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NEWS RELEASE

Houston Parks Board completes inaugural Greens Bayou Greenway

New bayou greenway includes a two-mile concrete hike and bike trail segment with two new bridges, preserved open space and neighborhood gateways.

HOUSTON, TX – March 28, 2019 – On Thursday morning, Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Steve Wright, Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, and Houston Vice Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Davis, Council Member for District B, joined Houston Parks Board to celebrate the completion of a new two-mile segment of Greens Bayou Greenway as part of Bayou Greenways 2020.

Houston Parks Board's first linear park on Greens Bayou is anchored on the southern end at Greens Parkway by a 10-acre open space parcel with trail head acquired by the Parks Board. It extends north along the east side of the bayou to just west of I-45. In between, it connects a number of residential communities with additional open space acquired by the Parks Board and the North Houston District. Design features include a ten-foot-wide concrete hike and bike trail, tributary bridge crossing, landscaping, signage, trash and recycling bins, benches, and unique botanical-inspired gateway features.

At its northern end, a new bridge over Greens Bayou connects this segment of Greenway to additional trail connections to be provided by the North Houston Development Corporation (TIRZ 11) linking to Dylan's Park and the world-class North Houston Skate Park, soon to be joined by the new North Houston Bike Park, all built and operated by TIRZ 11.

"There is real synergy among the partners and residents along Greens Bayou Greenway in bringing new green space, connectivity and amenities to the community," said Beth White, President and CEO of Houston Parks Board. "This is just the first of several projects to be completed along Greens Bayou as part of Bayou Greenways 2020, and we are delighted to unveil this new public asset to the surrounding neighborhood."

"Providing opportunities for all communities to have access to greenspace where they can get up, get out and get active is what the City of Houston's parks department is all about," said Steve Wright, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We applaud all our partners who work together to provide access to greenspace for all."

Land acquisition, design and construction of the project cost \$9.1 million. Engineering firm RPS along with Talley Landscape Architects designed the project. Jerdon Enterprise, L.P. was the general contractor and Huitt-Zollars provided construction management services.

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 \$110 million has been raised to date, including a historic \$50 million donation from the Kinder Foundation.

For photos of the event, please [click here](#). *Photo credit to F. Carter Smith.*

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A nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to providing access to quality parks and greenspace in the Greater Houston region, **Houston Parks Board** creates, improves, protects and advocates for parks for everyone. 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 complete 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 complete 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. Public investment was matched by significant private contributions including an extraordinary lead gift of \$50 million in 2013 from the Kinder Foundation.

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.