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HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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MISSION

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



Conservancy Unveils Strategic Plan for Next 20 Years of Park Improvements



After more than 18 months of planning, researching and designing, the Conservancy, alongside its master plan team led by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. (MVVA), unveiled its full recommendations to a room of nearly 100 enthusiastic Park supporters on April 4 in the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion. The plan will serve as a strategic guide for Park improvements to take place gradually over the next 20 years.

Outlining improvements that will cover 233 total acres within the Park, the plan will focus on four areas including the Park's center, the Park's edges and connections, Bayou Parkland, and the George Hermann Corner. This will bring 20 miles of new and improved trails, 26 enhanced access points, 2,000 new trees, and 55 acres of strengthened natural habitat.

Access Edges and Connections Today, Hermann Park is visited by more than six million people each year, but can often be difficult to access. The center of the Park is marred by 20 acres of barren parking lots and many areas of the Park are fragmented. The improvements laid out by this plan seek to better the access and connections throughout the Park, and to enhance the play and nature features within the Park, ultimately creating a more dynamic and welcoming Hermann Park for visitors to enjoy for generations to come. Improving access to the Park will offer a more inviting landscape for those arriving on foot, bicycle, transit or car. Improving the connections within the Park will help to put the Park back together as a unified, open and diverse landscape experience that offers a relaxing and playful place for all while maintaining the Park as a reservoir of peace and serenity in the heart of the city.

Continued on page 3

hermannpark.org

Spring color can be seen all around the Park — but the plentiful blossoms can't compare to the parade of hats at our annual Hats in the Park luncheon. In the luncheon's tenth year, it was our privilege to honor two outstanding Conservancy supporters and board members, Cece Fowler and Judy Nyquist, for their dedication to making the Park a more colorful place through public art. Highly dedicated community activists and advocates for green space and public art, Cece and Judy led the Conservancy's charge to bring temporary art installations to Hermann Park during our centennial celebrations through Art in the Park. One of the most popular programs during the Park's centennial in 2014, Art in the Park featured nine amazing contemporary installations enjoyed by millions of visitors.



Due to its popularity, the Conservancy has embarked on a new journey, spearheaded by Cece and Judy, to raise a substantial public art fund that can support an on-going *Art in the Park* program for years to come, known as the *Fund for Public Art* in Hermann Park.

Both self-proclaimed "art nerds," we are immeasurably indebted to Cece and Judy for their knowledge of public art and their desire to share that passion with visitors to Hermann Park and beyond.



Doreen Stoller and Joe Turner at Hats in the Park

As we announce this exciting new initiative for the Conservancy, we also raise a glass and bid adieu to Houston's Parks and Recreation Director, Joe Turner, who retired at the end of March. Since joining the City in 2004, Joe has effectively and thoughtfully led Houston's parks system under three mayors and provided steady leadership allowing for the flourishing of green space that's taken place throughout the City of Houston during his tenure.

Joe cares deeply about public green space and his background as a "retail guy" kept him focused on improving the visitor experience for park users across the City. He managed his team through two very stressful budget crises and did his best to maintain park

standards given diminishing resources. He was proud of his not-for-profit partners — and understood that our success was shared.

Joe liked to tease that we fought like "cats and dogs" — driven mostly by our passion for the cause and his belief that we could achieve anything he asked of us. While he did ask us to stretch from time to time to cover City shortfalls, he also held us up as an example of the power of community engagement. We will miss Joe and send him the sincerest thanks for his energetic service resulting in Houston's remarkable "green" transformation. Here's to you, Joe!



