

# PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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Every Membership Counts

in the park



George Hermann celebrated his 178th birthday on August 6

## MISSION

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



[hermannpark.org](http://hermannpark.org)



Patrick Talley

## Get to Know the Japanese Garden

With the 2020 Tokyo Olympics having wrapped up, there has never been a better time to explore Hermann Park's tribute to Japanese culture.

Originally designed by landscape architect Ken Nakajima in 1992 and celebrating its 30th anniversary in May 2022, the Japanese Garden is one of Hermann Park's most distinctive places. This garden's design is approached with a different philosophy than other spaces within the Park in order to preserve its cultural authenticity and accuracy.

"We really respect harmony. Harmony between seasons or nature or human beings," said Yuzuru Nagawa, chair of the Japanese Garden Advisory Committee.

To maintain this harmony, every year since 2007, specialty gardeners have traveled

from the Japanese Garden's sister city of Chiba, located along the eastern coast of Japan. Funded through the efforts of the Japanese Garden Advisory Committee, the gardening team from Chiba works closely with horticulture experts from Hermann Park to help make sure the plantings, paths, and architecture are all representative of a traditional Japanese garden, and in keeping with Nakajima's original vision.

Everything visitors see at the Japanese Garden is meticulously crafted to give a curated sense of nature. Wide stone and bridge paths, rushing waterfalls, and native Japanese plants like black pine and maple trees help give wanderers visually pleasing sightlines from any vantage point.

**The Japanese Garden is free to the public and open daily from 9 am to 6 pm.**



My Aunt Helga Soldo (visiting from Germany) and my mother Trouta Stoller. Every visit to the Park includes her favorite—a ride on the Hermann Park Railroad.

Every time I speak to my mother she starts the conversation with, “What’s new in the Park?” And even though she asks me this a minimum of once a week, I never have a ready response. I am always torn between saying “nothing really” and “where do I start!”

When I am tempted to reply “nothing really” the impulse comes from the certainty that Hermann Park is, well, still reliably here. This year, especially, I have found comfort in this steadiness. The Reflection Pool has not retreated back to a mud pit, pedal boats circle the lake, and the Mount in the McGovern Centennial Gardens continues to give people both a literal and an emotional lift.

Yet, when you look carefully and take the time to notice, there is something new in the Park every day. Sometimes a duck is sitting smack in the middle of the path to our office door. Or the Cooper’s Hawk who favors the Gardens will swoop from her perch on the arbor into the middle of the lawn and stretch a wing — reminding me of our friends from the Houston Ballet who filmed a dance there. And lately I have been obsessed by the clusters of dragonflies everywhere — some as large as my palm.

Everyone has a favorite place in Hermann Park that they return to time and time again. At a recent staff gathering we went around the table and named our favorite place. I cheated — I couldn’t pick just one. But no matter how many times I come around the corner of the Marvin Taylor Trail heading to our office I take a deep breath when I see the grand arc of live oaks, so steady and serene, almost embracing the people under them.

And that, too, is what is new in the Park. Each day brings more visitors who are amazed the first time they see the Japanese Garden, but appreciate it even more on their 100th visit when they see 12 turtles sunning themselves.

Look a little closer at your favorite place in the Park. And drop me a note and tell me what’s new.

*Doreen*

Doreen Stoller, President

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Lifted Up Aerial Photography

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# Meet Our Newest Board Members

**Morgan Hollins**

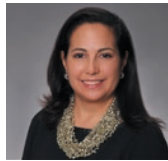
Morgan is a Partner at White &amp; Case LLP where she advises on mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures. She holds a B.S.

in Economics from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Morgan and her husband, Chris, love to take their two children, Vivian and George, to Hermann Park for picnics, biking, and fun on the train.

**Richard Holt**

Richard is currently a Managing Director with Alvarez &amp; Marsal Corporate Performance Improvement in Houston. He has been

active in the community for many years and his current board leadership includes Arms Wide Adoption Services, LGBTQ Victory Fund, NDI Equal Voices, St. Mark's Episcopal School, and Boulevard Oaks Civic Association. Richard and his husband, Mark McMasters, MD, live in Boulevard Oaks with their three children: Lucy, Geneva, and Ford.

**Tina Arias Peterman**

Tina has more than 23 years of experience in the banking and public finance industries. She began her career in fixed income

sales with Texas Commerce Bank but quickly found her way to public finance. Through a series of mergers, she spent the next 13 years at JPMorgan. In the fall of 2018, she joined Masterson Advisors LLC as an owner

in the majority women-owned firm. Tina enjoys traveling, cooking, and photography. She lives in Houston with her husband of 22 years, along with her teenagers, Logan and Ava.

**Alex Triantaphyllis**

Alex currently serves as Chief of Staff for Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and previously led Judge Hidalgo's policy

team for 2+ years. Alex's prior experience includes serving as Director of Immigration &amp; Economic Opportunity at BakerRipley and private sector work in finance and consulting. In 2007, he co-founded PAIR: Partnership for the Advancement &amp; Immersion of Refugees. Alex lives in Houston with his wife Christina and two daughters, and their favorite activity is walking to Hermann Park!

