PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

1&3

Hermann Park Family Commons

2

Letter From the President

4

Reforestation in Action

5

McGovern Centennial Gardens
Featured Practice

eatureu i

Urban Green Celebrates All Things Houston

7

Community Events

8

Holiday Cheer Aplenty in Hermann Park

9

Hermann Park Railroad Gets New Clean Diesel Engine HISD's Project aDOORe

10

Save the Dates!

MISSION

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





Hermann Park Family Commons A Reimagined Place for Play, Food, and Leisure

The Conservancy is excited to enter the next phase in Hermann Park's recently updated master plan. Effectively completed in August of 2017 after nearly two years of research, design, and community collaboration with landscape architecture firm, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. (MVVA), the new master plan lays out a strategic vision of improvements covering 233 acres of Hermann Park over the next 20 years.

The plan aims to make improvements that will enhance the natural experience, expand the spectrum of play, and advance access and internal connections throughout the Park. MVVA is focusing on these themes in the first project of the new master plan—the Hermann Park Family Commons—stretching along Fannin Street for 24.1 acres from the Cambridge Street corner.

Bordered by the bustling Texas Medical Center (TMC), Rice University, Hermann Park/Rice U METRORail stop, and secondary entrance to the Houston Zoo, this area of Parkland has long been underdeveloped and underutilized. While the Buddy Carruth Playground for all Children was the city's first playground accommodating children of all abilities, this area is far from reaching its tremendous potential as an enlivened space that draws high levels of use from the surrounding epicenters of activity.

The improvements include a more welcoming entrance at the corner, a great meadow for picnicking and open play, enhanced connection to McGovern Lake and improvements to the natural environment. MVVA also has a notable record of creating inventive playscapes in major Parks around the country—many of them focused on nature-based play.

Park friendly food service will be added adjacent to the historic Fannin Pavilion—which will also see a renovation to provide better functionality for families and groups to hold small events. There will be plenty of shaded seating throughout, along with new picnic pavilions. Family friendly programming will include a dedicated area for temporary exhibitions provided by the Conservancy's Fund for Public Art.

continued on page 3

hermannpark.org

I often say that Hermann Park is a miracle of community engagement, and that sentiment is as true today as it was when I began my tenure at the Conservancy 15 years ago.

I am always amazed by the volunteers, proponents, and visitors whose appreciation for Hermann Park makes it such a special place. Without the supporters who devote time to giving back to the Park in many ways, or those who spend time with loved ones appreciating its beauty, this miracle wouldn't be possible. And for many Houstonians, this devotion to Hermann Park goes back many, many years.

In December, the Conservancy lost one of our earliest champions, the honorable Peter H. Brown. An architect, advocate, and spirited urbanist, Peter impacted many, whether it was during his time as a councilman or in his guise of Pedestrian Pete, aiming to improve Houston's walkability one sidewalk at a time.

Peter became involved with Hermann Park in 1992 when his firm was part of the winning team of Rice Design Alliance's Heart of the Park competition, one of the first major initiatives toward revitalizing Hermann Park. He was the architect of record for the design of the Park's serene O. Jack Mitchell Garden, and through the remainder of his life, Peter worked to create both peaceful and functional respites all across Houston.

We will miss him and the enthusiastic spirit he brought to making the community a better place to live, walk, or simply be.

While we remember Peter and the significant impact he had on improving our great City, I'm heartened by his legacy seen in the many community members and multi-generational volunteers who work hard in big and little ways to make Houston's public spaces better. Great examples include his son, Chris Brown, and his wife Divya, who rode in our *Park to Port* Bike Ride in October and are strong advocates for improving our bayou trails.



Doreen Stoller and Peter Brown

And Marvin Taylor, whose passion for improving our Park's trails is enjoyed by hundreds of walkers, runners and joggers every year at *Run in the Park*.

Whether it's through attending the upcoming *Kite Festival*, offering advice on what will make the new Hermann Park Family Commons a lively space for families and friends, or just sitting on a Park bench watching passersby, there are countless, invaluable ways you can contribute to our miracle of Hermann Park. I encourage you to get out and become a part of our community that is loved by so many.

