
HERMANN PARK
CONSERVANCY

PLAY
YOUR
PARK



The Commons at Hermann Park

A Project of Hermann Park Conservancy
October 2019 Project Information

The Campaign for Hermann Park



The Rocket Ship and Climbing Hill in the new Play Gardens, part of The Commons at Hermann Park

Transforming Hermann Park

Seven Unique Campaign Projects



Hermann Park
Dog Park



The Commons
at Hermann Park



Public Art
Initiative



Bike Trail
Network



Habitat & Storm Water
Management



Public & Volunteer
Programs



Conservation
& Reforestation

Introduction

The Campaign for Hermann Park

As devoted fans of Hermann Park, we are thrilled to see how it has changed over the last twenty years. Thinking back to the early 1990s, Park lovers joined forces to return a then-deteriorating Hermann Park to its rightful place in the community – vibrant, beautiful, expansive!

Today, Hermann Park is thriving with over 6 million visitors each year. It is heartening to know more and more people are enjoying the Park in all its wonder.

Hermann Park has always been a place of tranquility – a haven of nature in the midst of a thriving, growing city. Whether strolling along the shores of the McGovern Lake, taking a reflective walk in the Japanese Garden, watching the fish and birds that call the Park home, Hermann Park continues to hold treasures for Houstonians native and new.

Now, a new chapter opens for Hermann Park.

Natural habitats again take center stage – combined with enhanced concepts of “play” as well as access and mobility – as the lifeblood of a living, breathing, ever-evolving gathering place for everyone...thanks to the efforts of Hermann Park Conservancy with its many dedicated supporters and partners.

As honorary chairs of the Play Your Park Campaign, join us in helping the Conservancy continue its fine work to make Hermann Park a place for all Houstonians – today and for generations to come.



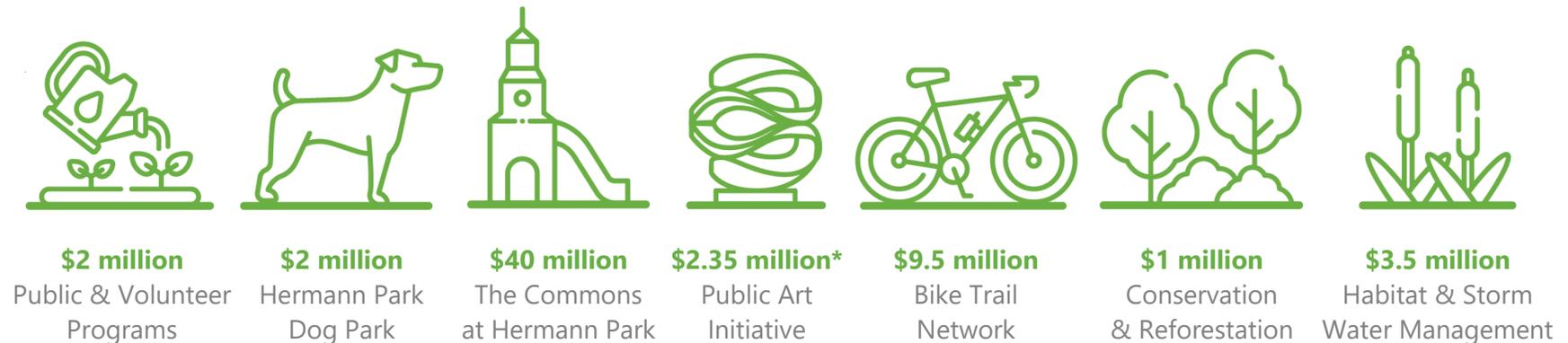
Kathrine G. McGovern
Honorary Chair



Phoebe Tudor
Honorary Chair

The Campaign for Hermann Park

Seven Unique Projects to Transform Hermann Park



Highlights of the \$60 million Campaign

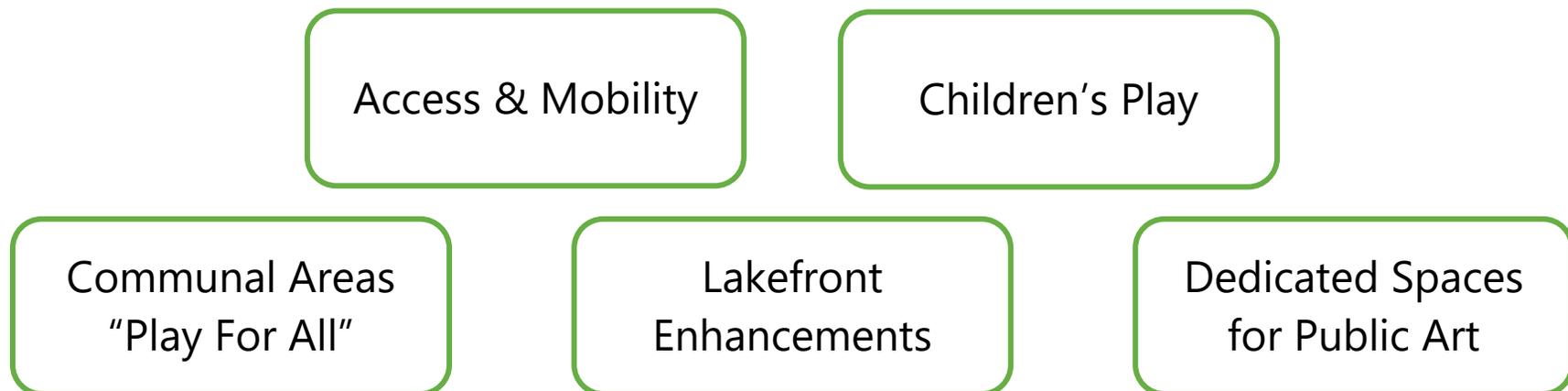
- Development of **gateway to Texas Medical Center** with grand communal spaces in Hermann Park.
- Expanded, upgraded **state-of-the-art play areas** for children and families.
- New amenities, including an **off-leash dog park** in Bayou Parkland area.
- Improved **access and mobility** into and within Hermann Park for walkers, runners, and cyclists.
- **Invigorated nature** throughout the Park with stronger water management and habitat conservation.
- Enhanced **public programs and volunteer initiatives** for Park visitors and enthusiasts.
- Innovative and permanent **program of public art** with dedicated space for art in Hermann Park.

* The Public Art Initiative includes \$350,000 for the inaugural exhibition, \$2 million for Fund for Public Art, and an additional \$850,000 already reflected in project goal for The Commons.

Signature Project: The Commons at Hermann Park

The Commons at Hermann Park is a 26-acre area in the southwest portion of Hermann Park. Conceived by acclaimed landscape architects **Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates**, the project will transform this currently under-utilized area into a welcoming destination and threshold into Hermann Park, drawing visitors from the Texas Medical Center and its new TMC³ facility, Rice University and its new Innovation District in Midtown, and adjacent neighborhoods.

The new site will include improved park entry at the corner, expanded parking, public art spaces, new food services, a destination play area for children, expanded picnic areas, spacious wood decking under historic live oaks, open areas of trees and lawn, and extensive enrichments to the southern and western shores of McGovern Lake. These major developments – **organized around five themes** – will make way for improvements to the overall experience, function, and integration of this historic area of Hermann Park.



Project Budget: \$40 million | Timeline: 2021 (start) to 2023 (completion)

Current Project Site



Shown left, the project site as it stands today, bordering the Houston Zoo to the east, Cambridge Street to the south, Fannin and Main Streets to the west; immediately to the north-northwest is Hermann Park's Japanese Garden and McGovern Lake.

The Commons will transform the area, improving the overall experience, function, and integration of this area of Hermann Park.

