



City of Abilene

Parks and Recreation Board Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board of City of Abilene to be held on July 21, 2026 at 8:30AM at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Council Chambers, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments on Any Item on the Agenda

MINUTES

1. Minutes (Discussion and Action)

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. Service Award (Discussion)
 - Angela Koonsman, Senior Services - 15 years

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Pursuant to Govt. Code Section 551.071, a governmental body may seek advice from its attorney regarding a pending or contemplated litigation subject, settlement offer, or attorney-client privileged information. After discussion in executive session, any action or vote will be taken in public.

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Abilene may adjourn into executive session to discuss any of the matters listed below or listed in this Agenda, as authorized by the following Texas Government Code Sections:

1. Renaming Sears Recreation Center, Section 551.071

AGENDA ITEMS

4. Approval of New Recycling Center Temporary and Permanent Location (Discussion, Public Hearing and Possible Action)
5. Renaming Sears Recreation Center (Discussion, Public Hearing and Possible Action)

6. Aquatics Report (Discussion)
 - Water Walkers
7. Parks Report (Discussion)
 - TRAPS Healthy Play Grant
 - Kirby Girls Softball Fence
 - Storm Damage
 - Kirby Lake North Pier Demolition
8. Recreation Report (Discussion)
 - Miles in Motion
 - Skills Challenge
 - P.E. Hour - New Tiny Tots Hour
 - Ready, Set, Play!
 - Stroller Walking Club
9. Seniors Report (Discussion)
 - Senior Day Trip
 - Gorgeous Grandma Day
10. Zoo Report (Discussion)
 - Animal News
 - Construction Update
 - Upcoming Event

ADJOURNMENT

Notice

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled meetings. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 325-676-6208. Telecommunication device for the deaf is 325-676-6360.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 15th day of July, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

*Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City
Secretary, TRMC, CMC*

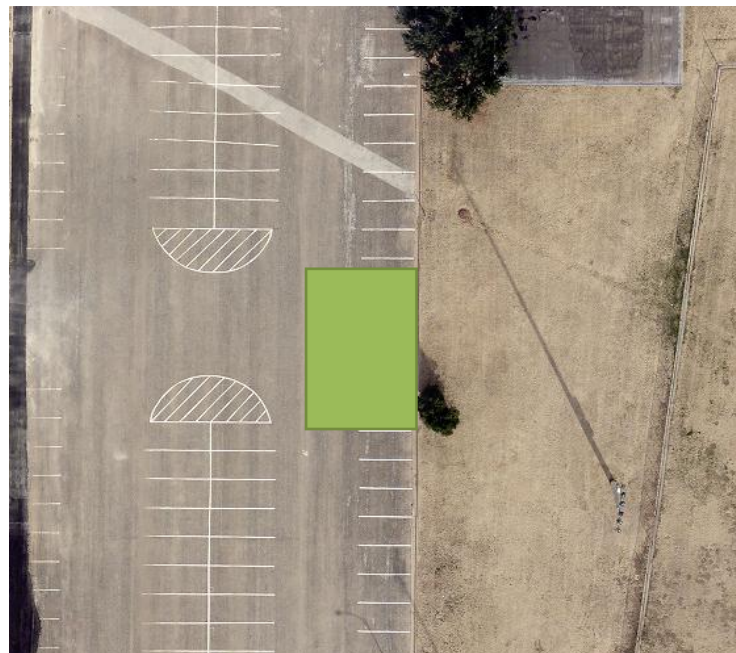


Proposed Temporary and Permanent Location for Recycling Center



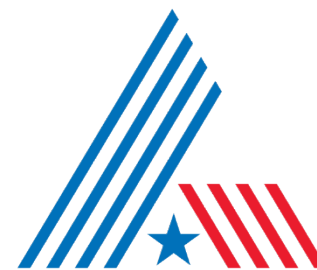


Temporary Location





Permanent Location



CITY OF
ABILENE
TEXAS

City of Abilene, TX
Parks and Recreation
Administrative Policies and Procedures

Subject: Parks and Parks Facility Naming Policy **Effective Date:**

Approved by: _____
City Manager

Parks and Recreation Board Chair

Parks and Recreation Director

Applies to: Individuals, groups or organizations requesting to name a park, park area, or park facility.

