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MUELLER’S JESSIE ANDREWS PARK, GIANT OCTOPUS SCULPTURE COME TO LIFE

New green space marks eighth signature park for mixed-use, mixed-income community in Northeast Austin

AUSTIN, Texas (Nov. 10, 2020) – [Mueller](#), Austin’s mixed-use, mixed-income community, is pleased to announce the official opening of Jessie Andrews Park, located at 2601 Philomena St. One of eight public parks in Mueller, the new green space marks the latest milestone toward the airport redevelopment’s commitment to delivering 140 acres—20 percent of Mueller—as well-designed and well-maintained parkland to Northeast Austin.

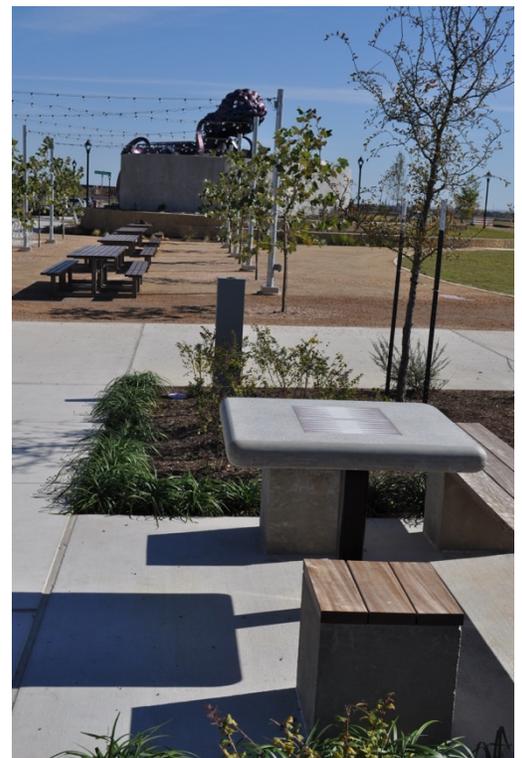
“Mueller’s latest park is yet another gem in the community’s open space crown,” said Greg Weaver, executive vice president of [Catellus](#), the master developer of the Mueller community. “This is a special place where people who live in Mueller and throughout Austin can gather for fun and relaxation within the residential setting of Mueller and the urban environment of Austin.”

Jessie Andrews Park is bordered by Philomena, Robert Browning, Doc Reeves and Eberly streets, situated in the Northeast area of the neighborhood near the AISD Northeast Middle School under construction. The park is approximately one acre and offers a wide variety of amenities within the compact space.

The park features an outdoor dining area with space for occasional food trucks, a nature-inspired playscape, shaded strolling paths, tables for games such as chess and backgammon, restrooms, bike racks, a live performance space and more. The park and its various amenities are anchored by a central open lawn for a variety of family activities.

“The park’s design was intended to reflect Austin’s active lifestyle that encompasses a love for food, music and community,” said Chris Lalich, the park’s principal designer and director of project operations for [RVi](#) Planning + Landscape Architecture. “We think Austinites will quickly learn this is another special place in the Mueller community.”

One of the park’s most striking features is its public art installation. Jessie Andrews Park is now home to “Ocho,” a 20-foot octopus sculpture perched atop the restroom building. Ocho’s tentacles extend down to the ground to a landscape area reminiscent of a coral reef. The sculpture is made of forged metal and coated with color shift paint meant to mimic how octopi camouflage themselves. Mueller once again collaborated with renowned artist [Dixie Friend Gay](#), who also created “Nessy” in Lake Park and a giant spider sculpture in the Southwest Greenway.



Jessie Andrews Park, named after the first female graduate and professor at UT, is Mueller’s eighth park, featuring game tables, an outdoor dining area and “Ocho,” a giant metal octopus sculpture inspired by the creature films of the 1950s. Photo courtesy Catellus Development.

“It’s been both an honor and a pleasure to create this truly unique piece of art that I think will dazzle and delight park goers for generations to come,” said Friend Gay. “I designed the sculpture by drawing inspiration from the classic creature movies of the 1950s and 1960s, such as ‘20,000 Leagues Under the Sea’ and ‘Mysterious Island,’ and my hope is that it fosters that sense of child-like wonder for park-goers.” The film reference is fitting as the park where Ocho perches is located near Austin Film Studios.

The park is named after [Jessie Andrews](#), the first woman to graduate from and the first woman to teach at The University of Texas at Austin. Andrews graduated in 1883 with a Bachelor of Letters degree in German before becoming the school’s first female instructor in 1888, teaching German and French languages.

During her 30-year tenure as a Longhorn instructor, Andrews spent nine consecutive summers traveling by train to earn her Masters in Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago in 1906. Additionally, she was elected into the inaugural membership of UT’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter, named Poet Laureate by the Texas Woman’s Press Association, and published a book of her poems in 1910. UT’s Andrews Residence Hall is named for her.

Jessie Andrews Park joins Mueller’s abundant parks, including the Northwest Greenway, Lake Park, Southwest Greenway, Ella Wooten Park, Paggi Square, John Gaines Park and Mary Elizabeth Branch Park. Each park offers distinctive features to support a variety of activities. Nearly every resident at Mueller lives within 600 feet of a park or open space.

The completion of Jessie Andrews Park follows a collection of recent groundbreaking and construction announcements for the Mueller community, including the neighborhood’s first boutique hotel — the five-story, 120-room [Origin Hotel](#) developed by Thrash Group, situated in the heart of Mueller’s town center district, [Aldrich Street](#). Additional projects under construction include new offices for [Austin Energy](#); the 400+ unit AMLI apartments that will feature approximately 60 long-term, income-qualified units; an [events pavilion](#) at Branch Park; 11 affordable row homes from [Habitat for Humanity](#); and the 235,000-square-foot [Shorenstein](#) office building, which will have ground-floor retail. The Mueller H-E-B also opened a new food hall called “[Main Street](#),” featuring a restaurant from *Top Chef* alumna Tiffany Derry.

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About Mueller: [Mueller](#) is one of the nation’s most notable mixed-income, mixed-use communities located in the heart of Austin. The 700-acre site of Austin’s former airport is being transformed into a diverse, sustainable, compatible, revitalizing, and fiscally responsible master-planned community. Mueller is a public-private partnership between the City of Austin Economic Development department and Catellus Development. Upon completion, Mueller will feature at least 6,200 single-family and multi-family homes (including more than 1,500 affordable homes), a mixed-use town center district known as Aldrich Street, 4.5 million square feet of prime commercial space, including 750,000 square feet of local and regional retail space, 140 acres of public parks and open space, plus Dell Children’s Medical Center, the Austin Film Studios, The Thinkery children’s museum, H-E-B grocer and the Austin ISD Performing Arts Center. For more information, find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About Catellus: [Catellus](#) is a national leader in mixed-use development, solving some of America's most complex land challenges. With nearly 30 years of experience as a master developer, Catellus has transformed former airports, military bases, and urban industrial sites into thriving retail, residential, and commercial communities. These projects, which often include substantial public amenities, add economic, social and environmental value to the communities they serve. Catellus has both the financial strength and development expertise to turn vision into reality at even the most demanding development sites.

About the City of Austin, Economic Development Department: The [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#) influences revenue generation through its programs and investments in order to secure economic mobility for our residents and promote a competitive, sustainable, vibrant, and equitable economy for all. With a focus on regenerating key assets of the city, the Redevelopment Division has implemented catalyst redevelopment projects, including the Seaholm District, Second Street Retail District, and the Mueller Redevelopment, an award-winning national model for responsible urban planning and development.