



Press Release

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\$1 Million Gulfton Skatepark Project is Answer to Area Youths' Dream *Weekend Festivities Celebrate Construction Underway at Burnett Bayland Park*

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, together with Council Member Mike Laster, District J; Neighborhood Centers Inc.; and the Gulfton Youth will hold a groundbreaking celebration at Burnett Bayland Park on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. The event celebrates a dream come true for the Gulfton Youth, who spearheaded the drive to create a skatepark in their neighborhood. Festivities will include live music, local artist displays, and food trucks.

"We are excited to be celebrating the construction of this new skatepark and the young people who are responsible for making their dream a reality, the Gulfton Youth," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "They are an example of the creativity, energy and power that young people have to make a positive change in their community."

The idea to build the skatepark came from a local group of skaters in Gulfton. In 2013, the Gulfton Youth brought the idea to Council Member Mike Laster who connected them to Neighborhood Centers Inc. Neighborhood Centers supported and offered mentorship to the group. The group spent months doing research, and later presented their proposal to Joe Turner, Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, who was moved to make this project a reality.

"From day one, these kids have rolled up their sleeves and put in the hard work necessary to make this skatepark a reality. They are living proof of all the good things happening in their Gulfton neighborhood and the bright future ahead for Southwest Houston," said Council Member Mike Laster, District J.

The research and active design work the skaters have contributed to get this skatepark built have given them invaluable real life experience.

"This project means much more than a space where the youth can safely practice their sport and be healthy. It is ultimately about creating an engaged Gulfton youth that can be leaders in their community, speak their minds, follow through with their passion, and commit to

being an example for others to pursue their dreams,” said Angela Blanchard, Neighborhood Centers Inc. President and CEO.

The scope of work for the Burnett Bayland Park Skate Park includes: site clearing; site grading and earthwork, detention and drainage; construction of a new 17,500square footskatepark with a volcano, bowl, upper decks, grind ledges, stairs and handrails, flat bars, various banks, quarter and multiple steel pipes; a new entry plaza, site electrical and lighting, and a portion of the trail will be reconstructed.

The total project cost is \$1,092,696 and was made possible through a number of funding sources including:

\$405,000	Parks Consolidated Construction Fund
\$200,000	Parks and Recreation Dedication Fund
\$100,000	Neighborhood Centers Inc.
\$377,696	Council Member Mike Laster’s Council District Service Funds
\$ 10,000	Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grant

P2MG is the General Contractor. Clark Condon Associates is the design consultant and Stantec is the skatepark subconsultant. The General Services Department manages the design and construction for the Burnett Bayland Skatepark project. Chip Perry is the Project Manager.

About Neighborhood Centers

Neighborhood Centers Inc. brings resources, education and connection to nearly 600,000 people throughout Texas each year. For more than a century, Neighborhood Centers has offered innovative solutions to help low-income families in emerging neighborhoods get a foothold in the region’s economy. The organization works with residents in more than 70 service locations to help them discover the strengths and skills necessary to become productive, prosperous and self-sufficient. Building on the strengths of individuals and communities, Neighborhood Centers is transforming them. FOR GOOD. Neighborhood Centers Inc. is a United Way Agency. For more information, visit www.neighborhood-centers.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, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstont.gov/parks.