

Application for New Park Naming

Proposed Name for the Park:

If proposing the name of an individual, include a biographical description of nominee:

Describe the individual's involvement in the Austin community:

Describe the individual's connection to the park or park system, if any:

If proposing a name that is not an individual, summarize the reason for the name:

Date:

Name of requester:

Address:

Phone Number:

Please provide any additional information with the application, e.g., newspaper articles, letter of recommendations, etc.

Direct questions to:

Ricardo Soliz

974-6765

Ricardo.Soliz@ci.austin.tx.us

APPLICATION for New Park Naming

I. Proposed Name for the Park

Willie M. Kirk

II. If Proposing the name of an individual, include a biographical description of nominee:

Mrs. Willie M. Kirk was reared in Austin. She attended/graduated Edward L. Blackshear Elementary School, Kealing Jr. High School, Old L. C. Anderson High School and Huston-Tillotson University, 1947. Taught in Austin Independent School District (AISD) for thirty-seven (37) years, community activism and involvement in education, civic and church. Austin American Statesman, Texas Monthly Magazine, Villager Newspaper, Houston Chronicle and others have written about her work and philosophy. She is a widow who was married to Lee A. Kirk, Sr., and they had four children – Sandra, Connie, Lee A. Jr. (deceased) and Ronald.

III. Describe the individual's involvement in the Austin community:

Library Commission, Appointed Member 1990 – 2001
Dispute Board, Travis County 1983
Grand Jury – 3 Term Member, Foreman 1 Term 1977
Joint City Legislative Commission 1975
First Human Relations Commission
March of Dimes Board, 20 years
Travis County Voter Registration – Precinct Worker
Girl Scout Leader, 15+ years
Huston-Tillotson Alumni Austin Chapter (served as President 2 years)
Supporter of Salvation Army
Organized Citizens Committee to save Old Carver Library and was instrumental in securing funding for the New Carver Library – George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center.

Awards/Certificates:

Austin Independent School District Special Recognition
Austin Independent School District Heritage Award
Austin Chapter March of Dimes –Service Award
Austin Area Urban League – Whitney Young, Volunteer of the Year Award
Huston-Tillotson University Distinguished Alumni
NAACP DeWitty-Overton Award
Texas Legislative Black Caucus
Villager Newspaper – Austin's 1997 Living Legends
Internal Revenue Service Certificate – Services to Less Fortunate

IV. Describe the individual's connection to the park or park system, if any:

Mrs. Kirk was a vocalist with a band that performed on Friday nights at Rosewood Park.

Mrs. Kirk and a group of teenagers cleared the Olive Street School campus after the school burned to make a playground. She oversaw youth activities in the part of the school that didn't burn. Also, the City of Austin Parks Department provided materials needed for the youth, including water. The playground became a haven and often a second home for children and adults. She served as Austin Parks and Recreation Department Playground Leader 1951 – 1955.

December 9, 2010

Name of requester:

Old Anderson Alumni Austin Chapter (OAAAC)

Address:

OAAAC

Post Office Box 6593

Austin, TX 78762

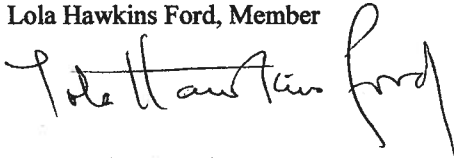
Phone Number:

(512) 294-0171

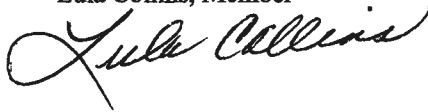
Albert J. Walker, OAAAC President

Handwritten signature of Albert J. Walker in cursive script.

Lola Hawkins Ford, Member

Handwritten signature of Lola Hawkins Ford in cursive script.

Lula Collins, Member

Handwritten signature of Lula Collins in cursive script.

