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KICKING THE BALL AT TECHNOLOGY
City of Bethany invests in SUTU smart soccer wall

BETHANY, OK January 31, 2019- Bethany City Council voted this month to implement Oklahoma's first park that integrates smart technology and physical activity. Set to open in Spring 2019, Bethany's Garrison Park will feature a SUTU Soccer Wall which employs technology to provide interactive games for both groups and individual players. This interactive wall contains 16 illuminated panels that register ball contact through sensors. Players can download an app on their smart phone and challenge others around the world. The wall offers a myriad of games and challenges, is designed for all ages, and fully accessible to all abilities.

"Bethany is lucky to have a council and city staff that are willing to invest in our youth and every area of our great community," Bethany Mayor, KP Westmoreland said. "Garrison Park is only the first to see this new interactive equipment. My hope is that our other parks will soon be home to some of the high-tech playground equipment that is available in the world our children are growing up in."

Mayor Westmoreland has been working alongside city staff to re-engage underserved parks in the Bethany community. Historically, technology has not played a major role in park design and development, but new advances in technology help the City of Bethany modernize its parks to match the growing and changing needs of the community. Mayor Westmoreland proposed Garrison Park, located on 19th Street East of Rockwell, as the site of the new SUTU Soccer Wall because it has not had any major updates since the 1970's.

"Our citizens are the backbone of our city. Engaged citizens makes a strong community. And a community that gathers in the park will be more likely to be physically active and healthier." said Mayor Westmoreland. "A healthy community is one with lower crime rates and a hope for the future. Investing in Garrison Park will not only help create a healthier and safer environment, hopefully we'll see healthier relationships as people choose to play together."

In communities with an existing SUTU Soccer wall, users experience a shared play environment, stronger communities and families. The soccer wall brings people of all ages and abilities out to play and exercise. Yalp, the maker of the SUTU Soccer Wall, is the founder of interactive play and currently the global leader for interactive indoor/outdoor play equipment.

For more information, visit www.cityofbethany.org.

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