- Improved entry into Hermann Park
- Expanded access points and parking
- New food service options
- Open areas of trees and lawn space
- Decking under historic live oak trees
- Destination play area for children
- Three additional play areas (play nodes)
- Expanded and upgraded picnic areas
- Dedicated spaces for public art exhibitions
- Vibrant enhancements to natural habitats surrounding McGovern Lake
- More defined and friendly border area between the main park and Houston Zoo

Transformed View

Shown below, Hermann Park's southwest edge re-imagined: 26 acres of pristinely landscaped spaces, restoring a historic yet under-utilized area into a pristine entry point for visitors

- Sculpted approach from Main and Fannin Streets
- Welcoming entry from TMC with vibrant gardens
- Restored historic pavilion with outdoor dining and facilities
- Grand communal spaces beneath historic tree canopy
- New Hermann Park Carousel
- Modern 2-acre central play area with interactive, educational features
- Three new additional children's play areas
- Lakefront area enhanced with activities areas and natural habitats
- Dedicated art zones for public art exhibitions
- Additional Parking



Access and Mobility in The Commons

Thoughtful Entries and Throughways

The Commons at Hermann Park breathes life into the historic George Hermann Corner at Fannin and Cambridge streets, restoring this under-utilized area into a welcoming entry point for visitors. Access and mobility is central to the project, creating an inviting entrance for the surrounding Texas Medical Center and Rice University, moving and upgrading the Hermann Park Railroad train depot to a more usable location, expanding visitor parking, and creating a vibrant landscape adjacent to Palmer Church to forge a stately promenade along Cambridge between Main and Fannin streets.

Naming Opportunities

- \$3 million **Entry Garden** at Cambridge and Fannin Streets
- \$1 million **Main Street Promenade** along Fannin and Main Streets
- \$500,000 **The Commons Train Station** for the Hermann Park Railroad
- \$500,000 **Central Promenade** running in a loop through the center of The Commons
- \$500,000 **Lakeside Promenade** extending along the southern lakeshore to Houston Zoo and Lake Plaza
- \$150,000 **Western Promenade** meandering north toward the Japanese Garden
- \$100,000 **Train Forest Path** winding from Cambridge through a wooded area

Entry Garden \$3 million



A major feature of The Commons is a civic entrance at the corner of Fannin and Cambridge streets to invite and connect visitors from the Texas Medical Center and Rice University. The new **Entry Garden** create this clear and welcoming portal for visitors. Amidst lush shade gardens covered with century-old live oaks, a gracious promenade leads into the Park, while a secondary network of paths allows for multiple routes through the landscape. The statue of founder George Hermann will continue to occupy a prominent location.

Main Street Promenade \$1 million



Long forgotten, nine acres between Main and Fannin will become a vibrant entry point from Rice University and the Texas Medical Center into The Commons at Hermann Park. Landscaping improvements, expansion of parking, lighting, and signage will completely transform this vital transition area. **Main Street Promenade** will transform underutilized green space into a shaded and ecologically designed parking lot that provides a valuable point of arrival for visitors. The pedestrian connection to the crossings into Hermann Park will become linear gardens along the existing sidewalk with groundcover, shrubs, and perennials that relate to the planting palette of the Entry Garden at Cambridge and Fannin as well as the and the Main Street crosswalks.

Central Promenade \$500,000



Traversing the 6.7-acre central lawn area, the **Central Promenade** is the main pedestrian path through The Commons. Dotted with lighting and resting benches, the walk begins at the Entry Garden and meanders throughout the area, connecting walkers to the various pavilions and play areas, arriving at the lakefront before looping back.

Children's Play in The Commons

The Playground meets the 21st Century

Children's play areas center on an expanded and upgraded central playground called the Play Gardens replete with state-of-the-art equipment, interactive wet and dry play areas, and ample natural vegetation to integrate play and nature.

Three additional play areas – each with their own “character” – massively expand play options for children in Hermann Park, with durable, safe climbing and swinging equipment.

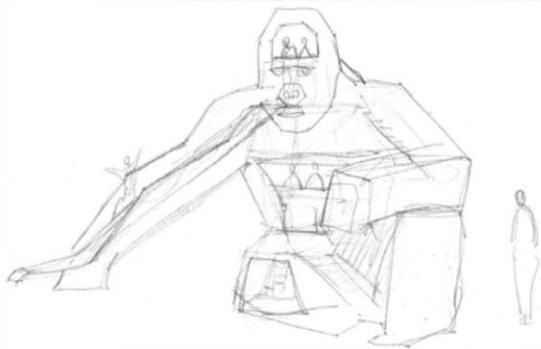
Sure to be a popular draw, a new carousel also figures into the design, allowing Hermann Park Conservancy a future revenue stream.

Naming Opportunities

- \$7.5 million **Play Gardens** spanning 2 acres of enclosed spaces for children of all ages
- \$1.5 million **Hermann Park Carousel** prominently situated within the Central Lawn
- \$750,000 **Gorilla Forest** play area aptly situated at the Houston Zoo border
- \$500,000 **Swing Hill** upgrades the typical playground experience
- \$350,000 **Cypress Grove** brings nature and activity together along McGovern Lake

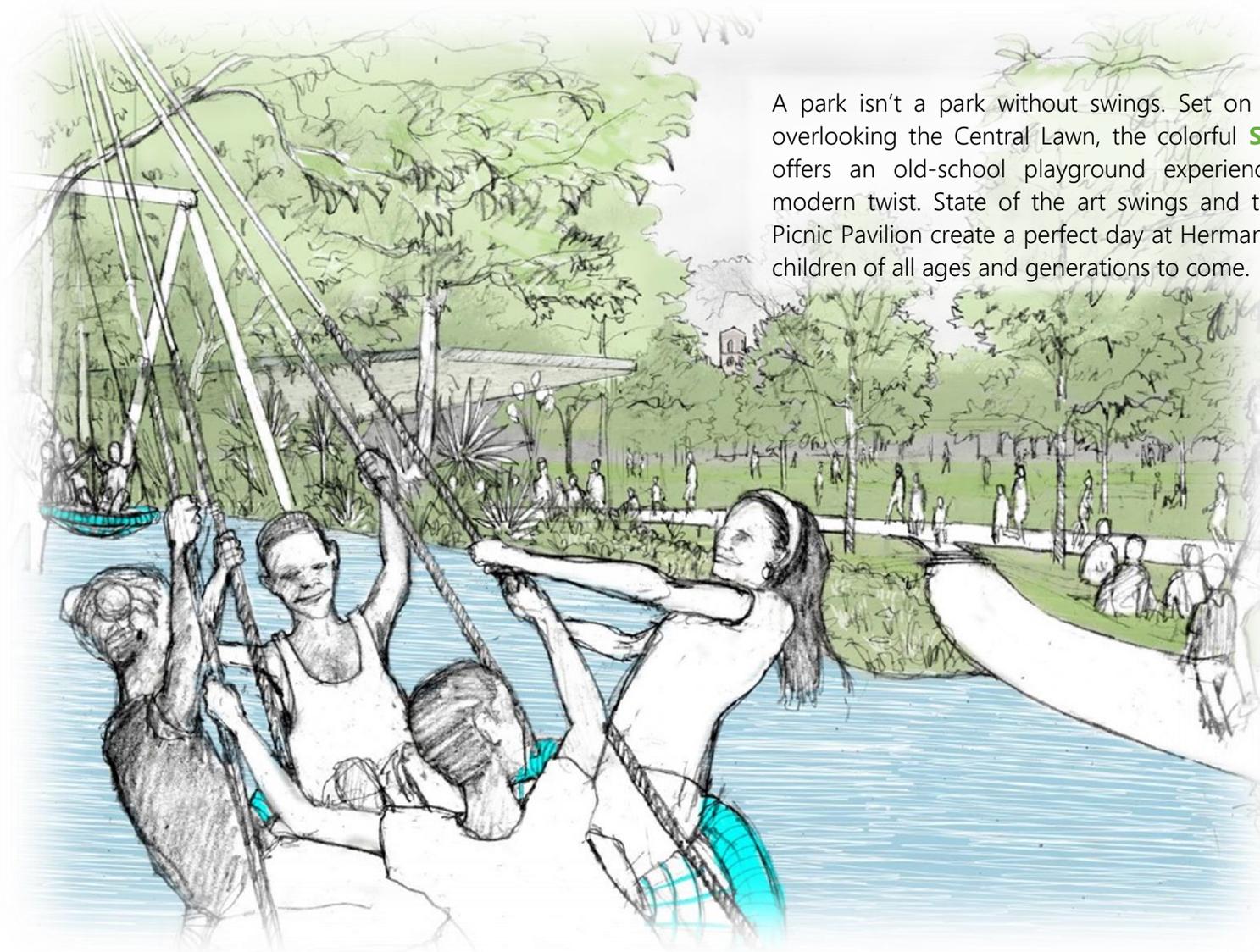
Gorilla Forest \$750,000

A playful nod to the neighboring Houston Zoo, **Gorilla Forest** will be tucked away in a now under-utilized area of Hermann Park. Providing cover to the Park-Zoo boundary fence, this play area features climbing play equipment in the form of a friendly, larger-than-life gorilla.



