

NEWS RELEASE

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Living Bridge Dedication Raises Memorial Park Running Trails Above Auto Traffic

Event Marks Phase I Completion of 3 Part \$10 M Memorial Park Capital Campaign

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Memorial Park Conservancy, will dedicate Memorial Park's new Living Bridge on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. The bridge, which is the first phase of a \$10M Memorial Park Capital Campaign, will provide joggers, walkers and bicyclists with a living green corridor that connects the north and south sides of the park, high above Memorial Drive's heavy traffic.

"It is amazing how one structure can improve a park so drastically," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Raising cyclists and pedestrians above the street will not only provide a safe way for visitors to cross Memorial Drive, but it will also create an additional multi-use loop for the hardy exercise group since it connects with the existing Memorial and Woodway Drive tunnels. The Living Bridge is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Conservancy and the individuals who have contributed monetarily to raise the funds necessary to build this dream, and we thank each and every one of them."

The Living Bridge was designed by Clark Condon and Associates, in keeping with the Memorial Park Master Plan. Its elegantly curved span is landscaped with native plants and is designed to blend with the surrounding forest while adding beauty and safety to what had been a difficult crossing for visitors to negotiate.

This dedication marks the completion of the Phase I portion of the Memorial Park \$10 Million Capital Campaign. The Phase II portion of the campaign will include a new plaza in front of the Tennis Center. As fundraising continues, additional projects, including an outer jogging trail roughly paralleling the Seymour Lieberman Exercise Trail and a new Running Center, complete with showers, are planned.

For more information on Memorial Park and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022, or visit www.houstonparks.org.