

FY16

ANNUAL REPORT



houston
PARKS
& recreation
department
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Milby Park Soccer Field Groundbreaking





30th Annual COH Arbor Day Celebration - Volunteers Planting Trees on 8500 - 9900 blocks of Fuqua



FY16 ANNUAL REPORT

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Houston Parks and Recreation Department - Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of urban life by providing safe well-maintained parks and offering affordable programming for our community."



Schweppe Park

Director's Message

When I grew up, I remember going to the woods, going fishing, and enjoying the outdoors. The outdoors was a place to play with my friends and in the process it shaped my appreciation for parks and greenspaces. I am sure there are many of you who had similar experiences and have memories of being outdoors in the woods or being a 'park kid.' These early memories and experiences are what shape us and have helped develop our appreciation for parks and greenspaces.

For the past 100 years, parks and parks employees have worked to provide greenspaces, facilities and activities that contribute to an overall positive quality of life for the citizens we serve. As we work toward this goal, we recognize that the city's park system is a reflection of the City's history and the value Houstonians have placed on the benefits of greenspace for their families and for the future. That history also reflects the philanthropic nature that Houstonians have become known for.

Some of our most well-known and beloved parks have been created due to Houstonians' generous nature and love for greenspace and the natural world. Hermann Park and Hermann Square in front of City Hall were both given to the city by George Hermann. Other equally appreciated but less known donations created parks like Elizabeth Baldwin Park, Keith-Wiess Park, Herman Brown Park, E.R. and Ann Taylor Park, Katharine Ann Schweppe Park and many more. Each park has a story behind it that connects us to previous generations and Houston's history. Some were parks even before the Department of Public Parks was created by City Council in 1916. We are thankful for the generosity of the many Houstonians who made so many of our parks possible. Each park connects to the generation that came before us. Each has a story behind it and gives us a fascinating glimpse into Houston's history



JOE TURNER
Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department

"Parks are forever."

-Joe Turner
Director

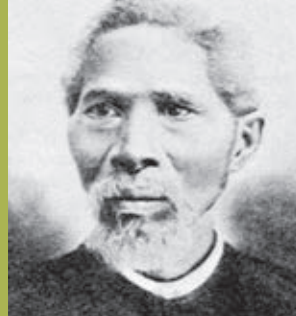
Houston Parks and Recreation Department



Herman Brown Park

Emancipation Park, the oldest park in Houston, located in the Third Ward, is one such park. The land was purchased in 1872 by freed slaves who bought 10 acres of land as a site to hold annual "Juneteenth" celebrations. They named this land Emancipation Park in celebration of their freedom. This private park would eventually become part of the city's park system in 1916, the same year that Houston's park system was officially created. For 144 years, Emancipation Park has remained an integral part of the community serving as a site for residents of all ages. It is also a part of a Third Ward Redevelopment Plan that is working to provide improvements to the surrounding neighborhood while preserving the history and culture of the area. We had expected to open this park in FY16, but Mother Nature forced delays in construction and we now look forward to opening the renovated Emancipation Park in FY2017.

FOUNDERS



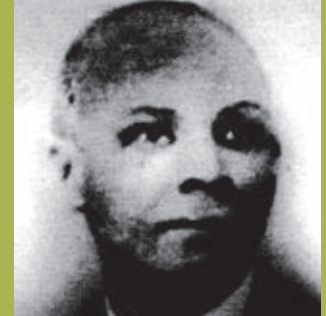
Reverend John Henry "Jack" Yate



Elias Dibble



Richard Allen



Richard Brock



Emancipation Park



In 1899, Mayor Sam Brashear purchased the land for Sam Houston Park. The 20-acre site was originally surrounded by homes and businesses in the then infant city. Now located in the center of Houston's downtown district, it is surrounded by city skyscrapers and celebrates Houston's history through the preservation and restoration of historic structures of Houston's and Harris County's past. Working with the Heritage Society, this gem of a park provides visitors with a window into early Houston.

In 1914, George Hermann donated 285 acres for the creation of a park. A year later, Mayor Ben Campbell encouraged the city to add to the acreage by purchasing an additional 122 acres of land. Today, Hermann Park is one of Houston's most beloved parks and sits next to Houston's famous Texas Medical Center. The park recently celebrated its first 100 year anniversary, and thanks to our partnership with the Hermann Park Conservancy, we are looking forward to many celebrations to come for this jewel of a park.

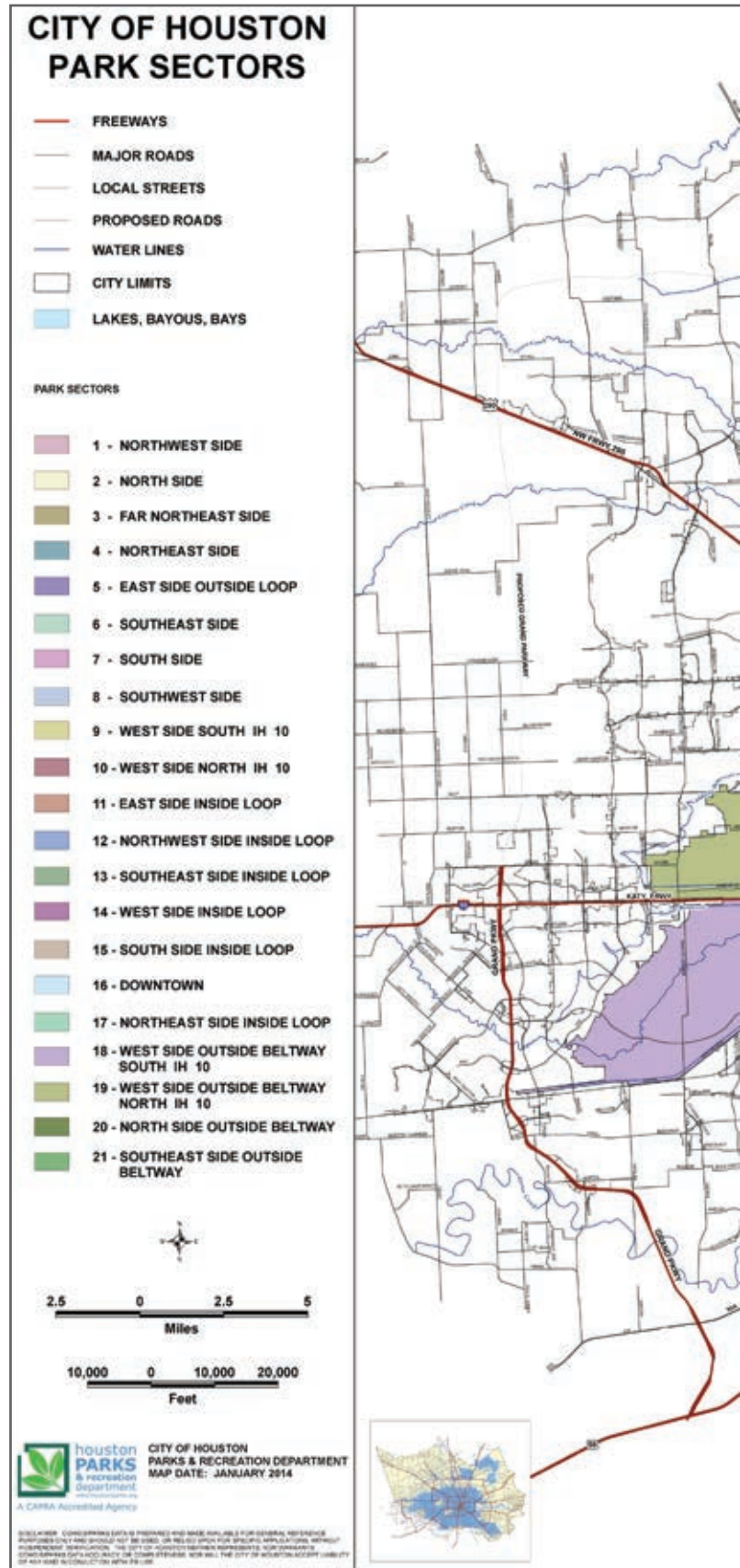
Over the ensuing years, Houstonians' desire to create parkland and their philanthropic support of the city's park system continued through two world wars, the Great Depression, and changing political will that saw the loss and gain of parkland. In spite of setbacks, the City's park system grew and today encompasses over 37,800 acres of land, 370 developed parks and over 200 greenspaces.

