

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department 2007 Annual Report



Improving the quality of life through parks and programming.



Vale-Asche Foundation Playground at Memorial Park



Vale-Asche Foundation Playground at Memorial Park

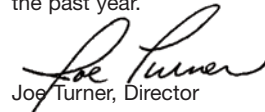
YEAR IN REVIEW

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1916 with 2 of Houston's most well known and loved parks Sam Houston Park and Hermann Park. Today the department manages, maintains and stewards 39,000 acres of city parkland with 350 developed parks and over 200 green-spaces. But our mission remains the same to "enhance the quality of urban life by providing safe, well-maintained parks and offering affordable programs for the community."

Over the past year we've worked to fulfill that mission in everything we do. Last year we identified our department's six core values - environmental stewardship, greenspace management, accessibility, recreation and fitness, private and corporate partnerships and responsiveness. This year we are happy to report on our progress including:

1. The preservation of Lake Houston Park – This urban wilderness park was transferred to the city by T.P.W.D. in August of 2006. It is now the largest park in our system with approximately 5,000 acres of forest land and is home to 128 species of birds, 15 different types of trees and a variety of wildlife.
2. The Vale-Asche Foundation Playground at Memorial Park – Unveiled in December of 2006, it is the first of three Playgrounds Without Limits facilities we are hoping to build. These playgrounds surpass ADA accessibility guidelines and provide children with disabilities access to 90% of the playground so they can participate in play with friends, family and siblings.
3. Arbor Day at Will Clayton Parkway – This event will go down in HPARD history as one of the muddiest, fun-filled, and successful volunteer tree planting events ever held. 1,400 volunteers and partners planted 30,000 trees in 1 day as part of a three part esplanade re-forestation project.
4. The Summer Food Service program – This past year the department served over 1,250,000 lunches and snacks to young people so that they would have a nutritious lunch throughout the summer months.

As we celebrate these accomplishments we look toward the park system's future and new opportunities to continue the progress we've made over the past year.



Joe Turner, Director

Houston Parks and Recreation Department



Lake Houston Park

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

2006 - 2007 Project Timeline

JULY

The Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at West Gray transferred to HPARD
Update of HPARD's Master Plan Begins
N.R.P.A. Accreditation Process Begins

AUGUST

T.P.W.D. transfers Lake Houston Park to City of Houston to be managed by HPARD
This 4,786.5 acre wilderness park becomes largest park in HPARD park system

SEPTEMBER

NBA Basketball Court Upgrade DeZavala
Let's Go Batty! Honoring Lyondell Chemical and Diana Foss, TPWD for the Waugh Bridge Observation Deck and TPWD monthly programming
Heritage Society Family Day
Home Depot at Edgewood Park
Lake Houston Park holds first monthly Nature Event
2nd Annual La Cuenca Cuenta Festival Mason Park

OCTOBER

50 Year Anniversary of HPARD Headquarters at Gragg Park
Celebrating the buildings historic architectural roots and ties to NASA and the space industry
Dave Marr Pro - Am Classic Tournament - First Tee
Willow Waterhole 2nd Annual Fun Run
Mason Park Tidal Marsh Wetlands
Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting Sylvester Turner Park phase II

NOVEMBER

Guaranty Bank Tree Planting – 2006 Trees at Westcott and Memorial
Greenway Pedestrian Trail at Hermann Park
Grand Re-Opening of Baldwin Park
Golf Fee Change Proposal

DECEMBER

The Vale-Asche Foundation Playground at Memorial Park
The first of three Playgrounds Without Limits playgrounds we hope to build. These barrier free playgrounds surpass ADA guidelines by providing access to 90% of the play structure for people with disabilities. This makes it possible for children with disabilities to play on the same playground with their friends and siblings.

