



PRESS RELEASE

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Houston Parks and Recreation Department Receives \$30,000 'Meet Me at the Park' Grant to Increase Access to Local Play Spaces

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) has received a \$30,000 play space grant from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Company to revitalize a park in one of Houston's most underserved communities. This investment supports NRPA and Disney's combined goal of providing one million kids and families with greater access to play.

"Community is a primary focus of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. We are thankful to the National Recreation and Park Association, The Walt Disney Company and our local partner ABC 13 for their continued commitment to improving access to outdoor play," said Steve Wright, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "This *Meet Me at the Park Play Spaces* grant provides opportunities for young people and families to get up, get out and get active outside at Clark Park."

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will use the grant funds to establish a soccer field at Clark Park. Clark Park is a 13-acre underutilized park that serves the Near Northside neighborhood. Thanks to this grant, residents in the Clark Park neighborhood will soon have a place to play the world's most popular sport and follow their healthy pursuits.

"NRPA is proud to collaborate with The Walt Disney Company to help more children and families experience the benefits of play," said Kellie May, NRPA vice president of

programs. “By increasing access to play spaces, this program will also provide unique activities tailored to the local community that support healthy lifestyles.”

As part of the national *Meet Me at the Park Play Spaces* grant program, park and recreation agencies across the country were invited to share their best ideas on increasing access to play spaces for children and families in their communities. Agencies with the most innovative and impactful project ideas were chosen to receive \$30,000 grants to build their projects.

To learn more about *Meet Me at the Park*, visit www.nrpa.org/meetmeatthepark.

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 over 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.