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## Press Release

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### **Take METRO to Hermann Park During Memorial Day Holiday** *HPARD advises visitors to ride METRO and avoid traffic problems*

Hermann Park is a popular holiday destination for Houstonians; but, its popularity can cause traffic congestion in and around the park, especially when parking lots are filled. Park officials expect the Memorial Day holiday weekend, May 25 – May 28, will be no exception and expect traffic around the park to peak during the holiday, especially from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm every day. Visitors are advised to plan accordingly and be prepared to experience delays. In addition, they should be aware that when parking lots become full, HPD will close vehicular entry to the park.

In addition, **on Memorial Day, May 28th, Hermann Park Drive will be open to northbound traffic only. Visitors are advised that vehicles will be allowed to ENTER from Cambridge Street. No entry to Hermann Park will be allowed from the Main Street side of the park during peak periods.** Again, visitors should be aware that when parking lots inside the park become full, HPD will close vehicular entry to the park.

To avoid traffic headaches and save gas, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department advises visitors to ride METRO or METRORail to Hermann Park. Visitors who feel they must drive to the park are asked to make use of expanded parking options available to them, thanks to an agreement with Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza. 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.

Visitors who choose to ride METRO's bus system or METRORail, which goes right past Hermann Park, will find 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 Cambridge and Fannin; 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 **traffic will be heavy, delays are expected and vehicular traffic inside the park will be closed by HPD when parking lots inside the park are full.**
- **Be aware that a new traffic circulation pattern will be in place for Hermann Park Drive on Monday, May 28th, when Hermann Park Drive will ONLY ALLOW ONE-WAY TRAFFIC NORTHBOUND FROM CAMBRIDGE STREET.**
- Be advised that HPD's Mobile Response Team (MRT), METRO Police and Urban Park Rangers will direct traffic at intersections on Cambridge Street, Fannin and Hermann Park Drive.
- 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.

Check traffic conditions before venturing out to the park. Information is available at [www.houstontranstar.org](http://www.houstontranstar.org). For more information on the METRORail system, including a map, schedule and fares, call METROLine at (713) 635-4000 or visit [www.ridemetro.org](http://www.ridemetro.org).

**About The Houston Parks and Recreation Department**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,752 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](http://www.houstonparks.org).