
Steve Wright

Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department
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Steve Wright, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, is a native Houstonian. He attended Sam Houston State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration, and holds a Master of Arts in Kinesiology and a Master of Science in Health.

Wright is currently serving as Director of the parks department under Mayor Sylvester Turner. He was appointed by Mayor Turner and approved by City Council to serve as the Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department on July 5, 2017. Prior to joining the City, he served as the Vice President of Business Development and Healthy Living for 31 branches of the YMCA in the Greater Houston area. Mr. Wright has worked in both the private and public sector of the health and fitness field for over 30 years.

As the Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Mr. Wright 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 that neighborhood parks, recreation facilities and activities are the great equalizer for all regardless of socio-economic status and that parks and greenspaces should be preserved for park visitors of today and for those of tomorrow.

In the private sector, Steve worked in the fitness industry for both Golds' Gym and World Gym and served as the CEO of the Maverick Sport and Athletic Clubs. In his leadership roles in all three businesses, he delivered both an increase in growth and membership for the clubs, as well as an increase in overall revenue. In the non-profit area, he has worked with the YMCA of Greater Houston to improve services for the public, reduce operating expenses, develop strategic plans, increase volunteer and membership numbers and implement programs to reach out to underserved populations.