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## DEAR FRIENDS,

Parks and greenspace are our passion. Houston Parks Board is leading a transformational project in Houston that will connect people all over Houston to parks and greenspace—and to one another. In partnership with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Houston and the Harris County Flood Control District, Bayou Greenways 2020 will create a continuous linear park system in Houston by transforming 3,000 acres of underutilized land along major bayous into a 150-mile network of greenspace and off-street trails. When the project is complete, approximately 60 percent of Houstonians will live within a mile and a half of a Bayou Greenway.

As much as we love parks, we equally treasure the people who enjoy them. That's why we are

not only building and maintaining the Bayou Greenways, we are also introducing them to the Houstonians who will enjoy them for years to come. That was one of the goals of our second annual Bayou Greenway Day, where more than 3,000 community members celebrated our parks and bayous at T.C. Jester Park along White Oak Bayou Greenway on March 26, 2016. Families were able to get to know their bayou and their neighbors in a whole new way.

Because we believe that all Houstonians deserve quality parks and greenspace, we continue to work with community groups to improve their neighborhood parks and recreational facilities across Houston. In Fiscal Year 2016 alone, we've participated in planning and design work to improve 50 parks large and small across the Greater Houston region all while continuing to build momentum in our efforts to complete Bayou Greenways 2020.

Read more on page

Read more on page

Much of this progress would not have been possible without the exceptional contributions of our interim CEO, Mike Nichols, who served at the helm of the Houston Parks Board while we searched for a new and permanent leader. Mike's ability to lead and motivate people and his stature as a civic leader were just what we needed, and we will be forever indebted to him for his contributions.

Thanks to Mike, when the Board announced that Beth White would relocate from Chicago to become our permanent President and CEO, we knew that she would be able to hit the ground running in an organization that was healthy and working at top speed. Beth is a legend in the Windy City for her work at the Trust for Public Land, and we are

delighted that she will lead the next chapter of our growth here in the Bayou City. We hope you will join us in extending the heartiest welcome to Beth.

Most of all, we thank you for your generous support of our efforts to transform Houston's park system. As you read through this report about our successful year, keep in mind that we would not have been able to make this progress without you. It's because of your support that we are able to make strides towards our collective vision of parks and greenspace for all. Please enjoy these stories and share them with pride.

With your help, we've enhanced the quality of life for so many Houstonians. But we are not done yet, not by a long shot. Please stay with us and continue your support as we work together in creating, improving, protecting and advocating for Parks By You!

Thomas G. Bacon Chairman

Nina O'Leary Zilkha President

# ENHANCING NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH PARK IMPROVEMENTS



### **Woodland Park Trolley**

The Friends of Woodland Park, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Houston Parks Board brought a little history to Woodland Park with a life-sized replica of a historic trolley car. Before highways and light rails, Houstonians got around on trolleys. The replica trolley was built by Paul Carr, a retired Houston Fire Chief who donated all of his labor. He modeled the replica after an actual trolley car that serviced one of the most popular trolley routes in its day: from downtown to Woodland Park on Houston Ave.

The replica trolley will be cleaned and maintained by the Trolley Angels, a group created by Friends of Woodland Park, through an "Adopt-a-Park" agreement with HPARD.



### Selena Quintanilla Perez Denver Harbor Walking Trails

Denver Harbor Park sits in the east side of town and serves an underparked neighborhood near the Port of Houston. In response to citizen requests, Former Council Member Ed Gonzalez of District H stepped in to fund trail repairs and resurfacing and Houston Parks Board managed the project. Now, the neighborhood has a new park amenity they can be proud of.



## **Neighborhood Tennis Centers**

The tennis courts at Homer Ford Tennis Center in MacGregor Park and the Lee LeClear Tennis Center, adjacent to Braeburn Glen Park in southwest Houston, were in need of repair. The court surfaces were worn, due to age, weather and extensive use. The Houston Tennis Association provided funds to give the courts a fresh look with updated colors. The Houston Parks Board worked with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to resurface the courts at both tennis centers.

The newly renovated tennis centers serve as a close-to-home recreational opportunity for many surrounding neighborhoods and competitive play opportunities for tennis players locally and across the state.



## **Astros Batting Cages**

Four neighborhood parks were improved through a partnership between the Astros Foundation, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Houston Parks Board. Moody Park, Melrose Park and Sunnyside Park received new batting cages, while Sunnyside Park and Diaz Park received new bleacher covers. The baseball facilities at these four neighborhood parks support their local little league teams. The Astros Community Leaders Program has funded a total of 15 projects in parks throughout the city.