Swing Hill \$500,000

A park isn't a park without swings. Set on an incline overlooking the Central Lawn, the colorful **Swing Hill** offers an old-school playground experience with a modern twist. State of the art swings and the nearby Picnic Pavilion create a perfect day at Hermann Park for children of all ages and generations to come.

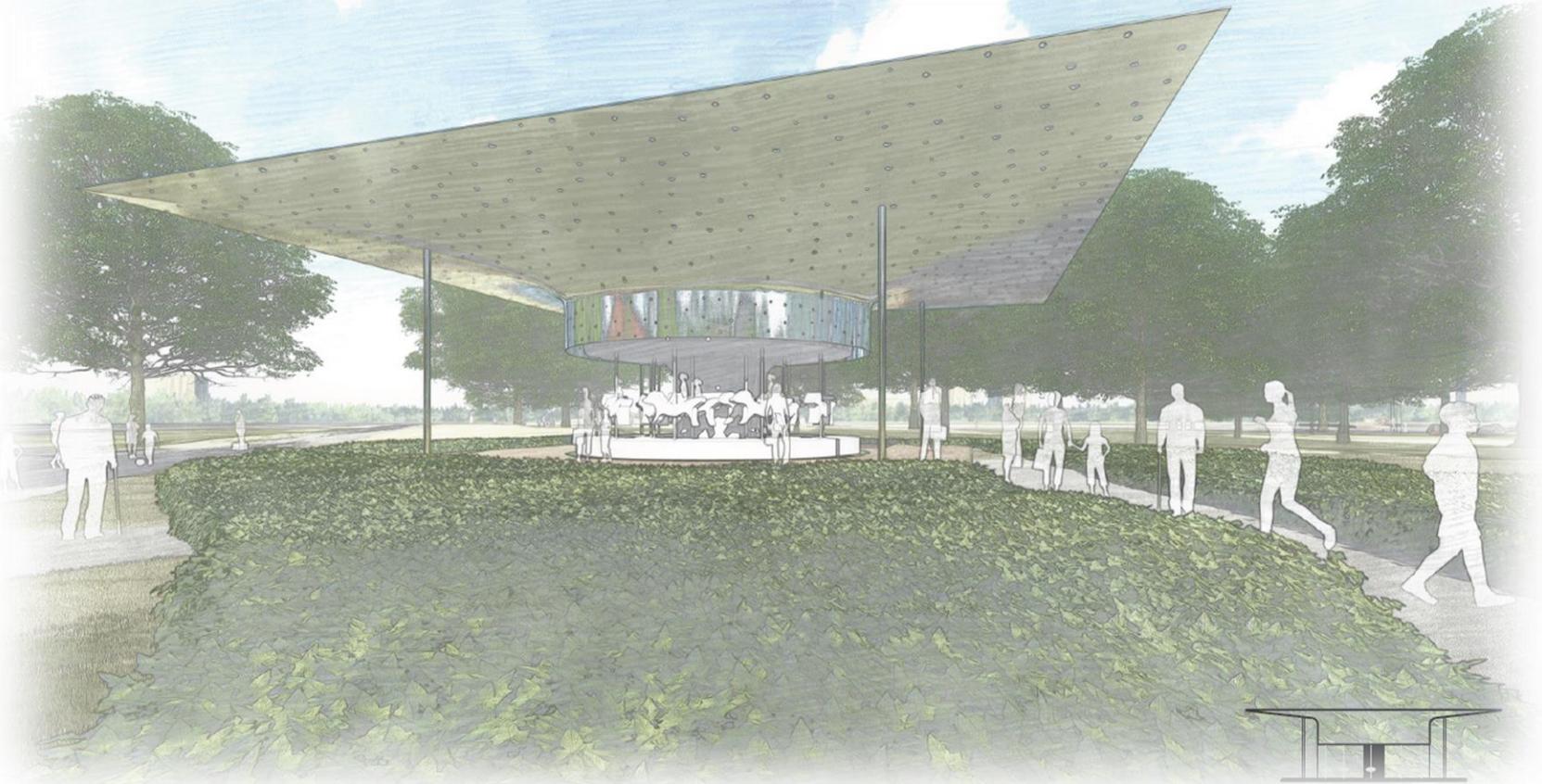


Cypress Grove \$350,000



Set amidst iconic cypress trees, the **Cypress Grove** play area is a lakeside play node populated by colorful equipment in the form of snakes and alligators. This whimsical dry swamp zone celebrates Houston's native flora and fauna.

