

# **Memorial Park Running Trails Center Grand Opening Press Release**

## **The Memorial Park Running Trails Center to Open October 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **\$2.4 Million Center Concludes \$10-Million Memorial Park Capital Campaign**

(Houston, TX) – The Memorial Park Conservancy and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will celebrate the grand opening of the Memorial Park Running Trails Center on Friday, October 10 at 10:30am (7575 North Picnic Lane).

The new 4,400 square foot stucco building, located on the southside of Memorial Drive at the foot of the Memorial Park Living Bridge, will provide lockers and showers for runners, bicyclists and other park visitors; restrooms; towel rentals; vending machines and a multi-purpose room; and additional parking and office space for the Memorial Park Conservancy and the Houston Police Department.

“With the completion of the Running Trails Center, Memorial Park Conservancy has met the goals set out for the campaign,” said Mindy Hildebrand, Memorial Park Campaign Chair.

“Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Memorial Park Conservancy joined together in a public-private partnership to provide a beautiful and safe connection between the north and south sides of the park. The Conservancy has enhanced and extended an existing trail for cyclists, runners and walkers. The Conservancy also redeveloped the Alkek Tennis Center Plaza, and finally, built the Running Trails Center to draw runners to the south side of the park in order to alleviate congestion on the north side and to provide a venue for special events. I am sincerely thankful to all of the consultants, Joe Turner and HPARD, the board members of the Conservancy, the Memorial Park Conservancy staff, and most importantly, the more than 700 donors that made these projects happen!”

“Memorial Park Conservancy is pleased to once again partner with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to bring another important project to the Park,” said Executive Director Shellye Arnold. “The project is a terrific near-term upgrade for park users as we continue developing the long-range Master Plan.”

Memorial Park Capital Campaign, chaired by Mindy Hildebrand, has provided the private fundraising needed to build the Memorial Park Running Trail Center, the Memorial Park Living Bridge, the Alkek Tennis Center Plaza and the Outer Loop Trail.

“We are very thankful to Mindy for her untiring efforts as the chair of the Memorial Park Capital Campaign,” said Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We welcome all visitors to visit the new Memorial Park Running Trails Center then walk or run across the Living Bridge to the Outer Loop Trail down to the Alkek Tennis Center Plaza and see all the amazing projects that have been made possible through this campaign.”

The \$2.4 million the Memorial Park Running Trails Center completes the \$10 million Capital Campaign launched in 2008

### **About Memorial Park Conservancy (MPC)**

The mission of the Memorial Park Conservancy is to preserve, restore, and enhance Memorial Park for the enjoyment of all Houstonians, today and tomorrow. Founded in 2000, Memorial Park Conservancy aspires to implement principles of exceptional park management and stewardship in a successful public-private partnership with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. For more information visit [www.memorialparkconservancy.org](http://www.memorialparkconservancy.org)

### **About Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) stewards and manages over 37,851 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).