



HERMANN
PARK 1914-2014
CENTENNIAL

2014: The Centennial Year of Hermann Park. A once in a lifetime opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and secure the Park's future.

Be a part of the Centennial Campaign for Hermann Park and help complete a treasure 100 years in the making.



What would Houston be without Hermann Park?

An oasis of green and blue in the heart of Houston, Hermann Park has provided a respite for urban dwellers since 1914. Even with the excitement surrounding its establishment as one of the first city parks in a growing metropolis, could its planners really have known how important their park would become or what it would mean to so many?

Today, almost 100 years later, the Park is surrounded by dense residential neighborhoods as well as the Houston Museum

District, Rice University, and the Texas Medical Center. Here children splash in the fountains around the Pioneer Monument, students read under the shade of tall pines and outstretched oaks, families pedal boats amid the ducks on McGovern Lake, and friends gather around picnic tables for birthday parties. Hermann Park provides millions of visitors from all backgrounds and walks of life the opportunity to come together to play, relax, and celebrate every year.

front cover photo: Kasey Marsh

Nash Baker

The History

Hermann Park has had a huge impact on the quality of life in Houston since the 1914 gift of philanthropist George Hermann. Designed by renowned landscape architect George Kessler, the first plan for the Park laid the groundwork for signature elements admired today: the main entrance at Montrose Boulevard and Main Street, reflection pool, grand basin

(McGovern Lake), music pavilion (Miller Theatre), paths and carriage trails, and golf course. After Kessler's death in 1923, the firm Hare & Hare expanded the plan, adding the Garden Center and Zoo.

Due to world events and the scarcity of resources over the following decades, aspects of the grand plans were never completed. As time wore on, it was as if there had never been a plan at all. In the 1970s and '80s,

new roads and parking lots cut through the Park, shifting the Park's identity from a recreational resource to the empty space between institutions. As more and more visitors poured into the Park to visit these institutions, the condition of the Park's diminishing green space worsened. By the early 1990s, neighbors decided to take action to save their Park. They came together in 1992 to form the citizens' organization Friends of Hermann

Park, known today as Hermann Park Conservancy. With its founding came the renaissance of Hermann Park.

The Conservancy has brought Houstonians back into Hermann Park and restored the community spirit and connection to 100 years of Houston history.



The Centennial Campaign

Hermann Park Conservancy set out in 1992 to complete the vision imagined by early planners. Prestigious landscape architect Laurie Olin developed a master plan to revive the historic Park and guide all improvements. Adopted in 1995, the new plan aimed to increase accessibility, restore the Park's historical elements, encourage community activity through new gathering spaces and increased services, and maintain the Park through thoughtful stewardship programs.

Through a public-private partnership with the City of Houston, the Conservancy has secured \$84 million toward a \$121 million goal for the Centennial Campaign for Hermann Park. Half of this goal is comprised of public funds, and the Conservancy manages all projects (regardless of funding source) to ensure their success.

All projects undertaken by the Conservancy have been completed on time and under budget.

With many projects in the ground or underway, the Conservancy has already made a visible impact on Hermann Park.

