

**NEWS RELEASE**

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The Woodlands Township wins 2022 Niagara Perk Your Park contest

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (October 24, 2022) – The Woodlands Township has been selected as one of three winners in the 2022 Niagara Perk Your Park Contest from Niagara water, through its charitable program, Niagara Cares, and in partnership with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The \$75,000 award is designated to the construction of a bird blind and outdoor classroom at George Mitchell Nature Preserve.

The Perk Your Park Contest is part of the Niagara Perk Your Park Project, an initiative that focuses on park and community space revitalization across the country. The public was invited to vote over a multiweek period for numerous different projects across the country, including the project at George Mitchell Nature Preserve.

“The Woodlands Township is pleased to receive this grant from the National Parks and Recreation Association and Niagara to build a bird blind in the George Mitchell Nature Preserve. This grant will allow The Township to further activate the Preserve for nature-based recreation,” said Township Director of Parks and Recreation John McGowan.

With miles of hike and bike trails and exposure to native plants and wildlife, the 1,800-acre George Mitchell Nature Preserve connects to the adjacent forest known as the Spring Creek Greenway. The new structure for bird viewing will be a welcome addition and help to serve as an outdoor classroom, while also hosting various programs at this site.

The park enhancement gives the community a place to support nature-observation year-round. By making the bird blind dual purpose, the Township Environmental Services Department can host a variety of programs at this site.

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The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this vision by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals and advocates — the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being. For more information, visit nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit parksandrecreation.org.

Niagara Cares is a philanthropic arm of Niagara Bottling, committed to supporting local and national community initiatives by engaging stakeholders and investing its resources for disadvantaged children and their families. Niagara Cares initiatives include national strategic partnerships, local community grants, employee engagement, volunteerism and the Andrew D. Peykoff, Sr. Scholarship Program. For more information, visit niagarawater.com/niagara-cares.