Doreen Stoller, President

DONORS

Japanese Garden

\$50,000–\$99,999 Merrill and Joe Hafner

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River Oaks Garden Club Miwa Sakashita and John Stroehlein Karen and Howard Schneider

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Courtney and J. Scott Blair
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Barbara and Charles Hurwitz
Lisa and Devon Moore
Greg Schenck
Cynthia Toles

George Hermann Corner and Playground

\$250,000–\$499,999Abbi and Robert Antablin

Master Plan Improvements

In Kind

Hotel ZaZa Houston

McGovern Centennial Gardens

\$100-\$999

Terrie and Win Warren Westchester Academy for International Studies

Park Amenities Endowment

\$5,000-\$9,999

The Hargrove F. Wooten, M.D. Family

Kite Festival

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In Kind

David Enrique Ruiz

BikeHouston
Camp Gladiator
Clearpoint Model Yacht Club
DJ Mav Music
Houston City Dance
Houston Texans
Inprint Houston
Saint Arnold Brewing Co.
Texas Southern University Ocean
of Soul Marching Band
Rob Wise – Bag Piper

Hats in the Park Luncheon

All gifts in honor of Cece Fowler and Judy Nyquist, honorees, and chairs Stephanie Cockrell, Marita Fairbanks, and Lisa Holthouse

\$25,000-\$49,999

Kathrine McGovern/ McGovern Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Cockrell Family Fund
Marita and J. B. Fairbanks
Cherie Flores
Lisa Holthouse
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Petrello Family Foundation

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY



continued from page 1

To make the new landscape at the Park's center possible, a portion of parking available at the Park's center will be relocated to a new garage located at Bayou Parkland West, on the periphery of the Park at the intersection of Cambridge and MacGregor. This relocation will not reduce the number of parking spaces within the Park while providing a new and inviting arrival landscape for visitors. In addition to the new parking structure, improved pedestrian and bike paths, complete with shade trees along Hermann Park Drive will be developed. A new pedestrian bridge connecting the parking areas and western entrance to the Houston Zoo will create another improved arrival landscape for Park visitors with increased safety by separating pedestrians and bicyclists from traffic flowing through the Texas Medical Center.

Park Center

By creating a new play space on top of a raised hill with a more efficient parking lot located at grade underneath, a dramatic transformation of the Park's center will reclaim 20 acres of parkland where inefficient parking lots currently exist. Play areas and sloping lawns will cover the parking area providing an attractive arrival landscape in the Park's center.

Bayou Parkland

Bounded by Almeda and MacGregor, Bayou Parkland is an 80-acre oasis for native plants and wildlife, nestled along Brays Bayou with scenic trails, wetlands, prairie meadows and an urban forest. However, as land around the Texas Medical Center has been developed, this area of Parkland has been cut off from the main body of Hermann Park. The plan imagines a renaturalized and reconnected Brays Bayou by making improvements to the natural habitat and landscape experience through the addition and improvement of pedestrian and bike trails below MacGregor to the main body of the Park.

George Hermann Corner

While phasing for the overall plan is still a work in progress, the first area of concentration will be the George Hermann Corner and Playground area near the corner of Fannin and Cambridge Streets. A group of dedicated Park supporters and neighbors have already kick started the fundraising efforts for this project, with goals of building an inventive new play space, bringing curated food service options, adding a much desired dog play area to the Park, and creating an easily accessible civic landscape for the adjacent Texas Medical Center. New and improved entrance points to the Park as well as enhanced connections to parking and transit lines will also be established in this corner of the Park.

Please continue to follow our progress as we further develop and implement this strategic plan by visiting our website.

A full presentation of MVVA's master plan for Hermann Park can be found by visiting hermannpark.org/masterplan.

We encourage you to share your thoughts and feedback about the plan by emailing ideas@hermannpark.org.

Renderings courtesy of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc.

Hats in the Park 2017

On Thursday, March 30, the McGovern Centennial Gardens and Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion filled with more than 420 guests, with hats flourishing all around. Primavera was the theme of the day, as guests sipped prosecco and gathered for an Italian-style picnic on the Centennial Green in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Co-chairs Stephanie Cockrell, Marita Fairbanks and Lisa Holthouse planned the spectacular luncheon, ultimately raising more than \$400,000 to support Hermann Park Conservancy's initiatives to improve and protect Hermann Park for generations to come. The event honored Cece Fowler and Judy Nyquist for their work in co-chairing the Conservancy's Art in the Park project, which brought nine amazing contemporary art installations to Hermann Park during its centennial year in 2014.