**Sonny Villarreal**Sonny serves as 76<sup>®</sup> Brand Manager at Motiva Enterprises, where he manages all B2C and B2B initiatives, as well as

sponsorships and partnerships. He also serves on Mayor Sylvester Turner's Advisory Council for New Americans and Immigrant Communities, and sits on the Board of Directors at the American Advertising Federation-Houston, where he serves as chair of the Multicultural &amp; Diversity Committee. Sonny and his wife, Sarah, are the proudest of parents to Soleil Alessandra and Stellan Alexander.

## Plant Propagation in the Park



The Garden and Nature Series officially returned to the Family Garden on August 25 with Propagation Techniques and Barriers to Germination. Spirits were high and appetites for knowledge were eager at the first Garden and Nature class since 2019. Master Gardener and teacher Dr. Jean Fefer talked with local green-thumbed enthusiasts about how to create new plants from seeds and other plant parts, as well as how to keep them happy and healthy.

This hands-on session was the first of three classes in our fall Garden and Nature Series. The next class—Observing and Recording Wildlife in Your Neighborhood—will be on September 22, and the last class of the season—Sage Advice: Salvia in Texas—will be on October 27. Look for more classes to be announced for spring 2022!

Sign up at [hermannpark.org/calendar](https://hermannpark.org/calendar)



# Touring the Commons: Live Oak Terrace

The space around the ample shade provided by the 100-year-old live oaks will be reimagined.

Shaded paths neighbored by native plantings provide a scenic promenade for Park visitors of all types.

The **Live Oak Terrace** will be a place for everyone in the Commons.

Fundraising is happening now. Visit [hermannpark.org/thecommons](https://hermannpark.org/thecommons) to get involved.





The Central Lawn is perfectly suited for sports, exercise, picnics, or relaxing.



An expansive deck with tables and chairs give an opportunity to walk underneath the live oaks, but also to sit and grab a meal.



# Save the Dates!

BJ Hodges Photography



**Saturday, October 9**  
8:00 am

**Run in the Park**

Hermann Park's longest-standing community event is back! The 18th annual *Run in the Park* will have a 5K, 10K, and 1K kids' route with a post-race party at Molly Ann Smith Plaza. Similar to 2020, there will also be a virtual challenge for those wanting to participate from home.

[hermannpark.org/run](http://hermannpark.org/run)

Phillip Thomas Photography



**Thursday, October 28**  
8:00 pm

**Urban Green's Fall Event**

This Halloween, join Urban Green for a spooktacular movie night on the McGovern Centennial Gardens lawn to watch the 1991 classic *The Addams Family*. Buy your ticket, bring a blanket or chair, and grab a bite and a drink from our generous food donors at this outdoor fundraising event.

[hermannpark.org/addamsfamily](http://hermannpark.org/addamsfamily)

Cato Cataldo



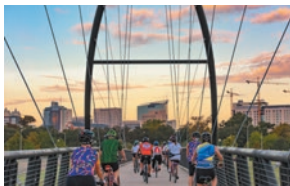
**Saturday, November 6**  
8:00 am

**Houston Rockets Dog Walk**

Bring your four-legged friends out for a morning at Hermann Park! The Houston Rockets Dog Walk will feature a picturesque walk around McGovern Lake, the Jones Reflection Pool, and other areas of the Park, followed by a post-walk party in Lake Plaza!

[hermannpark.org/dogwalk](http://hermannpark.org/dogwalk)

Blueprint Film Co



**Saturday, November 13**  
7:30 am

**Park to Port Bike Ride**

The 20-mile round-trip bike ride takes cyclists from Hermann Park's Bayou Parkland along the Bayou Greenway trail all the way to the Port of Houston. Enjoy a turn-around party sponsored by Port Houston, but be sure to save some energy for a well-deserved post-ride party under the Bill Coats Bridge.

[hermannpark.org/bike](http://hermannpark.org/bike)



**Saturday, October 23**  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Love Your Park  
Member Volunteer Day**

Conservancy members, show your love for Hermann Park by coming to volunteer and help with essential plantings in the McGovern Centennial Gardens! Come get your hands dirty for a good cause and keep Hermann Park looking incredible for the six million people who visit each year.

[hermannpark.org/loveyourpark](http://hermannpark.org/loveyourpark)

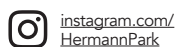


**Wednesday, October 27**  
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

**Garden and Nature Series:  
Sage Advice—Salvia in Texas**

Join Brazoria County AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent Stephen Brueggerhoff in the Family Garden for a presentation on ornamental *Salvia* species in Texas. Stephen will explore a few Texas native plants used in home landscaping, hybrids that have made the Texas Superstar list, and review a few interesting species from Mexico.

[hermannpark.org/salvia](http://hermannpark.org/salvia)



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The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of \$100 or more between May 1, 2021 and July 31, 2021, as well as all George Hermann Society members. 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.

## 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.
- 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.

Play **YOUR** 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](http://hermannpark.org/membership).

Attention Members: **Sip and Stroll** is happening on September 30. Visit [hermannpark.org/sip](http://hermannpark.org/sip) to sign up.



Lifted Up Aerial Photography

Give our newest social media channel a follow to get the latest updates on our upcoming dog park—  
**plus more pictures like these!**



 **@HermannBark**

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PARKSIDE / FALL 2021

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