

CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH TEXAS

PRESS RELEASE



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FARMERS BRANCH
TEXAS



JOYA AT ORAN GOOD PARK, A ONE-OF-A-KIND SIGNATURE PLAYGROUND, OFFICIALLY OPENS IN CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH

The 18,000-square foot playground features a 27-foot futuristic sphere that will be lit with colorful LED lighting to encourage play during the day and evening

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FARMERS BRANCH, Texas (January 20, 2024) – The City of Farmers Branch officially opened the city’s one-of-a-kind signature playground – Joya at Oran Good Park – and welcomed children and families to play on the first-of-its-kind, all-accessible, glow-in-the-dark playground in the United States.

The 18,000 square-foot play space includes a main playground area and a fenced-in tot play area. The playground features a 27-foot futuristic sphere where children can climb inside, a zip line, a spin zone, glow seating, swings, and an obstacle course - all lit with colorful LED lighting. While fun in the daytime, Joya comes alive at night with interactive features that glow, allowing for play during the day and evening.

The visionary behind the project is Deputy City Manager Mike Mashburn. Gaining inspiration from an article about a public space in China with interesting lighting, along with multiple family trips to Disney theme parks, Mashburn set out to create something unique that would be special for the local community as well as be a destination for Dallas-Fort Worth families and beyond.

“It is so exciting to finally open Joya at Oran Good Park, a first-class, all-accessible playground here in Farmers Branch,” Mashburn said. “This is a public space that kids and families of all ages and abilities will enjoy year-round. We are looking forward to seeing Joya bring to life the fun and joy that comes from a one-of-a-kind facility like this.”

Translated as “Jewel” in Spanish, Joya will be the crown jewel of playgrounds in Farmers Branch and the region. The name Joya was chosen specifically to pay homage to the Hispanic and Latino residents in Farmers Branch. According to the 2021 census, 45 percent of Farmers Branch residents have Hispanic or Latino heritage.

Alongside the main playground is a tot playground, specifically designed for kids aged two to five. The younger kids have more than 7,000 square feet inside a fenced area that includes a natural sensory play area, an LED lit spin zone, and ground-level and ramp-structured playgrounds.

The design and construction of the signature playground have been primarily funded with federal and state grant dollars, with \$750,000 coming from the State of Texas Parks & Wildlife Grant and \$4 million from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act.

A full study on light pollution was completed by the city before fully designing the Joya project. All specifications meet International Dark Sky Association (IDA) guidelines. Additionally, the IDA has recently partnered with the National Audubon Society on their recommendations, allowing the city to be in compliance with both entities. A riparian buffer will be planted around the creek to help with runoff, pollutants, and erosion, and will invite wildlife.

Joya is located at the corner of Tom Field Road and Valley View Lane. Additionally,

Farmers Branch Parks & Recreation will host various programs, events, and food trucks throughout the year. For more on Joya at Oran Good Park visit www.playatjoya.com.

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About Farmers Branch:

Nestled in the heart of Dallas County, the City of Farmers Branch, Texas, offers a vibrant and progressive community that seamlessly combines small-town charm with urban amenities. Renowned for its strong sense of community, exceptional quality of life, and strategic location attracting national and international corporations, Farmers Branch thrives as a small but mighty first-ring suburb of Dallas. With a population of over 38,000 in about 12 square miles, the city remains dedicated to preserving its unique character while embracing progress and innovation. Supported by a strong community spirit, a focus on economic development, and a commitment to exceptional services, Farmers Branch is the ideal place for individuals, families, and businesses to flourish. For more, visit Farmersbranchtx.gov.

Contact:

Tami Howard Carr | Tony Fay PR | 469.525.8850 | tami@tonyfaypr.com
Jonathan Deutsch | Tony Fay PR | 469.534.8525 | jonathan@tonyfaypr.com



Tony Fay PR | 2626 Cole Ave, Ste 300, Dallas, TX 75074

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