



# Welcome to Walnut Springs

City to dedicate new linear park on Saturday with tours and live music

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**M**ayor Betty Ann Matthies will lead the activities in ceremonies dedicating Walnut Springs Park starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14.

Dedication ceremonies will take place on the north, or Court Street, side of the park near the new pedestrian bridge, and all are invited to attend.

Matthies will start the proceedings by welcoming those attending and leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the invocation and blessing of the park, Matthies will introduce guests including City Council members, County Judge Mike Wiggins and commissioners, representatives of the Lower Colorado River Authority, Jacobs Engineering and Westar General Contracting as well as current and former members of the Walnut Branch Committee.

Matthies will describe the history of Walnut Branch and the park. Then she'll call upon legislators for comments.

State Rep. John Kuempel has indicated he will attend unless the Texas House of Representatives is in session Saturday afternoon.

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar had accepted an invitation to attend the dedication; however, the city was notified Wednesday that Cuellar would not be able to be here because of a scheduling conflict. He'll be represented here Saturday by Cynthia Gaona, his

## WANT TO GO?

**What:** Dedication of Walnut Springs Linear Park

**When:** 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, on the Court Street side of the park near the pedestrian bridge.

**When:** The event is free and will include a ceremony, tours and music by Mariachi Sudoeste.

chief of staff.

Assisting Matthies in the unveiling of park dedication plaques will be Sam Flores, chairman of the Walnut Branch Committee and John Taylor, civic leader and former owner of the *Seguin Gazette*.

After the plaques have been revealed, Matthies will cut the ribbon officially opening Walnut Springs Park. Music will be provided by Mariachi Sudoeste, and those attending the dedication ceremony will be invited to tour the park.

Refreshments of lemonade, water and cookies will be available. Commemorative wine glasses, etched with the date of the park's dedication and the date of this year's Moonlight & Roses event, will be on sale for \$5 each.

Main Street Director Mary Jo Filip said wine glasses can be reserved by calling the Main Street office at 830-401-2448.

Walnut Springs Park was financed with a \$3 million bond issue approved by city voters in 2006, and the Lower

Colorado River Authority contributed funds to build the pedestrian bridge that spans the creek.

Features of the new park include walkways, pedestrian bridges, landscaping, lighting and seating along the spring-fed stream.

While the first phase of Walnut Springs Park has been completed and will be dedicated Saturday, two other projects along Walnut Branch are in the planning and design stages.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold community meetings when the project's design is 60 percent complete and again when it is 100 percent. The Corps' design is expected to be finished by the end of this year.

The project area is Walnut Branch between the city's new detention pond and Starcke Park. Throughout the length of the creek, the Corps will remove non-native, invasive vegetation and replant native trees such as oak and pecan. The Corps also will do bank stabilization work at four sites along the creek, and a wetlands demonstration project will be constructed on a half-acre tract behind the Seguin Police Department.

The city also will receive a transportation enhancement grant through the Texas Department of Transportation that will fund the building of a hike and bike trail from Farm Road 78 (New Braunfels Street) to Convent Street.

Design work for the TxDOT project is expected to be completed in 2012, and the work will get under way in late 2012 or early 2013.