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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Construction Begins on New Segment of Sims Bayou Greenway**

*The new 2.6-mile segment extends from Heatherbrook Drive to Buffalo Speedway*

HOUSTON, TX – April 19, 2018 – On Thursday morning, Houston Parks Board, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Harris County Flood Control District celebrated the groundbreaking of a new 2.6-mile segment of Sims Bayou Greenway. This new segment will start at Heatherbrook Drive and extend east to Buffalo Speedway along the north side of the bayou. It will include linear parkland and hike-and-bike trail as part of the Bayou Greenways 2020 linear park system.

State Representative Dr. Alma Allen, Houston Parks Board President and CEO Beth White and Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Steve Wright spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the next new segment of Bayou Greenways 2020.

Additional features of the Bayou Greenway project will include replacing existing asphalt along various parts of the trail with the new ten-foot-wide concrete trail, multiple neighborhood trail connections providing more accessibility for local community members, and park amenities including signage, landscaping, trash cans, recycling bins, benches and unique ornamental design features.

This segment of Sims Bayou greenway was designed by landscape architecture firm White Oak Studio and engineering firm RPS, with Times Construction serving as the construction contractor. Estimated completion of the project is anticipated in spring 2019.

“We are thrilled to continue the construction along Sims Bayou Greenway,” said Beth White, president and CEO of Houston Parks Board. “The new segment will make a great addition to the recently completed greenway from Hillcroft Avenue to Heatherbrook Drive. It is exciting to see this progress and to add new connections for our communities to their Bayou Greenways as we get closer to 2020.”

“It’s a great day to be breaking ground on a new segment of trails along Sims Bayou,” said Steve Wright, Director Houston Parks Board. “We look forward to the completion of the segment and the connections it will provide to neighborhood parks.”

“Thanks to the recently completed Sims Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project, over 6,000 residents who live near Sims Bayou did not experience bayou flooding during Hurricane Harvey,” said Russ Poppe, Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. “Now, with the multi-use of this flood control property for an expanding recreational trail, those residents will have another reason to appreciate Sims Bayou during fair weather as well.”

Bayou Greenways 2020 is a public-private partnership between the nonprofit Houston Parks Board, the City of Houston and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and is being 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. It will transform 3,000 acres of underutilized land along nine major waterways into a 150-mile park and trail system that crisscrosses the city.

In 2012, thanks in part to the "Parks By You!" campaign, Houston voters overwhelmingly approved a bond proposal that set aside \$100 million for Bayou Greenways 2020. Houston Parks Board is raising \$120 million in matching funds and is managing acquisition, design and construction of the Bayou Greenways. More than \$107 million has been raised to date, including an historic \$50 million donation from the Kinder Foundation. Recent notable corporate gifts include Noble Energy and Phillips 66. For information about Bayou Greenway 2020 sponsorships, contact [us](#).

The Bayou Greenways are maintained by the Houston Parks Board's Conservation and Maintenance Team through an agreement with the City of Houston. Maintenance responsibilities include regular mowing, de-littering, and graffiti abatement. The conservation program serves to enhance the linear parklands with habitat boxes, native plantings, wildflower plantings and tree plantings.

For photos of the event and renderings of the project, please click [here](#). Photo credit to F. Carter Smith.

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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 \$220 million Bayou Greenways 2020 project to complete a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails along Houston's major waterways. For more information, visit [www.houstonparksboard.org](http://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.

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](http://www.houstonparks.org).