

# PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS AWARDS



Refreshments, water, and coffee are on the counter by the glass doors.



Trash cans are in the brown doors by the counters.



Restrooms are past the elevators to the right.



Please sign in if you didn't when you came in.

Friday, February 6, 2026

**Food and Decorations Generously Sponsored by**



# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Parks and Natural Areas Awards







## PARKS & NATURAL AREAS BEST PRACTICES CONTEST

*Improve quality of life, habitat and water quality  
in the 13-county H-GAC region by  
spreading the news of quality planning,  
design, implementation and successful  
parks and natural area projects*

▪ [Houston-Galveston Area Council](#)  
 ▪ [Natural Resources Advisory Committee Parks and Natural Areas Subcommittee](#)  
 ▪ [2006 H-GAC Best Practices](#)  
 ▪ [Parks and Natural Areas Honors Award - Entry Form](#)

¶ Submittal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Project Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Budget: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Project Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Partners: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶  
 ¶ Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ \_\_\_\_\_ Consultant \_\_\_\_\_ Government \_\_\_\_\_ Special District \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Profit \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Category (Check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Planning Process \_\_\_\_\_ Implementation Tools \_\_\_\_\_ Project  
 ¶ Commencement Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ¶ Description: → (Please attach a two-page description with the following information)  
 ¶

1. → Describe/summarize the key elements of your project, including the category
2. → How does your submittal meet the Subcommittee's Mission?
3. → How does your submittal characterize best practices?
4. → What are the objectives of the project?
5. → What do you consider are the entry's unique attributes?
6. → What is new or different about the entry that exemplifies the "best" Houston has to offer in Parks and Natural Areas?

Houston-Galveston Area Council  
Natural Resources Advisory Committee  
Parks and Natural Areas Subcommittee

2006 H-GAC Best Practices  
Parks and Natural Areas Honors Award Entry Form

Submitted Name: Salvare-to-Bagby Promenade  
Project Location: From Salvare to Bagby along Buffalo Bayou  
Project Size: 2.3-acre  
Budget: \$15 million  
Project Manager: Ian Rosenberg - representing Buffalo Bayou Partnership  
Partners: Buffalo Bayou Partnership, City of Houston,  
Texas Department of Transportation, Harris County Flood Control District  
Submitted by: Buffalo Bayou Partnership  
Consultant: ☐ Government ☐ Special District ☒ Non-Profit ☐ Other  
Contact Name: Trudi Smith  
Title: Director of PR and Events  
Phone Number: 713-752-0314  
Email address: tsmith@buffalobayou.org  
Category (Check one): ☐ Planning Process ☐ Implementation Tools ☒ Project  
Commencement Date: April 2004  
Completion Date: May 2006

Description: (Please attach a two-page description with the following information)

1. Describe/summarize the key elements of your project, including the category.
2. How does your submittal meet the Subcommittee's Mission?
3. How does your submittal characterize best practices?
4. What are the objectives of the project?
5. What do you consider are the entry's unique attributes?
6. What is new or different about the entry that exemplifies the "best" Houston has to offer in Parks and Natural Areas?

### Project Information

All fields are required unless specified otherwise.

Project Title

Project Owner's First Name

Project Owner's Last Name

Project Owner's Entity/Organization

What year was the project initiated?

If applicable, provide details on any awards or honors this project has already received.

What category fits best with this project?

Please Select

What alternate category fits best with this project?

Please Select

Project Location

**11 entries  
3 top prizes**



# Panel of Judges

- Water Quality Experts
- Academic Representatives
- Past Winners
- Consultants
- Wild Card
- 80 individuals



# Parks and Natural Areas 2025 Awards



## APPLY NOW!



Winning projects serve as models for the H-GAC region on how parks can improve water quality, habitat, and quality of life.

Apply at [h-gac.com/parks](http://h-gac.com/parks)

Applications due 8/25/25-9/30/25

A program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council

[h-gac.com](http://h-gac.com)







Houston-Galveston Area Council



Residents



Business



Government

Search H-GAC

## Parks and Natural Areas Awards

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, and Policy Tools.

