



Press Release

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\$50 Thousand Dollar HGAC & TCEQ Grant Purchase Big Belly Trash Compactors for Hermann Park

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) has received a \$50,053 grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to purchase Big Belly Trash Compactors. Six Big Belly Compacting Duo trash recyclers were installed in Hermann Park, one of the city's most popular and heavily used park sites. These additional Big Belly Trash Compactors will join two earlier, single unit models and one other Big Belly Compactor already installed in the park.

"We're happy to report that the Big Belly Trash Compactors we have in Memorial Park and Hermann Park are being used by Houstonians. The units themselves keep track of trash volume collected and allow us to quantify their effectiveness and report that we've had a 21% reduction in the trash buildup in their installation locations," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "This statistic lets us know that park visitors will deposit trash in these units instead of on the ground. We are thrilled that this grant gives us the opportunity to expand the impact of the Big Belly units in Hermann Park."

The compactors are equipped with a wireless monitoring system that tracks usage and volume. It reports these statistics wirelessly to staff, who can then respond to a full volume when needed and keep park areas free of trash. It is hoped that the units' design, which differs from regular trash receptacles, will also attract park users' attention and encourage them to reduce waste and promote recycling.

H.P.A.R.D.'s Park Recycling Program has been in place in Hermann and Memorial Parks for two years. This new H-GAC FY15 Solid Waste Implementation Program grant will greatly expand its impact and effectiveness.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,859 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.