

H-GAC Parks & Natural Areas Awards

Planning

Lake Houston Wilderness Park Master Plan (Trophy Winner)

The City of Houston commissioned a master plan to meet two key challenges: to enhance the wilderness features of this 4,986-acre park and to make the park economically and ecologically sustainable. The plan offers an innovative model for management practices that both increase the qualities of the park's ecosystems and capitalize on those enhancements to generate revenue.



Wharton County Parks and Open Space Master Plan (Honorable Mention)

Spurred by the donation of 52 acres for a park and the creation of a mountain and a fishing pond thereon, Wharton County commissioned a master plan for the County and to help develop the new parksite. Elements of the plan include an inventory, a needs assessment, prioritized plans for active and passive recreational facilities, and a strategy for implementation.

Parks and Pathways Master Plan, City of Shenandoah (Honorable Mention)

This small community in southern Montgomery County commissioned a parks and pathways master plan to address minimal facilities in a growing community. Developed with significant stakeholder involvement, the plan identifies development of trails, parks, swim facilities, wetlands, and woods as a means to preserving habitat, improving water quality, and providing connected facilities for residents.

Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Park, City of Rosenberg (Certificate of Recognition)

Voters in the City of Rosenberg, a rapidly growing city in central Fort Bend County, approved \$2.5 million in bond funds for improvements to Seabourne Park. Developed in consultation with both the City's and the County's park master plans, the proposed park improvements will meet many needs of area residents, particularly youth sports and access to natural areas.

Campus Master Plan, St. Catherine's Montessori School (Certificate of Recognition)

This school recently became the first K-12 school in Texas to be awarded LEED certification, and the Campus Master Plan was commissioned to incorporate sustainable landscape practices and the school's hands-on learning philosophy. The plan, which may serve as an example for other schools' outdoor areas, incorporates composting, rainwater tanks, a stormwater wetland, and a natural play area, among other features.