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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.





Volunteers from the University of Houston help with the educational pond project in the Bayou Parkland.

First, the numbers— 445 acres. 20,000 hours. Thousands of volunteers.

It's no secret that many organizations rely on volunteers to keep the mission going, and Hermann Park Conservancy is no different.

Back in 2002, the Conservancy commissioned a study that made it clear that volunteers would need to play a crucial role in maintaining and improving Hermann Park. That study found that there was a gap of about 20,000 hours every year between what Houston Parks and Recreation Department could provide and what the Park needs to continue to be properly preserved.

So with that knowledge, the Conservancy set in motion plans more than fifteen years ago to build a robust, hard-working, and diligent volunteer program.

Each year since that study, the Conservancy's volunteer department has worked with thousands of volunteers—nearly four thousand in the last year alone—and has been able to close that gap by overseeing more than 20,000 hours of volunteer work every year.

So what brings these volunteers to the Park? The chance to be a part of keeping a Houston icon as beautiful as ever.

"Volunteers at Hermann Park appreciate a memorable experience, one that is deeply rewarding and allows them a chance to connect with their community, while serving a community icon like Hermann Park," said Diane Kerr, Director of Volunteer Programs at the Conservancy.

Continued on page 3

Hermann Park Conservancy is celebrating its 28th anniversary and while we are proud of everything we have accomplished, there is someone who was caring for Hermann Park even longer. As Assistant Director for the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Houston, Rick Dewees dedicated his career to protecting Houston's parks and Hermann Park in particular. Rick retired this April after more than thirty years with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (30 years, 1 month, and 24 days, to be exact).

Although Houston is going through a green Renaissance now, when Rick started his career city parks were suffering from neglect and disinvestment. He knew many of the neighbors who had an interest in improving Hermann Park (like Marvin Taylor) and supported the formation of what became the Conservancy, then called the Friends of Hermann Park. He oversaw the leveraging of private and public funds through this partnership and nurtured it through varying city administrations and changing public attitudes towards greenspace in the city.

Rick felt planning was critical to the Park's success and supported the multi-year process with Laurie Olin, the Park's first master planner. With all the current excitement about park master plans now, it is hard to remember that this was a radical idea at the time. Rick also recognized that the success of the master plan relied on following the design process worked out with the projects committee and the Parks Department. Many plans get put on a shelf after a year or two, but it was Rick's steadfast belief in the plan that enabled us to implement it over 20 years.

Rick was fiercely protective of park space—and was firm in his challenges to those who wished to utilize park land for non-park purposes, plans that would push out regular park users or undermine the natural environment.



Rick, on the right, with Joe Turner on the left and Doreen in the middle, was an early champion of forming public/private partnerships to invest in deteriorating parks at a time when that was unheard of in Houston.

He taught us to be vigilant and diligent in warding off even well-meaning incursions that would undermine the integrity of the Park.

Fans of the Japanese Garden owe a particular debt of gratitude to Rick. He facilitated the process when the Japanese community decided to donate this extraordinary gift to Hermann Park. He worked closely with Ken Nakajima, the landscape architect from Japan, to help realize his vision, including driving 750 miles together in his pickup truck on a search for the perfect landscape boulders. Over time, as the Japanese Garden became less Japanese and more American, Rick understood the importance of keeping the Japanese community involved in the ongoing stewardship.

Although I have been here for nearly 17 years, I have not known Hermann Park without Rick. For many years, we had adjacent offices and it was helpful to visit the "Rick Archives"—not just the large paper stacks of park plans but also his memory of how many things in the Park came to be. We will miss sharing gumbo recipes, rooting for his Texas Longhorns and enjoying occasional visits from his beloved schnauzers.

Rick, we hope you are enjoying your time fishing. And please remember: we would always be happy to see you and your fishing pole on the shores of McGovern Lake.



