



DISCOVERYGREEN<sup>SM</sup>

What will you discover?

## Discovery Green<sup>®</sup>- Downtown Houston, Texas



Photo by Katya Horner

DISCOVERY GREEN • 1500 MCKINNEY • HOUSTON, TX 77010  
TEL: (713) 400-7336 • FAX: (713) 800-4797 • DISCOVERYGREEN.COM

# FACT SHEET

<b>WHAT</b>	<i>Discovery Green</i>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p><i>Discovery Green</i>, Houston's premiere urban park, opened in April 2008. What will you discover<sup>SM</sup> amongst the park's 12 acres of urban green space? Features include a one-acre lake; a children's playground; interactive water features; a multi-use amphitheater stage and sloping lawn; small and large dog runs; various public art works; Houston Public Library Express office; large lawn space; and great dining from The Grove and The Lake House restaurants operated by Schiller Del Grande Restaurant Group.</p> <p>The park has active <b>FREE Spring, Fall and Winter</b> programming seasons featuring cultural art performances, films, live music, exercise, flea market, hands-on children's activities, writing workshops and more.</p> <p><b>The ICE powered by Green Mountain Energy®</b>, along with beautiful temporary public art, punctuate the Winter season. The ICE, the largest outdoor ice skating rink in the Southwest United States, is made from recycled water from the park's model boat basin.</p>
<b>LOCATION</b>	Downtown Houston, 1500 McKinney <i>Discovery Green</i> is located across Avenida de las Americas from the George R. Brown Convention Center and the Hilton Americas Hotel. Toyota Center, Houston Center and Minute Maid Park are only blocks away.
<b>SIZE</b>	11.78 acres
<b>GREEN OPERATIONS</b>	<p><i>Discovery Green</i> is committed to sustainable design and operation. Located in the middle of an urban center with access to public transportation, <i>Discovery Green</i> also provides storage for cyclists. <i>Discovery Green</i> obtains 100% of its power from renewable sources, including solar and other efficient technologies.</p> <p>In October 2009, <i>Discovery Green</i> achieved LEED Gold Certification, making it the first completed LEED Gold project for new construction in downtown Houston.</p> <p>Get to <i>Discovery Green</i> via the Greenlink bus service and B-Cycle program. METRORail users can to the Green or Orange Line and get off at the Convention District stop. Information about downtown parking can be found at <a href="http://downtownhoustonparking.org">downtownhoustonparking.org</a>.</p>
<b>MANAGEMENT</b>	<p>Discovery Green Conservancy. The Conservancy is the first private non-profit organization in Houston to be responsible for managing all aspects of a major park's ongoing operations.</p> <p>Barry Mandel, President and Park Director Susanne Theis, Programming Director Clark Curry, Operations Director Melinda Parmer, Finance and Admin Director</p>
<b>CONTACT</b>	<a href="http://www.discoverygreen.com">www.discoverygreen.com</a> or (713) 400-7336
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	F. Xavier Peña, Chair, Houston Endowment, Inc. Roxann Neumann, Vice Chair, Silver Eagle Distributors

Julie Young Sudduth, Secretary/Treasurer, IBERIABANK  
Andrew Abendshein, Director, Gulfstream Trading, Ltd.  
Roxanne Almarez, Director, Bracewell  
Barry H. Caldwell, Director, Waste Management, Inc.  
Zane Carson Carruth, Director, Carson Marketing, LLC  
Linda Evans, Director  
Larry Faulkner, Director  
Saundria Chase Gray, Director, Shell Oil Company  
Chaille Hawkins, Director  
Stan Leong, Director  
Nick Massad, Director, American Liberty Hospitality  
Judy Nyquist, Director  
Polly Whittle, Director, Kinder Foundation  
Robert Eury, Ex-Officio, Central Houston  
Nancy Kinder, Ex-Officio, Houston Downtown Park Corporation, Kinder Foundation  
Dawn Ullrich, Ex-Officio, Houston First Corporation

Dr. Maconda B. O'Connor, The Brown Foundation, Inc. (Founding board member; deceased)

## HISTORY

*Discovery Green* was the vision of Mayor Bill White and the dedication of some of Houston's most generous citizens who worked to transform two surface parking lots into a dynamic urban space. A public-private partnership was created between the City of Houston and the Discovery Green Conservancy. The first step in the process of creating Houston's new park was to seek input from Houston's own residents, in a series of public meetings and focus groups, to identify what the city's diverse population valued in an outdoor destination. The group also investigated the best practices of a wide range of parks in other great cities. An ambitious plan was developed to create an uncommonly beautiful space with a vibrant program of diverse events.

Since opening in April 2008, *Discovery Green* has become a desirable urban gathering place for Houstonians and the millions of visitors to the city of Houston, a model for other public spaces and a catalyst for economic development in downtown Houston.

## PROJECT COST

\$125 million

## THE NAME

The Conservancy sought the help of the public by creating a contest to name the park. More than 6,200 entries were submitted, and "*Discovery Green*" was selected as it fit the personality of the park, invited discovery and education, delight and surprise.

## DESIGN

The *Discovery Green* design team included Hargreaves Associates, PageSoutherlandPage and Lauren Griffith Associates. Artists Margo Sawyer and Doug Hollis were integral members of the design team and produced three works of art for the park. A large team of local and international engineers and specialists supported the core design team. Learn more about the [History of Discovery Green](#).

