

PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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in the park

Bill Coats Bridge Dedication Ceremony



Bill Coats' family poses for a photo at the opening.



The Bill Coats' Bridge received the 2012 Mayor's Proud Partners' Landmark Award.

On November 16, 2012, family and friends of Bill Coats gathered at Hermann Park to dedicate a new bike bridge in his memory. A crowd of more than 200 listened to

remarks about Coats' efforts to improve Houston's quality of life. A ribbon cutting was followed by an invitation to take an inaugural walk, or bike ride, across the bridge. The lively MacArthur High School Jammin' Generals Drumline was on hand to accompany the crowd.

Spanning 290 feet, the contemporary bridge connects the banks of Brays Bayou in the Bayou Parkland area of Hermann Park. The project is an important link in an effort to provide connectivity to nearby neighborhoods and completes a 35-mile trail system. Cyclists and pedestrians now enjoy increased convenience and safety.



The bridge's construction was the result of funding from a federal bikeways program and a partnership of the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and Hermann Park Conservancy. The lead designer was Barnhart Engineering with MC2 Architects providing the conceptual design. The bridge's general contractor was SpawGlass Civil Construction, Inc.

MISSION

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



from the executive director

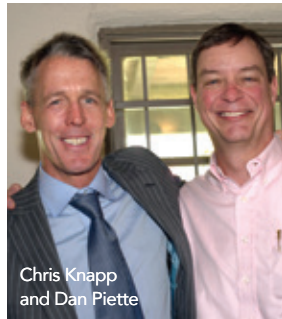


Members of the Conservancy team at the celebration

Photos by Michael E. Lewter



Ada Edwards and Doreen Stoller



Chris Knapp and Dan Piette



Mayor Parker and Doreen Stoller

This January, I celebrated my tenth anniversary with Hermann Park Conservancy. One of the greatest gifts of these 10 years has been working with so many people devoted to Hermann Park—whose renaissance is a miracle of community engagement. Our board and advisory board members have undertaken every task from raking leaves to pruning roses to raising funds and overseeing construction projects. To keep the Park looking her best, our volunteers dedicate more than 20,000 hours a year out in the Park—planting trees, pulling weeds, and restoring native habitats. Our financial supporters are a wonderful mix of institutions, corporations, and families who renew their memberships year after year to keep the Park sparkling.

The reward for everyone is to see how much the Park is used and loved. Any pretty afternoon, you can hear a dozen different languages and see people of every age enjoying the Park—the true miracle of community. Waving to children on the mini-train brightens any day! And I never tire of seeing the whistling ducks line up along the edge of McGovern Lake,

the first spring blooms in the Japanese Garden, or the view from the Tiffany Bridge. All of this is due to the dedication of so many, including my husband, Dan, who bikes, hikes and occasionally dances with me in the Park.

Our efforts have also been supported by our public sector partners—the City of Houston, Harris County and the Flood Control District, Texas Department of Transportation, and the State of Texas—who have each shown a flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of Park users. They have been partners in every way, and deserve thanks for continuing to accept my phone calls.

But the real magic in making the Park special comes from the Conservancy's staff—whose hard work day in and day out keeps her green, blooming, and fun! Not many people get to spend ten years with such a talented and caring team. We will celebrate their efforts when we celebrate the Park's centennial in 2014.

Doreen

Doreen Stoller, Executive Director

DONORS

Centennial Gardens

\$1,000,000–\$5,000,000

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\$250,000–\$499,999

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John E. Walsh, Jr.
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Freda Glover – In honor of
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Homer Howard.
Stephanie and Kirby Shanks – In honor
of Carol and Dan Price

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Centennial Art in the Park

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Kathrine G. McGovern

\$5,000-\$9,999

Cassie B. Stinson

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Jennifer and Leo Chen

C. C. Conner

Davetta and Ray Daniels

Michael Dooley

Bob Wright



Run in the Park brought more than 700 participants including runners, volunteers, and spectators to Hermann Park on Saturday, November 3, 2012, for a morning of community fun.

For the first time, the run was a 5K route, which was a welcome change from the 5-mile run to many who enjoyed the scenic course around the Park. Runners and walkers followed the same route, with the start and finish in Molly Ann Smith Plaza. The kids in the 1K Kids' Run made their traditional trek by Miller Outdoor Theatre and around the Jones Reflection Pool.

