

PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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in the park

New year, new name; McWilliams Dog Park in Hermann Park takes shape



Laura and Brad McWilliams and their Brittany dogs



Four-Four-legged visitors to Hermann Park—and their humans—won't have to wait too much longer for an off-leash dog park. They've got two people in particular to thank for that.

The upcoming Hermann Park Dog Park—now officially known as McWilliams Dog Park—recently received a major donation from Laura and Brad McWilliams. The couple gave a \$1 million gift, naming the dog park and putting the project at more than halfway to its goal.

A dog park was the most requested project in the public feedback research a few years ago while planning the extended master plan. It will cover nearly two and a half acres along South MacGregor Way, in the shadow of Bill Coats Bridge. Thoughtfully designed by Lauren Griffith Associates, the dog park will offer separate areas for small and large dogs, areas of rest for both dogs and their owners, state-of-the-art dog agility equipment, and unique water play sections. Paired with natural shade and dedicated surface parking, the McWilliams Dog Park promises to be a step above your average dog park.

"A dog park is an idea whose time has come..."

"We have a long history with Hermann Park. Brad used to fish in the fishing pond there as a kid, and today its green space is even more important for this urbanizing neighborhood next to the Medical Center. A dog park is an idea whose time has come, and the location makes great use of this corner of the Park," Laura and Brad McWilliams said.

In addition, the couple own a pair of Brittany dogs. They say they are thrilled to be a part of something their dogs can also use.

Construction should begin later this year, with an opening date in 2021

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



letter from the president

As I start my eighteenth year at Hermann Park Conservancy, I remember vividly my first year in 2003 when a revitalized Heart of the Park was still millions of dollars and years of work away, and McGovern Centennial Gardens was far beyond what we thought we could—or would—accomplish. Each day at this treasured Park brings new adventures and experiences.

I often say Hermann Park is a miracle of community engagement, and it's never been more true. The dreams of countless individuals—now reality—took a lot of team effort, determination, and hard work. With an incredible team of board members, donors, volunteers, community leaders, and staff members, we've seen our way through the terms of five Houston mayors and four parks directors working with each of them to continue executing the master plan for Hermann Park. Very few plans "live" to get executed over a 25 year period. It is a testament to the careful planning and diligent stewardship of all involved that the Conservancy leads such a steady course over time.

I am blessed to work with such a dedicated team who makes the magic happen—major events like the annual *Kite Festival*, or transformational projects like the redevelopment of Lake Plaza are all produced by this small but mighty team.

But that same team also helps each other in little ways, every single day. That includes rounding up runaway worms.

One morning I walked into the Conservancy offices and I found several of the office staff on hands and knees, combing through the carpet, searching for runaway Red Wiggler worms.



Office staff unpack the worms, which were shipped via USPS

Kyle Wolfe, our volunteer coordinator, had recently purchased worms for an Earth Day event to teach kids about how worms can be used in creating compost and disposing of waste in a sustainable way. Kyle had set up a display to give kids a hands-on experience with about 250 worms.

Left in a box on his desk over the weekend, the lid had somehow dislodged, giving those worms the perfect chance to make a break for either freedom or greener pastures, or both. That morning, they were scattered all over the front half of the office, frozen on their journey out. But due to the team work—even in this small way—of the office staff, the worms were delivered back to their original home and the Great Worm Exodus of 2019 came to a happy conclusion.

This team has grown from the four of us in 2003 to over 60 managing many everyday operations in Hermann Park and we have learned a lot together—from using goats as part of our natural practices to maintain the McGovern Centennial Gardens to running the Hermann Park Railroad. We are proud that the Park has so much to offer, from the free Garden & Nature Series classes in McGovern Centennial Gardens to Tai Chi in the Park to Student Performances in the Park.

Those programs are made possible through the efforts and cooperation of everyone on the Conservancy team—including you. It's all a part of our larger goal of creating not just a destination for special family celebrations, but a place where all Houstonians are welcome every day.

