



*Downtown's
Backyard*

**Houston Downtown Park Conservancy
FACT SHEET
April 2006**

About Houston's New Downtown Park

Houston's new downtown park is being developed on an 11.78-acre site between the George R. Brown Convention Center and the heart of downtown Houston. The park is the culmination of the dreams of many Houstonians for a major urban park that is being realized as a result of the leadership of Mayor Bill White and some of Houston's most committed and generous citizens.

The Houston Downtown Park Conservancy was formed as a private non-profit organization to raise needed private funds and to oversee the park's design, development and operations after it opens. Both the Conservancy and Mayor White expect the park to be the heart of Houston's most desirable urban residential district.

Designers

Hargreaves Associates, an internationally-renowned landscape architecture firm based in San Francisco, is overseeing the design effort. PageSoutherlandPage is designing the park architecture, with Larry Speck, former dean of the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture, acting as the lead architect. Lauren Griffith, an experienced local landscape architect, is providing landscape and horticultural design services. Margo Sawyer and Doug Hollis are integral members of the design team and are producing four works of art for the park.

Schedule

Bidding will occur this summer, and construction is scheduled to begin in early fall. Plans call for the park to open to the public in late 2007.

Design Features and Amenities

Major Natural Features

- Great Lawn
- Oak Promenade
- Urban Garden
- Pond
- Natural Gardens
- Landforms
- Tree Alee

Recreational Opportunities

- Playground
- Children's Area
- Market Promenade
- Amphitheater
- Dog Areas
- Picnic Area
- Jogging Trail
- Model Boat Area

Dining

- Destination Restaurant
- Family Café
- Vending carts

Funding/Park Value:

The total budget for the park is \$93,000,000 of which over \$56,000,000 has been expended for land acquisition. The City of Houston valued its contributions of land and street right-of-way at \$41,000,000.

The estimated value of the park including buildings, equipment, furniture and art is more than \$25,000,000. Other costs include real estate acquisition, site studies, programming, design, project management and start-up costs. To date, the Conservancy has raised \$42,000,000 with an additional need of \$10,000,000 to reach its goal.

Parking

In addition to on-street parking that surrounds the park, an underground parking garage that is being funded by the city will enhance access to the convention center and the park. The garage is expected to open in combination with the park in late 2007.

www.houstondowntownpark.org

Nancy G. Kinder
Conservancy Chair
Kinder Foundation

Brady F. Carruth
Wortham Foundation

Larry R. Faulkner
Houston Endowment Inc.

Jacqueline S. Martin
Community Partner

Maconda B. O'Connor
The Brown Foundation, Inc.

Guy Hagstette
Park Director

Peggy S. Menchaca
Project Administrator

Julie H. Bergen
Development Consultant