



Press Release

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CONTACT: Estella Espinosa
Work: (832) 395-7022
Cell: (832) 465-4782

Mayor Parker Makes Juneteenth Announcement About Donations for Renovation of Emancipation Park

The Houston Endowment, Kinder Foundation & the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department have collectively donated \$5 million to the Emancipation Park Capital Campaign. The announcement came during the Friends of Emancipation Park's annual Juneteenth celebration.

"In 1872, 4 men, all former slaves, pooled their money to buy this 10 acres of land," said Mayor Annise Parker. "It has always been a place that symbolizes freedom. Now, on a day that we gather where so many others have gathered in the past to celebrate freedom, we are also able to say thank you & celebrate the generosity of others. Because of their donations, this park is one step closer to becoming the beautiful historical showplace that it was always meant to be for the Third Ward & the City."

The cost of the Emancipation Park Capital Campaign Project totals \$33.6 million. This covers ALL project costs from Planning & Pre-Design through construction, including acquisition, architectural & engineering design fees, design contingency (potential construction phase design changes), construction management, surveys, testing, asbestos & lead abatement, & support costs including legal fees & program management. This expanded & refined the \$18 million dollar draft Budget Summary of the Pre-Design Report released in August of 2011.

"For 140 years, because of the foresight of the founding fathers, Emancipation Park has served as a gathering place for Juneteenth celebrations," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks & Recreation Department. "Today, we are asking Houston to help us pool our money to fund the renovation of this great historic park."

The funding received from Houston Endowment (\$2 million dollar grant), Kinder Foundation (\$2 million dollar grant) & Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (\$1 million dollar grant) will be added to \$2 million in CIP funding from the City of Houston & the projected \$19 million

from OST/Alameda Corridors Tax Increment Redevelopment Zone (TIRZ # 7). Additional fund raising will be required to reach the \$33.6 million dollar goal & may be sent to Houston Parks Board Emancipation Park Capital Campaign.

Partnering agencies include: The OST/Alameda Corridors Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ # 7), The Friends of Emancipation Park, The Houston Parks Board, Houston Endowment, Kinder Foundation, & the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

About The Houston Parks Board

The Houston Parks Board, a non-profit organization founded in 1976, is funded primarily by the generous donations of private donors including individuals, families, neighborhood groups, foundations and corporations. During its 35-year history, the Houston Parks Board has acquired and improved over 75 percent of Houston's parkland, expanding the city's park space by over 13,000 acres and making over \$75 million in capital improvements. The Parks Board works closely with Houston's Mayor and the City's Parks and Recreation Department in fulfilling its mission to create, improve, protect and advocate for parkland in the Greater Houston Region.

About The Houston Parks & Recreation Department

The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards & manages over 38,992 acres of parkland & greenspace for the City of Houston & develops & implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks & Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.