



BUILDING SINCE 1953

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### **Memorial Park Pedestrian Bridge creates a new path for Houston's fitness enthusiasts**

Houston, Texas – The much anticipated pedestrian bridge that connects the Memorial Park Picnic Loop to the running track is now complete and ready to take on Houston's fitness minded, just in time for burning off the holiday pounds. The \$3.3 million project, developed through the Memorial Park Conservancy and the City of Houston, was constructed by Houston-based SpawGlass Civil Construction and designed by local landscape architect Clark Condon Associates.

Construction of two 24-foot wide bridges over the eastbound and westbound lanes of Memorial Drive included bents and abutments along with a 12-foot wide colored concrete pathway connecting the north side of the park to the south side. SpawGlass Project Manager Isaias Alonso stated, "The bridges are on a skew so a precise layout was critical to our field team. The Hercules retaining wall was also a challenge because of the unique step back on the curve, which required complete accuracy."

The SpawGlass Civil team was particularly sensitive to pedestrian traffic and onlookers who were interested in seeing the construction process. Many changes were added to SpawGlass Civil's scope of work to enhance the project, as well as a major change to improve access to the existing parking lot. No extra time for construction could be granted though in order for the project to maintain the original completion date--it was important for Mayor Bill White to finish this project at one of the City's most beloved parks during his term. The new bridge is yet another testament to Houston's commitment to being a greener city.

The side slopes leading to the bridge have retaining walls designed to receive vegetation. Additional components included installing electrical service and lighting, demolition of existing hardscape elements, site preparation, drainage and earthwork, steps and handrails for steps and new curb ramps for accessibility at the Picnic Loop and Memorial Drive.

Mayor White, Joe Turner, director of the Houston Parks & Recreation Department, and other officials attended the December 1 ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the bridge.

Memorial Park, located at 6501 Memorial Drive, near the I-10 & I-610 West Loop intersection, stands on the grounds of a World War I military facility known as Camp Logan. The camp served as home and training facility to thousands of soldiers from 1917 to 1919. The Park honors the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during World War I.

SpawGlass, a Texas-based general contractor, construction manager, design/builder and civil contractor, was founded in 1953 by Louis Spaw and Frank Glass with a commitment to client satisfaction and service. Today the company has more than 550 employees statewide and is 100 percent employee owned, with ownership available to all employees. Operating in the Austin area since 1978, SpawGlass has regional offices in Austin, Houston, San Antonio and South Texas.

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