See you in the Park!

Doreen

Doreen Stoller, President



Horticultural staff stand in front of the new vermicomposting unit

DONORS

The Commons at Hermann Park

- \$5,000,000 +
John P. McGovern Foundation
- \$250,000–\$499,999
Abbi and Robert Antablin
Louisa S. Sarofim – In honor of Christopher Binyon Sarofim
- \$100,000–\$249,999
Kristy and Chris Bradshaw
- \$50,000–\$99,999
Phillips 66
- \$25,000–\$49,999
Bank of America
- \$10,000–\$24,999
Stephen L. Goldberg and Tim Kollatschny
- \$5,000–\$9,999
Anne C. Mendelsohn
Terrylin G. Neale
- \$100–\$499
Ed Smith

Dog Park

- \$50,000–\$99,000
Winnie Scheuer and Kevin Bonebrake
- \$1,000, 000 +
Laura and Brad McWilliams
- \$5,000–\$9,999
Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker
- \$1,000–\$4,999
Christy and Tom Compson – In honor of Smedley and in memory of Josie, Harold and Blue Belle
Janice and Barrett Green
Starlett and Ben Hollingsworth
Nancy Manderson
Sultana and Moez Mangalji
Gary Pittman
Sally and Mark Sooby
Taffi Tippit and Joe Bybee
- \$500–\$999
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Gregg Gebetsberger
Pauline and John Goodgame
Mandy and William Kao
Robert J. Lorio
Reyka Lu
Sue and Randy Sim – In honor of Ping Sun

- \$100–\$499
Anonymous (3)
Marci and Mark Arnold
Steven Cowart
Anthony Gracely
Andrea and Bruce Holzband – In honor of Maisy, Max, Millie, and Lucy
Cristina and Morgan Lunt
Bella and Savanna Moore – In memory of Roxanne (Roxie) and in honor of Antonio (Tony)
Sydni and Ryan Mossman – In honor of Crush
Sean Murphy-Moreno and Hector Moreno – In memory of Billy Murphy Moreno
Alice and Dennis O'Brien
Sheila O. and O. Keith Owen
Stephanie Reynolds – In memory of Rory Reynolds
Shavannah Roberts Schreiber and Joseph Schreiber – In memory of Rocky Roberts Schreiber
Michelle and Clifford Shedd
Sanghee Yoo

Historic Clubhouse – Lott Hall

- \$5,000–\$9,999
Steppie and Robert Holsclaw
- \$1,000–\$4,999
Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette
- \$100–\$499
Kelly DeHay and Rod Danielson
In Kind
Matt Camron

Master Plan

- \$10,000–\$24,999
Joan and Fritz Glover
- Play Your Park Campaign**
\$1,000–\$4,999
Sharon and Cecil Griffin
- \$500–\$999
Lynn and Marcel Mason

Public Art Fund

- \$500–\$999
Lynn and Marcel Mason
- Art in the Park – Carmen Herrera Exhibit**
\$100,000–\$249,999
PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
- \$50,000–\$99,999
John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation
- \$25,000–\$49,999
Olivia and Peter Farrell
Cece and Mack Fowler
- \$5,000–\$9,999
Brad and Leslie Bucher

Japanese Garden

- \$10,000–\$24,999
Jack Bell – In memory of John Woods
Joann and Helmuth Goepfert – In memory of Eric Goepfert
- \$5,000–\$9,999
Stephanie and Dan Evans – In honor of the Lipsey, Evans and Reeves Families
- \$1,000–\$4,999
Robert J. Lorio

McGovern Centennial Gardens

- \$5,000–\$9,999
Mary E. Aitken and Richard C. Kurten – In memory of Veronica Copp
- \$100–\$499
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Rebecca and Simon Garfield
- In Kind
Timberland Pinestraw Specialists

Run in the Park

- \$5,000–\$9,999
Reliant - an NRG Company
Williams
- \$2,500–\$4,999
Frost Bank
- \$500–\$999
Kate Bell Elementary School
The Westin Houston Medical Center
- \$100–\$499
Patrick Cannizzaro
Sarah and Marshall Goforth
Alexander Massara
Leda and Brent Netland
Shake Shack

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

As new projects begin, public feedback remains essential



Attendees listen as Kevin Bonebrake explains his excitement over dog park plans

The past few years at the Conservancy have been all about planning for the future.

