

## APPENDIX C

### APPENDIX B

#### Part I

#### Background Information and Justification for Decision of Transition Committee to Adopt As Its Own the Earlier Recommendations of The Green Ribbon Committee

The 1977 National Urban Recreation Study suggested that Houston, as the fourth largest metropolitan area in the nation, was greatly deficient in park land for its people. Interested local citizens and government officials began to press for solutions to this need with encouragement from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior. Through these efforts, an agreement was signed in February, 1979 by the Mayor of Houston, the Harris County Judge, the Governor of Texas and the Director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service calling for a comprehensive approach to defining and providing for the parks and recreation needs of the Houston area. As a result, during the next two years, a Green Ribbon Committee composed of more than sixty citizens was being appointed by the four participating levels of government to represent groups and interests affected by parks and recreation issues. The Committee's purpose was to recommend goals, directions and courses of action required to build a top quality parks system for Houston and Harris County and secure their adoption by appropriate governmental units. By March, 1991 the Green Ribbon Committee had organized itself and begun its work. Four subcommittees were formed to consider the essential components of the parks system: land, facilities, programs and activities, and management. The work was divided into three phases: an assessment of the existing parks and recreation system, a determination of public priorities and sentiments, and formulation of goals and strategies based on area-wide needs. Each subcommittee then prepared a report containing findings and recommendations from which an overall plan could be prepared. The action plan developed by the Green Ribbon Committee zeros in on the elements needed to attain a top quality parks and recreation system by the year 1990, seven years following issuance of The Green Ribbon Report in January of 1983.

The recommendations of the Green Ribbon Committee are set out in the Report of the Green Ribbon Committee, which is attached as Appendix A to the report to the Mayor. As indicated in the report, the Transition Committee began its work by carefully reviewing the report of the Green Ribbon Committee and found that, though progress has been made in many areas, there is still much work to be done in fulfillment of the recommendations of the Green Ribbon Committee. The Transition Committee also found that for the most part the recommendations of the Green Ribbon Committee are still valid and needed, and in some cases more critical than ever. For these cogent reasons, the Transition Committee decided not to "reinvent the wheel", but to adopt in full the recommendations of the 1983 Green Ribbon Committee (to the extent that they are still considered applicable) as its own recommendations to be contained in its final report to the Mayor of Houston.

Having accomplished the foregoing step, the task of the Transition Committee was to survey the progress or lack of progress under the recommendations of the Green Ribbon Committee, and set as its other recommendations the fulfillment of those earlier recommendations where further progress still remains to be accomplished. Similarly, since the Transition Committee is now dealing with 1992 and beyond, other of its remaining recommendations deal with what the Transition Committee believes will work for the remainder of the decade of the nineties to improve our City's parks and recreational facilities such that they will become an exemplary system warranting the description "world class". Because of the outstanding work performed over ten years ago by the Green Ribbon Committee, the Transition Committee's task was made easier.