See you in the Park,



Doreen Stoller, President

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Historic Clubhouse

\$100,000-\$249,999

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\$10,000-\$24,999

Robin and Richard Brooks – In honor of Tommy Lott

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Hermann Park Family Commons

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John P. McGovern Foundation

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The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation

Master Plan

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Houston Endowment

Fund for Public Art in Hermann Park

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McGovern Centennial Gardens

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The Garden Club of Houston – In memory of Suzanne Kibler Morris

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Jeanine and Randolph Buckley The Holthouse Foundation for Kids

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Bank of America

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Joy Al-Jazrawi

Daniel Chen – In honor of 2017 Houston-Taipei Friendship Pavilion Fund establishment

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Park to Port Bike Ride

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Williams

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Anthony Clay

Jennifer Cully

David Delacerda

Michael DeVito

Elideth and Joel Escobar

David Fishel

Christopher Gonzalez

Edward Groocock

Susan Hall

Hsiang Huang

Katherine Jackson

Pam Johnson

Thomas Kaleekal

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In Kind

Bayou City Cycles

BikeHouston

Brady's Landing

Chick-fil-a

DJ Mav Music

Friends of MacGregor Park

George Hixson Events

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Houstonia Magazine

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Texas Medical Center

Waste Management

Run in the Park

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Texas Children's Hospital

Williams

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continued from page 1



An updated ADA accessible playground will enhance the spectrum of family-friendly programming in the Family Commons. Playground concept rendering prepared for A Gathering Place for Tulsa.



Added food service to the Family Commons will attract Park visitors and patrons from Rice University and the Texas Medical Center, offering a place to rest and refuel. Concept rendering prepared for A Gathering Place for Tulsa.



Tree-lined promenades will invite people from the Family Commons into the rest of Hermann Park also creating opportunity for added picnic and seating areas. Promenade concept rendering prepared for Kiener Plaza in St. Louis.

Plans for the Hermann Park Family Commons are in the very early phase. The Conservancy and MVVA will work on conceptual designs over the coming months with public input.

The Conservancy is collecting ideas and feedback on how the Hermann Park Family Commons can be improved. Be sure to visit the HPC membership tent in Kinder Station on the second Saturday of each month to share your thoughts and see initial design concepts for the project.

We also encourage you to share your thoughts and feedback about improvements you want to see in the Hermann Park Family Commons by emailing ideas@hermannpark.org.

Please continue to follow our progress as we further develop plans for this area and the overall master plan by visiting hermannpark.org/masterplan.

Reforestation in Action

Reforestation is a core component of HPC's mission and is one of the prime stewardship initiatives carried out throughout each year.



Bartlett Tree Experts air spading the soil surrounding the affected trees

This fall, several historic Live Oaks just outside our offices along the Marvin Taylor Trail began showing signs of stress, likely due to less than desirable soil conditions in the rooting environment.

In an effort to improve the health of these iconic trees, Bartlett Tree Experts used air spading to loosen the existing hard-packed soil and incorporated organic amendments into the soil surrounding the affected trees. The area improved by the air spade was approximately a 20' radius around each of the trees.

HPC staff, volunteers and community service participants then spread leaf mold compost before covering the improved area with mulch chips, generously provided by Bartlett Tree Experts. Upon completion of the spreading, HPC horticulture staff will apply a compost tea drench. The goal of this practice is to provide the best soil environment for root health so the trees can recover.

Effects of this treatment will begin to show in late spring, so be sure to keep an eye on these beautiful trees!





Students from St. Cecilia Catholic School helping spread mulch over the treated soil

DONORS

Run in the Park continued

\$100-\$499

Juan Campos

Lucy Gebhart

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Thomas Kaleekal

Karima Maloney

Chad McGhee

Alfredo Rivera

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Marisa Vanegas

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Pamela Yusz

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Blacksmith

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Lloyd Rude

Gretchen and Michael Sammons

Andrew Scheller

Nick Scurfield

Patrick Sheehy

Brad Snead

Vincent Talosig Wes Watkins

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In Kind

3rd Floor

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DEFINE Foods

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Do or Dye TX

E. Taylor Designs

Firestone Walker Brewing Company

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Glow Medical Aesthetics

Greg Hamill Photography

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The Hightower Collection

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Hotel Alessandra

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Houston Ballet

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Houston Texans

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InSPAration Studio

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Karbach Brewing Co.

Katherine Miller Knuth

Kendra Scott

La Mexicana Restaurant

Lee's Fried Chicken & Donuts

Lily Rain

McIlhenny Company

Judson Merritt

Mirror Mirror Houston

Mongoose versus Cobra

Moonshiners Southern Table & Bar

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

New Artisan Spirits ROXOR

The Nice Winery

The Original Ninfas's on Navigation

The Owl Bar

Paloma

Paulie's

Peli Peli

Pi Pizza

Pub Fiction

Raising Cane's

McGOVERN CENTENNIAL GARDENS

featured practice





Gardens volunteers and staff spreading compost and pinestraw that will give plants a healthy boost and insulation for coming cold weather.

Compost Helps Keep the Gardens Flourishing

They say you are what you eat, and for plants, it's no different! Plant health begins with the soil the flora lives in, that's why keeping the Gardens' soil healthy to create a good nutrient system for the ever-growing plants is a top priority for our dedicated Gardens team.

