



Media Contact:
Abby Linney, Elmore Public Relations
713-524-0661, abby@elmorepr.com

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

50/50 Park Partners Begins Community Listening Sessions for Second Set of 11 Neighborhood Parks

Houston, TX – November 1, 2021 – 50/50 Park Partners is pleased to announce that community listening sessions for the second round of 11 neighborhood parks are set to begin this month. The parks include Aron Ledet Park, Gleason Park, Forest West Park, Grimes Park, Oak Meadow Park, Tanglewilde Park, Briarbend Park, Cliff Tuttle Park, Hidalgo Park, Braeburn Glen Park, and Simon Minchen Park. 50/50 Park Partners is a Mayor Sylvester Turner initiative led by the City of Houston, Houston Parks Board, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and Greater Houston Partnership to improve 50 neighborhood parks.

“Parks are essential to the City of Houston’s resilience and quality of life, and all Houstonians deserve to have access to a great park with great programs,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “We want to hear directly from families and individuals who will enjoy these 11 neighborhood parks. Together, we will determine how to move forward with improvements and other ideas.”

50/50 Park Partners includes a coordinated process for determining park improvements focused on close collaboration with local communities. Community listening sessions present an opportunity for nearby neighbors to provide input on potential projects and work together to prioritize funding. Following each session, 50/50 Park Partners will work to determine an improvement plan based on the community’s feedback.

“Community engagement is one of the three founding principles for 50/50 Park Partners with the goal of creating improvements, projects, and volunteer support that are responsive to the community,” said Beth White, President and CEO of Houston Parks Board. “It is important that neighborhood residents attend these community listening sessions, so we can collaborate to determine what improvements are most needed.”

On August 25, City Council approved funding for design and construction for the first 11 neighborhood parks selected for improvements as part of the initiative. The agreement underscored the partners’ commitment to this public-private partnership by appropriating \$3,225,000 out of the Park and Recreation Dedication Fund for work to begin. Proposed improvements for each park were based on community input gathered during prior listening sessions and surveys. Design is now underway, and construction is slated to begin late 2022, with completion by the end of 2023 of improvements to 22 parks.

“When communities give their input on what happens to their neighborhood parks it’s a win-win for everyone,” said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “This initiative moves us closer to Mayor Turner’s vision of park equity in Houston. The Parks Department is proud to join our partners in helping to make this project a success.”

The heart of 50/50 Park Partners is the creation of long-term relationships for sustained impact between businesses, communities, and parks, improving the quality of life for Houstonians for decades to come. The project is supported by the City of Houston’s Resiliency Office and the Office of Complete Communities. The 50/50 Park Partners framework provides an opportunity for corporations to play a leadership role in supporting neighborhood parks and their surrounding communities, catalyzing the process of reinvigorating an under-resourced park.

“It’s exciting to see the transformational changes already underway through 50/50 Park Partners,” said Bob Harvey, President and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. “With this new round, communities get the opportunity once again to help determine the types of amenities that are really going to have the broadest positive impact on their neighborhoods. It’s incredibly important that we get this right to best serve the residents of our City.”

To learn more about 50/50 Park Partners and view upcoming listening sessions, please visit Houston5050parkpartners.com.

###

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 381 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.

Houston Parks Board

Houston Parks Board creates, improves, protects, and advocates for parks for everyone. Since 1976, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization has utilized public-private partnerships and its extensive philanthropic, government, and community relationships to provide equitable access to quality parks and green space to the Greater Houston region. In addition to leading the transformational Bayou Greenways initiative, Houston Parks Board cares for more than 2,800 acres of green space and supports park projects large and small. For more information on Bayou Greenways and Beyond the Bayous, visit houstonparksboard.org.

Greater Houston Partnership

The Greater Houston Partnership works to make Houston one of the best places to live, work and build a business. As the economic development organization for the Houston region, the Partnership champions growth across 12 counties by bringing together business and civic-minded leaders who are dedicated to the area’s long-term success. Representing 1,100 member organizations and approximately one-fifth of the region’s workforce, the Partnership is the place business leaders come together to make an impact. Learn more at Houston.org.