



Reconnecting People with Nature

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News Release

By Catherine Miller, ABNC

**United Way, Rotary Club of Space Center and Armand Bayou
Nature Center Partner to Improve Discovery Loop**

With an investment from the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, the Rotary Club of Space Center and Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) are partnering to improve access to the Discovery Loop outdoor environmental education classroom at ABNC. The United Way awarded ABNC a Community Building Grant which will be used toward the materials and equipment needed to resurface a portion of the Discovery Loop. United Way Community Building Grants provide a one-time, short-term funding to nonprofit civic and neighborhood groups for projects that benefit the community. Rotary Club of Space Center has agreed to partner with ABNC to provide a source of labor for the Loop project.

The Discovery Loop accessibility project will provide improved access to the Loop for people that have disabilities and parents with children in strollers. The Discovery Loop is a series of boardwalks, trails, teaching platforms, educational signage and displays that traverse around the core of ABNC. The boardwalks and platforms are generally wheel chair accessible. The trails, however, must be maintained and occasionally resurfaced to remain wheel chair or stroller friendly.

The educational signage and exhibits within the Discovery Loop teach people about the importance of nature and preservation of nature. A visit to the Nature Center allows people to "reconnect with nature" without leaving the very urban and industrialized Houston metroplex.

For more than 80 years, the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast has been the social service safety net for the Houston area. The organization touches one of every two lives in the Bay Area, Fort Bend, Harris, Montgomery and Waller counties. The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast strengthens our community by developing children and youth to their full potential, creating strong families and safe neighborhoods, sustaining senior independence, and rebuilding people's lives in times of crisis. The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast is the best way to make the biggest difference in our community. For information, please visit www.unitedwayhouston.org; or call 713-685-2300.

Rotary is well known throughout the world for its dedication to "Service above Self". The Rotary Club of Space Center is a member of Rotary International District 5890. This Club has over 130 members who represent the area around Johnson Space Center. More information on the Rotary Club of Space Center can be found at <http://www.spacecenterrotary.org> or by calling 281-488-9753.

ABNC is one of the largest urban wilderness preserves in the United States and protects remnants of the natural ecosystems once abundant, but now vanishing, in the Bay Area Houston region. ABNC is a nonprofit organization that depends on proceeds from programs, events and donations for funding. Additional information on ABNC is available by calling 281-474-2551 or by visiting the Center's website at www.abnc.org.

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