



Press Release

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Herman Brown Park Wins Grant from The Walt Disney Company and National Recreation and Park Association

During Earth Month, Public Voted for Park Projects to Receive \$20,000 for Improvements

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) has been selected as a winner of the national *Parks Build Community* campaign and will receive a \$20,000 grant for a wildlife trail in Herman Brown Park from the National Recreation and Park Association (N.R.P.A.) and The Walt Disney Company, including Disney Citizenship, Disney|ABC Television Group and E.S.P.N. Community members voted for the winning project throughout Earth Month in April.

Parks Build Community helps to revitalize and restore local parks and park programs across the country. Herman Brown Park was one of 15 projects selected to receive grant funding. The public was invited to decide which of three local park projects in fifteen communities would receive the funding through an on line vote, and the winning projects nationwide were announced on May 18, 2015.

The \$20,000 grant will build the Northshore Nature Walk at Herman Brown Park, the Houston area winner of the vote. A half-mile loop nature trail will be built, connecting neighborhoods on the east side of the park through a forested wildlife area to already existing park facilities.

"We thank the Walt Disney Company, the N.R.P.A. and all park users who voted for their favorite park project during Earth Month," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Their vote and involvement in this creative grant funding contest not only determined that the Northshore Nature Walk at Herman Brown Park would receive the funding, but also involved Houstonians in becoming more aware of their public park system."

"The tremendous support shown by the public through their daily votes during Earth Month confirms what we truly believe: that parks have immense power to make our lives and the places we live better," said Barbara Tulipane, president and C.E.O. of N.R.P.A. "This grant will give the Houston Parks and Recreation Department the funds it needs to create a thriving gathering place in Herman Brown Park where youth, families and adults can connect with nature. This wouldn't be possible without the support of The Walt Disney Company."

The east side of the park will have a new access point with a nature trail, seating areas, and native plantings for passive recreation and viewing of the area's wildlife. The removal of invasive understory vegetation will improve safety and visibility. The new pedestrian entry point will be near the North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church, which has agreed to adopt the maintenance of the trail.

About the National Recreation and Park Association

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 about the winning Parks Build Community projects, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to N.R.P.A.'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 37,851 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 and Herman Brown Park, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.