This program recognizes outstanding parks and natural areas around the region. No funding is associated with this award program.

### 2018 Awards Program

2018 Award winners were honored in February 2019. Award recipients from the 2019 program will be announced soon.



City of Sugar Land

City of Sugar Land Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is the 2018 winner in the Planning Process category.



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

PO Box 22777 • Houston, Texas 77227-2777 • 713-627-3200

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 8, 2019

Contact: Andrea Tantillo: 832-681-2507 or [andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com](mailto:andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com)

Photos available at <https://h-gac.sharefile.com/d-sd9ee23635d44161a>

### H-GAC Announces Parks, Natural Areas Award Winners

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) announces the winners of the 2018 Parks and Natural Areas Award competition. These projects serve as models for planning and project implementation for parks and natural areas in the region. Projects are honored in three categories: Planning Process, On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500,000, and On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500,000.

"Since 2006, H-GAC has recognized creative and innovative park and natural area projects that implement best management practices in planning, policy, and development" said Jeff Taebel, Director of Community and Environmental Planning at H-GAC. "This year, we had 11 award winning entries representing five counties across our region."

Winners were honored during a special ceremony on February 8 at H-GAC. Winning entries include:

#### Planning Process

**Winner—Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan**, a project by the City of Sugar Land, includes an inventory of City of Sugar Land facilities, programs, and private service providers; a review of demographic data; public participation; standards and best practice analysis; data analysis; determination of priority needs; establishment of high-medium-low prioritization of needs; analysis of expenditures; and development of a 10-year action plan.

**Honorable Mention—League City Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan**, a project by the City of League City, considers the City's existing parks, trails, and open spaces while assessing future level of service, access to park space, and public desires for future park space,



**BrazoriaCountyParks**

@BrazoriaCoParks

Follow

We were thrilled to accept the 2018 honorable mention recognition in the Projects Over \$500K category from the @HouGalvAreaCog for our recent work out at Quintana Beach. Thanks to the H-GAC for giving us the opportunity to share our project with the community. #BrazoriaCounty



11:18 AM - 12 Feb 2019

5 Retweets 9 Likes



5



9



Home

Interstate MUD

Inframark (Water and

Sewer Operator)

Rick Rice Park

In the News

Galleries

Contact

Interstate MUD was honored for its responsible management and water stewardship overall.

## 2012 H-GAC Award



Parks & Natural Areas – Honorable Mention

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Interstate MUD was commended by H-GAC's Natural Resources Committee for its innovative approaches in the creation and development of

