



**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Angie Bertinot / Downtown District / [angie@downtowndistrict.org](mailto:angie@downtowndistrict.org) / 713-650-3022  
Whitney Radley / The CKP Group / [whitney@theckpgroup.com](mailto:whitney@theckpgroup.com) / 832-930-4065 x106

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 13, 2018**

**DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPROVES  
NEW PUBLIC PARK IN SOUTHERN DOWNTOWN**

**Park set to open in summer 2020**

**HOUSTON, TX** – Today, the board of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) has voted to approve a site for a new public park in Southern Downtown. In accordance with the City Council approved budget for the DRA, they are signing a ground lease with renewal options on the property bounded by Bell Street, San Jacinto Street, Leeland Street and Fannin Street in Downtown Houston. The park will inhabit three quarters of a block which is currently occupied by Goodyear Auto Service Center.

Since 2012, the Downtown Living Initiative has produced approximately 1,500 new residential units in Southern Downtown alone. This burgeoning neighborhood is one of several residential hotspots that are bringing new energy and vitality to the formerly office-centric Downtown core. The DRA's long-term goal, in collaboration with the Downtown District, City of Houston and other organizations, is to reinforce the identities of Southern Downtown and other new residential clusters with distinct streetscape elements, active streets and blocks with resident-oriented retail and open space, and the addition of schools and daycare centers—all supporting home ownership and rental opportunities.

“Thanks to the success of the Downtown Living Initiative and the commercial development it has stimulated, we are well on our way to establishing diverse, multi-generational neighborhoods across Downtown Houston,” said Bob Eury, DRA president. “This new Southern Downtown park space will serve as a backyard for nearby residents and a ‘third place’ that will anchor community life and foster experiences for Houstonians and visitors alike.”

The DRA will engage the community for programming input in late spring of this year. A Request for Qualifications for the park design team will be released as well and construction is expected to begin in mid-2019, with an opening date set for summer 2020.

**- MORE -**

**Downtown Redevelopment Authority approves new public park in Southern Downtown**

“Great cities are defined by their public spaces, both large and small. Here in Downtown Houston, Discovery Green, which anchors Avenida Houston, and the much smaller Market Square Park located in Downtown’s Historic District, are two hugely successful parks that have had a catalytic effect on the areas surrounding them,” said Xavier Peña, DRA board chairman. “We believe this new park can be equally dynamic, and, in its own way, become the heart of a new neighborhood and an economic development tool for future growth.”

This project supports one of the key recommendations of Plan Downtown, a 20-year vision plan for Downtown Houston released in November 2017—a combination of new parks and retrofitted open spaces will anchor the new development clusters and emerging activity areas. These open spaces will create memorable landmarks that are supportive of surrounding uses and promote increased activity through park design and programming.

**ABOUT DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) facilitates positive development of the area within the Tax Increment Zone #3 (TIRZ #3) boundaries. Tax increment dollars collected within the boundaries of the Zone are reinvested back into the Zone through the Board of Directors. It accomplishes this by providing financial incentives through public/private sector partnerships designed to make Downtown Houston a place where Houstonians and visitors want to live, work and play. For more information, visit [downtowntirz.com](http://downtowntirz.com).

###