

# PARKSIDE

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.



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

in the park

## Seven Years in the Making!— The Commons

The Commons is currently under construction and we want to share some of its exciting elements coming to life. With the expertise of Marlon Blackwell Architects, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, MONSTRUM, and Forney Construction, areas such as gorilla forest, the rest pavilion, carousel and fishing pier are taking shape. Here is a behind the scenes look at some of the magic.



Rendering and photos by MONSTRUM



Within the **Gorilla Forest**, visitors will be greeted with a friendly face. As a nod to our neighbors at the Houston Zoo, the Gorilla sits along the path from the Commons to the Houston Zoo and Lake Plaza. Primarily constructed of highly durable wood, the gorilla will be able to withstand the Houston climate and weather for years to come. The gorilla will delight with fun features like special views for children from the gorilla's eyes, and the opportunity to slide down the gorilla's arm or his banana! The 11-foot gorilla is currently located in Denmark where it is being constructed and will be shipped to its new home in the Commons. The Danish contractor, MONSTRUM, is including play elements to accompany the gorilla and simulate its natural habitat, such as climbable tree trunks.

Continued, pages 6-7



It takes the entire community to help Hermann Park—including a community of daikon radishes! See the results of these hardworking plants on pages 4 and 5 to see why Lulu is impressed.

Doreen and Lulu in the Radishes

Every time you walk in Hermann Park you are surrounded by beauty. You see it high in the crown of the cathedral of live oaks along the Marvin Taylor Trail. You see it in the expanse of blooms flanking the central lawn in the McGovern Centennial Garden. And you see it in the stillness of the egrets poised on the boulders in the Japanese Garden.

With so much to see, you probably don't often look down. But the Park's soil sustains the vibrant life above it. Truth be told, it even sustains an incredible life within it.

We are sharing construction photos of the Commons and it is fun to watch it take shape. But this project actually started a few years ago when we planted seven acres of daikon radishes to condition the soil. This enriched soil has carefully been stored for reuse in the new planting beds in the Commons. Future visitors will enjoy the lush native plants—but will have no idea that the soil beneath them has been transformed, too. See the full story on pages 4 and 5.

I think about the Park's supporters every time I see this soil serving as a vital foundation. The Conservancy has received over 41,000 gifts of \$100 or less to support the Park, and gifts from 151 of Houston's 178 zip codes. So not only are you coming to use the Park from across Houston, you are coming to help it, too. I enjoy waving to everyone on the little train, and watching extended families set up for a picnic. And I know that they are enjoying the beauty of the Park because of your broad, grass roots (radish roots?) support. You are the foundation for all that we have been able to do. Thank you for making the magic happen.

See you in the Park!

*Doreen*

Doreen Stoller, President

DONORS

**Play Your Park Campaign & The Commons**

**\$1,000,000+**  
Anonymous  
The Astros Foundation  
Marvy Finger Family Foundation

**\$500,000-\$999,999**  
*In honor of Susan and Richard Keeton—*  
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Marley Lott  
Laura and Henry McVey  
The Weekley Family

**\$100,000-\$249,999**  
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Mary Rebecca and Cody Dick  
Ray C. Fish Foundation

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**\$5,000-\$9,999**  
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**\$1,000-\$4,999**  
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**\$100-\$499**  
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Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell and Derrick Mitchell – In memory of Butch, Keenan, Twinkle, Lexi, Prince & Gucci

**\$10,000-\$24,999**  
Barbara and Louis Sklar – In honor of Laura and Brad McWilliams

**\$1,000-\$4,999**  
Josephine and Philip John

**\$500-\$999**  
Cathryn Taylor Chapman

**\$100-\$499**  
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David Greiss and David Romero

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John P. McGovern Foundation

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**\$100-\$499**  
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**McGovern Centennial Gardens**

**\$100-\$499**  
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Joanne Crull  
Saundria and Jerome Gray  
Kingwood Garden Club  
MDACC ICT Regulatory Family – In honor of Vanda Stepanek

**Japanese Garden**

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**\$5,000-\$9,999**  
Joann and Helmuth Goepfert

**\$1,000-\$4,999**  
Kathy and Glen Gondo

**\$500-\$999**  
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**\$100-\$499**  
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Elizabeth Anne Lynn  
MDACC ICT Regulatory Family – In honor of Vanda Stepanek  
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**Plant a Tree**

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**\$500-\$999**  
Maryann Patterson Ingersoll – In memory of Dennis "Scott" Ingersoll  
Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker – In memory of Kate Gorry, Raymond Lankford, Christie Vaughan  
Edith and Robert Zinn – In memory of Elton Lipnick

