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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Houston Parks and Recreation Department Receives CO-OP Grant to Help Children Connect with Nature** *Grant Will Fund Houston PARKS Adventure Program at 24 Community Centers*

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) has received a \$38,000 grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (T.P.W.D.) to support the Houston PARKS Adventure Program.

"This T.P.W.D. Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant means so much to cities like Houston because of the opportunities it provides our young people to participate in outdoor activities that they might not otherwise take part in," said Mayor Annise Parker. "This year, over 3,000 young people will participate in the Houston PARKS Adventure Program and enjoy outdoor activities like birding, archery, fishing, habitat gardening, and wildlife viewing because of this grant."

H.P.A.R.D. is one of twenty-two organizations across the state selected to receive a T.P.W.D. Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant to help get Texas children in touch with nature. Recipients include cities, non-profits, school districts, and communities that share a focus on natural and cultural resources and the development of future environmental stewards.

"This grant program was designed to introduce non-traditional constituents to nature-based programs and increase environmental stewardship," said T.P.W.D. CO-OP Program Director Darlene Lewis. "We will be able to serve nearly 12,000 participants with these awards."

The Houston PARKS Adventure program is a collaborative, community-based effort targeting at-risk minority youth, women and seniors. It provides year-round outdoor recreational opportunities and environmental education programming. Participants will take part in nature day camps, outdoor recreation programs, and service projects.

"H.P.A.R.D. is a proud partner with T.P.W.D. in this great program," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "In Houston's parks, children have access to natural forests, prairies, wetlands, bayous, lakes, and many kinds of wildlife. The educational component

of this grant ensures that the young people we serve today will gain the skills and awareness they will need to be the environmental stewards of tomorrow.”

The Houston PARKS Adventure Program will be promoted and managed through H.P.A.R.D.’s Recreation and Wellness Division for all registered populations, including youth, teens, and seniors interested in outdoor recreation. Activities will take place at select nature venues and community centers, including:

Almeda Community Center 14201 Almeda School Road 77047	Lansdale Community Center 8201 Roos 77036
Beverly Hills Community Center 10201 Kingspoint 77075	Lincoln Community Center 979 Grenshaw 77007
Carverdale Community Center 9920 Porto Rico 77041	Linkwood Community Center 3699 Norris 77025
Denver Harbor/Selena Perez Community Ctr 6402 Market 77020	Meadowcreek Village Community Center 5333 Berry Creek 77017
De Zavala Community Center 7520 Avenue H 77012	Melrose Community Center 1001 Canino 77076
Freed Community Center 6618 Shady Villa 77055	Proctor Plaza Community Center 803 W. Temple 77009
Garden Villas Community Center 6720 S. Haywood 77061	Settegast Community Center 3000 Garrow 77003
Godwin Community Center 5101 Rutherglen 77096	Swiney Community Center 2812 Cline 77020
Independence Heights Community Center 601 East 35 <sup>th</sup> 77022	Tidwell Community Center 9720 Spaulding 77016
Ingrando Community Center 7302 Keller 77012	Townwood Community Center 3403 Simsbrook 77045
Judson Robinson, Jr., Community Center 2020 Hermann 77004	Tuffly Community Center 3200 Russell 77026
Judson Robinson, Sr., Community Center 1422 Ledwicke 77029	Windsor Village Community Center 14441 Croquet 77085

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 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](http://www.houstonparks.org).*