Conservancy board chair, Phoebe Tudor, led a short program highlighting the Conservancy's initiatives and Park improvements, and presented an impressive Bur Oak to be planted in the Garden in honor of Cece and Judy.

Honorees Cece Fowler and Judy Nyquist also announced the launch of the Fund for Public Art in Hermann Park, which will sustain the continuation of the highly acclaimed centennial Art in the Park program.

We are pleased to announce our 2018 chairs for *Hats in the Park*, Francine Ballard and Greggory Burk, and look forward to honoring Diana Hawkins.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the luncheon.



























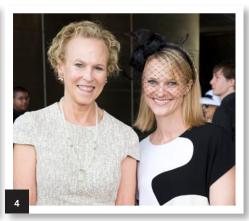






HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY



























1 Chairs Marita Fairbanks, Lisa Holthouse and Stephanie Cockrell 2 Board chair Phoebe Tudor and Mayor Sylvester Turner
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26 Vivie O'Sullivan and Letty Knapp 27 Kathleen Jennings and Christine Falgout 28 Kristin Katz and Ashley Klaasmeyer 29 Gaye Kelsey







Kites and Spirits Soar at the Fourth Annual Hermann Park Conservancy Kite Festival

Thousands of people from Houston's diverse community flocked to the Park to enjoy perfect kite flying weather on Sunday, March 26th. What began in 2014 as a celebration of Hermann Park's centennial year has evolved in to a colorful and lively tradition. This year many kite fliers, both experienced and novice, joined the crowds to fill the sky over Miller Hill and the Jones Reflection Pool, while many activities and crafts entertained families who were taking a break from flying.

Chaired by Morgan Garvey and Maggie Vermillion, the event generated amazing support from our event host committee, sponsors, and volunteer groups. A special thank you goes out to our sponsors: H-E-B, Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLC and Nestlé Pure Life Water for helping to grow this event even further this year. Local culinary sensation, Underbelly, also generously catered the event's VIP tent. With the participation of both those who supported and attended, Hermann Park Conservancy's Kite Festival was able to offer memories for all of our festival goers to take home, from free face painting to free candles kids could make themselves. There was even a reading nook where kids were encouraged to take home books they especially enjoyed. With great music, wandering performers, and captivating dance groups to top off the fun, the Conservancy just can't wait for next year!

Hats in the Park Luncheon continued

\$5,000-\$9,999

Carolyn Robertson Susan D. Sarofim Leslie and Shannon Sasser Family Fund Liz Stepanian/Silver Eagle Distributors Texas Medical Center Melissa B. Tuckerman MaryFaye Way

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Abbi Antablin Marion Bell

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Barbara Aliquo

Lindley Arnoldy Ann Ayre

Sheri Bailev

Karina Barbieri

Kristen Berger

Gina Bhatia

Luba Bigman - In honor of

Katie Brass

Kristy Bradshaw

Katie Brass

Pat Breen

Ting Bresnahan Divva Brown

Gracie Cavnar C. C. Conner

Laura Davenport

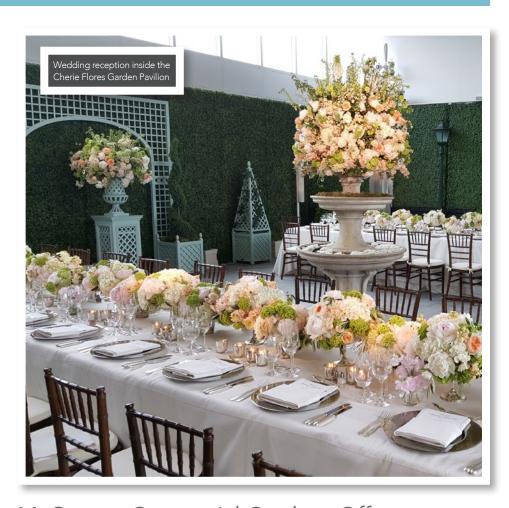
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HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

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Lyndsey Zorich



McGovern Centennial Gardens Offer Grand Spaces for Events

While planning the design of the then unnamed McGovern Centennial Gardens and Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, one wish of the Conservancy's was to create venues that would offer visitors private event spaces within this new development. Hermann Park is a place that many Houstonians hold near and dear to their heart — so why not offer a special place to hold a special celebration?

