



HPARD
HOUSTON PARKS
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
A CAPRA Accredited Agency



Mayor Sylvester Turner

Media Contact:

Abby Linney, Elmore Public Relations
abby@elmorepr.com / 713-524-0661

PRESS RELEASE

Recreation planning is underway in Inwood along Vogel Creek

City of Houston, Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Precinct One, and Houston Parks Board collaborate to bring greenways and trails to the *Inwood Forest Stormwater Detention Project*

HOUSTON, TX – June 16, 2021 – The City of Houston, Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), Harris County Precinct One, and Houston Parks Board are pleased to announce that funding is in place for the first phase of the Inwood Forest Recreation Plan, which will create a 1-mile greenway with recreation elements and amenities along Vogel Creek. This area is adjacent to Acres Home and is within the City of Houston’s Acres Home Complete Community boundary. Funding for design and construction comes from the City of Houston, Precinct One, and a generous grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc. secured by Houston Parks Board.

“I am excited to see these park and greenspace improvements coming to the Acres Home area. It is a testament to what can happen when we work collaboratively and combine flood control projects with park amenities,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “I thank The Brown Foundation for its generous contribution as well as the partnership of Harris County and Houston Parks Board to make this new park space a reality.”

“We are delighted to partner with the City of Houston, the Harris County Flood Control District, and the Houston Parks Board to establish a greenway along Vogel Creek,” said Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis. “Thanks to this collaborative project, we will not only help mitigate flooding issues, but we will also create new recreational opportunities for the residents of Acres Homes, Inwood Forest, and the surrounding communities.”

In 2017, the City of Houston partnered with HCFCD to design flood detention on the former site of the Inwood Forest Golf Course, a property owned by the City. Design plans called for excavating stormwater detention basins, which will provide flood damage reduction and mitigation volume for several future capital improvement projects from the City.

“The Flood Control District continues to find ways to partner with the City of Houston and the Houston Parks Board to combine our flood damage reduction efforts with amenities important to the local community,” said Matt Zeve, Deputy Executive Director, HCFCD.

Concurrently, the City asked Houston Parks Board to lead planning to identify opportunities for recreation on the former golf course site and in the adjacent areas to the east near Vogel Creek, and to the west to connect to the White Oak Bayou Greenway. In 2019 and 2020, Houston Parks Board and their consultant, Asakura Robinson, attended community meetings and captured input and feedback on the plan for future recreational trails and amenities. Councilmember Amy Peck, District A, has remained



HPARD
HOUSTON PARKS
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
A CAPRA Accredited Agency



integrally involved in the project, and there is strong public support for bringing recreation to the Inwood Forest area.

Houston Parks Board is responsible for managing the project, including community engagement, as part of the organization's Beyond the Bayous initiative.

"As our city continues to grow, Houston Parks Board remains committed to providing equitable access to green spaces through Beyond the Bayous, our plan to provide park equity, access, and connectivity while working with the natural ecosystem," said Beth White, President and CEO of the Houston Parks Board. "We are thrilled to be part of the Inwood Forest Recreation Plan as it aligns perfectly with Beyond the Bayous."

"Providing all Houston communities with equitable access to quality parkland is a top priority for the Houston Parks Department," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "This project is just one of many in the pipeline that seek to generate pride and ownership in communities with respect to their neighborhood parks."

Phase 1 of the Inwood Forest Recreation Plan is now entering the design phase. With a focus on connectivity and active transportation opportunities, recreational components as part of Phase 1 include:

- A 1-mile greenway along Vogel Creek with a 10-foot-wide concrete shared use path, tree plantings, and a pedestrian crossing at Victory Drive.
- Three parklets along Vogel Creek Greenway with plantings, a dedicated picnic area, and additional amenities.

As part of the design phase, there will be opportunities beginning in August for the community to provide input on the design plan. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2022. For more information, please visit <https://houstonparksboard.org/inwood-recreation-project>.

###

The **Houston Parks and Recreation Department** (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 39,501 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.

Houston Parks Board creates, improves, protects, and advocates for parks for everyone. 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 quality parks and green space to the Greater Houston region. In addition to leading the transformational Bayou Greenways initiative, Houston Parks Board cares for more than 2,600 acres of green space and supports park projects large and small. For more information on Bayou Greenways and Beyond the Bayous, visit www.houstonparksboard.org.