PRESS RELEASE

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Houston Parks Board and Partners Break Ground on MacGregor Park Renovation

$75 million public-private investment will transform the historic 65-acre park through a community-driven vision

HOUSTON, Oct. 1, 2026 — Today, City of Houston Mayor John Whitmire, Houston Parks Board (HPB), the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD), Kinder Foundation®, and partners broke ground on renovations to the historic MacGregor Park, a beloved 65-acre regional park that has served Houstonians for a century. Shaped by extensive community and stakeholder engagement over the last five years, the MacGregor Park renovation is a $75 million public-private investment made possible by a $27 million catalyst gift from Kinder Foundation. Construction is occurring in two phases, allowing portions of the park to remain open to the public throughout construction, with expected completion in late 2028.

“MacGregor Park holds a special place in Houston’s story,” said HPB President and CEO Justin Schultz. “For generations, this park has been a place where families gather, neighbors connect, and memories are made. Today marks the beginning of a new chapter that honors that legacy while reimagining what this park can be for future generations, including upgraded amenities, increased shade, and new trails. This is an investment in the people and features that make MacGregor Park so unique.”

The improvements at MacGregor Park will bring new and enhanced recreational amenities and cultural elements across the 65-acre park, including a new, state-of-the-art tennis center with 16 tennis courts, eight pickleball courts, and new clubhouse; a renovated pool and new pool house with a dedicated community room; upgrades to the fitness center and basketball pavilion; a heavily shaded, all-abilities, all-inclusive playground; three miles of walking trails and sidewalks, including a central promenade; improved connection to Brays Bayou Greenway; and more. HPB is also commissioning public art installations to celebrate the park’s unique history.

“What’s coming to MacGregor Park is a reflection of true partnership,” said City of Houston Mayor John Whitmire. “Today, we celebrate what we can accomplish when the City, Houston Parks Board, philanthropic partners, and the community come together around a shared vision.”

Project funding is provided through an expansive public-private partnership, which includes a $27 million catalyst gift from Kinder Foundation, $6.5 million from the City of Houston, $4 million from Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) 7, and a $10 million grant received from the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program

to support the renovation of the culturally significant park. Additional private contributions raised by HPB come from The Brown Foundation, Inc., Texas Children's Hospital, Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Family Foundation, The Cullen Foundation, Hildebrand Foundation, The Elkins Foundation, CenterPoint Energy Foundation, Phillips 66, and generous individuals.

“MacGregor Park is a historic community anchor and destination in southeast Houston,” said Kinder Foundation President and CEO Nancy Kinder. “Today’s groundbreaking represents years of planning coming to life, and we look forward to celebrating when the improvements are complete.”

Building from community-centric master plans developed in 2016 and 2021, HPB led over 8,600 community touchpoints to gather feedback and share progress on the design process through community events, meetings, activations, and print and digital outreach. The team ensured a best-in-class design was created, while also incorporating the community’s needs and aspirations. Design features seek to honor the park’s history and civic importance by enhancing recreational amenities and opportunities for gathering and wellness. Located along Brays Bayou, the park will link to the nearly 50-mile Brays Bayou Greenway, connecting parkgoers to the city’s larger Bayou Greenways trail network.

“To see my childhood park be given this support is very special,” said HPARD Director Kenneth Allen. “These improvements mean that more kids will have their own chances to discover their interests and have space for themselves. We look forward to seeing the completed park as one that preserves MacGregor Park’s legacy and increases opportunities for civic gatherings, community recreation, and connections to nature.”

HPB is leading the project, overseeing project management, community engagement, and fundraising. Nationally acclaimed landscape architecture firm Hood Design Studio developed the park’s conceptual design and guiding principles, which are being implemented by a Houston-based team: Talley Landscape Architects, the landscape architect of record, and Bellows Construction, the construction contractor.

Following the renovations, HPB will continue to maintain the park’s landscape, while HPARD, the park’s owner and operator, will oversee facilities and programming. Maintenance will be funded through a public-private partnership between HPB and HPARD, ensuring day-to-day cleaning and capital repair and replacement funding is secured for decades to come.

See additional details and download the latest park renderings at the link here. The public can find information and sign up to stay informed of the latest updates regarding MacGregor Park at https://houstonparksboard.org/macgregor-park/.

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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 15,000 acres of parks and greenspace. In addition to leading the transformational Bayou Greenways initiative, Houston Parks Board maintains more than 3,400 acres of the region's greenspace and has supported over 250 park projects large and small. Visit houstonparksboard.org to learn more about Houston Parks Board and how you can help make projects like MacGregor Park possible.

About Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) stewards and manages over 380 developed parks, 172 greenspaces, and more than 25,000 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston. HPARD develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. The Department is nationally accredited through the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. For more information on HPARD, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/ or email at askparks@houstontx.gov.

About Kinder Foundation

Kinder Foundation, a family foundation established in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston, Texas, provides transformational grants that impact urban greenspace, education, and quality of life. More at www.kinderfoundation.org.