**\$100-\$499**  
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The Bomstad Family  
Sarah Crulcich – In honor of Kate Thomas and Mike Beeby  
Cece and Mack Fowler – In memory of Carroll Shaddock  
Edwin Glaze – In memory of John Glaze  
Alex Heinkenschloss – In memory of Preston Morrow  
Ingersoll Family: BethGuinn, Chris & Maryann – In memory of D. Scott Ingersoll  
Linda and George Kelly – In memory of Susan K. Dunwoody  
Margaret Lloyd and Bob Randolph – In memory of Carroll Shaddock  
Mobiqity Technologies – In memory of Ann McDaniel

Ivan Ortega – In honor of Eric Bueso  
Scenic Texas – In memory of Carroll Shaddock  
Meredith Schlanger  
Tim Sturm – In honor of the Kliebert family and their mother Gloria  
Nang Tang – In memory of Tang Huynh Thanh Kim

**Volunteer Programs**

**\$1,000-\$4,999**  
Sara and Craig Stone

**Urban Land Management**

**\$10,000-\$24,999**  
John P. McGovern Foundation

**\$1,000-\$4,999**  
The Garden Club of Houston/  
Partners for Plants

**In Kind**  
Apache Corporation

**Tree Conservancy Fund**

**\$500-\$999**  
Verena and Alfred Dettwiler

**\$100-\$499**  
Gabriela Tantillo

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

What's Blooming?

Spring is one of the most exciting times of the year for our visitors and horticultural staff. The Japanese Garden comes to life after a short winter. Monarchs take flight enjoying the nectar from the flourishing plants and flowers and bees buzz through the lush greenery.

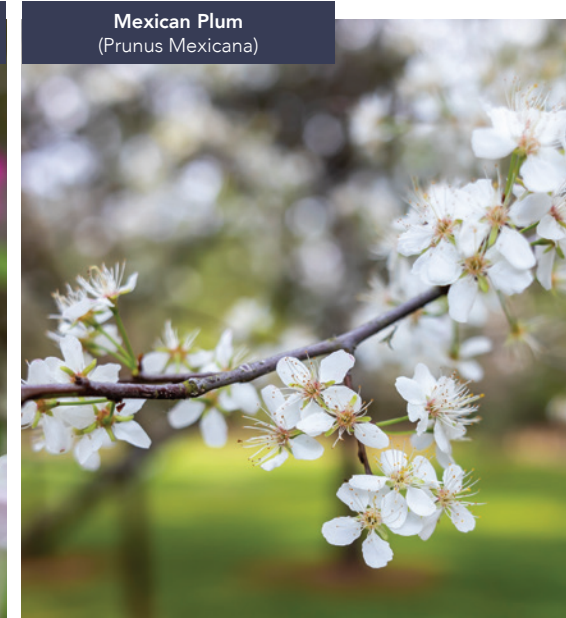
Despite the ever-shifting weather during this seasonal transition, the horticulture team continues to work assiduously to care for all the plant life in the Japanese Garden. The team is working to continuously improve plant nutrition through seasonal fertilizer inputs and regular plant and soil health assessments. Thanks to our members and generous supporters, we are able to continue caring for the Japanese Garden. Your support makes it possible for the thousands of visitors to find serenity here.

To learn more about the Japanese Garden or to help us keep the Garden blooming, visit us at [hermannpark.org/japanesegarden](http://hermannpark.org/japanesegarden).

And a quick reminder that the Japanese Garden hours have changed to reflect the spring time. So make sure to visit from 9 am to 6 pm daily until October 31.



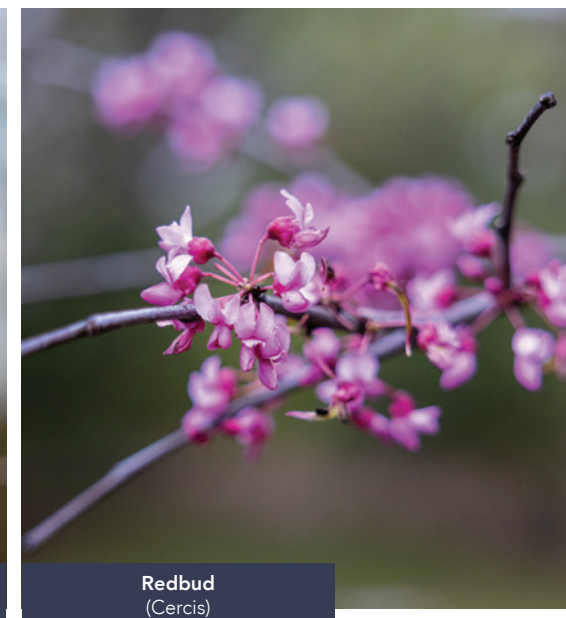
**Azalea**  
(Multiple Species)



**Mexican Plum**  
(Prunus Mexicana)



**Okame Flowering Cherry**  
(Prunus 'Okame')



**Redbud**  
(Cercis)

# From the Ground Up!

Work on the Commons began two years before construction fences went up. With over 7 acres of natural habitat coming to the site, the Conservancy began to condition the soil so new plantings would thrive. The Conservancy adopted regenerative agricultural techniques to improve the land's overall ecological health, benefiting the relationship between plant life, wildlife, and people.