A major part of the Conservancy's planning process is intensive public feedback gathering, throughout all stages of development. Whether that's through the general public or Park stakeholders like donors and board members, it is a vital part of the process that guarantees Hermann Park is planned by and for all parts of the community, in an equitable and sustainable way.

Over the past few years, the Conservancy has hosted a number of public feedback meetings designed to give the public a chance to give feedback during the design stage of the master plan. Now that several projects in that plan are moving forward, the Conservancy is looking to keep the public a big part of the process.

One of the first steps is inviting Park stakeholders to attend several "Deep Dive" meetings that focus on these projects. Held at McGovern Centennial Gardens, these morning and lunchtime sessions give you a chance to get an in-depth look at the planned projects, followed by a roundtable discussion of what these projects will entail. These discussions will be offered once a month, and are free to attend. Registration is required.



A rendering from MVVA depicts the rocket slide, a major icon of the upcoming Commons project

Interested in signing up for one of these "Deep Dive" discussions? Email development@hermannpark.org or stop by the Conservancy informational tent at this month's *Kite Festival*.

These are just a few of many such events the Conservancy is hosting in order to not only spread the word of upcoming projects at Hermann Park, but also continue to gather feedback from Park users on what is the best for the future. Keep an eye out for more events in the future. In the meantime, feel free to contact us via social media, or send your ideas to ideas@hermannpark.org.



Get out in nature; free classes at McGovern Centennial Gardens

As we roll into spring and McGovern Centennial Gardens come into full bloom, it's time yet again for Hermann Park Conservancy's Garden & Nature Series. These classes in the Family Garden focus on a variety of subjects all related to garden and nature and the benefits associated with being outdoors.

There are three of these classes coming up, starting in April. On April 22, join the Harris County Master Gardeners to celebrate Earth Day and learn all about tree planting in Houston and the vital role they play in protecting our environment.

On May 27, Lauren Jansen Simpson will guide you through capturing the outdoors in all their glory, all while using your phone's camera.

And on June 24, take a walk through McGovern Centennial Gardens with the Harris County Master Gardeners and learn about the design of the Gardens and how home gardeners can take tips with them to improve their own backyards.

The best part about all of these classes is that they are completely FREE to the public and open to all ages. All you have to do is sign up. Go to hermannpark.org/GardenNature for more, and to sign up.



Play YOUR Park

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 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.

Run in the Park continued

In Kind
DJ Mav
Equinox Fitness
Fleet Feet Sports
The Hot Bagel Shop
Katz Coffee
Mayor's Office of Special Events
Raising Cane's
Saint Arnold Brewing Company
Shake Shack
The Westin Houston Medical Center

Park to Port Bike Ride

\$5,000-\$9,999
Port Houston
\$2,500-\$4,999
Frost Bank
Williams
\$1,000-\$2,499
AECOM
Decision Information Resources, Inc.
Kroger

\$100-\$499
Brian Bergesen
Joanne Crull
Jeff Cully
Margo Elgohary
Paul Klein
Pamela and Chase Randle
Carl Rhodes
Jenny Stadler

In Kind
Bayou City Cycles
Bike Barn
DJ Mav
H-E-B
Houston Parks Board
Katz Coffee
Mayor's Office of Special Events
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Port Houston
Raising Cane's
Saint Arnold Brewing Company
Texas Medical Center

