



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT EARNS TWO AWARDS FOR PROJECTS FROM HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

HPARD's Riparian Restoration Initiative and Brock Adventure Park earn top honors

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce HPARD's Riparian Restoration Initiative project and Brock Adventure project were selected for recognition in the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) annual Parks and Natural Areas Award Program.

H-GAC established the Parks and Natural Areas awards program in 2006 to highlight best practices and innovative approaches to parks planning and implementation. H-GAC honors projects in the categories of Projects Over \$500,000, Projects Under \$500,000, Planning Process/Policy Tools, and new in 2021, Programming. HPARD's Brock Adventure Park project received the award for the over-\$500,000 category, and the Riparian Restoration Initiative project received the under-\$500,000 award.

"The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is honored to receive this recognition from the Houston-Galveston Area Council," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "These two projects are exciting examples of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's commitment to preserving the environment and providing state-of-the-art entertainment for our patrons. Thank you for recognizing this effort that benefits citizens across Houston."

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Riparian Restoration initiative aims to install new riparian forests or improve existing riparian forests across the city. Riparian zones are narrow strips of land adjacent to streams and rivers that act as buffers between upland areas and open water that help mitigate flooding, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and create wildlife habitat. Brock Park is a former underutilized golf course in northeast Houston that was reimagined into a community adventure park offering golfing, playgrounds, a cross country track, disc golf, and a fishing dock.

Projects recognized by this awards program are selected by a panel of expert judges and industry professionals. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department and other winners were honored during an online celebration on February 11, 2022.

For information about the Houston Parks and Recreation Department visit www.houstonparks.org.

For more information about H-GAC's Parks and Natural Area Awards, visit <http://www.h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas/awards.aspx>.

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.