

Arnulfo Alonso

July 18, 1933 – August 25, 1999

Arnulfo Alonso's career with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department is remarkable, having served as the longest tenured Zilker Park employee for forty years. Hired by Park Manager Buster Robinson in 1959, he worked tirelessly and faithfully virtually every day until his death in 1999.

Anyone who worked with him would tell you that Arnulfo's skills were incomparable whether the project at hand needed a carpenter, plumber, electrician, welder, mason, irrigator, or mechanic. He could do it all. In addition to cleaning Barton Springs Pool weekly, repairing park infrastructure, and building such Austin landmarks as the Oriental Garden (with Isamu Taniguchi), he was the caretaker of the Zilker Clubhouse for forty years. He cleaned the popular rental space, opened and closed the building for reservations, and was required to live on site at the Clubhouse in order to assure quick customer response.

The park road leading to the Clubhouse from Rollingwood Drive was travelled by him multiple times in the course of each day's park duties – morning, noon, and night; seven days a week for forty years. As such it is felt by many that the most appropriate name for this park road would be Arnulfo Alonso Way. His gift to the City and to its park, pool, clubhouse, and special event patrons was himself – totally, capably, and gladly. Without him, Zilker Park would not be the gem that she is.



*Signature of Author**

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Date

**Biography provided by Sarah Macias, retired Division Manager-Central Parks, Austin Parks and Recreation Department*