In Memory of Leah Duke

David B. Burnett
Julia Darden
Lan and David Duke
Susan Foust
Laurie and Jeffrey Goldberg
Paul B. Hartley
Jean Kieffer
Jennifer Miller
Andrea and Lee Morgenthaler
Mary D. Nelson
Anne S. Ross

In Memory of James Leron Robertson

Sandy and Joe Allen
Heather and Stephen Bertrand
Heidi and Steven Black
Ryn and Russell Bowers
Suzann and Travis C. Broesche
Charlie Cooper
Kimberly and Daniel Cooper
Lynn and Jary Glazer
Carol and J. Laird Griffin
Leisa Holland-Nelson
Brian Huddleston
Kathleen and Mike Johnson
Nancy and Robert Levinthal
Franna and Ted Litton
Colby F. Martin
Brett Snortland

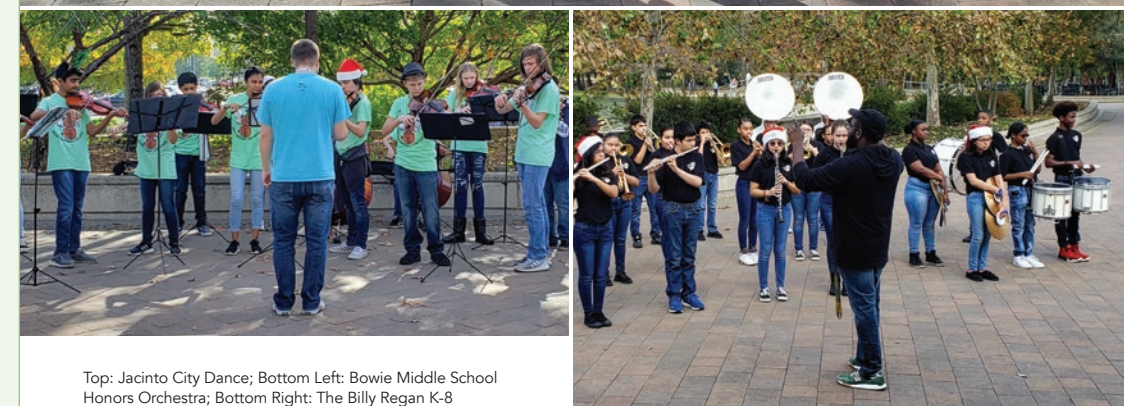
Keith Stitt
Lois Young Taber
The Taylors
Thrive Mortgage
Diane and Dick Trabulsi

Urban Green

\$500-\$999
Mary Stewart and Cotton Clark
Daniel Hyman
\$100-\$499
Emily Anderson
Kristi Axel
Carol and Gordie Beittenmiller
Nicole Beittenmiller
Tera Coffey
Caroline Connell
Matt Copley
Stewart Cory and Eric Kline
Price DuBose
Robert Finger
Shaune Greenwood
ZieZie Greenwood
Britt Guariglia and Rusty Sewell
Katherine Herrington
Leah Hurd
Diane Kerr
Catherine Lang
Elizabeth Langenstein
Jeanelle Lopez
Katie and Jeff Masters
Adrienne McCord
Madison McDuffie
Dylan McNally
Teresa Osso
James Purtle
Mika and James Purtle
Kelly and Billy Reynolds
Nicole Richard
Rachel Savage
Nick Scurfield
Sara Shannon
Lane Smith
Casey Wright

In Kind
Abejas Boutique
Alley Theatre
Anvil Cards
Axelrad Beer Garden
The Bar Method Houston-Montrose
Barry's Bootcamp Houston
BikeHouston
Boost Pilates
The Burger Joint
Mary Stewart and Cotton Clark
Cyclebar Sawyer Heights
Diageo
DJ Mav
Eureka Heights
Fat Cat Creamery
Fourth And Nomad
Graze htx
High & Dry
Hotel Alessandra
Houston BCycle
Houston Curling Club
Houston Grand Opera
Houston Museum of Natural Science
The Houstonian Hotel, Club, and Spa
Howl At The Moon Houston
Jentry Kelley
Johnny's Gold Brick
Kolache Shoppe
La Mexicana Restaurant
Lawndale Art Center