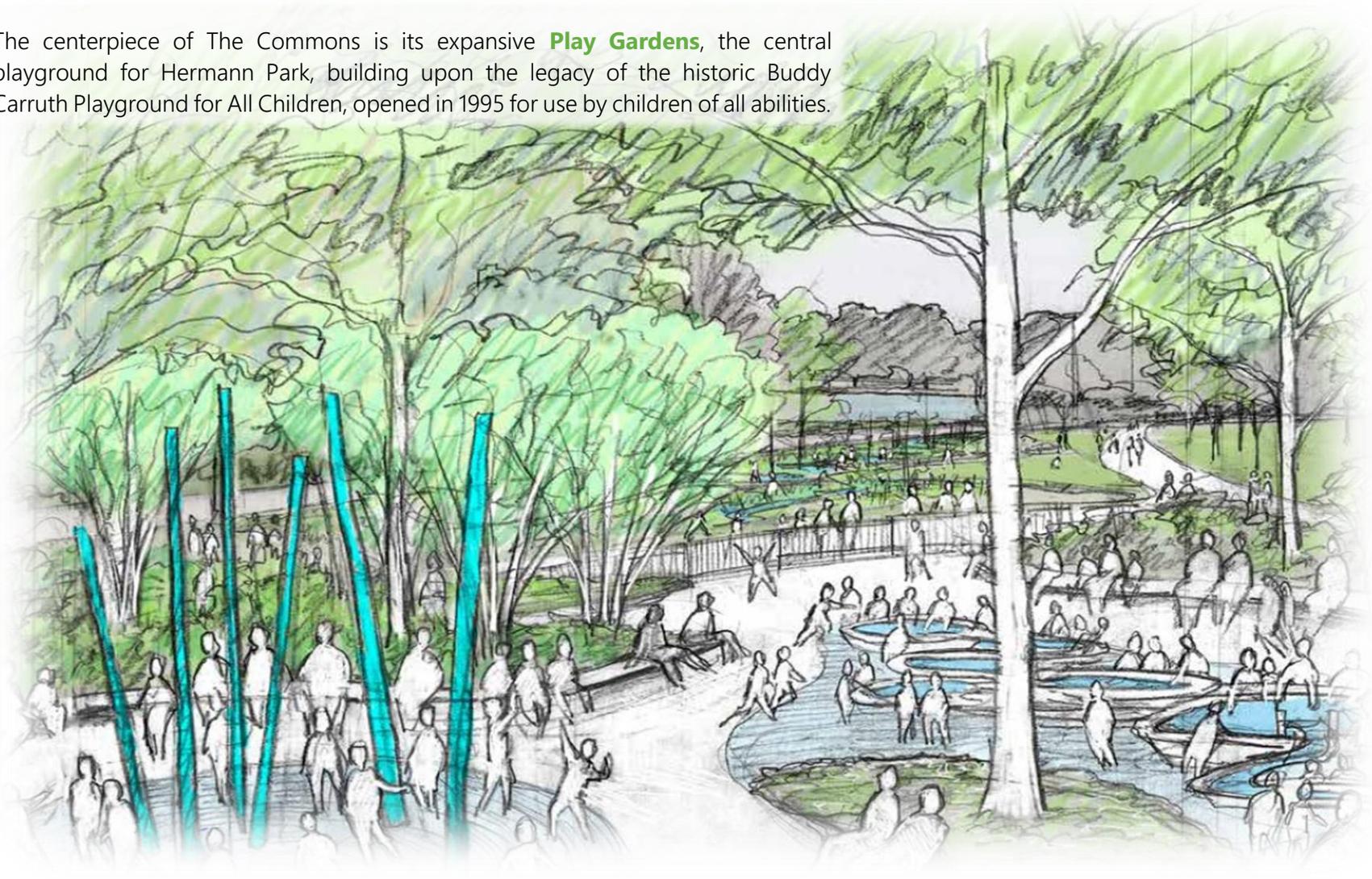
Hermann Park Carousel \$1.5 million



Taking pride of place in the Central Lawn, a new **Hermann Park Carousel** arises. With a nod to tradition, the sleek Carousel House is a modern update for The Commons and promises to become a destination for generations to come.

The Play Gardens \$7.5 million

The centerpiece of The Commons is its expansive **Play Gardens**, the central playground for Hermann Park, building upon the legacy of the historic Buddy Carruth Playground for All Children, opened in 1995 for use by children of all abilities.



The Play Gardens \$7.5 million

Building on an Inclusive Legacy

The new **Play Gardens** continues an inclusive legacy with play opportunities for children of all abilities, while seamlessly integrating dedicated **areas for specific age-groups** with common play areas. Numerous educational, interactive activities abound in expansive **dry and wet play areas**, increasing appreciation of nature and the environment as well as providing teaching moments around water management. Spanning 2 acres, the Play Gardens are designed to provide a safe, interactive, engaging experience for children and parents. Secure entrances ensure safety and peace-of-mind for visiting families, while plentiful observation zones and picnic areas give parents key vantage points to relax while overseeing their children.

Lead Naming Opportunities

- \$7.5 million **Play Gardens** spanning 2 acres of enclosed spaces for children of all ages
- \$3 million **Water Play Area (all ages)** situated at the north of the Play Gardens
- \$2 million **Moon Crater (5 to 12 years)** gives a nod to Houston's role in the space industry
- \$1.5 million **The Big Thicket (6 months to 5 years)** creates a wonderland of nature
- \$1 million **Rocket Ship** at the center of Moon Crater and the most iconic structure in The Commons
- \$1 million **Climbing Hill** creates a lunar panorama of physical activity

