

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF CITY CODE CHAPTER 14-1, ARTICLE 4 (APPROVAL OF A NAME FOR A PUBLIC FACILITY OR PROPERTY); RENAMING SHADYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AS “GUITARLAND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK”; AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO UPDATE ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION, MAPS, AND SIGNAGE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The City Council makes the following findings:

- (1) Shadywood Neighborhood Park, located at 7506 Shadywood Drive and affectionately known as “Guitarland”, was home to renowned Austin guitarist Van Wilks for 23 years. It was not only his residence but also a cherished teaching studio and creative haven, a place where music lived and thrived and where generations of musicians found inspiration, mentorship, and community; and
- (2) Music and cultural arts in Austin are a cornerstone of the City’s quality of life, yet there continues to be an urgent need for affordable living and creative spaces for musicians; and
- (3) The artistry, perseverance, and impact of the countless musicians who have shaped Austin’s cultural identity are deserving of acclaim and enduring recognition, and this tribute honors all musicians whose creativity and dedication inspire future generations; and
- (4) In Austin, a city celebrated worldwide for its vibrant music scene and great guitarists, Van Wilks has been recognized as one of the City’s accomplished players. His career has brought him critical praise, numerous honors, and induction into the Austin Chronicle’s Texas Music Hall of Fame. In 1997, the City Council declared November 6 as Van Wilks Day.
- (5) In March 2024, the City acquired the property at 7506 Shadywood Drive for parks and recreation purposes and plans to develop it as a City park.

PART 2. City Council waives the requirements of City Code Chapter 14-1, Article 4 (*Approval of a Name for a Public Facility or Property*).

PART 3. Shadywood Neighborhood Park is renamed as “Guitarland Neighborhood Park.”

PART 4. The City Manager is directed to update all relevant documentation, maps, and signage to reflect the new name. A sign commemorating 7506 Shadywood Drive as Guitarland Neighborhood Park should be prepared as soon as reasonably practicable. The sign shall comply with Austin Parks and Recreation’s rules and regulations for signs in parks and the City Manager shall report back on the status of the sign preparation by no later than December 8, 2025.

PART 5. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2025 § _____
Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
Deborah Thomas Erika Brady
City Attorney City Clerk