



MEDIA ONLY PHOTO OP

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Mayor Sylvester Turner and Parks and Recreation Department to Unveil Renovated Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. Park in Southwest Houston

Rasmus family to join the celebration

Mayor Sylvester Turner and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. Park on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. The park is located at 3721 Jeanetta in Southwest Houston.

WHAT: Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. Park Renovation Ribbon Cutting Celebration

WHEN: Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: 3721 Jeanetta
Houston, TX 77063

WHO: Mayor Sylvester Turner, City of Houston
Council Member Edward Pollard, District J
Kenneth Allen, Interim Director, Houston Parks & Recreation Department
Pastor Rudy Rasmus, St. John's United Methodist Church
Silvia Fitch, Walter Rasmus' Granddaughter
Lester Whiteing, Chair and Coordinator, Rasmus Park Action Committee

The \$1,046,284 (Design \$119,045/Construction \$927,239) renovation includes a new playground, new walking trail, new furnishings, fencing, a parking lot upgrade, landscaping, and drainage improvements. Funding for the renovations was provided through the Parks and Recreation Dedication Fund and the Contributed Capital Project Fund. The nearly 9-acre park, originally called Blossom Heights, was acquired by the City of Houston in 1960. In 1989, it was renamed after Walter J. Rasmus, Sr., a community leader in the neighborhood. Among his numerous accomplishments, Mr. Rasmus helped

establish a free school bus service that allowed Black student in the neighborhood to further their education at Booker T. Washington High School, at the time the only secondary school for Black people in Houston. Walter J. Rasmus, Sr. died in 1977 at the age of 95.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manage over 39,501 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.