The Johnston Middle School cheerleaders enthusiastically cheered the runners on, and the post-race party following the morning's events kept the energy high. Participants and their families listened to live tunes provided by Wheelhouse, enjoyed tasty food and drinks from LoCal's Healthy Joint, Silver Eagle, and other sponsors. The event was a big success thanks to Run coordinator Mindy Campbell, Run chair Scott Dorfman, and many generous sponsors.



Bob Wright



Kevin DeWhurst



Bob Wright

Rice University Centennial Grove Volunteer Project



On the beautiful autumn morning of November 16, 2012, over 90 Rice University volunteers planted one hundred 15-gallon native hardwoods and pines in the Park's Lake Picnic Area on the north side of McGovern Lake. The project was part of the university's 2012 centennial celebration and also honors Hermann Park's upcoming centennial in 2014.

Groundbreaking attendees, (pictured above), included Harris County judge and Rice University alumnus Ed Emmett '71, Rice University representative Y. Ping Sun, Houston City Council member Ellen Cohen, Rice University president David Leebron, Hermann Park Conservancy executive director Doreen Stoller, Houston Parks and Recreation director Joe Turner, and Hermann Park Conservancy board chair Ann Kennedy.

The newly-planted trees reaffirm the special connection between Rice University and Hermann Park as they welcome the next hundred years as Main Street neighbors.



DONORS

Annual Fund/ General Contributions \$100-\$499, *continued*

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 Lisa and Stephen Greenberg
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 Harry Lucas Jr. – In memory of
 Lamar Neale

Run in the Park

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 Texas Children's Hospital

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Frontier Utilities
 Hines Interests Limited Partnership

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 Park Plaza Hospital
 Plaza Specialty

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 Gabrielle Holt
 Kenneth Holt
 Mason Holt

Restoring the Coastal Prairie with Project Blazing Star



Mayor Parker helps students restore native plants to the Bayou Parkland in Hermann Park.

Hermann Park Conservancy's Project Blazing Star is a multi-year project in Hermann Park to restore remnants of our area's coastal prairie.

On October 6, 2012, work continued with more than 200 volunteers gathered in Bayou Parkland, Hermann Park's natural area along Brays Bayou, for a prairie planting event. Volunteers removed non-native grasses and planted approximately 750 rescued native prairie plants of various species.

Mayor Annise Parker participated as a volunteer, working side by side with many of the student groups. As an experienced gardener, she gave the students tips on how to prepare the soil and plant the native plants that had been cultivated for this new pocket prairie site.

A special Eagle Scout project, planned and implemented by Troup 55, created a natural path extending the entire length of the prairie. A demonstration garden was established to provide awareness and education to the community about the benefit of native plants.



Project Blazing Star has been made possible thanks to volunteer Lan Shen and the Texas Master Naturalists, Jaime Gonzalez of the Katy Prairie Conservancy, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Keep Houston Beautiful, Coastal Prairie Partnership, and the Native Plant Society of Houston. Thanks to their efforts and the hard work of many volunteers, these native plants, many of which are disappearing, will thrive in Hermann Park and expose visitors to Houston's prairie heritage.

Centennial Gardens Architect Peter Bohlin Visits Houston



Hermann Park Conservancy and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston cosponsored a lecture by renowned architect, Peter Bohlin, of the prestigious firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson at the museum's Brown Auditorium Theater on October 25, 2012.

Speaking to a full house, Peter discussed his unique architectural designs including Apple retail stores worldwide and the Discovery and Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park, as well as the entry pavilion for Hermann Park's new Centennial Gardens. The pavilion is designed to bring the outside in and will welcome visitors to eight acres of gardens and provide space for meetings and special events.



Peter shared his design philosophy with the audience, stating that...

"...We are so interested in the nature of people. How people

see, how they feel, how they touch, how they move, how they interact, how they remember. And beyond that, places of course, getting at the nature of places... there's inspiration in places that make you feel or recall certain primal moments, the warmth of the sun, the way breezes are captured and channeled in a particular way, the quality of light and shadow that moves through a building. These are all things that are part of our design process, and I think that they are also part of what makes us human. The gateway to the garden at Hermann Park is very much about people and how they discover the garden – an evocative entry to this magical world."

A discussion moderated by Sarah M. Whiting, Dean, Rice School of Architecture, followed the lecture.