Policy: The naming of a City of Abilene park, park area, or park facility is a serious matter. All names considered by the Parks and Recreation Board should be significant, appropriate, considerate and acceptable to the citizens of Abilene.

Roles and Responsibilities: Parks and Recreation Director: Reviews submitted applications for completeness and accuracy and schedules application review by the Parks and Recreation Board. Upon Parks and Recreation Board approval, implements new park or park area name with signage and addition to City Website.

Procedures:

1. The individual, group or organization requesting to name a park, park area, or park facility must complete and submit the Park, Park Area, and Facility Naming application. The application can be obtained and submitted at the Parks and Recreation office located at 633 Walnut Street.
2. The applicant will be notified of a scheduled meeting date of the Parks and Recreation Board, which the applicant must attend to make a presentation that justifies the proposed park, park area, or park facility name.
3. The Parks and Recreation Board may appoint a Park Naming Subcommittee to further evaluate the application and to forward a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Board.
4. The City of Abilene will publish information regarding the proposed naming. The public will be notified of any Parks and Recreation Board meetings related to the naming.
5. The recommendation for any name change of an existing park or park facility or naming of new park or park facility will require two readings with approvals from the Parks and Recreation Board on both readings for the name to be adopted.

6. The Parks and Recreation Board may require that any expenses to be incurred by the City of Abilene to change the name of an existing park or park facility, including but not limited to the cost of new signage, be paid by the Applicant in full or in part prior to the name change.

7. The recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board shall be the final determination and action on the application..

**Checks and
Balances:**

The Director of Parks and Recreation reviews the Park and Facility Naming Application and schedules the review by the Parks and Recreation Board.

**Forms and
Required
Documents:**

Park, Park Area, or Park Facility Naming Application

**City of Abilene, TX
Parks and Recreation
Park and Facility Naming Application**

**Park and Facility
Naming Guidelines:**

The naming of a City of Abilene Park, Park Area, or Park Facility is a serious matter. All names considered by the Parks and Recreation Board should be significant, appropriate, considerate and acceptable to the citizens of Abilene. This policy applies to all new and existing Parks and/or Parks Facilities. Naming or renaming of any park or park facility will be at the discretion of any naming requirements, if any, established in the original transfer of property ownership to the City of Abilene. Staff will attempt to communicate proposed changes to any known living direct descendants associated with the existing name of the park or park facility to the best of their ability. The attempt to notify any living direct descendants, even if the attempt is unsuccessful, shall serve as due diligence and not result in the termination of the naming request.

Naming Criteria

1. Outstanding Individuals: In the event the name of a deceased person is proposed, that person shall have been prominent in Abilene or elsewhere and shall have demonstrated a continued commitment and made a substantial contribution to the Parks and Recreation Department. Persons not associated with parks may be considered but shall meet all other criteria. Any living person proposed shall have made a worthy and extraordinary endowment to the Parks and Recreation Department or be extremely prominent.
2. Common Usage Identifying the Neighborhood: Acknowledges the geographic location of the park or facility or common name that gives a particular identity to the area neighborhood.
3. Historical Event or Place: Preserves and honors the history of Abilene, its founders, historical figures, cultural, historical events or local landmarks.
4. Natural or Geographical Feature in the Area: Acknowledges a prominent or unique natural or geological, archeological, botanical or zoological feature in the surrounding area.
5. Benefit/Organization Acknowledgement: Acknowledges the significant benefit of a monetary donation, significant donation of resources or services rendered.

Procedures

1. The individual, group or organization requesting to name a park, park area, or park facility must complete and submit the Park, Park Area, or Park Facility Naming application. The application can be obtained and submitted at the Parks and Recreation office located at 633 Walnut Street.

2. The applicant will be notified of a scheduled meeting date of the Parks and Recreation Board, which the applicant must attend to make a presentation that justifies the proposed park, park area, or park facility name.
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5. The Parks and Recreation Board may require that any expenses to be incurred by the City of Abilene to change the name of an existing park or park facility, including but not limited to the cost of new signage, be paid by the Applicant in full or in part prior to the name change.
6. The final recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board shall be the final determination and action on the application.

