



PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER'S LOVE OUR PARKS INITIATIVE TO CELEBRATE IMPROVEMENTS TO EVELLA PARK

Park in Kashmere Gardens in City Council District B receives over \$785,000 in improvements

Mayor Sylvester Turner, the Mayor's Office of Complete Communities, Cheniere Foundation, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will celebrate improvements to Evella Park on Friday, December 29, 2023. The park is located at 5210 Evella in Northeast Houston. To celebrate the event the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a **Love Our Parks Fest at Evella Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a ceremony at noon**. The fest 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.

"The Love Our Parks initiative has brought smiles to the faces of neighborhood residents from its inception," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Evella Park may be small in stature, but it is a huge asset to the families that visit this greenspace every day. The work at Evella, and the work at all of the parks in this initiative, would not have been possible without the generous support of Cheniere Energy and all of our park partners. Thank you again for your continued backing of our neighborhood parks."

Evella Park is in City Council District B, represented by Council Member Tarsha Jackson. The Evella Park improvements include: a new basketball court and goals, new furnishings, new fencing, sidewalk and lighting upgrades, landscaping, and improved drainage and detention. A new playground and fall space will be installed soon. The project total cost is \$785,610. Cheniere Energy, Inc. is a strong supporter of the "Love Our Parks" initiative. The company has generously donated more than \$200,000 for Phase Two of the Love Our Parks initiative.

"Cheniere is proud to support the Love Our Parks initiative and the improvements to Evella Park as part of our steadfast commitment to the communities where we live and work," said Zach Davis, Executive Vice President and CFO, Cheniere Energy, and Board Member, Cheniere Foundation. "We know how much Evella Park means to the residents of Kashmere Gardens, and these upgrades will help ensure it remains a safe and enjoyable greenspace for years to come." Evella Park sits on .46 acre in Kashmere Gardens and was acquired by the City of Houston in 1971.

"Evella Park marks the 10th park completed under the neighborhood-changing Love Our Parks initiative," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Evella Park has regained its sparkle and I know the community is happy to welcome its return. I want to thank

Mayor Turner for spearheading this first-of-its-kind parks improvement project in Houston, and a special thanks to Cheniere Energy for being an incredible partner on this from day one.”

The Mayor Sylvester Turner Love Our Parks Complete Communities initiative is a collaborative effort created by Mayor Turner to improve and upgrade neighborhood parks in under-resourced Houston communities. The first phase featured five neighborhood parks – Our Park and Malone Park in Third Ward, Woodruff Park in Magnolia-Manchester, Earl Henderson Park on the Near Northside, and Catherine Delce Park in Kashmere Gardens. Phase Two kicked off in August 2022 at Hobart Taylor Park, Irvington Park in December 2022, Independence Heights Park in October 2023 and Lincoln Park on December 17, 2023. The Evella Park improvement project wraps up the transformative Mayor Sylvester Turner Love Our Parks Initiative.

For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, please visit www.HoustonParks.org.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 382 parks and 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.