



Press Release

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Katharine Randall Schweppe Park Improvements Take Neighborhood Park to New Level

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, together with the family of Katharine Randall Schweppe, will cut the ribbon on the renovated neighborhood park (1801 El Paseo Road, 77054) at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 5, 2016.

"This is a momentous occasion and we are happy to be cutting the ribbon on this newly renovated park in the center of Houston's Medical Center," said Dwight Boykins, Houston City Council Member, District D. "We thank the Schweppe family for their original donation, which helped to purchase the land and create this park to honor their daughter's memory."

Katharine Randall Schweppe was a 19 year old graduate of Kinkaid School and a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin when she passed away in a car accident in 1979. Her parents, Dr. Irving Schweppe and Mrs. Laura Schweppe, wanted the park to be filled with children and elements from Montgomery County, Port Aransas, and their ranch in Kendall County where Katharine had enjoyed so much of her life. The Schweppes' donation was matched with a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to purchase the property.

"Houston's park system has always been supported by Houstonians who have given generously to create parks like this one," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We hope that Katharine Randall Schweppe Park has fulfilled the family's original vision and that the sight of so many happy families enjoying this park brings them joy."

Dr. Irving Schweppe commented, "My family and I are delighted to see this phase of the park completed."

The current renovation, funded with Park & Recreation Dedication Funds, includes a redevelopment of the entry plaza and walkways, new seating walls, new playground equipment

(3-5 year and 5-12 year, swings and logs), furnishings, trees and irrigation. The total cost of the renovation is \$582,121. The design team was M2L Associates and the contractor was P2MG LLC.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,859 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.