Restrictions

1. The name shall not duplicate the name of any other park or park facility in Abilene.
2. The name shall not endorse or advocate any religion or specific religious belief, nor shall the name have an obscene connotation or malevolently portray, demean, or intimidate any racial or ethnic group.
3. The name of a park or park facility shall not be proposed for change without completion of the application requirements.
4. The name of a park or park facility shall not be approved to be changed until a minimum of (50) fifty years after the last name change of that park or park facility was established or renamed. Exceptions to this may be made for names of facilities/assets for advertisement rights where a company pays for the name of the company as a sponsorship. Sponsorship rights would fall under the same criteria as any other naming, but the time would be contracted as opposed to the fifty years minimum.

**City of Abilene, TX
Parks and Recreation
Park, Park Area, or Facility Naming Application**

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Organization: _____

Proposed Park, Park Area, or Facility to be Named: _____

Address or Location of Park or Facility: _____

Suggested Name: _____

Category:

_____ **Outstanding Individual(s)**

Acknowledges the sustained contribution that has been made by such individual(s) to the City of Abilene and/or the Parks and Recreation system.

_____ **Neighborhood Identity**

Acknowledges the geographic location or common name that gives a particular identity to a neighborhood.

_____ **Historical Event, Person, Place**

Preserves and honors the history of Abilene, its founders, other historical figures or local landmarks.

_____ **Natural or Geographical Feature to the Area**

Acknowledges a prominent or unique natural or geological feature in the surrounding area.

_____ **Benefit/Organization Acknowledgement**

Acknowledges the significant benefit of a major donation or gift.

RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Printed Name and Title

SIGNATURE: _____ For Office Use Only

Suggested Name: _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**City of Abilene
Parks and Recreation
Park and Facility Naming Application**

Suggested Name: _____

List eligible members of the public who support the nomination. Include name, address, telephone number and signature of fifty (50) individuals, ages 18 years or older who live within the Abilene city limits.

Name	Address	Phone Number and/or Email Address	Signature
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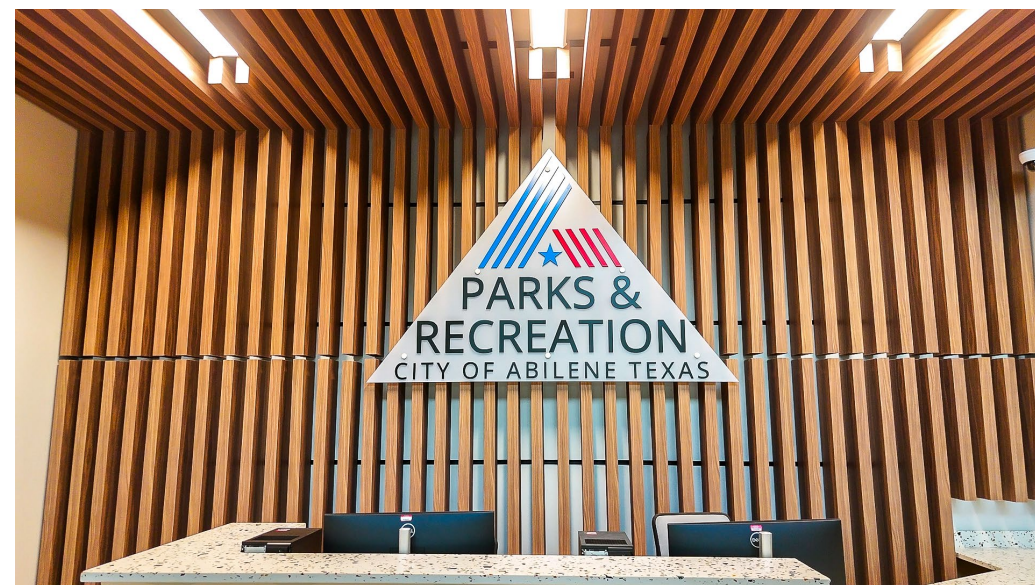
Renaming of Sears Recreation Center





General Information

- On August 17th, 2020 a request was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Board to change the name of Arthur Sears Park to Cesar Chavez Park.
- After community input and further discussion, the Parks and Recreation Board passed a motion on September 21st, 2021 to retain the name of Arthur Sears Park for the park proper, yet change the name of the recreation center located at Arthur Sears Park to Cesar Chavez Recreation Center.
- On March 27, 2026 the City Council requested staff remove the name of Cesar Chavez from the facility, at which time a temporary name of Sears Recreation Center was given to the facility. The name removal followed national reports and investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against Cesar Chavez, prompting local leaders to request the name be removed prior to the center's opening.





