



## Hermann Park Conservancy History

Hermann Park Conservancy was established in 1992 as Friends of Hermann Park by community members to address growing concerns about the Park's deterioration due to high attendance and insufficient funding. The organization decided early on that a comprehensive plan was needed to guide the restoration of this incredible resource.

In 1993, Friends of Hermann Park commissioned a master plan for Hermann Park from Hanna/Olin Partnership of Philadelphia, an internationally recognized landscape architecture firm. The master plan was adopted by Houston City Council in 1995, and has served as a guide for renovations and enhancements ever since.

Through an award-winning public-private partnership with the City of Houston, the Conservancy and the City have seen the completion of many major capital improvements. These projects are part of the Conservancy's Centennial Campaign, aimed at completing many of the master plan's goals by the Park's centennial in 2014.

In 2002, the Conservancy commissioned a study to determine the Park's maintenance needs. The study identified an annual 20,000 hour gap in what the Parks and Recreation Department is able to provide and what the Park needs to be properly preserved. In response, the Conservancy developed a volunteer department, which coordinated over 22,500 hours of volunteer service in Hermann Park in the last fiscal year.

The organization was renamed Hermann Park Conservancy in 2004 to reflect an institutional and permanent commitment to stewardship of Hermann Park's natural resources and physical infrastructure. Today, the Conservancy oversees multi-million-dollar renovation projects as well as a comprehensive reforestation plan and maintenance initiatives.