

# PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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in the park



PNC  
ImagiNature  
Playground  
Opens to the  
Public

Photos by CKP/Christo Patelis



Bottom: Kristy Bradshaw, Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, PNC Bank Houston Regional President Julie Sudduth, and Doreen Stoller

**MISSION**  
Hermann Park Conservancy is a citizens' organization dedicated to the stewardship and improvement of Hermann Park—today and for generations to come.



[hermannpark.org](http://hermannpark.org)

On June 10, Hermann Park Conservancy and PNC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new PNC ImagiNature Playground in Hermann Park. These innovative outdoor play spaces are made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the PNC Foundation's \$500 million early childhood education initiative, PNC Grow Up Great, which seeks to prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life.

As part of PNC's Grow Up Great initiative, this play space gives children an opportunity to explore, play, and

imagine as they develop healthy minds and bodies. Taking inspiration from nature such as boulders, wildlife and forests, the seven interactive areas encourage young Hermann Park visitors to play their own way.

The PNC ImagiNature Playground was designed by landscape architects White Oak Studio. In addition, understory plants have been donated by Trees for Houston to further the Conservancy's reforestation efforts, with additional support provided by Landscape Art, and A&A Stone and Masonry.



Letter from the president

After a year of social isolation, Dan and I were looking forward to seeing friends again at *Evening in the Park*. But to celebrate our honorees, Laura and Brad McWilliams, and thank them for their generous gift to the dog park, our Lulu was also on hand to ensure the crowd understood just how huge the McWilliams' hearts are when it comes to the furry members of our families. So when I introduced Brad and Laura that evening, I didn't focus on their many professional accomplishments, or generous and steadfast philanthropic involvement in Houston. Lulu wanted me to tell them—and you—something even more important about Laura and Brad: they are doggie heroes.

If you watch the video linked in the QR on the back page of this newsletter, you will see a beautiful close up of Astro and Bella. And even though they are gorgeous Brittany's and seem perfect in every way, Astro was put up for adoption by his first family. Brad and Laura have been involved in fostering Brittany's for years and, well, when someone gives up their pure-bred dog, usually the reason is far from good.

And so it was with poor Astro whose previous family had given up on him because he chewed through all the wiring for their air conditioner. Laura and Brad took him in as a foster to give him a chance at a better home—and Astro quickly let them know that their home was pretty much the perfect home, and so the foster became an eventual adoption. And so far, the air conditioner is safe.

Not all of their foster dogs have been "foster fails" that they went on to adopt, but even for those fosters they help find another home, Laura and Brad will literally go the extra mile. One sweet dog named Jemma was so feisty that she "drove the McWilliams dogs to despair," according to Laura. A potential adopter in San Antonio asked to keep her for the weekend and Laura and Brad drove her all the way there—only to drive her right back to Houston after she terrorized the



Daniel J. Piette, Doreen Stoller, and Lulu at *Evening in the Park*

potential adopter's dogs too. However, a couple of months later, the mother of the San Antonio adopter called saying she had met Jemma and was sure they would get along great, so back to San Antonio Laura and Brad drove to give Jemma a new home.

For any of us who has loved a dog we know that your heart breaks when they leave us all too soon. So Lulu wanted to make sure you heard about the two sister Brittany's Laura and Brad adopted when they were nine years old after their owner passed away. As if adopting senior gals wasn't big hearted enough, they flew the dogs from their former home in Bend, Oregon to Colorado, where Laura and Brad were staying and drove five hours to the Denver airport to pick them up. This story does have a sweet and happy ending. One sister lived to be 17 and was the cheeriest member of the McWilliams family.

Thanks to Laura and Brad for their wonderful gift to the doggies who are all part of the Conservancy family.