Rejuvenating the native dirt was of utmost importance to the Commons' future plant life due to the soil in the area becoming compacted over the years. The Conservancy set out to break up the clay-like soil by planting cereal rye and daikon radish plants. These plants penetrated the soil's compaction zone with their deep roots—breaking up the soil and improving its water infiltration and nutrients. Afterwards, these plants were allowed to decompose in place to further enrich the soil.



Susanna Kartye



Susanna Kartye

Once the cereal rye and daikon radish plants fulfilled their duties, an estimated 9,000 cubic yards of revitalized topsoil was collected and piled into four mounds for later use in the Commons project.

Preservation of the newly revitalized soil was of top priority as it awaited its final destination in areas such as the Welcome Garden. Pipes were inserted into each mound to allow drainage and provide aeration. Drainage displaces water and allows nutrients to flow into and remain in the soil, and aeration reduces compaction and oxidation.

When the Commons opens in 2024, visitors will see native plantings flourish as a result of this process. What started almost three years ago will now conclude with the Conservancy fulfilling the soil project by transforming the area into a healthy habitat for people, plants, and nature.

Rendering by MWA

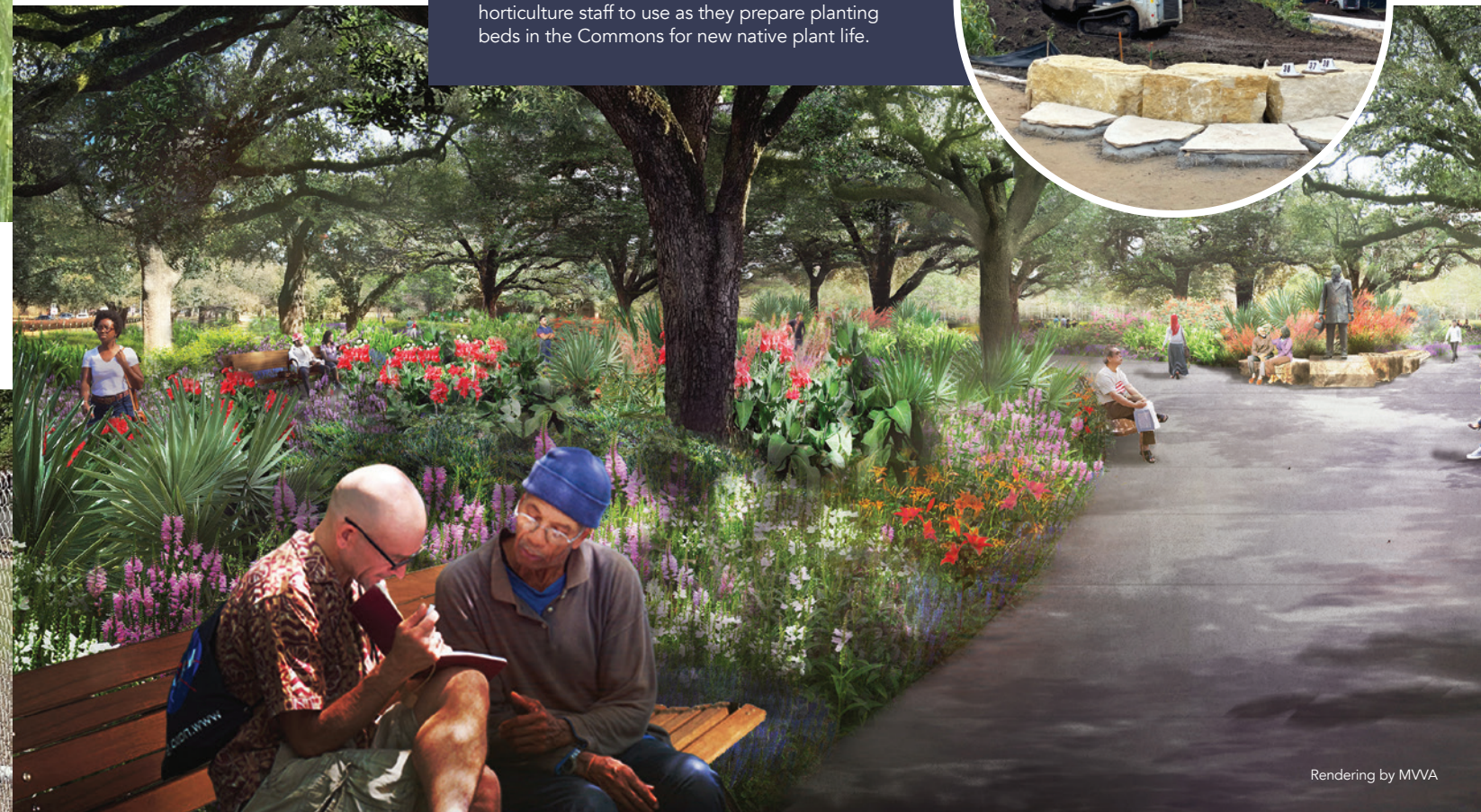
Susanna Kartye



Susanna Kartye

Hemp and sorghum were planted to prevent the soil mounds from washing away. Beautiful yellow flowers bloomed as a result of these plantings — a picture-worthy added bonus.

After months of being stored on site, contractors began harvesting the fresh soil for volunteers and horticulture staff to use as they prepare planting beds in the Commons for new native plant life.



# The Commons, continued from page 1



Lifted Up Aerial Photography



Joe Meppelink

**THE REST PAVILION** was designed by Marlon Blackwell Architects with the intention to be a harmonious structure with the Conservancy's newest soon-to-be favorite attraction, the carousel. The pavilion features a halo-like roof made of a composite metal pane that will reflect light across the structure's brick exterior. This reflection will create a playful interaction between light and shadow throughout the course of the day, creating an ethereal space.



Marlon Blackwell Architects



Susanna Kartye



Lifted Up Aerial Photography

