Celebrating the Next Phase of Hermann Bark

On February 22, 2022, Hermann Park Conservancy officially broke ground on the McWilliams Dog Park. Humans and canines alike came together to celebrate the latest improvement project in Hermann Park.

Bordered by MacGregor Drive and Brays Bayou at the southern tip of the Park, the McWilliams Dog Park is a 2.6-acre site, with dedicated spaces for large and small dogs, interactive water features, canine play equipment, ample shade for dogs and their owners, and dedicated on-site parking.

When creating the new master plan, a new dog park was the most requested feature from the community. Now, after many rounds of design and troubleshooting, Hermann Park’s furry friends will finally have a place of their own when the McWilliams Dog Park opens this winter.

While construction begins at the dog park site, fundraising is still ongoing and we are currently at 95% of our $2 million goal. If you would like to help us reach our goal and have a paw-sitive impact on Hermann Park, then please visit hermannpark.org/doggydonate.

Don’t forget to follow @HermannBark on Instagram for the latest canine news!

Celebrating the Next Phase of Hermann Bark

Left and Center: Belle and Astro came along with Laura and Brad McWilliams to celebrate this milestone.

Right: Emma strikes a pose, excited for the opening of the dog park later this year.

Ground was broken with shovels, while some dogs opted to dig to commemorate the occasion!
I recently celebrated my 19th anniversary with Hermann Park Conservancy. It is hard to believe our elegant reflection pool was still a mud pit when I started. Even though I have had a front row seat to all of the hard work that has gone into realizing each Park improvement, each beautiful project still feels like a miracle.

While we improve the Park on a project-by-project basis, our rigorous master planning efforts ensure the Park’s overall harmony. We invest years planning is just the foundation. Each project improves the Park’s health while delighting our visitors. But this careful planning is just the foundation. Each project only comes to life with the generous support of our members and donors like you. Yet to Park visitors, I am sure this in-depth collaboration feels like magic as they experience the joys of the Park.

Recently I was able to share with my nephew—Jenevieve and Julius (ages 9 and 11)—in reconnaissance work by reporting to me via FaceTime on the “fun quotient” for each element in the playground MVVA designed for Maggie Daley Park in Chicago. In December, they came to Houston with their parents Josienne and Jared. We looked at MVVA’s plans for the Commons, which were declared “fantastic!” We then walked up the Mount in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. While looking at the cascade, I asked 9-year-old, Vivie, if she thought it was magic that made the water on the cascade get wider and more powerful as it got closer to the bottom. Her reply: “It’s either magic or good engineering.”

Well, ok, then — magic gets an assist from the good engineers!

“It’s either magic or good engineering.”

I think Vivie’s comment encapsulates our work in the Park. Through your dedication, hard work, and support — you too are giving magic a major assist. Ensuring the transformation of this Park will always feel like a miracle.

Ensuring the transformation of this Park you too are giving magic a major assist.

Warmly,

Doreen Stoller, President

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**Play Your Park Campaign & The Commons**

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Total of 1,516 donors

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**WHAT’S BLOOMING?**

Spring is in the air at Hermann Park, and our colorful flowers are getting into the seasonal spirit as well. Be sure to stop by the McGovern Centennial Gardens—open from 9 am to 7 pm daily—to get a view of our flourishing flora.

Our landscaping and gardening team is able to care for these plants thanks to support from Conservancy memberships. Visit harranmg.org/membership to help keep these blossoms in full bloom.

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**GARDEN & THE COMMONS**

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Touring the Commons: Space Adventure

The new 40-foot rocket ship pays homage to the original rocket that once delighted Hermann Park visitors.

Space Adventure honors Houston’s history with manned spaceflight and occupies a crater 12 feet deep and over 100 feet long (the size of a jumbo jet)!

With ample shade, guardians can rest while watching their children explore the cosmos.

Space Adventure is for explorers ages five to 12, and is designed to be accessible for children of all ability levels.

Fundraising is happening now. Visit hermannpark.org/thecommons to get involved.

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It’s a Great Time to be a Member
With the return of Hermann Park Conservancy events, there’s no better time to be a member! Here are some of the member highlights from a busy fall season.

Sip and Stroll
On September 30, 2021, Sip and Stroll returned for Conservancy members. Members were treated to an evening strolling through the McGovern Centennial Gardens, with helpful guides posted to answer any botanical questions. Conservancy members were finally able to meet each other with a drink-in-hand from Saint Arnold, Gulf Coast Distillers, and Penfolds Wine, while also enjoying bites from Taste Bar & Kitchen.

On September 30, 2021, Love Your Park members volunteer day. After pastries and coffee, stomachs were full and energy levels were high to assist the Conservancy with a weeding and planting project in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Love Your Park is the perfect time to enjoy a morning in Hermann Park, get to meet fellow members, and get your hands dirty!

Love Your Park
Members of all ages came out on October 23, 2021 for Love Your Park member volunteer day. After pastries and coffee, stomachs were full and energy levels were high to assist the Conservancy with a weeding and planting project in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Love Your Park is the perfect time to enjoy a morning in Hermann Park, get to meet fellow members, and get your hands dirty!

Urban Green’s Halloween Screen
On October 28, 2021, the Conservancy’s young professionals group hosted its fall fundraising event, Halloween Screen. Attendees enjoyed a screening of The Addams Family on the McGovern Centennial Gardens lawn at this sold out, family-friendly event. Through ticket sales and donations, Urban Green was able to raise $5,000 for the care of Hermann Park. Due to popular demand, Halloween Screen is expected to be back this fall!
Hats in the Park 2022.

