Commissioner Tommy Calvert spearheads $18 million in spending for parks, roadwork, and aid for Alamo Colleges students

Rehabilitation of former golf course in partnership with Brooks and SA Arboretum promises conservation and ADA accessibility in Southeast Bexar County.

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, Bexar County Commissioner’s Court approved major investments in infrastructure and scholarships thanks to initiatives led by Commissioner Tommy Calvert of Precinct 4. Calvert led the Arboretum Board to consider developing the former golf course after Calvert received calls about homeless camps forming on the property.

After a meeting in which Commissioner Calvert asked the Arboretum Board to look at purchasing the shuttered Republic Golf Course, the board moved forward a partnership with Brooks to create an Arboretum and for the County to develop a 167-acre Arboretum and a 17.92-acre all accessible Country Park.

In late 2022, Calvert pushed forward a change to the Commissioners Court Capital Improvement Budget to move money originally slated for the Arboretum to build a road near the TJ Max distribution warehouse to the former Republic Golf Course for Brooks and the Arboretum to develop an educational park on tree life with 7.3 million in seed funding.

After exercising an MOU with a Writ of Mandamus to acquire 17.92 acres, Commissioner Calvert plans to allocate 9 million dollars for the first County park on the Southside that can accommodate those with disabilities while adding about 15.5 million dollars to the Salado Creek Linear Parkway as part of the Salado Creek Phase I & II plans. On Tuesday, he will allocate 7.3 million dollars so that Brooks can purchase the entire property and do a portion of the master plan.

“I am committed to carrying out this ambitious project, which will provide a safe, accessible park for people with disabilities,” says Commissioner Calvert. “The southeast area of Bexar County has lacked a fully accessible outdoor space for too long. Accessibility should be the norm, not the exception.”
“The plan for a multi-inclusional, educational park space is a wonderfully progressive idea and would certainly be a draw for our handicapped citizens who have often been excluded from recreational facilities,” says Steven B. Kensing of the Pecan Valley Neighborhood Association. “This plan will do much to rectify that mistake and garner positive acclaim for our area.”

**Arboretum San Antonio Relocation and ADA Accessible Park**

Using County funding, Arboretum San Antonio will purchase 17.92 acres while leasing 158.5 acres of land from Brooks Development Authority at the former location of The Republic Golf Course. In addition, an MOU with Writ of Mandamus has been signed between Brooks and the County, which will lease 18 acres for an accessible county park (exact location to be defined during Master Planning) until the tract is conveyed in fee simple to the County.

**Salado Creek Linear Park - Accessible Community Park**

*Accessible Fitness Area  *Accessible Playground  *Accessible Spash Pad  *Picnic Area  *Pavilion
$1,294,182 will be awarded to the Heritage and Parks Department to provide for the purchase of construction services for the Pletz County Park Recreational Project, located at 3831 Belgium Lane. The scope of work includes Basketball and tennis courts, fencing and lockable gates at courts, picnic areas, tables, chairs, paving, lighting, and soft material in swing set area.
The asphalt parking lot adjacent to the sports court and pavilion parking lot to be resurfaced, and restriped, adding new ADA signage.
Picnic area shade structure to be installed.
Current Pletz Park sign to be replaced by new stone monument sign.

**Foxcross Drive Reconstruction Project in Kirby**

$258,031 in Community Development Block Grant funds from the US Department of Housing will be allocated to completing the reconstruction of 1,300 linear feet of Foxcross Drive from Threadway to Shamrock in the City of Kirby—a much welcome improvement for the small town’s drivers.

**Funding for Alamo Colleges Foundation**

At the request of Commissioner Calvert, the Economic & Community Development Department will provide $1,200 to the Alamo Colleges Foundation. This follows Commissioner Calvert’s own $2,500 contribution on October 24 as part of the Foundation’s Annual Blue Jean Benefit. All
funds will support scholarships and student services, including a food pantry, mental health care services, and student transportation vouchers.

**Celebrate Veterans' Day with the Commissioner**

Come join Commissioner Calvert at the Veterans Day Parade this Saturday starting at 11 am. The parade will kick off at Milam Park at 11AM and will travel down historic Houston Street. Commissioner Calvert recognizes the contributions of veterans to our nation and to our community and has consistently advocated for them. He was recognized as an Honorary Commander of the 12th Flying Training Wing at Randolph in 2016 and an Honorary Commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland in 2019.

For more information, visit [www.usmypa.com](http://www.usmypa.com).