



Engineering and Construction Management Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Southwest University Park awarded LEED Gold certification by U.S. Green Building Council

EL PASO – The U.S. Green Building Council has awarded LEED Gold certification to Southwest University Park.

The Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program is among the most-recognized green-building certification programs and highlights sustainable building strategies and practices. The ballpark was built and is owned by the City of El Paso; it is home to the El Paso Chihuahuas, the Triple-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres baseball team.

“This certification underscores the City of El Paso’s commitment to comprehensively and meaningfully integrating sustainable building practices at the highest level,” said Nicole Ferrini, Chief Resilience Officer for the City of El Paso. “By integrating these practices in projects like Southwest University Park, the city is not only making El Paso a more appealing place to raise a family and locate a business, we are doing so in a manner that helps ensure the long-term sustainability of our community.”

The following factors were considered in support of the project’s application:

- Proximity to Sun Metro’s new Brio Rapid Transit System;
- Reliance on existing downtown parking infrastructure;
- Addition of bicycle parking facilities adjacent to the ballpark;
- Reducing the amount of stormwater which runs off the site;
- Recycling the vast majority of construction and demolition waste produced by the project; and
- Use of recycled and regionally-sourced construction materials.

Since 2008, all newly-constructed city-owned buildings more than 5,000 square feet have been required to pursue at least LEED-Silver Certification. Click [here](#) to see a list of some of those city facilities.

Since opening in April 2014, Southwest University Park has been named Ballpark of the Year by several national publications, won the 2015 Gold Medal in Structural Systems from the American Council of Engineers, and was named 2014 Public Works Project of the Year by the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

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