Lulu and I will see you in the Park,

*Doreen*

Doreen Stoller, President

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**Evening in the Park Gala**  
All gifts in honor of Laura and Brad  
McWilliams, honorees, and chairs,  
Jo and Jim Furr and Roslyn Bazzelle  
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**\$50,000-\$99,999**  
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Carolyn and Ron Galfione  
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HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

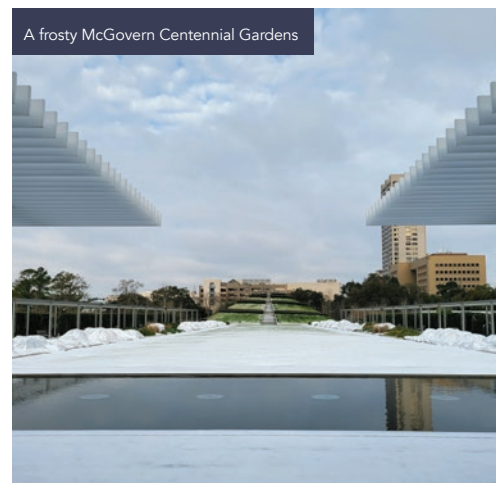
Snow and Cold Make Way for  
Summertime Blooms

We may now be entering the sweltering months in Houston, but it was a very different story back in February. With the previous edition of *Parkside* already going to press by the time Winter Storm Uri touched down, it was too late to cover the impact the snow and freeze had on Hermann Park.

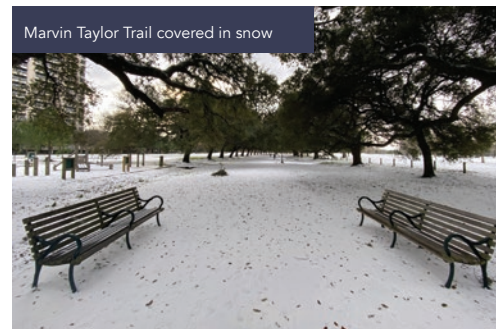
Due to the severe cold, there were 13 burst pipes throughout the Park and the Conservancy saw the loss of many plants, but due to our gardening team's ingenious selection of flora, thousands of affected plants recovered beautifully! The Conservancy team has been busy cutting back dead plant tops and re-planting since late February, with much more work still needing to be done.

Next time you're in the Park, be sure to take an extra special moment to admire all of the wonderful blooms and color after one of the toughest winters Houston has ever seen!

What's Blooming?



A frosty McGovern Centennial Gardens



Marvin Taylor Trail covered in snow



Agave (Arid Garden)



Pink Siam Tulip Ginger (Pergola Walk)



Endeavor Canna Lily (Pergola Walk)



# Touring the Commons: Entry Garden

Live oaks will fill out the tree canopy and provide shade to Park visitors.

Six acres of colorful native plantings with walking paths throughout.

The iconic statue of George Hermann will greet visitors as they enter.

The Entry Garden is the gateway to the upcoming Commons Project.

Located across the street from the Texas Medical Center with easy accessibility for healthcare professionals.



Fundraising is happening now. Visit [hermannpark.org/thecommons](http://hermannpark.org/thecommons) to get involved.



