



Application for Park Naming/Renaming

1. Proposed Name for Park:

Heath Eiland BMX and Skate Park

2. Biographical description:

Known for a smile that could brighten up a room, Heath River Eiland believed in treating everyone the same. Heath never let what he didn't have keep him from enjoying what he did have. He saw the good in everyone and the positive in everything. On May 10th, Heath suffered a head injury while long boarding near the Mopac bridge on Parmer Lane. Heath was not wearing a helmet and sadly he did not recover from his injury. As painful as it continues to be for his family and friends, there is comfort in knowing that when the Lord called Heath home, Heath was happy, with friends and doing what he love, skateboarding. He became a local hero by helping to raise the awareness and importance of wearing helmets. In death, Heath continued his "Heath Like" giving sprite and gave life and hope to others through organ and tissue donation.

3. Involvement in Austin Community:

Student at:

Summit Elementary School - 2207 Brigadoon Ln. Austin, TX 78727

Murchison Middle School - 3700 N Hills Dr, Austin, TX 78731

Anderson High School - 8403 Mesa Dr, Austin, TX 78702

Activities:

Anderson High School Soccer, Boy Scouts, Upward Basketball, Active member at St. Albert the Great Church, studied guitar at The Pflugerville School of Music, Member of the Anderson Wrestling Team, Member of the Junior National Society, Middle School Soccer, Basketball, Football Player, Middle School JV Choir Member, Member of the Lone Star Soccer Club

- Helmets for Heath benefit encouraged skateboard safety:

Friends and volunteers came together and organized a fundraiser that became a community event. It was held at a local venue to show support for Heath and the Eiland Family. The event was a celebration of Heath's young and memorable life. Hundreds attended the event, and featured T-shirts with the logo "Helmets for Heath" which echoed the family's mission, which is to promote skateboarding safety. Heath was not wearing a helmet and suffered a fatal head injury. Numerous generous organizations donated their time, food, beverages, and items for the silent auction. Several local bands donated their time and performed at the event. Most importantly free helmets were given to skateboarders. Many came to show their support and love for this young man, Heath Eiland.

<http://www.kvue.com/news/Helmets-for-Heath-concert-draws-hundreds-126466568.html>.

<http://www.kvue.com/home/Helmets-for-Heath-benefit-encourages-skateboard-safety--126463158.html>

-Organ Donor:

Heath's organ donation gave life and hope to 6 lives and many more through tissue donation. 9/16/12.

<http://www.kvue.com/news/Heath-Eilands-gift-of-organ-donation-saves-six-people-169981606.html>

- Donate Life chose to honor him:

Dignity Memorial selected Heath Eiland as the first Austinite to be memorialized with a floral portrait on the Tournament of Roses Parade held in Pasadena California, 2012.

<http://donatelife-organdonation.blogspot.com/2011/12/donate-life-memorializes-heath-eiland.html>

-Donate Life honors Eiland at Round Rock Express Game 4/12/12:

Donate Life honored Heath at a Round Rock Express game. Donate Life held an event encouraging individuals to register as organ donors. Heath's story told and he was featured on the billboard/scoreboard. His dad was asked to throw the first pitch.

http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/play/3440953/express_game_has_special_pitch

- 2013 Faces of Austin (Judge's Choice Winner)/in conjunction with AISD and Anderson High School:

"Helmets from Heath" was chosen by Faces of Austin in conjunction with SWSX. The short documentary version of Helmets from Heath (3/2013) was featured as part of Faces of Austin in SXSW 2013. Faces of Austin is a short film exhibition showcasing local Austin filmmakers and their work that reflects what make Austin's unique identity.

You can watch the short 12 minute version at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPnFeFvq_Mw.

-Anderson High School Film Department Teacher's & Students:

To continue the mission of promoting skating safety, a team from the Anderson High film department traveled to Hockley, Texas. They interviewed professional and semi-professional skaters at a skate race event. Portions of the interviews were used in the documentary which highlighted the importance of helmets when skating.

-Dedication plaque

The graduating class of 2014 dedicated a 10' by 10" plaque placing it above the athletic entrance in memory of Heath at Anderson High School. Two years after Heath's accident, his graduating class continued to miss and remember Heath. They honored their classmate with an eternal plaque displaying his name. We have included just a few of the memory cards/letters that the Eiland family received from Heath's friends and the community Heath. These have been put into a book for the family; it includes over 300 letters, 12 banners and 6+ posters with messages to Heath and his family. He was well loved and is missed!