JANUARY

Arbor Day at Will Clayton Parkway
1,400 Volunteers plant 30,000 trees in one of the muddiest, fun-filled, most successful events held in HPARD's history
Alief Community Association Tree Planting Esplandes on Wilcrest
MLK Parade MacGregor Park

FEBRUARY

Harwin Park Tree Planting
Park to Park Run (Hermann Park)
Scottcrest Park Tree and Wildflower Plantings

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

2006 - 2007 Project Timeline

MARCH

HEB Bayou. City Classic
Tour de Houston
Buffalo Bayou Regetta
Melrose Park Soccer Opening Day
Diez Park Youth Baseball Opening Ceremony
"Synergy Award" - Buffalo Bayou Promenade
Trash Bash - Moody Park, Reville Park, Glennbrook, Sims Woods,
Little Thick Park

APRIL

Sport Radio 610 at Memorial Park
Summer Activities in the Park Catalog

MAY

Lemonade Day
Lake Houston Park Master Plan Meeting begins
Gus Wortham Townhall Meeting
Summer Programs and Pools open

JUNE

2nd Annual "On The Trail of Trash"
Parks included Herman Brown Nature Trail, White Oak Trail, North
MacGregor Way @ Hermann Park, Oyster Creek @ Cullinan Park,
Cullen Park - Phase 2 and Phase 4)
Hermann Park Train Press Conference
Hershey Track and Field Meet Barnett Sports Complex
The Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark
Animal Planet Cullen Park
Great American Campout Lake Houston Park
First Tee Golf Tournament



FY 2007 Financial Statement

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is composed of 2 funds, the General Fund and the Special Revenue fund which taken together comprise the total FY2007 budget of \$67,555,002.

FY 2007 General Fund

Cost Center	CCG Name	FY2007 Revised Budget	Allocation
360001	Office of the Director	\$448,559	0.74%
360002	Management & Finance	\$6,187,770	10.20%
360002	Utilities	\$5,546,749	9.14%
360003	Park Administration	\$183,809	0.30%
360004	Communications Office	\$552,966	0.91%
360005	Grants Legislation and Development	\$246,883	0.41%
360006	Urban Park Rangers	\$1,808,272	2.98%
360007	Facilities Development & Maintenance	\$7,003,789	11.54%
360008	Zoological Gardens (Houston Zoo)	\$7,835,883	12.92%
360009	Recreation & Wellness	\$12,941,654	21.33%
360013	Greenspace Management	\$17,581,179	28.98%
360014	Lake Houston Park	\$334,609	0.55%
<hr/> General Fund Total		\$60,672,122	100.00%

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

FY 2007 Special Revenue Fund

Cost Center	CCG Name	FY2007 Revised Budget	Allocation
360002	Revenue Administration	\$385,000	5.59%
360007	Facilities Development & Maintenance	\$100,000	1.45%
360010	Houston Garden Center	\$10,000	0.15%
360011	Golf & Tennis Center	\$3,495,807	50.79%
360012	Memorial Park Golf Course	\$2,782,073	40.42%
360013	Tree & Shrub Ordinance	\$110,000	1.60%
Special Revenue Fund Total		\$6,882,880	\$100%





Arbor Day at Will Clayton Parkway

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Highlights

Acres Acquired (includes water area previously uncounted)	19,265.31
Number of New Parks Acquired	9
Volunteer Hours Received	13,519
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$241,960
Facilities Constructed	6
Facilities Renovated	11
Summer Food Service (Sites)	388
Summer Meals Served (Lunches/Snacks)	1,259,043
Summer Enrichment Attendance	128,871
After School Enrichment Numbers	185,159
After School Achievement Program (Sites)	37
Field Trips (June-August 2007)	757
Pool Attendees (Open Swim)	228,890



Arbor Day at Will Clayton Parkway

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

2006 - 2007 Awards

2007

The Park People, Partnership (Synergy) Award

For the \$15 million project to revitalize downtown with a 23 acre promenade, complete with lighting, planting and walkways. Partners include Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Texas Dept. of Transportation, Harris County Flood Control District, Houston Parks and Recreation, and Houston Public Works.

The Park People, Partnership (Synergy) Award

For the Mason Park Freshwater Wetlands Project, major partners included Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Harris County Flood Control District, the Army Corps of Engineers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Cooperative Extension/Texas Sea Grant.

The Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Outstanding Program for the 2007 Texas Cardiovascular Health Promotion Awards.

For Project KidFit!.

Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor's Proud Award

For Field of Trees- Arbor Day Planting – A 3 part project to transform the esplanades on Will Clayton Parkway into a new forest of 35,000 trees. Partners included The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, TxDOT, Trees for Houston, Keep Houston Beautiful, the Houston Airport System, Mayor Bill White and Congressman Ted Poe. Approximately 1,400 volunteers braved the steady rain for this event.

Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor's Proud Award

For the Deloitte Impact Day a park improvement project that focuses on 4 parks E.R. and Ann Taylor Park, Memorial Park, Hermann Brown Park, and Burnett Bayland Park.

Keep Houston Beautiful Honorable Mention Award

For Linear Forest- A Healthy Alternative which encourages citizens and businesses to adopt esplanades and develop alternate plantings that utilize native plantings and encourage low water usage and low impact on the environment.

The Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters Tree City U.S.A. Designation (22nd year)

For the department's annual systematic management of its tree resources.

Senior Olympics 2007 Award

In recognition of Houston Parks and Recreation Department as a Corporate Underwriter since its inception in 1989 for 18 years.

2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf Guardian Award

For the Brays Bayou Wetland at Houston's Mason Park. The Freshwater Tidal Marsh Project at Mason Park is a created freshwater/tidal marsh that provides habitat for native plants, wildlife and fish, while functioning as a pilot demonstration project to treat storm water emanating from an urban residential community.

Greater Houston Preservation Alliance Stewart Title Good Brick Award

For "Heart of the Park". Hermann Park Conservancy in conjunction with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department for the dramatic physical improvements made in recent years to the area of Hermann Park the Heart of the Park. The \$9.1 million "Heart of the Park" project covers 18.5 acres of Hermann Park's 445 total acres. The central and most prominent feature –the 740-foot-long and 80-foot-wide Mary Gibbs and Jesse H. Jones Reflection Pool.

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

2006-2007 Grants

2007

Minute Maid

For After-School Soccer Program

Houston Astros and Minute Maid

For Grand Slam for Youth Baseball Program

Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Partnership

For Houston Tree Count

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Fund

For After-School Achievement Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreational Trails Grant Program

For Adaptive Recreation Trail at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

6th Annual Father/Child Charity Golf Tournament

For The First Tee at F.M. Law Park

Fiesta Mart, Inc.

Sponsorship of Youth Soccer Program

Greater Houston Transportation

Sponsorship of after-school soccer program at McReynolds Middle School

2006

All Points Media

For Sunny D Swim to Success Label Collection Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

\$3,750,000 state appropriation from Senator John Whitmire to acquire West 11th Street Park.

The Governor's Criminal Justice Division title V Community Prevention Grant Award

To administer after-school programs for elementary school age-youth through the After-School Achievement Program during the 2006-2007 school year.

Capital One Award

To administer after-school programs and financial literacy education through the After-School Achievement Program during the 2006 age-youth in partnership with the Houston Independent School District (HISD).

Sierra Club Building Better II, A Guide to America's Best New Development Projects

Featured Mason Park's Freshwater Tidal Marsh as one of ten outstanding examples of innovative and environmentally sensitive methods of managing storm water runoff.

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department strives to fulfill its stewardship of the City of Houston's 39,000 acres of land and recreational facilities every day. Its 9 divisions work as a team to:

- Encourage and support natural and cultural resource stewardship and environmental education
- Provide or facilitate quality recreation and leisure opportunities for all citizens regardless of ability
- Forge partnerships that support community recreational and environmental needs
- Remain responsive to citizens questions, concerns and request

City of Houston

Bill White, Mayor

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Joe Turner, Director

Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director's Staff

Doug Earle, Deputy Director
Recreation and Wellness Division

Estella Espinosa, Division Manager
Communications Division

Able Gonzales, Deputy Director
Greenspace Management Division

Joe Cochran, Division Manager
Lake Houston Park Division

Cheryl Johnson, Deputy Director
Finance and Management Division

Harold Norris, Division Manager
Urban Park Rangers Division

Mark Ross, Deputy Director
Facilities Management and Development

Dan Pederson, Council Liaison
Director's Office

Karen Cullar, Assistant Director
Grants, Legislation and Development Division

Erika Sanchez, Executive Assistant
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Rick Dewees, Assistant Director
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