



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2008

CONTACT: Estella Espinosa

Work: 713 – 865-4537

Cell: 832 - 465-4782

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TRAFFIC WILL BE HEAVY IN HERMANN PARK

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department encourages you to ride METRORail

Thousands of people will flock to Hermann Park during the Memorial Day Weekend to enjoy its many attractions. The Playground for All Children, the Museum of Natural Science, Miller Outdoor Theatre, the Houston Zoo, picnic grounds and the new train in Hermann Park are all popular destinations during this busy holiday weekend.

To beat the traffic jams and parking challenges, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department urges patrons to carpool or ride METRO's bus system or METRORail, which goes right past Hermann Park. Riders can catch METRORail at the Fannin South Park and Ride lot located at 1604 West Bellfort or 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 Fannin or the Museum District Station, between Ewing and Binz to access all of Hermann Park's amenities.

If you feel your car is a necessity, be prepared because Hermann Park has limited parking that may possibly be overtaxed during this extreme peak period. Park visitors will need to be ready for delays and should have contingency plans.

-more-

Memorial Day Weekend Traffic/ADD ONE

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 Golf Course Drive may only allow one-way traffic southbound from the Sam Houston Monument to MacGregor during peak periods
- Know that HPD, METRO police and Urban Park Rangers will direct traffic at all intersections on MacGregor, Fannin and Golf Course Drive

Portable message signs are planned to be placed around the park to provide additional information to park visitors. Check traffic conditions before venturing out to the park.

Information is available at www.houstontranstar.org

Hermann Park is home to the Houston Zoological Gardens, the Museum of Natural Science, Miller Outdoor Theatre, and a neighbor to the Museum District. Hermann Park offers a host of amenities from hike and bike trails to McGovern Lake's pedal boats and the upgraded miniature train. Renovations have only enhanced its reputation as a place for families to have fun together.

For more information on the METRORail system, including a map schedule and fares, call METROLine at 713- 635-4000 or visit www.ridemetro.org. For more information about the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call 713- 865-4537 or visit www.houstonparks.org.