



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Larry Holze, Public Information Officer
Municipal Information
254-750-5636

LarryH@wacotx.gov
www.waco-texas.com

Wilbert Austin Sr. East Waco Park Dedication

Ceremony set for 1 p.m., November 20th

WACO, TEXAS (November 9, 2018) – The City of Waco invites you to a special park dedication ceremony honoring the late council member Rev. Wilbert Austin, Sr. East Waco Park will be officially renamed in honor of the longtime city leader. There will be a special ribbon-cutting on Tuesday, November 20th at 1 p.m. to celebrate the improvements that have recently been completed at the park.

Formerly East Waco Park, Wilbert Austin, Sr. Park is notably renamed to honor the late Reverend & Council Member Wilbert Austin, Sr. who passed away on June 19, 2017. Councilman Austin's legacy is felt throughout Waco, but his tireless efforts may be best remembered in the park that now bears his name and his advocacy for this park extended well-beyond his 11 year tenure on the Waco City Council.

For the majority of his life, he was known as a famously hard worker and volunteer in the community, this neighborhood, and in this very park. His lead-by-example ethic and unwavering dedication propelled him onto the City Council and forever changed the way Waco serves its citizen's.

The park itself has been a fixture of the neighborhood since its creation in the 1960s, sited to be adjacent to then-existing R.L. Smith Elementary, serving children and families.

The current \$340,000 renovation project was 90% funded by a Federal Community Development Block Grant and 10% CIP funded. Improvements include: amenities such as a drinking fountain, and seating including the signature seat wall bearing the new park name. The park needed grading and drainage improvements with the addition of curbs along three sides of the park. Accessibility improvements with the addition of paved trail to each street crossing, lighting and sport court upgrades, addition of event power at the pavilion, complete park irrigation and ornamental fencing to allow reduce risk of children running into the street.

Concurrent with construction, the park hosted volunteers for the Hands On Waco Day of service on September 29 to install the United Way - Born Learning Trail System of signs and activity suggestions throughout the park to promote early education.

This park held a special place in his heart, and it would make him proud to lend his name to be remembered along with the fruits of his labors.

###

The Municipal Information Office strives to educate, inform, entertain and involve citizens with their government.

Find out more at Waco-Texas.com

“Like” us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

www.waco-texas.com | [City of Waco Facebook](#) | [City of Waco Twitter](#)