

Press Release

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HPARD Awarded \$220,000
TPWD Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant
Shady Lane Park To Be Renovated With Funding
Park to Be Featured During National Recreation and Park Association
Congress and Exposition In October 2013

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded a \$220,000 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Outdoor Recreation Grant for the redevelopment of Shady Lane Park, 10100 Shady Lane, 77093. The TPWD Commission approved the grant during their regularly scheduled meeting on January 24, 2013. The funding will be matched with \$220,000 in Capital Improvement Project dollars to create a \$440,000 funding source for the redevelopment. Shady Lane Park will be showcased in October 2013 during the National Recreation and Park Association Congress and Exposition as a Parks Build Community (PBC) project.

"We believe parks are the heart of every neighborhood and of our quality of life," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We thank the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for this grant. We invite you to come to visit Shady Lane in October. You'll be able to see a beautiful park thanks to this grant, NRPA's Parks Build Community project, Harris County Flood Control District, City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department, and Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Mormon."

The National Recreation and Park Association Parks Build Community project is a national initiative demonstrating the transformative value of parks and recreation on the health and vitality of communities across America. PBC's project vision involves selecting an urban park in need of revitalization, specifically in an underserved area, and transforming the property into a thriving gathering place for youth and adults. Additional partners are currently being sought to be involved in this ongoing project.

The redevelopment of Shady Lane Park, which adjoins the south side of the Bretshire Stormwater Detention Basin, will coincide with this ongoing partnership project between Harris County Flood Control District and the City of Houston. The Bretshire Stormwater Detention Basin project involves the construction of a 68-acre stormwater detention basin adjacent to Halls Bayou. When completed, the basin will hold approximately 167 million gallons of stormwater and will work to reduce flooding risks for those who live along the bayou's bank while improving the quality of urban stormwater runoff before it is released into Halls Bayou.

The project will also increase greenspace and natural habitats in the area by providing connectivity to three parks along its course - Harris County Precinct 2's Mary Withers Park (6 acres), HPARD's Shady Lane Park (12.4 acres) and Harris County Precinct 2's Bretshire Park (6.5 acres). Together these greenspace areas will provide the area with 93 acres of parkland and natural areas that can support a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Urban Outdoor Grant and Capital Improvement Project funding will be used to provide a new playground and playground site, a play hill area and seating plaza, access to the area via a connection to the existing trail, new native plant landscaping and trees to provide shade and improve the environment, and the demolition and site preparation of the old and obsolete playground for future parking expansion.

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 30,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 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.