Doreen Stoller, President

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\$1,000,000 +

Houston Endowment

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Gregg Gebetsberger

The Griggs Family – In honor of Kingston Johnny Li – In honor of Ryko Li

The Commons at Hermann Park

\$1,000-\$4,999

Sam Lasseter and Dillon Kyle – In honor of Phoebe Tudor

Lott Hall: Historic Clubhouse

\$100,000-\$249,999

Phoebe and Bobby Tudor

\$1,000-\$4,999

Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette

\$100-\$499

Doris and Larry Bernard – In honor of Tommy Lott

Evening in the Park Gala

All gifts in honor of Terrylin Neale, honoree, and chairs June Deadrick and Barbara Friedman

\$50,000-\$99,999

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Janet F. Clark

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Sissy and Denny Kempner III – In honor of Cece and Mack Fowler and Susie and Sanford Criner Betty and Jim Key Elizabeth and Albert Kidd

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Anne A. Symonds Michele Thompson and Robert Yekovich Tootsies

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

Volunteers are Crucial to Maintaining and Improving the Health of Hermann Park Continued from page 1



Volunteers from Chevron plant new ferns along the walkways in the Japanese Garden.

Volunteering at Hermann Park looks different every day. From weeding and mulching plant beds to restoring picnic tables and benches to removing invasive plant species to office work in the HPC offices, there's something for every level of green thumb.

One of the most popular spots for volunteering in Hermann Park is McGovern Centennial Gardens, a virtual paradise for amateur gardeners and horticulturists. Twice a week, groups of volunteers meet to help out in the Gardens where they're most needed. And those with less of a green thumb but still wanting to lend a hand can volunteer as garden ambassadors, welcoming visitors and answering questions.

Once a week, on Thursday mornings, another group of regular volunteers meet to tend to the Japanese Garden, the Hermann Park mainstay that features waterfalls, Japanese maples, dogwood, and cherry trees and has been offering Houstonians serenity since 1992. This regular group of volunteers works hard to maintain this important cultural space.

"A key element of our organizational mission is stewardship of Hermann Park—and stewardship takes sweat! In addition to the wonderful horticulture and maintenance staff HPC and HPARD employs, volunteers play a crucial role in maintaining and improving the health of Hermann Park. With 445 acres to take care of, there's much to do," Kyle Wolfe, Volunteer Coordinator, points out.



Representatives from NEEF and other volunteers gather to get their tasks for the day.

One of the most interesting aspects of the volunteer program at the Conservancy is the job shadow program. Designed for ages 13 to 17 to gain valuable job skills, this program lets students shadow staff members and find out what exactly it takes to keep Hermann Park looking beautiful on a daily basis.

An exciting development over the past year has been a new project along Brays Bayou, funded by a grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation.

This ongoing effort is allowing the Conservancy to restore the "educational ponds" along the Bayou, which will be used with volunteers and job shadow participants to illustrate the various forms of life that take place not only along the Bayou, but in the waters themselves. And a large part of that cleanup effort comes from, of course, the volunteers.

At the end of the day, volunteering at Hermann Park is about a lot more than just raking or moving trash or any other number of tasks. It's about taking care of a Houston icon, while also doing something you love.

"I like to tell volunteers during orientation that volunteerism can change your life! People usually volunteer with the idea of making a difference in the organization or cause, but many don't realize their volunteerism is actually making a difference in themselves," Kyle said.

If you are interested in joining the team of volunteers at Hermann Park, or want to know more about all the hard work of this incredible group, go to hermannpark.org/volunteer.



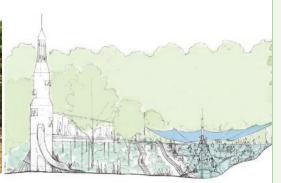
Rendering of restored historic clubhouse, Lott Hall, courtesy of Curtis & Windham Architects

Ever since 1933, the historic clubhouse at Hermann Park Golf Course has remained a handsome presence along the greens. As the first municipal golf course in Houston (meaning open to the public without a required membership), the clubhouse has seen the likes of Howard Hughes and thousands of other Houstonians in its hey-day. It also played a significant role in the Civil Rights Movement in Houston when it became one of the first integrated golf courses in 1952.