#### **Living Wall**

"This is basil. I love basil!" exclaimed a 5th-grader pointing out a bunch growing from the Living Wall at Cherryhurst Park. He and other 6- to 13-year-olds have been tending to the vertical garden all summer while attending the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) Summer Enrichment Program at the park. The children are growing herbs, fruits, flowers and vegetables with the help of Flora Moon, an active member of the Cherryhurst Civic Association and the Director of Sustainability with Expressworks.

Moon shares her expertise with the children in the Summer Enrichment Program through a partnership between the Cherryhurst Civic Association and HPARD. Consisting of wood, drip irrigation and plastic planters called "Woolly Pockets," the Living Wall was envisioned by Moon and brought to life with funding from the Friends of Cherryhurst Park and through the work of Houston Parks Board and the Cherryhurst Civic Association.

"It's an opportunity for the community to give back to the city by supporting the Summer Enrichment Program," explains Moon. She sees the Living Wall as a gardening experiment that's engaging the residents of Cherryhurst in a way that connects them to nature and to each other.

The Friends of Cherryhurst Park, the non-profit that supports the Living Wall, is thrilled with the impact of the vertical garden. Providing the children in HPARD's Enrichment Programs hands-on opportunities to learn sustainability in an urban environment fits their goal of increasing the use and offerings of Cherryhurst Park.

"It's so rewarding to see the park working so well for the children and for the community. Now it's vibrant," Director of the Friends of Cherryhurst Park Carol Rensink says of the newly improved park. With the addition of the Living Wall, Cherryhurst Park now has an ongoing educational experience. Rensink explains the wall will continue to be maintained by children in HPARD's After School Enrichment Program at the park and by volunteers from the Cherryhurst community after the Summer Enrichment Program is over

Through the partnership between the Cherryhurst Civic Association and HPARD, the impact of this project was immediate. The Living Wall truly enhances the sense of place for the neighborhood with a beautiful, living art piece in Cherryhurst Park that provides the residents with an opportunity to engage in sustainable gardening.









#### **Erosion Repair**

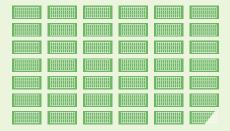
In addition to the work with the Living Wall, Houston Parks Board fixed an erosion problem on the south side of the park. Decomposed granite was replaced with moss rock boulders, bull rocks and sod, resulting in a beautiful solution to a messy problem.



## PROJECT PROGRESS



Secured 55 acres of future parkland, which is equivalent to 41.7 football fields



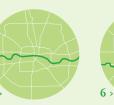
Worked on 7 different bayous, including 1 > Sims 2 > Hunting 3 > Halls 4 > Greens 5 > Buffalo 6 > Brays 7 > White Oak















## CONSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE



Installed 12 habitat boxes for bats and birds



Removed 660 truckloads of litter, debris and silt along the Bayou Greenways during daily maintenance activity and after 9 flood events



Repaired 10 benches





Maintained 58 miles of trail and 1,245 acres of greenspace



Replaced 6 drinking fountains



Planted 175 acres of wildflowers and tall grasses, which will sustain pollinators and wildlife



Replaced 30 trash receptacles and 15 recycling receptacles



Fed **2 elephants** at the Houston Zoo with giant reed, an invasive species of tall grass, found growing along Brays Bayou Greenway

## Living up to the name "Bayou City"

Through Bayou Greenways 2020, Houston Parks Board and its project partners, including the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and the Harris County Flood Control District, are connecting people all over Houston to parks and greenspace—and one another.

### Bayou Greenways 2020 will...

- Transform Houston into a healthier and more beautiful city
- Create a continuous linear park system along Houston's major waterways
- Give the public unprecedented access to more than 3,000 acres of greenspace along the bayous
- Add more than 80 new miles of hike-and-bike trails along the bayous within the city limits
- Give us a network of 150 miles of linear parks and trails crisscrossing our city



