Happy Trails to You!

The Hermann Park pedestrian trail is now open following fantastic improvements completed this fall. The renovation of the two-mile trail, which loops around the Hermann Park Golf Course, was accomplished thanks to a federal grant administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. Mayor Annise Parker officiated the ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the trail on November 5, 2011.

To the delight of neighborhood runners and walkers, the trail now features a new decomposed granite surface with concrete curbs, lighting, and drainage. The trail route was adjusted to avoid close proximity to roads wherever possible. As a result, runners and walkers can take in scenic views of tranquil park life and enjoy the cooling shade of historic Live Oaks lining much of the trail on both sides. The entire two-mile path is uninterrupted by driveways except in two places, both of which are parking lot entrances that do not usually experience high traffic.

Not just beneficial for runners, the amenities offered by the renovated trail will be enjoyed by all who use it simply to get from one place to another within the Park and by all who visit early in the morning or in the evening when the new lights keep the path well lit. New light posts have also been added along the pedestrian trail beside Fannin and will be particularly appreciated by Miller Outdoor Theatre patrons who come to evening performances by METRORail.

This project is just one of many taking place to improve connections to neighborhoods and accessibility within Hermann Park. The Bill Coats Bike Bridge, which will connect bicycle and walking trails on both sides of Brays Bayou, and a pedestrian underpass under North and South MacGregor, will further achieve this goal. They are scheduled to open this spring.
Can you imagine Hermann Park without its trees? Hit with the most devastating drought in recorded history this summer, Hermann Park’s trees, plants, and wildlife faced an unprecedented challenge.

In response, neighbors, families, and friends near and far offered their financial and volunteer support to keep our trees healthy and strong. Many cited their grandchildren as inspiration, hoping that they could help keep the trees alive so future generations would know their beauty and be able to sit under their shade. Self-professed “Live Oak lovers” Laurie and Reed Morian deserve special thanks for helping mobilize the critical fundraising effort.

To date the Park has lost over 400 trees due to the drought, whose effects will be seen over the next few years. While we are deeply saddened by the loss, we are thankful to have been able to limit the devastation to 4% of the Park’s tree count, a low number by comparison in the region. This is due to our conservation team, which went on alert starting in April; our dedicated volunteers who helped hand water trees all summer; and of course our Save Our Stressed Trees donors who funded additional water tanks when they were most critical.

We are grateful to the community for its ongoing support. Run in the Park, a civic celebration of Hermann Park, attracted more than 700 participants on November 5, while Arbor Day on January 21 drew more than 100 volunteers who planted 250 new trees. We will continue planting new trees where they are most needed, and will perform deadwood pruning and fertilization of the Live Oaks throughout the Park thanks to the Save Our Stressed Trees Fund. Because of your help, our grandchildren will grow up to know and love Hermann Park as we have. Thank you.

See you in the Park,

Doreen

Doreen Stoller
Executive Director
On Saturday, November 5, 2011, youngsters, families, and serious runners took their places in Molly Ann Smith Plaza for Run in the Park. For the first time in the Run’s history, the program took place entirely in Hermann Park. Morning events included a five-mile run, two-mile family walk, 1K kids’ run, and post-race party.

Mayor Annise Parker kicked off the morning’s activities by shooting the gun to begin the five-mile run and the family walk. After winding around the Park along the renovated trail, runners and walkers made their way to the finish line back at Molly Ann Smith Plaza between the Jones Reflection Pool and McGovern Lake. The kids’ run followed, taking children by Miller Outdoor Theatre and the Jones Reflection Pool. All together, over 700 participants enjoyed a healthy jaunt around the Park!

The post-race party included tasty treats from bagels to beer, massage therapists for runners, music, and more. The Plaza was packed with Park neighbors and friends cheering for runners at the finish line, families and corporate teams bonding in their matching Run t-shirts, and proud kids’ run participants smiling for their parents’ cameras.

Run in the Park is a valuable community effort that raises funding to keep the Conservancy’s efforts going strong. It raised over $40,000 this year and was a big success thanks to Run coordinator Mindy Campbell, race chair Scott Dorfman, race director Jack McClintic, and the many community sponsors who helped fund the event and provide for the post-race party.
Pinewood Cafe is Now Open!

Pinewood Cafe is the newest addition to Hermann Park. Located in Lake Plaza next to Kinder Station, the Cafe has received rave reviews since opening in November. Food critics and online reviewers have praised its delicious, fresh fare, and affordable pricing.