The policy for naming park facilities is as follows:

- A suggested name is submitted to the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) on a form to be supplied by PARD.
- The PARD Director will notify the City Council, the City Manager, the Parks Board and the city PIO officer will inform those who are likely to have an interest in the facility naming, with a deadline for submitting suggestions.
- The Director must receive a naming suggestion not later than 90 days after the date of the Director's notice to the City Council, etc. as above.
- The naming suggestion must include a biographical sketch of the individual, their involvement in the community and their connection to the facility.
- The Director shall submit suggestions to the chair of the Parks Board, which shall conduct a public hearing on naming the facility. The Board's recommendation is sent to the City Council within 45 days of their receiving the suggested name.
- The City Manager will provide each Council member a copy of the Board's recommendation and will place an item regarding the naming on the Council's agenda.

The VILLAGER

"A Community Service Weekly"
1223-A Rosewood Avenue, Austin, Texas 78702

April 2, 1997

Dear Mrs. Willie Mae Kirk:

Congratulations! You have been chosen as one of "Austin's 1997 Living Legends" by The Villager Newspaper. As a part of The Villager's anniversary celebration, it recognizes persons within the community that have made considerable and long-lasting contributions to the community.

You will be honored during the anniversary celebration at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 10, in the Givens Recreation Center, 3811 East 12th Street. You will also be featured in The Villager's special anniversary edition. Please send a resume and a black & white photo to Hall Communications, 1223 B Rosewood Avenue, Austin, Texas 78702 by April 14. If you do not have a photo, we can assist you in having one made.

Each honoree will receive two tickets to the banquet, one for the honoree and a guest. Because of seating arrangements, only one guest will be allowed to sit with the honoree. Please, arrive promptly at 6:30 p.m.

To RSVP for the event or for inquiries, please call Bobbie Hall at 708-1502.

Respectfully,



T.L. Wyatt
Publisher

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas takes pleasure in recognizing Willie Mae Kirk on her recent selection for the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Austin Area Urban League; and

WHEREAS, Formerly a teacher with the Austin Independent School District, Willie Mae Kirk is well known for her longtime community service in the Austin area; and

WHEREAS, A model of integrity, compassion, and generosity, Miss Kirk exhibits an enthusiasm for hard work that is inspiring to all who know her; and

WHEREAS, Active in many community projects, she was instrumental in the organization of a protest of a segregated skating rink and assisted in the organization of the Citizen's Dispute Settlement Commission for Travis County; she is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Austin Area Urban League; and

WHEREAS, Accolades for her diligence and exceptional community leadership include induction into the African-American Women's Hall of Fame, the 1993 Black Caucus Outstanding Texan Award, and Carver Library's Martin L. King Award; and

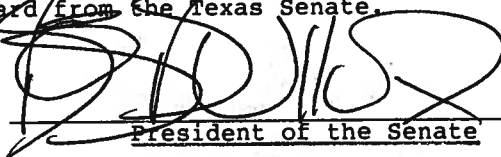
WHEREAS, Willie Mae Kirk's concern for others is legendary, and she has been a source of strength to many; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished and exemplary lady, Miss Kirk is a respected humanitarian whose worthy projects reflect her dedication and commitment to her fellowman; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 74th Legislature, hereby commend Willie Mae Kirk for her countless contributions to her community and state and extend congratulations to her for this well-deserved award; and, be it further

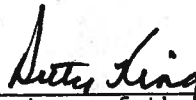
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.



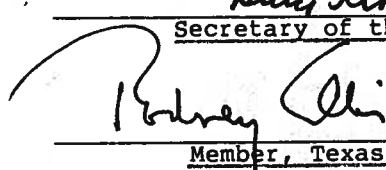


President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 8, 1995. _____



Secretary of the Senate



Member, Texas Senate



LEE COOKE
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P. O. BOX 1088
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
A/C 512 499-2250

January 19, 1990

Mrs. Willie Kirk
1908 Maple
Austin, Tx 78722

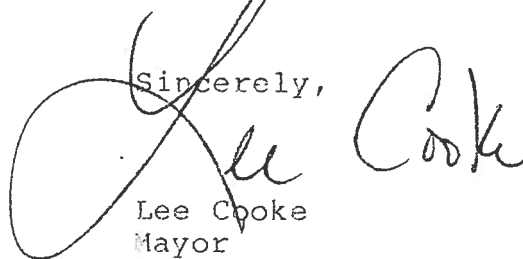
Dear Mrs. Kirk,

On behalf of the entire Austin City Council, it is my privilege and pleasure to notify you of your appointment as a member of the Library Commission.