- The Anderson Soccer team

The team has renamed the "Heart Award", given to the player displaying the most heart in playing on the field to the "Heath Eiland Heart Award".

- Heath River Eiland College Scholarship put in place at Anderson High School:

The Eiland family has established the Heath River Eiland College Scholarship to help an Anderson student attend college, something Heath had studied and planned for. The first award of this scholarship was awarded in May 2013

4. Describe the individual's connection to the park or park system, if any:

This BMX/skate Park opened about a 1 month after Heath's accident and exactly 1 month after his memorial service. We are grateful for and hope that Austin will provide more parks like this so that BMXers and skateboarders will continue to have a safer place to practice their sport.

Since Heath was an avid sports participant, we feel that having a variety of parks and places throughout the community available to play all sports is important. But most of all that safety awareness is number one.

5. If proposing a name that is not an individual, summarize the reason for the name.

Naming the park, Helmets for Heath BMX and Skate Park would be a reminder for everyone to wear a helmet. Naming the skate park for Heath would be naming the park for one of their own, someone who loved the sport of skateboarding.

Heath Eiland's gift of organ donation saves six people

AUSTIN -- Denise Miles keeps a photo of Heath Eiland on her cell phone. Although she never met him, the 16-year-old gave her a new chance at life thanks to a new heart.

Miles traveled from her home in San Antonio to meet Heath's parents for the first time at their church in North Austin.

"He reminds me every day I got something good going on. I'm here for my son, and I'm here for my family," said Miles.

When Heath died in a skateboarding accident in May 2011, his parents made the decision to donate his organs.

"Heath looked out for people, he loved people, and he would love the idea of helping people spend more time to have one more day with their families," said Heath's mother Rebecca Eiland.

Six people received Heath's organs, and his family met two of them Sunday, including Chris Mendez. He waited a year and three months for a liver transplant and is alive today because of Heath.

"It literally is a miracle that can change someone's life, not only to prolong it, but make it completely better as in my case," said Mendez.

Heath's parent say several of his friends are now signed up to be organ donors too.

"It's a wild thing when you think that someone else has your son's liver, has your son's heart, has your son's lungs," said Rebecca Eiland. "But at the same time when you look beyond that, you look at the lives. What better gift is there than the gift of love and life? "

If you want to sign up to be an organ donor, check out Donate Life Texas's website for more information.

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College continued

NORTH AUSTIN

In losing life, teen gave lives back to six others



Rebecca Eiland, right, describes the sound Sunday as she listens to her son's heart beat inside of Denise Miles at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church. Miles, who had a leaking heart valve, received Heath Eiland's heart in a transplant operation after the teen's death. Eiland has since signed up to be an organ donor.

Parents of 16-year-old
meet recipients of his
organs, see it as sign of
boy's kindness in life.

By Farzad Mashhood
fmashhood@statesman.com

The beat of her son's heart
was too faint through the
stethoscope. So Rebecca
Eiland put it aside and leaned
in close, her ear listening for
the lub-dub.

"Oh my gosh," she said,
gasping, as she listened to
her son's heart inside Denise
Miles' chest.

Miles, who had a leaking
heart valve, was the recipient
of Heath Eiland's heart after
the Anderson High School
sophomore died following a
skateboarding accident on
May 10, 2011.

"It's difficult to realize that
his heart was in my belly,
but now it's in someone else,
giving life to her. It's so hard
to imagine," said Eiland, who
met Miles, 40, and her family
for the first time Sunday in a
North Austin church.



Heath Eiland,
16, was fatally
injured in a
skateboarding
accident in May
2011.

Eiland and Miles were
joined by Chris Mendez, 32,
who received Heath's liver, in
a small back room at St. Albert
the Great Catholic Church.

Such meetings are rare
between organ donors and
recipients, said Michelle
Segovia, a spokeswoman for
the Texas Organ Sharing Alli-
ance.

Miles, who said she keeps a
picture of Heath above her bed
most nights, said she plans to
walk a half-marathon in her
home city of San Antonio in
November with the new heart.

"It feels wonderful," Miles
said. "I'm walking more. I can
run down the stairs, but I get
tired."

Mendez, of Weslaco, suf-
fered from autoimmune hep-
atitis, in which a person's
immune system attacks the
liver.

"I was in very bad shape,"

**'This is just like
Heath, so Heath-
like to give
something even
after dying.'**

Stephen Eiland, on son's
donation

Mendez said.

But the organ, which
Heath's family reasoned must
have been in good shape from
living the lifestyle of an ath-
letic 16-year-old, has made
Mendez feel well.

