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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEE AND JOE JAMAIL SKATEPARK WILL RECEIVE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

Houston Parks Board to construct additional amenities

HOUSTON – April 8, 2016 – The Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark near downtown Houston has temporarily closed to the public for construction on upcoming improvements, including additional seating areas, shade structures and graffiti boards. Renovations to the 30,000 square foot park are funded by a \$2 million donation from the Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Foundation. The project will be managed by Houston Parks Board.

Improvements to the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark, which is owned and operated by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, will include a new grass terrace seating area and shade structures. The unique shade structures are innovative, freeform shapes made from state-of-the-art materials designed by Victoria Goldstein of VG Studio. Also included will be new graffiti boards, which will be curated by a team. Street art on thirty panels will rotate on a quarterly basis, with at least 10 percent reserved at all times for high school student artists.

"I am grateful and proud for this opportunity to contribute to Houston's skate park," said Victoria Goldstein, principal at VG Studio. "Designing for public space is fascinating because it belongs to everyone. The new shading structures, reference the aesthetic of the skate park's tricks and are built in a similar way to surfboards with light-cores and curvy coating. The skate park now has space for 600 spectators sitting comfortably under the shade and on the new terraced area overlooking the bowls."

The skatepark, located at 103 Sabine Street, is now closed and will reopen in October 2016. During the closure, avid skaters are encouraged to relocate to the North Houston Skatepark at 12351 Kuykendahl at Rankin Road, Houston, 77090.

In 2004, P.U.S.H. (Public Use Skatepark Houston) approached the Houston Parks and Recreation Department with a request for a skatepark. The department working with PUSH and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership identified and designated an area within Buffalo Bayou Park for the proposed skatepark. To assist with this effort the Houston Parks and Recreation Department enlisted the Houston Parks Board to work with PUSH in their fundraising effort. A \$1.5 million donation from the late trial lawyer Joseph Jamail made the project possible. The construction of the Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark was managed for the Houston Parks and Recreation Department by the Houston Parks Board. The current renovation project will add amenities to the popular skatepark.

One of the highlights of the facility is a "pool," which was never designed to hold water. Such pool replicas — the one at Jamail comes with steps, a shallow and deep end, and even a drain at the bottom — are a common

feature at skateparks around the country. They are built in homage to the early days of skateboarding, when skaters had to rely on drained swimming pools to develop and show off new tricks.

To learn more about the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark and other Houston Parks Board projects, visit houstonparksboard.org.

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The Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark is a state-of-the-art 30,000 square foot in-ground public facility containing one of the largest cradles in the nation. Clark Condon & Associates of Houston and Grindline, Seattle-based skatepark design specialists, teamed up to create the original park design. The Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark provided the first world-class, in-ground skatepark in the Houston region and vaulted the city to the forefront of American venues for this fast-growing, dynamic sport. The park has areas for skaters of all levels, from the seasoned pro to the beginner.

The **Houston Parks Board** is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to create, improve, protect and advocate for parkland in the Greater Houston region. Since its inception in 1976, the organization has raised and leveraged millions of dollars and touched at least 75 percent of the City's parkland either through acquisitions and/or capital improvements. For more information, visit www.houstonparksboard.org.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,859 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.houstontx.gov/parks.