So, as one of the oldest buildings in any of the parks across Houston, this Spanish-style structure is in the process of becoming a recognized historic landmark, with plans to reopen to the public again. Thanks to a generous gift from longtime board member and donor Tommy W. Lott, the building will soon reopen as a rental venue known as Lott Hall. Renovations are set to begin soon, and we can't wait for you to get a first look. Go to hermannpark.org/LottHall for more information.

Project Spotlight:





Good news, dog lovers! **The Hermann Park Dog Park** is moving steadily forward.

Board member Kevin Bonebrake agreed to chair the Dog Park Committee. His trusty co-chair? None other than Midas Bonebrake, a five-year-old Golden Retriever. A native of Wisconsin and trilingual (in English, German, and Spanish), Midas is particularly excited for the water features at the dog park. The dog park should make its debut in late 2020/early 2021. To keep up with progress, check out **hermannpark.org/dogpark** or follow along with the hashtag **#HermannBark**.

Heard about **The Commons at Hermann Park?** Sure you have! It's an exciting project completely revitalizing the corner near the Medical Center. The Houstoncentric Play Gardens will be one of its high points. A nod to NASA, an iconic rocket ship will be poised for takeoff as the crown of the space-themed play area. This harkens back to the original rocket slide fondly remembered by Houstonians of a certain age. To keep tabs on the Commons, go to **hermannpark.org/TheCommons** or follow along with the hashtag **#CampaignForHermannPark**.

DONORS

Evening in the Park Gala continued \$1,000–\$4,999

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Rosie the Riveter Day

Rosie the Riveter, a cultural icon of the 1940s, has long been considered a symbol for women, even well past the end of World War II. Two years ago, in 2017, a Senate Resolution established March 21 as the official National Rosie the Riveter Day in a "collective national effort to raise awareness of the 16 million women who worked during World War II."

This year, on March 21, the American Association of University Women's Houston branch celebrated the day by planting flowers in McGovern Centennial Gardens. But these flowers held special significance. The flowers planted were official Rosie the Riveter roses, first introduced in 2017 and planted at the Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park in Richmond, California.

Representatives from the American Association of University Women were present at the ceremony held in the Rose Garden at the Gardens, as well as staff

and gardeners from Hermann Park Conservancy. The special guest was Celeste Graves, from Magnolia, Texas, who celebrates her 100th birthday this year. Celeste worked for Aviation Enterprises, a company that trained pilots for World War II. She was a secretary and dispatcher, keeping flight logs and records for the training pilots.

The next time you're in the Rose Garden at McGovern Centennial Gardens, be sure and look for the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Garden sign and take a moment to enjoy the blooms!









Top left: The day was officially proclaimed Rosie the Riveter Day by Mayor Sylvester Turner; Top right: Even the youngest generation pitched in to help: Bottom left: The blooms of the Rosie the Riveter Rose can be seen in early summer: Bottom right: Celeste Graves. a worker from WWII, was present at the ceremony.

Evening in the Park 2019

Perfect weather, garden attire, and a performance of the "Flower Duet" were the hallmarks of another successful Evening in the Park, held on Thursday, April 25. With nearly 500 guests gathered under a tent on Molly Ann Smith Plaza, the annual Hermann Park Conservancy gala raised \$522,500 to help in the Conservancy's mission to maintain and improve Hermann Park now and for generations to come.

Co-chairs Barbara Friedman and June Deadrick planned a whimsical, musical evening that surpassed the fundraising goal. This year's gala honored friend of the Park and longtime Houston advocate Terrylin Neale. The night began with sunset cocktails along the Jones Reflection Pool, with guests then moving to the open-air tent for a meal featuring Bird Nest Salad and Coq au vin—by Jackson & Company. It was certainly a night to remember!

