Art In Parks: Hermann Park

Hermann Park, one of the crown jewels in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department system, is nestled between the Museum District, the Texas Medical Center and Rice University. It is home to popular venues like the Miller Outdoor Theatre, the Hermann Park Golf Course, the Japanese Garden, the Houston Garden Center, the Houston Zoo and 44 pieces of municipal art.

General Sam Houston, one of the best known pieces of artwork in this collection, sits at the park’s entrance, seemingly pointing the way into the park and its outdoor art collection. You can plan your art tour by regions within Hermann Park.

- The Rose Garden holds a large collection of statues and busts that represent Houston’s diverse culture
- The McGovern Lake/Japanese Garden area features the work of Jesus Bautista Moroles, Frank A. Teich and art donated by Houston’s sister city, Chiba, Japan
- The Miller Outdoor Theatre area houses Oliver Twist and Atrapos Key
- Near the eastern portion of the miniature train route you will find Jim Love’s Portable Trojan Bear
- The Houston Zoo holds a collection of municipal art that features Houstoin by Louis Amaties, Leaping by Victor Salmones and many more
- The Fannin/Cambridge intersection pays tribute to George H. Hermann, who donated the land for Hermann Park in 1914, with a life-sized statue and fountain

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department was created by City Ordinance on March 15, 1916. The Department of Public Parks, as it was called at that time, consisted of two parks - Sam Houston Park and Hermann Park. Today, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department stewards and manages over 366 parks for the City of Houston; develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities; maintains greenspace for the Houston Public Library & the Houston Health Department and manages all HPARD facilities. HPARD works daily to fulfill its mission: “To enhance the quality of urban life by providing safe well-maintained parks and offering affordable programming for our community.”

For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department or Art In Parks visit www.houstonparks.org.

Art Acquisition and Conservation

In 1999, the City of Houston established an ordinance mandating that 1.75% of qualified Capital Improvement Project monies be set aside for civic art. The Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) was formed through the merger of the Cultural Arts Council Houston/Harris County, the Municipal Art Commission & the Civic Art Committee. HAA serves as a unified entity to fund, advocate, preserve & promote the arts in the Houston & Harris County region.

Art In Parks is funded by a grant from the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

Art In Parks

Art In Parks is a multi-platform guide to outdoor art in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) system. Art In Parks offers information on over 91 pieces of municipal art located in 24 parks across the city.

The Art In Parks collection has been divided into three guides to complement the visitor’s municipal art experience within Houston parks.

The guides include:
- Art In Parks: Sam Houston/Buffalo Bayou Parks
- Art In Parks: Hermann Park
- Art In Parks: Greater Houston Area

All three brochures are available at HPARD Community Centers and at www.houstonparks.org.

The art pieces display a wide range of styles and periods featuring work by local, national and world class artists.

How to Experience Art In Parks

On the Street

- Using your cell phone visit www.houstonparks.org/ArtInParks, then select the “Art In Parks” map to begin your tour of municipal art
- Scan the QR code at www.houstonparks.org to take the Art In Parks map with you as you visit Houston Parks and Recreation Department parks
- Pick up a free Art In Parks map from a HPARD Community Center and begin your tour

At Home:

Visit www.houstonparks.org/ArtInParks and enjoy Art In Parks from your home computer.

Funding

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