



NEWS RELEASE

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2nd Annual East End Golf Classic Benefits Historic Gus Wortham Golf Course Restoration

The 2nd Annual East End Golf Classic hosted by Council Member James Rodriguez begins with a shotgun start on Friday, May 21st, at 8:30 a.m. Community support has driven the success of the renovation efforts for Gus Wortham Golf Course in spite of a downturn in the budget and economy.

“The East End Classic is a community-based show of support for the golf course which has helped us build on the number of holes played each year,” said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “The support of the golfers and community surrounding Gus Wortham have been a tremendous help in increasing the revenue and play at the course. They are the driving force that makes this tournament a success and has the potential for increasing the use of Gus Wortham in the long run.”

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Houston Parks Board and Council Member James G. Rodriguez, are hosting this benefit for the Gus Wortham Golf Course. The course is located inside the loop, just south of downtown and within close proximity to the George R. Brown Convention Center. Proceeds from the East End Classic go to the renovation and beautification of this important piece of Houston’s cultural history.

“Happy to use this tournament to save one of the city’s most historic golf courses,” said James G. Rodriguez, City Council Member, District I. “Not only are we preserving a piece of Houston’s history, we are preserving green space in our city’s urban core. Last year, we successfully raised money to create a master plan, and this year we hope to raise money for the architectural and engineering plans, as well as kick off the start of the capital campaign to renovate Gus Wortham.”

Gus Wortham Golf Course first opened as the Houston Country Club in 1908 and was the first 18-hole golf course in Texas. In 1957, when the Houston Country Club relocated, the course became the Houston Executive Club until it was purchased by the City of Houston and renamed the Gus Wortham Golf Course in 1972. Over the years, the course has hosted a number of prestigious tournaments and championships and represents a milestone in the history of golf in Houston.

For information on Gus Wortham Golf Course or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.