As you know, Boards and Commissions are most vital to the City, and I want to welcome you and assure you that we appreciate the time you will be volunteering in service to the City of Austin.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to call on me. I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Lee Cooke
Mayor

RON Mullen

For Mayor

February 17, 1983

Mrs. Willie Mae Kirk
1908 Maple
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Mrs. Kirk:

I enjoyed reading about your work and philosophy in the Austin-American Statesman on Sunday, February 13. Your support of charitable organizations as well as individuals is important in our community; and as you know, your choice of teaching as a profession gave you a perfect position for spreading your beliefs.

One of my greatest pleasures as an elected official has been rendering the "little helps" you spoke of and if I may ever assist you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for your continued success and work.

Sincerely,



Ron Mullen
Councilman, City of Austin

RM71d



LLOYD DOGGETT
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 14

The Senate of
The State of Texas
Austin 78711

February 14, 1983

Dear Ms. Kirk:

I noted with interest the article about you in the Austin American-Statesman, and thought you'd like an extra copy. Your years of service are certainly commendable and our community is indeed the richer for your efforts.

Don't hesitate to let me know any time my office can assist you on a matter involving state government.

Sincerely,

Lloyd
Lloyd Doggett

I have done another followup call personally to Rafael Quintini. We had a good discussion & I understand Sandra will see him next week. Hope all goes well.



City of Austin

FOUNDED BY CONGRESS, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, 1839

CAROLE KEETON MCCLELLAN
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P. O. BOX 1088
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
A/C 512 477-6511

January 26, 1982

Ms. Willie M. Kirk
1908 Maple
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Ms. Kirk:

On behalf of the entire Austin City Council, it is my privilege and pleasure to notify you of your reappointment as a member of the Public Library Commission.

As you know, the function of this Commission is most vital to the City, and I want to thank you for your past service and assure you that we appreciate the time you will be volunteering to the City.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to call on me. I welcome your comments and suggestions at any time.

Sincerely,

Carole
Carole Keeton McClellan
Mayor

*All Best Wishes
for 1982
and many
thanks*



County of
TRAVIS
STATE OF TEXAS

TOM BLACKWELL
DISTRICT JUDGE
167TH DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
AUSTIN, TEXAS

September 24, 1979

Mrs. Willie May Kirk
1908 Maple
Austin, Texas 78722

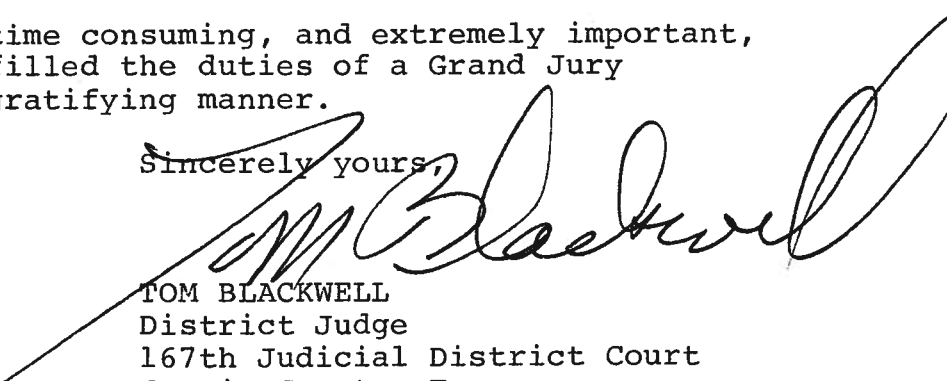
Dear Mrs. Kirk:

I would like to thank you for your kindness in serving as a member of the Grand Jury Commission for the October Term of the 167th Judicial District Court.

