



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2019

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H-GAC to Host First Park and Natural Areas Summit

Annual Parks, Natural Areas Award Winners to be Honored at Half-Day Event

For more than 10 years, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) has honored outstanding parks and natural areas in the region. This year, the award winners will be honored as part of a special half-day summit focusing on H-GAC programs that can benefit parks. The Parks and Natural Areas Summit and Awards Ceremony will be from 9 a.m. to noon on **Friday, Feb. 8**, at H-GAC Second Floor Conference Rooms, 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston.

“For over a decade we’ve honored parks projects through our annual awards program,” said Jeff Taebel, Director of Community and Environmental Planning at H-GAC. “This year, we wanted to give attendees at the awards ceremony access to some of the tools and resources we have available for parks and natural areas planning and implementation projects.”

The Summit will include presentations from various H-GAC programs that can provide goods, services, technical assistance, and funding for parks and natural areas projects, including:

- [Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable](#) for networking through bimonthly meetings
- [Pedestrian and Bicyclist program](#) for trails planning and adjacent projects
- [HGACBuy cooperative purchasing program](#) for purchasing equipment
- [Water Resources program](#) for litter and pet waste reduction and water quality programs
- [H-GALDC’s Government Loan Fund](#) for low-interest loans to purchase equipment
- [Solid Waste Management Grants program](#) for funding to implement recycling or composting programs
- [Socioeconomic Modeling](#) program for interactive mapping tools
- [Designing for Impact](#) for strategies and plans for implementing Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure
- [Regional Transportation Plan](#) and [Transportation Improvement Plan](#) for funding opportunities

The summit is free and open to the public. [Registration](#) is requested. A light breakfast will be

provided. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. with the H-GAC program showcase, followed by the presentation of the [2018 H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Awards](#). These projects serve as models for planning and project implementation for parks and natural areas in the region. Projects will be honored in three categories: Planning Process, On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500,000, and On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500,000.

For information about H-GAC's Parks and Natural Areas program, contact Andrea Tantillo at 832-681-2507 or andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (www.h-gac.com) is a voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region—an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars and serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local government needs.