## AWARDS

- Business Week/Architectural Record "Good Design is Good Business"
- Austin Chapter AIA Design Award
- Houston Chapter AIA Design Award (The Grove)
- ULI-Houston Development of Distinction Award
- USGBC-Houston Outstanding Environmental Project
- IIDA Texas/Oklahoma Design Excellence for Hospitality (The Grove)

- Society of American Registered Architects Design Award of Excellence (The Grove)
- Brick in Architecture Gold Award
- Gulf Coast Chapter, ASID. Best in Show (The Grove)
- Central Houston Inc. Allen Award for Civic Engagement (2008)
- *Texas Construction's* Best of 2008 Award
- Texas Downtown Association President's Awards Program for the Best Public Improvement (2009)
- Public Relations Society of American Houston Bronze Quill – Integrated Marketing Award (2009)
- First World Architecture News (WAN) Effectiveness Awards (2011)
- American Marketing Association “Best of” Winner in the Venues & Arenas Category (2011)
- Finalist-Selected for 2011 Urban Land Institute Amanda Burden Urban Open Space Award (2011)
- American Marketing Association Marketer of the Year Award (2012)
- Public Relations Society of America Houston Award - Special Publications, Silver (2013)
- Public Relations Society of America Houston Award - Events and Observances, Silver (2013)
- Future Landmark Award, Preservation Houston Pier & Beam (2014)
- USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice- Finalist (2016)



**DISCOVERYGREEN**<sup>SM</sup>

What will you discover?

## This Season at *Discovery Green* – Winter 2016

*Most events are free and open to the public.*

**Discovery Green** offers an array of activities including dynamic conversations with change makers, family-friendly films, free Thursday Concerts with the best musicians from the Gulf Coast, flea markets, exercise classes, cultural performances, family and children's activities and more! Select programming listed below. Visit [www.discoverygreen.com](http://www.discoverygreen.com) for full event schedule.



- **The ICE powered by Green Mountain Energy®**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 - Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017**  
Ice skating returns to Downtown Houston this holiday season! The 7,716 square-foot ice skating surface, the largest in the Southwest, is kept at a frosty 22° F! Skate outdoors with the majestic Houston skyline as the backdrop. The rink will be open daily, including holidays. Admission is \$14 per person, which includes tax and skate rental. Tickets can also be purchased in advance online for \$17 a [discoverygreen-ice.eventbrite.com](http://discoverygreen-ice.eventbrite.com) For more information visit [www.discoverygreen.com/ice](http://www.discoverygreen.com/ice).
- ***Firmament* by Christopher Schardt**  
**Nov. 22 – Jan. 8, 2017, visible from dusk – 11 pm daily**  
This interactive exhibition is a vibrant canopy of LED lights by acclaimed Burning Man artist Christopher Schardt. Guests are invited to gather under the structure as the LED lights display celestial, playful, psychedelic and brightly abstract images. See website for special live music events: [discoverygreen.com/firmament](http://discoverygreen.com/firmament)
- ***Enchanted Promenade* by TILT**  
**Nov. 22 – Feb. 19, 2017, visible from dusk – 11 pm daily**  
*Enchanted Promenade* by the French art and design collective TILT, features colorful, giant peony bouquets along the majestic Brown Promenade. The installations comes to life through color-changing LED lighting. At night, the stamens grow brighter with a blazing red light that emanates through its petals and scatters warm light throughout. [discoverygreen.com/enchanted](http://discoverygreen.com/enchanted)
- **Bank of America Screen on the Green**  
**Thursdays, Dec. 1-Jan. 12, 7 pm (except Dec. 24 and 31)**  
Watch a movie from the hill or catch a peek from The ICE! Discounts for Bank of America card holders and employees.



**DISCOVERYGREEN<sup>SM</sup>**

What will you discover?

December 2004	Land Acquired/Donation by the City of Houston/ Formation of non-profit Houston Downtown Park Conservancy (now Discovery Green Conservancy)
July 2005	Design Began
October 2006	Park Construction Began/Groundbreaking Ceremony/ Name Announcement
December 2007	\$54 million in private donations achieved for Building Campaign
January 2008	The Grove Restaurant opens/Convention District Garage opens
March 1, 2008	“One for Doc” Preview Concert at the park
April 13, 2008	<i>Discovery Green</i> opens
November 2008	The Ice at <i>Discovery Green</i> , Holiday Skating on Kinder Lake opens
April 2009	One Year Anniversary Half a million visitors 400+ free high-quality public and private events 42,000 skaters at The Ice at <i>Discovery Green</i> 600+ news stories about the park
August 2009	1 million visitors
September 2009	<i>Discovery Green</i> Team membership giving program established
October 2009	<i>Discovery Green</i> achieves LEED Gold status
December 2009	Administaff Holiday Balloon, two-month holiday attraction, premieres
April 2010	Two Year Anniversary

1.7 million visitors  
800+ free high-quality public and private events  
40,000+ skaters at The Ice at *Discovery Green*  
1,500+ news stories about the park

April 2011	Hosted NCAA Big Dance concerts generating thousands of park visitors
May 2011	Finalist – Selected for 2011 Urban Land Institute Amanda Burden Urban Open Spaces Award
September 2011	Inspireity Golf Experience, three-month mini golf attraction, premieres
March 2012	Received American Marketing Association Marketer of the Year Award
April 2013	<i>Discovery Green</i> celebrates its fifth anniversary with installation of Architects of Air
September 2013	Dedication of Jim Dine's <i>The House (Heart)</i> in Maconda's Grove
October 2013	Formation of Discovery Green Public Art Committee
March 2014	Unveiling of the Hess Deck
November 2014	Installation of Bruce Munro's <i>Field of Light</i> along the Brown Foundation Promenade
November 2015	Installation of <i>Los Trompos</i> designed by Mexico City designers Hector Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena
April 2016	Hosted the NCAA March Madness Music Festival attracting thousands of park visitors
November 2016	Installation of <i>Firmament</i> by acclaimed Burning Man artist Christopher Schardt and <i>Enchanted Promenade</i> by French art and design collective, TILT