

# Turner-Roberts Recreation Center

7201 Colony Loop, Austin, Texas

Thursday, December 20, 2012



## Facility History:

- Joint-Use Facility envisioned through the 2005 Colony Park Master Plan— including Turner Roberts Recreation Center, Volma Overton Elementary School, and other amenities
- Recreation Center opened 2008, following the opening of the elementary school
- Service Area— Colony Park Neighborhood & NE Austin
- Facility named in honor of late civil rights activists, **Dorothy Turner** and **Velma Roberts** recognized as the founders and organizer of the *Black Citizens Task Force* (BCTF, active in the community for more than 25 years); BCTF primary mission was to take action against racism
- Gymnasium named in honor of former **Mayor Pro Tem Danny Thomas**
- Facility Amenities: 7,700 square-foot gymnasium, multi-purpose room, arts and crafts room, weight room, computer room, kitchen facilities, meeting room, corridor art gallery, covered outdoor basketball court and parking

## The Situation and Impact:

October, 2009	Hairline cracks were first noticed and reported to Turner Roberts Recreation Center staff and Parks and Recreation Center Facilities staff. At the time, it was assumed that the cracks were part of normal foundation settling. Staff determined that the cracks should continue to be observed.
March, 2010	The Parks and Recreation Department observed additional hairline cracks in the Turner Roberts Gymnasium. An initial inspection of the cracks indicated points of differential building movement but did not indicate building failure. Minor differential settling is common in new buildings and is not typically an indication of structural defects.
August 2010	Turner Roberts Recreation Center gymnasium began to show hairline cracks in the gymnasium wall. Immediate steps were taken to ensure the safety of the children and staff; Public Works (PWD) assessed the cracks and building movement, but determined that there were no signs of building failure; a section of the gymnasium was sectioned off from public use; recreational programming and services continued under close supervision.
February 2011	Independent <b>Structural Engineer hired</b> to evaluate the facility and make recommendations; Extensive testing began which included building survey, water leak tests, test pits, exterior excavation for foundation inspection; Initial testing was

inconclusive. Further testing and analysis was recommended for August 2011 (after the school year).

- July 2011                    **Temporary closure** of the gymnasium and relocation of gymnasium programs occurred to conduct further testing. Updates sent to key leaders, parents, neighborhood & school advising them of a projected facility re-open on January 27, 2012.
- August 2011                At the beginning of the school year, all PE classes were temporarily relocated to portables and the outdoor basketball court. Further testing began with removal of wood flooring in the gym to allow extensive foundation inspection; Additional notification to parents of children attending Volma Overton Elementary School distributed in English and Spanish.
- September 2011            An external structural engineer conducted extensive testing which included full depth excavation of a foundation pier, soil testing, magnetic resonance of the concrete walls, seismic testing of the foundation.
- Recommendations for repairs were submitted to PWD. PWD assigned another firm from an existing rotation list, **Camp Dresser McKee (CDM)** to provide further forensic and value engineering services. Additional structural concerns emerged; The Draft CDM report was submitted in early November and the final report was submitted November 21. City staff is currently reviewing the report recommendations and evaluating options.
- October 26, 2011            **COA-AISD-Community Field Meeting** was held to walk the entire campus property and jointly determine interim options for restoring safe recreational and school PE programming on site. See proposed *action plan* below. Concurrently, PWD held a preliminary discussion with CDM which resulted in a decision to notify the PARD Director to recommend full building closure.
- October 27, 2011            After PWD briefing, PARD Director agreed to close the Turner Roberts Recreation Center. Staff will be relocated to other recreation centers week of October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- November 4, 2011            **COA-AISD-Community Leaders** update meeting was held at the Volma Overton Elementary School to provide an update as to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center building assessment results determine the desired location for site improvements (enclosed multipurpose gymnasium, restrooms and walking trail) and introduce a recreation program relocation schedule. Based upon feedback, the Parks and Recreation Department revised the program relocation schedule and confirmed acceptance with community leaders the week of November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- November 15, 2011            **COA-AISD-Community** meeting was held at the Volma Overton Elementary School to provide the community an update as to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center building assessment results, share the location of site improvements and introduce a recreation program relocation schedule. Over 3300 community members were invited to attend and were notified of the meeting opportunity

through U.S. mail and flyers sent home with the children of Volma Overton Elementary School.

