



For Immediate Release

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City of Alvin Receives Recognition from H-GAC

The City of Alvin received a Special Recognition Award from the Houston Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for the Nature Observation Area at National Oak Park during an awards ceremony held at H-GAC on Friday, February 9th. This project was selected as a recipient for recognition on behalf of the 2017 H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas award program for Projects Under \$500,000 category.

H-GAC established the Parks and Natural Areas awards program in 2006 to highlight best practices and innovative approaches to creating and improving parks and natural areas. H-GAC honors projects in the categories of Projects Over \$500,000, Projects Under \$500,000, Planning Process, and Policy Tools. Projects that expand parks and natural areas for improved quality of life, habitat, and water quality are honored. Winning projects exhibit efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation and serve as models to be replicated throughout the region.

The Nature Observation Area at National Oak Park was a collaborative effort made possible by Brazoria County and the City of Alvin Parks and Recreation Department. Funding was provided through a federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant. This observation area offers a unique interaction with plants, insects and wildlife native to the region; featuring trees, a picnic pavilion, park benches, interpretive/educational signs, an observation deck overlooking Mustang Bayou and a butterfly garden. Visitors can access the area by using the conveniently located parking lot and concrete pathway through the area, both of which were funded through the grant program.

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. The City of Alvin is honored to receive this recognition from H-GAC and grateful for the collaborative efforts that made this project possible for our community.

Pictures attached