HOUSTON PARKS BOARD

2014

ANNUAL REPORT
2014–2015 Board of Directors

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Dear Friends,

Over the past several years, it seems that many Houstonians have awakened to the fact that our city’s weather is absolutely idyllic for most months of the year. It’s easy to see this new awareness because our parks are full of activity never seen before, local restaurants are adding outdoor seating, and Houston is being cited in Forbes and other national publications as one of the best cities to live and work. This new embrace of the great outdoors has sparked a spirit of excitement, health and energy that is making us all look at Houston in a whole new way.

We are on a trajectory that is propelling Houston forward as a place where people are able to prosper and have the finest quality of life. And as we look across our community today, it is easy to see that green space is a key ingredient in Houston’s identity. Young adults, senior citizens, children and families are pouring into our parks, riding bicycles along our trails, and taking delight in the sense of community that develops when people come out of their apartments and houses and connect in parks near home.

The Houston Parks Board is playing a vital role in this process. Just one year ago we announced the launch of the Bayou Greenways 2020 project, the most transformative park development project in Houston’s history. When the project is complete in less than seven years, the greenways will connect great parks across the city—Hermann Park, Memorial Park, Mason Park and many more—with ribbons of green and trails running alongside the nine major bayous that run through every neighborhood in the city limits of Houston on their way to the Gulf of Mexico. Our city will be changed forever.

Even while devoting unprecedented energy to the Bayou Greenways, the Houston Parks Board continues to lead and invest in an array of other exciting projects across the city. Over the past year, we have helped bring positive change to many corners of Houston through our partnerships and work in Mandell Park, the Azerbaijan-USA Friendship Park, Francklow Park, Woodland Park, Linkwood Park and the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark, among others.

In our wonderfully diverse and interesting city, we are weaving together trails, parks and other recreational areas that create, connect and strengthen neighborhoods and bring people together in unprecedented ways. This is only possible because of the generosity of those who support and inspire us. We are truly grateful.

Thomas G. Bacon
Chairman

Nina O’Leary Zilkha
President
Great Steps Forward in a Landmark Project

Bayou Greenways 2020 is the most extensive project the Houston Parks Board has ever undertaken and one of the largest urban park projects in the nation. The Houston Parks Board has overseen enormous progress on Bayou Greenways 2020 in the past year, while continuing to pursue our mission of acquiring, improving and protecting parkland in Houston.

Through Bayou Greenways 2020, we will complete Houston’s century-old vision of connecting the great parks of our city with green ribbons of linear parks and trails along the bayous. With more than one million people expected to move to Houston in the next 20 years, creating more parks and green spaces is critical to our quality of life. Once complete, this magnificent project will add 1,500 acres of parkland distributed across every part of the city and will connect 150 miles of trail, all within the city limits. Nearly 60 percent of all Houstonians will live within 1.5 miles of a bayou greenway. Our city, known as an oil and gas hub in America, will increasingly become known as a city where residents and visitors can leave their cars behind as they run, bike and walk to their destination.

Additionally, the Bayou Greenways 2020 project will continue to improve our city for centuries to come by helping to control flood waters and enhancing air and water quality. As we build momentum to complete this project over the next several years, Houston Parks Board is committed to ensuring that Houston will continue to be a great place to live as our population grows.
Brays Bayou Greenway

Brays Bayou Greenway saw significant construction over the past year as piles of dirt and lines of machinery transformed into extensive new segments of trails bordered by beautiful green spaces. The segment between Lawndale and Old Spanish Trail is scheduled to open in late October, providing Houstonians near Brays Bayou with access to one of Houston’s most scenic stretches of bayou trails in a densely populated part of the city.

When complete, Brays Bayou Greenway will connect 31 miles of uninterrupted off-street, multi-use trails from the Ship Channel to George Bush Park and the Addicks-Barker Reservoir.

➤ Mason Park to Old Spanish Trail - construction is complete.
➤ Old Spanish Trail to University of Houston Main Campus - construction to begin fall 2015.
➤ Bridge over Brays Bayou from University of Houston Main Campus to MacGregor Park - design is in progress.
➤ Bridge over Brays Bayou at Mason Park - design is in progress.