Photos courtesy of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

DONORS

Run in the Park

\$100-\$499, continued

Sarah Holt
Susan and Bob Malley
Melissa Roberts
Ernie F. Seward
Cooper Smith
Beth and Joe Weikerth
Debbie Wernet

In Kind

CultureMap
Health & Fitness Sports Magazine
Hot Bagel Shop
LoCal's Healthy Joint
Luby's
Picnic
Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.
United Airlines
Wheelhouse

Urban Green's Glow in the Park

\$1,000-\$2,499

Thompson & Knight LLP

\$500-\$999

Stefanelli Children

\$100-\$499

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Caroline and Andrew Bean
Gwen Bradford
Sarah and Tom Caughlin
Alexander Danielides
Annie and Campbell Eifler
Allie and Jay Fields
Andrea and Robert Fineman
Nikki and Robert Hanley
Beth and Judd Harrison
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Benton Love
Cynthia and Chad Mabry
Faith Majors
Melanie Markowski
Ben Martin
Sharon Noel
Mary and Weston O'Black
Emily and Will Pery
Samuel Rines
Brittany Sakowitz and Kevin Kushner

In Kind

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BB's Cafe
Beirne, Maynard, & Parsons, L.L.P.
Catherine Bradley
Butter & Company
Canopy and Shade Restaurant
DEFINE Body & Mind
Digital Alchemy Photography
DJ MAV
Jason Griffin
Houston Ballet
Houston Grand Opera
Houston Zoo, Inc.
Inprint Houston
Last Concert Cafe
Faith Majors
Mia's
Michaelyndon Salon

Michelle Weddle/
Waterstone Succulents
Mindy Campbell – Rodan+Fields
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Pappas Restaurants
Joshua Eagle Patron
Prego
Raising Cane's
Relish Fine Foods
Rocket Fizz Soda Pop and Candy Shop
Saint Arnold Brewing Co.
San Luis Spirits
Swift + Company
Timberline Fitness-Houston, Inc.
Tiny Boxwood's
Trish Nguyen – Clique Salon
The Upper Hand
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Community Outreach

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Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette

\$100–\$499

Linda and Barry Hunsaker

Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker

River Oaks Blossom Club

General Endowment

\$100–\$499

Dick Dalton – In memory of

Lamar Neale

Linnet F. Deily – In memory of

Lamar Neale

Megan and Jason Ryan

Grand Gateway

\$1,000–\$4,999

Sharon and Cecil Griffin

\$500–\$999

Ann Jackson

\$100–\$499

Lisa and Mike McGuff

Japanese Garden

\$10,000–\$24,999

The Japan-America Society of
Houston, Inc.

\$500–\$999

Cassie B. Stinson

\$100–\$499

Donna Cole

Midori and Akihiro Mochizuki

Membership

Conductor's Circle (\$2,500)

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Karla A. Sepulveda

Platinum (\$500)