Parks and Parks Facility Naming Policy

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Procedures for Renaming Park or Park Facility

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3. The Parks and Recreation Board may appoint a Park Naming Subcommittee to further evaluate the application and to forward a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Board.
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5. The recommendation for any name change of an existing park or park facility or naming of new park or park facility will require two readings with approvals from the Parks and Recreation Board on both readings for the name to be adopted.
6. The recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board shall be the final determination and action on this recommendation.





Naming Criteria

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Recent Name Recommendations

Completed Submittals:

Ovelia Campos Recreation Center

Billy Enriquez Recreation Center

SGT. Reuben Marcus Fernandez III
Recreation Center

Mark Rogers Recreation Center

Non-Completed Submittals:

Ken Decker Recreation Center





Aquatics Report





Water Walkers – Now on Fridays!



- Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
- June 1st - August 12th
- 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- \$2 Admission
- Ages: 55+



Parks Report





TRAPS Healthy Play Grant



- TRAPS Statewide Initiative Program
- Goal is to help build healthy communities through play and recreation.
- Grant will fund the cost of the playground equipment for the new playground at Grover Nelson Park.



Kirby Lake Girls Softball Fence



- Kirby Lake Girls Softball Fence Repairs for State Tournament



Storm Damage





Storm Damage





Kirby Lake North Pier Demolition





Recreation Report





Miles in Motion Distance Challenge

THE POWER OF PARKS & RECREATION NRPA'S PARK & RECREATION MONTH

Miles in Motion

Distance Challenge

The Power of 250

July 1st - July 31st

- **Your Challenge:** Complete 250 miles through walking, running, cycling, swimming, wheeling, dancing, playing, any distance based activity.
- All ages, all abilities, complete as a team or individual.
- Let's move, Abilene! 250 miles, one community, all July!

www.abilenetx.gov/recreation

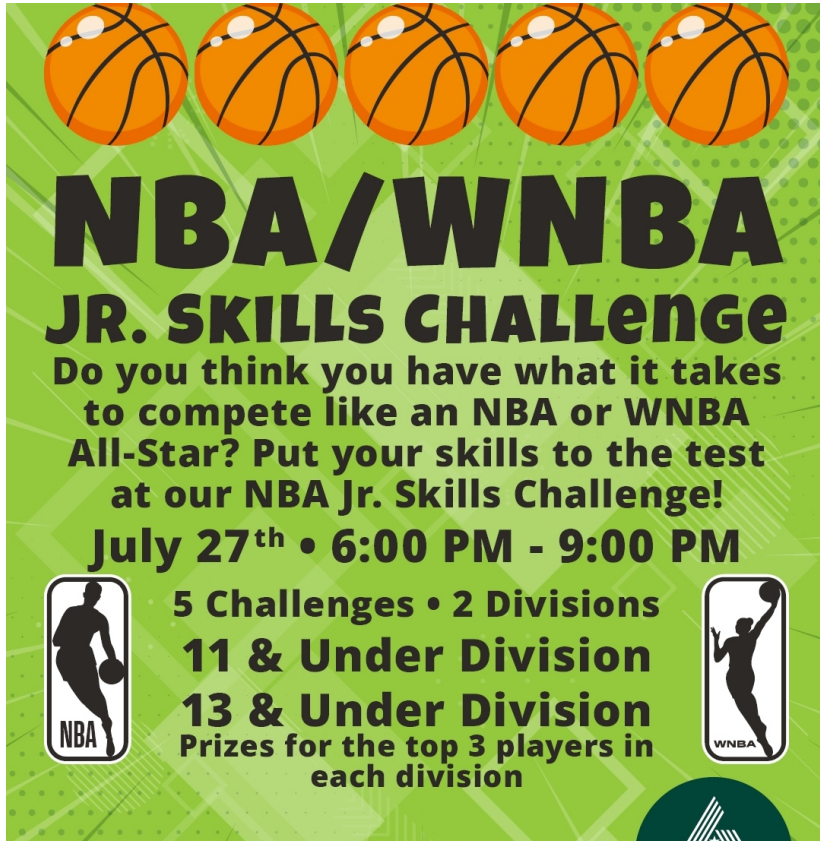
Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence & Parks & Recreation Month by moving your way through July!

