

“Heart of the Park” - Hermann Park Reflection Pool



Location
Houston, Texas

Client
Hermann Park Conservancy
City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department

SWA Scope
Landscape Architecture
(Schematic Design through Construction Services)

Size
18.5 acres (7.5 hectares)

Architect
W.O. Neuhaus Architects

Awards
ASLA National Award of Excellence

SWA's award-winning design revitalized Hermann Park's reflection pool, the "heart of the park" and the park's ceremonial entry. Once troubled by traffic congestion that hampered access, the park now features elegant pedestrian promenades reinforced by a double row of mature live oak trees, including 44 mature trees rescued from other local development sites. The design added additional indigenous species to the park's forest and created meadows and picnic facilities to attract groups whose fees help support park programs.

The 80 by 740-foot reflection pool establishes the site's major north-south axis and utilizes a bio-filtration system to avoid chemical treatments and excessive power consumption. The plaza includes a participatory fountain, raised lawn area, and limestone banco seats, with most horizontal surfaces paved with porous or semi-porous decomposed granite.

