After six years of planning, nearly one year of construction, and over 2,000 plantings later, the renovation of Lott Hall is finally complete. Originally designed by Alfred E. Nutter and built in 1933, it served as the Hermann Park Golf Course clubhouse until 1999, and was then the home of Hermann Park Conservancy and City of Houston’s Hermann Park administration offices until 2015. With the goal of preserving and repurposing the historic elements, the Conservancy first began plans for renovation in 2014 as part of its centennial campaign. Thanks to a generous leading gift from Sherry and Tommy Lott, that plan became a reality.

The clubhouse is an important part of Hermann Park’s history and the Conservancy wanted to uphold the tradition of gathering and celebration with a new way to enjoy a unique part of the city’s past. In order to do this, the Conservancy partnered with Houston First to become one of the first organizations in Houston to participate in the federal and state historic tax credits program through leasing a city-owned building, which helps incentivize renovating historic buildings in the city’s inventory instead of tearing them down. Earned income from events such as weddings at Lott Hall will go towards funding the Conservancy’s stewardship programs in the Park.

The restoration plans for the building, by Curtis & Windham Architects, are embellished by landscaping designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. Featuring a melting pot of plantings from different climates and cultures, the gardens perfectly capture the spirit of Houston.

Make Memories at Lott Hall
The newly renovated, historic Lott Hall is ready to host your next event.

Pricing and information: hermannpark.org/lotthall
Most of the content in this newsletter was put together before the "Big Freeze." But here on Thursday of Houston’s Arctic week, I am proof—reading the newsletter and staring at the lovely “What’s Blooming” photos. Obviously, the freeze wreaked havoc on these beautiful blooms—but with your help and the remarkable efforts of the Hermann Park Conservancy team, we know there will indeed be an abundance of blooms again.

Eighteen years doesn’t seem possible—but I am deeply grateful for my time with the Conservancy. On Christmas Day I celebrated a milestone birthday, with the Conservancy team, your help and the remarkable efforts of the rest of the Conservancy team, we know there will indeed be an abundance of blooms again.

To many Park visitors, the gracious Jones Reflection Pool is all they’ve ever known. After all, it has been in its renewed state for 17 years. However, more seasoned visitors to Hermann Park may remember a time when muddy slopes and families of ducks had overrun the edges of the water. Plans to remodel the Jones Reflection Pool came to fruition as part of the Conservancy’s 1995 master plan. As part of that process, artist Elizabeth Day created a watercolor painting of the Jones Reflection Pool to show what the renovated Jones Reflection Pool might look and feel like, using nothing but the preliminary plans and her imagination. The Jones Reflection Pool was dedicated in 2003 and has been one of the favorite spots in Hermann Park ever since. With the next master plan currently under way, the Conservancy is hard at work creating plenty more favorite spots for the next generation of Park visitors.

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PARKSIDE / WINTER 2021


calling all canines!

If you have a picture of your pup living their best life in Hermann Park that you’d like to share, send it to media@hermannpark.org.

What’s blooming?

Winter is winding down and Houston is on the cusp of spring, which means lots of new and exciting blooms in the McGovern Centennial Gardens and Japanese Garden.

Annual fund/
general operations, continued

$1,000–$4,999

Sharon and Cecil Griffin

Harry R. Roush, Jr. and Patricia W. Roush Foundation, Inc.

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Louise and Gary Mose

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Susan and John Allen

Anonymous

Bill Arning

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and Lamar Gregory Neale

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Connie and Bill Cox

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Amy and Robert Tilt

Mary and Robert Tilt

David and Susan Truly

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Cris Wry

In Kind

Senders Consulting

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Conductor’s Circle ($2,500+)

Kathy and Randy Luke

Platinum ($1,000–$2,499)

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Anonymous (2)

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Kristie Beer and Steve Redding

Anna Louise Bruner

Almeria T. Cottingham

Kathryn Crowder and Susan Zerante

Mileena Cuevas and Paul Dahn

Joel and Thomas Donker

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Jack and Frank McConay

Grina and Bill Moore

Bob and Sarah Neale

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Amy Sutton and Gary Chiles

Emily Leland Todd

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Pippa Wiley

Barke Windham

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Katherine Kohmeyer

Gwen Kurz

Mike Mathieus

Jerry McNeil

Diane and David Modersett

Jose and Phil Morgan

Seán Clifford Murphy – In memory of Margarita Moores

Wann-Tik Nicholson

Bailey and Peter Petkas

Esther and Gary Pollock

Gale Proctor

Edin and David Purrell

Suvan and Alan Roy

Jessica and Cody Robinson

Mary Ann Ryan

Frank Barbay Rynd – In honor of Marley Lott

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 all supporting vital operational needs in Hermann Park, which helps us keep it looking better than ever. And just how do memberships do that exactly?

