

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 30, 2013

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### **Houston Garden Center and Grounds Closed On August 1st As Centennial Garden Takes Shape**

The Houston Garden Center grounds will be closed to the general public on August 1, 2013, as the first step in the creation of the Centennial Gardens at Hermann Park.

"We are thankful to the Hermann Park Conservancy and the many donors who are making the dream of the Centennial Garden a reality," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Before we can begin the new facilities, we have some moving to do and that is why the Houston Garden Center will be closed on August 1, 2013."

The closing of the garden center grounds will allow the department the opportunity to safely remove sculptures and other salvageable items prior to the start of construction on the Centennial Garden. The removal and storage of the sculptures and art will be overseen by the Houston Arts Alliance in conjunction with the City of Houston General Services Division. The artwork will be properly stored until construction at the garden center is complete and will then be reinstalled. The new Centennial Gardens will open in October 2014.

"The Garden Center re-design project gives us the rare opportunity to address multiple conservation issues with the sculptures at the park, and in some cases perform much-needed restoration," said Jimmy Castillo, Houston Arts Alliance Civic Art and Design Collection Manager.

The closing of the Houston Garden Center is the first step in the transformation of the existing site into the new 8-acre Centennial Gardens.

"We are excited to get started on this landmark project," said Doreen Stoller, Executive Director of Hermann Park Conservancy. "The Centennial Gardens will be a spectacular new attraction that is sure to delight visitors with traditional features like a rose garden, and new areas to explore such as an interactive family garden where children can learn about urban gardening, an arid garden, and a 30-foot garden mount. There will be nothing else like it in Houston."

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Centennial Gardens is currently being planned for September. The Centennial Garden is being designed by Hoerr Schaudt, a Chicago landscape architecture firm working in collaboration with Houston's White Oak Studio, with Dr William C. Welch of Texas A&M University consulting. A new entry pavilion will be designed by architect Peter Bohlin of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. Tellepsen is the contractor on the project.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 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).*