



Media Contact:
Rachel Compton, Elmore Public Relations
Rachel@elmorepr.com / 713-524-0661

NEWS RELEASE

Construction Begins on Greens Bayou Greenway

New greenway will provide access to multiple parks and playgrounds

HOUSTON, TX – Jan. 25, 2018 – On Thursday morning, Houston Parks Board, Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Steve Wright, Harris County Precinct Four Commissioner Jack Cagle, Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, and Houston Vice Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Davis, Council Member for District B, celebrated the groundbreaking of a new two-mile segment of Greens Bayou Greenway.

The new greenway, which is the first linear park on Greens Bayou to be built by the Houston Parks Board, will begin at Greens Parkway near Fall Lake Apartments and continue on the south side of the bayou until it reaches just shy of I-45.

Included in this phase of construction will be a new hike-and-bike bridge next to I-45 connecting the north and south sides of the bayou. In the near future, the Greater Greenspoint Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ 11) will build a trail from the bridge north to Rushcreek Road where greenway users can visit Dylan's Park and the world-class North Houston Skate Park, both of which were built and operated by TIRZ 11, as well as their future North Houston Bike Park.

Additional features of the greenway project include a new ten-foot wide concrete hike-and-bike trail along the bayou, two new 14-foot wide hike-and-bike pedestrian bridges, multiple neighborhood trail connections and park amenities including landscaping, trash cans, recycling bins, benches and unique botanical-inspired design features. A portion of the greenway is being built on land donated by the North Houston District.

"The first groundbreaking on Greens Bayou Greenway is such an exciting way to carry Bayou Greenways 2020 into the New Year," said Beth White, President & CEO of Houston Parks Board. "The two-mile segment and pedestrian bridges will create new opportunities for Houstonians to connect to nature, neighborhoods and each other."

"We're excited to celebrate the new construction along Greens Bayou," said Steve Wright, Director of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We look forward to the completion of the greenway and the new connections it will provide for the surrounding neighborhoods."

Greens Bayou Greenway is part of Bayou Greenways 2020, a public-private partnership between the nonprofit Houston Parks Board, the City of Houston and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and implemented in close collaboration with the Harris County Flood Control District, which manages the county's bayous and creeks for drainage and flood risk reduction. Bayou Greenways 2020 will

transform 3,000 acres of underutilized land along nine major waterways and create a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails along Houston's major waterways.

In 2012, thanks in part to the "Parks By You!" campaign, Houston voters overwhelmingly approved a bond proposal that set aside \$100 million for Bayou Greenways 2020. Houston Parks Board is raising an additional \$120 million and is managing acquisition, design and construction of the Bayou Greenways. More than \$107 million has been raised to date, including a historic \$50 million donation from the Kinder Foundation.

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A nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to providing access to quality parks and greenspace for all people, **Houston Parks Board** creates, improves, protects and advocates for parkland in the Greater Houston region. Since 1976, the organization has utilized public-private partnerships and its extensive philanthropic, government and community relationships to improve parks large and small. Houston Parks Board is currently leading the transformational \$220 million Bayou Greenways 2020 project to create a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails along Houston's major waterways. For more information, visit www.houstonparksboard.org.

Bayou Greenways 2020 is one of the most ambitious parks projects in the U.S. By transforming more than 3,000 acres of underutilized land along Houston's major waterways into linear parks, Bayou Greenways 2020 will create a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails. The \$220 million project will connect people, places and greenspace while enhancing air and water quality, preserving flood-prone areas and stimulating economic development in Houston.

The **Houston Parks and Recreation Department** (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 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.houstonparks.org.