



JERRY LARSON, TRIBUNE-HERALD FILE PHOTO

Waco Parks Director Jonathan Cook stands along Waco Creek just across Clay Avenue from the Alice Martinez Rodriguez Park site.

Park

From A1

The park's accessible playground and "all wheels course," essentially a paved pump track with some skatepark-like features designed for use by just about any wheeled equipment from skateboards and bikes to wheelchairs, are among features not found in other city parks. The location just off Valley Mills Drive not far from downtown also adds to the park's appeal, and it will be a "great enhancement to our park portfolio," Council Member Josh Borderud said.

Waco Mayor Jim Holmes said the parks department has made significant community outreach efforts, including a meeting earlier this month with Mobilize Waco, a local disability justice coalition. Staffers left with plenty of notes on ways to make the park even more inclusive, Holmes said.

With cost concerns in mind, the city had contractors submit bids with specific elements broken out as optional extras, including the sports courts, the all wheels course, a concert and event lawn and the purchase of playground equipment. The base bids included site development and infrastructure along with historical and interpretive elements highlighting the area's Hispanic community, and core park amenities including playground, trails, plaza, pavilion and a bridge over Waco Creek to the track and field complex, Cook said.

Millis' \$16.5 million bid included the base, along with the sports courts, all wheels course and concert lawn. The city's separate purchase of playground equipment will cost about \$250,000 less than it would have cost for Millis to provide the equipment itself.

For the same set of alternatives, Barsh Construction Co. of Waco



CITY OF WACO, PROVIDED

A "folklore figure" resembling a dragon is one of the elements planned for the accessible playground areas in the new Alice Martinez Rodriguez Park.

submitted a \$23.4 million bid, and The Fain Group of Fort Worth submitted a \$23.3 million bid, according to documents presented to the city council.

"Part of the evaluation was making sure they had projects similar in scope and size and they do have some really high quality projects in the Metroplex," Cook said of Millis.

The firm's website lists several recreation center construction projects, along with Buffalo Bayou Park, Midtown Park and the Hermann Park Japanese Garden in Houston.

The sports courts planned for Alice Martinez Rodriguez Park will include areas for basketball and pickleball. The "great lawn" for concerts and community events will be leveled, sodded and manicured, not left as simply an open field, Cook said.

While a renovation of the track and field complex is not included in the work just about to start, the parks department remains committed to updating the facility, with \$2.2 million left for it out of the \$25.34 million the city budgeted for park design and construction in 2023, he said. The city has owned the track complex since the 1970s, when it partnered with Baylor on a renovation, though Baylor maintained and operated the facility until 2015, after Baylor moved its track program to a new complex. The city acquired the Floyd Casey land in 2016 in a swap with Baylor for land near its new McLane Stadium.

The Design Workshop firm, founded in North Carolina in 1969, designed the park under a \$3 million contract the city approved in 2023.

WWII

From A1

The book's title, in fact, comes from Curre's account: "That kind of stuff is tattooed on your soul. You never forget it."

"It's a good microcosm of the experience of Texans in the war. Every branch of the military is represented," Sloan said, adding he often tells his Baylor students, "There's not one World War II story. There are millions of World War II stories." Several of the veterans

'Tattooed on My Soul' lecture

When, where: 6 p.m. Thursday at the Mayborn Museum, 1300 S. University Parks Drive.

Admission: Free.

whose wartime stories are in "Tattooed On My Soul" had Waco or Baylor connections, including:

- Curre, a Pearl Harbor survivor who went on to a long career as a Waco Tribune-Herald pressman
- former Waco Mayor Oscar DuCongé, who fought in Italy
- longtime local Judge

Bill Logue, captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and held as a prisoner of war

- pastor and Baylor religion professor Jack Flanders Jr., a fighter pilot in Europe
- Waco physician Hannibal "Joe" Jaworski, who served as a military doctor in the Pacific theater.

The book also includes the oral history of Dick Cole, a co-pilot with Army Air Force pilot Jimmy Doolittle on the famous Doolittle Raid, an air attack of Japan in the early months of America's war effort.

Sloan noted that all of the veterans interviewed for the project have died, but their recorded interviews are still alive in the institute's collection and digitized for easy access.

"It was really a wonderful project to work on," he said.



ROD AYDELOTTE, TRIBUNE-HERALD FILE PHOTO

Navy veteran Frank Curre survived the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Castleman Creek Watershed Association will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on September 4, 2025 at 11:30 AM at Tejun Restaurant, 711 Robinson Dr., Robinson, Texas 76706.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

For the proposal: Kelvin Nussman, Tom Giebe, Richard Williams, James Lauderdale

Against the proposal: Present and not voting: Scott Jenkins

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.069074/\$100 Adopted	\$0.066784/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.002290
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-3.32%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$391,241	\$411,238
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$33,753	\$28,560
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$357,488	\$382,678
Tax on average residence homestead	\$246.93	\$255.57
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$8.64 3.50%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the governing body of Castleman Creek Watershed Association proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of general operations.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.131974 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of McLennan Community College.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.131974 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.128933 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.138012 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for McLennan Community College from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that McLennan Community College may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that McLennan Community College is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 26, 2025 AT 6:00 PM AT McLennan Community College, Conference Center, 4601 N 19th St, Waco, TX 76708.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, McLennan Community College is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Governing Body of McLennan Community College at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Dennis Clark, K. Paul Holt, Ilda Sabido, Jonathan Hill, Ricky Turman, Earl Stinnett

AGAINST the proposal: Present and not voting: Liz Palacios

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by McLennan Community College last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by McLennan Community College this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.131974	\$0.131974	increase of 0.000000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$223,271	\$237,677	increase of 6.45%
Tax on average homestead	\$294.66	\$313.67	increase of 19.01, or 6.45%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$39,549,615	\$41,271,374	increase of 1,721,759, or 4.35%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for McLennan Community College at 254-757-5130 or property.tax@mcclennan.gov, or visit www.mcclennan.gov/tax for more information.