

Justin Schultz announced as next president and CEO of Houston Parks Board

Schultz to assume role on Jan. 1, 2026

HOUSTON, Oct. 14, 2025 — Today, at its 2025 Annual Luncheon on the Avenida de las Americas Plaza, Houston Parks Board (HPB) announced that following a nationwide search, its Board of Directors has named Justin Schultz as the organization’s new president and CEO. Schultz, currently HPB’s chief program officer, will assume the role on Jan. 1, 2026, succeeding Beth White, who announced her retirement earlier this year.

“As a key architect of HPB’s ambitious 5-year strategic plan, Justin is uniquely positioned to transition seamlessly into this new role and continue driving momentum,” said HPB Board Chair Dr. Cullen Geiselman Muse. “With deep experience as our chief program officer, Justin brings both continuity and vision to the role. His expertise has been instrumental to our widespread work developing new trail connections and regional parks, and his leadership has paved the way for new public and private collaborations.”

Schultz joined HPB in 2022 as chief planning and strategy officer, where he led the strategic planning process unanimously approved by the board in 2023. In 2024, he was promoted to chief program officer, overseeing the organization’s research and development, planning, capital projects, land acquisition, maintenance, and conservation work. Since joining HPB, his leadership has been pivotal in expanding the Bayou Greenways network, which now spans over 150 miles along eight of Houston’s bayous. He has also overseen the improvement of over 30 neighborhood parks and partnered with city and county leaders to develop new public-private partnerships to expand park access for Houstonians. Since Schultz joined the organization in 2023, \$150 million in park and trail projects have commenced, which will add dozens of new miles of trails to the region’s greenway network.

“In my three years with HPB, I’ve developed a deep appreciation for the breadth and depth of work we do across the region, and it is a true honor to take this next step with HPB,” said incoming HPB President and CEO Justin Schultz. “As a native Houstonian, I feel a deep responsibility to help strengthen and expand our city’s parks and greenspaces — one that I am excited to embrace. I also want to express my appreciation for Beth White, whose invaluable leadership has evolved Houston Parks Board into a national parks and greenspace leader.”

Schultz’s passion for creating tangible impact in the built environment has been a hallmark of his career. Before joining HPB, Schultz spent more than 15 years leading public-private infrastructure projects — ranging from billion-dollar transit hubs in New York and San Francisco to nature-

based climate resiliency projects in New Orleans to new regional parks in Miami and Toronto. He led the creation of several strategic plans for non-profits across North America and served for six years at HR&A Advisors in New York City, where he oversaw the organization's people operations, strengthening internal systems and processes for the firm's 130 employees. Earlier in his career, he oversaw design, construction, and commissioning of the Fulton Center in Lower Manhattan, a nearly \$1.5 billion dollar transit hub that serves up to 300,000 users daily.

"It has been a profound privilege to lead this organization and work alongside Justin and our talented team of park professionals," said HPB President and CEO Beth White. "I am deeply confident in the continued strength and direction of our mission. Combined with the strong support and investment from the HPB Board of Directors and our generous donors, I'm excited to see the organization's continued success under Justin's leadership."

Schultz holds a master's degree in urban planning from New York University and a bachelor's degree in government and history from the University of Texas at Austin. He is also LEED AP Certified in Design & Construction.

###

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 14,000 acres of parks and greenspace. In addition to leading the transformational Bayou Greenways initiative, Houston Parks Board maintains more than 3,300 acres of the region's greenspace and has supported over 250 park projects large and small. For more information, visit houstonparksboard.org.