



Press Release

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Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark Slated to Receive Improvements *Popular Skatepark Will be Closed During Construction*

A \$2 Million donation from the Joseph D. Jamail Foundation will fund improvements to the popular Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark. The facility will be temporarily closed from April 4 through October 2016 during the renovations. The Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark opened to the public in June of 2008 and this premiere in-ground skate facility is owned and operated by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

“We are forever grateful to the Jamail family for their funding that created this park in 2008, helping make this dream possible,” said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We look forward to the reopening of the park once the renovations are completed.”

In 2004, P.U.S.H. (Public Use Skatepark Houston) approached the Houston Parks and Recreation Department with a request for a skatepark. The department, working with P.U.S.H. and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, identified and designated an area within Buffalo Bayou Park for the proposed skatepark. To assist with this effort, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department enlisted the Houston Parks Board to work with P.U.S.H. in their fundraising effort. A \$1.5 million donation from the late trial lawyer Joseph Jamail made the project possible. The construction of the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark was managed for the Houston Parks and Recreation Department by the Houston Parks Board. The current renovation project’s amenities will include: a new grass terrace seating area and freeform shapes made from state of the art materials shade structures, designed by Victoria Goldstein of VG Studio. The addition of new graffiti boards (curated by a team) will provide thirty panels for street art to be rotated on a quarterly basis, with at least 10% reserved at all times for high school student artists.

The Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark was designed by the firm Grindline and has room in its 30,000 square feet for skaters of all skill levels. The original construction of the park was funded in part by a generous donation by the Jamail family, which was actively involved in its design.

During the closure of the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark, skaters are encouraged to use the North Houston Skatepark, located at 12351 Kuykendahl at Rankin Road, 77090.

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.

The Houston Parks Board is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to create, improve, protect, and advocate for parkland in the Greater Houston region. Since its inception in 1976, the organization has raised and leveraged millions of dollars and touched at least 75% of the city's parkland either through acquisitions and/or capital improvements. For more information, visit www.houstonparksboard.org.