**CAROUSEL** One of the most anticipated features of the Commons is the carousel. Similar to the rest pavilion, the carousel's structure was designed to interact with light creating an illusion that the halo-like roof is floating over the carousel. The carousel includes horses and other animals that were selected by the public such as a hummingbird, cat, frog, and rabbit. Thank you to Sherry and Tommy Lott, longtime Hermann Park supporters, for their gift to underwrite the new carousel.

Continued, next page

**Garden Conservancy Fund**

**\$100-\$499**  
Karen and Rick Bell – In memory of Sue Hardwick

**Run in the Park**

**\$10,000-\$24,999**  
Reliant - an NRG Company  
**\$5,000-\$9,999**  
UTHealth Houston  
Williams  
**\$2,500-\$4,999**  
Frost Bank  
**\$500-\$999**  
Kate Bell Elementary School

**\$100-\$499**  
Morgan Garvey  
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Conrado Ordonez  
Melissa Palmer  
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Raising Cane's  
Rambler  
Saint Arnold Brewing Company  
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**Park to Port Bike Ride**

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Frost Bank  
**\$1,000-\$2,499**  
AECOM  
**\$500-\$999**  
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**\$100-\$499**  
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Sakita Douglas  
Glencia Green  
David Hsieh  
Paul Klein  
Alvaro Orjuela  
John Ridgway

**In Kind**  
DJ Mav  
EaDo Bike Co  
Houston Parks Board  
John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science  
Port Houston  
Raising Cane's  
Rambler  
Saint Arnold Brewing Company

**Urban Green**

**\$100-\$499**  
Mariela Bonilla  
George Ganak  
Jena Goetz and Keith Lane  
The Beth and Steve Guinn Family  
Brigette Pitts  
Sean Ploch  
Kelly and Billy Reynolds  
**In Kind**  
Hughie's Tavern and Vietnamese Grille  
Paulie's  
Raising Cane's  
Saint Arnold Brewing Company  
Van Leeuwen Ice Cream

**Hats in the Park**

All gifts in honor of Susie Criner and Ann Short, honorees, and chairs Kristy Bradshaw, Kelley Lubanko and Leigh Smith

**\$25,000-\$49,999**  
Kristy and Chris Bradshaw/Bristow Group  
Kelley Lubanko/Leigh Smith  
Kathrine McGovern/McGovern Foundation  
Stephanie Tsuru  
**\$10,000-\$24,999**  
Anonymous  
Bradshaw Besties  
Lois Chiles  
CKP  
Emily Clay  
Estela Cockrell/Melissa Holman Juneau/  
Melissa Mithoff  
Susie and Sanford Criner  
Cherie Flores  
Sandy and Lee Godfrey  
Cynthia Guill  
Sippi Khurana/Amy Pierce/  
Kristina Somerville  
Laura C. McWilliams/Kim Tutcher  
Ann and Don Short  
Allison Thacker  
Phoebe Tudor  
MaryFaye Way  
Randa Weiner  
Whalley Family Foundation

