



MEMORIAL PARK TEN-YEAR PLAN PROJECT PARTNERS

*Houston Parks and Recreation
Department (HPARD)*

Created by city ordinance on March 15, 1916, the Department of Public Parks, as it was called at the time, began with two facilities, Sam Houston Park and Hermann Park (Code of Ordinances, City of Houston, Chapter 32, Article 1, Section 32-2). Today, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) system includes 380 developed parks and more than 167 greenspaces totaling over 39,501 acres.

On October 15, 2008, the department became one of only seventy-nine agencies in the country to have received national accreditation through the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This peer assessment and self-evaluation process provides external recognition of an organization's commitment to quality and improvement. The department was reaccredited in 2013 at the National Recreation and Park Association Congress and Exposition held in Houston.

*Memorial Park Conservancy
(MPC)*

Memorial Park Conservancy is a non-profit organization created to restore, preserve, and enhance Memorial Park for the enjoyment of all Houstonians, today and tomorrow. Incorporated in 2000, the Conservancy's vision is to implement the principles of world-class park management and stewardship in partnership with the Houston community. A volunteer Board of Directors is led by Chairman Steve Jenkins, and a highly qualified staff works under the leadership of President & CEO Shellye Arnold. As of February 2016, Memorial Park Conservancy is operationally responsible for managing 1,100 of the park's 1,500 acres including the green spaces, open spaces and trails.

Kinder Foundation

The Kinder Foundation, a family foundation established in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston, Texas, provides transformational grants that impact urban green space, education, and quality of life.

In the last 10 years, the Kinder Foundation has provided catalyst funding for parks and greenspace projects in Houston that have inspired significant public and private funding to bring to fruition. Notable highlights include Emancipation Park, SPARK Parks, Buffalo Bayou Park, Bayou Greenways 2020, Hermann Park and Discovery Green.

*Uptown Development
Authority (UDA)*

The Uptown Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) and the Uptown Development Authority were created in 1999 to address the challenges of growth and mobility in the Uptown area. The Uptown TIRZ developed a 30-year plan which mitigates traffic congestion with mobility improvements, encourages new development, and grows the area's tax base. In 2013, the City of Houston extended its life by 11 years to 2040 and expanded the TIRZ boundaries to include Memorial Park to fund park improvements.