2019

2018

2017

2016

2015

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

2009

2008

2007



**1** Alabonson Sports and Nature Complex



**2** Alief Neighborhood Center and Park



**3** Bark Park at Countryside



**4** Busby Park Improvement Project



**5** Chrysalis Lake



**6** Cullinan Park Phase 1 Improvements



**7** Disc Golf Course at Briscoe Park



**8** Dreamscape



**9** Exploration Green



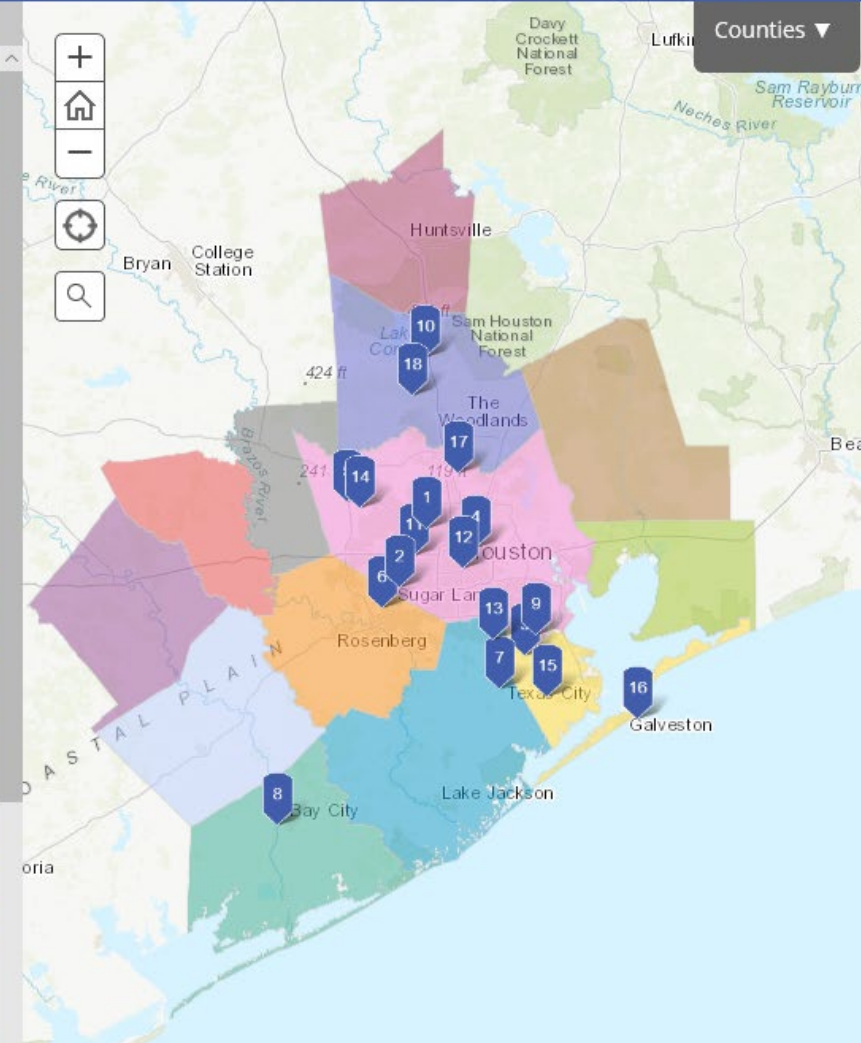
**10** Founders Park in The Woodlands Hills