**\$5,000-\$9,999**  
Henrietta Alexander  
Alex Blair and Friends  
Kathryn Boeker/Anne Calder/  
Kaitlyn Scheurich/Lori Speier  
Jan Cato  
Gracie Cavnar  
CenterPoint Energy  
Julie Longoria Chen  
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Jenny Elkins  
Cece and Mack Fowler  
Mignon Gill  
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Hildebrand Fund  
Houston Methodist  
Demetra C. Jones/Tina A. Peterman/  
Nicola Fuentes Toubia  
Carolyn Moore Khourie  
Kristy's Forum 3 + Friends  
Stacey Lindseth/Donae Chramosta/  
Vintage Contessa  
Rebecca Mark-Jusbasche/Diana Mark  
Kristen McDaniel /Liz McIngvale-Mackey  
Memorial Hermann  
Cabrina Owsley  
Petrello Family Foundation  
Linsay Radcliffe/Kate Stukenberg  
Susan D. Sarofim  
Scurlock Foundation  
Jordan Seff  
UTHealth Houston

**\$1,000-\$4,999**  
Jennifer and Scott Allison  
Ann Ayre  
Lara Bell  
Kate Criner Bellin  
Kristen Berger  
Jill Bomar  
Cathy and Joe Cleary  
Stacey Crenshaw  
Liz Dinerstein  
Carolyn Dorros  
Annie and Campbell Eifler  
Lessa Elsenbrook  
Allie Fields/Fields Cos  
Martha Finger  
Ellie Francisco  
Jennifer and Lance Gilliam  
Janita and Garney Griggs  
Carol and Charles Herder  
Houston Parks Board - In honor of Doreen Stoller and her team at HPC  
Linda Hunsaker  
Jill Jewett  
Sissy Kempner  
Amy LeBlanc  
Sharon McLaughlin

# The Commons, continued



Lifted Up Aerial Photography



Lifted Up Aerial Photography



Susanna Kartye



Joe Meppelink

**FISHING PIER & LAKE DRAINAGE** In early 2023, portions of McGovern Lake were drained to begin construction of the new fishing pier. During this process, great care was taken to relocate wildlife found in the lake's waters. Now situated in one of the deeper locations of the lake, the new fishing pier will offer a spectacular panoramic view of Stone Cove, McGovern Lake, and the bird islands. Thank you to the Dearing Family Foundation for their gift to build the new fishing pier.

## Hats in the Park 2023

This year marked the 15th anniversary of Hats in the Park. Co-chairs Kristy Bradshaw, Kelley Lubanko and Leigh Smith, dubbed the "Triumphant Trio," ensured the March 23 celebration was befitting of this very special occasion. The beautiful and joyous affair in the McGovern Centennial Gardens was filled with friends and, of course, fabulous hats.

The 15th anniversary luncheon honored Susie Criner and Ann Short, who had the vision and tenacity to create and co-chair the very first *Hats in the Park* in 2008. Susie and Ann proudly shared this honor with their husbands and families in attendance—with many members travelling from across the country to celebrate with them. Both families have decades of memories from time spent in the Park—from visits when their kids were young to the Criner grandchildren now getting to enjoy the Park and share rides on the Hermann Park Railroad. The Shorts are looking forward to sharing Hermann Park with their grandchildren one day.

With the help of all of the generous attendees and donors, *Hats in the Park* was able to raise over \$520,000 towards the care and improvement of Hermann Park—setting a new fundraising record.

