

# THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

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LAND FOR PEOPLE

## Evaluation of SPARK School Parks Harris County, Texas

### ***SPARK and the Evaluation Project***

The SPARK School Park Program, created in 1983 as a way to increase park space, works in Houston and Harris County to develop public school grounds into neighborhood parks. Approximately 150 SPARK Parks currently exist within Harris County, serving almost 340,000 people within a half-mile of these projects. This evaluation will explore the role of SPARK School Park Projects in the open space system, and seeks to help promote the continued creation and availability of local park space for Houston communities.

Park Evaluators will be observing schoolyards (counting the number of park users and activities after school and on weekends, as well as assessing the park conditions). Park Evaluators will also be conducting brief interviews with park users and community members. These activities will take place in the spring, summer, and early fall of 2014.

This effort is funded by the Houston Endowment and is being led by The Trust for Public Land.

### ***About The Trust for Public Land***

Founded in 1972, The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit that works to conserve land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities and healthy environments for generations to come. In order to ensure that every child has easy access to a safe place to play in nature, The Trust for Public Land works to protect the places people care about and to create close-to-home parks —particularly in and near cities, where 85 percent of Americans live. In order to maximize the impact that land conservation and park design and development efforts have on the health and quality of life of people, The Trust for Public Land shares best practices and engages in meaningful research.

For more information about the services we provide, please see <http://www.tpl.org/>.

### ***If you have questions about this project, please contact:***

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HOUSTON ENDOWMENT

A PHILANTHROPY ENDOWED BY JESSE H. AND MARY GIBBS JONES