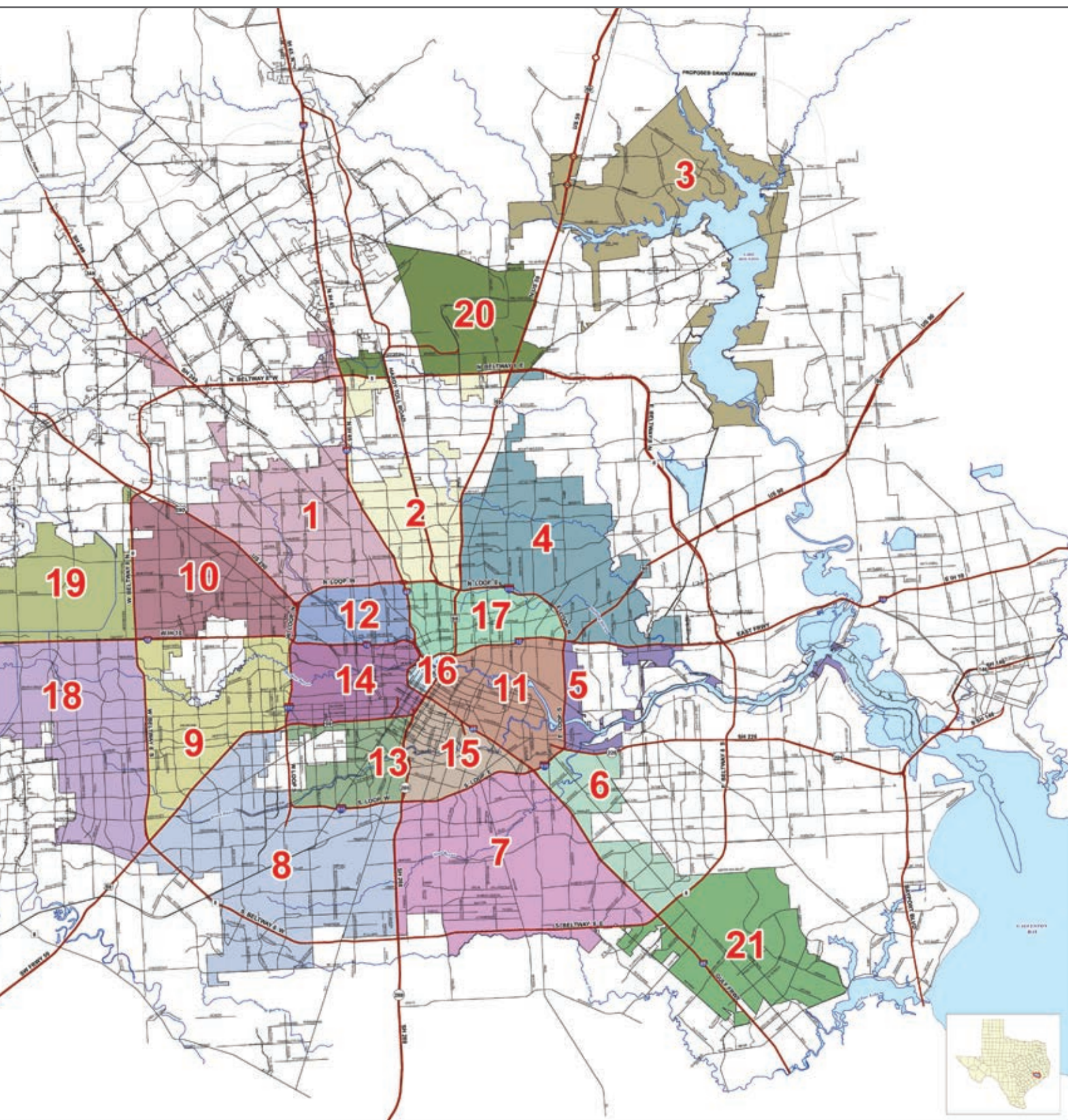
Extensive research over several years has resulted in our revised Parks Master Plan, our blueprint for future park acquisition and development. The Parks and Open Space Ordinance divided the City into 21 park sectors, and each sector was studied and assessed individually to determine its present strengths and needs, with an eye to a better future. This analysis led to recommendations both for the individual sectors and the city as a whole. With such intensive research and creative planning, our future as a city of parks takes on amazing new dimensions as we move on toward our next 100 years.

As we celebrate a century of Houston's park system, we acknowledge the continuing support the department has received from Houstonians, businesses and supporters whose vision has helped shape our city's park system for yesterday, today and tomorrow. Whatever the era, parks have contributed and continue to contribute to the economic, environmental and physical health of the communities we serve.

Joe Turner

Joe Turner, Director
Houston Parks and Recreation Department





The Recreation and Wellness Division oversees the department's community center operations and other recreational centers located in parks. Recreation and Wellness staff develop and implement programming within HPARD facilities for the public.



Sunnyside Park - Let's Play Carnival - July 17, 2015



Memorial Park - National Junior Tennis Kids' Day - July 30, 2015

Recreation and Wellness Division

The Recreation and Wellness Division offers programs designed to promote a healthy lifestyle for all ages and abilities through two separate sections: Community Center Operations and Athletics and Aquatics Services. Together, these two groups offer programs through HPARD's community centers, aquatic centers, golf courses, skateparks, athletic fields, and a variety of programming.

COMMUNITY CENTER OPERATIONS

Community Center Operations directs the programs and facility operations for sixty (60) Houston area community centers. This section is responsible for the development, implementation, supervision and evaluation of all community center programming for youth, teens, adults and senior adult populations.

This section also oversees the department's five (5) Fitness Centers and twelve (12) community center weight rooms. Recreation programs offered include the following:

- The After School and Summer Enrichment Programs offer a wide range of recreational activities including fun fitness, arts and entertainment, instructional sports, nature and creative fun for youth ages 6 – 13.
- The Mayor's After-School Achievement Program (ASAP), which expands after-school and extended summer learning opportunities to support the needs of working families through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.
- Instructional Sports
- Arts and Specialty Crafts for Adults
- Senior Adult Programs, including crafts, fitness programs, current events, walking clubs, senior forums, and much more
- Fitness Activities and Programs, including aerobics, weight training, and circuit training
- Nature and Environmental Educational and Exploration Programs
- Operation Gang Together (OGT) D-Tag, an intervention tattoo removal service for at-risk youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 to remove unwanted body tattoos for a higher chance of employability. The D-Tag program operates with funding from Houston Police Department (HPD) Drug Forfeiture funds.



DEBRA LATHAN

Assistant Director, Recreation and Wellness Division
Community Center Operations



KENNETH ALLEN

Assistant Director, Recreation and Wellness Division
Athletic and Aquatics Services



Hershey's Track and Field Games

- The Athletes Seeking Knowledge (ASK) Program provides scholarships and resources through donations to assist youth ages 13-18 in pursuit of a college education, trade school program, or to help improve their current academic standing in school.
- The Opening Doors Teen Mentor Workshop, held during the summer months, is designed to develop self-worth and character, prepare for job interviews, and hold team building activities and service learning projects for teens ages 14 – 18.
- Community Center Teen Programs offer a variety of fun programs, mentoring opportunities, and special events for teens, 14 – 18. Activities include teen camp experiences, nature activities, cultural programs, special events and college tours.
- Family Fun Days are scheduled in all community centers on the 4th Saturday of the month to bring the whole family together to enjoy recreational activities.



