



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120
Houston, TX 77027
h-gac.com | @HouGalvAreaCog

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kristina Michel / 713.993.4559 / kristina.michel@h-gac.com

H-GAC ACCEPTING ENTRIES TO 15TH ANNUAL PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS AWARDS

HOUSTON, TX – They can be as small as a pocket prairie or neighborhood park, or as expansive as a community master plan, but there’s one thing the recipients of the Houston-Galveston Area Council’s Parks and Natural Areas Awards have in common – they are all leaders in innovation, environmental stewardship, and conservation for the region.

H-GAC invites local governments, developers, non-profit organizations, and others involved in the planning, design, and execution of parks and natural areas projects to submit their best parks, recreation, and natural areas projects to the 15th Annual Parks and Natural Area Awards. The awards recognize projects that have made or have the potential to make a lasting impact on conservation and stewardship of the Houston-Galveston region’s lands, water, and natural resources. The deadline to apply for an award is 5 p.m., Sept. 30, 2020.

“Parks and natural areas serve an essential role in preserving natural resources, mitigating flooding, and improving communities’ quality of life,” said Jeff Taebel, director of community and environmental planning at H-GAC. “These awards recognize the best of the best – those projects that are leading the charge in creating a more beautiful and sustainable region for us and future generations.”

Since the awards’ inception in 2006, H-GAC has recognized nearly 200 creative parks and natural projects. Past recipients – such as the Galveston Island Historic Seawall Beach Renourishment Project, the Baytown Nature Center recreation and wildlife preserve, Buffalo Bayou Park, and the Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve in northwest Harris County – have gone on to serve as models to be replicated throughout the region.

To apply, visit h-gac.com/parks and complete the online entry form and questionnaire. Winning entrants will be selected by a panel of environmental, planning, design and park professionals. Top entrants will be announced in December and will be honored during a reception in February 2021.

Candidates may submit their projects for any of the following categories: Planning, Policy Tools, On-the-Ground Over \$500,000, and On-The-Ground Under \$500,000. Entries can include comprehensive plans, natural area studies, awareness campaigns, funding, staffing, and protective codes, pocket parks, natural areas restoration, and greenway projects. Projects completed between Sept. 1, 2017 and Aug. 31, 2020 in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties are all eligible to apply.

For more information about the Parks and Natural Areas Awards, including a full list of submission guidelines and past recipients, visit www.h-gac.com/parks.

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Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes 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; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.