PARKS & RECREATION

- July 1st - July 31st
- Complete 250 miles (any distance-based activity, including walking, running, cycling, swimming, wheeling, dancing, or playing)
- All Ages
- Track progress & compete in the leaderboards with friends via the StepUp! app by joining the “Miles in Motion” group.



NBA/WNBA Jr. Skills Challenge



**NBA/WNBA
JR. SKILLS CHALLENGE**

Do you think you have what it takes
to compete like an NBA or WNBA
All-Star? Put your skills to the test
at our NBA Jr. Skills Challenge!

July 27th • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

5 Challenges • 2 Divisions
11 & Under Division
13 & Under Division
Prizes for the top 3 players in
each division



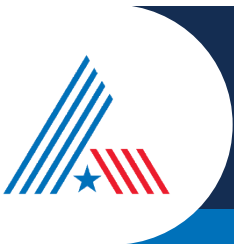
www.abilenetx.gov/recreation



The JR. NBA, NBA, & WNBA
properties do not in any way
control or operate the activities
of any JR. NBA League or team.



- Monday, July 27th
- 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- G.V. Daniels Recreation Center
- Gymnasium



P.E. Hour – New Tiny Tots Hour!

P.E. HOUR

DAY(S)	AGES	TIME	LOCATION
Monday	Tiny Tots	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	G.V. Daniels
Tuesday	All Ages	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Sears
Wednesday	All Ages	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	G.V. Daniels

- Children 8 & under must be directly supervised by an adult at all times.
- Children 9 - 12 must have an adult present in the building.



www.abilenetx.gov/recreation

- Sears:
 - All Ages, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- G.V. Daniels:
 - All Ages, Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - Tiny Tots, Monday 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Ready, Set, Play!

**READY,
SET, PLAY!**
EVERY FRIDAY
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
AT BOTH SEARS & G.V.
DANIELS REC CENTERS

Ready to jump into some big-time fun? Come explore, move, & have a blast with a variety of gym equipment set out for open play! Grab your friends, bring your energy, & come see what you can try next!

www.abilenetx.gov/recreation

PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF ABILENE TEXAS

- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Every Friday
- Both Rec Centers



Stroller Walking Club

Stroller Walking Club

Mondays at the Gym Track

TIME	LOCATION
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	G.V. Daniels
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Sears

www.abilenetx.gov/recreation

Free & open for all parents with young kids. BYO stroller to socialize with other families & build good exercise habits on our refreshing indoor walking track

- Mondays at the Gym Track
- G.V. Daniels: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- Sears: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



Seniors Report





Senior Day Trip

Photo courtesy of Granbury-Texas.com

Ages 55+

2026 Annual

Senior Day Trip

Saturday, October 24th
★ Granbury, TX ★
\$45

Join us in a trip to Granbury Texas to enjoy
the Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts!

Registration: July 1st - October 1st
Bus Leaves: 6:30 AM

Rose Park Senior Center • 2625 S 7th St
(325) 734-5300 • abilenetx.gov/seniors

 PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF ABILENE TEXAS

- Saturday
- October 24th
- Granbury, TX
- Bus Leaves 6:30 AM
- \$45



Gorgeous Grandma Day & Celebration

Gorgeous Grandma Day & Celebration

**Rose Park
Senior Center
July 23rd**

Join us for a joyful
celebration honoring the
beauty, style & wisdom
of our wonderful
grandmothers!

Morning Fashion Show *Afternoon Tea*

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Lobby

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Room B



(325) 734-5300 • abilenetx.gov/seniors

**PARKS &
RECREATION**
CITY OF ABILENE TEXAS

- July 23rd
- Morning Fashion Show
 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 - Lobby
- Afternoon Tea
 - 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
 - Room B



Animal News – Malaika's Baby Girl



Animal News – Three's a crowd



Animal News – Luis, Black & White Ruffed Lemur



Animal News – Fossa Pups Update



Construction Update



Upcoming Event – Paw Patrol

**MEET CHASE AND SKYE
AT ABILENE ZOO!**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

