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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West University Place Parks and Recreation Department Recognized for Sustainability Initiatives

WEST UNIVERSITY PLACE, TX – At its 20th annual Parks and Natural Areas Awards Program earlier this month, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) recognized the City of West University Place’s Parks and Recreation Department for its Sustainability Initiative Program.

The department’s Sustainability Initiative Program encompasses its 2024 grant- funded implementation of smart irrigation systems at city parks and facilities, as well as efforts to reduce waste at its community events and routine programming.

To achieve the program’s objectives, the department partnered with the City’s Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board to implement food waste composting and recycling at special events, helping educate attendees and reduce landfill waste. It also established a new requirement for event vendors to use compostable supplies, unless otherwise approved.

The department’s senior services division reinforced these efforts by introducing an ongoing food waste composting program at its facility and replacing single-use plastics with compostable plates and cutlery for its monthly luncheons, which serve about 100 seniors.

“It is an honor for our Parks and Recreation Department to be recognized as regional leaders in adopting sustainability practices in municipal operations,” said West University Place Mayor Susan Sample. “West U aims to lead by example for its residents and neighboring cities, so this award is a testament to our efforts.”

The H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Awards Program recognizes organizations in its 13-county region for innovative park planning, implementation, and best practices.

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Image Attached - Left to Right: West U Parks and Recreation Director, Susan White; West U Mayor Susan Sample; West U Parks and Recreation Administrative Coordinator, Charlotte Rain; West U Senior Services Manager, Michelle Blunt; H-GAC Director, Community and Environmental Planning, Justin Bower.