Major Completed Improvements

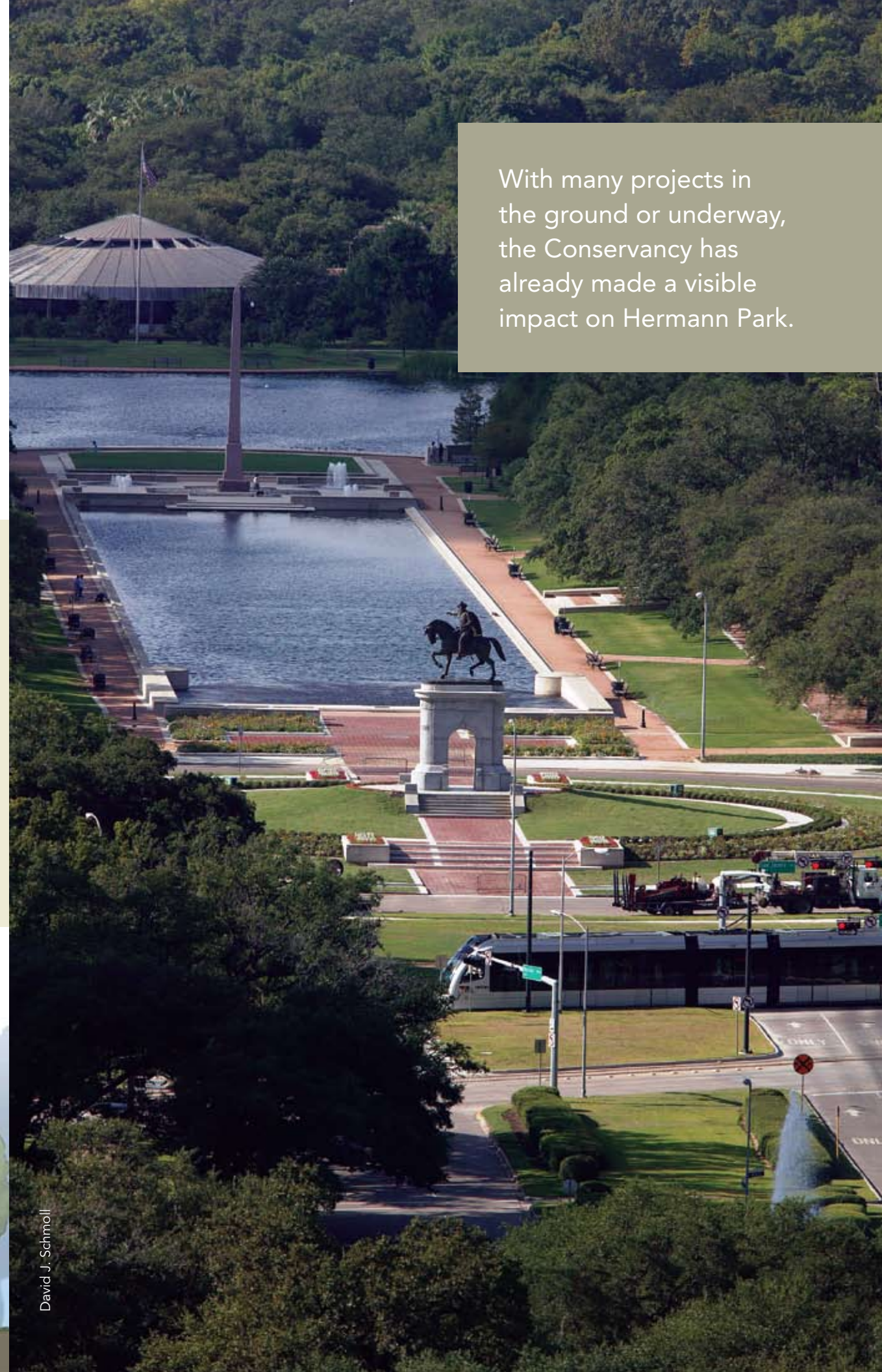
- The nationally recognized renovation of the "Heart of the Park," including the Jones Reflection Pool and McGovern Lake
- The creation of Lake Plaza which includes a cafe, the scenic Tiffany & Co. Foundation Bridge, and Kinder Station for the new and improved Hermann Park train
- Improvements along Brays Bayou, including forest trails through the 80-acre Bayou Parkland, bayou trails and a bike bridge for walkers and bicyclists, and a pedestrian underpass under North and South MacGregor
- The restoration of the Japanese Garden

HERMANN PARK



Overland Partners

David J. Schmoll



The Final Flourish

While many families already enjoy the completed Centennial Campaign improvements, there is still much to be done to finish the restoration. These projects include the renovation of the Grand Gateway, the Park's historic main entrance; the creation of the Centennial Gardens; and reforestation and stewardship initiatives. The Campaign goal also includes funding for a variety of Centennial Celebration events and public art exhibitions throughout 2014 for the community to enjoy. Together we will complete the final flourish for Hermann Park. Not only would it make the Park's original planners proud, but the success of the Centennial Campaign for Hermann Park will also ensure that this valuable public space continues to thrive for its next 100 years.



Nash Baker



Scott Adams



**CENTENNIAL
CAMPAIGN
OPPORTUNITIES**



The Grand Gateway

The Grand Gateway, the historic main entrance to Hermann Park, includes the area from the Mecom Fountain to the Sam Houston Monument, erected in 1925, and the stretch of parkland along Main Street from the Fountain to the Texas Medical Center. Planned in 1915, the axis of Main and Montrose was punctuated with an elliptical sunken garden (later replaced by the Mecom Fountain), while South Main Street was designed as an oak-lined parkway.

The Grand Gateway's beauty once marked the area as an important cultural hub in the heart of Houston. While still home to the iconic landmarks and canopy of trees along Main Street, the stately presence of the Grand Gateway has all but vanished with time. Its minimal landscaping and lack of sidewalks and amenities belie the beauty and accessibility of the Park's interior.

