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## **Joe Turner**

Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department  
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Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, is a native Houstonian. He attended the University of Houston, graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration, and holds an Executive Master of Business Administration from the Texas Woman's University.

Turner is currently serving as Director of the parks department at the request of Mayor Sylvester Turner. He was originally appointed by Mayor Bill White and approved by City Council to serve as the Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department in July of 2004 and served under Mayor Annise Parker from 2010 through 2015. Prior to joining the City, he served as Parks Administrator for Harris County Precinct 4. In the private sector, Mr. Turner worked in the restaurant field on the local, state and national front for more than 35 years.

As the Department's Director, Mr. Turner is responsible for overseeing the stewardship of the City's parkland, urban forests and greenspace, park facilities and buildings; recreational programming and activities; parks budget management and facilities management practices. He administers a staff of approximately 700 full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. He believes in customer service, responsive government, and the preservation of parkland and greenspace for today's park visitors and for future generations.

Director Turner has used his business experience, as well as his experience in parks management, to raise the bar for the department. He guided the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's National Recreation and Parks Association C.A.P.R.A. Accreditation Process, which was received in October of 2008. The Department was re-accredited in October 2013 during the National Recreation and Parks Association National Congress Expo which was held in Houston.

Director Turner serves as a board member of the National Recreation and Park Association. He is a member of: the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS), the Greater Gulf Coast Parks and Recreation Director's Association, the Heritage Society, Hermann Park Conservancy, Memorial Park Conservancy, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Trees for Houston, and the Houston Parks Board.