



PRESS RELEASE

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NEW “SPLASHTACULAR” H-E-B WATER PLAYGROUND OPENS IN HOUSTON

New Park on South Dairy Ashford Makes Public Splash on Thursday, August 12

HOUSTON – As the summertime heat continues, many children will have a new place to cool off after the grand opening of H-E-B’s eighth water playground, located at Hackberry Park on South Dairy Ashford. **The celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Thursday, August 12, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

“It’s been a privilege to work with the Houston Parks Board and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department on this wonderful community project. The H-E-B Water Playgrounds will offer a fun, play-time experience for children in this community,” said Cyndy Garza Roberts, director of public affairs for H-E-B Houston. “H-E-B has always had a strong commitment to children and families in all of the communities in which we serve. This is our way of thanking our customers and neighbors for their support of H-E-B.”

The 1,200-sq-ft. H-E-B Water Playground at Hackberry Park, themed with turtles and lily pads, features brightly-colored recreational areas designed with equipment that squirts, sprays, mists and shoots water. Children will enjoy oversized lily pads that squirt water, aqua jumpers, and side winders, as well as in-ground elements that resemble geysers.

“We could not ask for a better partner than H-E-B,” said Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “Their support over the years has brought smiles to the faces of thousands of children who’ve enjoyed the H-E-B water playgrounds across the city. We thank H-E-B for their support and commitment to our park system and to all Houstonians.”

Since 2003, H-E-B has donated and committed \$2.5 million to the Houston Parks Board to create and build new water playgrounds in ten Houston public parks. The next two neighborhood parks to receive a water playground are Houston Amateur Sports Park, located at 288 and Airport, and Jaycee Park, located at 1300 Seamist.

“We are grateful for H-E-B’s unparalleled corporate support for Houston’s Park System,” said Roksan Okan-Vick, executive director of the Houston Parks Board “The children of Houston now have another delightful, cool place to play on a hot summer day.”

The specially-designed water playground equipment will be fully automated, controlled by a touch pad that activates the equipment. The water playgrounds are open each day from dawn until dusk. Admission is free.

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"The H-E-B Water Playgrounds located throughout greater Houston can be enjoyed by children nearly year-round during daylight hours," said Garza Roberts. "This means more children will have the opportunity to enjoy and have fun in our city's public parks."

Other H-E-B Water Playground locations in Houston include: Cullen Park, 19008 Saums; Blueridge Park, 5800 Court Rd.; Edgewood Park, 5803 Belfort; Hidalgo Park, 7000 Avenue Q; Aron-Ledet Park, 6500 Antoine; Montie Beach Park, 915 Northwood; and Dodson Lake Park, 9010 Dodson. The water playgrounds are open each day from dawn until dusk.

The Houston Parks Board, a non-profit organization committed to furthering public parkland development and improvements on behalf of private donors, serves as the project manager and facilitator for the project.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department oversees the management and stewardship of the city's 350 developed parks and provides programming and recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department visit www.houstonparks.org.

H-E-B was founded in Kerrville, Texas in 1905 with a single grocery store. For more than 100 years, H-E-B has been an innovative retailer known for low prices, fresh food, quality products and convenient services. The company has grown to more than 300 stores in Texas and Northern Mexico with more than 70,000 employees. It conducts a wide range of efforts geared toward helping the community and the environment. H-E-B is one of the largest food chains in the United States, with annual sales more than \$15 billion, and is the largest privately held company in Texas.

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