• 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.

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.

Play YOUR Park

Our landscaping and gardening team is able to care for these plants thanks largely to support from Conservancy memberships. Visit hermannpark.org/membership to help keep these blooms blossoming.

What’s blooming? continued

Our landscaping and gardening team is able to care for these plants thanks largely to support from Conservancy memberships. Visit hermannpark.org/membership to help keep these blooms blossoming.

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Aapricot tree (Japanese Garden)

Purple trailing lantana (Pergola Walk)

What’s blooming? continued

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Our Stories from the Park

Don Hall
Assistant Conserving Manager
McGovern Centennial Gardens

"An elderly couple was visiting the Gardens from North Carolina, saying that they had a family member who was currently a patient at MD Anderson. They wanted me to pass on a message to everyone saying how much visiting the Park really helped them find some peace and tranquility during a tough time, and that they’re grateful to the staff for all that we do."

Keyni Hernandez
Pedal Boat Attendant

"I’ve seen a lot more people in the Park lately, and a lot of them didn’t even know things like the pedal boats existed until they were looking for outdoor things to do in Houston. Even though they may have to wait a little bit longer in line, everyone has been really appreciative of the steps we’re taking now like masks, and sanitizing the life jackets and boats after each use."

Kevin Velasquez
Membership and Marketing Manager

"I’m getting married in April and due to everything happening in the world, we decided that the best thing to do was cancel our original plans. We agreed that it would be more special, and much safer, to have a just-us ceremony in the Calibration Garden. It’s a huge weight off our shoulders and we can’t wait to tie the knot at one of the most beautiful spots in the city."

Securing the Future of Hermann Park
By Terrilyn G. Neale

Being a native Houstonian, I’ve been coming to and enjoying Hermann Park my entire life. I’ve been lucky enough that the Park has always been available to me and my family to play, walk, rest, or run in. Now that I see so many other families and children in the Park doing the same things, I’m reminded of all my good memories that have been created here. I want to make sure that others are able to have the lifelong experiences at Hermann Park that they deserve, which is why I have included Hermann Park Conservancy in my will. Hermann Park is a place that should be available for everyone, and I want to do my part in ensuring that it’s here now and for future generations.

If You Plant It, They Will Come

The Conservancy team planted 65 pounds of radishes south of Hermann Park! They may not be bluebonnets but they’re the next best thing!

If you are interested in including, or have already included, Hermann Park Conservancy in your will or personal trust, creating charitable remainder trusts, or making life insurance or retirement fund gifts to the Conservancy, please call 713-524-5876 or email development@hermannpark.org.

Join the George Hermann Society

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Jessica Trammel
Peter Ton
Gini, Reese, and Rowan Varrin
Summe and James Walker
Gail and Michael Walsh
Eva and Leonard Goldstein
Gen Wood
Cenvisal (1500–2499)
Susan and Barry Abrams
Deborah Adams
Irene Ahmed
Dudley Anderton
Tracey Lamar Anderson
Anonymous (50)
Donna and Tom Arther
Dorothy M. Mostert Axelby
Sally Baldwin — in honor of Jessica Baldwin
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Donna Bauder
Mary Jane Baur and Fred Bausch
Iris and Jesse Boudens
Dona Boyd
Jean and John Bradford
Charlotte and A. Birch
Sara Brook
Lauren Brown and Gregg Kupor
Pamela and David Broen
Katherine and Jason Buchanan
Roger Bumpgardner
Susan and John Burn
Alyson Burn
Cindy and Larry Burns
Dori and Lee Butcher
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Angela and William Conn
Alys and Robert Capan
Patricia E. Casier and William H. Gilbert
Betty T. Chapman
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Kathryn and Hank Colman
Julie and Bill Conn
Lisa and Pete Coppel
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Terry and James Craig
Yayoi Daniel
Cathy Davis and Robert Kleeman
Donna Drinnon
Jenne and Robert Duffy
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Renee M. Eiler
Shubha Enkady
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PARKSIDE / WINTER 2021
Save the Dates!

Love Your Park
Member Volunteer Day
Saturday, April 10, 2021

Evening in the Park
Friday, April 30, 2021

We are sad to announce that the Kite Festival and Hats in the Park luncheon are postponed until 2022. Look for news on this year’s Run in the Park and Park to Port bike ride very soon!

1700 Hermann Drive
Houston, Texas 77004
713-524-5876 | hermannpark.org

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink

PARKSIDE / WINTER 2021

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