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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Houston Parks Board celebrates connection of Halls Bayou Greenway to Greens Bayou Greenway** *Hike-and-bike bridge across Halls Bayou links two sides of Brock Park for the first time*

HOUSTON, TX – December 2019 – On Friday morning, Houston Parks Board, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Houston, Harris County Flood Control District, and various elected officials gathered to celebrate the connection of Halls Bayou Greenway to Greens Bayou Greenway at Brock Park. As part of Bayou Greenways 2020, Houston Parks Board recently completed a 14-ft wide hike-and-bike bridge traversing Halls Bayou. Spanning 460 feet long, this bridge links together the two sides of Brock Park for the first time. This new connection drastically expands recreation and transportation options for people in nearby neighborhoods in the Northeast Houston community.

“We are excited to open up this essential connection between Halls Bayou and Greens Bayou, both of which are home to some of Houston’s most unique and natural settings,” said Beth White, President and CEO of Houston Parks Board. “Continuous trail is an essential component to Bayou Greenways 2020, and this is an important milestone in bringing communities on opposite sides of the bayou closer to one another.”

The recently completed hike-and-bike bridge is part of a new [2.3-mile segment of Greens Bayou Greenway](#) from Brock Park to Valley Forest Drive. Notable features of the trail include a new 8-foot wide concrete trail from the Halls Bayou Greenway Gateway to the northern boundary of Brock Park, a nature trail from Brock Park to the city limits, a kayak launch on the east side of Greens Bayou near the old Brock Park Golf Course Club House, and trail connection at Valley Forest Drive.

On the western side of the hike-and-bike bridge, Houston Parks Board has completed a [.75-mile segment of Halls Bayou Greenway](#), which begins at the Halls Bayou Greenway Gateway in Brock Park and ends at Talton Street. The greenway gives the public access to a beautiful wetland forest and former school site reclaimed as savannah. Amenities along the greenway include interpretive signage, landscaping, and a boardwalk over wetlands.

“It’s a great day when we celebrate the completion of a project like the connection between Halls and Greens Bayou that provides connections and opportunities for all to access and enjoy Houston’s greenspace. This will be the first of many new improvements to Brock Park,” said Steve Wright, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Senator Carol Alvarado, State Representative Harold Dutton Jr., Houston Vice Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Davis, Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Steve Wright, and Houston Parks Board President and CEO Beth White all spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new trail segments.

“This is a big moment for the community as the trails will link together the two sides of Brock Park for the first time,” said City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. “Not only is this an important link for Bayou Greenways 2020, but it is also an important link for Houston. Well-maintained parks and green spaces are key components in a healthy and thriving city. By connecting these spaces, we are expanding access to nature for all Houstonians.”

Land acquisition, design, and construction of the 2.3-mile segment of Greens Bayou Greenway cost \$5.2 million. Clark Condon and Huitt-Zollars designed the project. NBG Constructors Inc. served as general contractor with Atkins providing construction management services.

Land acquisition, design, and construction of the .75-mile segment of Halls Bayou Greenway cost \$2 million. Clark Condon and Huitt-Zollars designed the project. Times Construction served as general contractor with RPS Construction Services providing construction management services.

Greens Bayou Greenway and Halls Bayou Greenway are part of Bayou Greenways 2020, a public-private partnership between the nonprofit Houston Parks Board, the City of Houston and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and 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 2020 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.

In 2012, thanks in part to the “Parks By You!” campaign, Houston voters overwhelmingly approved a bond proposal that set aside \$100 million for Bayou Greenways 2020. Houston Parks Board is raising an additional \$120 million and is managing acquisition, design and construction of the Bayou Greenways. More than \$110 million has been raised to date, including a historic \$50 million donation from the Kinder Foundation.

**For photos of the event, please click here. Photo credit to Anthony Rathbun.**

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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).