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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Construction Complete on New Segment of Sims Bayou Greenway**

*New segment provides key connection east to Milby Park and west to Stuart Park*

HOUSTON – May 2, 2022 – On Saturday morning, Houston Parks Board, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and other key project partners celebrated the completion of a new 1.4-mile segment of Sims Bayou Greenway connecting Glenbrook Park to Bellfort Avenue. With previous Bayou Greenways projects connecting Milby Park to the east and a United States Army Corps of Engineers trail connecting Stuart Park to the west, 14.9 miles of trail are now open along Sims Bayou Greenway.

“The completion of this new section of the Bayou Greenways project is another step toward a more connected City,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “Not only will Houstonians living near this segment of Sims Bayou reap the benefits of the project, but so will our neighbors across the City who will now be able to travel without interruption over 14 miles along scenic Sims Bayou, thanks to this trail.”

“We are excited that construction is now complete on this new Sims Bayou Greenway segment as it is an essential connector for communities at opposite ends of I-45,” said Beth White, President and CEO of Houston Parks Board. “It is fulfilling to know that the work we are doing is truly bringing communities closer together. We thank all our project partners for making this key connection a reality.”

This new segment of greenway begins at Glenbrook Park and heads west along the south side of Sims Bayou adjacent to the Houston Botanic Garden site, crossing over Sims Bayou at the refurbished pedestrian bridge. The greenway continues along the north side of the bayou before connecting into existing Sims Bayou Greenway trail, which ends west of Reveille Park. As part of this project, Houston Parks Board built a new greenway from Reveille Park to just east of Reveille Street with funding provided by Gulfgate Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ 8.

“We are excited to see the Bayou Greenway trail come to fruition along the portion of Sims Bayou that flows through the Houston Botanic Garden,” said Claudia Gee Vassar, president & general counsel of the Houston Botanic Garden. “The bayou’s natural banks are a beautiful habitat worthy of exploration. We look forward to seeing people from the southeast Houston community enjoying the trail as they discover the beauty of Sims, the Garden, and beyond.”

The Kinder Foundation has invested more than \$9 million along Sims Bayou as part of its \$50 million transformational gift made to Bayou Greenways in 2013. The Kinder Foundation made conscious decisions on how the \$50 million investment would be applied to the bayou segments that form the heart of the Bayou Greenways project. Of this, \$514,102.000 went towards design and construction management of this new segment of Sims Bayou Greenway.

“Kinder Foundation believes in parkland for all Houstonians and Bayou Greenways is an investment in park equity throughout Houston,” states Nancy Kinder, President and CEO. “The greenways are important not only for health and recreation, but also for transportation and connection between neighborhoods, schools, and more.”

Notable new features of the segment include:

- A new trailhead at the intersection of River Drive and I-45 feeder road, which includes a 6-foot-wide loop walking trail, small parking lot with ADA-accessible parking space, seating, signage, trash cans, recycling bins, and new native trees and plants
- A connection to the sidewalk at the intersection of the I-45 feeder road and River Drive
- New gateways at the Westover and Reveille Street intersection and at the Telephone Road and Reveille Street intersection, both of which includes a trail connection into the neighborhood, signage, trash can, and recycling bin
- A 10-foot-wide concrete trail along Sims Bayou
- Lighting under I-45, Broadway Street, Reveille Street, Belfort Avenue, and Mykawa Road, funded by TIRZ 8 and maintained by Hobby Management District

“Watching the Bayou Greenways project transform our City has been exciting,” said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “With this new segment along Sims Bayou complete, the City instantly becomes more accessible for scores of Houstonians who can now explore some of the sights and sounds along our bayou system. Thank you to all our partners for another job well done.”

Through its \$1 million sponsorship of the Bayou Greenways 2020 initiatives, the Perry Homes Foundation has committed to beautification efforts near Sims Bayou. Thanks to funding by the TIRZ 8, construction of three neighborhood connections from the greenway to Reveille Street, Telephone Road, and Belfort Avenue were included in the project.

"The Gulfgate TIRZ (TIRZ 8) board of directors is honored to invest \$4.5 million in the Houston Parks Board's projects – including this latest expansion of the Sims Bayou trail – in the cause of the economic development and stability of neighborhoods and commercial sectors in the TIRZ boundaries," Chairman M.E. "Sonny" Garza said. "We're proud to be a partner in projects like this one that help communities thrive and bring off-road connectivity to our part of this dynamic city."

Sims Bayou Greenway is one of nine bayous being transformed as part of [Bayou Greenways](#), a public-private partnership between the nonprofit Houston Parks Board, the City of Houston, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The initiative is 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. Bayou Greenways will transform 3,000 acres of underutilized land along nine major waterways and create a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails along Houston's major waterways.

Thanks to Kinder Foundation's visionary leadership and transformational gift, as well as the extraordinary generosity of the Hildebrand Foundation, Houston Endowment, The Brown Foundation Inc. and many other Houstonians, Houston Parks Board has surpassed its goal of assembling more than \$225 million to invest in Bayou Greenways. The fundraising journey began in 2012 when Houston voters resoundingly approved a bond to provide \$100 million in funds to the Bayou Greenways initiative.

Houston Parks Board has since more than matched this number through a \$125 million capital campaign.

For photos of the event, please click [here](#). Photo credit: **Anthony Rathbun, Courtesy of Houston Parks Board**

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**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](http://www.houstonparksboard.org).

The **Houston Parks and Recreation Department** (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 381 parks and 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](http://www.houstonparks.org).