drone Show:

Produced by Sky Elements Drone Shows, the aerial drone show will consist of 150 remote-controlled drones flying above the river. The choreographed show is expected to last 10 minutes and will feature a variety of designs that pay tribute to the legacy of Waco and Texas. Sky Elements is one of the leading drone light show providers in the United States. The company has produced shows across the country for community events, sports teams, and brands. Most recently, they organized shows for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Dallas's New Year's Eve, and the SXSW Festival in Austin.

About the Bands:

The event's music lineup will spotlight the culturally diverse sounds of Texas. Performing for the past 50 years, **Asleep at the Wheel** and bandleader Ray Benson have become the quintessential band of the Lone Star State. The band always features a first-class lineup of musicians specializing in Texas country and Western Swing. The band has won nine Grammy Awards since their 1970 inception, released over twenty albums, and has charted more than 21 singles on the *Billboard* country charts. Mixing blues, soul, and R&B, **Jackie Venson** is a singer/songwriter known for her complexly beautiful music and blazing guitar skills. Born and raised in Austin, Jackie is a rising star in Texas music and has traveled the world playing to massive crowds both as a headliner and as support for major acts such as Gary Clark Jr, Melissa Etheridge, and Aloe Blacc. **Mariachi Azteca Waco** will open the concert and play throughout the park, highlighting Waco's Hispanic heritage.

About Brazos Nights:

Since the creation of Indian Spring Park in the 1980s, the City of Waco's Brazos Nights concert series has brought good times and great music to Waco with the Suspension Bridge serving as the backdrop. This year, additional Brazos Nights concerts will take place on May 5 and June 9. The series will conclude on July 4 with the annual Fourth on the Brazos celebration at McLane Stadium's Touchdown Alley. Admission is free. For information and updates, visit brazosnightswaco.com or follow Brazos Nights on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/brazosnights) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/brazosnights).

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