92% of campaign goal raised

ADDITIONAL MAJOR GIFTS FROM THE BROWN

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

3,600 people

at Houston Parks Board-hosted events

Introduced more than 3,600 people to BG2020 through community events including Bayou Greenway Day 2016 and Bats on the Bayou

people

at 110+ outreach meetings

Held more than 110 outreach meetings with community groups, elected officials, key stakeholders and others, reaching 1,800+ people

people

at other events

Reached more than 1,600 people through presentations at events, conferences and meetings held by other organizations

people reached through outreach activities in Fiscal Year 2016

Stats from Fiscal Year 2016



### BG2020 HIGHLIGHTS

#### WHITE OAK BAYOU GREENWAY

BROKE GROUND on three project segments that will, when built out, make this the first completed greenway:

- The northernmost segment, which extends the greenway to the city limits.
- A significant section of the greenway in the I-10 corridor, principally funded by Memorial Heights Redevelopment Authority and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) 5. Will provide an off-street alternative to the Heights Hike and Bike Trail for commuting into and out of downtown.
- A federally-funded project with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Will provide vital connections from the greenway to the METRORail, the Leonel Castillo Community Center and around University of Houston-Downtown to Buffalo Bayou Park.
- DEMOLISHED an abandoned apartment complex in collaboration with several City of Houston departments—including the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Houston Housing and Community Development Department and Council Member Brenda Stardig, District A. Helped fund the acquisition and transformation of a blighted property into a lush, family-friendly destination along the greenway.

#### HALLS BAYOU GREENWAY

COMPLETED DESIGN on all greenway project segments in this underparked part of town.

6) BROKE GROUND on a segment connecting nearby neighborhoods to Brock Park in northeast Houston.

SECURED 69 additional acres of parkland along the greenway.

#### **BRAYS BAYOU GREENWAY**

PLANNED, DESIGNED AND/OR BROKE GROUND on several segments of what will be the longest greenway in the system at more than 30 miles.

- 6 INITIATED DESIGN on the westernmost and final 7-mile segment.
- BUILT a significant portion of a federally-funded project with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department from Old Spanish Trail to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Will provide a connection between Fonde Park, University of Houston and existing trails along the greenway.

BID three Texas Department of Transportation-supported projects, including a signature bridge in Mason Park, the "University Connections" bridge near University of Houston and a project to fill in the greenway gaps near Hermann Park. Construction begins fall 2016.

8 PLANTED 85 native oak and maple trees through a partnership with Trees for Houston.

#### SIMS BAYOU GREENWAY

INITIATED DESIGN on every segment of the greenway, which will offer almost 20 miles of connected greenspace when completed.

- COMPLETED design and BID the first segment. Will provide unprecedented access to rolling, open greenspaces via off-street trails to an eager community in southwest Houston. Construction begins fall 2016.
- 1 PLANTED 14 native oak and maple trees at Reveille Park along Sims

  Bayou Greenway as part of a reforestation project with Trees for Houston.

#### CLEAR CREEK GREENWAY

(2) AWARDED \$7.1 million to secure and protect land along Clear Creek through the RESTORE Act, which dedicates settlement funds from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for restoration projects in key watersheds across the Gulf of Mexico.



## Walk, Bike, Run, Roll, Stroll, Play, Picnic...

On Saturday, March 26, Houston Parks Board hosted the second annual Bayou Greenway Day at T.C. Jester Park along White Oak Bayou Greenway.





presented by noble energy



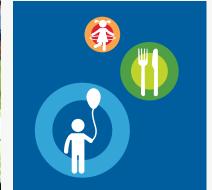






























We worked with more than 30 nonprofits, local businesses, elected officials and community groups to provide a family-friendly festival for

## **ADVOCACY**

Houston Parks Board advocates for a number of causes related to parks and greenspaces. We aim to:

