



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRING BREAK TRAFFIC WILL BE HEAVY IN HERMANN PARK *The Houston Parks and Recreation Department encourages you to ride METRORail*

Spring Break is just around the corner and thousands of people will flock to Hermann Park every day to enjoy its many attractions. This year the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is also in town during Spring Break and that means the city will have twice the fun and potentially twice the traffic.

Hermann Park generally experiences heavy traffic throughout the month of March. However, usage is expected to peak March 17 - 21 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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 Ross Sterling 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.

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

Houston TranStar will coordinate freeway changeable-message signs on SH 288 to communicate traffic information to motorists. Portable message signs will also 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) 845-1135 or visit www.houstonparks.org.