Student Performances in the Park light up Lake Plaza



Top: Jacinto City Dance; Bottom Left: Bowie Middle School Honors Orchestra; Bottom Right: The Billy Regan K-8 Educational Center

What started a decade ago as a way to give area students a platform to showcase their talents has turned into a perennial Hermann Park favorite.

If you've ever stumbled upon a group of singing schoolchildren or a teenaged orchestra while strolling in the Park, you've likely already seen one of the Student Performances in the Park.

In its tenth year, the Student Performances in the Park series features the talents of Houston metropolitan area students. About once a week or so, a school group will pop up in Lake Plaza to share their talents with Park goers. And, of course, it's completely free for anyone to attend and enjoy.

With 23 groups scheduled to perform this school year alone, there's something for everyone. From ukuleles to contemporary dance to recorders to children's choirs, the talent spectrum is truly wide-ranging.

Do you have a performing group that would like the opportunity to perform in beautiful Hermann Park? Please call 713-528-0827 or e-mail visitorservices@hermannpark.org for more information. If you would like to catch one of this year's performances, go to hermannpark.org/student-performances for a full calendar.

Run in the Park

A warm Saturday, one of the last summer-like days last fall, was the setting for this year's *Run in the Park*. This year marked the annual event's 16th outing, with nearly 500 runners taking their laps around Hermann Park.

A new addition this year, along with the 5K run/walk and 1K kids' run, was the 10K run, which took runners through the regular course along the Marvin Taylor Trail as well as along the trails on Brays Bayou.

A big thank you to this year's lead sponsors, Reliant, an NRG company and Williams.



Photos by BJ Hodges Photography

Park to Port Bike Ride

Fall in Hermann Park means two things: the annual *Run in the Park* and the *Park to Port Bike Ride*. This 20-mile ride, along the bayou trails from Hermann Park to near the Port of Houston and back, is a popular event every year, now in its sixth year.

More than 500 bikers signed up for this year's ride, making their way along the newly restored trails on Brays Bayou.

Thanks again to this year's main sponsors, Port Houston, Frost Bank, and Williams.



Urban Green continued

- In Kind
- Mariquita Masterson
- Mastrantos
- Melodrama Boutique
- Metcalf Fine Art Portrait
- Mirror Mirror Beauty Boutique
- Muse
- Museum of Fine Arts Houston
- New Artisan Spirits ROXOR
- The Nice Winery
- Painting with a Twist Heights
- Poitin Bar & Kitchen
- Raising Cane's
- Recharge Brewing
- Revolution Studio
- Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy
- The Rustic
- RYDE
- Saint Arnold Brewing Company
- Sanctuary Spa
- Adrienne D. Saxe
- Smooth Cookies
- Soul Cycle
- Standard
- Swift + Company
- Swoon Apparel and Accessories
- Tiff's Treats
- Town & Country Orthodontics
- Vida and Health Day Spa
- Well Done Cooking Classes

Plant a Tree

- \$1,000-\$4,999
- Helen Flores – In memory of "Hank" Hudspeth
- \$500-\$999
- Lynn and Marcel Mason
- \$100-\$499
- Cece and Mack Fowler – In honor of Bobby Tudor
- Didi Garza and Peter McLaughlin
- H. Joe Nelson III – In memory of Ed Wulfe
- Rachel E. Seibert – In honor of Robin Yates
- Gerri Wood – In memory of Martin LoBiondo

Urban Land Management

- \$10,000-\$24,999
- John P. McGovern Foundation
- \$5,000-\$9,999
- Robin and Richard Brooks
- \$100-\$499
- Marilyn and Robert Hermance