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

Photos by Jenny Antill



















HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

























1 Barbara Friedman (co-chair), Terrylin Neale (honoree), and June Deadrick (co-chair) 2 Bobby and Phoebe Tudor 3 Jane and Bill Curtis, Janie and Daniel Zilkha 4 Kaitlyn Scheurich, Sanford and Susie Criner, and Michael Scheurich 5 Cece Fowler and Ann Kennedy 6 Chris and Kristy Bradshaw, Carolyn and Jake Sabat 7 Bonner Ball, Janet Gurwitch, and Dancie Ware 8 Allison Thacker, Frank and Demetra Jones 9 Kevin and Winnie Bonebrake, Wirt Blaffer 10 Roslyn and Derrick Mitchell 11 Danny and Isabel David 12 Kate McConnico, Christopher Knapp, and George Johnston 13 Doreen Stoller and Marley Lott 14 Jorge Puig, Van Ngo, David Ruiz, Esther Puig, Lisa Barksdale, and Patti Abshire 15 Ling Yang, George Yang, and Ann Kaufman 16 Leigh Smith, Desrye Morgan, and James Haddon 17 Judy and Scott Nyquist 18 Devinder and Gina Bhatia 19 Mack Fowler, Lainie Gordon, and David Mincberg 20 Stephanie Gilliam and Janet Clark 21 Miriam Meyers, Mary and Mark D'Andrea, and Jack Meyers 22 Jana and Scotty Arnoldy 23 Linsay Radcliffe, Amber Elliott, and Isabel David







Top: Many dressed to the 60's theme of Peace. Love. Park; Above Left: The scene at Peace. Love. Park.; Above Right: As guests entered McGovern Centennial Gardens, the Pavilion's walls were lit up like lava lamps.

It was a packed party at McGovern Centennial Gardens on Thursday, May 16, as Urban Green held their spring fundraiser party. To celebrate warmer weather and the arrival of spring blooms, the party was called Peace. Love. Park. and was a salute to all things 1960s and flower power.



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

Every Hermann Park Conservancy member is part of a team who believes Hermann Park is a treasure for all Houstonians. People join for different reasons. Some want to support urban Play Your conservation and wildlife habitat preservation, while others join to share the joy they had as

children playing in Hermann Park with their own children. Membership support provides vital operating funds, which helps us to keep the Park looking better than ever.

In thanks for supporting this Houston treasure, Conservancy members receive exciting benefits including invitations to member exclusive events, 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, and discounts in the Conservancy Gift Shop and Pinewood Cafe.

Learn more by visiting hermannpark.org/membership.

In Memory of Walter Lamar Cato continued Stephen E. McCormick Gaye and Edward McCullough Connie, Alexandra and Anthony McMaken Susan and David Miclette Beverly Moor Karen Moore Cynthia and Robert Nelson Lindy and Laurence Neuhaus Miki Lusk Norton Desha Norwood Mary and Paul Nugent Lisa and Mike O'Leary Linwood and John Olson John E. (Sandy) Parkerson Louise and Bob Parsley Therese Patterson Betty Pecore and Howard Hilliard Francey Pengra and Ed Allday Jo Francis Roark Anne Schlumberger Terri and Pepe Schwartz Lucy Shaw Katherine and Rob Stacey Ginger and Don Teague Claudia and Gardner Thornton Gay and Ron Tigner Emily Leland Todd Linda and Robert Westerburg Sue and Buz White Claire and Robert Wilkins Edward H. Withers Renee and Larry Wright Urban Green

\$2,500 +

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Abevas Boutique Axelrad Beer Garden Backstreet Cafe, Caracol, Hugo's & Xochi

Benjy's in the Village

Boheme

Boost Pilates

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DJ May

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Eureka Heights

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Hats in the Park Luncheon

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Terry and Thomas Smith

Nancy and Peter Thompson

Burke Windham



Top left: Run in the Park is coming up on Saturday, October 5; Top Right: The Park to Port bike ride will be back for its sixth year on Saturday, November 16; Above: Tai Chi in the Park takes place every Wednesday at 9 am, along McGovern Promenade

the Calendar at Hermann Park

If you've ever checked out the calendar on our website, you have no doubt noticed that there's always something happening at Hermann Park. That calendar is getting even more full with the addition of some new public programming, as well as the return of some beloved annual events.

