

PRESS RELEASE

Houston Parks Board Receives \$4 Million Grant to Advance Park Equity

Funding will support the nonprofit's commitment to improving neighborhood parks in underserved areas

HOUSTON, Aug. 30, 2023—Houston Parks Board has been awarded a \$4 million grant from Houston Endowment to further its commitment to park equity and improving neighborhood parks. By strategically investing the funds to improve neighborhood parks in underserved communities across Greater Houston, Houston Parks Board will continue its transformative work of creating accessible, vibrant, and inclusive greenspaces for everyone.

"We are grateful to Houston Endowment for their visionary support in advancing park equity in Houston," said Beth White, President and CEO of Houston Parks Board. "Parks improve the quality of life and well-being of our residents. Houstonians should have access to high-quality parks because we know that these greenspaces impact the long-term health, happiness, and resilience of neighborhoods."

The imperative of equitable park access plays an integral role in helping Houston continue to flourish as a vibrant and diverse city. This significant gift represents a leap forward in Houston Parks Board's impact in addressing disparities in park availability, amplifying recreational opportunities, and nurturing stronger bonds within neighborhoods.

"We believe greenspace is good for everyone. Quality parks and greenspace provide numerous health benefits to residents as well as contribute to our environment's resiliency by lowering temperatures, reducing pollution, and mitigating the effects of flooding," said Ann B. Stern, President and CEO of Houston Endowment. "Houston Parks Board has consistently done incredible work investing in quality parks and under-resourced neighborhoods, and we want to make sure they have the resources to push that work further. We are confident they can provide access to great parks and greenspace in neighborhoods that today don't have them."

Park projects have been at the heart of Houston Parks Board's work since 1976. Through the [Neighborhood Partnership Program](#), Houston Parks Board provides technical and strategic support to communities interested in becoming stewards to Houston's park assets in collaboration with [Houston Parks and Recreation Department](#) (HPARD). The non-profit is also an integral member of [50/50 Park Partners](#), a Mayor Sylvester Turner initiative led by the City of Houston, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Houston Parks Board, and Greater Houston Partnership to improve neighborhood parks across Houston.

Houston Endowment has contributed over \$24 million to Houston Parks Board throughout the past 20 years, including \$10.5 million to Bayou Greenways. For more information about Houston Parks Board and its park equity initiatives, please visit houstonparksboard.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 greenspace 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 greenspace and supports park projects large and small. For more information, visit houstonparksboard.org.