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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY OF HOUSTON AND MEMORIAL PARK WELCOME THE RETURN OF THE HOUSTON OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT** *Information on Road Closures and Parking Information Available Online*

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Astros owner Jim Crane, and the Astros Golf Foundation kicked off the 2020 Vivint Houston Open Golf Tournament today at Memorial Park. The tournament runs November 5-8. To prepare for the event, the Memorial Park Golf Course underwent an 18-month, \$34-million renovation, funded by the Astros Golf Foundation. This year's tournament will feature an elite field of 132 golfers competing for a \$7-million purse for the winner. The Houston Open last played at Memorial Park in 1963.

"This is a momentous day in the City of Houston, and frankly for the entire region," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Our City looks forward to hosting some of the best golfers in the world to play the newly renovated Memorial Park Golf Course. I consider the international spotlight on Houston a hole-in-one. It is incredible to think that for the first time in 57 years the Houston Open has returned to the Memorial Park Golf Course, and that could not have been accomplished without Astros owner Jim Crane and Giles Kibbe of the Astros Golf Foundation."

While the return of the Houston Open is warmly welcomed it will impact park visitors and surrounding neighborhoods.

We worked with the neighborhood and residents to develop a parking and traffic plan to reduce the impact of traffic throughout the area," said Steve Wright, Director, Houston Parks, and Recreation Department. "We hope that runners and visitors to the park will understand and take this opportunity to visit one of our other parks in the system, including over 165 miles of trails."

For complete information about the impact of the 2020 Houston Open on Memorial Park and surrounding neighborhoods, including full parking information, please visit

[www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2020/2020HoustonOpenMemorialPark\\_ParkingPlan.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2020/2020HoustonOpenMemorialPark_ParkingPlan.pdf). Park visitors without a tournament pass are urged to:

- Access Memorial Loop Drive between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Please do not use Memorial Loop Drive between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Use Memorial Loop Drive after 11:00 p.m. to exit the park only.
- Park north of Memorial Drive between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Please do not park overnight or between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Event security will be on patrol.
- Use the Seymour Lieberman Trail between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Visit the Clay Family Eastern Glades between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Park south of Memorial Drive during normal park hours. There will be no tournament parking south of Memorial Drive.
- Visit any of the City Houston's other parks and trails during normal park hours. A list can be found on [www.HoustonParks.org](http://www.HoustonParks.org).

The Houston Open will be aired on The Golf Channel. For more information, visit [www.HoustonOpenGolf.com](http://www.HoustonOpenGolf.com).

To view today's Press Conference, visit <https://youtu.be/J2RCrY2ftA8>

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 380 parks and over 39,501 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*