That goal was met with great success with the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion and Celebration Garden. The Pavilion and Celebration Garden offer many possibilities for special events. From weddings to corporate luncheons, cocktail receptions, conferences and more, these spaces are sure to create memorable functions with their striking views of the McGovern Centennial Gardens, encompassing the natural beauty of an outdoor setting.

Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion
Designed by Apple Store and American
Institute of Architects Gold Medal winning
architect, Peter Bohlin, of Bohlin Cywinski
Jackson, the Pavilion is an elegant indoor
venue with a stunning view of a 30-foot
garden mount across the expansive
Centennial Green. It can be arranged
for a wide variety of events including
receptions, meetings, parties and more.

Celebration Garden

A unique venue located outdoors within the McGovern Centennial Gardens, this magical garden, surrounded by tall hedges, provides privacy for your ceremony or special event and is ideal for weddings, or cocktail receptions.

For more information on the visit **hermannpark.org/facilityrentals**.

Lott Hall at Hermann Park Update



In late 2014, as part of the Centennial Campaign, the Conservancy began the planning and fundraising process to restore the 1933 historic clubhouse designed by architect Alfred Nutter. Curtis & Windham Architects were selected as the lead architects for the project and Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, the Hermann Park master plan team, have started designing the landscape plan for the area surrounding the building. The main goals for the renovation are:

- Restore the historic elements
- Modernize its infrastructure
- Open the building up for public use as a rental facility and community event space
- Create an earned-income opportunity to support Park stewardship
- Reconfigure the perimeter of the building for improved traffic flow and pedestrian access
- Improve the exterior site with landscaping that will seamlessly integrate into the master plan update currently in progress

To date, the Conservancy has secured nearly \$4.2 million toward its \$5.8 million goal, including a lead gift made generously by long-time donor and Conservancy board member Tommy W. Lott. Upon dedication, the historic clubhouse will be renamed Lott Hall at Hermann Park.

Lott Hall at Hermann Park will function as a rental facility allowing the public to have access to the building for community meetings, corporate retreats, or special events such as weddings. Revenue generated from the rental of the space will be directed back into the Park for much-needed maintenance and operations support.

The Conservancy is actively fundraising to complete these renovations and is anticipating project completion by summer 2018. To learn about naming opportunities or the restoration, please contact development@hermannpark.org.

Renderings by Curtis & Windham Architects





Top: Clubhouse Rendering Lower Left: Event Lobby Lower Right: Existing Clubhouse

Hats in the Park Luncheon continued

\$100-\$499 Joan and Stanford Alexander Madeleine and Michael Appel Susan and Jim Baker Derya Baysal Minnette Boesel Robin Brooks Kristen Buck Donna Cooper – In honor of MaryFaye Way Victor Costa - In honor of Gene M. Woodfin MaryAnn Detmering - In honor of Tricia Harrison Liz Dinerstein - In honor of Nora Richardson Ellen Donnelly – In honor of Linda Kelly, Marianna Brewster, and Cynthia Guill Courtnay Tartt Elias – In honor of Barbara Tartt Mary Es Beaver - In honor of Carol Ann Anderson Judith Farrell - In honor of John and Dan Rienstra Martha Finger – In honor of Quentin Baker Anita Gaylor – In memory of Rodney Calvert, beloved brother-in-law Eleanor Gilbane Lynn Glazer – In honor of Carolyn Robertson Merin Guthrie – In honor of Cynthia Guill Dorene and Frank Herzog Linda Hunsaker Jenny Johnson – In honor of Mary Martha and Joel Staff Melissa Holman Juneau -In honor of Laura Lednicky Mimi and Rob Kerr - In honor of our grandsons Miles and J.R. Marie Louise Kinder Diane and Bill Lee Colette Flowers Leonard Marcia Mazingo Jackie Wolens Mazow Stacy Medrano – In honor of Howard and Karen Chapman Terrylin G. Neale – In memory of Erin Gregory Neale and Lamar Gregory Neale Mary Flood Nugent - In honor of Rachel Dunlap and Cece Fowler Martha Oti – In honor of Anne Farish Mary Patton Susan K. Peterson Hickman –