**11** Haden Park



**12** Hermann Square at City Hall



# Measuring Impact



**810,000+**  
**acres of parks, natural areas**

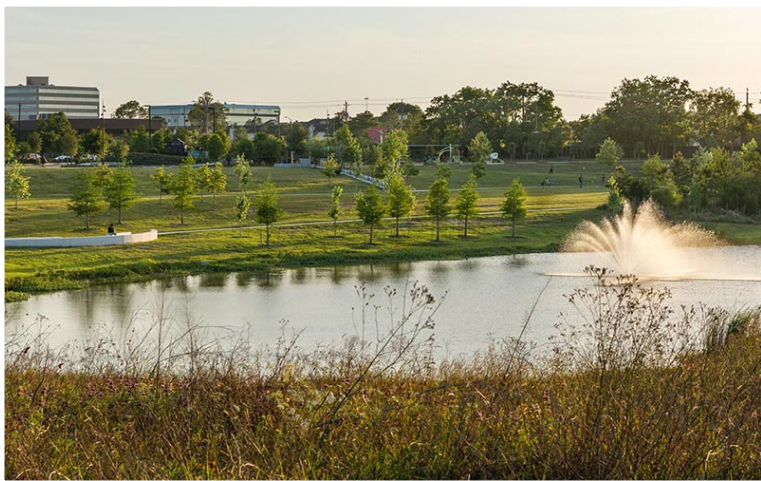


**1,880+**  
**miles of trails**

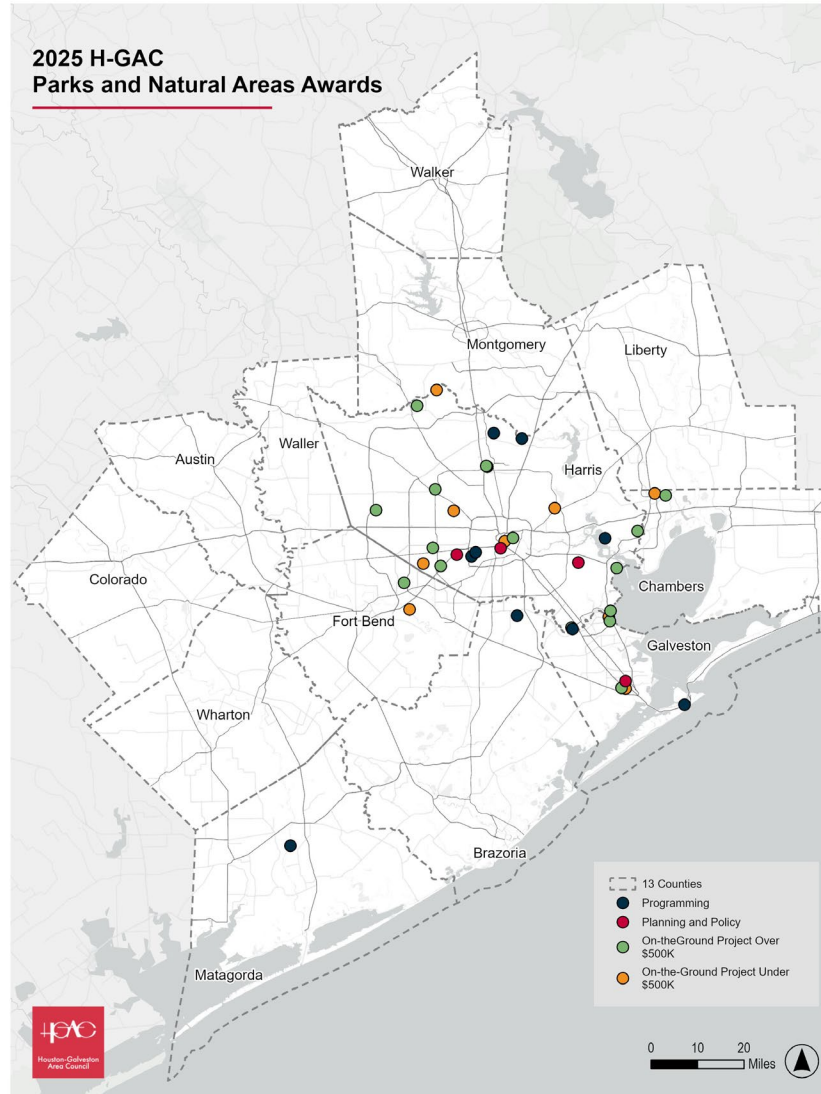


**\$2.2 billion+**  
**in investments**

# Awards Around the Region



## 2025 H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Awards



Join us November 7  
as we Green Up Greens Bayou

There is a beautiful, wide hike/bike trail that runs along either side of Greens Bayou. It is currently unshaded and hot during most of the year. Greens Bayou Coalition, working with North Houston District, plans to add trees along the trail, all the way to Hardy Road!

Help Greens Bayou Coalition plant  
85 trees on either side of Greens  
Bayou from Knobcrest Drive at I-45  
to Greens Road. Volunteer to join us!  
8:00 am - 12:30 pm



# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Parks and Natural Areas Awards



# The Next 20 Years of Parks and Natural Areas

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## 1. Take a leaf

Pick up a paper leaf from the table

## 2. Share your vision

Write one change, improvement, or project you hope to see in parks and natural areas over the next 20 years

*Examples: new trails, restored habitats, youth programs*

## 3. Add it to the tree

When you're finished, place your leaf on the tree display labeled "The Next 20 Years of Parks and Natural Areas"

Thank you for contributing your ideas and helping shape the future of parks and natural areas in our region!

# 2025 Parks and Natural Areas Awards



A light blue map of the Houston-Galveston Area Council region, showing county boundaries. The word "Winners" is centered over the map in a large, bold, dark blue font.