Aviation Teen Summit - November 2015

COMMUNITY CENTER ATTENDANCE	FY2015	FY2016
Summer Enrichment Program Participants	128,260	117,435
After School Enrichment Program Participants	268,165	249,330
Teen Program Participants	122,759	109,368
Adults and Senior Arts and Crafts Participants	171,541	160,075
Senior Leisure Class Participants	4,694	4,311
D-Tag Program Participants	131	102
D-Tag Program Community Center Service Hours	333	396
Adult Volunteer Hours	16,151	15,459
Teen Volunteer Hours	21,725	15,832
Field Trip Participants	17,106	10,535
Memorial Fitness Center Participants	8,338	6,892
All Community Center Weight Room Participants	237,097	237,797
Adult and Fitness Program Participants	360,050	293,153
AFTER-SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT (ASAP)	FY2015	FY2016
Number of Participating Sites	19	14
Youth Participants	271,077	83,411



Lakewood Park - ASEP Reading Time - Oct 2015



Charlton Park - Youth Zumba - March 2016



Tidwell Park - Senior Quilting - Nov 2015

ATHLETICS AND AQUATICS SERVICES

Athletics and Aquatics Services directs the programs and facility operations of 37 pool sites, 7 city golf courses (3 city courses are managed by private contractors), 1 state-of-the-art 30,000 square foot in-ground skatepark, 3 staffed tennis centers, Adult Sports Leagues, Soccer for Success, the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, Permits and Reservations, and the Summer and After-School Meal Program.

This section's responsibilities include the development, implementation, supervision and evaluation of this programming, including:

- Adult Fitness Classes at all levels for participants aged 18 and over
- League play in Basketball, Flag Football, Kickball, and Slow-Pitch Softball
- Management of the Permits and Reservations Office
- Staffing and management of the City's 37 swimming pools
- Staffing and management of four of the City's seven municipal golf courses (three are operated by vendors)
- Staffing and management of the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark

Soccer for Success

HPARD's Soccer for Success program had a great year and touched the lives of 1663 schoolchildren. In February 2016, a \$9,000 grant from AMAANAH Refugee Services, Soccer for Success was brought to another school to benefit refugee children. In April, a U.S. Soccer Foundation grant increase from \$142,500 to \$206,812 provided the program to an additional 500 participants. Also received in April, a \$20,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association will convert the Ingrando Park tennis court to an enclosed futsal court, to be opened in FY2017.

Milby Field Project Partnership

The Harris County Houston Sports Authority has donated \$100,000 to the Soccer for Success (SFS) program to build another field at Milby Park, in addition to the one they helped fund the early part of 2016. The additional field will be used for the SFS program, as well as the fundraising leagues to feed back into the SFS program. Work began in FY16 and is expected to be done by early December 2016.

Adult Sports

Adult Sports programming included the management of leagues in Flag Football, Slow Pitch Softball, Basketball, Kickball, and Volleyball, as well as holding Water Fitness Classes at 14 aquatic center sites, a 10% increase over



HPARD Soccer For Success

the previous year. A highlight of the year was an ASA partnership softball tournament that raised \$400 to benefit HPARD youth basketball. During Fiscal Year 2016, on line registration for adult leagues increased to 99%.

The Adult Sports Section manages skateboard classes at the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark, which involved moving operations in FY2016 to other locations for the duration of a renovation project. During this time, they trained all skatepark staff to be certified skateboarding instructors and held three helmet giveaways, providing 300 helmets to youth in need.

Youth Tennis

Tennis Center Operations staff brought the game of tennis to 48,208 children during FY2016, raised funding and distributed scholarships to deserving students. They cleared \$110,000 at their Annual Gala, completed a \$30,000 CASE grant, and received a \$10,000 Chase grant and a \$10,000 US Tennis Association grant. They distributed \$15,000 to National Junior Tennis League graduates, more than any previous year. And, the Houston Tennis Association donated \$100,000 to the Houston Parks Board toward facility improvements at the Homer Ford and Lee LeClear Tennis Centers. As always, they pursue new court and pro agreements.

Golf Operations

In FY2016, the portfolio of golf courses hosted nearly 200,000 rounds of golf. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department prides itself in delivering affordable, accessible golf, while providing outstanding customer service and facility conditions.

In FY2016, Memorial, the City of Houston's flagship course, maintained its status as one of the highest ranked municipal courses in the country. Memorial again hosted local prestigious events such as the Greater Houston Men's, Women's, Senior's Championships, Houston Junior Match Play Championship, the Young Houstonian Championship, and the USGA Junior Amateur Championship qualifier. Memorial Junior Golf Camp instructed over 300 youth.

With renovated greens that have matured to be one of the best putting surfaces in the city, Sharpstown Golf Course continued to be a local favorite, hosting nearly 50,000 rounds. Golf Operations provided free golf lessons to over 500 golfers, improving their game as well as introducing golf to new players. Also in FY2016, The City of Houston Golf Operations regained management of Glenbrook Golf Course after 25 years under private management. Prior to re-opening in February, Glenbrook received an extensive facelift, including improvements to the pro shop, café, bridges, bunkers, and turfgrass.

PERMITS AND RESERVATIONS	FY 2015	FY 2016
Closed Use Revenue	456,286	427,769
Closed Use Permits Issued	4,453	2,674
Ballfield Revenue	432,719	366,164
Ballfield Permits Issued	2,356	2,270
ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES	FY 2015	FY 2016
Team Registrations	1,040	962
League Participants	139,800	138,570
GOLF OPERATIONS	FY 2015	FY 2016
Brock GC	14,527	11,565
Gus Wortham GC	24,410	25,286
Memorial GC	61,685	63,249
Sharpstown GC	41,582	44,578
Glenbrook GC	10,777	8,841
Melrose GC	1,910	2,514
Hermann Park GC	41,964	45,255
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE	FY 2015	FY 2016
Total Sites	331	260
Lunches Served	286,829	288,114
Snacks Served	210,915	211,668
AFTER-SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM	FY 2015	FY 2016
Total Sites	72	73
Lunches Served	297,426	263,452
Snacks Served	211,403	170,304

Aquatics

The 2016 swim season was marked by a successful series of swim training sessions and a slight drop in the overall number of pool closure hours due to mechanical issues and weather conditions as compared to 2015. The department's Learn to Swim programs all saw an increase in registrants, with a total 4,552 in the Youth Learn to Swim, Youth and Adult SwimWise, and Adult Water Fitness classes. Of an optimal 19,404 scheduled hours, the department experienced only a 12.51% closure rate.

Summer Food Service Program and After School Meal Program

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department provides free lunches and snacks to children ages 1 – 18 at sites across the city through the Summer Food Service Program and the After School Meal Program. During FY2016, HPARD staff continued our commitment to reducing hunger among our youngest citizens by distributing 288,114 lunches and 211,668 snacks at 260 Summer Food Service Program sites and 263,452 suppers and 170,304 snacks at 73 After School Meal Program sites.

SOCCER FOR SUCCESS	FY 2015	FY 2016
Youth After School SFS program (registered)	998	1,663
H-Town Soccer Tournament (participants)	12,250	13,000
8v8 Adult Soccer League (participants)	1,200	1,500
Urban Soccer League (participants)	2,000	2,500
Joga Futsal League (participants)	0	150
Milby Park Events	33,000	30,000
JAMAIL SKATEPARK	FY 2015	FY 2016
Attendance	19,391	19,034
Permitted Events	7	4
TENNIS	FY 2015	FY 2016
Youth Tennis Attendance	55,984	48,208
AQUATICS ATTENDANCE	FY 2015	FY 2016
Pool Attendance	228,247	238,679
Youth Learn-To-Swim (H2O)	2,193	2,410
Youth & Adult LTS (SwimWise)	60	955
Water Fitness Classes	1,152	1,187
Lap Swim	1,620	2,057



ADAPTIVE RECREATION

The Adaptive Recreation Section's biggest accomplishment in FY2016 was recovery from a disastrous water main break in the entrance to the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center that had taken place in Spring 2015. Staff members had to scramble to reroute programming usually housed in the MMSC, the Adaptive Recreation Section's main location. Despite this obstacle, no programs were canceled. This was accomplished through the temporary use of partner organizations and other HPARD facilities to relocate some programming. Also, Adaptive Recreation made facility/staff adjustments to keep the pool, fitness room, and activity rooms open and available for daily operation despite extensive, ongoing building repair. The 7th Annual Metal and Muscle Expo 2015, held on November 7, 2015, was the biggest and most successful to date. Over 300 participants with a disability, 18 wheelchair sports teams, 200 volunteers and just over 3,000 visitors/spectators attended this 3-day event. Over 14 different Paralympic sports demonstrations, clinics and competitions were offered.

