



PRESS RELEASE

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Parks and Recreation Department Unveils New CenterPoint Energy Youth Football Field Funded by CenterPoint Energy and Congressman Al Green Announces \$1,550,000 for Additional Park Improvements

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressman Al Green, Houston Complete Communities, CenterPoint Energy, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department unveiled improvements to the Sunnyside Park Youth Recreational Field on **Thursday, May 4, 2023. Sunnyside Park, 3502 Bellfort, Houston, TX 77051.** U.S. Representative Al Green also announced securing an additional \$1,550,000 in federal funds for future Sunnyside Park improvements.

The new **CenterPoint Energy Youth Football Field** features upgrades including turf improvements, refurbished bleacher stands, new concrete bleacher pad, new scoreboard, new goal posts, irrigation and drainage upgrades, new sidewalks, and new fencing. The project was funded by a \$600,000 grant agreement between CenterPoint Energy Foundation and the Greater Houston Community Foundation for the benefit of the Complete Communities Improvement Fund.

“The CenterPoint Energy Youth Football Field will undoubtedly be a hit with neighborhood residents and youth sports teams in the area because this park is a treasured gathering space in the community,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “This project, along with the development of the nation’s largest solar farm right next door to Sunnyside Park, are vivid examples of my strong commitment to the Sunnyside neighborhood and my Complete Communities initiative. Thank you to CenterPoint Energy for your generous gift to this community. And a very special thank you to Congressman Al Green for landing an additional \$1,550,000 for Sunnyside Park and for his continued advocacy for this community.”

Alicia Dixon, Director of Community Relations for CenterPoint Energy, said, “CenterPoint Energy is committed to making investments that make our communities better places to live, work and play. We are honored to be a part of this beautiful centerpiece of Sunnyside and hope it will serve as a place for residents to safely gather and play for many years to come.”

The \$1,550,000 secured by U.S. Representative Green will make it possible to replace the Sunnyside Park gymnasium roof and floor, make rest room improvements, and complete other community center facility upgrades.

“Sunnyside residents have long needed their gymnasium renovated. The \$1,550,000 in federal funds will upgrade the functionality of this facility which serves as a community center, event venue, as well as a sports arena. It will not only restore the gymnasium, but also enhance opportunities to congregate for children and adults alike,” said Congressman Al Green.

Sunnyside is one of Houston’s oldest African American communities. It is one of 10 historically under-resourced neighborhoods that are a part of the City of Houston’s Complete Communities Initiative. “Sunnyside residents made ‘Improve Sunnyside Park’ the first priority listed in the Parks and Community Amenities section of the Sunnyside Complete Communities Action Plan,” said Shannon Buggs, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Complete Communities. “CenterPoint Energy responded to that call to action by donating funds to build a new youth football field and Congressman Al Green leveraged that investment to secure federal funds to refurbish some of the most in-demand spaces inside the Sunnyside Park Community Center. Public-private partnerships such as this help to make stronger, more vibrant communities for everyone.”

Work began on the CenterPoint Energy Youth Football Field earlier this year.

“Neighborhood projects, like this one at Sunnyside Park, are a priority for the Mayor and the Parks and Recreation Department,” said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “It is especially satisfying to bring smiles to the faces of community residents who enjoy and appreciate the many benefits of their neighborhood park. Thank you to CenterPoint Energy and the Mayor’s Office of Complete Communities.”

Sunnyside Park was acquired by the City of Houston in 1953. It is located in City Council District D, represented by Houston City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz. For more information about the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, visit www.houstonparks.org.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 382 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.