



The Summer Playgrounds Program has been around since 1928. Staff, such as Tinora Williams, started her career in Playgrounds, and was able to personally experience the benefits of this program. Tinora Williams began working for the Summer Playgrounds Program in 1978. At age 17, she was hired as a an Activity Aide. She experienced the families that did not have the money to afford day care, and would drop their children off at Summer Playgrounds. Tinora said, "Playgrounds are the backbone for many families that can't afford day care in the Summer. There's diversity, a free luncheon program, and a positive outlet for their children".

Tinora became a Program Specialist at the [Rosewood Recreation Center](#). When asked by her Supervisor, Albert Priestley, what she wanted to do, she said, "I want to sit where you are, and run it." Today, Tinora is the Supervisor at [Hancock Recreation Center](#). Little did she know that one of the Walnut Creek Playground participants would be on her Hancock Recreation Center staff. Jesus Vazquez started attending the Playgrounds Program at the age of 8. His aunt worked at the Quail Creek Park site, and the following year, his mother started working at the Buttermilk Park site. At the age of 15, Jesus became a volunteer for the program, and by age 19, he was hired as a Rover for the Playgrounds Program. Now Jesus is an Activity Specialist at Hancock Recreation Center. He enjoys helping others, and working with children. Jesus grew up as an only child, and saw the program as a way to interact with kids from different lifestyles. Tinora stated, "It was important for Jesus to create bonds with other children from all over Austin. This built his character."

Beginning June 10, 2013, the Playgrounds Program will be held at 16 playground sites in Austin. For more information, visit [www.austintexas.gov/department/summer-playground-program](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/summer-playground-program).