Horticulture Maintenance

- \$5,000-\$9,999
- MP Nexlevel, LLC

General Endowment Fund

- \$100-\$499
- Amanda and Robert Carlin – In memory of Erin Gregory Neale and Lamar Gregory Neale

Garden Conservancy Fund

- \$1,000-\$4,999
- Will McLendon – In memory of Archie Tafolla
- \$100-\$499
- Linda and Bill Carson – In honor of The Frels
- Gloria and Joe Pryzant

Tree Conservancy Fund

- \$500-\$999
- Anonymous – In memory of Patrick Donovan
- \$100-\$499
- Cheryl Ray and Ruel Smith

Volunteer Programs

- \$1,000-\$4,999
- Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
- LyondellBasell

In Kind

- Non Toxic Neighborhoods, LLC

Annual Fund/General Operations

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- Kathrine G. McGovern
- \$5,000-\$9,999
- Ann and Matt Barnes
- Mike Garver
- \$1,000-\$4,999
- Theresa and Evans Attwell
- Bank of America
- Jennifer and Leo Chen
- KC and William Coats – In memory of Bill Coats and Bob Kaim
- Genevieve and Lawrence Dimmitt – In honor of Chris Knapp and Marley Lott
- Connie and Eric Estopinal
- Sheila Heimbinder
- Harvey R. Houck, Jr. and Patricia W. Houck Foundation, Inc.
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- Franci Neely – In honor of Anja Allen
- Edward & Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
- Laura and Michael Puzio
- Fairfax and Risher Randall
- Mary L. and Brian N. Rollins
- Anne Schlumberger
- Vivian L. Smith Foundation
- Sara and Craig Stone
- Michele Thompson and Robert Yekovich
- Katharine and William Van Wie – In honor of our children and grandchildren

\$500-\$999

- Carol Brooks Berglass
- John Bradshaw Jr.
- Julie Cohn and John A. Connor
- Cece and Mack Fowler – In honor of Doreen Stoller
- Robert Marksteiner
- Carol and David Neuberger
- Lori and David Schumacher
- Lucy and Ernie Seward
- Nancy P. Thompson
- Jennifer Yuhas and Paul Neundofer

\$100-\$499

- Roger D. Aksamit
- Anonymous (2)
- Sue Sue and Don Aron – In honor of Barbara Friedman
- Christine Bourget
- Divya and Chris Brown
- The Burmasters
- Jane and Don Burney
- Kathleen and Glenn Cambor – In honor of Bill Coats
- CityBook Media, LLC
- Kathryn and Hank Coleman
- Yvonne and Rufus Cormier
- Bill and Connie Cox
- Kathy and Matt Crowder – In honor of Kathryn Crowder and Susan Zarate

Urban Green spends "A Night in Vegas"



Top: Kelly and Billy Reynolds, Nicole Richárd, Rob Memo, Leah and Richard Hurd

Bottom Left and Right: Partygoers took part in Vegas-style table games, housed in the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion.

They say that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, but that wasn't entirely true as Urban Green celebrated its fall fundraiser on November 6 at McGovern Centennial Gardens.

Complete with a lightshow and a casino (yes, with roulette, craps, poker, and all), the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion was transformed into the Strip for one night only.

Photos by Quy Tran Photography



In addition, the party featured food and drinks from some of the best restaurants in Houston, an amazing silent auction, and—as always—Vegas Strip-worthy beats from DJ Mav. In all, the party raised about \$12,000 for Hermann Park Conservancy.

Mark your calendars: the next Urban Green fundraiser, Around the World, is coming up on May 28.

