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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Partnership with U.S. Soccer Foundation brings mini pitch to Wussow Park

*Kids win when adults team up.*

[MINI PITCH GRAPHICS](#) courtesy of the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Houston Dynamo, and Houston Dash.

**Houston, TX** (October 5, 2023) - The [North Houston District](#) partnered with the [U.S. Soccer Foundation](#), the [Houston Dynamo](#), and the [Houston Dash](#) to bring a mini pitch to Thomas R. Wussow Park by June 2024.

A mini pitch is an enclosed, hard surface space with goals at each end. Sometimes referred to as "futsal," the game is popular worldwide.

The North Houston mini pitch will be one of 15 around the Bayou City, including 12 that are already up and running. Since 2015, the Foundation has installed more than 650 mini pitches nationwide, working toward a goal of 1,000 by 2026, just in time for the FIFA World Cup 26™.

Robert Fiederlein, North Houston District Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure, said the District contacted the Dynamo and Dash hoping to deliver a facility to the community here.

"We saw some news articles about parks that opened in 2022 with mini pitches, so I reached out," said Fiederlein. "Team officials visited Wussow Park along with folks from the Foundation and toured our area before giving grant approval. We want to be good stewards of our stakeholders' tax dollars, so we try to find partners for everything we do."

The Foundation, in conjunction with the Dynamo and Dash, provided a \$100,000 Houston Soccer Initiative grant for materials, including the acrylic surface, perimeter

fencing, goals, and lighting. The District allocated \$125,000 for design, construction, and installation. Once complete, the District will fund ongoing maintenance.

District leadership views the mini pitch project as a jumpstart toward creating a youth soccer complex at Wussow Park, as part of the District's new [Parks Master Plan](#).

The Foundation's President and CEO, Ed Foster-Simeon, said working with the District is incredibly positive and collaborative.

"Our team noted how the District is even making their own investments to accommodate the mini pitch, and it's been great to see how their team has bought into the whole endeavor," he said.

The mini pitch will host training sessions, tournaments, and clinics, many organized by the Dynamo and Dash.

"This initiative is a cornerstone for our Club," Houston Dynamo Football Club chief operating officer Jessica O'Neill said. "We are proud to partner with the North Houston District to create a safe space to play the sport and for the community to engage their neighbors. This is just the first step in a long-term initiative that includes access to clinics and other programming as we work together to grow the game."

Connect with the North Houston District for updates at [northhouston.org/connect](https://northhouston.org/connect).

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### **About the North Houston District**

Created in 1991 by the Texas Legislature, the **North Houston District** is a business improvement district that leverages public and private partnerships to provide enhanced services in transportation mobility, public safety, beautification and recreational development, marketing and strategic planning and development. Minutes from Bush IAH, the District's 12-square-mile service area has 20 million square feet of office, retail and industrial properties. The District area includes more than 3,800 businesses, 68,000 employees and 118,500 residents. For more information, visit [www.northhouston.org](http://www.northhouston.org).