Carolyn and Thomas Caldwell

Julie Cohn and John A. Connor

Concordia Foundation

Ritsuko and James Cox

Stephanie and Elijah Culpepper

Cathy and Wayne Donnelly

M.J. and Joe Figard

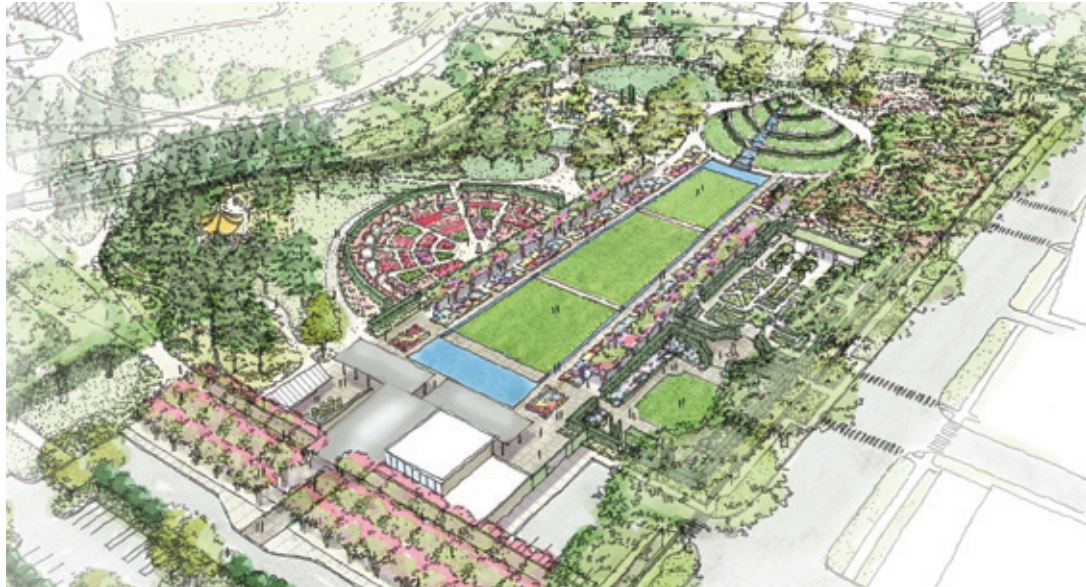
Cece and Mack Fowler

Dr. Carla Giannoni and Bill Marchbank

Lainie Gordon and David Minberg

Conservancy Presents Garden Plans to the Public

Drawings courtesy of Hoerr Schaudt



On November 7 and 8, 2012, Hermann Park Conservancy invited the Houston community to the Garden Center to learn more about the Centennial Gardens project at two public meetings. The \$30 million project is the last major component of the Conservancy's effort to complete the Park's master plan. The Centennial Gardens are set to open in 2014, Hermann Park's centennial year. Hoerr Schaudt, the renowned Chicago landscape architecture firm, is the designer.

Jim Patterson of White Oak Studio, the local landscape architecture firm working on the project, and Conservancy representatives presented details about the plans and held a discussion to receive feedback on the designs.

To learn more about the Centennial Gardens, visit www.hermannpark.org.



Holiday Express and Party



Dr. Jack Express is ready to depart Kinder Station

For the first time, the Hermann Park trains were decorated in the holiday spirit this December. With the Zoo Lights event bringing increased foot traffic through Lake Plaza, the Hermann Park Railroad brought cheer to many visitors with the train's festive garlands and lights, as well as the display of holiday decorations in the train tunnel.

On December 8, 2012, the Visitor Services department hosted a holiday party in Kinder Station. The first hour was reserved for HPC

members before the party opened to the public. Park visitors could participate in a number of crafts including decorating Christmas trees, making chocolate donut reindeer, and creating foam train ornaments. The most popular craft was the Christmas tree activity where children could use glue, tinsel, and sequins to deck their tree with much holiday cheer! Volunteer Susan Schweitzberg staffed the membership table and recruited several new HPC members.

Student Performance Series



Dulles Middle School orchestra performs in Lake Plaza

The third year of Student Performances in the Park is in full swing with Friday and Saturday performances by talented students from the Houston metro area. Recent schools have included Patrick Henry Middle School band and mariachi, Dulles Middle School Orchestra,

the Cook Elementary School drumline joined by twirlers and dancers, and Bellaire High School Jazz. All performances are free and take place in Lake Plaza between Kinder Station and the Houston Zoo entrance.

DONORS

Membership

Platinum (\$500), *continued*

Annie and Bob Graham
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 Claire Langston
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 Kathy and Tom Lord
 Marley Lott
 Cecilia and Peter Ludwig

Urban Green's *Glow in the Park*



Event chairs Cynthia and Chad Mabry, Caroline Bean, and Megan McGraw

The Park was aglow on Thursday, December 6, 2012, with 200 young professionals turning out for Urban Green's *Glow in the Park*. The crowd gathered in their best and brightest for the neon-themed party on the stage of Miller Outdoor Theatre.

Chairs Caroline Bean, Cynthia and Chad Mabry, and Megan McGraw made certain the night was a success. The chairs and steering committee, led by Brittany Sakowitz, made the party possible through donations from Park supporters old and new. The brightly-clad group enjoyed delectable food from Pappasito's, Adair Kitchen, Raising Cane's, Prego, Last Concert Café, and delicious desserts from Relish Fine Foods. DJ MAV entertained partygoers and caterer Butter & Company ensured the party ran smoothly.

Urban Green is the Conservancy's young professionals' group and proceeds from the event benefit Hermann Park Conservancy. Learn more about Urban Green and sign up for Urban Green emails at www.hermannpark.org.

Cassie Detering, Brittany Sakowitz, Sharon Noel, and Caroline Negley



Cherry Tree Centennial Celebrated in the Japanese Garden



One hundred years of friendship between the United States and Japan were commemorated in 2012 by a presentation of cherry trees from Japan to 30 locations across the United States.

As part of the celebration of the first gift of cherry trees to Washington, DC, 20 Taiwan cherry trees, *Prunus campanulata*, were given to Hermann Park and planted in the Japanese Garden in October. Mr. Kumagai, the mayor of Houston's sister city, Chiba City, Japan, sent a letter to congratulate the City of Houston on the cherry tree planting.