The Pinewood Cafe menu includes chef-inspired salads, wraps, and burgers, as well as a fun and delicious build-your-own grilled cheese section. Go ahead and try ham and brie with apples on French bread, or perhaps grilled chicken and pepper jack cheese with avocado on jalapeno cheddar bread. The helpful staff will be happy to suggest their favorite custom grilled cheese combos.

Meanwhile smoothies, s’mores, and other sweet treats are also available, and the children’s menu will delight parents and kids alike with its simple, healthy choices.

Just beyond the Cafe’s doors, the dining terrace overlooking McGovern Lake gives Pinewood patrons an unbeatable spot to enjoy their meal. The terrace is dog friendly, so canine friends are welcome! Pinewood owners Olivia and Sean Blair have some great plans for the future including happy hours on the terrace, Sunday brunches, and picnic baskets for Miller Outdoor Theatre performances.

Visit Pinewood Cafe today! A portion of proceeds support Hermann Park Conservancy. Cafe hours are 11am to 6pm, seven days a week. Want to place your order over the phone? Call 713-429-5238.

In Memoriam

Hermann Park experienced a great loss with the passing of esteemed Japanese landscape architect Mr. Terunobu Nakai on January 1, 2012. Mr. Nakai guided the renovation of the Park’s Japanese Garden over the last six years. He has left behind fond memories among those who worked under his guidance and the legacy of a beautiful, serene, and authentic Japanese Garden in Hermann Park. For his contribution to Hermann Park, October 27, 2011, was declared Terunobu Nakai Day in the City of Houston.

Mr. Nakai’s design assistant Aya Nakamura Hashimoto and venerable Japanese landscape gardener Hiroshi Iwasaki visited from Japan in early February to continue his vision.
Urban Green’s
The Green Gatsby

Glamorous guests took a backstage pass to the Roaring ’20s on November 17, 2011, for Urban Green’s The Green Gatsby. The cool fall weather was ideal for the open-air event, which gave attendees a rare opportunity to admire Hermann Park from the Miller Outdoor Theatre stage. Chairs Lindley Arnoldy, Georgea Pappas, Elizabeth Spradling, and Annina Stefanelli set the tone in sequined headbands, mile-long strings of pearls, and fringed dresses.

Benefiting Hermann Park Conservancy, the young professionals’ event drew a crowd of 300 enthusiastic attendees who danced across the stage, nibbled on light bites, and sipped era-appropriate themed drinks. The 1974 film adaptation of The Great Gatsby played against the Theatre’s backdrop, while elegant white floral arrangements with feather plumes in tall silver vases helped seal the swanky ’20s feel.

The evening was a huge success thanks to the hard work of the chairs, the Urban Green steering committee led by Brittany Sakowitz, and the numerous sponsors who generously donated to the event.

Did you know Hermann Park will be 100 years old in 2014?

In anticipation of the occasion, Hermann Park Conservancy has been hard at work garnering support and building community awareness for its Centennial Campaign. This effort aims to complete major improvements in the Park, including the renovation of the historic main entrance known as the Grand Gateway and the transformation of the Garden Center, to be called the Centennial Gardens. These are the last key projects left to be completed according to the Park’s master plan, which was commissioned by the Conservancy in 1992.

Centennial Campaign support will also fund community events to commemorate the historic year. From temporary art installations to a family kite day, special events all year long in 2014 will bring the community together and give visitors young and old memories that will last a lifetime. The Centennial Celebration will be a citywide effort, with many museums and cultural institutions partnering with the Conservancy on special programs, from lectures to musical performances.

Be a part of the once-in-a-lifetime celebration of Hermann Park. To learn more, please contact Eliza Wright, marketing manager, at 713-524-5876 ext. 335 or ewright@hermannpark.org.
Upcoming Events

**Evening in the Park Gala**

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Chaired by Ileana and Michael Treviño, Susan Krohn and Patrick Gehm
Honoring Rice University

**Student Performance Series**

Check www.hermannpark.org

for a list of upcoming performances by Houston area students.

**Second Saturdays**

Members of Hermann Park Conservancy are welcome to ride the Hermann Park Railroad for free from 9am to 10am on the second Saturday of every month.

Visit www.hermannpark.org

for up-to-date event details.

Keep up with the Conservancy on Facebook and Twitter!