- November 22, 2011 COA-AISD met to discuss the building permit requirements for the trail, enclosed multipurpose gymnasium, restrooms and associated utilities. Additionally, the group explored building construction material options and began investigating costs associate with each type of material. Detailed cost estimates continue to be gathered.
- December 5, 2011 COA-AISD conference call was held to confirm a request for funding is scheduled to appear on the December 15, 2011 City of Austin Council Agenda. The request will provide funding to construct the enclosed multipurpose gymnasium, restrooms and associated utilities. Construction material options and estimates continue to be explored. Additionally, the conference call discussed options for accelerating the construction. Public Works met with contractors the afternoon of December 6<sup>th</sup> to investigate construction options. Additional details regarding this meeting will be provided in the near future.
- Off-site free recreational programs (including free transportation) have begun in accordance with the community approved program schedule. Future updates will provide participation information.
- December 7, 2011 The Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department were invited and attended the African American Resource Advisory Commission meeting. Staff provided an update on the facility's structural issues and the programming plan for meeting the community's recreational needs.
- December 13, 2011 PARD received approval for the trail permit. Construction on the trail is estimated to begin mid-January.
- December 15, 2011 City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of an amendment to the interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independence School District for the construction and operation of the Turner Roberts Recreation Center and the Overton Elementary School joint-use facility.
- December 20, 2011 As of this date, the off-site program schedule is providing free programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.
- January 6, 2012 As of this date, the off-site program schedule continues providing free-programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.
- Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department has staked the future walking trail and crews will begin work on trail installation in mid-January.

Parks and Recreation Department staff will attend the next Colony Park Neighborhood meeting scheduled for January 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm at Overton Elementary School Library.

January 18, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Department Turner Roberts Recreation Center staff met with community members to discuss the implementation and operations of the youth basketball league. Additionally, Parks and Recreation staff, Public Works staff and City Law Department staff attended a mediation session at Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

January 20, 2012

As of this date, the off-site program schedule continues providing free-programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.

Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department has completed the following work associated with the future walking trail:

- Facility construction crews reviewed the site and determined the appropriate staging area for trail installation materials and
- Facility construction crews initiated the installation of erosion control measures for constructing the trail.

The PARC Planning Division continues to work with the Law Department regarding the most appropriate language and process to amend the current AISD/Parks Department facility agreement to accommodate design, permitting and construction of a multi-purpose structure.

The Parks and Recreation Department staff is preparing a Request for Council Approval (RCA) for February Council consideration. The RCA will request the appropriation of necessary funds to construct a multipurpose structure for joint use between the community, school district and department.

Parks and Recreation Department staff will attend the next Colony Park Neighborhood meeting scheduled for January 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm at Overton Elementary School Library.

January 23, 2012

City staff including representatives from the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department attended the Colony Park Neighborhood meeting. Staff provided updates regarding the progress toward resolving the construction issues surrounding the current gymnasium. Staff also provided a progress update regarding the staking of the trail, erosion control procedures and answered program specific questions. Additionally staff reported that a Request for Council Action seeking the appropriation of funding to proceed with the construction of an alternative multipurpose structure is scheduled to go before City Council on February 9, 2012.

January 31, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Department forwarded (community) feedback to AISD regarding the site plan, drawings and building permit for the alternative multipurpose structure.

February 3, 2012 As of this date, the off-site program schedule continues providing free-programming and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule.

February 9, 2012 Austin City Council passed on consent the following Turner Roberts Recreation Center item: Approve an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget to appropriate \$2,360,000 for the construction of a multipurpose structure at Colony Park next to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

Austin City Council passed on consent the following Volma Overton Elementary School Fee Waiver Request: Approve an ordinance waiving certain fees and requirements for the Volma Overton Family Fun Day event sponsored by the Volma Overton Parent Teacher Association which is to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the Doris Miller Auditorium.

February 17, 2012 As of this date, Turner Roberts staff implemented new off-site programming options (previously reviewed and approved by the community), serve the same number of participants and continue to provide transportation.

Trail construction continues to move forward.

March 8, 2012 City Council approved an ordinance amending the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget to appropriate \$3,170,000 for the repair of the Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

The Public Works Department hosted a pre-construction meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 1:30 pm to discuss Turner Roberts Recreation Center repairs. David Smythe-Macaulay will serve as the project liaison between the City and Chasco Constructors.

March 12, 2012 The Department continues to negotiate an interlocal agreement with AISD to provide for the new multi-purpose building.

Trail construction was stalled due to inclement weather; however, with the forecast predicting sunshine and little rain, the Department is hopeful the weather will allow for continued trail work in the coming weeks.

Representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department will attend the next Colony Park Neighborhood Association Meeting on Monday, March 19, 2012.

April 16, 2012 Representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department attended the Colony Park Neighborhood Association Meeting and verified the community desire to proceed with building the proposed multi-

purpose structure. In addition to supporting construction, the community specifically requested the Parks and Recreation Department research costs associated with adding a kitchen area, gymnasium flooring options and gymnasium dividers.

The Public Works Department representatives confirmed the contractor is currently exposing the existing foundation and evaluating the conditions in order to make the necessary repairs. The project completion date is dependent upon the extent of the repairs.