The Play Gardens \$7.5 million

Three Distinct Areas for Nature-Inspired Activity

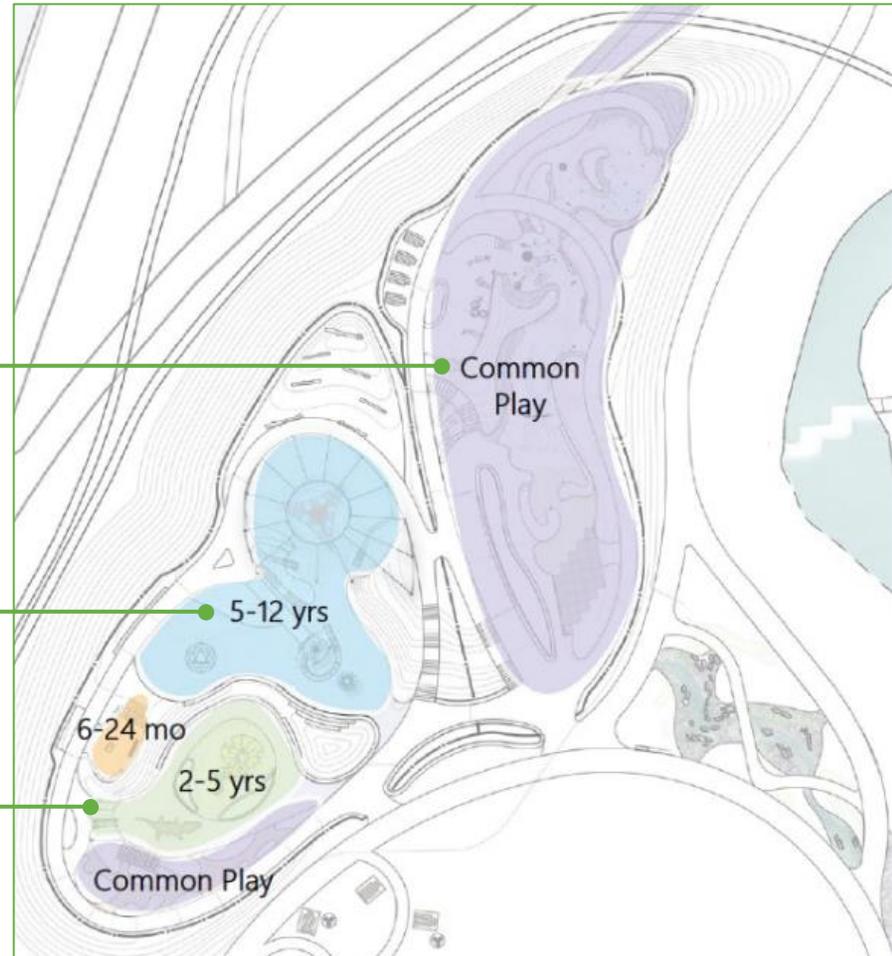


2.01 Acres

**Water
Play Area**
all ages

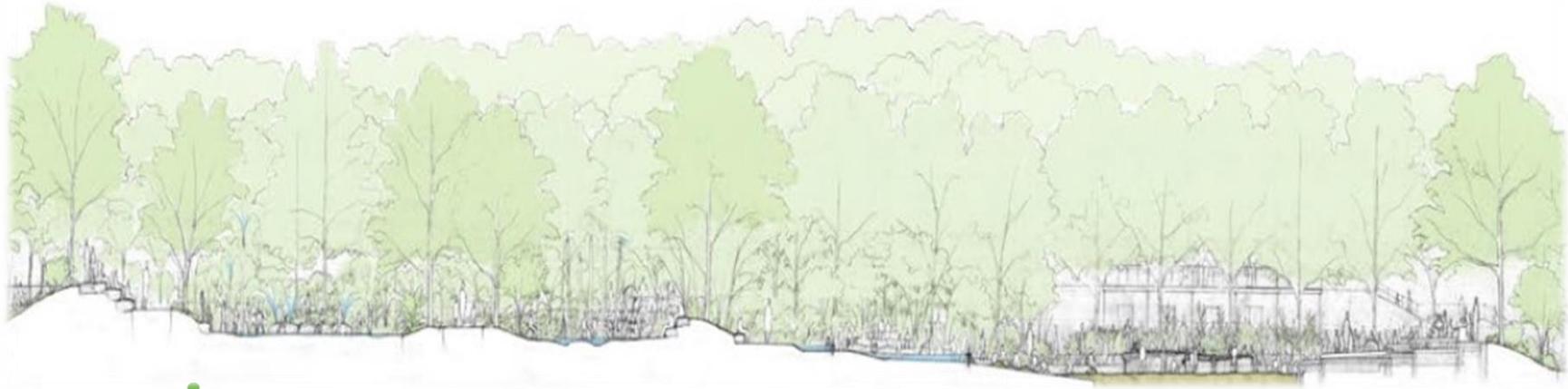
Moon Crater
5 to 12 years

The Big Thicket
6 months to 5 years



Play Gardens **Water Play Area** \$3 million

Experience Learning at its Best



The Water Forest
\$300,000

Splash Cove
\$500,000

The Lake
\$300,000

The Bayou
\$400,000

The Delta
\$250,000

The Bay
(Sand Play Area)
\$300,000



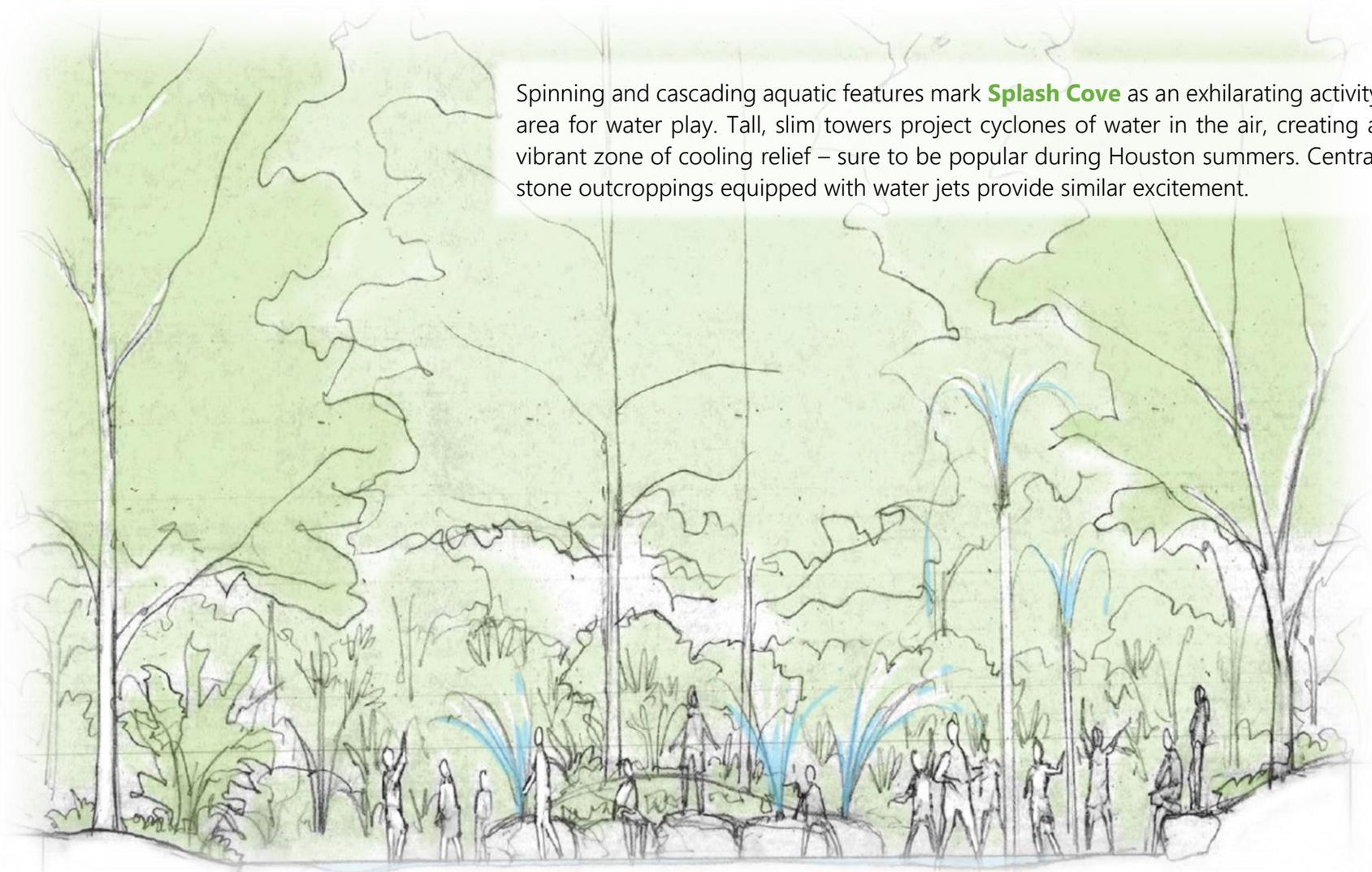
"Houston Barge"
\$150,000

Aquadrat
(Water Lab)
\$400,000

The multi-faceted **water play area** combines fun with experiential learning. Each interaction section offers particular educational opportunities demonstrating cause-effect in water flow, and loads of water-based fun to beat the heat of Houston.

Play Gardens—Water Play **Splash Cove** \$500,000

Spinning and cascading aquatic features mark **Splash Cove** as an exhilarating activity area for water play. Tall, slim towers project cyclones of water in the air, creating a vibrant zone of cooling relief – sure to be popular during Houston summers. Central stone outcroppings equipped with water jets provide similar excitement.



Play Gardens—Water Play **The Bayou** \$400,000

Nothing says Houston like a bayou. **The Bayou** at Hermann Park offers a playful, interactive first-hand look at the inner-workings of Houston's central water features. Built-in activities, such as water dams and releases, give children an opportunity to work collaboratively and experience cause-effect in water management.



Play Gardens—Water Play **The Bay (Sand Play Area)** \$300,000

At the base of The Delta, **The Bay** presents an expansive sand play area with innovative learning opportunities. Sand tables, bucket wheels, mud troughs, and an experiential barge structure come together under the shade of oversized umbrellas. Here, children of all ages can mix water with sand to create their own masterpieces under the sun. A nod to Houston's role as a major shipping port, the **Houston Barge** takes center stage in The Bay. Modeled after real life counterparts in Port Houston, the Houston Barge creates an interactive and engaging learning area in its own right.



Play Gardens—Water Play **Aquadrat (Water Lab)** \$400,000

A pinnacle of learning and fun, the Aquadrat makes water management serious business. Part science workshop and part play space, the **Aquadrat (Water Lab)** is outfitted with innovative and interactive water learning equipment. One of many examples will be a working Archimedes' screw helping children discover engineering basics by raising water levels manually with the twist of the device. Sturdy wooden decking on multiple levels creates a stage for manual pumps to move water into a cascade of trays which then forge liquid canals running through the area.



Play Gardens—Moon Crater **Rocket Ship** | **Climbing Hill** \$1 million each



A nod to NASA and Houston's role in space exploration, the dynamic **Rocket Ship (at left)** will be the tallest structure in the Play Gardens and visible from surrounding areas. With slides for fun and easy departures, and stairs and a walkway for quick entry, this iconic element is sure to be one of the most memorable elements of the project. Shaded from the sun with an other-worldly canopy, a **Climbing Hill (at right)** for children ages 5 to 12 is one of the largest areas of the Play Gardens. Marked by a hill of slides leading into the crater's mouth, the center piece is an expansive net climbing tower. Seating areas dot the upper perimeter, with prime views of the lunar landscape from the Overlook Lawn.

Play Gardens—The Big Thicket **Discovery Path** \$350,000



Nestled in the southern tip of the Play Gardens, a jungle of bamboo with towering foliage and intricate passages is a dedicated area for children aged 2 to 5 years. The **Discovery Path** might look foreboding, but it will be a delight for the adventurous youth; a parental seating area lies adjacent to the verdant area, so little ones are never out of sight.

Play Gardens—The Big Thicket **The Burrow** \$250,000

Even little ones (6 to 24 months) have a dedicated space in the Play Gardens. **The Burrow** sits in a raised area nestled amongst verdant foliage. Safe and sturdy play equipment take center stage, offering age-appropriate exploration and activity.



“Play for All” Communal Spaces in The Commons

Expanding the Idea of “Play”

Beyond the children’s recreation areas, communal areas are the heart of The Commons at Hermann Park. This includes restoration of the historic Fannin Pavilion, a new Rest Pavilion with public programming areas and facilities, decking and food service beneath historic live oak trees, an expansive central lawn for informal sports and relaxation, new grilling and picnic areas, shade structures for picnics and parties, and an enhanced forest zone surrounding the shared border with the Houston Zoo.

