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Buffalo Bayou Partnership Opens Johnny Steele Dog Park in Buffalo Bayou Park

One of four major destinations to be complete as part of the \$58 million Buffalo Bayou Park

Grand opening public celebration scheduled for January 17, 2015

HOUSTON – January 5, 2015 – Buffalo Bayou Partnership will celebrate the opening of the Johnny Steele Dog Park in Buffalo Bayou Park on January 17, 2015. The two-acre area at 2929 Allen Parkway (Montrose Boulevard /Studemont) features fenced-off large and small dog ponds with a wetland area, dog washing spaces, shade structures, lighted areas, and 17 new parallel parking spaces along the Allen Parkway frontage road. Upon its completion, the \$1.5 million dog park will be one of the largest dog parks in Houston.

The Johnny Steele Dog Park grand opening celebration is scheduled for **January 17, 2015 from 1 - 4 p.m. and is free and open to the public.** Family — and animal — friendly activities such as a *Strut your Mut*t doggie fashion show, a dog “kissing booth,” a dog and dog-owner look-alike contest, dog food samples, a doggie lounge area, on-site pet adoptions, giveaways, and more.

The dog park, named in honor of Johnny Steele, a well-known Houston landscape architect, by a group of thoughtful donors, is one of four major destinations to be completed by Buffalo Bayou Partnership as part of the \$58 million Buffalo Bayou Park. The 160-acre Buffalo Bayou Park has been under renovation since July 2013 and improvements include new trails, pedestrian bridges, enhancements at Eleanor Tinsley Park, lighting, amenities like kayak and bike rentals and overall improvements to the landscape in addition to major destinations The Water Works, Lost Lake/The Dunlavy, and the Nature Play Area. The entire park will be complete in summer 2015.

According to Buffalo Bayou Partnership President Anne Olson, “The completion of the dog park is a major milestone in the improvements to Buffalo Bayou Park and an indicator that we are in the homestretch of overall park completion by the summer. It has been exciting to see the transformation of the park and also the spur in residential and commercial development in the area which we believe is a reflection of the desire for, and interest in, quality of life amenities.”

Following the January 17 public celebration, the dog park will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. In April 2015, there will be a temporary closure of the dog park in order to reseed and prepare the grass for the

warmer summer months. Dog park rules and guidelines can be found at buffalobayou.org or buffalobayoupark.org.

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About Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Created in 1986, Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization transforming and revitalizing Buffalo Bayou, Houston's greatest natural resource. For more information, visit www.buffalobayou.org.

The \$58 million Buffalo Bayou Park project is a collaboration of Buffalo Bayou Partnership, the City of Houston through Houston Parks & Recreation Department and Harris County Flood Control District. For the first 30 years after the park opens, Downtown TIRZ #3 will contribute \$2 million per year for the park's maintenance and operations. The Kinder Foundation committed a \$30 million catalyst gift for the project, and Buffalo Bayou Partnership has raised the remaining \$23 million for the improvements. For more information about the park improvements, please visit www.buffalobayoupark.org.