

RICHARD GREENE LINEAR PARK

A PITCH FOR PROGRESS



Mayor Greene throws out the ceremonial first pitch in the new ballpark on Opening Day in 1994.

Richard Greene Linear Park is named in honor of Arlington's mayor from 1987 to 1997. The park was dedicated in 1994, coinciding with the official opening of The Ballpark in Arlington. Richard Greene Linear Park borders Johnson Creek and weaves its way through Arlington's Entertainment District, by the Convention Center, Rangers Ballpark in Arlington and the Cowboys Stadium.

Prior to serving five terms as mayor of Arlington, Richard Greene served for more than a decade as chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission and mayor pro-tempore. During Mayor Greene's tenure, the city developed a public-private partnership with the Texas Rangers Baseball Club that resulted in the construction of a new ballpark. The Ballpark in Arlington was constructed following overwhelming approval by voters in the largest election turnout at the time. With Mayor Greene's assistance, the 1995 Major League Baseball All-Star Game took place in Arlington, putting the national spotlight on north Texas.

Greene was instrumental in many other advancements for Arlington as well. He mobilized federal, state and local governments to persuade General Motors to retool rather than close the Arlington assembly plant. Greene also contributed to the formation of the River Legacy Foundation and its unique public-private partnership with the city, which resulted in the preservation and enhancement of River Legacy Parks and construction of the Living Science Center. Additionally, under Greene's leadership, commitment to public safety became the city's highest priority. A ten-fold increase in road construction was achieved and the city launched an economic development partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

While mayor, Greene served as the chief executive officer of Vandergriff Chevrolet. He later became the associate publisher of the Star-Telegram and then chief executive officer of the Dallas 2012 Olympic Bid. Greene was also instrumental in launching the Arlington Technology Incubator, a joint venture between the University of Texas at Arlington and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. As a result of these political, business and environmental credentials, he was asked to serve as an adjunct professor in the UT Arlington School of Urban Affairs.



In 2003, President George W. Bush appointed Greene as the regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, where he served through 2009. With oversight of federal programs in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, his service included managing the response to environmental and health issues wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita that devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. Greene's pragmatic and common-sense approach to the mission of protecting human health and the environment, while preserving economic competitiveness in the region, earned him national accolades. During Greene's service as EPA regional administrator, the Dallas-Fort Worth area became the nation's first region to receive federal approval for a plan to bring the community into compliance with federal clean air standards.

Over the years, Richard Greene's commitment to Arlington has been evidenced in the progress he facilitated for our city. Through his service as a business leader, council member, mayor pro-tempore, mayor and regional administrator, Greene has dedicated his life to making Arlington a better place for all its citizens.



Placement of home plate at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington.
From left: Tom Schaeffer, President of the Texas Rangers; Richard Greene, Mayor of Arlington; Tom Vandergriff, former Mayor of Arlington; George W. Bush, Co-Owner of the Texas Rangers

References:
Portrait courtesy of the Greene family collection
Photos of Texas Rangers courtesy of the City of Arlington