In honor of Leo Hickman

Dena Prasher – In honor of

Lisa Holthouse

Ashley and Al Pratka – In honor of Dr. Dale and Eleanor Brown Peter Remington – In honor of John William Crutcher Laura Robertson – In honor of Gayle, Keen and Kalzi Robertson Laura Robertson – In honor of Gayle and Mike DeGeurin Barbie Ross – In honor of Beau Ross

Jordan Seff – In honor of Vicki Grams

Kate Stukenberg

Langston and Robert Symon Lois Y. Taber – In honor of

Carolyn Robertson

Gay Tigner

Sharron Tomlin

Betty Tutor – In honor of Kathrine McGovern

Hallie Vanderhider – In honor of Matthew Vanderhider

Bridget Wade – In honor of Penny Butler

Meggan Walsh – In honor of Mr. and Mrs. John R. MacPherson

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Anita Weiner
Lea Weingarten
Carolynne and Douglas White
Margaret Alkek Williams/
Randa and Charles Williams
Brenda Bland Willson
Elizabeth S. Young

Fund for Public Art in Hermann Park

\$100,00 - \$200,000

Kathrine McGovern/McGovern Foundation

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Anchorage Foundation of Texas Cece and Mack Fowler

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Christine and Jaime Yordán

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Bridget Wade

Tana and Scott Wood

\$100 - \$999

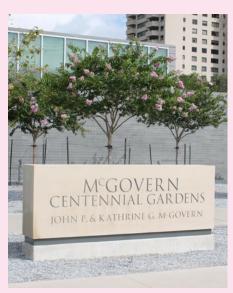
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In-Kind

Cece and Mack Fowler

McGOVERN CENTENNIAL GARDENS

'Basham's Party Pink' Crape Myrtle



A popular species in Houston, Lagerstroemia indica, or the Crape Myrtle, is commonly seen today, but few know that they were introduced by seed from the East Indies as long ago as 1799 by George Washington. Because of their long summer bloom season, resistance to insects, disease, and drought, they are an excellent choice for our region and its occasional climatic extremes. Crape Myrtles are available in a wide range of colors and sizes, ranging from dwarf shrubs to mid-sized trees and have smooth, modeled trunks with exfoliating bark, which exposes a range of striking grey and umber tones.

Dr. William Welch, professor and Texas AgriLife Extension Service landscape horticulturist, who served as the local horticulture advisor to the McGovern Centennial Gardens design team, was instrumental in plant selection for the Gardens. His choice of the 'Basham's Party Pink' Crepe Myrtle for the entry grove is a nod both to the many attributes of that particular species as well as to our Southern roots and Houston history.

This particular cultivar of Crape Myrtle was named by Houston nurseryman Lynn Lowrey in honor of Bill M. Basham, the City horticulturist for Houston in the 1960s. Cultivars tend to fall in and out of fashion, but 'Basham's Party Pink' has endured the test of time. Its advantages are fast growth, abundant flowering, handsome trunks, soft lavender-pink coloration and modest seed set. It also transplants easily and has good resistance to powdery mildew.



