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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Public Invited to Attend *2015 Parks Master Plan Presentation Park Land & Amenities: What We Have, What We Need & Where We Are Headed***

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, with representatives from the Trust for Public Land and Rice University Center for Civic Leadership will present the proposed *2015 Parks Master Plan Park Land & Amenities: What We Have, What We Need & Where We Are Headed* on Monday, June 22, 2015 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The public is invited to attend and an RSVP is requested to [ParksMasterPlan@houstontx.gov](mailto:ParksMasterPlan@houstontx.gov).

"A Parks Master Plan is a living guidance document - a roadmap you might say for the future of our parks," said Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We thank our many partners and the public for their input which has helped shape the final document. We look forward to presenting our findings to them for their review."

The *2015 Parks Master Plan* proposal is the result of a two year assessment of the city by individual Park Sector developed through the Parks and Open Space Ordinance. The Ordinance divided the City of Houston (COH) into 21 Park Sectors. The 21 Park Sectors were reviewed and assessed separately to create the individual Park Sector plans which comprise the complete 2015 Parks Master Plan.

"Since our current Master Plan was developed prior to the Parks and Open Space Ordinance it seemed logical that we should incorporate the 21 Park Sector system into the development of the new *2015 Parks Master Plan*," Turner continued. "This system allows us to better evaluate Park Sectors and develop a better park system for all our park users."

The Parks Master Plan is revisited every 5 - 7 years to evaluate and make recommendations based on existing conditions, data analysis, and public input. The public will be invited to

submit written comments regarding the *2015 Parks Master Plan* and their review of individual Park Sectors (available online at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/master-plan>) through the end of July 2015. The *2015 Parks Master Plan* will then be finalized and is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the City of Houston Quality of Life Committee in August 2015 and to City Council in September of 2015.

The Department worked in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land and the Rice University Center for Civic Leadership to produce the document. Additional partners involved in the development of the Parks Master Plan included: the COH Planning and Development Department, the COH Health and Human Services Department, the COH Housing and Community Development Department, the Houston Parks Board, Houston Galveston Area Council, Shell Center for Sustainability at Rice University and Clark Condon Associates. Volunteer Interns from the University of St. Thomas and Lone Star College were indispensable in this effort. Maps of areas of park need were created using data provided by the Trust for Public Land ParkScore™ Project.

The *2015 Parks Master Plan Park Land & Amenities: What We Have, What We Need & Where We Are Headed* presentation and individual Park Sector findings will be available at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/master-plan>.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,859 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*