Adult Wheelchair Soccer Liga

Our 5th Annual adult wheelchair soccer liga was played October – December 2015 with 8 teams of 9 players. This is an inclusive league with both players with disabilities and able-bodied players together.

Wheelchair Rugby League

Our 7th annual wheelchair rugby league concluded November 2015 with more than 400 participants and spectators throughout league play. This integrated league included play for people with quadriplegia, paraplegia, amputees and able-bodied players.

Super Sports Saturdays

HPARD Adaptive Recreation held Super Sports Saturday events in November 2015 and March 2016. Each event held sports and recreation clinics and demonstrations in Paralympic Sports.

Power Soccer Program

Power Soccer is the fastest growing sport for people who use motorized wheelchairs. The first local mini power soccer league was held with help from Texas Children's Hospital and Mentis Neuro clinic. Four teams of 4-5 players competed in a round robin league schedule, followed by a championship bracket. Fundraising efforts were also successful with over \$2,000 raised with the help of Dynamo/Dash Charities Week, and a successful application for a \$2,400 grant from the JJ Watt Foundation to purchase a set of new power chair guards, four new balls and team jerseys.

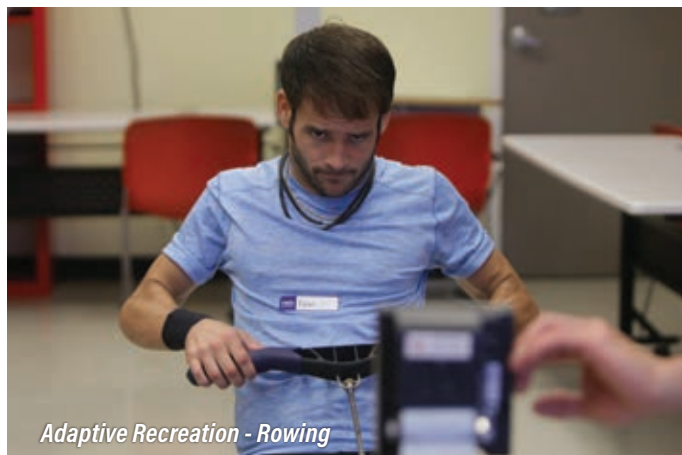




Adaptive Recreation - Sled Hockey

ADAPTIVE RECREATION	FY 2015	FY 2016
Adaptive Aquatics - Deep Water Class	10	34
Adaptive Aquatics - New Orientations	68	151
Adaptive Aquatics - Open Swim	7,424	7,111
Adaptive Aquatics - Water Aerobics Classes	3,296	3,800
Adaptive Fitness - Weight Room	166	95
Adaptive Fitness Room - New Orientations	222	97
Adaptive Fitness Room - Participants	7,348	6,889
Air Guns	7	118
ARC of Greater Houston Adult Dance	1,999	0
Art Class	184	37
Bariatric Boot Camp	61	112
Basketball (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)	0	0
Beading	147	136
Braille Youth Camp (Judo/Swimming)	0	0

ADAPTIVE RECREATION	FY 2015	FY 2016
Bridge	368	409
Beep Baseball	346	128
Deaf Seniors Advisory and Social Group	708	0
Deaf Women's Health Forum	0	0
Early Voting	19,475	14,568
Early Voting Run-Off Election	0	12,195
Flu Shots	0	0
Gardening Class/Group	0	0
Hand Cycling	60	38
Healing Poetry Class	0	0
Hot Shots Special Olympics Tennis	0	0
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Aquatic Class	153	34
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Land Exercise	127	0
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Tai Chi	82	0



ADAPTIVE RECREATION	FY 2015	FY 2016
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Tango	316	0
Houston Commission on Disability	262	174
Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp	72	19
Judo Clinic/Demonstration	12	0
Kayak Group	0	0
Line Dancing	692	430
Lose 2 Win Support Group	11	0
Metal and Muscle Expo	2,189	3,187
River Performing and Visual Arts Center	4,615	1,976
Special Olympics Coaches Training	107	39
Wheelchair - Basketball	955	973
Wheelchair - Basketball Tournament	0	0
Wheelchair - Power Soccer	551	304
Wheelchair - Rugby	657	529

ADAPTIVE RECREATION	FY 2015	FY 2016
Wheelchair - Rugby Summer League	113	246
Wheelchair - Rugby Texas Cup Series	219	0
Wheelchair - Soccer	326	77
Wheelchair - Soccer National Tournament	0	0
Wheelchair - Tennis	229	0
Wheelchair - Youth Basketball	433	382
Wheelchair - Youth Bball Tournament	0	129
Women's Empowerment Forum	0	0
Wood, White, and Wheels Tennis Tourney	0	0
Yoga	176	103
Young Athlete Olympics	0	0

The Greenspace Management Division oversees the daily maintenance of Houston's parkland, esplanades, greenspace, and urban forest. The division also maintains greenspace for certain facilities, including Houston Public Libraries and Health Department Multi-Service Centers.



Hermann Park - Browse Project partnership project with Houston Zoo

Greenspace Management Division

In FY 2016, Greenspace Management continued to meet the daily challenge of caring for lawns, trees, landscaping, and natural areas belonging to the City of Houston. Our crews did more work with fewer resources as park development and esplanade projects added more inventory.

To provide greater accountability and service, the division's job duties are divided into (7) sections: Grounds Maintenance, Urban Forestry, Sportsfield Management; Horticulture; Greenspace Adoption; Court Restitution and Community Service; and Lake Houston Wilderness Park.

Grounds Maintenance

Grounds Maintenance crews work on a daily basis across the city to fulfill the department's responsibility for the maintenance of certain city-owned greenspaces and parks including esplanades, sportsfields, trails, City of Houston Health Department multi-service centers, and Houston Public Library greenspaces. All parks are de-littered on a 3 day cycle. During the growing season, March 1 through October 31, parks are mowed on a 21 day mowing cycle. During the dormant season, November 1 through April 30, parks are mowed on a monthly basis or as needed.

Sportsfield Management

Sportsfield Management crews are responsible for the general upkeep of the department's sportsfields. Crews inspect and maintain fields that are not adopted by youth sports leagues. Sportsfields that have been adopted by youth sports leagues are maintained by the group that has adopted them in lieu of a permit fee waiver.

Horticulture

The Horticulture section oversees and maintains the flower beds and gardens located on HPARD properties. Horticulturists operate the Memorial Park Greenhouse to propagate plants for use in park flower beds and oversee projects involving the beautification of city property.



ABEL GONZALES

Deputy Director, Greenspace Management Division

Urban Forestry

In FY2016, Urban Forestry responded to 8,812 Service Requests for Tree Maintenance, which is an all-time high and a significant increase from last year's total of 5,155. Along the right-of-way, a total of 2,598 trees were removed and 8,833 trees were trimmed. The high volume of service requests resulted in slight overages for Priority 1 responses and substantial overages for Priority 2 responses. However, both contractor crews and in-house crews were able to eliminate any backlog of work by late January 2016 and maintain current status through March 2016.