**To everyone that supported the luncheon, thank you for making a difference in Hermann Park.**

Photos by Jenny Antill



**1** Hats in the Park co-chairs Kelley Lubanko, Leigh Smith and Kristy Bradshaw **2** Sanford Criner, Georgie Bellin, Kate Bellin, Lucky Bellin, Honoree Susie Criner and Annie Criner Eifer **3** Cecily Elizondo, Maxwell Elizondo, Honoree Ann Short, Don Short and Will Short **4** Y. Ping Sun, Doreen Stoller and Phoebe Tudor **5** Mayor Sylvester Turner **6** Brittany Sakowitz Kushner **7** Katie Forney and Lindsay Radcliffe **8** Valerie Dieterich and Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell **9** Shawn Stephens and Martha Finger **10** Demetra Jones, Paula Harris, Dr. Lesia Crumpton-Young, Jacquie Baly and Cynthia Wolff **11** Laura McWilliams and Cora Bess Meyer **12** Kate Stukenberg, Nicole Katz and Lexie Bordeaux **13** Mary Poag, Sandy Godfrey, Miriam Myers **14** Alex Blair, Brigitte Kalai and Aliza Fan Dutt **15** Heather Waters, Kim Tutcher, Brenda Love and Jana Arnoldy **16** Isabel David and Rishma Mohamed **17** Cynthia Petrello **18** Mack Fowler, Susie Criner and Cece Fowler **19** Duyen Nguyen, Debbie Festari and Carrie Brandsberg-Dahl **20** Emily Clay and Catherine Clay **21** Chelsea Pacey, Lori Speier and Anne Calder **22** Allison Thacker and Isabel David **23** Rachel Solar, Brooke Bently-Gunst, Lindsey Brown and Maria Vilchez-Lowrey **24** Holly Radom, Audrey White, Allie Fields and Julie Longoria Chen **25** Bethany Buchanan, Hallie Vanderhider, Fady Armanious and Chita Craft **26** Stephanie Tsuru, Elizabeth Waggett, Katie Tsuru, Donae Chramosta

## Community Events

Over **1,100 participants** in the Conservancy's fall community events, **raised over \$85,000** for the care of Hermann Park.

### Run in the Park



Over 700 Park supporters ran, walked, and strolled beneath the lush tree canopy along Hermann Park trails at the 19th annual *Run in the Park*, powered by Reliant.

Amesha Forward, a Teacher Specialist for Kate Bell Elementary, has attended the run year-after-year. Forward ran the trails alongside her students and their parents.

"This park is a staple in the Houston community, a safe place for runners and joggers of all abilities, and is also very dear to me personally," Forward said. "It reminds us that we all may begin together, but use our own pace as a journey to finish whatever we start."

During the Williams' 1K Kids' Run, hundreds of children looped around the Jones Reflection Pool heading toward the finish line. Among them was Forward's daughter, Andrea.

"Being able to attend this event with my daughter was awesome," Forward said. "To see her engage with other children her age and persevere through the finish line was everything!"

**Make sure to mark your calendar for the 20th annual *Run in the Park* on Saturday, October 21, 2023.**

### *Hats in the Park, continued*

#### \$1,000-\$4,999

Rishma Mohamed  
Franci Neely  
H. Joe Nelson III  
Eloise Novotny  
Judy Nyquist  
Karen Payne  
Alie Pruner - In honor of Rebecca Mark-Jusbasche and Phoebe Tudor  
Elisa Pye  
Carolyn Roch  
Leslie Elkins Sasser  
Kimberly Hickson Spaw and David Spaw  
Steak 48  
Doreen Stoller  
Y. Ping Sun  
Carolyn Tanner  
Judy Tate  
Tootsies  
Hallie Vanderhider  
Margaret Alkek Williams  
Lynn S. Wyatt  
Gayle Lynn Zarrow

#### \$500-\$999

Dorothy Ables  
Kadriye Alcorn  
Lauren Athon  
Marissa Avery  
Jay Baker  
Elliott Bossin  
Shelley V. Boyer  
Alice Mao Brams  
Margaret Bravo  
CAPTRUST  
Whitney Casas  
Debbie Chenevert  
Juliana May Chervanick  
C. C. Conner  
Jacquelyn Cox  
Chita Craft  
Bailey Dalton-Binion  
Cissy Segall Davis - In honor of Doreen Stoller  
Jane DiPaolo  
Celia and Cornelius Dupré  
Sally Edmundson  
Jane Eifler  
Sydney Eifler  
Marita Fairbanks  
Judy and Tom Farrell - In memory of Miles Farrell

Friends of Henrietta Alexander  
Elia Gabbanelli  
Morgan Garvey  
Cyndy Garza  
Clare A. Glassell  
Scarlett Hankey  
Diana Hawkins  
Kara Hilliard  
Judy Ho  
Michelle Hsia

E. Anne Hughes - In memory of Eleanor Lenz  
Melanie Johnson  
Caroline Knapp  
Harriet Latimer  
Cheyanne Leibe  
Elizabeth Leykum  
Liberty Bank and Trust  
Audrey Loweth  
DeeDee Marsh  
Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell  
Denise Monteleone  
Malaika Mukoro  
Duyen Nguyen  
Henley Old  
Tennie Ott  
Chelsea Pacey

Bette Schein Pesikoff - In memory of Sarah Rabinow Pesikoff  
Amanda Hughes Pickering  
Lauren Randle  
Jennifer Roane  
Julie Devillier Sanchez  
Stephanie Sanders  
Sally Anne Schmidt and Marc Tabolsky  
Mary Schneidau - In honor of Emily Clay and Catherine Clay  
Shavonnah Roberts Schreiber  
Kelley Scofield

