



HOUSTON ACTION RESEARCH TEAM



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Connecting the TMC and Hermann Park, Spring 2018

This HART, made up of undergraduate students from psychology, sociology, policy studies, neuroscience collaborated with the Hermann Park Conservancy (HPC) by designing and fielding a survey to measure patterns in park usage and preferences amongst employees, staff, and students who work within the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in order to determine how to attract people in the TMC towards using the Herman Park Family Commons (HPFC). The implemented an online snowball survey garnering 373 responses from TMC employees and students, including 65 surveys conducted in field. Findings provided HPC with a greater knowledge of park usage patterns and preferences of the medical center community. The major finding was that the TMC population desire a professional recreation space catered to work life balance, where they can easily exercise, enjoy the greenery and trails, and enjoy a break or snack during the workday. Strong preferences were also seen for live music, food trucks, and healthy food options. Surprisingly, walking distance to the park did not seem to have an effect on park usage.

