



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2007

CONTACT: Estella Espinosa

(713) 845-1135

West 11th Street Park Saved for Future Generations

The City of Houston, in conjunction with the Houston Parks Board, Inc. has purchased 20 acres of land from the Houston Independent School District to create the West 11th Street Park. The park, located near the intersection of West 11th Street and T.C. Jester, has been owned by H.I.S.D. for the past 55 years.

The 20-acre pocket of wilderness was the largest remaining native Texas forest inside the 610 loop that was not permanently protected as a park. Neighborhood residents have used the green space as a de facto park, nurturing it as a natural habitat for birds, butterflies and wildlife. Today's actions will preserve over 1,800 mature trees, a rapidly growing and diverse understory and wooded trails for generations to come.

"We're happy to protect this treasured piece of greenspace to be enjoyed by Houstonians for years to come," said Mayor Bill White. "We believe that by purchasing this piece of property we are providing for a better quality of life for Houston."

The purchase completes a contract between the City of Houston and HISD to purchase the property. The purchase price was \$9,000,000 with the City contributing \$4,060,000 towards the cost and The Houston Parks Board provided the remaining \$5,000,000 from funds raised through donations and a loan. The Houston Parks Board is committed to continue fundraising efforts to repay the loan.

For information on the Houston Parks Board, Inc. or how to participate in fundraising efforts for West 11th Street Park call 713-942-8500 or visit www.houstonparksboard.org.

For additional information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department call 713-845-1135 or visit our web site at www.houstonparks.org.