Halls Bayou Greenway

When complete, Halls Bayou Greenway will connect trails along this charming bayou from Brock Park to Keith Wiess Park.

➤ Closing gaps between Brock Park through Jensen Drive - design is in progress.

Hunting Bayou Greenway

When complete, Hunting Bayou Greenway will connect trails along this scenic bayou from Herman Brown Park and Hutcheson Park to the Houston Ship Channel.

➤ Closing gaps between Hunting Bayou hike and bike trail near Mickey Leeland Park and Hutcheson Park - design is in progress.
White Oak Bayou Greenway

White Oak Bayou Greenway is one of the projects with the greatest concentration of activity this year. Several completed segments of hike and bike trails already exist, including the well-traveled TC Jester trails from Antoine Drive to West 11th Street. When complete, White Oak Bayou Greenway will connect 15 miles of uninterrupted off-street, multi-use trails from northwest Houston to downtown.

➤ Closing gaps around University of Houston Downtown and connections to MetroRail - construction to begin winter 2015.
➤ Extending Heights hike and bike trail from Shepherd Drive to West 11th Street - construction is in progress.
➤ Antoine Drive to Alabonson Road - construction is in progress.
➤ Studemont Street to MKT Bridge west of Durham Drive - construction to begin winter 2015.
➤ Alabonson Road to city limits - construction to begin winter 2015.
➤ MKT Pedestrian Bridge linking communities on the east and west side of the bayou - construction is in progress.

Sims Bayou Greenway

When complete, Sims Bayou Greenway will connect trails along this beautiful bayou from Hillcroft St. to Milby Park.

➤ Milby Park to I-45 – construction to begin winter 2015.
➤ Reveille Park to Stuart Park - design and construction underway by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
➤ Heatherbrook Drive to Hillcroft Avenue - construction to begin winter 2015.
➤ Scott Street to Heatherbrook Drive - design is in progress.

Greens Bayou Greenway

When complete, Greens Bayou Greenway will connect trails along this serene bayou from Drake Park to Greens Parkway.

➤ Interstate 45 to Greens Parkway - design is in progress.
Maintaining our Greenways

High quality maintenance is essential to protecting the long-term capital investment we are making in Bayou Greenways 2020. This July, Houston Parks Board assumed responsibility for maintaining completed bayou greenways, funded through an agreement with the City of Houston. Our new Bayou Greenways maintenance staff, comprised of a manager and two inspectors, will ensure that our new greenways and trails remain clean, attractive and accessible.

Our landscape maintenance activities will include mowing, litter and heavy debris removal and creating new meadows along the trails. We will also install and maintain amenities along the trails, including benches, drinking fountains and signs. All of this important work will be coordinated with our public sector partners, which include Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Precincts and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

For continuous updates on Houston Parks Board and Houston Bayou Greenways, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/houstonparksboard and www.facebook.com/houstonbayougreenways.
Capital Improvement Projects

Azerbaijan-USA Park and Friendship Bridge

Houston Parks Board is honored to partner with the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) and the City of Houston to make improvements to Azerbaijan-USA Park and construct a new Friendship Bridge crossing Memorial Drive at Sabine Street for pedestrians and bikers. Baku, Azerbaijan, is a sister city to Houston, and SOCAR is sponsoring the project, which will further beautify the park space between North Memorial Way and Memorial Drive. The Friendship Bridge will provide a beautiful safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing from Azerbaijan-USA Park across Memorial Drive to the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark, Fonde Recreation Center and the extensive system of trails along Buffalo Bayou.

Francklow Park

After losing approximately 90 percent of its beautiful tree canopy as a result of the extreme drought of 2011, the Francklow Park community partnered with Houston Parks Board and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to install irrigation and plant 580 new trees in the park.

