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**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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, trails, and open space development over the next 20 years.

**Special Recognition—Bay City Parks Master Plan**, a project by the City of Bay City, analyzes the state of the City’s parks and open spaces; identifies needs and deficiencies in the system; and develops a series of goals, recommendations, and priorities for improving the system.

**Special Recognition—Dragonfly Park**, a project by the Howard Hughes Corporation, is a key element to enhancing Parkland Village and furthering the Bridgeland community's emphasis on family, community, and the outdoors.

**Special Recognition—Gene and Loretta Russell Park Master Plan**, a project by the City of Baytown-Parks & Recreation, represents an intensive effort to plan for a phased development approach to create connections between people and the places they share.

### **On-the-Ground Projects Over \$500,000**

**Winner—Harris County John Paul Landing Park**, a project by Harris County Precinct 3, is an 865-acre park with man-made fishing lake developed as an environmentally-friendly park site to provide safe, passive, recreational areas for current and planned residential developments in West Harris County.

**Honorable Mention—Quintana Beach County Park Discovery Event Center**, a project by the Brazoria County Parks Department, provides educational opportunities to the public regarding the conservation/protection of coastal areas, marine resources, wildlife and birds, wetlands, and the fragile coastal environment.

**Special Recognition—Baytown ADA Boat Ramp and Kayak Launch Renovations**, a project by the City of Baytown-Parks & Recreation, includes replacing dated boat ramps and fishing piers with ADA-accessible boat ramps at Roseland, WC Britton, and Bayland parks and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center and installing new ADA accessible floating kayak launches at Roseland and Bayland parks.

**Special Recognition—Juan Seguin Park**, a project by Harris County Precinct 2, is a 4.9-acre historic park in La Porte built to give visitors a unique, three-dimensional understanding of the historical significance of the area in proximity to the park.

**Special Recognition—Mayfield Park**, a project by the City of Sugar Land, is a neighborhood park upgraded to include a new basketball court, pavilion, playground, picnic tables and grills, trails, landscaping, open play lawn, entry monument sign, lighting, parking, and utilities.

### **On-the-Ground Projects Under \$500,000**

**Winner—Spring Creek Nature Trail**, a project by Bayou Land Conservancy, is a 13-mile natural surface hike/bike trail running along the Spring Creek Greenway, which is the longest, contiguous, urban forested greenway in the nation.

For information about H-GAC’s Parks and Natural Areas program, contact Andrea Tantillo at 832-681-2507 or [andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com](mailto:andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com).

**Houston-Galveston Area Council**

The Houston-Galveston Area Council ([www.h-gac.com](http://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.