



# News Release

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FOR RELEASE  
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## **CITY PARKS DIRECTOR STALEY RETIRING; MARTINEZ NAMED AS SUCCESSOR**

ROCKPORT, TX -- Tom Staley, Director of Parks and Leisure Services for the City of Rockport, is retiring August 31, 2016, after 18 years of service to the Rockport community. He will be succeeded by Rick Martinez, who has served as the Parks Superintendent for 17 years.

Staley began his career as the City/County Recreation Coordination with the top priority of building a community pool. In 2001, the City established a parks department and he was named director.

As Director, he has been responsible for the oversight and management of the City's 10 parks, the trail system, the annual Whooping Crane Strut, Community Aquatic Center and Skate Park, and the Bay Education Center. Also other department achievements during his tenure include the expansion of Memorial Park, playgrounds renovated and added to, land for a future sports complex acquired, and the community's iconic windswept oaks preserved with the recent purchased on land on Broadway. Under his direction, the City has received numerous national and state awards, as well as funding for many of the park and trail projects.

Prior to joining the City, Staley served in the Air Force for 24 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He received an undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and a Master's degree from Troy State University.

"Tom is responsible for building one of the state's most enviable parks department," noted City Manager Kevin Carruth. "His leadership, commitment and patience are unrivaled – as evidenced by the 12-year timeframe for the Tule Hike and Bike Trail.

"He's built a strong organization with talented and dedicated staff and we will certainly miss his presence and humor. He has aptly trained his successor over the years, which will ensure the professionalism and dedication we've come to enjoy from the Parks Department," he added.

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Martinez joined the City after working at Waste Management for more than 15 years. He served in numerous positions throughout the state including site manager in Corpus Christi and operations manager in Lubbock. He also has a strong background in horticulture having worked for a family-owned nursery and grass company in San Antonio.

He is a recipient of a Keep Texas Beautiful Award in recognition for excellence in leadership and conservation. Additionally, he received certification as a Master Naturalist.