



NEWS RELEASE

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Mini-Park Renamed Gladys Blanton Park to Honor Retired School Crossing Guard
City set to begin renovations on renamed West View Mini-Park

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – The City of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department will begin renovations on West View Mini-Park located at 111 February Street in Murfreesboro. The City Council voted Thursday night to rename West View Mini-Park to Gladys Blanton Park. Gladys Blanton served as a school crossing guard known as the Mother Patrol for 45 years before retiring in 2009 at the age of 88.

The renovation of the 1.4 acres in the Franklin Heights-January Street area will add a small playground, a bike/tricycle/walking path and landscaping to better serve the neighborhood. The project is funded through a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) grant provided by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

“We intend to offer programs and special events in partnership with other agencies in Murfreesboro to residents and their children in this underserved area,” said Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Director Lanny Goodwin. “Our goal is to transform an under-developed park that has little recreational value into a space that serves the needs of the neighborhood.”

Read to Succeed, a volunteer organization, has committed to hosting a literacy event at the park. With a more attractive setting and organized programs, the renovated and renamed Gladys Blanton Park will encourage neighborhood children to walk, play and enjoy the outdoors. West View has served a population that is approximately one half-mile away from Old Fort Park, but separated by the busy four lane Old Fort Parkway.

Other partnering agencies that could potentially offer programs in Blanton Park include the Murfreesboro Housing Authority, Murfreesboro City Schools, Murfreesboro Police Department, and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of Rutherford (CADCOR).

“Hosting neighborhood festivals to encourage neighborhoods to meet with these and other agencies will connect valuable services, information, and cultural and recreational activities to the residents of Franklin Heights,” added Goodwin.

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Following public input garnered from a public meeting last September, First Place Finish, Inc. submitted a project bid which was reviewed by Lose and Associates, Inc., who recommended the bid be accepted. Murfreesboro City Council committed \$75,000 in funding from the City's Capital Improvement Projects (C.I.P.) to match the \$75,000 awarded by the Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation. Total funding for the project is \$150,000.

Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 615-890-5333 for more information.

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Photo caption

1. *Renamed West View Mini-Park will undergo renovations.jpg*
2. *West View Mini-Park playground.jpg*

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