Cindy and Mike Sheen - In honor of Sandy and Lee Godfrey  
Ally Shell - In memory of BJ Shell  
Yoon Smith  
S. Shawn Stephens  
Ishwaria Subbiah  
Erica and Daniel Sweet - In honor of Sloane and Quinn  
Sharron Tomlin  
Ellie and Jon Totz  
Erika Toussaint  
Ileana Trevino  
Tami Wall  
Meggan M. Walsh  
Claire Walters  
Katherine Warren  
Kelli Weinzierl  
Audrey White  
Lexie White  
Stephanie Willinger  
Beth Wolff

#### \$100-\$499

Susan Branisa - In memory of Michael Ryan Branisa  
Jennifer Cope  
Haydeh and Ali Davoudi - In honor of Teymour, Cyrus & Darya Davoudi  
Ellen Drushel - In honor of Emily Clay  
Peggy and Bert DuPont - In honor of Kathrine McGovern  
Cecily and Max Elizondo  
Andria Francis - In honor of Emily Clay  
Jo and Jim Furr  
Harriet Leavell - In honor of Carolyn Khourie  
Joel Luks  
Cora Bess Meyer - In honor of Laura McWilliams  
Vance Muse and Carl Palazzolo  
Evelyn Nolen  
Heidi Perry  
Ellen Rienstra  
Kendra Smith - In honor of Millie Phillips  
Elizabeth Waggett - In honor of Darcy Franklin-Waggett  
Laurie Williams - In honor of Laura and Brad McWilliams  
Cyvia Wolff  
Carrie and Ron Woliver - In memory of Clarence A. Woliver Sr.

#### In Kind

City Kitchen Catering  
PaperCity Magazine

#### Annual Fund/General Operations

##### \$25,000-\$49,999

Annie and Ben Bergeron  
Cockrell Family Fund  
The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

##### \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous (2)  
Crestwood Equity Partners LP  
Ana Llorente and Family - In memory of Alberto Jose de Solo  
Kathrine G. McGovern  
Rocket Ball, Ltd.

##### \$5,000-\$9,999

Ann and Matt Barnes  
Commerce Bancshares Foundation  
Garver/Black/Hilyard Family Foundation  
Harvey R. Houck, Jr. and Patricia W. Houck Foundation, Inc.  
Letty Knapp - In honor of Vivie and Chris O'Sullivan

##### \$1,000-\$4,999

The Attwell Foundation  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Jennifer and Leo Chen  
Dona and Albert Clay  
Almeria T. Cottingham  
Paula and Reginald DesRoches  
Gail and Monte Edlund  
Connie and Eric Estopinal  
Didi Garza and Peter McLaughlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Myron Goforth  
John F. Griffin

## Park to Port Bike Ride



Cyclists cruised through the Bayou City on a cool fall morning at the 8th annual *Park to Port* bike ride on Saturday, November 5, 2022. Meeting at Hermann Park's Bayou Parkland, hundreds of cyclists prepared to journey along the Bayou Greenway Trail.

A longtime cycle enthusiast, Paul Eustace, biked an estimated 8,300 miles in 2022, and participated in 152 bike rides, including *Park to Port*.

"I was informed about the event by a friend of mine and we thought it would be a great idea for us to join knowing that it would directly

support the park," Eustace said. "I try to do as many charity rides as I can, so knowing my contribution would go toward one of Houston's major parks felt good."

At the midway point riders were greeted with a turn-around party at Mason Park sponsored by Port Houston, and then a post-ride party under Hermann Park's Bill Coats Bridge.

**The 9th annual *Park to Port* bike ride is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023.**

Photo by Houston Rockets



## Houston Rockets Dog Walk

Park supporters, Houston Rockets fans, and their four-legged best friends enjoyed a brisk morning stroll around Hermann Park during the Houston Rockets Dog Walk on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Pet-owners and their furry companions come back every year to walk the most pet-friendly trails in Houston. Pups also received complimentary treats from Ginger Kale and their human counterparts enjoyed drinks provided by Tito's Vodka!

**Stay tuned for details on the 11th annual Houston Rockets Dog Walk in 2023.**

## Traditions in Hermann Park

Hermann Park serves as a gathering place for people all over the world to create everlasting memories in the heart of the city. As a Park that's been in Houston for over 100 years, many of our visitors come back year-after-year to continue the traditions that were started by those before them.



In November of 2022, we reached out to the members of the community to share what traditions bring them to the Park.

