

PRESS RELEASE

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National Recreation & Park Association and The Walt Disney Company To Award \$20,000 to One Houston Park

Vote For Your Favorite Park "Meet Me at the Park" Earth Month Grant Campaign

A Houston park will be awarded a big financial boost for improvements as part of a collaboration between the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Company.

"At NRPA we believe everyone deserves a great park. That's why we're proud to collaborate with The Walt Disney Company on this campaign," said Lori Robertson, NRPA Director of Conservation. "Everyone is encouraged to join us in giving back to the places that shape so much of our lives by participating in this year's campaign. A vote for your favorite park is all it takes."

Through the national "Meet Me at the Park" Earth Month campaign, one of three local parks will receive a \$20,000 grant and Houston residents get to choose which one. This year, Houston voters have three new projects to choose from:

- **Wagner Neighborhood Park** – The community uses this undeveloped urban space for outdoor recreation. Proposed improvements include: tree plantings, seeding, benches, bird houses, interpretative signs and trash bins and a seeding for an open grass area.
- **Woodland Park Nature Trail Restoration** – After Hurricane Harvey flooded Houston the nature trails at Woodland Park were negatively impacted by debris, fallen trees and erosion. Funds will help clear paths, repair erosion and restore habitat.
- **Dow Park Revitalization** – Dow Park is preparing for a major makeover. Funds will be used to upgrade the basketball court which will offer safe, open play and training opportunities throughout the year.

"We are very excited to be a part of this worthwhile Disney campaign that will benefit one of our local parks," said Steve Wright, Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director. "We encourage everyone to support their favorite park and take part in the competition. Last year, Houston Oak Forest Park was the winner. We look forward to seeing which park Houstonians vote for this year."

Park supporters can vote daily for their favorite park project from April 1 to April 30. Just visit www.MeetMeAtThePark.org or text **PARKS Short Code: 31279** and receive a link to vote online*. Everyone who votes will automatically be entered into a drawing for a GoPro Prize Pack!

This is the fourth consecutive year of the Earth Month collaboration between NRPA and Disney. It helps fund local park improvement projects in 16 U.S. cities with a goal of providing one million kids and families greater access to play.

**Standard message and data rates may apply. Both promotions (defined below) begin at 12 a.m. ET on April 1, 2018 and conclude at 11:59 p.m. ET on April 30, 2018. No purchase necessary to participate. The NRPA Meet Me at the Park Promotion and Voter's Sweepstakes (collectively, "promotions") are open to legal residents of the 50 US & DC, who are 18 years of age or older. For complete details and Official Rules for both promotions, visit www.MeetMeAtThePark.org.*

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, 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.

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.houstonparks.org.