I would also like to commend you on your excellent selection of outstanding citizens as members of the Grand Jury Panel.

Your task was arduous, time consuming, and extremely important, and I feel that you fulfilled the duties of a Grand Jury Commissioner in a most gratifying manner.

Sincerely yours,


TOM BLACKWELL
District Judge
167th Judicial District Court
Travis County, Texas

/bv



City of Austin

CAROLE KEETON McCLELLAN
MAYOR

FOUNDED BY CONGRESS, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, 1839

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 24, 1979

P. O. BOX 1088
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
A / C 512 477-6311

Mrs. Willie Kirk
1908 Maple
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Mrs. Kirk:

A quality Austin for the future seems assured today because of your efforts as a member of "Citizens for a Better Austin." Our fellow citizens agreed with us that the bonds represented a "no frills" package, and gave them the largest number of votes in support of capital improvements in the history of this city.

Without your dedicated help, this would not have happened. To be sure that you are advised on the progress of this investment in Austin, I will announce this week a special program to keep you fully informed.

On behalf of all citizens of Austin today, and the generations of citizens to come, please accept my sincere thanks for your hard work. I am proud to serve in a community with citizens who join together to build the finest community anywhere.

Warmest regards,

Carole Keeton McClellan
Mayor



JEFFREY M. FRIEDMAN
MAYOR

FOUNDED BY CONGRESS, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, 1839

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P. O. BOX 1088
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
A/C 512-477-6511

July 15, 1976

Ms. Willie Mae Kirk
1908 Maple Avenue
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Ms. Kirk:

Thank you for your letter and information. I believe strongly that all libraries must be brought up to quality and not just the downtown library, and I share your concern.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Friedman
Mayor

Dear Mrs. Kirk,

Enclosed is a check for Huston-Tillotson College's and the United Negro College Fund's television fundraising special the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars."

The LBJ Family Foundation has already made a contribution directly to Huston-Tillotson this past May, but we did not want to miss the opportunity to be responsive to such a worthwhile cause - and frankly - to your earnest ~~endeavor~~ endeavors on ~~behalf~~ behalf of black education and the fine institution of Huston Tillotson.

I hope that ours is just one of many expressions of support for this most important cause.

Respectfully,
Luci Baines Johnson

BY DIANNE KING

To the wonder of a young Willie Mae, her father wept.

"IN HER OWN QUIET, very generous way, she goes about being supportive," says daughter Sandra, who has spent her life watching her mother take in strangers and, frequently, give away the family clothes. "She doesn't forget people. She knows the high in the city as well as those people on the streets. Winos are as apt to come here as anybody else."

anybody else. "Most of it comes out of her own pocket. That's her own personal commitment to her community."

site says. "It drew me closer to people; people who need people. Not a welfare type of assistance, but in some of the little helps that we can render. Back in the '50s and in the '60s, I have seen teachers get together and dress a whole family. All of us working together."

CONVERSELY, SHE believes, teachers are underpaid, under-appreciated and often short of well-mannered, well-disciplined students. "Teachers really need some support right now," she says, with conviction. "I don't believe there's a teacher in the state of Texas anywhere who hasn't done these kinds of things."

For the woman who spent 30 years in the public schools, "those type of things" include a literal translation of giving the shirt off her back. Or, as it often happened, her late husband's back. "My husband would be dressing and he would say, 'where is my so and so?'"

"Oh, let me see." Willie Mae would delay. "I'll

Thus stilled, she says with her gleeful laugh, "He might not ask for it for another three to four months." By that time, confession was relatively painless.

— Wille Mae Kirk

Which leads up to another of Willie Mae's philosophies, this one more tentatively expressed. "So many people are willing to help if they're only just contacted and they know their services are needed," she says. "Basically, people are just so good."

Scouts, is also a big believer in community effort. As illustrated when a poor family needed a refrigerator, that belief has never been shaken. In that instance, friends and neighbors willingly pitched in, and just when almost enough money was collected, the man from the appliance store called to donate the refrigerator.