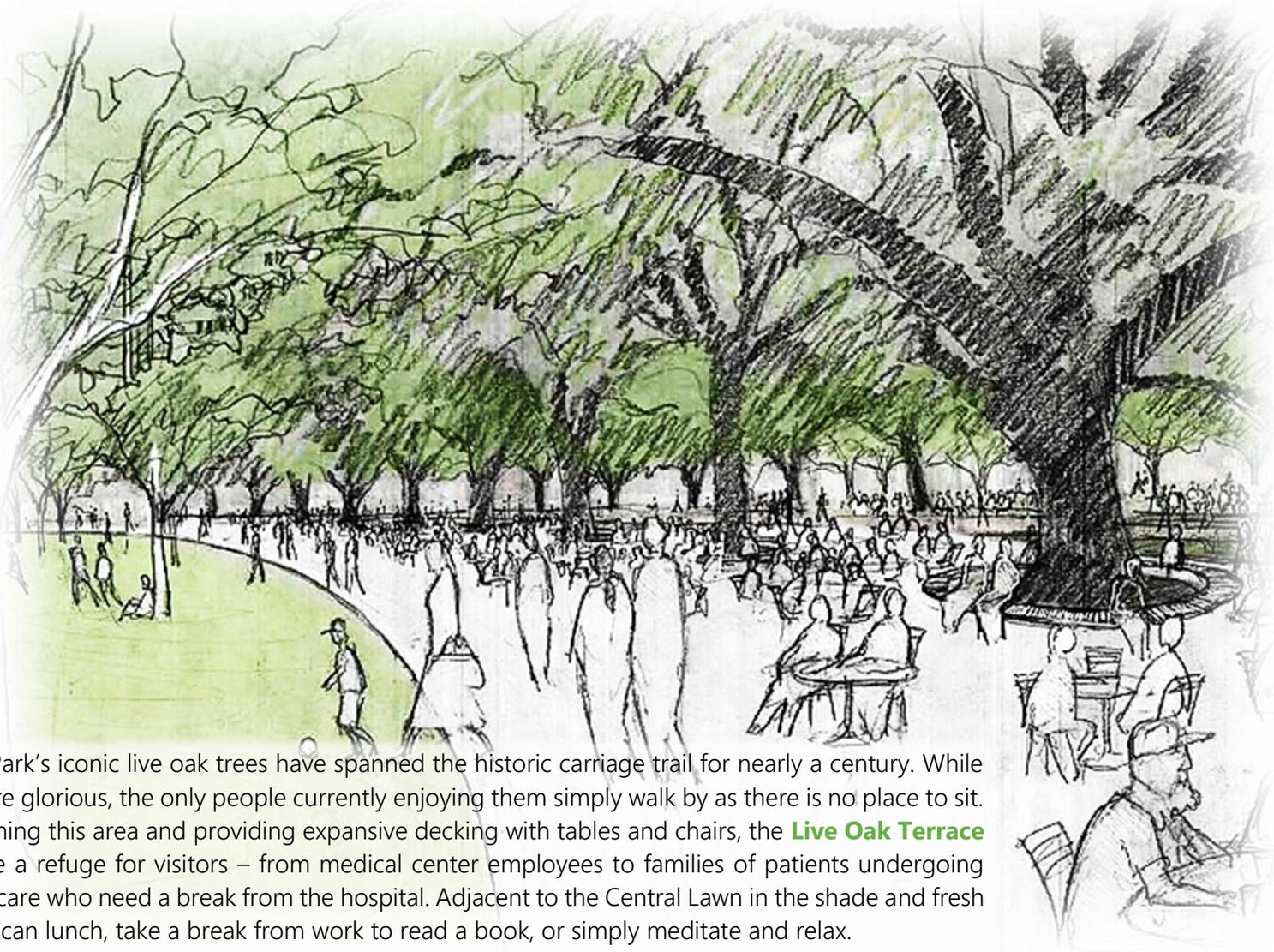
Naming Opportunities

- \$3 million **Central Lawn**
- \$2.5 million **Historic Pavilion**
- \$2 million **Live Oak Terrace**
- \$750,000 **Rest Pavilion**
- \$500,000 **Pavilion Garden**
- \$500,000 **Shade Pavilion**
- \$400,000 **Picnic Pavilion**
- \$250,000 **Train Forest**
- \$100,000 **Central Lawn Picnic Groves**

Central Lawn \$3 million



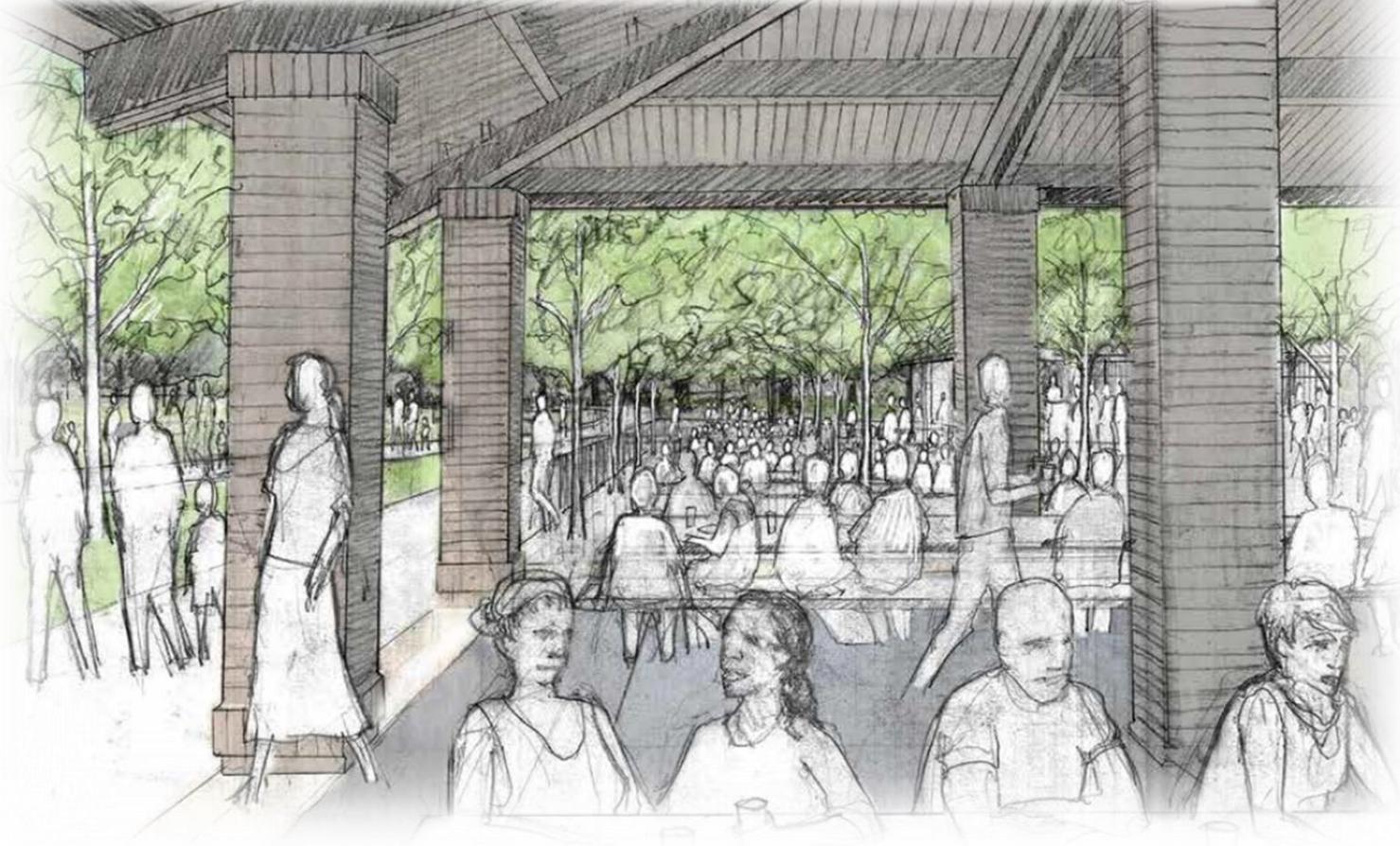
An expansive lawn is at the center of The Commons – a generous, open area providing cohesion for other Hermann Park amenities and perfect for a range of activities. With loose groves of trees dissolving in from the edges and a gently rolling topography, the **Central Lawn** unfolds as visitors move through it, offering shady places to sit, platforms for picnics, and ample room for games and recreation.

