

NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: April 22, 2011 CONTACT: Estella Espinosa Work: (832) 395-7022 Cell: (832) 465-4782

Hermann Park Holiday Weekend Traffic Expected To Be Heavy

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department Encourages You To Ride METRORail!

Hermann Park traffic is expected to become more congested as even more people travel to one of Houston's most popular parks for the holiday weekend. Parking lots are expected to fill up quickly and congestion is expected. Park visitors are urged to ride METRO to Hermann Park and avoid traffic delays.

METRORail can be accessed at the Fannin South Park and Ride lot, located at 1604 West Bellfort, or park visitors can park downtown and catch METRORail at any of the downtown rail stations. Riders can disembark at Hermann Park/Rice University Station, at Fannin and Sunset; Memorial Hermann Hospital/Houston Zoo, at North MacGregor and Ross Sterling; or the Museum District Station, between Ewing and Binz to access all of Hermann Park's amenities.

Park patrons are also advised to:

Be aware that it is no longer possible to turn left into Hermann Park. Pay attention to the "No Left Turn" signs posted along the light rail track

Be aware that Hermann Park Drive will only allow one-way traffic southbound from the Sam Houston Monument to Cambridge Street

Be advised that HPD's Mobile Response Team (MRT), METRO Police and Urban Park Rangers will direct traffic at all intersections on Cambridge Street, Fannin and Hermann Park Drive.

During the weekends, visitors to Hermann Park can take advantage of expanded parking options, thanks to an agreement with Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza. Hermann Park visitors can now use the parking garage located at 6400 Fannin, next to the Hermann Professional Building, on weekends. The current maximum rate for weekends is \$7.00 (subject to change by Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza) and visitors have the option of paying by cash or credit card.

For more information on the METRORail system, including a map, schedule and fares, call METROLine at (713) 635-4000 or visit <u>www.ridemetro.org</u>.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 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.

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