Ms. Cheryl Bradley, Austin Independent School District, Board of Trustees Member, District 1, attended the Colony Park Neighborhood Meeting and expressed her strong desire to have a gymnasium facility available for the Overton Elementary School students by August, 2012.

April 17, 2012 The Parks and Recreation Department forwarded an official "notice to proceed to AISD to begin construction of the multi-purpose structure.

April 19, 2012 American Contractors mobilized and began site work for the multipurpose structure. The Parks and Recreation Department met with the architect and contractor to discuss the results of the neighborhood meeting and give the architect needed information to develop cost estimates related to the kitchen area and gymnasium.

May 2, 2012 As of this date, the walking trail loop is 90% complete.

In partnership with AISD, the Parks and Recreation Department is working with the architect and contractor to review possible gymnasium floor surfaces. Costs and maintenance requirements for each viable surface are being researched. The community expressed interest in wall padding installation. After review of the construction contract, staff verified this amenity is already part of the existing construction contract.

The architect has provided two possible conceptual kitchen designs to AISD and the Parks and Recreation Department. Cost estimates for both options are being researched in order to present to both the City of Austin City Manager and at a future Colony Park Neighborhood Meeting.

The Turner Roberts Recreation staff continues to provide free off-site structured program including after school activities, healthy snack, and transportation to 120 program participants in accordance with the community approved program schedule. Registration for the third session of the off-site structured program began April 30, 2012. Registration for T-ball and Coach Pitch has been extended until May 11, 2012. Flyers have been sent out to youth at Barbara Jordan Elementary school and Overton Elementary.

May 24, 2012 City Council approved an ordinance amending the Fiscal year 2011-2012 Parks and Recreation Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20110912-006) to appropriate an additional \$800,000 for the design and construction of a kitchen expansion on the

Turner Roberts multi-purpose structure at Colony District Park. The additional funds will be used to incorporate the community's request for a kitchen, gymnasium flooring material, and gym dividers.

Trail work is 98% complete with planting and drainage issues to be addressed in the next month. Staff encouraged usage to assist with the maintenance of the trail (the more it is used the less trail over growth that will occur).

Parks and Recreation Staff plan to attend the next Colony Park Neighborhood Association meeting to discuss planned recreation programs and seek community feedback.

June 25, 2012

As of this date, the Parks and Recreation Department completed trail work associated with the natural walking trail. The Department encourages usage to assist with trail maintenance (the more it is used the less over growth that will occur).

The Park and Recreation Department continues both fee based and free summer programming opportunities as follows:

Summer Camp	Mon-Fri	Ages 5 -12	\$75/week	7:30 am - 6 pm
Teen Camp	Mon-Fri	Ages 13-17	Free	1 pm - 5 pm
Youth Drop In	Mon- Fri	Ages 5-12	Free	8:30 am -1 pm
Boredom Busters	Mon-Fri	Ages 5-12	Free	1 pm – 6 pm

Additionally, a free drop-in summer playground program is available at Davis-White Park. All of the above summer programs provide free lunch.

Registration for Girls Volleyball closed 6/22/2012.  
Registration for Coach Pitch closes 7/9/2012.

The multi-purpose structure construction continues to make progress and continues to be on schedule for opening in late August, early September.

The City of Austin Public Works Department reported excavation and analysis of the existing gymnasium continues and the recent preliminary results are not positive. More information regarding the future plans will be provided when a full analysis is completed.

August 13, 2012

David Smythe-Macaulay, Project Manager, Public Works Department has agreed to provide status updates regarding the progress to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center on a weekly basis. Please expect the updates by the close of business each Friday.

The Department has worked closely with AISD to ensure the Multi-Purpose Structure is completed in anticipation of the new school year. The kitchen expansion is also under construction. Walls, roofing and rough in of all utility are underway. Due to the additional drawings, permits for the kitchen, the gym and kitchen construction will be complete by mid-October.

The Parks and Recreation Department Turner-Roberts Recreation Center continues to offer free off site programming for the youth of the Colony Park neighborhood. Summer programs consisted of Summer Camp which served as the only fee based program for the area. The hours for this program ranged from 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. Parents have the option to register their child/children for the free drop-in program after the summer camp ended on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The programs registration averaged 13 participants per week for the 10 weeks of summer.

As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 the Summer Drop-In program will be extended to August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. An additional Drop-In program was develop, "Boredom Busters". This program runs on a daily bases from 1:00pm to 6:00pm to meet the afternoon youth program needs of the community. The program is housed out of the Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center. Program registration averaged 33 to 40 participants on a daily basis, free transportation is provided.