The Grand Gateway renovation project will restore the area, safely connecting surrounding communities to the Park and

offering a proper welcome to one of Houston's most historic green spaces.



Grand Gateway Highlights:

- Extensive landscaping and seasonal plantings between the Sam Houston Monument and Mecom Fountain to reflect the sunken garden of the Park's history
- Improved walkways to increase connectivity to neighborhoods and METRORail
- Pedestrian-scale lighting, benches, and bike racks to provide convenience for walkers and bicyclists
- New drainage and irrigation to preserve the Live Oaks along Main Street

The Centennial Gardens

The existing 15-acre Garden Center site will be reborn as the Centennial Gardens in celebration of the Park's milestone birthday. It will delight visitors with traditional features like the rose garden, and new areas to explore, such as a children's interactive garden and tremendous, football-field-sized event lawn crowned by the Chinese Pavilion. Friends will enjoy picnicking on the expansive lawns, families will learn about urban gardening in the container garden, and tourists will admire the City's extensive collection of sculptures donated by countries around the world along the sculpture walk.

Gardens have long been an important element in Hermann Park. These

intimate spaces can be a gathering spot for the community, a place for children to learn and connect with nature, and a setting to showcase the beauty and culture of an international city. In the case of the Garden Center, heavy use, minimal maintenance, and poorly planned changes over the decades have left its building and grounds in desperate need of rejuvenation.



The Centennial Gardens will transform the current site to capture its potential as a community resource. Relocated parking areas will open up the space, increase accessibility, ease traffic flow, and preserve the number of parking spaces. New pedestrian and vehicular entrances from Hermann Drive will enhance access from neighboring residential areas and cultural institutions, including the Children's Museum, the Health Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Centennial Gardens Highlights

- Children's Garden
- Grand Entry Pavilion
- Great Lawn
- Centennial Green
- Rose Garden
- Sculpture Walk
- Woodland Garden



Conceptual photos courtesy of Hoerr Schaudt



Centennial Celebration

One hundred years of Hermann Park—what better cause for celebration? Since 1914, the Park has been part of the family for generations growing up in Houston. Through the festivities of the year-long Centennial

An occasion for civic celebration like this one only comes along once every hundred years. Join the celebration!

Celebration, everyone in the Houston community will have the chance to honor the special moments the Park has provided to a century's worth of children and families, and commemorate the efforts made to preserve it for its next hundred years.

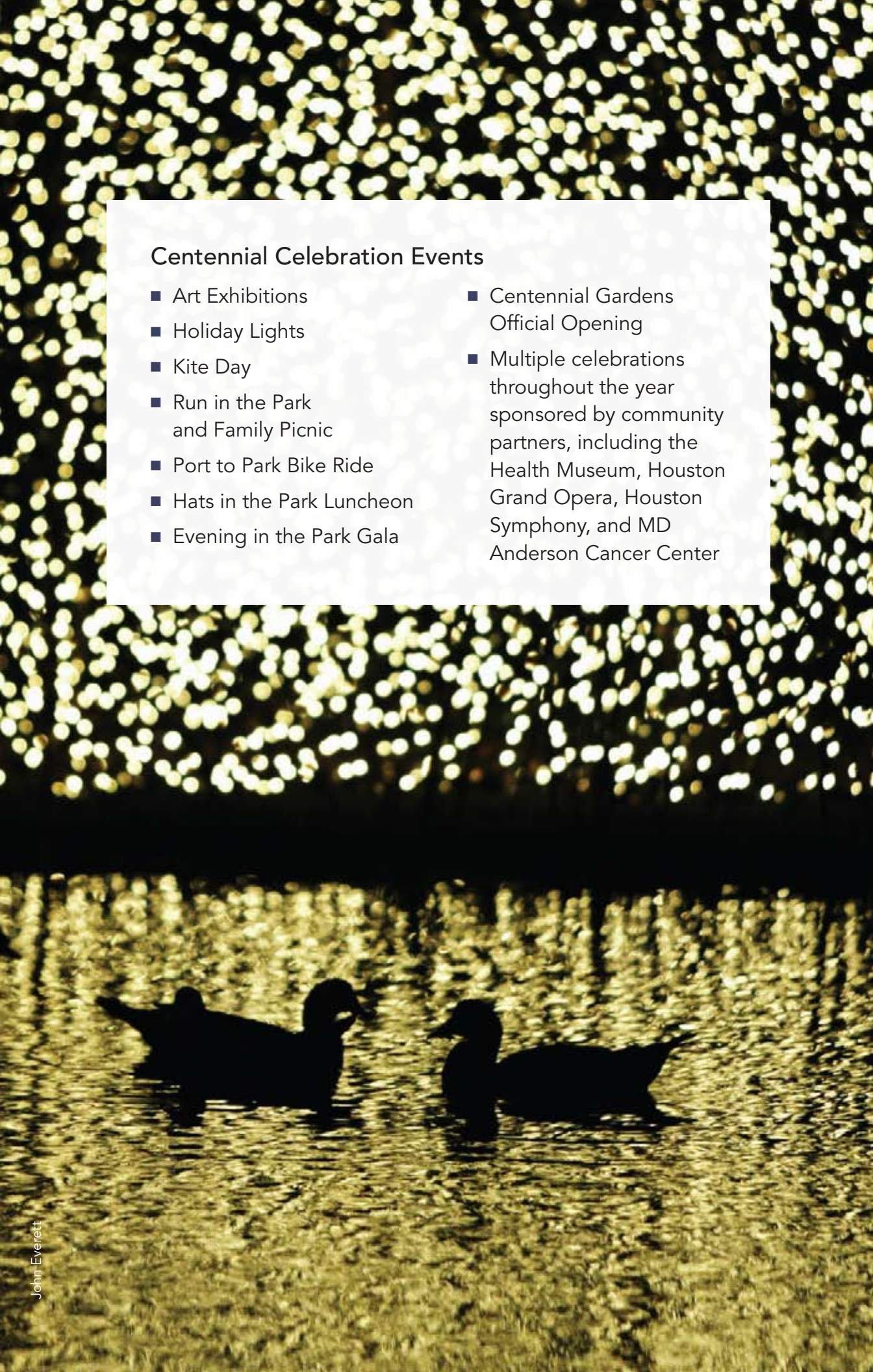
From parents teaching children how to fly kites on Kite Day to couples strolling with hot cocoa at dusk during Holiday Lights, everyone will remember the camaraderie and community spirit that captured Houston during the Centennial Celebration.