Additional FY2016 Urban Forestry accomplishments include:

- Scheduled proactive maintenance in neighborhood parks. A total of 1,999 trees were trimmed with service provided to 73 parks and 89 neighborhood parks
- Improved response time on Service Request Initial Inspections from 7 days in FY15 to an average 1 day in FY2016 by adding additional inspectors
- Coordinated City's Celebration of the 30th Annual Arbor Day Celebration and City's recognition by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a 30 Year Tree City USA city
- Planted 300 trees on Fuqua esplanades adjacent to Blackhawk Park and coordinated the planting of 4,107 trees throughout the City as part of Arbor Day Celebration
- The procedures for reviewing building plans for their impact to street tree impact in FY15 were seen as successful in FY2016
- Created a new method to streamline all plan review and permit requests to a joint email account, forestryplanreview@houstontx.gov to allow more transparency and access of information to all staff
- Redistributed tasks and refined process to reduce 311 response time from in-take to completion to less than 10 days



SERVICE REQUESTS BY PRIORITY LEVEL

LEVEL	GOAL	ACTUAL
Priority 1	1 Day	2.5 Days
Priority 2	10 Days	33.5 Days
Priority 3	30 Days	181 Days
Priority 4	Oct - Feb	180 Days

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR ADDRESSING 311 REQUESTS FROM INTAKE TO COMPLETION

311 Service Requests	GOAL	ACTUAL
Assigned Within	1 Day	1 Day
Inspected Within	1 Day	1 Day
Verified Within	30 Days	1 Day

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR ASSIGNING, INSPECTING AND RECEIVING CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND PERMITS

Residential plans and Commercial plans are rated separately

TREE PROTECTION

Plan assigned within	1 Day	1 Day
Plan inspected within	5 Days	2 Days
Plan reviewed within	10 Days	4 Days
Residential Plans	10 Days	5 Days
Commercial plans	10 Days	3 Days
Permits	10 Days	1 Day(s)



*Clinton Park - Restoring Native Prairie
Funded in part by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Natural Resources Management Program

HPARD's Natural Resources Management Program (NRMP), created in 2013 to manage the natural (undeveloped) land held by HPARD, works to manage and improve habitat for fish and wildlife, to improve air and water quality, to create a living classroom for students to learn about the environment, and to bring nature enthusiasts to city parks.

In FY2016, NRMP has focused on prairie restoration and the positive impact they have on the environment. Prairies improve water quality, reduce flooding by storing water during rain events, create wildlife habitat, filter the air of pollutants, provide an educational tool for kids and adults and reduce the frequency an area needs to be mowed.

NRMP has worked on multiple habitat restoration projects through partnerships with various groups dedicated to improving the natural environment.

A partnership project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently underway in 2 HPARD parks designed to restore a total of 17 acres of previously mowed parkland to native coastal prairie habitat (Clinton Park 10 acres; Hobart Taylor Park 7 acres). NRMP interns worked with the Clinton and Hobart Taylor Community Center Managers to teach the kids at Clinton Park about the importance of prairies and the plants and wildlife that they will soon see there.

At Robert C. Stuart Park, NRMP's partnership is with Southwest Airlines. The project is to remove invasive Chinese Tallow trees from a designated restoration area.

At White Oak Park and Woodland Park, NRMP has teamed up with other groups on the restoration of riparian forests. The Houston Audubon Society is working with the department to create a 'bird-friendly' habitat at White Oak Park. At Woodland Park, the Friends of Woodland Park, Houston Parks Board and the Student Conservation Association (SCA), are working with the department to remove invasive species and plant native vegetation in the park. These new plantings will help attract wildlife and prevent erosion on the banks of the bayou.

Other NRMP Projects include

Native Plant Propagation at Memorial Park Greenhouse

- Partnering with Texas Master Naturalists, seeds are collected locally, planted and seedlings are transplanted into larger containers until they are ready to be planted in restoration sites in the fall.

Christmas Bird Count

- With assistance from the Houston Audubon Society the department started a new Christmas Bird Count Circle in the heart of Houston. This new circle count took place on December 21, 2015, with a number of parks included on the route. Fifty volunteers counted a total of 132 species of birds in participating sites, including Hermann Park, Mason Park, Buffalo Bayou Park, ER and Ann Taylor Park, Clinton Park, Stuart Park, Herman Brown Park, and FM Law Park.

The Creation of Houston Wild

- NRMP is working with local residents to have Houston recognized as a Certified Wildlife Community by creating backyard wildlife habitat. Houston Wild is associated with the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife Program. The NWF's program works to establish backyard wildlife habitats and educate the public about the importance of gardening for wildlife.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

- In FY2016, Mayor Turner signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge. This reinforced the City's commitment to take action to save the monarch butterfly. NRMP will participate in the Houston Monarch Summit in Fall 2016 and promote the planting and propagation of pollinator plants and milkweed and the COH Natural Area Ordinance (Ch. 32-10).

Environmental Education

- NRMP is constantly looking for ways to educate the community on the importance of wildlife and natural habitat around the city, native plant and wildlife identification, pesticide use and applicators' license certification, and through classes on native species to school groups at Lake Houston Wilderness Park and other community centers.





Lady Bird Johnson Tribute Wildflower Planting - Stude Park

Lake Houston Wilderness Park

Lake Houston Wilderness Park continued to show a strong growth trend in FY2016. Despite being closed for 39 days in FY2016 due to flood events, total park attendance was up 43% from FY2015 and total park revenue increased 25%. The park is expected to continue this trend as the surrounding community grows. Section G of the Grand Parkway, which connects to the Eastex Freeway, was opened to the public in March 2016. This major highway intersection is only 4 miles west of Lake Houston Wilderness Park. Section H of the Grand Parkway, which will run directly in front of the park, is scheduled to award a contract for the construction work this fall.

This year was very busy for our Nature Center as 260 educational and recreational programs were conducted. Many upgrades were made inside of the Nature Center, including 3 new exhibits and the addition of an interactive touch screen display. Employees and volunteers planted new trees, upgraded flower beds, and constructed a new decomposed granite trail, a major connection piece from the front steps of the Nature Center to the large parking lot and a trailhead of our 20 mile trail system. Our employees are doing an excellent job keeping up with the demand as the area around Lake Houston Wilderness Park continues to grow.



Lake Houston Wilderness Park



Lake Houston Wilderness Park



Lake Houston Wilderness Park

MAJOR EVENTS INVOLVING STAFF

9th Annual Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Planting, various parks	October 10, 2015
Urban Garden Program Second Annual Fall Harvest Festival	November 18, 2015
38th Black Heritage Society (MLK Event)	January 17, 2016
2016 Arbor Day Planting	January 30, 2016
4th Annual Dog Walk, Houston Rockets, Hermann Park	March 5, 2016
Hats in the Park Hermann Park	March 8, 2016
Tour de Houston Bicycle Ride	March 20, 2016
Japanese Festival At Hermann Park	April 16, 2016
Earth Day Houston At Sam Houston Park	April 16, 2016
45th Bayou City Arts Festival At Memorial Park	April 29, 2016

COURT MANDATED COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Workers Registered	10,416
Hours Worked	55,878
Value (based on \$21.47/hr)	\$1,197,465

URBAN FORESTRY

Trees Planted	4,107
Trees Trimmed	8,833
Trees Removed by HPARD	2,598

DE-LITTERING VOLUME

Trash Collected From Parks, Esplanades and other sites on maintenance inventory (Baggable trash; large items not included; 5,770 acres covered each cycle)	55,874 cubic yards of trash equivalent to 1,270 large dumpsters full
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GREENSPACE ADOPTIONS

Units Adopted (Sports fields, parks, esplanades, libraries and other COH Greenspaces)	963 Acres
Number of Participating Organizations	700

The Facilities Management and Development Division (FMD) is responsible for the administration of the Parks Master Plan. This division oversees and coordinates park system improvements and park expansions in coordination with the General Services Department (GSD). The General Services Department assists the department with the implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan and projects funded by the Parks and Open Space Ordinance.



