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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Houston Parks Board completes milestone project with the opening of its first recreational trail along a CenterPoint Energy easement in Houston**

HOUSTON, TX – May 31, 2019 – Houston Parks Board, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and CenterPoint Energy are pleased to mark the completion of their first recreational trail along a CenterPoint Energy easement in Houston. The 1.5-mile hike-and-bike trail runs north of Sims Bayou Greenway, providing important connections to the communities living in this area. Houston Parks Board has also completed a 2.58-mile segment of Sims Bayou Greenway as part of Bayou Greenways 2020. Both milestone moments will be celebrated at the grand opening and ribbon cutting event slated for Saturday, June 8.

“As our city’s population continues to grow, Houston’s greenspaces are seeing more and more use,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “It is by partnership at the city, corporate, and nonprofit level through the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, CenterPoint Energy, and Houston Parks Board that we can significantly enhance our parks and trails systems.”

Houston Parks Board CEO Beth White went on to say, “The landmark partnership with CenterPoint Energy demonstrates how we can work collaboratively to maximize the use of available land and resources to improve equity, connectivity, and ecology in Houston’s public realm. With this new trail connecting with Sims Bayou Greenway in southwest Houston, we have opened up four new miles of trails for the surrounding communities to use and enjoy.”

The new trail along CenterPoint Energy easement runs roughly parallel to Hiram Clarke Road in southwest Houston, north of Sims Bayou Greenway to West Airport. An agreement between CenterPoint Energy and the City of Houston, approved in 2014 by Houston City Council, allows recreational trails on CenterPoint Energy rights-of-way and paved the way for the trail project as one of the first *Beyond the Bayous* connections, an initiative of the Houston Parks Board to advance the development of park and greenway systems throughout Houston. Houston Parks Board managed the design and construction of the trail.

“We are pleased to partner with the City of Houston and Houston Parks Board to open up the possibility for more connections along the Bayou Greenways,” said Scott M. Prochazka, president and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy. “This project aligns with our commitment to environmental conservation, and we appreciate the opportunity to add ecologic value to the community.”

As part of Bayou Greenways 2020, a [2.58 mile segment along Sims Bayou Greenway from Heatherbrook Drive to Buffalo Speedway](#) is also complete, connecting into the recently completed trail that runs west toward Blue Ridge County Park. This newly paved 10-foot-wide trail replaced an existing asphalt trail and includes adjacent directional and educational signage, trash and recycling bins, benches, ornamental

design features, landscaping and more. There is a new trailhead entrance at S. Post Oak Blvd as well as other neighborhood trail connections. The trail cost \$5.1 million and the construction contractor was Times Construction.

“We are happy to see the development of this trail along the CenterPoint Energy easement,” said Steve Wright Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We hope that it provides an added opportunity for Houstonians to get outside and stay active.”

Houston Parks Board and its partners will celebrate both completions at a grand opening event on Saturday, June 8 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Event activities include life-size yard games from Nature & Eclectic Outdoors, e-bikes provided by Bike Barn, a scavenger hunt, free face painting, a food truck, sidewalk activities, free snow cones and popcorn, and so much more! The event will conclude with a ribbon cutting ceremony at noon.

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

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, **CenterPoint Energy, Inc.** is an energy delivery company with regulated utility businesses in eight states and a competitive energy businesses footprint in nearly 40 states. Through its electric transmission & distribution, power generation and natural gas distribution businesses, the company serves more than 7 million metered customers in Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. CenterPoint Energy's competitive energy businesses include natural gas marketing and energy-related services; energy efficiency, sustainability and infrastructure modernization solutions; and construction and repair services for pipeline systems, primarily natural gas. The company also owns 53.8 percent of the common units representing limited partner interests in Enable Midstream Partners, LP, a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns, operates and develops strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. With approximately 14,000 employees and nearly \$34 billion in assets, CenterPoint Energy and its

predecessor companies have been in business for more than 150 years. For more information, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com](http://CenterPointEnergy.com).