Attendees at the ceremonial planting included the Honorable Consul-General of Japan Mr. Jota Yamamoto, Houston mayor Annise Parker, Houston Parks and Recreation Department director Joe Turner, Hermann Park Conservancy board

members Kunio Minami and Cassie Stinson, as well as representatives of the local Japan-America Society of Houston, Japan Business Association of Houston, Japanese American Citizens League (Houston Chapter), and Japanese Association of Greater Houston.

Guests were treated to music by the Apollo Chamber Players and treats from Mélange Catering and Special Events. Guests also witnessed Mr. Yamamoto's presentation of beautiful Japanese stamps to Mayor Parker, who revealed she was an amateur stamp collector as a child.

Centennial Campaign Donor Wall

Don't miss your chance to be a part of Hermann Park's history! Join other Conservancy donors for a once-a-century recognition opportunity on the Centennial Campaign Donor Wall in Lake Plaza at Kinder Station and be a lasting part of Hermann Park's legacy. This special donor wall, which has been on temporary display

since 2009, consists of Conservancy donors whose cumulative giving for any purpose totals \$50,000 or more. Want to learn more about the donor wall or just how close you are to qualifying for listing?

Contact 713-524-5876 x339 or development@hermannpark.org.

DONORS

Membership

Silver (\$100), continued

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\$1,000-\$4,999

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 Karen and Mike Mayell – In honor of Sheridan and John Eddie Williams
\$100-\$499
 Anonymous
 Kathryn and David Berg – In memory of Lamar Neale
 John Burke – In memory of William Coats
 Glen and Al Husak and Penny Kraus – In memory of Nancy Masterson
 Erin and Scott Smith – In honor of Leslie and Bill Coe
 Lynn and Michael Smith – In memory of Patrick Lusk

upcoming events

Reforestation and Maintenance

\$1,000-\$4,999

Muffet Blake – In memory of Mary Criner
John P. McGovern Foundation
Rice University
Rita Wilder/The Wilder Foundation – In memory of Jeannie Lykes Grace

\$500-\$999

Laura and Seth Borland
Robin and Richard Brooks
Dorothy Carsey Sumner

\$100-\$499

Shellye Arnold and Tina Sabuco – In honor of Dianne and Michael Render's 25th Anniversary
Kelley and Mitch Dalton – In memory of Lamar Neale
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Tree Conservancy

\$500-\$999

Cassie B. Stinson

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The George Hermann Society recognizes donors who have provided for the future of Hermann Park through bequests or life income gifts to Hermann Park Conservancy.

The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of \$100 or more between September 1 and December 31, 2012, as well as all George Hermann Society members. Gifts to the Hats in the Park luncheon and Evening in the Park gala will be recognized in subsequent issues. 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 listings.

Priscilla Dicksen Photography



Hats in the Park Luncheon

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.

Historic Clubhouse at Hermann Park
Chairs: Ellie Francisco and Kim Tutcher
Honoring The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation

Tickets from \$250, Tables from \$5,000

Tom Fox



Hermann Park Dog Walk

Saturday, March 30, 2013 at 8 a.m.

Presented by the Houston Rockets
Benefiting Hermann Park Conservancy



Japan Festival

Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14, 2013

Hermann Park's Reflection Pool and Japanese Garden
Saturday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Live entertainment starting at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Live entertainment starting at 11:15 a.m.
Presented by the Japan-America Society of Houston
Free admission

Priscilla Dicksen Photography



Evening in the Park Gala

Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Heart of the Park
Chairs: Heidi and Marcus Smith and Melissa and Michael Mithoff
Honorary Chairs: Shelby Hodge and Shafik I. Rifaat
Tickets from \$500, Tables from \$5,000

Second Saturdays

HPC members are invited to ride the Hermann Park Railroad for free on the second Saturday of each month!



Student Performance Series

Visit www.hermannpark.org for a list of upcoming free performances by Houston-area students.

Visit www.hermannpark.org for up-to-date event details.

Keep up with the Conservancy on Facebook and Twitter!

facebook.com/HermannPark

twitter.com/HermannPark

contribute today!

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member

Donate to
the Centennial
Campaign

Dedicate a
bench

Plant a tree

Join the
George Hermann
Society

Volunteer in
the Park



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PARKSIDE / WINTER 2013

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