Love All Around at Valentine's Day 'Dinner and a Cruise'



Despite scattered storms, 40 Valentine sweethearts gathered at Pinewood Cafe for the Conservancy's fourth annual 'Dinner and a Cruise.' The unique Valentine's date night offered new and returning guests a

three-course meal, including an appetizer sampler, choice of entrée and dessert. A pair of tickets to ride the Hermann Park Railroad and pedal boats topped off the evening.



Joining the Conservancy is a Win-Win for Hermann Park and Members

Each Hermann Park Conservancy member is part of a team who believes this Park is a treasure for all Houstonians. People join for different reasons. Some want to support urban conservation and wildlife habitat preservation, while others join to share the joy they had as children playing in Hermann Park with their own children. Support from all of our members provides vital

operating funds, which keep the Conservancy's operations and maintenance initiatives going strong. Conservancy members receive exciting benefits including free tickets to ride the Hermann Park Railroad and pedal boats, Member Express boarding lines, free unlimited rides on the train on the second Saturday of every month, a 10% discount in the Conservancy Gift Shop and Pinewood Cafe, invitations to member-exclusive events, and more!

Visit **hermannpark.org/membership** for more information.

Annual Fund/General Support

\$100-\$499

Benevity Community Impact Fund John Bergeron Alexandra Buck Emily and Andrew Dawson Paula and George Fowler JPMorgan Chase Good Works Program Ann and John Montgomery Candace and David Weinstein Wendy Wilson-Wills Jennifer Leigh Yuhas

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Harry Dewitt Kirk Gay Yellen and Don Reiser

Plant a Tree

\$100-\$499

Sarah and Michael Beckham Julia Tucker and Nicholas Rasmussen

Tree Conservancy Fund \$100–\$499

Harris County Medical Society/ HAM – In memory of Carl W. Knobloch Jr.

Volunteer Programs

In Kind

†deceased

Floparis – Houston

George Hermann Society

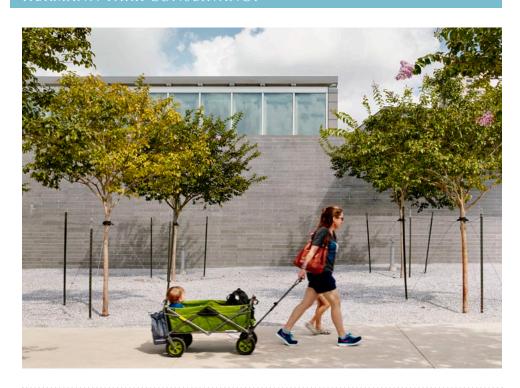
Genevieve Lykes Duncan[†] May Shelmire Duncan[†] Cece and Mack Fowler Steppie and Robert Holsclaw Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker David W. Langworthy Jackie and Malcolm Mazow Laura and Brad McWilliams Terry Murphree[†] Terrylin G. Neale Mary Anne H. Phillips[†] Mark B. Ryan Megan and Jason Ryan Susan Schwaitzberg and Ron Misrack Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette John E. Walsh, Jr. Pippa Wiley

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 January 1 and February 28, 2017, as well as all Hats in the Park luncheon donors, Fund for Public Art donors, Kite Festival donors, and George Hermann Society

members. Gifts to the Evening in the Park gala and historic clubhouse – Lott Hall at Hermann Park will be recognized in the next issue. 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 publications.

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY



Save the Dates!

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events!



Member Sip and Stroll May 31, 2017 McGovern Centennial Gardens 6:30–8 p.m.



Park to Port Bike Ride Saturday, October 7, 2017 Bill Coats Bridge Rolling start beginning at 7 a.m.



Urban Green's Havana NightsThursday, June 8, 2017
Historic Clubhouse
7–10 p.m.



Run in the Park Saturday, November 11, 2017 Molly Ann Smith Plaza 8 a.m.

Details at hermannpark.org



facebook.com/ HermannPark



instagram.com/ HermannPark





ontribute today

Become a Conservancy member

Support Park **Improvements**

> Dedicate a bench

Plant a tree

Join the George Hermann Society

> Volunteer in the Park

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