Photos by Priscilla Dickson

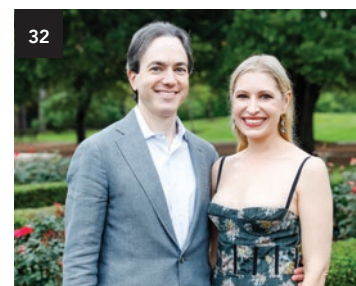
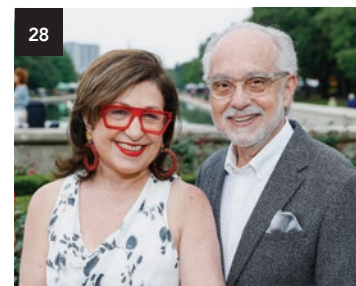
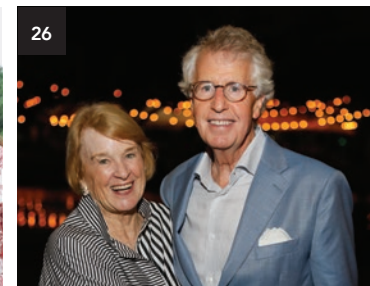
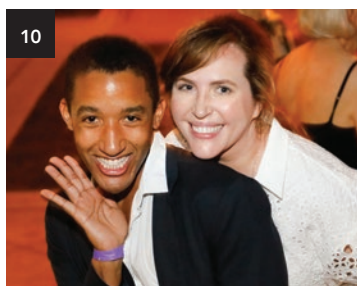
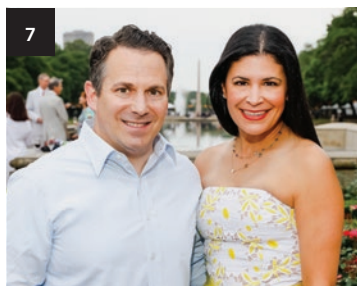
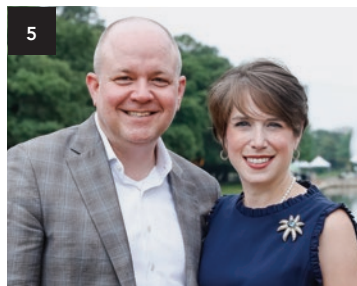


## Evening in the Park 2021

Though the rain was persistent throughout the day, the afternoon skies cleared just in time for *Evening in the Park*, held on Friday, April 30. Due to Covid-19 safety measures, this year's event looked a little different than in the past. Instead of a singular gathering point at the Molly Ann Smith Plaza, socially distant and tented "pods" were meticulously placed along the Mary Gibbs and Jesse H. Jones Reflection Pool for each table's party. But despite the breaking of tradition, the Hermann Park Conservancy surpassed its goal and raised \$650,000 for the care and improvement of Hermann Park.

Co-chairs **Jo and Jim Furr**, and **Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell and Derrick Mitchell** worked tirelessly to ensure that not only would guests have a fun and safe night, but that this *Evening in the Park* made up for lost time due to 2020's gala cancellation. The honorees for 2021 were long-time Conservancy supporters and champions **Laura and Brad McWilliams**, celebrating the upcoming dog park, to be named in their honor after a generous leading gift.

**Thank you to everyone who supported this special evening benefiting the Conservancy.**



1 Co-Chairs Jo and Jim Furr 2 Co-Chairs Derrick Mitchell and Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell 3 Honorees Laura and Brad McWilliams 4 Jesse and Gloria Bounds 5 Jason and Megan Ryan 6 Janet Clark, Joe Greenberg, and Claire Liu 7 Chris and Kristy Bradshaw 8 Jakeen Johnson, MD; Yvonne Cormier, MD; Crystal Wright, MD 9 David E. Ruiz and Edgar Yzquierdo 10 Harper Watters and Mary Patton 11 Troy and Allison Thacker 12 Morgan Garvey, Valerie Dieterich, Erin Breen, and Katie McClure 13 Y. Ping Sun and David Leebron 14 Edith (Sis) Johnson, June Deadrick, Marley Lott, and C. Hastings (Hasty) Johnson 15 Aaron Green, Mio Horiike, Marina and Eugene Saitoh, and Shaina Binder 16 Jana Arnoldy, Denise Monteleone, Brenda Love, and Kimberly Tutcher 17 Nicola Fuentes and Richard Toubia 18 Kathleen O'Reilly, George and Sally Alcorn, Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, and Steven James 19 Anne and Albert Chao 20 Anne and John Clutterbuck 21 Edward and Chinhui Allen 22 Melissa Sugulas, Melissa Juneau, and Amanda Buffone 23 Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey K. Walker 24 Mark Harbott and Kevin J. Foyle 25 Ellie Francisco and Alan and Elizabeth Stein 26 Linda and George Kelly 27 Midas and Kevin Bonebrake 28 Roz and Alan Pactor 29 Delaina Curry-Allen and Kenneth Allen 30 Cece and Mack Fowler 31 Marcus and Heidi Smith 32 Danny and Isabel David



# Urban Green Returns with Ticket to Ride

**On June 3, Urban Green held its first event since November 2019.** Despite being originally scheduled for May 20, unwieldy weather caused *Ticket to Ride* to be delayed by two weeks. However, there was an equally dour forecast for the rescheduled date and the event was moved to the newly renovated Lott Hall.