Mandell Park

The long-awaited renovation of Mandell Park is complete. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Friends of Mandell Park, the $1 million needed to complete the project was raised and construction began in February 2014. Houston Parks Board, in the role of project manager, was delighted to partner with the dedicated residents of this community and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to complete a wealth of improvements. These included an expansion of the existing Meredith Gardens to include handicapped-accessible raised planting beds, a butterfly garden, meandering foot paths and a compost system, a solar-powered shed constructed from a recycled shipping container to store garden tools and other park necessities, a prominent meadow with a curved wall for seating, six rain gardens to filter pollutants from storm water, a demonstration prairie garden to showcase the varieties of plants that once flourished across the region, and both permanent and temporary installations of sculptural art pieces.
Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark

Prior to the creation of the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark, many Houstonians did not appreciate the importance of this special kind of park. Today it is hard to imagine Houston without it. After six years of constant use, countless special events and professional exhibitions, our popular skatepark will become even better in the coming year. New enhancements will include shade structures, retaining walls, seating terraces, improved walkways, lighting and additional landscaping. These improvements will make the facility more comfortable for visitors and better suited for larger exhibitions, events and contests that are eager to come to Houston.

SKATER ALLEY

Beyond the additions planned for the Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark, the entrance known as Skater Alley will also be enhanced. Visitors will enjoy new skate-able street elements and colored and textured surfaces that will be especially attractive to street skaters and beginners. The layout will also feature new landscaping, unique lighting and artwork by street artists.

BABES ON BOARDS

Babes On Boards is an annual event for females of all ages to get together to skate and just have fun. With guidance from professionals like Mimi Knoop and Alana Smith, ladies of any skill level can come out to experience one of the fastest-growing sports in the U.S., whether for the first time or to improve their skateboard style in an all-girl environment. This year’s event took place on August 9, 2014.

Woodland Park

In early June of 2013, a private developer constructing townhomes adjacent to Woodland Park caused substantial damage to nearly one acre of the park including deforestation and harmful soil grading. The City of Houston Legal Department and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department worked with the developer to obtain a fair settlement in the amount of $300,000 to help restore the park. Although there is no way to fully restore vegetation and trees that grew over many years, Houston Parks Board worked with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to restore as much of the park as possible to its original condition, and the results are remarkable.

Linkwood Park

Houston Parks Board is pleased to partner with the Friends of Linkwood Park to bring new improvements and facilities to one of our city’s most beloved neighborhood parks. Fundraising for the $420,000 project is currently underway. In addition to new landscaping, plans include the creation of a new toddler play area, improvements to the big kid play area, a new large pavilion for community parties and gatherings, new and repaired walkways to create a more attractive walking loop, a relocated basketball court, tennis court refurbishments, picnic tables, benches and a water fountain with a dog bowl for the neighborhood’s four-legged residents.
The advocacy program at the Houston Parks Board continues to focus on three main goals for an equitable park system: (1) prioritizing solid connections to our signature project, Bayou Greenways 2020; (2) enhancing our parks by examining ways to improve our natural environment; and (3) ensuring ample funding for parks across the state and locally.

Because we know that all Houstonians deserve equal access to greenways through connections linking their neighborhoods to the bayou trails and greenways, the Houston Parks Board routinely provides comments to transportation studies, planning documents and other projects. We also work in partnership with a variety of public sector agencies to support neighborhood accessibility and connectivity. By advocating for safe connections for all Houstonians, Houston Parks Board is reaffirming that Bayou Greenways 2020 is the backbone to an enhanced park experience for our city.

When we launched our maintenance program on bayou greenways this year, we also prioritized a focus on restoring and enhancing this ecological asset along the bayous. We will continue to work with our private and public partners on efforts to improve the natural environment along our bayou corridors.

Finally, we worked in cooperation with similar organizations to build support in Austin for park funding and other park-related issues. As one of the community partners involved in organizing Bayou Lobby Day, Houston Parks Board continues to advocate for strong park funding with our local non-profit peers.

