



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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H-GAC TO HONOR PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS AND WATER INNOVATION STRATEGIES OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS WINNERS ON FEB. 5

HOUSTON, TX – The Houston-Galveston Area Council will honor the parks, natural areas, and water quality projects and strategies making a positive impact on our region at the Parks and Natural Areas and Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence (WISE) Awards – a special online joint ceremony at 9 a.m., Friday, Feb. 5.

The Parks and Natural Areas and WISE Awards recognize those projects and strategies that encourage innovation and collaboration to preserve our region’s natural resources and improve quality of life. The awards ceremony is free and open to the public. Attendees can register online at: zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsfuqvrT4pHdK8RmnQPh01-XzROD0yEY98.

“For 15 years, H-GAC has recognized creative and innovative parks and natural areas projects that implement best management practices in planning, policy, and development,” said Jeff Taebel, director of community and environmental planning at H-GAC. “Three years ago, we introduced the Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence Awards to honor projects that serve as models for improving water quality in planning, policy, development, and education.”

More than 20 applicants applied across both programs to be evaluated by panels of expert judges and industry professionals for recognition. Honorees include:

Parks and Natural Areas Awards

Parks and Natural Areas Awards Planning Process

- **Winner: *Buffalo Bayou East Master Plan*, a project by Buffalo Bayou Partnership**
- Honorable Mention: *Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan*, a project by City of Pasadena Parks and Recreation
- Special Recognition:
 - *Parkland Square*, a project by Bridgeland - The Howard Hughes Corporation
 - *Parks and Pathways Master Plan*, a project by City of Fulshear

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.



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- *Strategic Conservation Plan*, a project by Bayou Land Conservancy
- *Sylvan Beach Park Master Plan*, a project by Harris County Precinct 2
- *The Groves*, a project by Ashlar Development
- *Wilcrest Park*, a project by Westchase District
- *Woodchase Park*, a project by Westchase District

Parks and Natural Areas Projects Over \$500,000

- **Winner: *Clay Family Eastern Glades*, a project by Memorial Park Conservancy**
- Honorable Mention: *Atascocita Area Park*, a project by Harris County Precinct 2
- Special Recognition:
 - *Greens Bayou*, a project by Houston Parks Board
 - *Heart of the Zoo: Kathrine G. McGovern Texas Wetlands Exhibit*, a project by Houston Zoo, Inc.
 - *Kathrine G. McGovern Canopy Walkway & Visitor Pavilion*, a project by Houston Audubon Society
 - *Timber Lane Utility District Community Center*, a project by Timber Lane Utility District
 - *Willow Fork Park*, a project by Willow Fork Drainage District

Parks and Natural Areas Projects Under \$500,000

- **Winner: *Butterfly Pocket Park*, a project by Greater Northside Management District**
- Honorable Mention: *Trailside Park*, a project by Westchase District

Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence (WISE) Awards

Planning & Policy Award Winner

- Houston Wilderness for the *Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan: Second Key Goal*

Education & Public Awareness Award Winner

- City of Houston-Houston Public Works for the *Imagine a Day Without Water Campaign*

Special Recognition for Exemplary Environmental Advocacy by a Citizen's Group

- Friends of the River San Bernard for *Addressing Bacteria Impairment of the Tidal San Bernard River*

Special Recognition for Exemplary STEM Engagement of K-12 Students

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- City of Houston-Houston Public Works for the *Houston Public Works 2019 Water Works Festival*

For more information about the Parks and Natural Areas Awards, visit h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas/awards. For more information about the WISE Awards, visit h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/natural-resources-advisory-committee/wise-awards.

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