Photos by Quy Tran Photography



Emily Anderson, Kenedy Hughes, Kevin Velasquez, Kelly Reynolds, Cotton Clark, Will Beaudoin, Erinn Cegielski

Urban Green members and young Conservancy supporters from the Houston area explored the restored historic clubhouse as a bidding war broke out at the silent auction, which included handcrafted tiki mugs, swanky hotel stays, wine classes, and more. Heights mainstay Hughie's provided food while Saint Arnold provided the drink, with the Westin Houston Medical Center blessing

everyone there with their creative desserts. The evening was all brilliantly staffed and catered by Butter & Company.

Despite a limited capacity due to Covid-19, the sold out event was still able to raise over \$4,000 towards the care of Hermann Park. Urban Green is looking forward to getting back into the swing of things with further events this fall.



Young members enjoyed an intimate evening in the newly restored Lott Hall.

**Evening in the Park Gala** *continued*

- \$1,000-\$4,999**  
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 Y. Ping Sun and David W. Leebron – In honor of Kristy Bradshaw and Doreen Stoller  
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 Kristen and Brett McDanald  
 Bryan Scrivner  
 Ellie and Jon Tutz
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 City Kitchen  
 Houston First  
 The Mayor's Office of Special Events
- Plant a Tree**  
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 Preston Miller – In memory of Terry Wilson  
 Tonya Polidora – In memory of Peyton Chapa-Hearrell  
 Barbara Smith – In memory of Huu Nguyen  
 Carrie and Austin Stanton – In memory of Carolyn and James Robertson  
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- Urban Land Management**  
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 Katherine and Christopher Amandes – In honor of Janet Clark

## Every Membership Counts at Hermann Park Conservancy

Hermann Park Conservancy members all join for different reasons. Some want to support urban conservation and wildlife habitat preservation, some want to share the joy they had as children playing in Hermann Park with their own children, and some just love riding the train.

But regardless of why people join, one thing all members have in common is that they are all supporting vital operational needs in Hermann Park, which helps us keep it looking better than ever. And just how do memberships do that exactly?

- A **Bronze** membership buys **24 pairs of garden gloves** for staff and volunteers to work in the Park.
- A **Centennial** membership buys **weeding tools for 20 volunteers** to remove invasive species from the Park's plant beds.
- A **Gold** membership purchases a **portable water tank** to water newly-planted trees during drought conditions.
- A **Platinum** membership purchases **1.5 acres of Coastal Prairie Seed Mix** to help restore the natural habitat of the migratory bird islands.
- A **Conductor's Circle** membership purchases **20 native trees** to plant in the Park.



While maintaining and caring for Hermann Park isn't always glamorous, it is essential. Every membership counts and they are the best way to directly support the Conservancy's efforts to make sure Hermann Park is here today and for generations to come.

Learn how you can help by visiting [hermannpark.org/membership](http://hermannpark.org/membership).



