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PRESS RELEASE

H-GAC Recognizes Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan

Houston Parks Board, City of Pasadena, and Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department honored for innovative approach to parks planning and implementation

HOUSTON, TX – February 5, 2021 – Houston Parks Board, City of Pasadena, and Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department are pleased to announce their *Healthy Parks Plan* was selected for recognition in the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) annual Parks and Natural Areas Award Program.

H-GAC established the Parks and Natural Areas awards program in 2006 to highlight best practices and innovative approaches to parks planning and implementation. H-GAC honors projects in the categories of Projects Over \$500,000, Projects Under \$500,000, Planning Process, and Policy Tools.

“Pasadena has over 40 parks and a mix of 15 trails/tracks that thousands of our residents enjoy every month. This Healthy Parks Plan provides a great roadmap to enhance our Parks System even more,” said Mayor Jeff Wagner.

“This Master Plan represents the voice of the community. The plan was sponsored by Houston Endowment and Pasadena Vibrant Community through MD Anderson and emphasis was placed on park equity. It will be the guiding document for the City of Pasadena’s efforts to improve the quality of life for all citizens and make Pasadena a great place to live, work and play,” said Jed Aplaca, Pasadena Parks and Recreation Director.

“We are thrilled to be recognized along with our wonderful partners for this award,” said Beth White, President and CEO of Houston Parks Board. “The Healthy Parks Plan speaks to Houston Parks Board’s overall commitment to making parks accessible and welcoming to all.”

Projects recognized by this awards program were selected by a panel of expert judges and industry professionals. The City of Pasadena and other winners were honored during an online celebration on February 5.

For more information about Pasadena’s Parks & Recreation programs, visit www.pasadenatx.gov/parksandrec.

For more information about H-GAC's Parks and Natural Area Awards, visit <http://www.h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas/awards.aspx>

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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.

Beyond the Bayous is the shared vision of Houston Parks Board and its cross-sector partners for expanding Greater Houston's public realm to improve greenspace equity and connectivity between parks, homes and jobs; increase public access to parks; and enhance the environmental health of communities. By fostering collaboration, reinvesting in existing parks, and identifying opportunities which allow the expansion of the regional park network, parks and greenways will weave throughout Houston's urban fabric, creating a tapestry of vibrant, connected communities. The initiative is the result of a 2017 study generously funded by Houston Endowment.

Rich in Texas history and community spirit, **Pasadena** is the second-largest city in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area, with a population of 150K+. Located northwest of Galveston and south of the Houston Ship Channel, Pasadena's residents comprise a highly-skilled, dedicated and diverse workforce. Our city is home to the world-famous Strawberry Festival, the annual Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo, Armand Bayou Nature Center, El Jardin Beach, and a calendar full of family programs and events.

Pasadena Parks and Recreation manages and maintains 45 parks and trails throughout the City of Pasadena. There are also 4 Youth Recreation Centers, 1 Gymnasium, 1 Water Park, 3 pools a Senior Center and an Adaptive Recreation Center.