# Winners

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Winner



## Club Creek Park & Houston Vietnam Veterans Memorial TIRZ 20

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Winner



Help Greens Bayou Coalition plant  
85 trees on either side of Greens  
Bayou from Knobcrest Drive at I-45  
to Greens Road. Volunteer to join us!  
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Join us November 7  
as we Green Up Greens Bayou

There is a beautiful, wide hike/bike  
trail that runs along either side of  
Greens Bayou. It is currently  
unshaded and hot during most of  
the year. Greens Bayou Coalition,  
working with North Houston District,  
plans to add trees along the trail, all  
the way to Hardy Road!



Green Up Greens Bayou  
Colleen Gilbert

# Policy Tools/Planning Process Winner



Burnett Bayland and Bayland Park Master Plans:  
Harris County Precinct 4 - Commissioner Lesley Briones

# Programming Winner



**Beyond Bees at Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens**  
**Harris County Precinct 3 - Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey, P.E.**

# Honorable Mentions

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Honorable Mention



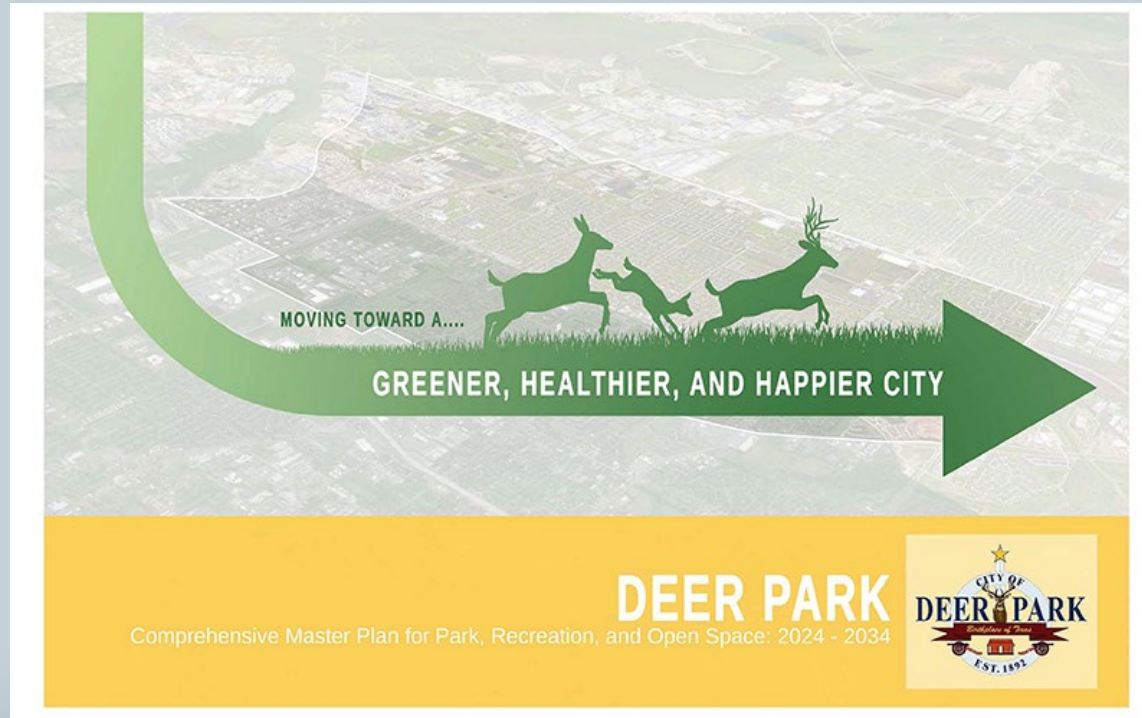
Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center - Fuel Reduction and Mulching Project: Phase II  
Harris County Precinct 3 - Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey, P.E.