Houston Parks Board will host the first ever Bayou Greenway Day on Saturday April 4, 2015. Thousands of Houstonians will join together to experience the Bayou Greenways, with a 2015 focus on Brays Bayou. For many, this will be their first opportunity to see the transformation that is occurring along our bayous, and they will enjoy a healthy, fun, family-friendly experience.
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Diana and Russell Hawkins
Cornelia and Meredith J. Long
$5,000 - $9,999
Susie and Joe Dilg
Jenny Elkins
Mike Garver
J.P. Morgan
Marie Louise and David Kinder
Ann Lents and David Heaney
Nancy and Neal Mann
Celia and Jay Munisteri
Nancy and Clive Runnels
Foundation
Annie Whitlock and Michael Skelly
Alyssa and Herman
Lorraine and Ed Wulfe
$1,000 - $4,999
Sue Soy and Don Aron
Susan and Jim Baker
Cathy and Paul Chapman
Ellen and Jim Cummins
Sara Paschall Dedd
The Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa
Carla Knobloch
Harriet and Truett Latimer
Amy and Gentry Lee
Peggy and John Odam
Russell Pitman
Francita and Jim Ulmer
$500 - $999
Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc.
Susan Garwood and
George Peterkin, III
Vivie and Chris O'Sullivan
up to $499
The Denton A. Cooley Foundation
Mary Jane and Bob Wakefield
Green Realtor Program
$1,000 - $4,999
Pelican Builders, Inc.
operations
$50,000 - $99,999
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
John M. O'Quinn Foundation
$10,000 - $24,999
George and Mary Josephine Hamman
Foundation
Albert & Ethan Herzstein
Charitable Foundation
Nina and Michael Zilkha
$5,000 - $9,999
Robert W. & Pearl Wallis Knox
Foundation
The Teapets Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Harper B. Trammell, in honor of Maire Baldwin
$1,000 - $4,999
Mary Bacon
Chevron Matching Gift Program
Mike Garver
Judy and Kenny Margolis
Power-Flow International, Inc.
The Brown Foundation
$25,000 - $49,999
Natalie and Rishad Alikhan
Cece and Mack Fowler
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert D. Gaedcke, Jr.
Maureen Johnsson and Todd Toczko
Russell Pitman
up to $499
Amazon
Sue Soy and Don Aron
Cara L. Baez
Adele and Arthur Bromiley
Richard J. Callaway
Dr. Erika D. Gentry
Greater Houston Community Foundation
Halliburton Global Impact
Sara W. Haynes, in honor of Nina Zilkha
HDC Management
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hegar
Harris and Eliza Kemper Fund
Kroger
Rebecca M. Kusko
Mr. and Mrs. H. Grant Lappin, Jr.
Gary P. Moss
Patricia L. Richardson
Joann Seuser
Dr. and Mrs. Peter K. Thompson
Traci and Kris Westbrook
Jeffery Young
YourCause, LLC
## ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$2,074,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
<td>10,813,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>12,419,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>14,780,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash held for Bayou Greenways 2020 Project</td>
<td>5,112,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficial interest in funds held by Houston Parks Board Foundation</td>
<td>5,427,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$50,627,784</strong></td>
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## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 224,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction projects payable</td>
<td>202,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds held for others</td>
<td>118,439</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>545,462</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets &amp; Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 50,627,784</strong></td>
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## REVENUE & EXPENSE STATEMENT

### OPERATING REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 23,309,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City concessions and event fees</td>
<td>529,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td>812,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park improvement projects - Houston Parks Board LGC</td>
<td>30,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,681,372</strong></td>
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</table>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayou Greenways 2020 projects</td>
<td>5,018,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City park improvements &amp; additions</td>
<td>1,829,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City-supported parks programs</td>
<td>2,363,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,211,467</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$ 296,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$199,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,707,591</strong></td>
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### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding to Houston Parks Board LGC, Inc.</td>
<td>14,973,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for land purchases</td>
<td>(780,755)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding to City of Houston for land purchases</td>
<td>(308,199)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conveyance of land to Houston Parks Board LGC</td>
<td>(298,926)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in beneficial interest in funds held by Houston Parks Board Foundation</td>
<td>736,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,322,132</strong></td>
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### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>35,760,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td><strong>$50,082,322</strong></td>
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</table>
A Growing Houston Parks Board Team

Entrusted by the people of Houston with the responsibility for implementing the ambitious Bayou Greenways 2020 plan and other park expansion and improvement activities, Houston Parks Board has expanded its staff team to ensure that we will continue delivering excellent projects on-time and within budget. This year we added ten new team members, including a new managing director of capital programs, one new member of the accounting team, a maintenance manager, two maintenance inspectors, a land acquisitions manager, a managing director of operations, an additional project manager and a projects coordinator.

We are fortunate to have assembled an excellent team with diverse experience, industry knowledge and expertise, allowing us to step confidently into the spotlight of the parks and trails community on a national level.