Tai chi has long been a staple of Hermann Park, and this summer it has made its return along McGovern Lake. The ancient mind-body practice combines mediation with slow, gentle movements and deep breathing. This weekly event—which takes place every Wednesday morning at 9 am along McGovern Promenade is in partnership with Four Dragons Institute for Tai Chi and Meditation. The best part? It's open to the public and completely free.

Yoga in the Park, in partnership with Namitzi Yoga, is back for the cooler fall months. Every Saturday morning starting September 21 at 8:30 am, join this all-levels yoga and meditation class along the Jones Reflection Pool.

Another partner program, Walk with a Doc, is a monthly walking program that encourages people to get moving and get their questions answered by doctors. While you walk at your own pace around Hermann Park, you can have the chance to chat up local physicians and ask those questions you've been meaning to look up. This event takes place the third Saturday of every month at 9 am. You can sign up for your walk at the southeast corner of Miller Outdoor Theatre.

If running is more your speed, save the date for Hermann Park Conservancy's Run in the Park. Now in its 16th year, this annual run is taking place on Saturday, October 5. But signups have already begun! In addition to the kids' fun run and the 5K this year, we're also hosting a 10K. Sign up at hermannpark.org/run).

And don't forget the Park to Port Bike Ride! This 20-mile trip to the Port of Houston and back is in its sixth year, and takes place Saturday, November 16. Registration is also open for this event, and more information can be found at hermannpark.org/ride.

Whether it's for one (or all!) of these events, we hope to see you in the Park soon!



Luke Ford with his favorite engineer, Steve McDonough.

Be an engineer for the day with Hermann Park Railroad

The Hermann Park Railroad plays a special part in many Houstonians' childhoods. But for one twelve-year-old, that love runs especially deep.

Luke Ford has been participating in the Engineer for a Day program for five years. He's had a passion for trains since the age of two, and even celebrated his third birthday on the Hermann Park Railroad.

Engineer for the Day is Luke's favorite event all year, and he looks forward to it all year long, especially since he gets to hang out with his favorite engineer, Steve McDonough.

Luke's mom, KK Ford, says that Luke's favorite parts of the program are taking the train out of the shed, gathering passengers' tickets, and, of course, driving the train.

But Luke's love of trains goes beyond Hermann Park. Luke has been on trains in Texas, Louisiana and Utah, including the Houston METRORail, Thomas the Train, the Polar Express, several Amtrak lines, and The Heber Valley train.

Luke says his favorite engines are a BNSF and a Union Pacific. His biggest dream is to ride a train through the mountains of Colorado covered in winter snow.

Interested in having your own Engineer for the Day experience? Check out hermannpark.org/engineerfortheday.

DONOR!

Annual Fund/ General Support continued \$500-\$999

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Miwa Sakashita and
John R. Stroehlein
Ellen C. L. Simmons
Linda and John Sumner
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Underwood, Jr.

\$100-\$499

Anonymous (2) Susie and David Askanase Benevity Community Impact Fund

Fund
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Save the Dates!

Hermann Park Conservancy Calendar of Events



Tai Chi in the ParkEvery Wednesday, 9 am
McGovern Promenade, Lake Plaza



16th Annual Run in the Park Saturday, October 5, 8 am Molly Ann Smith Plaza



Member Sip & Stroll Thursday, October 17, 5:30–7 pm McGovern Centennial Gardens



Park to Port Bike Ride Saturday, November 16 Bill Coats Bridge

Details at hermannpark.org



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