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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Houston Parks Board Announces New Board Chairman Barron Wallace**

**HOUSTON, TX** – August 21, 2019 – Houston Parks Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Barron Wallace** as its new board chairman. In his new role, Wallace will provide vision and leadership that will continue to ensure the sustainability of the nonprofit as it approaches the celebratory year of its largest initiative to date: Bayou Greenways 2020.

“This is a historic time for Houston Parks Board as we grow closer to the completion of Bayou Greenways 2020,” said Beth White, Houston Parks Board president and CEO. “With Barron’s leadership, insight, and in-depth understanding of urban redevelopment, I am confident in the direction he will help lead Houston Parks Board during this exciting milestone.”

Wallace has been a board member of the Houston Parks Board since 2008. During this time, he has helped steward the organization’s vision of parks and communities for everyone through numerous initiatives and projects. This includes coordination on the 2012 “Parks By You” campaign, which helped to pass a city bond referendum setting aside \$100 million for Bayou Greenways 2020. Wallace has served on numerous committees, chairing the governance committee, and most recently as the organization’s vice chairman.

“I am honored to be serving as the new board chairman,” said Wallace. “The Houston Parks Board’s mission to connect Houstonians and our community through public green space and create equitable access for all has always resonated with me. It is a privilege to be part of this vital organization.”

Wallace succeeds Tom Bacon, who has served as board chair for the past nine years. Bacon will continue to serve on the board of directors as the immediate past chair.

“Barron is a strong and talented leader with a deep understanding of the organization’s fiscal, strategic, and operational needs. I am thrilled to see him step into this new leadership role,” said Bacon.

Wallace, who is a partner at Bracewell LLP and a member of the firm’s management committee, serves as bond and disclosure counsel for cities, counties, state agencies, and special districts. As a result of his many years of experience and innovations in public finance, he also focuses on urban infrastructure and transportation development and public-private partnerships.

In addition to serving as the board chair for Houston Parks Board, Wallace serves on the board of directors of the Museum of Fine Arts-Houston, Connect Houston, St. John’s School, Discovery Green-Downtown Park Corporation, and the NFL/NFLPA Research and Education Foundation.

Barron Wallace’s headshot is available [here](#). Courtesy of Houston Parks Board.

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A nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to providing access to quality parks and greenspace in the Greater Houston region, **Houston Parks Board** creates, improves, protects, and advocates for parks for everyone. Since 1976, the organization has utilized public-private partnerships and its extensive philanthropic, government and community relationships to improve parks large and small. Houston Parks Board is currently leading the transformational \$220 million Bayou Greenways 2020 project to complete a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails along Houston's major waterways. For more information, visit [www.houstonparksboard.org](http://www.houstonparksboard.org).

**Bayou Greenways 2020** is one of the most ambitious parks projects in the U.S. By transforming more than 3,000 acres of underutilized land along Houston's major waterways into linear parks, Bayou Greenways 2020 will complete a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails. The \$220 million project will connect people, places, and greenspace while enhancing air and water quality, preserving flood-prone areas and stimulating economic development in Houston. Public investment was matched by significant private contributions including an extraordinary lead gift of \$50 million in 2013 from the Kinder Foundation.