



UPPER
KIRBY

HOUSTON
PARKS BOARD

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Upper Kirby Management District provides funding for The completion of Levy Park Phase II

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Houston Parks Board, is pleased to join the Upper Kirby Management District at the dedication and celebration of Levy Park Phase II and Paws in the Park. Houston Mayor Bill White and Council Member Anne Clutterbuck, District C, will attend the celebration on Saturday, September 30, 2006, from 9:00 a.m.-11:00a.m. Levy Park is located at 3801 Eastside, Houston, 77098.

Tucked away on a cul-de-sac street in the Upper Kirby District, the 64 year-old-park has blossomed under the care of the Upper Kirby Management District's adoption agreement with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Since adopting the park, The Upper Kirby District has shown their dedication to the upkeep of Levy with a two-phase renovation project. Phase I, completed in 2003, included the construction of a community garden and gathering space on the north end of the park. Phase II improvements have added a new playground with a fall surface, new benches and picnic tables under an arbor, a new granite gravel walking trail, fresh landscaping with raised planters, and a rebuilt parking area with drainage and lighting improvements.

"We are very thankful to the Upper Kirby District for all they have done at Levy," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Levy's community gardens and dog park show what community involvement and park adoptions can do to create greenspaces that reflect the needs and desires of a community. We hope this park will inspire other groups to adopt neighborhood parks and commit to their upkeep."

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Upper Kirby Management District Dedicate Levy Park Phase II improvements, 2-2

A Paws in the Park event, complete with a Blessing of the Pets ceremony performed by Father Bill of St. Anne Catholic Church, will celebrate the opening of the Levy Park Dog Park. Pets of all types, furred, feathered and finned, are invited to participate as long as they stay on a leash.

The Levy Park renovation was made possible in part by TIRZ # 19 CIP funds, a generous grant awarded by The Houston Endowment, a grant for the Urban Nature Center awarded by the River Oaks Garden Club, as well as private donations. The park was adopted and is maintained by Harris County Improvement District # 3 (or the Upper Kirby Management District). Phase II improvement costs totaled \$729,530. To find out more about the Upper Kirby Management District visit www.upperkirby.org.

For additional information on Levy Park, park and esplanade adoptions, or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call 713-845-1135 or visit www.houstonparks.org.