

HPARD 2018 Neighborhood Playground Initiative FAQs

What is the purpose of HPARD's Neighborhood Playground Masterplan?

The goal of this program is to upgrade playground systems and introduce new play concepts and designs to areas which have been historically underserved. Priority has been given to the playground needs of neighborhoods in low-to-moderate income areas.

How many playgrounds are in the department's inventory?

The entire park system has 225 playgrounds located throughout the Houston area.

How were the playgrounds evaluated and selected?

The department's Playground Inspection team conducted a preliminary evaluation of the playgrounds to determine playground needs. The evaluation determined the first 100 that the initiative will target.

How did this project come about?

The Neighborhood Playground Masterplan Initiative began in 2017 as part of the regular review of facilities and need for ongoing maintenance in conjunction with the Mayor's Complete Communities program.

Why has it taken so long to try to develop playground initiatives like this one?

Previous initiatives were held under both Mayor Lanier and Mayor Brown. Under Mayor Turner, the Neighborhood Playground Initiative seeks to repair and upgrade neighborhood playgrounds in a phased approach of repair and replacement. This strategy will address

- 1) the repair of neighborhood playgrounds across the parks system
- 2) establish a manageable maintenance cycle for playgrounds

How will the project be implemented?

The project will be implemented in phases based on funding availability and individual project scope of work.

- The First Phase will focus on projects repairs and upgrades and using HPARD's in-house certified playground safety inspectors and trade personnel.

What is the funding source for the Playground Initiative?

Potential funding sources for this initiative have been identified as follows:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds
- Park Consolidated Construction Funds (Bonds)
- Parks Open Space Funds
- Partnership/Private Funding Sources
- Council District Service Funds (CDSF)

What does the Memorial Park Amendment do for this project?

Because of the generous donation to MPC, HPARD will be able to redistribute \$600k each year to be utilized for neighborhood playgrounds.

Why invest in Neighborhood Park playgrounds?

The opportunity to play and engage in physical activity should be available to everyone in every community. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds are an important developmental tool for kids. They provide a place for children to learn about the world they live in, engage in play which is essential to their development, gain valuable social skills and unplug from the digital world. Money spent improving our park playgrounds is an investment in our future.