



# OVAL PARK

MCALLEN, TEXAS

## GREAT PUBLIC SPACE DESIGNEE—2018

Oval Park, located in the heart of McAllen's Convention Center District, is one of Rio Grande Valley's most loved spaces. The district also includes the Convention Center, an open-air shopping center, four hotels, the Veterans War Memorial of Texas, and the Performing Arts Center.

In 1992, McAllen held a non-binding referendum election to obtain input from citizens on the construction of a new civic center complex. After 10 years of various public hearings and additional planning studies, a door-to-door survey was conducted by the Planning Department, resulting in a local referendum to select a new location for a convention center. The election results launched the Convention Center District's construction, with Oval Park constructed in the center.

The 2.4 acre park is shaded with native trees and pergolas, and features a water fountain that leads into a 250-foot long reflective pond, where paddle boating takes place during events. Located on the east side of the Oval Park is a multifunctional platform with an acoustical shell, where outdoor concerts are held. The facility hosts several events and festivals, including a free concert series and McAllen's annual Palmfest festival. Oval Park is well connected to the City's hike and bike trails, with visitors using the City's BCycle rental station located on-site.

Through the progressive leadership of its Board of Commissioners and the Planning Department, Oval Park and the Convention Center District demonstrate why stakeholder engagement matters. McAllen's Convention Center District is also designated as a Texas Cultural District by the Texas Commission of the Arts.

