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NEWS RELEASE

New Segments along Greens Bayou and Sims Bayou Greenways Provide Access to Green Space
Communities now have increased access to new green space and trail amenities as part of Bayou Greenways 2020

HOUSTON, TX – September 8, 2020 – Houston Parks Board and Houston Parks and Recreation Department are pleased to announce new completions along Greens and Sims Bayou Greenways as part of the Bayou Greenways 2020 project.

“We are proud to continue our progress on Bayou Greenways 2020 and open these new spaces along Greens Bayou and Sims Bayou,” said Beth White, President and CEO of Houston Parks Board. “The past few months have highlighted just how important it is for communities to have access to parks, trails, and public green space where they can safely relax, recharge, and connect with nature.”

Greens Bayou Greenway: Thomas Bell Foster Park to Normandy Street

In January, construction began on a new .48-mile segment of Greens Bayou Greenway to connect Thomas Bell Foster Park to Normandy Street. The new linear park includes the addition of a 10-foot wide concrete multi-use trail and access to nearly 14 acres of green space along Greens Bayou Drive. Notable new features include a renovated kayak launch improving access to Greens Bayou and a mid-block crossing on Normandy Street with flashing beacons, and pedestrian crosswalk signage and striping.

Additional improvements include new seating areas, signage, trash cans and recycling bins. The Houston Parks Board Conservation & Maintenance team is continuing work in this area to grow native grasses and plant species.

“The City of Houston Parks Department vision is to create a park system that is equitable and balanced for people of all abilities ages, and socio-economic levels,” said Steve Wright, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We thank all our partners who assist us in improving parks, both large and small, for all Houstonians.”

Sims Bayou Greenway: Trailhead at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Airport Boulevard

In August 2019, construction began on a new park and trailhead along Sims Bayou Greenway at the northeast corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Airport Boulevard. The new trailhead was built on land purchased by Houston Parks Board, and funding for design and construction was secured through a partnership with the Gulfgate Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ 8.

Improvements to green space and surrounding intersections include a small parking lot with solar lighting, seating areas, picnic tables, signage, trash cans and recycling bins, and widened pacer crosswalks and gateways to improve connectivity to Sims Bayou Greenways and the surrounding neighborhood. The Houston Parks Board Conservation & Maintenance team is continuing efforts to

establish prairie grasses through native plantings both within the trailhead site and in the medians along MLK Boulevard and Airport Boulevard.

"Completion of this quality-of-life amenity is another example of TIRZ 8 and its partners working collaboratively for the public good," board chairman M.E. "Sonny" Garza said. "Investing local tax dollars at the neighborhood level shows how the TIRZ model is supposed to work and helping to expand Bayou Greenways is icing on the cake."

All completions are 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. The initiative is 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.

For photos of the new segments, please click [here](#). *Photos courtesy of Houston Parks Board.*

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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 Bayou Greenways 2020 project. 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.