



Press Release

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New Memorial Park Running Trails Center Hits the Ground Running! *Memorial Park Running Trails Center Construction Is Phase III of a \$10 Million Memorial Park Capital Campaign Begun in 2008*

The Memorial Park Conservancy and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will celebrate the construction of the Memorial Park Running Trails Center on Thursday, September 26. The event is scheduled to take place at 10:00 am at the new building's construction site, 7575 North Picnic Lane, on the south side of Memorial Drive at the foot of the Memorial Park Living Bridge.

"We are very pleased to be celebrating the construction of Phase III of this \$10 million dollar Capital Campaign for improvements to Memorial Park," said Mayor Annise Parker. "The recent completion of Memorial Park's Outer Loop Trail, which connects to the Living Bridge, has made a runner's paradise even better. The addition of the Running Trails Center, with parking and showers for runners, will make this a truly phenomenal facility."

Construction of the Memorial Park Running Trails Center marks the successful completion of a \$10 million Capital Campaign begun in 2008. The Memorial Park Living Bridge, Alkek Tennis Center Plaza, and the Outer Loop Trail were all built through this campaign and have added much-needed amenities to the park.

"It has been a real honor to be a part of something that has had such a big impact for all Houstonians," said Mindy Hildebrand, Chair, Memorial Park Capital Campaign. "I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to see so many people use the Living Bridge, the Outer Loop Trail and the Alkek Tennis Center Plaza. Seeing them enjoy all of these new additions and knowing what the new Running Trails Center will mean for everyone makes the past six years working on the capital campaign worth it all."

When completed, the Memorial Park Running Trails Center will feature lockers and showers for the use of runners, bicyclists, and other park visitors, office space for the Memorial Park Conservancy and the Houston Police Department, a large reception hall, a meeting room, and a vending area.

“Opening the Running Trails Center will add a higher level of service for the thousands of runners who use Memorial Park every year,” said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We are thankful to the Memorial Park Conservancy and to Mindy Hildebrand for chairing the Memorial Park Capital Campaign. Their commitment to the park and to bringing these 4 major improvements to completion is greatly appreciated by our department and by all Houstonians.”

The Memorial Park Running Trails Center is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in the April of 2014. The center will be a Mediterranean style 4,400 square foot stucco building, to be located at 7575 N. Picnic Lane near the Living Bridge, offering access to all parts of Memorial Park. The center is planned for use of runners and other trail users with the intent to take some pressure off the congestion around the Memorial Park Tennis Center.

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.