



PRESS RELEASE

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

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

During Earth Month, the public voted for their favorite parks and park projects to receive \$20,000 for improvements

A new fruit orchard and community garden at Houston's Herman Brown Park has been selected as a winner of the national *Parks Build Community* campaign and will receive a \$20,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association (N.R.P.A.) and The Walt Disney Company, including Disney Citizenship, Disney|ABC Television Group and ESPN. Houstonians 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. The Earth Month celebration highlighted the importance of parks and these types of park projects as they were promoted on social media, through Disney|ABC affiliates and via other Disney, ABC and ESPN properties.

The Herman Brown Park project was one of 15 projects selected to receive grant funding. The \$20,000 grant will provide access to fresh produce and volunteer activities for the Green Ambassadors Program at Furr High School and neighbors of Herman Brown Park through the construction of a new ½ acre, fenced community garden. The new facility will provide the neighborhood with ten 6' x 4' raised vegetable beds, a fruit orchard, on-site access to water, and a storage area for hand tools.

"The new community garden and fruit orchard will add a new dimension to the Herman Brown Park experience for the kids at Furr and the folks who live around it," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "The neighbors have proven themselves to be fully committed to work projects within Herman Brown Park, and the remarkable youngsters involved in the Green Ambassadors program have fully embraced the planning and implementation of the community garden. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department thanks all the Houstonians who voted in this competition, as well as the N.R.P.A. and the folks at Disney for providing this grant."

"The tremendous support shown by the public for a second year 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 funding that will help create a thriving gathering place where youth, families and adults can connect with nature and get active. This wouldn't be possible without the support of The Walt Disney Company."

As an additional facet of the *Parks Build Community* initiative, the N.R.P.A. offered a write-in option for another \$20,000 grant, which has also been awarded to an H.P.A.R.D. project. The department will repurpose an unused tennis court at Ingrando Park into a futsal/soccer mini-pitch court for players of all ages. It will benefit students enrolled in H.P.A.R.D.'s Soccer for Success program, which engages low-income, at-risk children at city parks and schools in youth development opportunities through the game of soccer.

For more information about the winning *Parks Build Community* projects, visit www.parksbuildcommunity.org. For more information about the Fruit Orchard and Community Garden at Herman Brown Park and the Futsal Court at Ingrando Park, please visit www.houstonparks.org.

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.

The National Recreation and Park Association 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 50,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.