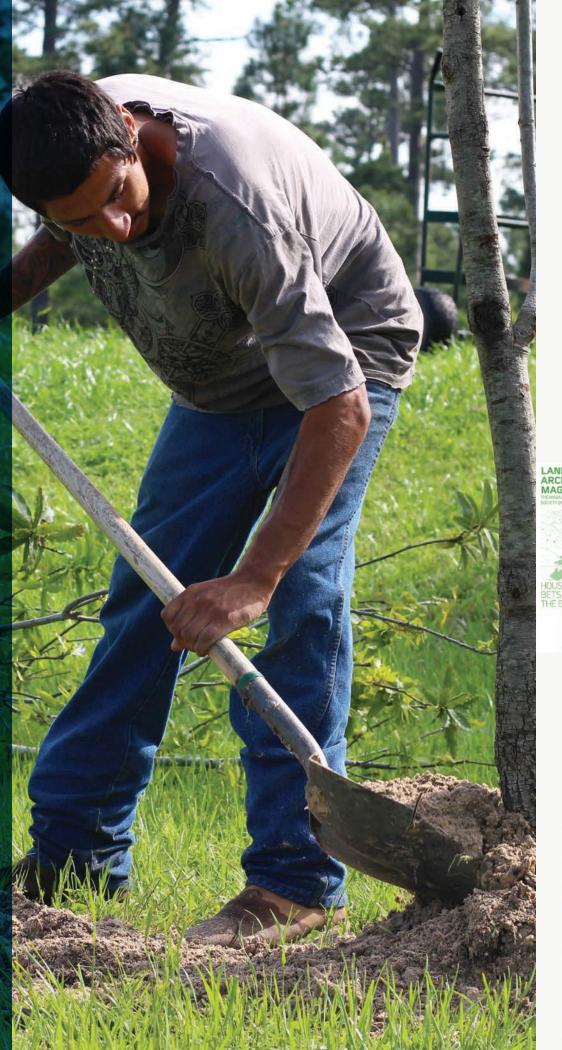
- I. Increase the number of parks and trails in Houston and educate the public about their benefits;
- 2. Conserve the biological diversity of Houston's parks, bayous and waterways;
- 3. Ensure ample funding is available for parks in our region.

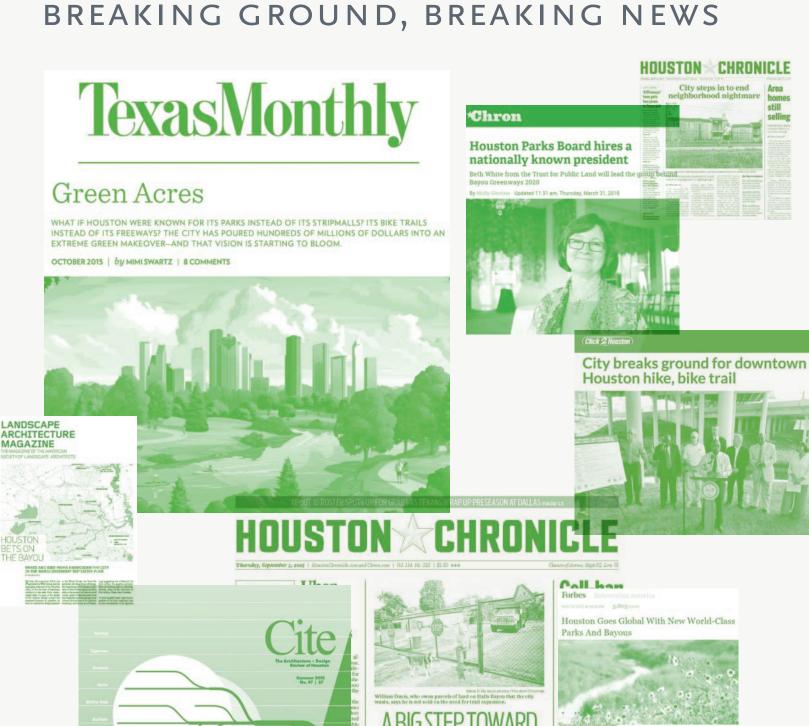
In October 2015, we co-hosted a Mayoral Forum called "A Greener Houston: How do we get there?" for issues related to Houston's parks, bikes and waterways. We worked alongside about a dozen other green organizations in Houston, including the Citizens' Environmental Coalition, Scenic Houston and Houston Wilderness, to provide a platform for candidates to let voters know where they stood on issues that affect the natural environment and our quality of life.

Throughout the year, Houston Parks Board worked with Texans for Clean Water and Bayou Preservation Association to develop plans for cleaning up the trash in our bayous. Because we pick up tons of trash from the Bayou Greenways each year, we see ourselves as key players in this initiative and believe our maintenance efforts are part of the solution to the trash crisis.

Houston Parks Board also reached more people than ever before this year through its grassroots outreach efforts. For the first time, the organization's outreach and capital projects teams combined forces to craft and provide district-specific information about Bayou Greenways 2020 at most of the Council Members' Capital Improvement Project (CIP) town hall meetings. This allowed us to reach over 1,200 community members and leaders in ten council districts across Houston.

Houston Parks Board assisted the City of Houston with the creation of the Houston Bike Plan. As a funding partner and member of the steering committee, Houston Parks Board gave regular input on the plan's content and priorities. Throughout the year, we also distributed Bike Plan information at our public appearances to encourage citizens to play a role.











