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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER JOINS PARKS DEPARTMENT TO CELEBRATE IMPROVEMENTS TO WOODRUFF PARK, THE THIRD PARK PROJECT COMPLETED IN "LOVE OUR PARKS COMPLETE COMMUNITIES" INITIATIVE**

Mayor Sylvester Turner, the Mayor's Office of Complete Communities, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will celebrate improvements to Woodruff Park on Saturday, October 16, 2021. The park is located at 8800 Woodruff in the Magnolia-Manchester area. To celebrate the event the Parks Department is hosting a *"Love Our Parks Fest at Woodruff Park"* from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a ceremony at noon. The event will feature family-friendly activities and programming from Houston Parks and Recreation, Houston Public Library, HPD's Greater Houston Police Activities League (GHPAL), and other City departments.

"One of my priorities is to improve neighborhood parks that are in the heart of communities and enjoyed most often by children and families living nearby," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "My Love Our Parks Complete Communities initiative is making major strides in accomplishing that goal. It makes me proud to see these improvements at Woodruff Park, and to know how they will enhance this community. Thank you to the incredible team that has made this project a success."

The Woodruff Park improvements include an upgraded basketball court featuring a mural by acclaimed Houston artist Gonzo247, new furnishings, new fencing, upgraded lighting, and landscaping.

Cheniere Energy, the largest producer of liquified natural gas in the United States, is proud to sponsor their third park this year. The company has donated more than \$180,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department, and their employees spent an afternoon last week replacing playground surface materials.

"As we replaced the playground surface materials that provides needed support for children in our community, we are reminded why we volunteer," said Zach Davis, Cheniere's Senior Vice President and CFO. "Part of supporting the communities where we live and work is not only about financially giving but being present in physically upgrading the parks that our Houston community will enjoy for many years to come."

"Woodruff Park is the third park we've upgraded under *Mayor's Turner's Love Our Parks Complete Communities* initiative," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

"This park, like the ones we've completed before it, is an important part of the neighborhood it

serves. To be a part of its facelift and to see the smiling faces of the surrounding community makes my job worthwhile.”

The “*Mayor Sylvester Turner Love Our Parks Complete Communities*” initiative is a collaborative effort created by the Mayor to improve and upgrade neighborhood parks in under-resourced Houston communities. The first phase focuses on five neighborhood parks – Our Park and Malone Park in Third Ward, Catherine Delce Park in Kashmere Gardens, Earl Henderson Park in Near North Houston, and Woodruff Park.

Woodruff Park is in City Council District I, represented by City Council Member Robert Gallegos. It was acquired by the city in 1965. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, please visit [www.HoustonParks.org](http://www.HoustonParks.org).

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 381 parks and over 39,501 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*