Houston Parks and Greenspace Update
Presented to
Quality of Life Committee
Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen, Chair
Council Member David Robinson, Co-Chair
by Steve Wright, Director
April 25, 2018
Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of urban life by providing safe, well-maintained parks and affordable programming for our community.
Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Department Goals

• Support Complete Communities initiative
• Improve neighborhood parks
• Support, improve and develop new and existing partnerships
• Identify and acquire new parkland and greenspace
• Provide quality recreational programs, services and opportunities for all
• Manage and conserve natural resources and improve environmental awareness
Houston Parks and Recreation Department

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Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Partnerships & Signature Parks

Signature Park

A status given to a park in any classification [of any size] based on a partnering organization providing a higher level of design and maintenance of the facilities.
Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Examples of existing Signature Parks

• Buffalo Bayou Park
• Discovery Green Park
• Emancipation Park
• Hermann Park
• Houston Amateur Sports
• Houston Botanic Garden
• Levy Park
• Market Square

• Midtown Park
• Memorial Park
• Sam Houston Park
• North Houston Skatepark
• North Houston Bike Park
• Willow Waterhole Greenway
Houston Parks and Recreation Department  
Examples of potential Signature Parks

• Agnes Moffitt  
• Alief  
• Brock  
• Lee and Joe Jamail Skate Park  
• Keith-Wiess  
• Lake Houston Wilderness Park

• MacGregor  
• Mason  
• Sylvan Rodriguez  
• Tony Marron  
• Westchase
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Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Capital Improvement Projects
Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Capital Improvement Projects

- Alief
- Blueridge
- Burnett-Bayland
- Busby
- Dow Elementary Park
- Edgewood
- Future District G Park
- Glenshire
- Hager
- Independence Heights
- Ingrando
- James Lee
- Jody Miller Dog Park
- Judson Robinson, Sr.
- Lee LeClear Tennis
- Linkwood
- Oak Forest Park
- Rasmus
- Sharpstown
- Squatty Lyons
- Sunset Heights (Future)
- Sylvan Rodriguez
- Waldemar
- Wilson Memorial
Neighborhood Playgrounds Initiative
Overview

- 225 playgrounds evaluated City-wide
- 100 selected for upgrades
- 10 playground projects underway
- 3 completed
- 2-3 years
Neighborhood Playgrounds Initiative
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Houston Parks and Recreation Department Partnerships

American Forests
American Red Cross
AmeriCorps
Archery Trade Association
Artist Boat
Astros Foundation
Minute Maid
Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation
BARC - Bureau of Animal Regulation & Care
Bayou Preservation Association
Bee Busy, Inc.
Brazoria County
BRC Group Alizana
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Bureau of Animal Regulation & Care - BARC
Buffalo Bayou Partnership
CAN DO Houston
Children’s Museum
Christus - US Family Health Plan
Cigna Health Spring
City of Houston Health and Human Services
City of Sugar Land
Downtown District Management
Downtown Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #3)
Emancipation Park Conservancy
Fort Bend County
Fort Bend County, Precinct 2
Fourth Ward Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #14)
Friends of Woodland Park
Furr High School
Galveston Bay Estuary Program
GameTime Playground Grants
Greater Houston Cycling Foundation
Greater Southeast Municipal Management District
Greensheet Education Foundation
Gulf Coast International Dragon Boat Regatta
Harris County Department of Education CASE
Harris County Flood Control District
Harris County Hospital District
Harris County Precinct One
Harris County Precinct Two
Harris County Precinct Three
Harris County Precinct Four
Houston Parks and Recreation Department Partnerships

Heritage Society
Hermann Park Conservancy
Holthouse Foundation for Kids
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
Houston Dynamo
Houston First Corporation
Houston Dynamo
Houston First Corporation
Houston Golf Association
Houston Ladies Tennis Association
Houston Parks Board
Houston Striders
Houston Tennis Association
Houston Texans
Houston Wilderness
Houston Zoo
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Japhet Creek Conservancy
Junior Anglers and Hunters of America
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Kinder Foundation
Keep Houston Beautiful

Lemonade Day! Houston
Levy Park Conservancy
Lone Star College
Lonestar Chapter Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America
Major League Baseball Youth Academy
Marathon Oil
Memorial-Heights Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #5)
Memorial Hermann
Memorial Park Conservancy
METRO
Midtown Management District
Midtown Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #2)
North Shore Community Church
Old Sixth Ward Redevelopment Authority (TIEZ #13)
Operation Gang Together (OGT) D-Tag
OST/Almeda Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #7)
Rice University
Sea Center Texas
Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center
North Shore Community Church
Old Sixth Ward Redevelopment Authority (TIEZ #13)
Operation Gang Together (OGT) D-Tag
Houston Parks and Recreation Department Partnerships

OST/Almeda Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #7)
Rice University
Sea Center Texas
Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center
Soccer Shots Houston
Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #20)
Student Conservation Association
Summer LEGO® Program
Texas Children’s Health Plan
Texas Children's Hospital - Bariatric Support Group
Texas Department of Transportation
Texas Department of Wildlife
The George and Mary Josephine Hamman foundation
The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation
The River Performing & Visual Arts
TIRR Foundation
Tony Hawk Foundation
Trees for Houston

Trust for Public Land
TX Department of Aging and Disability Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Government; Corps of Engineers
United State Tennis Association Texas
United States Tennis Association Foundation
University of Houston
University of Texas A & M
Upper Kirby District (#19)
Uptown Development Authority (TIRZ #14)
Uptown Houston District
US Department of Agriculture
US Department of Transportation
US Family Health Plan
US Soccer Foundation
West Houston Ladies Tennis Association
YMCA
Because everyone deserves a great park!

-Tagline of the National Recreation and Park Association
HOUSTON PARKS: REDEFINING THE BAYOU CITY
Green Acres

THE HUFFINGTON POST

THE BLOG
Houston’s Big Green Transformation

Forbes / Reinventing America

Houston Goes Global With New World-Class Parks And Bayous

Rendering of Memorial Park's Master Plan
Arthur Comey:
“The backbone of a park system for Houston will naturally be its bayou or creek valleys, which readily lend themselves to parks and cannot so advantageously be used for any other purpose.”
Vision
Thriving parks and communities for everyone forever.

Mission
Houston Parks Board creates, improves, protects and advocates for parks for everyone.
IN THAT TIME, WE’VE:

Completed projects in more than 250 PARKS in Houston.

Added more than 14,000 ACRES of new parkland and greenspace.

Raised and leveraged more than $258 MILLION for Houston’s parks and greenspace.

Inspired COUNTLESS SMILES all across Houston.
PROJECT SCOPE

Provide unprecedented access to more than 3,000 acres of greenspace along the bayous

Connect a 150 mile network of hike-and-bike trails

Put six out of 10 Houstonians within 1.5 miles of a Bayou Greenway
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Project cost: $220 million

Public funds - $100 million
(city bond election)

HPB raising $120 million

How will the money be used?
• Land acquisition
• Design
• Construction
ANNUAL BENEFITS: $90 MILLION

- Physical and mental health: $50 million/year
- Environmental health: $10 million/year
- Economic Health: $30 million/year
“Houston must have thriving neighborhoods citywide for us to reach our full potential.”

– Mayor Sylvester Turner, April 17, 2017

BEYOND THE BAYOUS

A Vision for Expanding Greater Houston’s Public Realm
BEYOND THE BAYOUS
ON THE PATH TO A GREENER HOUSTON...
www.houstonparksboard.org