*"For the last several years I gather my children and family on Mother's Day to meet for a picnic in the grass behind my sweet mother's bench near the reflection pool. They have literally been the most memorable of my life."*

— @Wealthofknowledge

*"It's tradition after visiting the Zoo to ride the train after."*

— @Texasdaytripper



*"The kite festival is our family tradition, love walking around and seeing how colorful the hill becomes. Also lunch at Ginger Kale after a long walk, it's our treat after walking the trail."*

— @rbf.emil

*"I have a tradition of taking a day for myself every six months and going to the Museum of Natural Science during the free hours on Thursday. But first, I get myself a coffee and I walk through Hermann Park: The Japanese Garden, around McGovern Lake, and along the reflection pool. After wandering the Park but before heading into the museum, I find a bench along the reflection pool and I sit and write postcards to my friends as I watch other park goers and enjoy the beauty of the Park."*

— @Swij2

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## HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

## Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party!



John Eymann, left and Donna Yanowski right, attend the Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party as long-time volunteers for the Park.

Through working alongside Conservancy horticulture staff and fellow veteran gardeners, volunteer Donna Yanowski, has found opportunities to nurture new relationships while giving back to the Park.

"I've been volunteering at the Park for seven to eight years," Yanowski said. "What brings me back every year, besides the worms, are all the friends I've made while volunteering in the Park."

Gunes Orman, who recently joined the Conservancy volunteer team, finds a sense of serenity in the middle of a sprawling city. Despite not being able to garden in her home,

she is able to cross the street to the McGovern Centennial Gardens to lose herself in the gardens.

"I mostly volunteer at the Centennial Gardens and my most favorite part is spending time in the Rose Garden," Orman said. "As I am working, the smell of the roses is so mesmerizing; it feels so peaceful."

As a thank you, the Conservancy, hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party at the Brown Foundation Volunteer Center. The delightful aroma of hot chocolate filled the air and volunteers enjoyed sweets provided by Ginger Kale and Paulie's.



**Interested in team building opportunities with your organization or company? Volunteer at Hermann Park!**

It takes a team to keep the Park beautiful and healthy for the over 6 million annual visitors who spend their days on our trails, gardens and play areas. To learn more about group volunteer opportunities at the Park, contact us at [volunteer@hermannpark.org](mailto:volunteer@hermannpark.org) or at 713-524-5876.



## Every Membership Counts at Hermann Park Conservancy

Hermann Park Conservancy members 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 love riding the train.

While each member might enjoy the Park in their own way or have a unique favorite spot, they share a common bond and join together to support vital operational needs in Hermann Park, which helps us keep it looking better than ever.

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 by visiting [hermannpark.org/membership](https://hermannpark.org/membership).

Play **YOUR** Park



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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 August 1, 2022 and January 31, 2023, and George Hermann Society members. Gifts to Kite Festival and Evening in the Park will be recognized in a subsequent issue. 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.

## Save the Dates!



Friday, April 28 | 6:30 pm

### Evening in the Park

Chaired by Ping Sun and David Leebron and Phoebe and Bobby Tudor, this year's annual gala will honor Doreen Stoller as she celebrates 20 years as president of Hermann Park Conservancy. What a legacy! We hope you will join us for this special occasion. Learn more at [hermannpark.org/gala](https://hermannpark.org/gala).



Every Fourth Wednesday April - June | 6:00 pm

### Garden and Nature Series

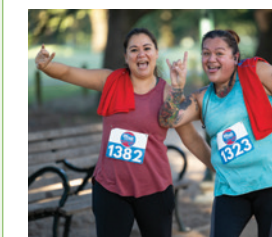
Kick off the spring season with Garden & Nature Series! Happening every fourth Wednesday from April to June, meet with HPC horticulture staff and garden professionals for a hands-on, interactive evening in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. While Garden & Nature Series is free to the public and open to all ages, RSVP is required. To keep up-to-date visit us at [hermannpark.org/calendar](https://hermannpark.org/calendar).



Thursday, May 18 | 6:30 pm

### Urban Green's Night of Loteria

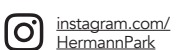
Join Hermann Park Conservancy's young professional's group, Urban Green, for a Night of Loteria at Lott Hall! Inspired by the most recognized version of Loteria by Don Clemente, players will find original cards such as "El World Series," "El Slab" and "Los Rockets." Make sure to save the date for a night of Loteria, music, food, and more!



Saturday, October 21

### Run in the Park

Save the date for Hermann Park Conservancy's longest-standing community event, the 20th annual Run in the Park! The event will feature a 5K, 10K, and 1K Kid's route and a post-race party taking place at Molly Ann Smith Plaza. Make sure to check [hermannpark.org](https://hermannpark.org) to find the latest updates regarding Run in the Park!







Help us reach the  
finish line!

We're less than **3%** away  
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