Lifted Up Aerial Photography

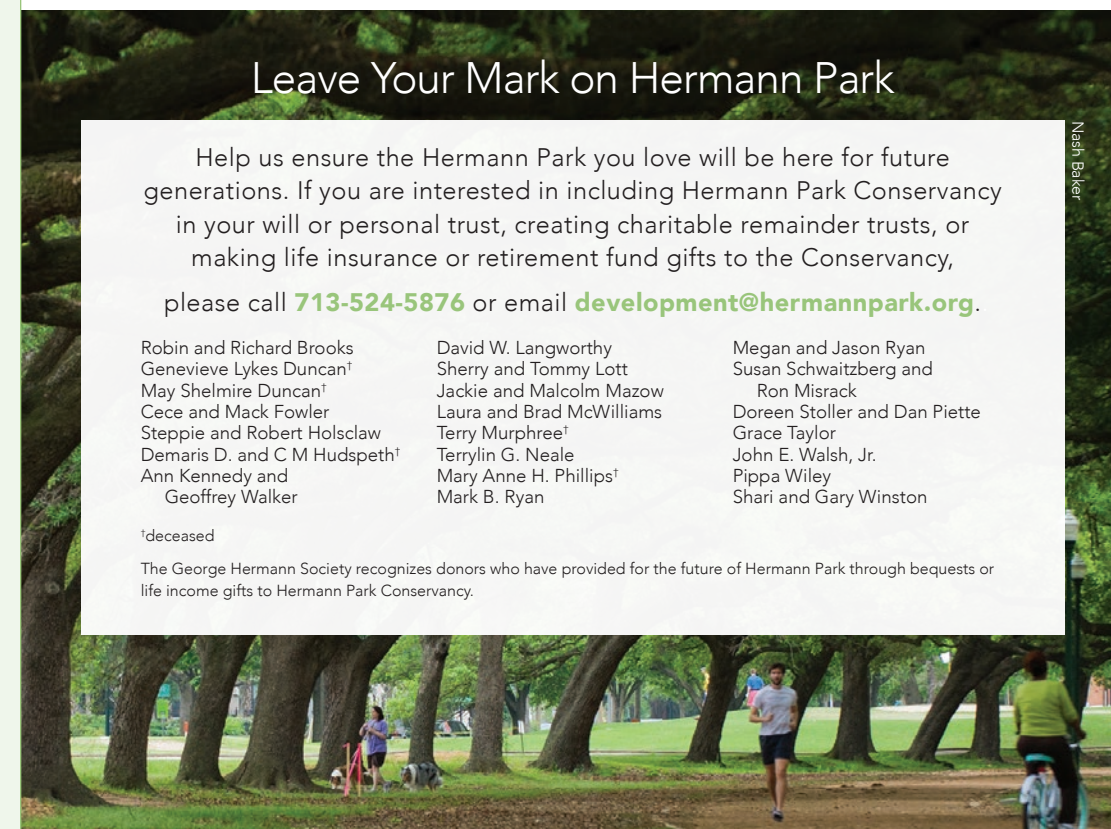
## Leave Your Mark on Hermann Park

Help us ensure the Hermann Park you love will be here for future generations. If you are interested in including Hermann Park Conservancy in your will or personal trust, creating charitable remainder trusts, or making life insurance or retirement fund gifts to the Conservancy, please call **713-524-5876** or email [development@hermannpark.org](mailto:development@hermannpark.org).

- |                                 |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Robin and Richard Brooks        | David W. Langworthy       | Megan and Jason Ryan              |
| Genevieve Lykes Duncan†         | Sherry and Tommy Lott     | Susan Schwaizberg and Ron Misrack |
| May Shelmire Duncan†            | Jackie and Malcolm Mazow  | Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette     |
| Cece and Mack Fowler            | Laura and Brad McWilliams | Grace Taylor                      |
| Stephie and Robert Holsclaw     | Terry Murphree†           | John E. Walsh, Jr.                |
| Demaris D. and C M Hudspeth†    | Terrylin G. Neale         | Pippa Wiley                       |
| Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker | Mary Anne H. Phillips†    | Shari and Gary Winston            |
|                                 | Mark B. Ryan              |                                   |

†deceased

The George Hermann Society recognizes donors who have provided for the future of Hermann Park through bequests or life income gifts to Hermann Park Conservancy.