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Honorable Mention



Camden Park  
Westchase District

# Policy Tools/Planning Process Honorable Mention



Deer Park Comprehensive Master Plan for Park, Recreation, and Open Space: 2024-2034  
City of Deer Park

# Programming Honorable Mention



Baytown and GCCISD Nature Education Programs  
City of Baytown Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department

# Certificates of Recognition

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Louie's Together Playground  
City of Tomball

# Programming Certificate of Recognition



Sustainability Initiative Program  
City of West University Place

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Alief Pocket Prairie  
AliefVotes

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Lockwood Park with Buffalo Bayou Partnership: Guiding Ecological Renewal  
Buffalo Bayou Partnership

# Programming Certificate of Recognition



Rally on the River  
Bay City Parks and Recreation

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Jenkins / Holloway Perfect Trail Improvements Project  
Baytown Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



The Kraken at Carol Fox Park  
City of Jersey Village

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



57 Acre Nature Facility  
City of Kemah

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



James Foster Park Renovation  
City of Kemah

# Policy Tools/Planning Process Certificate of Recognition



Kemah Beacon at Betty Joann Blackledge Park  
City of Kemah

# Policy Tools/Planning Process Certificate of Recognition



Arts in the Parks: Sensory Sidewalk Project  
City of La Marque

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Highland Bayou Park All-Inclusive Playground  
City of La Marque

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Mahan Park Boat Ramp Expansion  
City of La Marque

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Cherry Point Park  
City of Mont Belvieu

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Joe Matthews Park  
City of Mont Belvieu

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Colonel James Morgan New Washington Prairie  
City of Morgan's Point

# Programming Certificate of Recognition



Texas Horned Lizard Conservation Program  
City of Pearland

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Bayside Park  
City of Seabrook

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Cullinan Park Phase II  
City of Sugar Land

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Sugar Land Memorial Park Butterfly Garden Pavilion  
City of Sugar Land

# Policy Tools/Planning Process Certificate of Recognition



Housing and Opportunity Toolkit  
Friends of Columbia Tap

# Policy Tools/Planning Process Certificate of Recognition



## Columbia Tap Trail: Action Plan Friends of Columbia Tap

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Dakota's Peace Grove  
Friends of Columbia Tap

# Programming Certificate of Recognition



Beach Heroes of Galveston County  
Galveston Bay Area Chapter - TX Master Naturalist

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Stephen Woodring Park  
Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Challenger 7 Memorial Park  
Harris County Precinct 2 - Adrian Garcia

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Deputy Tommy Berry Pocket Park Renovation  
Harris County Precinct 2 - Adrian Garcia

# Programming Certificate of Recognition



Harris County Precinct 2 and Texas 4-H Programming  
Harris County Precinct 2 - Adrian Garcia (Carly Martin)

# Programming Certificate of Recognition



Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center-Events, Education, and Engagement in our Communities  
Harris County Precinct 3 - Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey, P.E.

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Bayland Health and Wellness Hub Initiative  
Harris County Precinct 4 - Commissioner Lesley Briones

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Pitner Pocket Park Community Mural  
Harris County Precinct 4 - Commissioner Lesley Briones

# On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500K Certificate of Recognition



Wussow Park Renovation  
North Houston District

# Programming Certificate of Recognition



Programming for Park Visitors at Evelyn's Park  
Terry Leavitt-Chavez

# On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500K Certificate of Recognition



The Lookout a.k.a. The Bird Blind  
The Woodlands Township

# Awards Judges

Casey Collins - Halff

William Hajdik - City of Sugar Land

Eric Heppen - Harris County Precinct 3

Brandi Keller - Texas Sea Grant

Kelli Ondracek - City of Houston

Karina Yonekawa-Blest - Fonde Civic Club  
& Friends of Fonde Park



# Parks and Natural Areas Award Winner Badge



# Contact Information

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Coordinator*

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Find more at: [h-gac.com/  
parks-and-natural-areas](http://h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas)



# 2025 Parks and Natural Areas Awards - Networking

