



May 16, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Long awaited all-inclusive playground to open at Heritage Park**

WEATHERFORD (CITY OF WEATHERFORD), Texas - The City of Weatherford invites the community to a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Heritage Park all-inclusive playground, Friday, May 19, located at 379 Jack Borden Way. The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m.

The first of its kind in Weatherford, the all-inclusive playground was designed to complement the parks natural surroundings and provide a safe play environment for children. Its structural design was built to not only challenge playground users, but provide engaging sensory-rich features for children of all ages.

“The all-inclusive playground meets the vision for the Heritage Park Development Plan that was established in 2009 by City Council,” said Mayor Craig Swancy. “After numerous meetings and hearing input from the community, the City knew that there was a need for a playground facility that enabled diverse opportunities for everyone. It is very exciting to know that many children will be able to enjoy this playground for many years.”

All-inclusive playgrounds are becoming a core service that many cities are now adopting nationwide in an effort to create inclusive communities. Although all-inclusive playgrounds are a major undertaking and require additional funding with unique planning, they enable the public to enjoy shared spaces regardless of personal abilities.

“Each park in Weatherford meets the criteria for accessibility according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),” said director of parks, recreation and special events Shannon Goodman. “However, ‘accessible’ does not always mean ‘inclusive.’ This facility will provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the park together and increase ‘playability’ for people of diverse abilities.”



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The ribbon cutting will begin with a brief presentation detailing the history and future of the all-inclusive playground followed by closing remarks from Mayor Craig Swancy. General parking will be located in the South Lot at Heritage Park with golf carts shuttles transporting attendees to the playground. The parking area at the Patsy Hooks Dog Park/playground area will be used for handicap parking only. Pet adoptions provided by the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter will be available, along with free ice cream to the first 100 attendees.

For more information about the ribbon cutting, contact Special Events Coordinator Michael Howard at (817) 598-4034 or [mhoward@weatherfordtx.gov](mailto:mhoward@weatherfordtx.gov).

**Editor's note:** A high-res image of the all-inclusive playground is attached.

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**\*\*City of Weatherford\*\***

*Weatherford, Texas is a service oriented, yet still "small town" community that upgrades its infrastructure, celebrates and shares its rich history, and fosters quality economic growth – in a fiscally-responsible, even revenue-generating fashion.*