Letters to the Editor

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Metro & State

Saturday, February 16, 2002

Austin American-Statesman statesman.com

Retired teacher honored for decades of civic activism

By Dick Stanley
Austin-Statesman Staff

As a fifth-grade teacher in 1955 at East Austin's segregated Roosevelt Elementary School, Willie Mae Kirk was known for taking special interest in her students: she bought shoes, sweaters and hats for those who needed them. "She bought glasses for a girl I knew," recalled Kenneth Simpson, office manager of King-Tears Optical Inc., who was one of her

students. "Her desire was for the children to learn as much as they could, and she wanted them to feel good about learning."

Kirk's son, Ron, later attended segregated Blackshear Elementary nearby. He would grow up to become a lawyer, a Texas secretary of state, a Dallas mayor and, these days, a Democratic primary candidate for the U.S. Senate.

His mother, whose civic leadership became ever more prominent — including participation in early

Austin demonstrations for civil rights — was honored Friday night by the Austin Area Urban League.

Willie Mae Kirk, 80, received the group's Whitney M. Young Jr. Award, named for the civil rights pioneer and adviser to three U.S. presidents, for her years of advocacy for Austin residents.

Herman Lessard, the Urban League's chief executive, introduced her to the audience of about 1,000 at the Renaissance Hotel as

the person who "became a mother away from home" when he took the Austin job in 1993 and she was a board member.

Kirk reminded the group of one of her guiding principles: "If you have anything at all, you have enough to share with someone in need."

In her 32 years teaching in Austin, Kirk did more than buy the children the clothing their parents



Willie Mae Kirk Early promoter of civil rights.

See Fighting, B7

First of Ten Oper Roul

Fighting polio, feeding homeless among retired teacher's deeds

Continued from B1

couldn't afford. When polio afflicted children of all colors in Austin in the 1950s, she shamed the segregated local board of the March of Dimes into accepting her as a member. Then she led her former Huston-Tillotson College sorority sisters in organizing volunteers to collect donations in East Austin.

Her son also participated, keeping up with his mother's continuing interest after a polio vaccine was developed and the group switched its focus to birth defects.

"He was state youth chairman," said Austin March of Dimes board member Edna Dougherty. "His leadership ability really showed through."

Ron Kirk, the youngest of four children, has recalled for interviewers his mother inviting homeless people into their home for food, and generally inspiring him and his three siblings to public service.

Their mother, a member — later, a board member — of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also led the Mothers' Action Council in the 1960s in helping to close a segregated East Austin skating rink called the Ice Palace. She helped get the city to install a traffic light for students at another school to help them cross the street safely.

She was a 1947 graduate of Huston-Tillotson and established its alumni association. She also led a 1970s movement to save the city-owned Carver Library of African-American History when the city wanted to close it.

"We had to sort of box with the city's library community," recalled John Q. Taylor King, a member of the movement to save Carver and a former president of Huston-Tillotson. He met Kirk when they were children in the 1930s and she was living on a farm near Manor, where her father owned the only sorghum syrup



Patrick Reed for American-Statesman
Willie Mae Kirk, a supporter of civic causes from the March of Dimes to the NAACP, receives the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award from Austin Area Urban League chief Herman Lessard on Friday.

in Travis County.

"She organized the neighborhood association where we live so everyone would know everyone else," King said. "She's easy to

know. There's no puffing about her. She'd fit into any community where people love people."

dstanley@statesman.com; 445-3629

WHY SCHOOL?

By JOHN T. KING

SOME TEACHERS WHO RECEIVED NEW ASSIGNMENTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR

At this time of the year--the end of summer--thousands of minds are turned in the direction of the 'little red schoolhouse.' Parents and students prepare to get the kind of 'mind-set' necessary to launch or continue a career of formal education. In the minds of many, especially the very young, and sometimes those who are not so young, is the question 'Why School?' They ask, is education necessary? The answer is really simple--Yes, for human survival.