Nash Baker



## A Day Out with the Conservancy Family



**On June 12, the Conservancy's board and advisory board met in person as a group for the first time in over a year, but this wasn't for a traditional board meeting.**

Members of the Conservancy's board and advisory board were invited to Hermann Park to get their hands dirty for a family-friendly volunteer day and picnic. Since children love playing in the dirt, Park-lovers of all ages helped mulch the plant beds outside of the McGovern Centennial Gardens. They also had the option to rake debris along the edges of

the Marvin Taylor Trail, carrying on the tradition of the annual trail clean-up Mr. Taylor organized.

Afterwards, families enjoyed a picnic lunch in the blooming McGovern Centennial Gardens to kick off the beginning of summer and celebrate an accomplished year at the Conservancy.

## SAVE BIG THIS SUMMER

Make your big day unforgettable and help keep Hermann Park looking photo-ready.

Looking to have your event between July and September? Then check out our Summer Special pricing on event rentals for up to **25% off your booking!**

Visit [hermannpark.org/rentals](http://hermannpark.org/rentals) for more details on how to save today.



Sarah Austin of Chris Bailey Photography

## DONORS

**Habitat Conservancy Fund**  
\$100-\$499  
Kathy and Jeff Taebel

**Tree Conservancy Fund**  
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Suzanne and Peter Day –  
In memory of Mark Folkes

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\$1,000-\$4,999  
Darron Bethea  
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In Kind  
TreeLife Farms

**Urban Green**  
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Cotton Clark  
Sheina Farooqui  
Mitchell Hanzik  
Courtney Harmon  
Vilani Perera  
Sean Ploch  
Randi Walsh

**In Kind**  
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Barry's Bootcamp Houston  
Blossom Houston  
Burger Joint  
David Peck  
Eureka Heights Brew Co.  
Houston Museum of Natural Science  
Kenedy Hughes  
Hughie's Tavern and Vietnamese Grille  
Lei Low Bar  
The Nice Winery  
Saint Arnold Brewing Company  
Smooch Cookies  
Taste Bar + Kitchen  
Trader Joe's  
The Westin Houston Medical Center

**Annual Fund/General Operations**  
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\$5,000-\$24,999  
Kathleen Hayes – In memory of Winston  
Richard Hayes  
The John M. O'Quinn Foundation  
Carolyn and Frank Pichardo  
Susan and David Rock

**\$1,000-\$4,999**  
Nancy Ames and Danny Ward –  
In honor of Doreen Stoller  
Zachary B. Dailey  
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Heimbinder Family Foundation  
Barbara and Charles Hurwitz  
Laura and Michael Puzio  
Nancy P. Thompson

**\$500-\$999**  
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**\$100-\$499**  
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## Volunteers Give Back to Hermann Park

It has been a busy few months in the Park for our Conservancy volunteers. In April, a new initiative was kicked off that challenged the public to help log 1,000 volunteer hours throughout the month to celebrate Earth Day. The public answered and was able to log 1,210 hours, totaling over \$30,000 of labor impact in the Park!

In addition to individual efforts, Conservancy members came out on April 10 for Love Your Park volunteer day to help plant Asiatic jasmine along the Marvin Taylor Trail to help reduce soil erosion under the tree canopy. A number of organizations such as Keller Williams, Motiva, Phillips 66, and the Houston Texans also held dedicated volunteer days in Hermann Park. With their help, we were able to plant over 100 trees and understory plants, restore 70 benches, and remove silt and debris from the Japanese Garden streams.

If you are interested in giving back and volunteering in Hermann Park, visit [hermannpark.org/volunteer](http://hermannpark.org/volunteer).



Houston Texans long snapper Jon Weeks helping prep the site of the McWilliams Dog Park.



The Phillips 66 team after a hard day's work at Hermann Park.



See what's coming  
to Hermann Park  
and how you  
can help

Play **YOUR** Park



 Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink

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