Agnes Moffitt Park Playground Groundbreaking

Facilities Management and Development Division

The Facilities Management and Development Division (FMD) is responsible for the administration of the Parks Master Plan. This division oversees and coordinates park system improvements and park expansions in coordination with the General Services Department (GSD), which assists the department with the implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan and projects funded by the Parks and Open Space Ordinance. The Division also performs maintenance/repair for all existing facilities and executes special projects, such as renovations at the Director's request. To accomplish these tasks, the division maintains an internal Carpentry/Light Construction/Painting Shop, a Pool and Plumbing Shop, an Electrical and HVAC Shop, a Playground Inspection Shop, a Fencing Shop, and a Graffiti Abatement Shop.

The Park Administration section coordinates planning, design, construction, maintenance and events in HPARD's most popular Signature Parks, Hermann Park and Memorial Park. In addition, Park Administration works on projects as assigned by the Director to assist park groups and citizen advisory boards in achieving funding and planning goals. It also acts as a liaison for citizens groups and assists them in the development of specific park master plans and projects. With diminishing budgets, HPARD has been able to leverage its resources by working in collaboration with other City, County and State agencies and private donor groups to continue improvement and renovation of the City's Signature Parks.

The Park Planning Section of this Division is responsible for the administration and implementation of the Parks Master Plan, a living guidance document that is reviewed periodically to evaluate and make recommendations for the parks system based on evolving conditions and public input. The most recent Parks Master Plan was adopted by City Council in October 2015. This planning document serves as a long range planning tool that helps guide decision making in the department. The Planning Section is also responsible for the implementation of the Open Space Ordinance and the maintenance of the department's inventory of land, trails, and amenities. This section also conducts park-related research, including the creation of maps utilizing ArcGIS software. This section also coordinates closely with the Legal Department for various requests that affect park property.

Urban Park Rangers provide a visible security presence in our park system and they act as stewards of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. They enforce compliance with City Park Rules and Regulations and are trained to provide support with traffic and crowd control during special events. They are the frontline source of information for the general public and are well versed in assisting with park orientation and use. Urban Park Rangers monitor trails, picnic areas, pavilions and similar park areas, and their presence helps deter vandalism and promotes safety.



Michael Isermann

Deputy Director
Facilities Management and Development Division

Park Inventory

373	Parks
37,862	Acres of parkland and greenspace
61	Community Centers (including the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on West Gray)
38	Pools (including 1 indoor pool at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on West Gray)
25	Water Spraygrounds
225	Playgrounds
163	Miles of trails
8	Golf Courses (7 eighteen-hole, 1 nine-hole junior course)
5	Disc Golf Courses
202	Tennis courts
17	Volleyball courts
180	Basketball Courts (63 Multi-Use Pavilions + 36 Full Courts + 81 Half Courts)
158	Baseball and Softball Fields
87	Soccer Fields
16	Football /Rugby/ Cricket/ Lacrosse Fields
75	Practice Backstops
4	Nature Centers
9	Dog Parks
1	In Ground Skatepark - The Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark off of Sabine Street
5	Above Ground Skateparks
12	Community Garden Sites
5	Fitness Centers



COMPLETED PROJECTS	PROJECT DETAIL
TIGER Grant Project 2 - MKT Bridge to West 11th ST	1.2 mile trail
Lake Houston Wilderness Park	Bridge, restroom/shower facility and two cabins
Sam Houston Park	Sidewalk Improvements
Woodway Outfall	Parking Lot/Landscaping/Irrigation/Fencing
Clinton Park	Roof and Soffit Replacement
TIGER Project 4- Buffalo Bayou Path (Smith to Travis)	.3 Mile Trail
Schweppe Park	Park Renovation
River Oaks Park	Park Renovation
Bob Smith and MABS Fountains	Fountain Upgrades
Freed Park	Roof Replacement
Grady Park	Trail, parking, soccer fields
Sunnyside Park and Diez Park	Bleacher Shade Covers
Woodland Park Community Center	Roof Replacement
Moody Park	Playground
Japanese Garden - Hermann Park	Park Renovation
Agnes Moffitt Park	Playground
Jaycee Park	Ballfield Lighting
MacGregor Park	Master Plan
Kelley Maintenance Barn	Facilities Upgrades

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION	PROJECT DETAIL
Braeburn Glen/ Lee LeClear Tennis Center	Parking Lot
Haden Park	Parking Lot
Lansdale Park	Sprayground
Crain Park	Trail Replacement
TIGER Project 5/Guadalupe Plaza Park	East Downtown Transit/Residential Connection
TIGER Project 6 MLK/Old Spanish Trail Link	1.6 Mile Trail
Wildheather Park	Park Renovation
Wright-Bembry Park	Park Renovation
Levy Park	Park Renovation
Hermann Park Grand Gateway	Gateway into Hermann Park
Ingrando Park	Futsal Court
Metropolitan Multi-Service Center	Entry Canopy and Bus Shelter Connection
Hermann Park	Electrical Upgrades
Milby Park	Picnic Shelter Renovation
Emancipation Park	Park Renovation
Gragg Park	Park Renovation

PROJECTS IN DESIGN/BID	PROJECT DETAIL
Judson Robinson, Sr., Community Center	Park Renovation
Cullen Park	Playground
Meadowcreek Park	Pavilion
Linkwood Park	Master Plan
Mason Park	Plaza Area Lighting
Forum Park	Playground
Fonde Park	Dog Park
Burnett Bayland Park	Skatepark
Tanglewood Park	Park Renovation
Dow Elementary School Park	Park Renovation
Lake Houston Wilderness Park	Archery Range
Sharpstown Park	Swimming Pool Design
Hidalgo Park	Ballfield Lighting Replacement
Alief Park Community Center	Room Upgrades
Sharpstown Golf Course	Concession Upgrades
Gragg Park Campus	Waterline Replacement
East Memorial Loop Realignment	Phase I Trail
Hogg Bird Sanctuary	Trail
Houston Arboretum and Nature Center	Phase I Design Master Plan
LAND ACQUIRED THROUGH OPEN SPACE ORDINANCE	ACRES
Kirkwood Greenspace	1.44
Norview Greenspace	1.67
Wagner Greenspace	0.60
West Dallas expansion	0.17
Westheimer Greenspace	0.24
OTHER LAND ACQUISITIONS	ACRES
Fulton Greenspace	0.26
Oakbrook Greenspace	6.36





River Oaks Park Ribbon Cutting

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Management and Finance Division is responsible for oversight of the Technology Services, Safety, Grant Development, Fixed Asset Inventory, Contract Compliance, Risk Management, Desktop Computer Support, Phone Services and oversees the departmental relationships for Human Resources, Payroll and Workers Compensation. Management and Finance calculates and projects the financial needs of the Department on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. In addition, the division pursues, applies for, sets up and supervises grant funds received by the Department for all programs offered to the public.



Gragg Park

Management and Finance

The Management and Finance Division directs all components of Accounting, Contract Compliance, Fixed Asset, Procurement Services, Inventory, Grant Writing, Information Technology Services, Safety and Risk Management and manage relationships with Human Resources, Payroll and Workers Compensation Sections. The division estimates and forecasts the financial needs of the department on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

As part of this team, the Grants Office applies for, sets-up, tracks and oversees all grant funds received by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) for all programs offered to the public. The Grants Office researches award requirements for projects and confirms that prerequisites are met. In FY2016, the Grants Office worked with a variety of private and public funding sources to successfully obtain additional resources for the department. HPARD's success rate is due to its high principles in grant management including excellent accountability, contract compliance and reporting.

Also in FY2016, the Management and Finance Division had a positive year mentoring youth through The City of Houston Summer Jobs Program partnered with SER-Jobs for Progress and the Houston Urban League. Over 150 inspiring youth had the opportunity to work with HPARD employees and garner knowledge from all divisions within the department, as well as learn office protocol.

