



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$898,000 GRANT FROM TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Funds to be used to transform former transit center into East Sunset Heights Park

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded an \$898,000 Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission which will be used to upgrade and renovate the former Heights Transit Center at 6000 North Main into a park called East Sunset Heights Park. The funds will be used for improvements to the existing pavilion, a small stage, an ADA accessible playground (a portion of which will be undercover), restroom improvements, a splash pad, open lawn area, landscaping, a walking path, tricycle track, perimeter fencing, parking, and a bioswale or rain garden with educational signage. Existing native trees will be preserved. Benches, picnic tables and game tables will also be strategically placed for year-round enjoyment.

"The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to receive these funds from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "When this project is complete, this park will undoubtedly become a popular neighborhood gathering space and another Houston Parks Department success story."

The former Heights Transit Center was acquired by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department two years ago. The Parks Department then engaged Lauren Griffith Associates to create a Master Plan for the future .88-acre neighborhood park.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission's \$21.6 million in grant funds were approved to help fund projects that create and enhance recreational activities like nature trails, native gardens, playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks, and sports fields at community parks state-wide. The grants were allocated across Texas on a 50/50 reimbursement match basis. Once funded, all grant-assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained, and open to the public. For the latest information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, please visit www.houstonparks.org.

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.