



# DIXON W. HOLMAN PARK

## DESIGNED WITH NATURE IN MIND

**B**y definition, a park is a place that exudes nature. A great park beckons us to take a break from our busy lives and experience all the subtle sights and sounds that nature has to offer.

Park designers had that sentiment in mind when they designed Dixon W. Holman Park. Besides the benches and picnic tables that are standard accessories in a typical park setting, this park also features a deck and concrete seating built around the playground for observation of active and natural areas. Meandering throughout the park's seven acres, a strategically planned path fosters a connection between the developed and undisturbed areas.

Each fall, hundreds of millions of Monarch butterflies fly south from the United States and Canada to central Mexico for the winter. Dixon W. Holman Park provides important resources for these creatures during their long migration. As a certified "Monarch Waystation," the park provides food sources in the form of butterfly and tropical milkweeds. Milkweed and other nectar plants form a butterfly garden along the edges of the natural areas, also providing needed shelter for larvae, pupae and the adult butterflies.

In addition to providing habitat for Monarch butterflies, park planners introduced twenty-eight varieties of trees and plants to attract other wildlife. Three Purple Martin houses were also erected to help control mosquito and insect populations. In all, more than thirty species of birds and animals have been spotted in the park.

While Dixon W. Holman Park exemplifies the interaction between the natural and the man-made, sustainable management practices are what allow these two opposing forces to coexist. Park workers amended the soil to reduce the need for insecticides. Mulch is applied around the base of plants to reduce the growth of weeds and to help plants retain water. Finally, the density and integrity of the site is controlled by thinning vegetation, removing dead stalks from plants before the next growing season, and removing invasive species of plants from the site.

While the park is a wonderful place to relax, the man for whom it is named has not spent much time resting during his lifetime. A long time Arlington resident, Justice Dixon W. Holman is a former member of the Texas House of Representatives, the Arlington City Council and the Board of Trustees for the Tarrant County College System. Justice Holman has also served on the Texas Second Court of Appeals. In 2003, Justice Holman won the Tarrant County Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award for his competency, integrity, and efficiency as a judge.



Dixon W. Holman with his wife, Sharon at the park dedication, May 31, 2008

