



Press Release

June 28, 2013

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Take METRO to Hermann Park During July 4th Holiday *HPARD advises visitors to ride METRO and avoid traffic problems*

Hermann Park is a popular destination for Houstonians every Fourth of July, but its popularity can cause traffic congestion in and around the park. Park officials expect that this year's Independence Day celebration will be no exception. Visitors are advised to plan for heavy traffic and to be prepared for delays. In addition, they should be aware that when parking lots become full, HPD may close vehicular entry to the park.

In addition, **on Thursday, July 4th, Hermann Park traffic patterns may be changed by HPD officers as conditions warrant.** Again, visitors should be aware that when parking lots inside the park become full, HPD may 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 that 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 may be closed by HPD when parking lots inside the park are full.**
- **Be aware that new traffic circulation patterns may be in effect as warranted.**
- **Be advised that HPD, METRO Police, and Urban Park Rangers will direct traffic at key intersections.**
- **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. For more information on the METRORail system, including a map, schedule and fares, call METROLine at (713) 635-4000 or visit 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.