Find us at www.facebook.com/HermannPark and www.twitter.com/HermannPark

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Shop at Saks Houston for Hermann Park Conservancy

Saks Fifth Avenue has designated Hermann Park Conservancy to receive 5% of purchases made with a registered Saks credit card by our supporters in February 2012.* If you have shopping to do, please go to Saks and choose Hermann Park Conservancy as the beneficiary of your purchases. You can make your designation at the register when you check out and it will apply to all of your purchases for the entire month of February. So get out there, shop Saks and support Hermann Park Conservancy!


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**Community Outreach**

**Run in the Park**

$1,000-$4,999

Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette

Gulf States Toyota, Inc.

$5,000-$9,999

Texas Children’s Hospital

$2,500-$4,999

Bridgeway Capital Management

Cal-A-Vie Resort Health Spa

$1,000-$2,499

M-I Swaco

Whole Foods Market

$500-$999

Lott Marketing

Park Plaza Hospital

$100-$499

Kathy Babbitt

Cece and Mack Fowler

Margaret L. Kripke and

Isaiah J. Fidler

William Palko

In Kind

Athletes HoneyMilk

Bikram Yoga Sugar Land

Cali-Fit.com

Crossfit Houston

Cura Yoga Studios

Fit Athletic Club

Fleet Feet Sports

Fringle Salon and Color Bar

Health & Fitness Sports Magazine

The Hot Bagel Shop

La Madeleine

My Fit Foods

Picnic

Shannon Fine Jewelry

Shaped Body Fitness

Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.

United Airlines

W.J. Ford & Associates, Inc.

Urban Green’s Green Gatsby

$500-$999

Brittany Sakowitz

Annya Elizabeth Stefanelli

$100-$499

Todd G. Amdor and Matthew Stone

Heather M. Ardeel

Harrison Bolling

Avery Burns

Adrea Chow and Sergio Leal

Courtland Crosswell

Lee Foersterling

Lindsey Greenwood

Meredith Joulian

Sari and Chris Kronzer

Benton Love

Stephanie Massey

Joao Metelo

Whitney Morgan

Mary and Weston O’Black

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In Kind

A Bientot

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Antique Lounge

Armenta

Aztec Events & Tents

Bella RInova

Bellaxoma

Bikram Yoga Houston

BlackFinn

Buffalo Bayou Brewing Co.

Butter Catering

Candelaria’s Pizzeria

Caroline Schiller Art

Ceron Salon Uptown Park

Craft Salon

Susie and Sanford Criner

Crop by David Peck

Crowley Signs

CultureMap

Digital Alchemy Photography

DJ MAV

Dripping Springs Vodka

Fuddruckers

Gardner Landry

GIGI’S Asian Bistro and Dumpling Bar

Hamilton Shirts

Hermann Park Golf Course

Houston Ballet

Houston Grand Opera

The Impeccable Pig

Galleria/St. Martin’s Jazzercise

Jenni’s Noodle House

Korcula

Andrew T. Lysos, M.D., FACS

Main Street Theatre

Mosaica on Hermann Park

Muse

Neiman Marcus Houston

New Artisan Spirits (ROXOR)

Ocean’s

Pappas Restaurants

Pernod Ricard

Prego Restaurant

Relish Fine Foods

Roak on Kirby

Saint Arnold Brewing Co.

Shyn Salon

Snap Kitchen

Swift + Company

The Ticket Experience

Tribe Design

Uchi and Uchiko

The Upper Hand

Vintage Lounge

Wish Boutique Houston

Zimm’s Little Deck

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Membership

Conductor's Circle ($2,500+)
Kathy and Randy Lake
Rita Wilder/The Wilder Foundation – In memory of Jeannie Lykes
Shenidan and John Eddie Williams

Platinum ($500-$2,499)
Beau Alexander
Anonymous
Cockrell Family Fund – In honor of Starks Cockrell
Ritsuko and James Cox
Jane Anderson Curtis and Bill Curtis
Cathy and Wayne Donnelly
Susan Garner
Elizabeth A. Germani
Clare A. Glassell
Lou Ann and Milton Gray
Stephen A. Massad
Gary McGuire
Terry Murphree
Barb and Will Noel
Victoria and William Ramos
Fairfax and Risher Randall
Hilary Suzawa and Daniel Lemke
Cyc Thomas
Adrienne and Tim Unger