## THANK YOU, 2016 DONORS

Your contributions helped us create, improve, protect and advocate for parks and greenspace all over Houston.

Houston Methodist Hospital System

Memorial Hermann Health System

MD Anderson Cancer Center

\$10,000 - \$24,999

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Bayou Parc at Oak Forest

Dr. Cullen K. Geiselman

H-F-R

Includes gifts, pledges and pledge payments received between July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

#### **BAYOU GREENWAYS** Bayou Greenways 2020

#### \$3,000,000 - \$7,999,999

The Brown Foundation, Inc. Houston Endowment Inc.

(pledge \$50,000,000)

\$1,000,000 - \$2,999,999 The Hildebrand Foundatio

(pledge \$9,000,000) \$500,000 - \$999,999 The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

(pledge \$1,600,000) \$300,000 - \$499,999

Joan and Stanford Alexander (multi-year pledge)

\$100,000 - \$299,999 The Elkins Foundation

(pledge \$1,000,000) The Fondren Foundation

(nledge \$500,000) The Hearst Foundation, Inc. Knobloch Family Foundation Silver Eagle Distributors

(pledge \$300,000) Sterling-Turner Foundation Meg and Dick Weekley

Nina and Michael Zilkha (multi-year pledge)

\$50,000 - \$99,999 Maire and David Baldwin (multi-year pledge)

The William Stamps Farish Fund (pledge \$150,000)

Noble Energy

(pledge \$300,000)

\$25,000 - \$49,999 Dickson-Allen Foundation

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(multi-vear pledge) Iill and Dunham Jewet (multi-year pledge \$10,000 - \$24,999

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\$50,000 – \$99,999

(pledge \$200,000)

Noble Energy

Bayou Greenway Day

Angie's Cake LLC Cash Donations up to \$499 Landscape Art. Inc Shirley Bludau Norma and Beto Cardenas

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**Woodland Park Connectivity Study** \$25,000 - \$49,999

Memorial Heights Redevelopment Authority **OPEN GREENSPACE** 

\$500,000 - \$999,999

Houston Endowment Inc. PARK IMPROVEMENT

**Astros Field Improvements** 

\$100,000 - \$299,999 The Astros Foundation Bench Fund

\$1,000 - \$4,999 Avenue Communit

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> Mindy and Jeff Hildebrand Homer Ford Tennis Center

\$50,000 - \$99,999 Houston Heights Association Inc **Hogg Bird Sanctuary** 

\$500,000 – \$999,999 The Hildebrand Foundation (pledge \$1,000,000) Lee and Joe Jamail Skatepark

\$1,000,000 - \$2,999,999

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Bats on the Bayou event at White Oak Bayou Greenway



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Bats on the Bayou event at White Oak Bayou Greenway

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up to \$499 Ian and David Bean

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\$1,000 – \$4,999

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Opportune LLP

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up to \$499 APM Medical Supplies

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Aquatics

up to \$499

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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ASK-Education Fund

The Astros Foundation

The First Tee of Greater Houston, Inc.

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Plumbers Local Union No. 68

\$25,000 - \$49,999

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Judy and Ned Farle

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Duane Brown

Healthways, Inc

\$1,000 - \$4,999

All Points Media, LLC

Reyes Law Office

\$1,000 - \$4,999

City of Houston, Texas

White Oak Studio

HPARD

up to \$499

Cynthia and Laurence Burns

Council Member Ed Gonzales

Norhill Neighborhood Association

Spring Branch African Violet Club

Dean's Nutritional Food Services Inc.

Zone One Auto Storage & Sales

AT&T

up to \$499

up to \$499

Blue Tide Aquatics

Robert Richardsor

ABC Home Medical

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The Dow Chemical Company

Texas Chapter Paralyzed Vertrans

oanne and Doug Heitmiller

Helen Deamat and Dexter Plantinos

Robert A. Gonzales Mary and Tony Gracely Steppie and Robert Holsclaw Vivian and Robert Holz Houston Golf Association Houston Parks Board Linda and Barry Hunsaker Michelle and Michael Isermann Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker Caroline Kenney Michael Land Randy Lay Tommy Lott

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> Andrea and Bill White Phyllis Williams Nina and Michael Zilkha Mayor's Office of Special Events