Live Oak Terrace \$2 million

Hermann Park's iconic live oak trees have spanned the historic carriage trail for nearly a century. While the trees are glorious, the only people currently enjoying them simply walk by as there is no place to sit. By reimagining this area and providing expansive decking with tables and chairs, the **Live Oak Terrace** will provide a refuge for visitors – from medical center employees to families of patients undergoing long-term care who need a break from the hospital. Adjacent to the Central Lawn in the shade and fresh air, visitors can lunch, take a break from work to read a book, or simply meditate and relax.

Historic Pavilion \$2.5 million

One of the oldest structures in Hermann Park, the 1916 **historic Fannin Pavilion** will be renovated and celebrated as a central feature of the site. Major refurbishments will restore this once-airy building, allowing more light to enter and its timber roof structure revealed. Its stately central fireplace will become more prominent, with new custom wood tables and benches installed to replace the existing metal tables.



Lakefront Enhancements in The Commons

Invigorating Nature at the Center of Hermann Park

Central to The Commons project is an extensive upgrade and conservation of the lands bordering McGovern Lake to the west and to the south. Nature habitats and environmentally-appropriate activity areas, massive improvements to the natural vegetation along the lake, and the Lake Prospect Overlook.

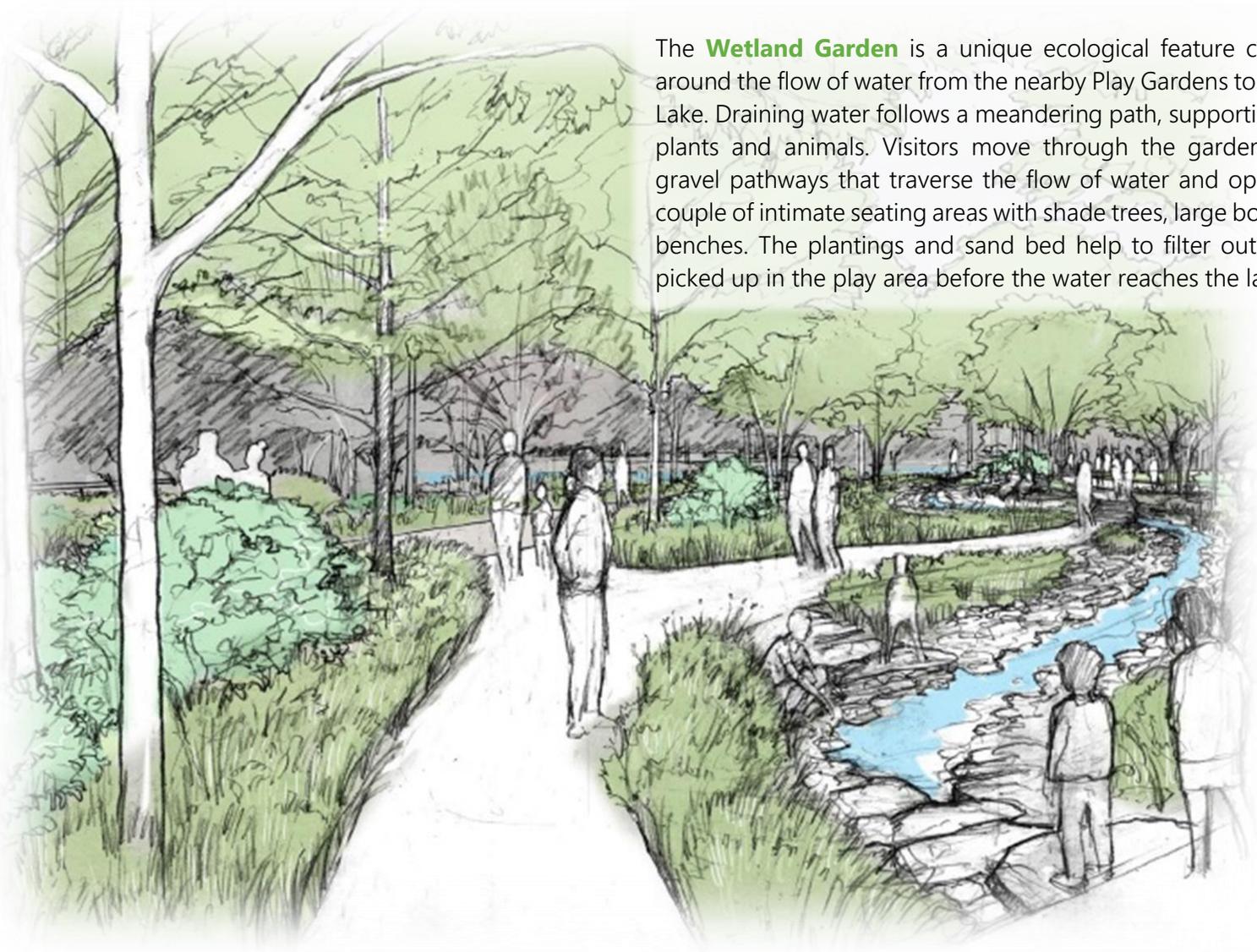
Scattered throughout are additional and improved picnic areas. Bird-friendly habitats will stretch from the area surrounding the Bird Island bridge in the northwest, curving with the lake, and running through to the Houston Zoo entrance at the southeast. Project plans include an experiential Water Garden to the north of the existing fishing pier, and a Stone Cove immediately to the south of the pier. Collectively, work on these contiguous areas will make the lakefront an even more desirable destination for nature lovers.

Naming Opportunities

- \$5 million **Entire Shoreline** – **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** – *named by McGovern Foundation*
- \$500,000 **Wetland Garden**
- \$500,000 **Stone Cove**
- \$350,000 **Lake Prospect**
- \$250,000 **Southern Lakefront Habitat** – **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** – *named by Phillips 66*
- \$250,000 **Western Lakefront Habitat**
- \$100,000 **Lakeside Picnic Groves**

Wetland Garden \$500,000

The **Wetland Garden** is a unique ecological feature constructed around the flow of water from the nearby Play Gardens to McGovern Lake. Draining water follows a meandering path, supporting riparian plants and animals. Visitors move through the garden on small gravel pathways that traverse the flow of water and open up in a couple of intimate seating areas with shade trees, large boulders and benches. The plantings and sand bed help to filter out impurities picked up in the play area before the water reaches the lake.



Stone Cove \$500,000



Currently closed off by a fence and screening plants, the east side of McGovern Lake will be opened to connect directly to the Central Lawn. **Stone Cove** will be a pathway of flagstones weaving through a gradual slope of football size rocks and native grasses down to the water. New seating along this edge will take advantage of the views out to the lake and back down the length of the Central Lawn.

Lake Prospect \$350,000



Transformed from a virtually unused section of Hermann Park, a new elevated area with views of the water will create a landscaped boundary with Houston Zoo while affording visitors pristine views of the McGovern Lake. With plenty of shade for lounging and enjoying the outdoors, **Lake Prospect** promises to become a favorite for the nature-loving, contemplative sort.

Public Art in The Commons

Dedicated Spaces for Temporary and Permanent Art

The Commons gives public art pride of place in two dedicated art zones, carrying on the tradition of showing innovative contemporary art for all in Hermann Park. Centered on two dedicated “art zones” at the north end of the site an active art program gives a previously non-descript area of Hermann Park a new identity and draw. For many coming from the north side of the Park, these zones – replete with public art exhibitions – will mark the entry into the new area. Visible from Fannin Street, the artwork announces the presence and activity of the Park to people driving past. The path network leads the visitor through lawn and prairie areas of different scales and enclosure that host a range of permanent or temporary installations. Smaller-scale tree planting helps to create an episodic barrier with the street and fence of the well-loved Japanese garden.

