



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Houston Wilderness Park Master Plan Receives "Award of Excellence" for Planning and Analysis

*Texas Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects recognizes
HPARD commitment to responsible stewardship and development of City's Wilderness Park.*

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, with SWA Landscape Architects, has received the "Award of Excellence" by the Texas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for the Lake Houston Wilderness Park Master Plan. The award recognizes HPARD's vision to develop Lake Houston Wilderness Park into an urban preserve where city dwellers of all ages can experience the forest environment and develop an appreciation for the wilderness, ecosystem and inhabitants.

"When we acquired Lake Houston Wilderness Park from the state in 2006, it was with an eye toward its preservation," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "That is why we picked SWA as the firm to help us develop a master plan that preserves the park, guides its programs and policies, and helps us manage it for generations to come. We are delighted to learn that all the hard work that has gone into developing the master plan is being recognized by the Texas Chapter of the ASLA."

The Texas Chapter of the ASLA Award of Excellence is given to entries that represent outstanding achievement in landscape architecture.

"This award recognizes the outstanding work of SWA Architects, and I could not be more proud of them," said Michael Sullivan, Houston City Council Member, District E. "I am proud to be involved in this project, along with our other partners. This park will be an asset for us for decades to come."

(more)

The major goals covered by the Lake Houston Wilderness Park Master Plan include:

- the preservation of the park's wilderness and enhancement of its ecosystem
- to provide for complementary, incremental recreational and educational improvements
- to identify strategies that will insure that the Park is economically self-sustaining over the long term

Other points detailed in the plan include the addition of lodging, recreation, and education facilities and programs, improvements in access to the park, and financial strategies to develop Lake Houston Wilderness Park into an economically self-sustaining, ecologically robust park that will continue to grow and prosper over the long term.

For additional information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 865-4537 or visit our web site at www.houstonparks.org