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Comcast \$5.000 - \$9,999

Firstservice Residential UPS Foundation, Inc. \$1,000 - \$4,999

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H-E-B Holt & Young, P.C. Houston Community College System Isani Consultants, LP Legacy Community Health Services Navarro Insurance Group, L.P. Plumbers Local Union No. 68

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\$500 - \$999 AAA Plumbers Yolanda Alvarado

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Barry M. Wuntch LLP Edward Ybarra Soccer Programs

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Stations Group, LLC \$5,000 – \$9,999 Alianza de Futbol Hispano

BRC Group LLC Amaanah Refugee Services Edgar Escobar

UNRESTRICTED

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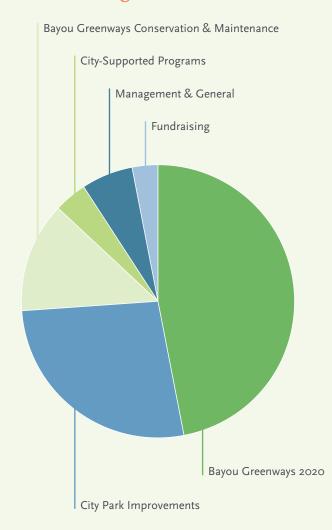




Bats on the Bayou event at White Oak Bayou Greenway

# 2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **2016 Programs & Activities**



Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2016

Houston Parks Board Foundation

**Changes in Net Assets** 

ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 90,489
Prepaid expenses and other receivables	413,832
Cash held for Bayou Greenways capital reserve	4,282,278
Cash held for City supported programs,	5,022,456
park improvements and maintenance	
Cash held for Bayou Greenways 2020	14,229,200
Pledge receivables	20,958,800
Investments and endowment funds	18,028,891
Property, net	 11,887,630
Total Assets	\$ 74,913,576
LIABILITIES	
Accounts and construction projects payable	\$ 1,078,234
Funds held for others	102,166
Total Liabilities	1,180,400
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	13,088,734
Temporarily restricted	55,307,229
Permanently restricted	 5,337,213
Total Net Assets	 73,733,176
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	\$ 74,913,576
Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2016	
OPERATING REVENUE	
Contributions and special events	\$ 29,868,516
City concessions	11,488
Investment return	387,269
Bayou Greenways 2020 maintenance	6,933,600
Management fees	207,551
Total Operating Revenue	37,408,424
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Program Services:	
Bayou Greenways 2020	5,722,173
City park improvements	4,574,798
Bayou Greenways 2020 conservation and maintenance	2,252,610
City-supported programs	664,675
	 13,214,256
Management and General	621,710
Fundraising	433,087
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 14,269,053
Funding to Houston Parks Board LGC, Inc.	(1,809,158)
Conveyance of land to the City of Houston	(417,000)
Change in beneficial interest in funds held by	(480,736)
Houston Parks Poard Foundation	,



## HOUSTON PARKS BOARD STAFF

Beth White
President and CEO

Adrin P. Biagas
Land Acquisition Manager

John Brandt, ASLA PLA
Bayou Greenways Project Manager

**Catherine Butsch** *Director of Communications* 

Tina Clayton

Development Coordinator

Russ Clements Bayou Greenways Greenspace Manager

Keith Crenshaw Bayou Greenways Natural Resource Manager

Evelyn Freeman AP/AR Specialist

\$ 20,432,477

**Tom J. Gall** *Project Manager* 

**Denise Garcia**Controller

**Dan Howse**Bayou Greenways Asset Manager

**Marvin James** Bayou Greenways Greenspace Manager

**Arun Johnson**Staff Accountant

Lisa Kasianowitz
Outreach Manager

Richard McNamara Bayou Greenways Program Manager

**Jeri Nordbrock**Director of Finance and
Administration

Tiffany Norman
Communications Coordinator

**Sarah Pierce** Administrative Manager

Chip Place, AIA

Managing Director of Capital

Programs

Rachel Ranta Capital Programs Administrative Manager

Trent Rondot

Bayou Greenways Conservation
and Maintenance Director

Carol Rosborough, SR/WA Senior Land Acquisition Specialist

**Deborah Rule**Director of Development

**D.K. Washington**Bayou Greenways Greenspace
Manager

**Linda Zhou**Capital Programs Assistant

Danny Zirilli, PE, RLA
Construction Manager

With special thanks to Mike Nichols.

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Creating, Improving, Protecting and Advocating for Parkland in the Greater Houston Region

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