In order to maintain the soil's healthy balance, our Gardens' staff uses compost as a major nutrient source and inoculant for its underground food web. In fact, much of what you see in the Gardens is composted, the plant beds, trees, even the Centennial Green! When applying compost, the team spreads a very thin layer over the entire area that needs improvement. A single application of good compost helps with water retention, improves drainage, and builds long-lasting nutrient collection in the soil. When it is time to apply it to the Centennial Green, a ¼ inch thick layer is applied over the entire lawn—that's almost 25,000 square feet and a lot of compost!

See the fruits of labor of this practice on your next visit to the McGovern Centennial Gardens.

Become a Hermann Park Conservancy Member

Play your part in supporting Hermann Park by becoming a Conservancy member today!



Support from our members provides vital operating funds which keep the Conservancy's initiatives going strong and helps to buy trees and plants, supplies like gloves and tools, and other equipment needed to care for the Park on a daily basis.

Members have fun too! Benefits include free, unlimited train rides for members and their families on the second Saturday of every month, invitations to member-exclusive tours and events, and more!

Visit hermannpark.org/membership for more information.

Urban Green Celebrates All Things Houston



H-Town Throw Down chairs Nick Scurfield, Stacy Leonard, Mitch Zlotnik, Emily Anderson, and Urban Green chair Jon Sanfelippo

On Thursday, November 16, more than 200 young professionals converged in Molly Ann Smith Plaza dressed in Houston-inspired attire to celebrate Houston in all its glory for Urban Green's H-Town Throw Down.

Thanks to the H-Town hustle of event chairs Emily Anderson, Stacy Leonard, Nick Scurfield, and Mitch Zlotnik the event raised nearly \$19,000, which will benefit Hermann Park Conservancy's mission to improve and protect Hermann Park—today and for generations to come.

Upon arriving to the party scene set amongst iconic Houston landmarks including the Sam Houston Monument, Pioneer Memorial Obelisk and McGovern Lake, guests were met by the Orange Show for Visionary Arts' Brünnehilde, the art car that led off the Houston Astros' World Series Parade, who also fittingly donned a Houston Astros baseball cap.

Guests enjoyed an eclectic smorgasbord with bites and sweets from Américas, Antone's Famous Po' Boys, Butter & Company, Cafe Piquet, FM Kitchen & Bar, La Mexicana, Raising Cane's, Spanky's Pizza, Sprinkles Cupcakes, Steel City Pops, and Willow's Texas BBQ. Houston-Inspired cocktails also flowed from Bayou Rum, Bosscat Kitchen + Libations, Deep Eddy Vodka, ROXOR Gin, Saint Arnold Brewing Company, and TX Whiskey.

Guests danced the night away as DJ Mav spun Houston classics while other party-goers took their chance bidding on impressive silent auction packages featuring dinners at notable local restaurants, stays at iconic Houston hotels, and tickets to major Houston sporting events.

In addition to all the generous silent auction donors and other supporters, the Conservancy extends special thanks to Anderson Arbor Services, Ltd., Ann Werme Group, Aztec Events and Tents, Butter & Company Catering, DJ Mav, The Hayworth Tanglewood, Mid Main Lofts, Cecelia and Peter Sanfelippo, Silver Eagle Distributors, and S.L. Anderson Company, Ltd.

Urban Green continued

In Kind

Riel Restaurant

Riverbend Country Club

Saint Arnold Brewing Company

Shine Salon

Shot Bar

Soul Cycle

South Bank Seafood Bar

Spanky's

Sprinkles Cupcakes

Steak 48

Sugar Land Skeeters

SWEAT 1000

Town in City Brewing Company

Tres Bien Antiques

TX Whiskey

Underbelly

The Vintage Contessa/Times Past

Holly and Brian Waters

Willow's Texas BBQ

Annual Fund/General Support

\$25,000-\$49,999

Bank of America

Charitable Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Marvy Finger Family Foundation

Kathrine G. McGovern

Vivian L. Smith Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Wendy and Todd McLaughlin

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Judy and James Bozeman

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The Giralt-Rondon Family

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Lori and David Schumacher

Lucy and Ernie Seward

\$100-\$499

Susan and John Allen

Anonymous (5)

Theresa and Evans Attwell

Karen V. Bentsen

Rima and Robert Blanc
Jill Boyer
Taylor Brooks and Dan Kaufman
Jane and Don Burney
Leone Buyse and Michael Webster
Amanda and Robert Carlin –

In memory of Erin and Lamar Neale Jan and Joe Castleberry Hazel and Bharat Chahar Chevron Matching Employee Funds Lisa and Mark Cox Lynn and Kenneth Dahlberg Barbara and Rudy Duarte John Evmann Bernard M Fields Management Corp Frank V. Fossella Cece and Mack Fowler Barbara and Andy Gessner Lisa and Stephen Greenberg James Hacker Janet and Douglas Hamel Ann T. Hamilton Vivian Ho and Richard Boylan Steppie and Robert Holsclaw Elizabeth and Alan Kofoed

