



**Media Contact:**  
Mireya Rivera, Elmore  
[mireya@elmorepr.com](mailto:mireya@elmorepr.com) | 832-459-7761

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**Houston Parks Board appoints Thomas Simpson as Chief Program Officer**  
*Simpson to lead greenspace development and projects to advance HPB's mission*

**HOUSTON, April 6, 2026** — Houston Parks Board (HPB) is proud to announce **Thomas Simpson** as its next chief program officer. The organization selected him to oversee the organization's work expanding and improving parks and greenspace throughout the region. Simpson will oversee HPB's planning, design, and construction efforts, as well as the continued growth of partnerships with key stakeholders. Simpson assumes his new position starting today.

"Thomas Simpson brings a proven track record in developing public-private partnerships, working with broad coalitions, and leading through collaboration," said Justin Schultz, President and CEO, Houston Parks Board. "He understands the foundation of HPB's greenspace work — partnering with diverse stakeholders and identifying innovative approaches to advance projects. I couldn't be more excited for him to bring his expertise to HPB."

Simpson joins HPB from the Texas office of HR&A Advisors, a national real estate consulting firm, where he had worked since 2018. He rose through the ranks from senior analyst to principal and studio manager, a role he began in 2023. Simpson brings extensive experience advancing large-scale open space, infrastructure, and commercial projects across Texas and the nation. During his time at HR&A Advisors, he forged public-private partnerships, led strategic business development, and structured complex funding and financing strategies, working with a broad range of clients and stakeholders.

"Houstonians deserve access to quality parks and trails that enhance their health and contribute to the vibrancy of our city, and HPB is leading this effort," said Simpson. "I am excited to join an organization that is advancing transformative projects across the city. I look forward to partnering with Justin, our partners, and stakeholders to build on this momentum and advance projects that positively impact and connect communities."

Before joining HR&A Advisors, Simpson worked as an independent planning and development consultant on projects in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area. During this time, he produced land use plans, guided creation of a planned development district in East Dallas, and led several urban agriculture initiatives. Prior, he managed planning and placemaking projects at buildcommunityWORKSHOP, a nonprofit organization specializing in community-based architecture and urban planning and design.

Simpson holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Princeton University, where he also earned a certificate in urban studies. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Houston Land Bank and is a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

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### **About Houston Parks Board**

Houston Parks Board expands, improves, and protects parks and greenspace throughout the Houston region. 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 over 15,000 acres of parks and greenspace. In addition to leading the transformational Bayou Greenways initiative, Houston Parks Board maintains more than 3,400 acres of the region's greenspace and has supported over 250 park projects large and small. For more information, visit [houstonparksboard.org](http://houstonparksboard.org).