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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark to Re-Open In Time for Spring Breakers to Enjoy!

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will be re-opening the Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark (103 Sabine Street inside Buffalo Bayou Park) Saturday, March 11, 2017. Operating hours will be Monday through Sunday 9:00 am – 10:00pm. Admission is **FREE**.

The park closed to the public in April 2016 for construction of improvements. The construction project, managed by the non-profit Houston Parks Board, included additional seating areas, graffiti boards and unique shade structures designed by Victoria Goldstein of VG Studio. The original project scope was expanded to include repair of the existing concrete skating surfaces. These renovations were funded by a generous \$2 million donation from the Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Foundation.

“We are excited to be able to re-open the Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark so that skaters can enjoy the park during Spring Break,” said Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We encountered some unexpected delays in the manufacturing of the custom shade structure; but, did not want to delay the opening until this item was completed. We are very excited about the completed improvements and believe the skater community will be too.”

All renovations have been completed except for the custom shade structures. This artistic feature is expected to be installed at a later date when manufacturing is completed.

“We want to thank the Jamails for their generous support that made possible the creation of this world-class skatepark as well as these thoughtful renovations that enhance the experience,” said Beth White, President and CEO of the Houston Parks Board. “We also want to thank the skater community for their patience and passion for their sport. We have

worked diligently to restore and reinvigorate the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark for the enjoyment of skaters and their families for years to come.”

The Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark, designed by the premiere skatepark firm Grindline, was the first world-class, in-ground skatepark in our region. The state-of-the-art, public 30,000 square-foot in-ground facility opened in June of 2008, vaulting Houston into the forefront of American venues for this fast-growing, dynamic sport. The park has areas for skaters of all levels, from the seasoned pro to the beginner. Skaters can work on their kick flip, ollie, fakie big spin...or simply learn to stay balanced! The skatepark sits in the shadow of downtown Houston off of the Sabine Street Bridge in Buffalo Bayou Park.

The Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark was originally funded through a generous \$1.5 million donation from the late trial lawyer Joe Jamail.

***About the Houston Parks Board***

*A nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to providing access to quality parks and greenspace for all people, **Houston Parks Board** creates, improves, protects and advocates for parkland in the Greater Houston region. Since 1976, the organization has utilized public-private partnerships and its extensive philanthropic, government and community relationships to improve parks large and small. Houston Parks Board is currently leading the transformational \$220 million Bayou Greenways 2020 project to create a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails along Houston’s major waterways. For more information, visit [www.houstonparksboard.org](http://www.houstonparksboard.org).*

***About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department***

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 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).*