The Commons Art Zones are the centerpiece of the larger [Public Art Initiative](#), which includes the permanent [Fund for Public Art](#) and a re-launching of the popular [Art in the Park](#) series with a stellar opening exhibition to showcase the new art zones.

Naming Opportunities

- \$500,000 **Art Zone North**
- \$350,000 **Art Zone South**
- \$100,000 **Art Walk**



Art Zone North \$500,000 and Art Zone South \$350,000



The Commons gives public art pride of place in **dedicated “art zones”** next to Fannin Street. These zones give a previously non-descript area of Hermann Park a new identity and draw. For many coming from the north side of the Park, these zones will mark the entry into the new area. Visible from Fannin Street, the artwork announces the presence and activity of the Park to people driving past.

The largest of the two areas, **Art Zone North** is a raised, verdant

field for unique installations, viewable from Fannin Street and bordering Hermann Park’s well-loved Japanese Garden. **Art Zone South** extends the art viewing experience along the Park border with Fannin Street. The smaller of the two zones, the southern branch of public art space has level terrain, interspersed with tree plantings to create more shaded, contemplative areas for viewing art.

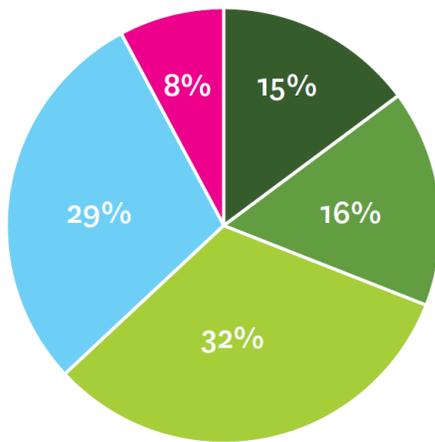
The **Art Walk pathway** leads the visitor through lawn and prairie areas of different scales and enclosure that host a range of permanent or temporary installations. Smaller-scale tree planting helps to create an episodic barrier with the street and the fence of the well-loved Japanese Garden.



Houston's Hermann Park

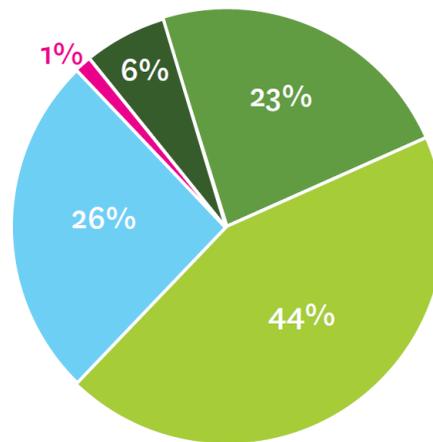
A Shared Experience among Houstonians

Gifted to the City of Houston in 1914, Hermann Park is one of Houston's oldest and most historically significant public parks. It provides a beautiful, safe environment that engenders community, allows urban dwellers varied recreational and relaxation opportunities, builds an appreciation of the natural world, and promotes active lifestyles to help mitigate health concerns.



WHO USES THE PARK

The diagram shows the racial demographics of Hermann Park (Understanding Usership in Hermann Park, Rice University, 2016)



CITY OF HOUSTON DEMOGRAPHICS

The diagram shows the racial demographics of Houston, Texas (2015 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau)

- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- White
- Multiple/Other

Each year nearly **six million people** from throughout Houston freely visit Hermann Park and enjoy jogging and walking trails, the historic Hermann Park Railroad and pedal boats on McGovern Lake, contemplative public spaces like the Jones Reflection Pool, Japanese Garden, and the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Demonstrated in the 2016 Rice University study, the estimated six million annual Park **visitors reflect the rich diversity of Houston.**

Results revealed the demographics of Hermann Park visitors closely matches overall demographics in Houston, making the park a microcosm of the larger city. One interesting finding concludes there is almost no difference in usage patterns among ethnic groups; Hermann Park offers a **democratic, shared experience** for all.

Hermann Park Conservancy

A History of Park Improvements

Beginnings: Founded in 1992 as Friends of Hermann Park, Hermann Park Conservancy is a nonprofit citizens’ organization dedicated to the stewardship and improvement of Hermann Park – today and for generations to come. Through a public-private partnership with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Hermann Park Conservancy raises funds each year to enhance and maintain the Park, while managing the design of improvement projects, and then sharing costs with the City of Houston. Thanks to financial support of foundations, corporations, and individuals, the Conservancy has raised more than \$125 million for improvement projects in Hermann Park. The Conservancy also oversees visitor services, conservation and stewardship, tree care, volunteer programs, and operations and maintenance of McGovern Centennial Gardens.

The 1995 Master Plan: By the early 1990s – at the time the Conservancy was founded – Hermann Park had weathered over seventy years and had increasingly become less appealing to Houstonians. City budgets simply could not match the maintenance and conservation costs to keep Hermann Park vibrant and thriving. In response, the Conservancy commissioned an initial master plan, completed in 1995 by acclaimed landscape architect Lauri Olin. Completed in 1995, the plan was adopted by the Houston City Council in 1997 and the work began to reclaim and revitalize Hermann Park.

Progress: Over the next 20 years, the Conservancy raised funds and implemented improvements, while establishing initiatives to better protect the Park for the future, including a maintenance program in partnership with the City of Houston and other programs in conservation and reforestation, volunteerism, visitor services, and public art. Improvements have been completed in two major phases of work, the last of which is currently underway with the renovation of the Historic Golf Clubhouse (built 1933), soon to be renamed Lott Hall. This monumental effort has yielded incredible results for one of Houston’s oldest and most loved urban spaces.

*Restored and reinforced the **historic fabric** of Hermann Park.*

*Enhanced **vehicular access** in and through the Park.*

*Brought life back to **lesser used areas**.*

*Increased **conservation and stewardship** of plant life, the historic tree canopy, and nature in general.*

Hermann Park Then



Hermann Park Today



The Master Plan for Hermann Park

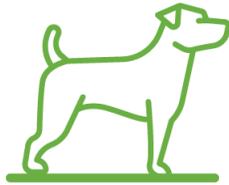
Extending the 1995 Master Plan

In 2017, landscape architects Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates completed an ambitious continuation of the 1995 master plan for Hermann Park. This innovative new plan will make Hermann Park an even stronger community asset for Greater Houston in the 21st century. From tried and true Park users to prospective visitors from the Texas Medical Center, public engagement starting in 2015 yielded incredible information on how people currently utilize Hermann Park and what they would like to see improved. This endeavor presented an unprecedented opportunity for the Conservancy to craft a master plan that not only takes into account expert perspective on future Park planning but also directly respond to community priorities. Three major themes are foremost in making Hermann Park a valuable community asset today and in the future:

- **Expanding the spectrum of play in Hermann Park**
Public feedback clearly asked the Conservancy to move beyond traditional "playground" models to provide integrative play options for children as well as respond to the needs of those without children through innovation recreational options and public programming.
- **Invigorating the presence of nature in Hermann Park**
Through surveys and other feedback, users demonstrated a value for enhancing natural habitats in Hermann Park while even strongly integrating trees and plant and wild life throughout all aspects of the Park experience.
- **Improving access, mobility, and vital connections throughout Hermann Park**
Never far from the minds of locals, ease of transport and navigation into and within the Park proved to be important. Refreshingly, this went far beyond the usual demand for "more parking" or "less traffic" often heard in Houston discussions. Rather, stakeholders seek alternative methods to get to and around Hermann Park.

The expanded master plan is divided into three distinct phases based on project scope. While the three overarching priorities of play, nature, and access frame all Park improvements laid out in the updated master plan, "play" is the theme of the current campaign. The \$60 million **Play Your Park campaign** is the first step in realizing this master plan.

Play Your Park: The Campaign for Hermann Park



Hermann Park
Dog Park



The Commons
at Hermann Park



Public Art
Initiative



Bike Trail
Network



Habitat & Storm Water
Management



Public & Volunteer
Programs



Conservation
& Reforestation



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