



PRESS RELEASE

April 1, 2015

Contact: Estella Espinosa
Work: (832) 395-7022
Cell: (832) 465-4782
estella.espinosa@houstontx.gov

Vote for Your Favorite Houston Park This Earth Month **Parks Build Community Challenge - 1 of 3 HPARD Parks Will Win \$20,000 Grant** *You Can Vote Daily For Your Favorite Park*

This Earth Month, the National Recreation and Park Association, Disney | ABC Television Group and ESPN are collaborating to revitalize parks across the U.S., including a Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) park! Through **Parks Build Community**, an initiative that gives back to these places that shape so much of our lives, **one of three H.P.A.R.D. parks will receive a \$20,000 grant and Houstonians get to choose which one.**

"Parks have immense power. They help families live healthier lives, connect kids to nature, increase kids' access to sports and so much more," said Barbara Tulipane, President and C.E.O. of N.R.P.A. "Parks Build Community is a great opportunity to share the power of parks during Earth Month while bringing essential funds to critical local park projects."

Houston is one of 15 communities across the country selected to participate in this Parks Build Community initiative. The public will determine which H.P.A.R.D. park will receive the \$20,000 grant through their daily votes.

"Our department is thrilled to be chosen to be part of the Parks Build Community Challenge," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We encourage communities to **visit NRPA.org/BeInspired** and participate by voting for their favorite project."

The **Parks Build Community** grant initiative will run from **April 1 to April 30**. During that time, park supporters **can vote on a daily basis for their favorite park project** by visiting **NRPA.org/BeInspired**. At the end of April, the park project with the most votes will receive the grant funding.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department projects are:

- **Herman Brown Park:** The Northshore Nature Walk will provide access to outdoor passive recreation and nature-based activities. A nature trail with mulch surface, seating areas and native plantings will be created to give park visitors access to wildlife viewing in a remote part of the park. Invasive species in the surrounding forest will be removed.
- **Milby Park:** Soccer Mini-Pitch Court Improvements will install a 20-foot fence around the perimeter of the newly resurfaced courts to increase safety for players and spectators, keeping the soccer ball inside the play area and away from the nearby park road. They will benefit students registered in the Soccer for Success program.
- **MacGregor Park:** Six tennis courts at the Homer Ford Tennis Center will be resurfaced with blended lines for 10 & under play. These upgraded courts will help expand play and practice time for younger kids who participate in the free Youth Tennis Program, enhancing their practice and playtime experience.

This Earth Month, show how parks build your community and vote to improve local parks and the places you go to have fun, enjoy nature and get active right here in Houston. **For more information and to vote, visit NRPA.org/BeInspired.**

The National Recreation and Park Association (*N.R.P.A.*) 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 more than 47,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, N.R.P.A. encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to N.R.P.A.'s flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

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.