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In Kind

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Lana Billeaud and John McGinnis Douglas Lawing and Guy Hagstette – In honor of Marley Lott

\$100-\$499

Clay Allison - In honor of Mitch Zlotnik

Community Events



Park to Port Bike Ride hits Brays Bayou Greenway Trail

Last October, 720 cyclists traveled from Hermann Park's Bill Coats Bridge to the Port of Houston and back along the Brays Bayou Greenway Trail for the fourth annual *Park to Port* Bike Ride. Riders of all ages and skill enjoyed the picturesque 20-mile round trip journey, marked by a turnaround party at Brady's Landing sponsored by Port Houston and a post-race party back at Hermann Park.

Support for this event is generously provided by Port Houston, Reliant—an NRG Company, Williams, Bayou City Cycles, BikeHouston, Brady's Landing, DJ Mav, Houston Parks Board, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, exclusive media partner Houstonia Magazine, the Mayor's Office of Special Events, Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Silver Eagle Distributors, Texas Medical Center, and Waste Management.

Gear up for 2018's *Park* to *Port* Bike Ride, slated for Saturday, October 6.



Riders preparing to embark on the 20-mile ride



Participants enjoying food and libations at the post-ride party



Longtime pals Julie and Herbert were both winners in their age category



Kids' Run participants stretch before hitting the trail

Runners, Walkers and Joggers Take Hermann Park

The 14th annual *Run in the Park* brought together 734 healthy Houstonians to Hermann Park's Marvin Taylor Trail in November, participating in the event's 5K, 3K walk and the perennial favorite, 1K kids' fun run. Family and friends cheered on the runners and walkers and joined them for food, music by DJ Mav, and fun activities at the post-race party on Molly Ann Smith Plaza.

2017's Run in the Park was supported by Blacksmith, Fleet Feet Sports, Frontier Utilities, Luby's Fuddruckers Restaurants, LLC, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Mayor's Office of Special Events, Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Shake Shack, Silver Eagle Distributors, Texas Children's Hospital, Waste Management, and Williams.

Runners can set their marks for 2018's *Run in the Park* on Saturday, November 10.



Holiday Cheer Aplenty in Hermann Park



Families enjoy a ride on the Holiday Train



Kinder Station Holiday Party activities

Despite a chilly December morning, families and friends gathered in Pinewood Cafe and Kinder Station to enjoy Breakfast with Santa at the Conservancy's annual Holiday Party! Cheer and good times were all around as breakfast-goers dined on delightful morning fare with the big man himself at Pinewood Cafe, and little ones partook in festive crafts and games at Kinder Station.



Santa and some breakfast attendees enjoy a cup of hot cocoa

The Holiday Train also made its gleaming return this winter with nearly 7,000 passengers taking a jubilant ride on the decked-out Hermann Park Railroad between November 18, 2017 and January 7, 2018.

Membership

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Yvonne and Ralph Baughman

Ryan Bayer

James M. Bell Jr.

Adele and Lan Bentsen

The Bergers-Abramowitz Family

Hermann Park Railroad Gets New Clean Diesel Engine



Conservancy staff Mike and Jose with the new clean diesel engine

In the fall of 2017, the Hermann Park Railroad team successfully transitioned an old-technology Hermann Park Railroad engine to a clean diesel model. The new engine will produce cleaner exhaust and will allow for more efficient upkeep and maintenance.

Additionally, the Conservancy staff installed a jib crane and A-frame lift in the train barn that made the engine replacement possible and will further contribute to maintenance efficiency for the beloved Hermann Park Railroad.

HISD's Project aDOORe Joins Student Performances in the Park Series



HISD K-5 Visual Arts Curriculum Specialist Rickey F. Polidore Jr. and colleagues with decorated aDOORes.

As many still reel from the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, HISD has undertaken a special art project to help students reflect, rebuild, and remember. Doors from Hurricane Harvey-affected homes in the HISD community have been donated

and transformed into works of art by student artists from some of the most impacted campuses.

See these artworks first hand at Hermann Park's Lake Plaza on Saturday, March 3 at 12 p.m.

Save the Dates!

Hermann Park Conservancy Calendar of Events



Hats in the Park Thursday, March 22, 11:30 a.m. | McGovern Centennial Gardens



Hermann Park Conservancy Kite Festival Sunday, March 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Miller Hill and Jones Reflection Pool



Evening in the Park Friday, April 27, 6:30 p.m. | Molly Ann Smith Plaza and Jones Reflection Pool

Volunteer Orientations Feb. 17, March 3, April 18



Student Performances in the Park Series Throughout the 2017–2018 School Year

Details at hermannpark.org







twitter.com/ HermannPark

Membership continued

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