HPARD has been very successful engaging the community with the park system through friends groups, conservancies and partnerships, which have raised large sums of money for park improvements. HPARD welcomes in-kind and partnerships with foundations, public agencies, corporations, civic clubs, neighborhoods and individuals to supplement programs provided to citizens.



CHERYL JOHNSON
Deputy Director Management and Finance
Division

Houston Parks and Recreation Department FY 2016 Budget By Fund

The budget for the Houston Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of multiple funds. Within them, funds are allocated for specific uses and cannot be transferred between them.

Fund	Cost Center Group	CCG Name	FY2016 Current Budget	Allocation %
General - 1000	360001	Office of the Director	\$567,128	0.80%
General - 1000	360002	Management and Finance	\$8,560,112	12.01%
General - 1000	360002	Utilities (natural gas, electricity and sewer)	\$3,889,185	5.45%
General - 1000	360004	Communications Office	\$546,309	0.77%
General - 1000	360006	Urban Park Rangers	\$2,331,295	3.27%
General - 1000	360007	Facilities Development and Maint.	\$8,000,366	11.22%
General - 1000	360008	Zoological Gardens	\$10,283,343	14.42%
General - 1000	360009	Recreation and Wellness	\$5,364,128	7.52%
General - 1000	360013	Greenspace Management	\$20,780,586	29.15%
General - 1000	360015	Community Centers Operations	\$10,974,329	15.39%
General Fund Total			\$71,296,783	100.00%

Fund	Cost Center Group	CCG Name	FY2016 Current Budget	Allocation %
Parks Special Revenue - 2100	360007	Facilities Mgmt / Development Group	\$377,700	15.60%
Parks Special Revenue - 2100	360009	Recreation and Wellness	\$434,400	17.94%
Parks Special Revenue - 2100	360011	Golf and Tennis Center	\$656,605	27.11%
Parks Special Revenue - 2100	360013	Greenspace Management	\$623,100	25.73%
Parks Special Revenue - 2100	360015	Community Centers Operations	\$329,900	13.62%
Parks Special Revenue Fund Total			\$2,421,705	100.00%

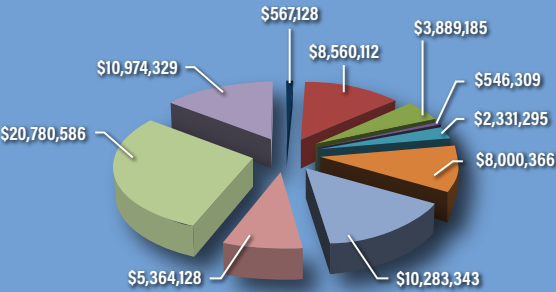
Fund	Cost Center Group	CCG Name	FY2016 Current Budget	Allocation %
Golf Special Revenue - 2104	360011	Golf and Administration	\$3,153,089	50.12%
Golf Special Revenue - 2104	360012	Memorial Golf Course	\$3,136,545	49.88%
Golf Special Revenue Fund Total			\$6,289,634	100.00%

Fund	Cost Center Group	CCG Name	FY2016 Current Budget	Allocation %
Maintenance Renewal and Replacement - 2105	360016	MRR Facilities and Irrigation	\$1,649,080	100.00%
Maintenance Renewal and Replacement Fund Total			\$1,649,080	100.00%

Fund	Cost Center Group	CCG Name	FY2016 Current Budget	Allocation %
Bayou Greenway 2020 - 2106	360017	White Oak Bayou	\$950,000	100.00%
Bayou Greenway 2020 Fund Total			\$950,000	100.00%

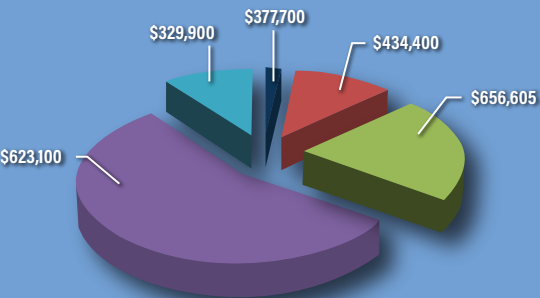
Fund Summary				
		General Fund 1000	\$71,296,783	86.31%
		Park Special Revenue 2100	\$2,421,705	2.93%
		Parks Golf Special Revenue 2104	\$6,289,634	7.61%
		Maintenance Renewal and Replacement 2105	\$1,649,080	2.00%
		Bayou Greenway 2020 2106	\$950,000	1.15%
Parks And Recreation Total FY2016 Budget			\$82,607,202	100.00%

General Fund - 1000



	Office of the Director
	Management and Finance Division
	Utilities (natural gas, electricity, sewer)
	Communications Office
	Urban Park Rangers
	Facilities Management and Development
	Houston Zoological Gardens
	Recreation and Wellness
	Greenspace Management
	Community Centers Operations

Parks Special Revenue Fund - 2100



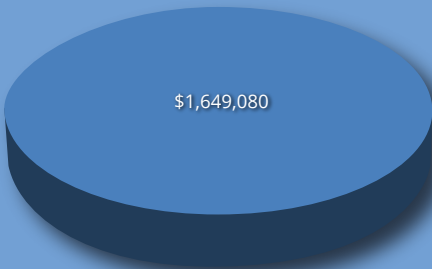
	Facilities Management and Development
	Recreation and Wellness
	Tennis Center
	Greenspace Management
	Community Center Operations

Golf Special Revenue Fund - 2104



	Golf Special Revenue Administration and Golf Course
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Maintenance Renewal and Replacement Fund - 2105



	Maintenance Renewal and Replacement Facilities and Irrigation
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Bayou Greenway 2020 Fund - 2106



	White Oak Bayou
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Funded Grants	Project Name	Amount
Texas Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Division	FY2016 Summer Food	3,419,089.37
Texas Department of Transportation	Halls Bayou Trail	3,182,584.00
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Emancipation Park Ride	1,500,000.00
Texas Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Division	FY2016 After School MLS	1,460,332.12
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Squatty Lyons Park	1,000,000.00
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Busby Park	830,000.00
Gulf Coast Workforce Board	Child Care Quality Improvement	512,257.00
HHCDD - Community Development Block Grant	Youth Enrichment Prog	420,938.00
HHCDD - Community Development Block Grant	Afterschool Achievement Program	285,939.00
US Soccer Foundation	Houston Soccer for Success	142,500.00
Gulf Coast Workforce Board	A.S.A.P.	22,500.00
National Recreation and Parks Association, Inc	FY2016 Out Of School Time	20,000.00
National Recreation and Parks Association, Inc	HBP-Fruit Orchard	20,000.00
Tony Hawk Foundation	THF@BURNETT BAY SKP	10,000.00
National Recreation and Parks Association, Inc	Grow your Park Program	8,000.00
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation	Hamman Youth Soccer	5,000.00
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Vamos A Pescar	5,000.00
The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation	Youth Track and Field	1,200.00
National Recreation and Parks Association, Inc	Parks For Monarchs	1,000.00
Phillips 66	Phillips 66 Volunteer	1,000.00
Total		\$12,847,339.49



Hershey's Track and Field Games



Play Ball! At Sunnyside Park

Partnerships	Project Name	Value
Christus - US Family Health Plan	Houston Soccer for Success Program	\$100,000
One Star Foundation	Student Conservation Association (SCA) AmeriCorps Texas	\$65,000
NFWF Five-Start Grant	Native Areas at Hobart Taylor Park and Clinton Park	\$40,000
Wells Fargo and NFWF - Environmental Solutions for Communities	Houston Parks Wildlife Restoration and Stewardship Project (TX)	\$27,000
Student Conservation Association	3-week, Summer Crew	\$25,986
GameTime Playground Grant	Gragg Park Playground Project	\$21,262
Houston Police Department	OGT D-Tag Program	\$56,664
		\$335,912

In-Kind Grants	Project Name	Value
Astros and MLB	Baseball Academy and Field Improvements	\$350,000.00
Houston Arboretum and Nature Center	Urban nature sanctuary at Memorial Park	\$350,000.00
Houston First Corporation	Metal and Muscle Expo: George R. Brown Convention Center on October 3-6, 2013:	\$24,500.00
The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and U.S. Forest Service	U.S. Forest Service National Public Lands Day at Clinton Park	\$750.00
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services	Pollinator Garden at Clinton Park	\$1,500.00
Harris County Medical Society	Supervising Doctors and Medical Technicians	\$67,200.00
Anti-Aging Inc.	Medical supplies, bandages and ointments	\$660.00
		\$794,610

The Communications Office handles public relations, social media, news media communication, web development, branding and marketing, graphic and print production and still and video photography for the department. The division works to communicate the department's message through press releases, media alerts, public service announcements, journal articles, op-ed articles, press conferences and other promotional tools.