Gold ($250-$499)
Suzanne and Brian Adams
Barbara Bass
William Boyer
Loann and John Eiman
M.J. and Joe Figard
Kerney H. Johnson
Dan A. King
Katherine Kohlmeyer
Stephanie and Ed Larsen
Harriet and Truet Latimer
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Louise and Gary Moss
Ruth and Quincy Ollison
Carol and Dan Price
Elisa Studé Pye
Gay A. Roane
Imperial Oil Company
Karla A. Sepulveda
Carol and Peter Taaffe
Ruth and Marvin Taylor
Kathy J. Welch and John T. Unger

Silver ($100-$249)
Anonymous (3)
Susan and Barry Abrams
Charles E. Armstrong – In honor of Houston’s GLBT community
Susie and David Askane
Elizabeth and Howard Ayers
Jeanne Bauer and Walter N. Hittelman
Andree A. Boudreaux
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Michael and Michael Brown
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Janice Ford Griff
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Stephanie and Clinton Fox
Rachel and O. Howard Frazier
David K. Gibb
Hannah and Lenny Golub
Claire and Joseph Greenberg
Susan and Robert Hawkins
Monica McKnight Heal and Steven Heal
Jeanne and Andrew Hero
George E. Howe – In honor of Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Howe III
Rame and Russell Hruska
Vicki Huff and Eric Boerwinkle
Kelly Hunsaker and David Leonard
Sultana Kaldis
Elizabeth and Marc Kilbride
Akino and Samuel King
Linda and David Knowles
Kim and Mark Kressenberg
Joyce and Larry Lander
Marley Lott
Cecilia and Peter Ludwig
Jerry McNeill
Carol and Roland Miller
Cristina and William Moore
D. Patricia Nelson
Tassie Nicandros
Mary and Paul Nugent
Denise and Rocky Parsons
Carolyn and Thomas Paul
Esther and Gary Polland
Nancy and John Preston
The Propst Family
Gloria and Joe Pryzant
Dean Puttermar
Marsa and Les Randall
Janet Rarick and Benjamin Kamins
Enrique Raso
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Heather and James Reardon
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Linda and Dick Sylvan
Mardy and James Thomas
Michael Townsend
Gail and Thomas Viele
Rachael and Jason Volz
Dan Woltemar

Runners, Walkers, and Joggers

Memorial
$1,000-$4,999
Ann and Don Short – In memory of Marvin Taylor, Jr.

$500-$999
The Chris Reichelt Family

$100-$499
Robin and Richard Brooks
Margaret and John Burns
Jane Anderson Curtis and Bill Curtis – In memory of Bill Coats
Cece and Mack Fowler
Steppie and Robert Holcsaw
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Margaret L. Kripke and Isiah J. Fidler
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The Powell Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
Robert W. Knox and Pearl Wallis Knox Foundation

$1,000-$4,999
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Sheila and Isaac Hambinder
Lynn Lippert – In memory of Rudy H. Lippert
Susan and David Lumnis
Alisa and Gary Porter
Jane and Richard Schmitt
Pamalath and Stephen Tipps
Meg and Dick Weekley

$500-$999
Concordia Foundation
Ellena P. Dickerson – In memory of Rudy H. Lippert
Michael Dooley
H. Fort Flowers Foundation, Inc.
Rodney C. Lippert – In memory of Rudy H. Lippert
Aubrey and Gene Locke – In memory of Booker Caldwell

$100-$499
Peggy Amante – In honor of Annie Amante
Jim F. Avant
Bruce E. Barron
Ruth and Billy Beeman
Judy and James Bozeman
Carolyn and Thomas Caldwell
Allyson and Steve Cook
Beverly Dickerson
Susan and Cameron Dunca
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Gwendolya A. Essinger
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Sue Hardwick – In memory of Joseph Moly1 and Alyene Furgeson
Dorene and Frank Herzog
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Hua Kuo and Ching-Ting Tseng
Cad and Byron Wilferd
Sheridan and John Eddie Williams
Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff – In honor of Elaine Finger’s birthday

George Hermann Society

Genevieve Lykes Duncan
May Shelmire Duncan
Steppie and Robert Holcsaw
David Langworthy
Jackie and Malcolm Mazow
Terrylynn G. Neale
Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette
John E. Walsh, Jr.

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.

The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of $100 or more between September 1 and December 31, 2011, as well as all George Hermann Society members. Gifts to the Hats in the Park luncheon and Evening in the Park gala will be recognized in subsequent issues. In compliance with IRS standards, commitments paid over time in installments are recognized once in full at the time of the pledge. Please contact the Conservancy if we inadvertently have not included your name or if you would like to be listed differently in future listings.