A world harassed by continually mounting problems, many so complex that they defy human solution, must of necessity seek relief through the proper training of its youth. One ray of hope lies in the area of education. It is for this reason that the spotlight of world progress is focused, more than ever in history, on education--the kind of education which will endow our young people with the qualities to leadership so vital to our future.

Education is the key to self-improvement and leadership; thus, education is a MUST. Education, no matter what its level, is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, no dictator can enslave. At home, it is a friend; abroad, and introduction. In a village, it is a comfort and in society, an ornament. Without it, man is only a slave, a reasoning savage.

One of the major objectives of education is to provide an atmosphere in which students can learn to think logically, to reason clearly, and to speak and write plainly and forcefully. In addition to having competent men and women, we must have leaders whose training extends beyond some specialty into the broad areas of human understanding contained in history, literature, and philosophy, and who can draw upon the great versatility of the human mind rather than capitalize upon the minutiae of some technicality.

As it has asserted many times, one of the present ends of education is to improve the national welfare, to enhance our participation in the affairs of the world, to increase our national realization of political and social problems and to solve them. and to push backward the



NEW PRINCIPAL
AT ROSEWOOD

Laurice C. Jones - A product of the Austin and Dallas Public Schools. Received Bachelor's Degree from Huston - Tillotson College 1951, Master Degree in School Administration from Texas Southern University 1957. Began teaching career as Head Teacher, Pflugerville, Texas 1951-54, assumed



Mrs. Willie M. Kirk has been a teacher in the Austin Public Schools since 1951. She earned the Bachelor of Arts Degree from Samuel Houston College and has completed the course requirements for a master degree in Education from the University of Texas. Mrs. Kirk is recognized for her untiring efforts in securing the needs of her pupils. She is known to possess a genuine concern and devotion for children. Mrs. Kirk has been assigned to teach the fifth grade at Metz Elementary School.



Mrs. Estella R. Aklin has recently been transferred to Br Elementary School as physical education instructor, after ending several enjoyable years at Rosewood Elementary School. Mrs. Aklin, a native of Palestine, Texas, received her degree from Huston-Tillotson College and M.S. degree from Prairie View A & M College. Before coming to Austin, Aklin taught physical education in the Public Schools of Palestine and Dallas, Texas. She is a member of Wesley Methodist Church. an active member of

The Austin American-Statesman

Austin focus

Friday, March 12, 1976

Austin, Texas—Page B1

\$1 million savings on city library seen

Austin taxpayers and library patrons got a break Thursday — \$1-million in savings for the construction of a new central library.

In a special called meeting, the Austin Public Library Commission agreed with the recommendation of library architect Fred Day to award the construction contract to local contractor Faulkner Construction Co. The recommendation is subject to city council approval.

Faulkner's low bid of \$4,471,500 was nearly \$1 million less than the \$5.4 million allocated for the building, at 8th and Guadalupe streets, commission president Fred Sackett said.

Commission members approved the local contractor's offer, which encompassed a base bid and nine additional construction alternates, including a sophisticated book distribution conveyor system estimated at \$269,000.

An alternate bid providing for planters and an automatic sprinkler system on the library's open decks, valued at \$80,000, met opposition from library director David E. Holt and commission member Martha Cotera.

Holt's primary concern, he said, would be maintenance of the planters on upper floors. Day said the decks would not be for public use.

Cotera said she recognized a greater need to spend the estimated cost for adequate physical space at various city library branches.

Holt and Cotera were a minority, however, since the alternate bid received wholehearted support Thursday from Day, the city's construction management representatives and the other 10 commissioners.

The majority advocated that the greenery would complement the proposed building's "simplistic" design and blend with the surrounding historic Bremond block.

Commission members also waived voting on Holt's recommended priorities for use of the excess funds, pending the architect's submission of an estimated cost of a fifth floor.

Holt had suggested the funds be used for completion of the proposed library's basement at \$320,000, completion of the North Regional Branch at \$175,000, and construction of a new Carver Branch.