



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 August 18, 2026 at 8:30 AM 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)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Pursuant to Govt. Code Section 551.072, a governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person. Additionally, Section 551.087 allows a governmental body to discuss or deliberate on commercial or financial information that has been received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City and with which there may be ongoing negotiations or deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect. Further, Section 551.071 provides that 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 will 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. Grover Nelson Park
2. Jane Sellers Park
3. Arthur Sears Park

551.071 - Consultation with Attorney

551.072 - Deliberations about Real Property
551.087 - Economic Development

AGENDA ITEMS

3. Renaming Sears Recreation Center (Discussion, Public Hearing and Possible Action)
4. Aquatics Report (Discussion)
 - End of Season Hours
5. Parks Report (Discussion)
 - Lake Kirby Boat Dock Installation
 - Fun Fact
6. Recreation Report (Discussion)
 - Cookbook Club
 - Teen Night
7. Seniors Report (Discussion)
 - 2026 Annual Senior Wellness Expo
 - Senior Day Trip
8. Zoo Report (Discussion)
 - Elm Creek Upgrade
 - 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 12th day of August, 2026, at 4:40 p.m.

Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary



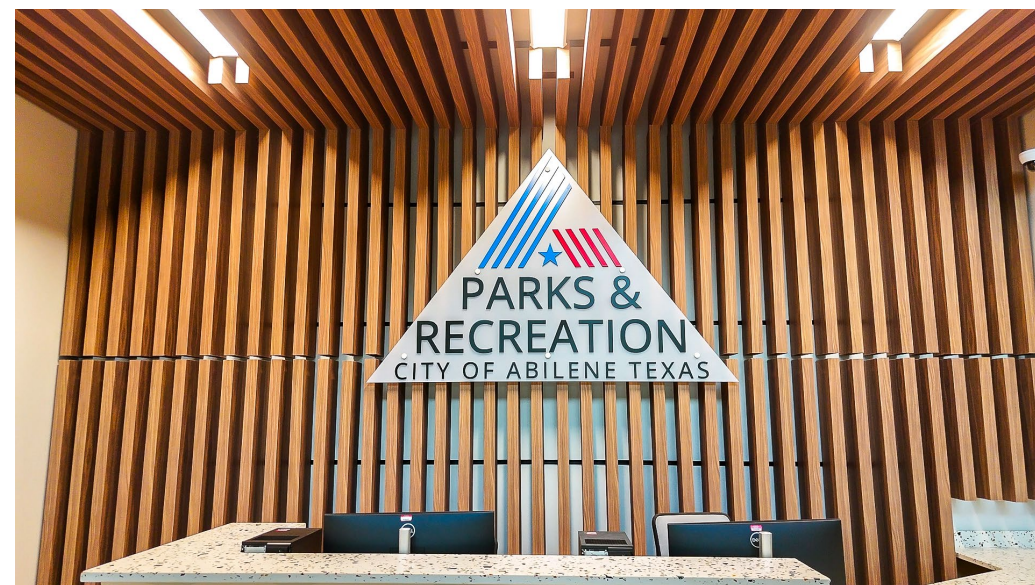
Renaming of Sears Recreation Center





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

- 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.





Procedures for Renaming Park or Park Facility

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 recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board shall be the final determination and action on this recommendation.





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.





Naming 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-year minimum.





Recent Name Recommendations

Applicants:

Ovelia Campos Recreation Center

Billy Enriquez Recreation Center

SGT. Reuben Marcus Fernandez III
Recreation Center

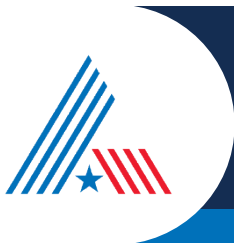
Mark Rogers Recreation Center





Aquatics Report





Hours for the Rest of the Season

Hours *for the rest of the season*

Starting August 9th

Weekends Only	
Starting August 9 th	
Saturday	Sunday
11 AM - 7 PM	1 PM - 7 PM

Labor Day
Monday, September 7th
1 PM - 5 PM

Last Day!
Labor Day
September 7th

Thanks for an amazing season!

www.abilenetx.gov/aquatics

Adventure COVE

PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS

- Weekends Only
 - Starting August 9th
 - Saturdays 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
 - Sundays 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Last Day**
 - Labor Day
 - Monday, September 7th
 - 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM



Parks Report





Lake Kirby Boat Dock Installation



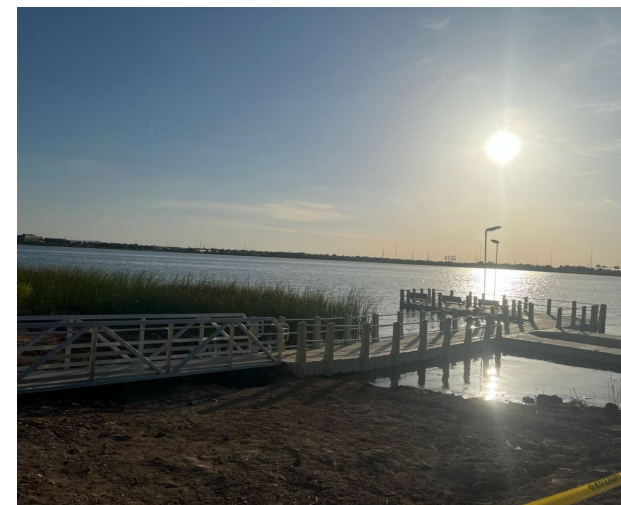


Lake Kirby Boat Dock Installation





Lake Kirby Boat Dock Installation





Fun Fact: Edging



- The Parks Department edges 198 miles of walking trails in a year.
- That's the equivalent of edging from Abilene City Hall to Kerrville, TX!



Recreation Report





Cookbook Club



This Month's Theme
Comfort Food Classics

Cookbook Club

Sign up for a spot, swing by your local library to pick out a cookbook that has a recipe matching our monthly theme, whip up a dish big enough to share with at least 15 food-loving friends, & come ready to eat, chat, & enjoy it together at our club meeting!

- **2nd Tuesday Monthly**
- **6:30 PM**
- **Sears Park Rec Center**
- **2250 Ambler Ave**
- **Multipurpose Room**
- **Registration Required**

www.abilenetx.gov/recreation

PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF ABILENE TEXAS

- 2nd Tuesday of Each Month
- 6:30 PM
- Sears Park Rec Center
- Multipurpose Room
- Registration Required
- September Theme: Comfort Food Classics



Dill-ightful Teen Night

**DILL-IGHTFUL
Teen NIGHT**

- August 28th
- 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- G.V. Daniels Rec Center
- 532 W Washington St
- Membership & Registration Required

Ages 13-17

Calling all pickle loving teens! Join us for a night filled with pickle themed activities, including pickleball, trivia & **FREE** pickle pops while supply lasts. Other pickle & non-pickle concessions will be available for purchase.

Scan QR Code to register!
www.abilenetx.gov/recevents

PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF ABILENE TEXAS

- Friday, August 28th
- 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- G.V. Daniels Rec Center
- Free; Membership & Registration Required



Seniors Report





- Tuesday, September 22nd
- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Rose Park Senior Center
- Free for seniors, vendor fees apply
- Contest: Best Decorated Booth
- Vendor Bingo



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



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



Elm Creek Upgrade



Upcoming Event – Paw Patrol

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