The McGovern Centennial Gardens was once again filled with champagne glasses clinking, the animated chatter of longtime friends, and hats of all shapes and sizes at Hats in the Park on March 24. Now in its 13th year, 370 Hermann Park lovers came together to support the Conservancy—and looked fashionable while doing it—for the first time since 2019.

Christine Falgout-Gutknecht, Melissa Holman Juneau, and Lori Sarofim (co-chairs) ensured the Gardens were popping with color and vibrancy to fit the springtime celebration. This year the luncheon honored Sandy Godfrey and Franci Neely, who have supported the Conservancy and been attending the Hats in the Park luncheon since its inception in 2008.

With the help of all of the generous attendees and donors, Hats in the Park was able to raise $491,537 towards the care and improvement of Hermann Park.

Thank you to everyone who supported this special luncheon benefiting the Conservancy.

Photos by Jenny Antill
Community Events

Community events made a return in the fall of 2021. Over 1,300 people attended these beloved Conservancy gatherings, and $80,000 was raised towards the care of Hermann Park.

Run in the Park

On October 9, 2021, over 500 runners, walkers, and fitness enthusiasts participated in the 11th annual Run in the Park, powered by Reliant. After races completed a 5K or 10K loop around Hermann Park, a steady stream of hits thumping from DJ Mac, and tons of food and drink to refuel awaited them at the post-race party sponsored by Houston Methodist. Young runners also got their chance to cross the finish line in the Williams’ 1K B3k run. The 19th annual Run in the Park is currently slated for Saturday, September 24, 2022.

Park to Port Bike Ride

Cyclists got a bike’s-eye view of the Bayou City at the 7th annual Park to Port bike ride on November 13, 2021. Starting in Hermann Park’s Bayou Parkland, the scenic trek took riders along the Bayou Greenway Trail, all the way to the Port of Houston and back. Since Park to Port was not a race, riders finished at their own pace and enjoyed a fun-around party at Methodist Hospital that was sponsored by Port Houston, then a post-ride party under Hermann Park’s Bill Coats Bridge. The 8th annual Park to Port bike ride is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2022.

Houston Rockets Dog Walk

Basketball-lovers and their four-legged friends enjoyed a crisp morning on November 6, 2021 for a leisurely stroll around scenic Hermann Park. Canine companions and their owners learned about upcoming Conservancy projects and were joined by Clutch, and local organizations providing a variety of activities, games, food, and drinks. Stay tuned for details on this year’s Houston Rockets Dog Walk.
Lend a Hand to Our Favorite Planet

Earth Day might be on Friday, April 22, but we don’t believe one day is enough to commemorate all that Earth does for us. So that’s why at Hermann Park Conservancy, we’re giving back to our planet all month long through our Earth Month celebrations!

Whether it’s coming out to help us reach 1,000 volunteer hours, attending a class, making a donation, or more — let’s make this Earth Day one to remember!

Visit hermannpark.org/earthmonth to see how you can say thanks to our favorite planet this April!

Every Membership Counts at Hermann Park Conservancy

Hermann Park Conservancy members all join for different reasons. Some want to support urban conservation and wildlife habitat preservation, some want to share the joy they had as children playing in Hermann Park with their own children, and some just love riding the train.

But regardless of why people join, one thing all members have in common is that they are supporting vital operational needs in Hermann Park, which helps us keep it looking better than ever.

And just how do memberships make a difference?

• A Bronze membership buys 24 pairs of garden gloves for staff and volunteers to work in the Park.

• A Centennial membership buys weeding tools for 20 volunteers to remove invasive species from the Park’s plant beds.

• A Gold membership purchases a portable water tank to water newly-planted trees during drought conditions.

• A Platinum membership purchases 1.5 acres of Coastal Prairie Seed Mix to help restore the natural habitat of the migratory bird islands.

• A Conductor’s Circle membership purchases 20 native trees to plant in the Park.

While maintaining and caring for Hermann Park isn’t always glamorous, it is essential. Every membership counts and they are the best way to directly support the Conservancy’s efforts to make sure Hermann Park is here today and for generations to come. Learn how you can help by visiting hermannpark.org/membership.
Save the Dates!

Kalai and Hallie Vanderhider. Whether it is from a table your fellow members, enjoy a morning in the Park, and members will be able to join us. Work side-by-side with Love Your Park

PARKSIDE / SPRING 2022

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The Burmaster Family
Kristen Burley
Theresa Bueno
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Alexandra and Charles Beshara
Yvonne and Ralph Baughman
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Shelby Baetz
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Charles E. Armstrong – In honor of Houston's
Donna and Tom Archer
Anonymous (8)
Dudley Anderson
Peggy Amante
Centennial ($100–$249)
Sallie and Bob Wright
Sharolyn and Mike Wood
Nancy and David Webb
Sarah and Sonny Villarreal
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Amanda and Encryption
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Sarah Gologhav
Hamm and Larry Goldfog
Allison and Jeremy Gottlib
Margaret Gordon
Pamela Hope and Richard Fish
Kevin Frohle and Mark Hebert
Rachel and Balfour

Thursday, May 12: 6:00 pm
Urban Green’s Ticket to Ride
Join Urban Green members and other young professionals for a family-friendly outdoor fundraising event. You can ride the rails of the Hermann Park Railroad, take a boat ride for a table or ticket purchase, or a virtual donation, we hope you will join us in making this year’s event in the Park benefitting Hermann Park Conservancy a success. hermannpark.org/eventing