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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **JESSE OWENS PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO BE UNVEILED AUG. 25**

After several months of work, Jesse Owens Park will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony to debut improvements at its ball fields and playground facilities. Other upgrades include a complete irrigation system throughout the park, improved grandstands, a resurfaced parking lot, covered playgrounds, and modern irrigation.

The ceremony will take place this Saturday, Aug. 25, at 10 a.m. near the playground area on the west side of the park at 400 S. Sarnoff Drive. Ward 2 Tucson City Council Member Paul Cunningham will host and speak at the event. Other speakers include Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson Parks and Recreation Director Brent Dennis, and more. Jesse Owens' granddaughter, Donna Prather Williams, will talk about the legacy of her father and share some of the history of the park's naming after Owens died in Tucson in 1980.

"This park has gone decades without the investment it needs," said Council Member Cunningham. "Neighbors and users of the park and the legacy of Jesse Owens deserve these upgrades."

Of the approximately \$2 million spent to improve the park, half was used on an updated irrigation system. The money for the irrigation system came from Tucson Water, while the rest came from impact fees from new development, as well as grants and services from local partners like the Tohono O'odham Nation, Cox Communications, KB Home, and Sherwin Williams.

Former Arizona Wildcat basketball player Corey Williams contributed money to pay for improvements to the basketball court.

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*If participants require an accommodation or materials in accessible format or require a foreign language interpreter or materials in a language other than English for any event, please call Tucson Parks and Recreation, 791-4873, at least five business days in advance.*