"The difference is night and
day," he said.

Since Heath's death, the
family has received nearly 500
letters about their son telling
them about his constant kind-
ness, said Stephen Eiland,
Heath's father.

"This is just like Heath,
so Heath-like to give some-
thing even after dying to other
people to keep them going,"
Stephen Eiland said.

Heath continued on back page

STATESMAN INTERVIEW PFLUGERVILLE SCHOOLS

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schools chief
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By Melissa B. Tab
mtaboda@state

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SOUTH AUSTIN

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Sum It up			19	Sum It up				12																		

Mom says she pushes for helmets

Heath

Continued from B1

Rebecca Eiland said she wants to encourage parents and famous skateboarders to tell kids to wear helmets when skateboarding – Heath wasn't during his fatal accident – and to have families talk about organ donations and the lives it can save.

Eiland said she has since signed up as an organ donor, seeing the impact her son was able to have on Miles and Mendez, both of whom are parents.



Deborah Cannon/American-Statesman

Jeannette Mendez, right, hugs Rebecca Eiland on Sunday at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church. Mendez's husband, Chris, received the donated liver of Eiland's son.

While she's been in touch with the recipient of one of her son's kidneys, Eiland said she has not heard from the three people who received his lungs and other kidney. "There's nothing that

could help our son, but in his death, our son was able to save six lives," Eiland said. "I consider our son a hero."

Contact Farzad Mashhood at 445-3972

THE BLOTTER

BURNET

Hydroplaning car causes fatal crash

A mother and her son were killed Sunday when the car they were riding in hydroplaned and struck another vehicle in Burnet County.

Burnet police said Sheryl Evans, 39, was driving a 2004 Hyundai car with her 8-year-old son as a passenger when she lost control of the vehicle near 11 a.m. on U.S. 281 near CR 340A in Burnet.

Authorities said the car hydroplaned across the highway and struck a

2011 Jeep her son, according to release.

The driver, Lari Troy, and both took land Lali according

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TRAVIS COUNTY

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ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS AND

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In Memory of Heath Eiland

Dedicated by the Class of 2013

LEWIS & CLARK



In Memory of Heath E. Leonard

Dedicated by the Class of 2013





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Heath Eiland

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CAR TITLE LOANS

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FIRST CASH PAWN





Donate Life
Round Rock Express

Donate Life Memorializes Heath Eiland

KVUE, Austin

Family and friends honored the life of an Austin teen on Saturday who died in a Skateboard accident.

Sixteen-year old Heath Eiland's death last May left a North Austin Community struggling to move on. Those who knew Eiland gathered at the Cook Walden Funeral Home on Saturday afternoon to memorialize him on a national stage.

Classmates described Eiland as a friend to all, who never met a stranger. Since passing away Eiland has continued to help others as an organ and tissue donor.

It's that sacrifice the brought everyone together for a special ceremony. Charity Donate Life chose to memorialize Eiland in a floral portrait for the rose parade float. After a brief service, friends and family decorated his picture with flowers and natural materials.

"It's an honor for my son to be acknowledged for doing what he's doing after life, what he did before life" Eiland's mother, Rebecca Eiland said. "That is being good to people, just being a good person and just always helping others."

Read more: <http://www.kvue.com/news/Donate-Life-memorializes-Heath-Eiland-135412143.html>

by KVUE News

kvue.com

Posted on December 11, 2011 at 6:15 PM

Updated Sunday, Dec 11 at 6:42 PM

Family and friends honored the life of an Austin teen on Saturday who died in a Skateboard accident.

Sixteen-year-old Heath Eiland's death last May left a North Austin community struggling to move on. Those who knew Eiland gathered at the Cook Walden Funeral Home on Saturday afternoon to memorialize him on a national stage.

Classmates described Eiland as a friend to all who never met a stranger. Since passing away, Eiland has continued to help others as an organ and tissue donor.

It's that sacrifice that brought everyone together for a special ceremony. **Charity Donate Life chose to memorialize Eiland in a floral portrait for their rose parade float.** After a brief service, friends and family decorated his picture with flowers and natural materials.

"It's an honor for my son to be acknowledged for doing what he's doing after life, what he did before life," Eiland's mother, Rebecca Eiland said. "That is being good to people, just being a good person and just always helping others."

Eiland's photograph will be one of many displayed on Donate Life's float featuring organ donors from all over the country.

The Eiland family will accompany the float when it debuts in the Rose Parade Jan. 2.





Rose Bowl January 2, 2012 Donate Life memorializes Heath Eiland