Art in the Park will feature numerous temporary art installations showcasing the work of premiere contemporary artists throughout 2014. Placed in a variety of locations, the works will encourage the community to explore their Park. Educational programs will highlight the history of the Park and its design.

Hermann Park's success is a testament to the strength of community—the thousands of volunteers, donors, and visitors who love the Park. The Centennial events will celebrate this shared success.

Centennial Celebration Events

- Art Exhibitions
- Holiday Lights
- Kite Day
- Run in the Park and Family Picnic
- Port to Park Bike Ride
- Hats in the Park Luncheon
- Evening in the Park Gala
- Centennial Gardens Official Opening
- Multiple celebrations throughout the year sponsored by community partners, including the Health Museum, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, and MD Anderson Cancer Center





Hermann Park is home to more than 8,000 trees, many of them close to 100 years old. From Bayou Parkland's dense urban forest to the magnificent Live Oaks lining the walkways along the Reflection Pool and exercise trail, the Park's trees are not only breathtaking but they provide cooler temperatures, cleaner air, shade for visitors, and habitat for wildlife.

Providing Shade for the Next 100 Years

Without regular monitoring and care, many of these trees would not still be alive today. The Conservancy's reforestation program was created to protect and preserve these valuable trees and supplement the aging tree canopy. To achieve these goals, the Conservancy assists the Houston Parks and Recreation Department with tree care and

special treatments, monitors the protection of trees in construction zones, and plants new trees to replace those lost to age, drought conditions, or natural disasters like Hurricane Ike. Each summer, reforestation interns update the dynamic tree inventory and map the locations of new trees, allowing the Conservancy to observe and track changes over time.

Sustaining a Treasure for Future Generations

Hermann Park Conservancy has undertaken several initiatives to ensure that the beauty of the Park is perpetuated for future generations. For every major project, the Conservancy sets aside a significant portion of funds raised for long-term maintenance. In addition, the Conservancy has developed stewardship and volunteer programs to supplement the care provided by the Parks Department. As part of these programs, thousands of volunteers annually work in the Park. Neighbors rake the forest trails in Bayou Parkland, corporate groups clear McGovern Lake of debris, and school children plant seeds. Conservancy friends are committed to ensuring the Park is just as beautiful for future visitors as it is today.

Finally, The George Hermann Society, the Conservancy's planned giving program, supports the long-term health of the Park through bequests or other planned gifts. Bequests can be directed to a Conservancy program, or to one of four endowment funds whose income funds care of the trees, gardens, and natural habitats in perpetuity.

With your support, Hermann Park will continue to thrive for its next hundred years.



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