The Summer Teen program has also been extended to continue until August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The program registration consists of 12 to 15 daily participants. The teens are provided a daily snack and lunch. They participate in various enrichment and physical activities each week. Program hours are from 11:00am to 5:00pm, free transportation is also provided.

September 24, 2012

David Smythe-Macaulay, Project Manager, Public Works Department, continues to provide status updates regarding the progress to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center on a weekly basis. Please continue to expect the updates by the close of business each Friday.

The Department has worked closely with AISD to ensure the Multi-Purpose Structure is completed by mid- October. It has been the priority of both agencies to allow the community usage of the gymnasium at the earliest possible point, including allowing access to the gymnasium while kitchen construction continues. Substantial completion will be evaluated weekly to determine the earliest gymnasium access date.

The Parks and Recreation Department Turner-Roberts Recreation Center continues to offer free off site programming for the youth of the Colony Park neighborhood. The most recent program scheduled was distributed to Colony Park Neighborhood Association Meeting attendees and it was agreed that a future program meeting would be schedule to ensure community input regarding upcoming program opportunities.

Additionally, staff reported the following at the Colony Neighborhood Association Meeting 1) Assistant Director, Kimberly McNeeley, at the

direction of Austin City Council, is reviewing options for sliding scale fees and/or scholarships for individuals who may be in need, 2) Sharon Aguilar, Program Manager, provided information and participated in a discussion regarding locations for the flag football program, 3) Sharon Aguilar, Program Manager, in response to questions about why Eric Richardson and David Blackwood did not attend the Neighborhood meeting, explained the work scheduled for Mr. Richardson and Mr. Blackwood and stated efforts would be made for attendance in the future when it did not compromise programming, and 4) Parks and Recreation Center Staff acknowledged Mr. Richardson and Mr. Blackwood have a positive influence on the community youth.

**December 20, 2012**

David Smythe-Macaulay, Project Manager, Public Works Department, continues to provide status updates regarding the progress to the Turner Roberts Recreation Center on a weekly basis. Please continue to expect the updates by the close of business each Friday.

As of October 22, 2012, the Multi-Purpose Building was opened to the public. The Turner Roberts Recreation staff is providing free on-site structured programs including after school activities, healthy snacks, and transportation to youth in the surrounding service area.

Facility drop-in participation will continue to be monitored through the City of Austin's registration system. In January, patrons will be provided a picture identification badge at no cost to them; the badges will be used to ensure a participant information card has been completed.

The multi-Purpose Building will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will re-open on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Multi-Purpose building will be closed to the public on December 27<sup>th</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in order to replace the gym's curtain divider. Transportation will be made available to nearby recreation centers in order to provide basketball play opportunities to members of the Colony Park neighborhood. All inquiries can be directed to Janet Moore at (512)926-6013. The Multi-Purpose building will reopen December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Plan:**

The following table outlines the key actions taken following the temporary and full closure of the Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

<b>Extensive Building Repairs</b> <i>(Public Works)</i>	<b>Offsite Recreation Programming</b> <i>(Parks and Recreation Dept.)</i>	<b>Install New Amenities</b> <i>(PARD/AISD)</i>
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Department)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft CDM report due October 31<sup>st</sup>;</li> <li>• Review CDM report to determine final repair options and final recommendations</li> <li>• Schedule facility repairs (ASAP); begin repairs</li> <li>• Provide written stakeholder updates monthly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close Recreation Center to staff &amp; public week of October 31<sup>st</sup>; Relocate staff and programs to other sites</li> <li>• All recreation programs and services (free and fee based) will be relocated to other sites and free transportation will be provided, effective week of October 31<sup>st</sup></li> </ul> <p><u>Ongoing Neighborhood Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Neighborhood Leader updates</li> <li>• Periodic neighborhood-wide updates</li> <li>• Create stakeholder information tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:Turnerrobertscenter@austintexas.gov">Turnerrobertscenter@austintexas.gov</a> email address for the general public to submit questions</li> <li>○ Turner Roberts Project webpage including FAQ</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Conceptual Site Plan</u> - <b>complete</b></li> <li>• <u>Multipurpose structure</u> To be located behind recreation center; Joint-use amenity for basketball, PE class activities and school assemblies <b>Under construction</b></li> <li>• <u>Portable Restrooms</u> (To be incorporated into the pavilion per Nov. 4 meeting)</li> <li>• <u>Walking Trail</u> - <b>complete</b></li> </ul>

**Other Public Safety Concern(s) Reported:**

**Roadway connectivity** is a major public safety concern of the neighborhood and school. Currently there is only one road in/out of the campus area. The Neighborhood requested that the City complete the road connectivity for the campus per the Colony Park Master Plan. Action Plan: Public Works reviewed the site plans and prepared a cost estimate for the additional roadway. The project may be included in the upcoming bond program.