



Donors give 1,500 acres

Houston gets parkland

United Press International
HOUSTON — The mayor Friday declared "Give a Park to Houston Month" a success with the donation of 1,500 acres of land — a 25 percent increase in the park system — and noted October still had five days to run.

Mayor Jim McConn said the land given to the city, which previously owned 6,000 acres of parks, is valued at \$13 million.

"I believe this achievement to be unique in the history of park development in the United States," said McConn. "It is an astonishing testimonial to the generosity of Houstonians and to their pride in their city."

Houston had room to grow. Federal officials recently ranked the nation's fifth largest city (population 1.7 million) ranked 140th among American cities in per capita parks space.

The largest of the gifts were an 850-acre site on the east side given by the Brown Foundation Inc. and a 500-acre site on the north side given by the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Carothers Wiess.

An additional 229 acres from a yet unrevealed donor was expected to

be given officially next week. There have been three other lesser donations, reported Barbara Dillingham, parks information and development officer.

"Some of this was rigged," Dillingham said. "I wasn't going to set up 'Give a Park to Houston Month' and have it fall on its face. But we'd hoped these expected gifts (including Brown's) would spark others and that happened."

The Brown Foundation also donated \$1 million to be matched with federal funds for development of its 850-acre gift, which will include tennis courts, baseball, football and basketball fields, a jogging loop and picnic areas.

Plans for the area donated by the Wiess family included playing fields and trails, plus an area set aside for agricultural and environmental education. Solar and wind-driven devices to pump water were among the plans.

Dillingham said Oct. 31 was no deadline. She said the gifts make nice tax credits for donors and will be accepted anytime. The land doesn't have to be in Houston — or Texas, for that matter.

"We'll take land anywhere," she said. "We don't have to make a park out of it. We can hold it for appreciation of value or sell it for the money."

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Viets stay jailed for own safety

United Press International
SEGUIN — Two Vietnamese brothers, charged with killing a Seadrift man in a feud between local fishermen and Southeast Asia refugees, have not sought release on bond because their attorney says they are safer in jail.

The trial of Sau Van Nguyen, 21, and his brother, Chinh, 20, begins Monday in Seguin, where it was moved because of strong emotions in the coastal town of Seadrift.

The Nguyens are charged with the Aug. 3 shooting death of Billy

Joe Alpin, 35. The slaying was part of the feud between Vietnamese and Seadrift fishermen, who claimed the refugees were not respectful of local fishing ethics. Three Vietnamese fishing boats were burned after the shooting and a refugee's house was firebombed.

Sau has been held under \$100,000 bond on the murder charge and Chinh, charged with complicity, is under \$75,000 bond. Their attorney made no effort to have their bonds reduced because he said they were safer in jail.

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