DONORS

Annual Fund/

General Operations continued

\$100-\$499

Patricia de Groot and Marc Puppo
Barbara and Rudy Duarte
John Eymann
Bernard M Fields Management Corp
Ellie and Michael Francisco –
In honor of Doreen Stoller
Friend of Hermann Park
Jean and Donald Gray
Saundria and Jerome Gray
Nonya and Jonathan Grenader
Brian Ho
Josie and Michael Jones
Sarah Kimes – In honor of Kristy Bradshaw
Candace and Robert Levy
Jacqueline McCoy
Wendy McLaughlin
Gayle and Jerry McMorrow
Tom Menges
Bill Morris – In honor of P Lynn Sampson
Glenda Owen and Kevin Dubose –
In honor of Doreen Stoller
Gloria Pepper and Bernard Katz
Melanie and Chris Promecene –
In memory of Phoebe Herz and
Bruce Lee Promecene
Marcia and Les Randall –
In memory of Cindy Bridge
Cheryl Ray and Ruel Smith
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Redford –
In honor of Terrylin Neale
Sara Speer Selber –
In honor of Doreen Stoller
The Silva Family
Carol and William Simmons
Anna and David Stock
Amy and Robert Taylor
Debra Tice – In honor of
Austin Bennett Tice
Craig Vinson
William Vincent Walker
Gail and Michael Walsh
Bonnie J. White and Douglas Little
Sarah Wolfe and Allan Turner
Libbyette Wright and Wendy Donald
Sallie and Bob Wright –
In memory of Hardy Lott

Membership

\$2,500 +

Anonymous
Lora Jean Kilroy
Kathy and Randy Lake
\$500-\$2,499
Suzanne and Brian Adams
Anonymous (5)
Lee and Bob Ardell
Jim F. Avant
Karen and Charlie Baughn
Karen Bradshaw
Anna Louise Bruner
Helen and Ben Cohen
Almeria T. Cottingham
Kathryn Crowder and Susan Zarate
Joell and Thomas Doneker
Cathy and Wayne Donnelly
Susan M. Edwards
The Ensell Family
Marcia and Tom Faschingbauer
Jenny and Clayton Finney
Carolyn and Ron Galfione
Elizabeth A. Germani
Annie and Bob Graham
Lou Ann and Milton Gray

Josephine and Philip John
Maria and Brendan Lee
Sabrina and Asif Mahmood
Jacki and Frank McCreary
Fan Morris
Phyllis Panenka and David Archer
Pam Promecene
Macey and Harry Reasoner
Kristen Castellanos Ridgway and
David Ridgway
Karen and Howard Schneider
Susan and Ed Septimus
Pamela Smith
Joel Sprott
Amy Sutton and Gary Chiles
Peter Tsan
Melissa and Oliver Tuckerman
Pippa Wiley
Helen Wils and Leonard Goldstein
Sarena and Brad Wright
\$250-\$499
Minnette and Peter Boesel
Andree A. Boudreaux
William Boyer
Kathleen Bradley
Barb Brooks
Robin and Richard Brooks
Thomas Chen
Kathryn and Hank Coleman
Liz and Steve Crowell
Brittany and Steven Douglas
Paul F. Egner III
Stephen Elison
Stephanie and Dan Evans
Patricia and Bruce Ganer
Janet and Robert Haworth
Kim Hill
Charlotte and Geoffrey Hutson
Andy James
Laura Jones
Susanna and Clay Kartye
Carey Kirkpatrick and David Rassin
Katherine Kohlmeyer
Sheryl Kolasinski
Gwen Kunz
Denise and Matt Lanza
Jennifer and Chris Laporte
Harriet and Truett Latimer
Stephen A. Massad
Amy and Mark Melton
Roz and Alan Pactor
Esther and Gary Pollard
The Propst Family
Edlyn and David Pursell
Janet Redeker
Jessica and Cody Robinson
Mary Ann Ryerson
Frank Barlow Rynd
Shavonnah Roberts Schreiber and
Joseph Schreiber
Peggy and Bill Shrader
Arlene and Joe Staller
Linda and Xavier Stokes
Carol and Peter Taaffe
Connie and Tom Vargo
Vermillion Family
Gail and Thomas Viele
Gail and Michael Walsh
Ann Watson and James Allison –
In honor of Bill Coats
Beth and Joe Weikerth
Kathy J. Welch and John T. Unger
Madelaine Woods
Jan and Mike Yauch
Adriana and Edgar Yzquierdo

