



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AWARDS PROGRAM

H-GAC to Honor Projects Designed to Improve Quality of Life, Habitat and Water Quality

HOUSTON, TX – Cities, counties, developers, and consultants involved in the planning, design, or implementation of parks and natural areas across the Houston-Galveston region are invited to apply for recognition in the 2019 Houston-Galveston Area Council Parks and Natural Areas Awards Program. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2019.

“As population growth continues, parks and natural areas will be critical community assets, and their development will require continued planning and commitment by public and private groups,” said Jeff Taebel, H-GAC Director of Community and Environmental Planning. “Winning projects serve as models for the region on how parks and natural areas can improve water quality, habitat, and quality of life.”

Any public, private, or non-profit organization may apply in one of four categories: Planning Process, Policy Tools, On-the-Ground Projects over \$500,000, and On-the-Ground Projects under \$500,000. Entries in the Planning Process category can include comprehensive plans, natural areas studies, and public involvement. Policy Tools entries can include funding, staffing, and protective codes. On-the-Ground Projects will be considered in two budget categories – over \$500,000 and under \$500,000 – and can include pocket parks, restoration of natural areas, and greenway projects.

Projects completed since September 1, 2016, in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties are eligible. There is no entry fee. 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 2020.

Each application must be submitted online. Paper applications will not be accepted. Additional information, including application requirements, can be found at www.h-gac.com/parks.

Since 2006, H-GAC has recognized approximately 200 creative park and natural area projects that implement best management practices in planning, policy, and development. These projects also provide benefits beyond recreation, including restoring coastal wetlands, reducing flooding, and preserving natural areas.

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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.