



City of Kerrville
701 Main Street
Kerrville, Texas 78028
(830) 257-8000
www.kerrvilletx.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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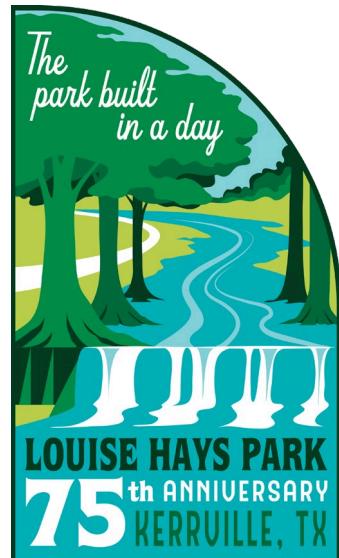
Contact: Stuart Cunyus, Public Information Officer
(830) 258-1116
stuart.cunyus@kerrvilletx.gov

Louise Hays Park celebrates 75th anniversary: A legacy of community spirit and natural beauty

Kerrville, Texas (Jan. 22, 2025) – The Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce that 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of Louise Hays Park, a cherished cornerstone of Kerrville's recreational and cultural life. From its humble beginnings as a "park built in a day" by an entire community in 1950, Louise Hays Park has grown into a beloved gathering space for locals and visitors alike. It is a testament to Kerrville's spirit of collaboration and civic pride.

In 1950, local philanthropist Robert S. Hays donated 35 acres of his family ranch to the City of Kerrville with two key conditions:

the park would be named after his wife, Louise, and it must be completed in a single day. The community rose to the challenge, raising \$20,000 and mobilizing volunteers, businesses and



schools to complete the park's construction on April 26, 1950 – forever etching this unique story into the heart of Kerrville's history.

Over the past 75 years, the park has evolved, expanding to 63.6 acres and adding a variety of amenities while maintaining the natural beauty that first made it a local treasure. Today, Louise Hays Park offers an interactive fountain, shaded playgrounds, a fitness court, pavilions, the Kerrville River Trail, Guadalupe River access, public art installations, a rainwater catchment system, and numerous picnic areas. The park also hosts several beloved annual events, such as Concerts by the River, Kerrville's Fourth on the River, and Family Fright Night, ensuring it remains a central hub for community activities. We invite the community and visitors to explore the park throughout the year and enjoy everything it offers.

On April 26, 2025, the Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department will host a celebration to commemorate the anniversary of the park's opening. Expect a day filled with festivities, live music, and reflections on the history and significance of this beloved space. Stay tuned for more details!

For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (830) 257-7300, recreation@kerrvilletx.gov, visit the city's website at www.kerrvilletx.gov, or follow us on Facebook at City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department or Instagram at cityofkerrville.



Pictured: Louise Hays breaking ground in Louise Hays Park on April 26, 1950



Pictured: Louise Hays and Robert S. Hays with community members next to Louise Hays Park's monument sign.



Pictured: Aerial of Louise Hays Park in 1950



Pictured: Louise Hays Park during Kerrville's Fourth on the River in 2019

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