TIGER IV Trail Ribbon Cutting Press Conference

Communications

The Communications Office handles the department's public relations, news media communication, social media, web development, branding and marketing, graphic and print production, and still and video photography needs. The department has no advertising budget, so Communications Office staff promotes the department's message through press releases, media alerts, public service announcements, journal articles, op-ed articles, press conferences, and other promotional tools.

Collectively, HPARD's communications professionals have many years of experience in the media, and they generate news stories that highlight the department's programs, facilities, and projects through the relationships they have formed over time with local news organizations. In Fiscal Year 2016, the Communications Office has generated approximately \$2,561,526.50 in media value for the department.

The Communications Office writes and programs HPARD's section of the City of Houston website and oversees the design and production of the department's print material, including HPARD's Activities Guide and Class Catalog and its Annual Report. The activities guide is produced three times a year, coinciding with seasonally changing programming. The office processes all Texas Public Information Act requests received by the department, the dissemination of messages through the City's CitizensNet email system, the coordination of email contacts by citizens, and the production of fliers, posters, brochures and other supporting material used by community centers. In Fiscal Year 2016, the office provided documentation for 49 Texas Public Information Act requests and coordinated responses for 1,527 questions from citizens. The Department's website was visited by 1,295,681 viewers.



ESTELLA ESPINOSA
Division Manager Communications Office

FY2016 Communications Accomplishments

In Fiscal Year 2016, some of the Communications Office's major accomplishments included:

July 6, 2015

Summer Food Service Program press event at the Selena Quintanilla Perez/Denver Harbor Community Center with HPARD Director Joe Turner, US Congressman Gene Green, Mayor Annise Parker, District H Council Member Ed Gonzales, and Jeremy Everett, Director of the Texas Hunger Initiative/ National Coalition on Hunger

July 9, 2015

Ribbon cutting event with HPARD Director Joe Turner, Mayor Annise Parker, District A Council Member Brenda Stardig, and Houston Parks Board Director Roksan Okan-Vick for a new pedestrian bridge on the White Oak Bayou Path, part of the first of six Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants

August 22, 2015

Ribbon cutting event with US Representative Gene Green and District I Council Member Robert Gallegos for the new North Shore Community Nature Walk in Herman Brown Park

August 21, 2015

Announcement of a \$1 million grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for improvements to Squatty Lyons Park

September 10, 2015

Groundbreaking in the rain for a \$1 million plus renovation project for Grady Park, with HPARD Director Joe Turner, District G Council Member Oliver Pennington, Marathon Oil Corporation Vice President Deanna Jones, and Sara Newbery from Uptown Houston TIRZ # 16

October 10, 2015

Press coverage of the 9th Annual Lady Bird Johnson Tribute Wildflower Planting, at sites across Houston

November 14, 2015

Press coverage of the Houston FootGolf Tournament benefiting HPARD's Soccer for Success program and the House that Ching Built, with former Houston Dynamo star Brian Ching

October 23, 2015:

Announcement of Hermann Park's placement on the American Planning Association's list of Great Places in America, with HPARD Director Joe Turner, Mayor Annise Parker, Hermann Park Conservancy's Doreen Stoller, and representatives of the APA

November 5 - 7, 2015

Press coverage of the 7th Annual Metal and Muscle Expo

November 13, 2015

Groundbreaking for renovations to two Sharpstown-area facilities, Lansdale and E.L. Crain Parks, with HPARD Director Joe Turner and District J Council Member Mike Laster

November 20, 2015

Groundbreaking for renovations to Wright-Bembry Park, with HPARD Director Joe Turner and District C Council Member Ellen Cohen

December 1, 2015

Groundbreaking for a new playground at Agnes Moffitt Park, with HPARD Director Joe Turner, District A Council Member Brenda Stardig, and representatives of the Moffitt family

December 5, 2015

Groundbreaking for a new building to replace the current Judson Robinson, Sr., Community Center, with HPARD Director Joe Turner, Mayor Annise Parker, District B Council Member Jerry Davis, and representatives of the Robinson family

January 30, 2016

Press coverage at Blackhawk Park of Houston's 30th celebration of Arbor Day, with Mayor Sylvester Turner, HPARD Director Joe Turner, District D Council Member Dwight Boykins, and many volunteers

March 7, 2016

Ribbon cutting for renovations to River Oaks Park, with HPARD Director Joe Turner, District G Council Member Greg Travis and former District G Council Member Oliver Pennington, Mike Nichols, Interim Director of the Houston Parks Board, and Dr. Susan Cooley, a long-time advocate for the park

March 21, 2016

Announcement of HPARD Director Joe Turner's Stewardship Excellence Award from the Cultural Landscape Foundation



Wright-Bembry Park Groundbreaking

March 31, 2016

Ribbon cutting for a new downtown stretch of the Buffalo Bayou trail, the 2nd of 6 TIGER Grant projects, with Mayor Sylvester Turner, District H Council Member Karla Cisneros, Buffalo Bayou Partnership's Collin Cox and Anne Olson, and HPARD Director Joe Turner

April 3, 2016

Press coverage of the 2nd annual Houston FootGolf Tournament benefiting HPARD's Soccer for Success program and the House that Ching Built, with former Houston Dynamo star Brian Ching

April 7, 2016

Announcement of temporary closure of the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark for renovations

May 5, 2016

Ribbon cutting event for renovations to Katharine Randall Schweppe Park, with HPARD Director Joe Turner, District D Council Member Dwight Boykins, and Dr. Irving Schweppe

May 20, 2016

Announcement of HPARD Director Joe Turner's Jim Rylander Award from Trees for Houston

May 20, 2016

Announcement of \$20,000 grants from the National Recreation and Park Association and the Walt Disney Company to build a community garden and fruit orchard in Herman Brown Park and to provide a soccer mini-pitch court at Ingrando Park, part of their Parks Build Community initiative

June 24, 2016

Groundbreaking for a new connection for the Buffalo Bayou and White Oak Bayou trails, the final of 6 TIGER Grant projects, with Mayor Sylvester Turner, District H Council Member Karla Cisneros, Buffalo Bayou Partnership's Collin Cox, Houston Parks Board's Beth White, and HPARD Director Joe Turner

June 28, 2016

City Hall presentation by Mayor Sylvester Turner proclaiming July as Park and Recreation Month, with HPARD Director Joe Turner, HPARD Recreation and Wellness staffers Debra Lathan and Kay Joshua and 100 children registered for the department's Summer Enrichment Program.

Each of these projects involved outreach to the media and the public through graphics production, website and social media development, and media strategy development.



TIGER III Grant Groundbreaking





Mayor Sylvester Turner
City of Houston

Joe Turner
Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Director's Staff

Abel Gonzales
Deputy Director, Greenspace
Management Division

Cheryl Johnson
Deputy Director, Management
and Finance Division

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Management and Development
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Kenneth Allen
Assistant Director, Recreation
and Wellness Division
Athletic and Aquatics Services

Debra Lathan
Assistant Director, Recreation and
Wellness Division
Community Center Operations

Estella Espinosa
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Luci Correa
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