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## Press Release

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CONTACT: Estella Espinosa  
Work: (832) 395-7022  
Cell: (832) 465-4782  
estella.espinosa@houstontx.gov

### **Parks Director Joe Turner Receives Trees for Houston's Jim Rylander Award**

On Thursday, May 12, 2016, Trees for Houston awarded Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Joe Turner the Jim Rylander Award for his commitment to planting, protecting, and promoting trees in Houston. The award is named after James "Jim" Rylander, Jr., who founded Trees for Downtown in the early 1980's. The group later evolved into Trees for Houston.

"Jim Rylander began a movement when he started planting and watering trees in downtown Houston with his own money simply because he thought Houston needed some greenery," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Thirty years later, Trees for Houston is continuing to plant, protect and promote trees throughout the greater Houston area and beyond. We are so appreciative to have them as a partner."

The Jim Rylander Award is given out by Trees for Houston to honor people who have made an extraordinary contribution to the greening of Houston. It is not given out on a yearly basis and is only awarded to individuals who have consistently shown care for our environment and the greening of our city.

Turner continued, "We are honored to have the hard work of our staff, volunteers and individuals who have contributed to the greening of Houston recognized and accept the recognition on their behalf."

The award was presented by Charles D. Maynard, Jr., a personal friend of the late Jim Rylander, during the Trees for Houston's Arbor Awards and Annual Meeting event. Abel Gonzales, HPARD Deputy Director, Greenspace Management Division, accepted the plaque on behalf of Joe Turner.

"As stewards of Houston's Urban Forest, we are forever grateful to Jim Rylander for his dedication to trees and for the creation of Trees for Houston," Mr. Gonzales stated. "We thank Trees for Houston for their recognition of our director's commitment and support of our city's Urban Forest."

*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](http://www.houstonparks.org).*