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY



Left: Shelley Rice and Kyle Wolfe tend to the bees; Center Top: Black Bee, photo by Lifted Up Photography; Center Bottom: Just a few of the hundreds of worms now calling the Park home; Right: Workers tend to the vermicomposting bin.

Bees Buzz at McGovern Centennial Gardens

Take a look behind the wooden fence in the Family Garden, and you might see something buzzworthy.

That's right, bees are an active—and vital—part of Hermann Park Conservancy's work in McGovern Centennial Gardens. Managed by volunteer beekeeper Shelley Rice, the small hive, made up of Western Honey Bees, is (mostly) harmless to the public and keep to themselves, but perform important tasks throughout the Gardens. According to Kyle Wolfe, the Conservancy's volunteer coordinator, it's just one of the many incredible things these small animals can do.

"Honey bees have the most amazing means of communication! When a bee finds a good source of nectar it flies back to the hive and shows its friends where the nectar source is by doing a dance which positions the flower in relation to the sun and hive. This is known as the waggle dance," Wolfe said.

Bees aren't the only creepy-crawly inhabitants of the Gardens. We've got worms! A part of a new vermicomposting system funded by a grant from Non Toxic Neighborhoods and Stonyfield Organics, 24 pounds of worms have now found their home in a large compost bin. Materials from both Conservancy offices and the Gardens themselves can be deposited here, and the worms will work their magic to create nutrient-rich compost. Keep an eye out for a full story on the worms in the spring edition of *Parkside*.



Little Free Library gives readers another reason to love the Gardens

A warm springtime day, a bench in McGovern Centennial Gardens, and a good book has long been a recipe for a perfect day. And now, it's even easier to get some reading time in while you're at the Gardens.

Located in the Family Garden, a brand-new Little Free Library has been installed and fully stocked. Donated by Hermann Park user Shahrzad Yekta, this new addition is sure to please book lovers from all over Houston. Get more information at littlefreelibrary.org.

Upcoming Member Exclusive Events



Along with exciting benefits like free tickets for the Hermann Park Railroad and pedal boats and discounts across the Park, members also get invites to member-exclusive events.

For a full list and more information, head to hermannpark.org/MemberEvents.



Love Your Park: Member Volunteer Day
Saturday, March 7, 7:00 – 10:30 am
Lake Plaza



Bike Your Park
Saturday, April 11, 10:30 am – 12 pm
McGovern Centennial Gardens



Member Burger Night
Thursday, May 7, 5:30 – 7 pm
Pinewood Café

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Membership continued \$100-\$249

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Save the Dates! Hermann Park Conservancy Calendar of Events



Houston Rockets Dog Walk
Saturday, March 7, 8–10 am
Lake Plaza



Hats in the Park
Thursday, March 26, 11:30 am
Chairs: Gina Bhatia, Mary D'Andrea, Allison Thacker
Honoree: Sandy Godfrey
McGovern Centennial Gardens



7th Annual Kite Festival
Sunday, March 29, 10 am–5 pm
Chairs: Holly Alvis, Katie Arnoldy, Brittany Sakowitz Kushner,
Natalie Steen
Miller Hill and Jones Reflection Pool



Evening in the Park
Friday, April 24, 6:30 pm
Chairs: Sis and Hasty Johnson, Vallette and Russell Windham
Honoree: Marley Lott
Molly Ann Smith Plaza and Jones Reflection Pool

Details at hermannpark.org



contribute today!

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Improvements

Dedicate a
bench

Plant a tree

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George Hermann
Society

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the Park

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