



DISCOVERYGREEN™

What will you discover?

## Discovery Green®- Downtown Houston, Texas



Photo by Katya Horner

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# 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 presented 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

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## 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 Top 5 Best City Park (2016)



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

What will you discover?

## **This Season at *Discovery Green* – Fall 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.



- **Thursday Concerts presented by Green Mountain Energy<sup>®</sup>**  
**Thursdays, September 15 – October 13, 7 pm**  
Family-friendly concerts showcasing the best music of the Gulf Coast!  
[discoverygreen.com/concerts](http://discoverygreen.com/concerts)
- **Sundays in the Park**  
**Sundays, September 18 – November 13, 2-5 pm**  
Enjoy relaxing afternoons with Jenga, cornhole, Bocce, music and art.  
[discoverygreen.com/sundays](http://discoverygreen.com/sundays)
- **Fiddle Festival**  
**Friday & Saturday, October 7 & 8, 7-10 pm**  
A series of concerts, workshops and jams featuring Houston's most exciting and innovative string artists.  
[discoverygreen.com/fiddlefest](http://discoverygreen.com/fiddlefest)
- **Scream on the Green<sup>®</sup> presented by UnitedHealthcare**  
**Friday, October 28, 6-10 pm**  
Houston's ninth annual citywide costume contest and Halloween celebration!  
[discoverygreen.com/scream-on-the-green](http://discoverygreen.com/scream-on-the-green)
- **Art @ Discovery Green**  
**Saturday & Sunday, November 5 & 6, 10 am-5 pm**  
A celebration of the visual artist with 75 fine art and contemporary craft artists showing and selling their traditional works.  
[discoverygreen.com/arts](http://discoverygreen.com/arts)



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 <i>Discovery Green</i> 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	Inspirity 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

# DISCOVERY GREEN CALENDAR

Most events are FREE, unless noted otherwise. For a complete calendar of events, visit [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com)

## Weekly Events

### SUNDAYS

**Sundays in the Park**  
SEPTEMBER 18–NOVEMBER 13  
2–5 PM

**Family Yoga**  
SEPTEMBER 4–NOVEMBER 13  
1–2 PM

### MONDAYS

**Yoga**  
SEPTEMBER 5–NOVEMBER 7  
11 AM–12 PM

### TUESDAYS

**Toddler Tuesdays**  
SEPTEMBER 6–OCTOBER 25  
10:30 AM

**Circus Arts**  
SEPTEMBER 6–NOVEMBER 8  
6–8 PM

**Core Focused Yoga**  
SEPTEMBER 6–NOVEMBER 8  
6:30–7:30 PM

### WEDNESDAYS

**Zumba®**  
SEPTEMBER 7–NOVEMBER 9  
6:30–7:30 PM

### THURSDAYS

**Parkour**  
SEPTEMBER 8–NOVEMBER 10  
6:30–8 PM

### SATURDAYS

**Hatha Yoga**  
SEPTEMBER 3–NOVEMBER 12  
9–10 AM

**Young Writers Workshop**  
SEPTEMBER 3–NOVEMBER 12  
10:30–11:30 AM

**Learn a Language**  
SEPTEMBER 3–NOVEMBER 12  
11:30 AM–12:30 PM

**STEM Saturdays presented by Occidental Petroleum**  
SEPTEMBER 10–NOVEMBER 12  
12:30–1:30 PM

**Recycling Saturdays**  
SEPTEMBER 10–NOVEMBER 12  
11 AM–2 PM

## September

### SEPTEMBER 2

**Orbit Slams**  
6–7:30 PM

### SEPTEMBER 13

**Discovery Discussions presented by Southwest Airlines®**  
7 PM

### SEPTEMBER 15

**Thursday Concerts presented by Green Mountain Energy®**  
7 PM

### SEPTEMBER 17

**Houston Black Heritage Music & Arts Festival**  
4–10 PM

**Flea by Night presented by Green Mountain Energy®**  
6–10 PM

### SEPTEMBER 18

**Lowe's Build and Grow Clinic**  
11 AM–5 PM

### SEPTEMBER 22

**Thursday Concerts presented by Green Mountain Energy®**  
7 PM

### SEPTEMBER 23

**METdance 21st Season Opener**  
8:30–10 PM

### SEPTEMBER 24

**2016 Houston Walk for Brain Injury**  
8–11 AM

**Take Me Outdoors Houston**  
10 AM–3 PM

**Bank of America Screen on the Green**  
8 PM

### SEPTEMBER 27

**Discovery Discussions presented by Southwest Airlines®**  
7 PM

### SEPTEMBER 29

**Thursday Concerts presented by Green Mountain Energy®**  
7 PM

## October

### OCTOBER 1

**Houston VisionWalk**  
9 AM–1 PM

**Bank of America Screen on the Green**  
7:45 PM

### OCTOBER 2

**Team NPF Walk to Cure Psoriasis**  
8 AM–12 PM

### OCTOBER 6

**Thursday Concerts presented by Green Mountain Energy®**  
7 PM

### OCTOBER 7

**Fiddle Festival**  
7–10 PM

**Orbit Slams**  
6–7:30 PM

### OCTOBER 8

**Fiddle Festival**  
7–10 PM

**Flea by Night presented by Green Mountain Energy®**  
6–10 PM

### OCTOBER 9

**Kidney Action Day**  
10 AM–3 PM

### OCTOBER 11

**Discovery Discussions presented by Southwest Airlines®**  
7 PM

### OCTOBER 13

**Thursday Concerts presented by Green Mountain Energy®**  
7 PM

### OCTOBER 15

**Korean Festival**  
11 AM–9 PM

### OCTOBER 22

**Untapped Beer Festival**  
2–10 PM

### OCTOBER 28

**Scream on the Green® presented by UnitedHealthcare**  
6–10 PM

**Bank of America Screen on the Green**  
7:30 PM

### OCTOBER 29

**Houston Egyptian Festival**  
11 AM–8 PM

## November

### NOVEMBER 3

**8th Annual Picnic in the Park with SEARCH**  
6–9 PM

### NOVEMBER 4

**H-E-B Movie Night**  
7:30 PM

### NOVEMBER 5

**Art @ Discovery Green**  
10 AM–5 PM

### NOVEMBER 6

**Art @ Discovery Green**  
10 AM–5 PM

### NOVEMBER 11

**Orbit Slams**  
6–7:30 PM

### NOVEMBER 12

**Bank of America Screen on the Green**  
6:30 PM

### NOVEMBER 13

**IDF Walk for Primary Immunodeficiency**  
8:30 AM–12 PM

## EVENT KEY

- Special Events
- Entertainment
- Art
- Families & Children
- Healthy Living
- Fitness in the Park
- Other Public Events

**PARK HOURS**  
6 AM–11 PM

Discovery Green Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm. Off.



**New events are added frequently.**

Sign up at [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com) or text DISCOVERYGREEN to 22828 to receive weekly emails.



**Outdoor events may be affected by the weather.**

For event weather updates visit [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com).

Performers, times, dates and other schedule changes may occur • Blankets, pets and picnics are welcome • Lawn chairs allowed on the north side of the Fondren Performance Space • Beer and wine are available for purchase • No glass containers or outside alcoholic beverages permitted