

## Carpenter Park

### Project Overview

Carpenter Park is a 5.75-acre park located at 2201 Pacific Avenue on the eastern edge of Downtown Dallas. The project is an expansion and renovation of Carpenter Plaza, a City of Dallas park originally built in 1981.



*Carpenter Plaza, 1982. Image courtesy of Dallas Municipal Archives.*

Carpenter Park embraces neighboring Deep Ellum and helps establish a strong east-west connection between Old East Dallas and Downtown. This public land has been reimagined into a neighborhood park that welcomes people into Downtown Dallas.

Hargreaves Jones, the award-winning landscape architecture firm that authored the 2004 Downtown Parks Master Plan and its 2013 Update, led the design team for the new park which features a broad range of new amenities including a dog play area, basketball court, open and shaded lawns, interactive fountain, environmental play elements for kids, gardens, walking paths, and public art.

The new park showcases two significant pieces of public sculpture. Robert Irwin's *Portal Park Piece (Slice)* has been reconceptualized and retitled by the artist for the new site conditions in the renovated park. The new title of the sculpture is *Portal Park Slice*. Robert Berks' statue of John W. Carpenter has been refurbished and reinstalled.

Carpenter Park is the third of four Downtown parks to be constructed as a result of a public-private partnership between the Dallas Park and Recreation Department and Parks for Downtown Dallas. Private donors and PfDD contributed \$4.7 million in development costs. The Dallas Park and Recreation Department contributed \$15.4 million in 2017 bond dollars approved by Dallas citizens for Downtown parks.

**Project Facts:**

OPENING DATE:	May 3, 2022
SIZE:	5.75 acres
DESIGN:	2013-2020
DEVELOPMENT COSTS:	\$20.1 million
CLIENTS:	Parks for Downtown Dallas, Nonprofit Developer Dallas Park & Recreation Department, Owner

**Design Team:**

Project Lead, Landscape Architecture: Hargreaves Jones

General Contractor: BECK Group

Artist: Robert Irwin

Local Landscape Architect: GFF Landscape

Civil & Traffic Engineering: Pacheco Koch

Pavilion Architect: shipleyARCHITECTS

Structural Engineering: Charles Gojer & Associates

Lighting Design: Oldner Lighting

MEP Engineering: BEI Engineering

Fountain Consultant: Greenscape Pump (GPSI)

Soils: Olsson

Irrigation: Sweeney & Associates

Signage & Wayfinding: focusEGD

### **Design Elements:**

**Granite Walk** - Weaving through the park, this feature creates a 3000+ linear foot path lined with low lighting and a continuous hedge comprising 10 shrub varieties to animate the experience of moving through the park and discovering its features.

**Sculpture Hill** - Granite Walk moves through *Portal Park Slice* and embraces the hill the sculpture engages. Views from the top of the hill accentuate the sculpture's long, thin line in the landscape and frame the Downtown Dallas skyline.

**Children's Nature Play** - Adjacent to Sculpture Hill, natural materials come together to create a multi-functional area for kids to climb and explore, complete with a button-activated splash pad.

**Lawn** - At the center of the park, a large expanse of lawn provides for flexible use with scattered shade trees as well as rows of smaller flowering trees that recall the area's landscape history.

**Food Truck Plaza** - Under the freeway along Cesar Chavez Boulevard, the park is activated with a Plaza for sitting and enjoying the fare from food trucks. There is a pavilion to dispense games as well as a dog play area and dramatic nighttime lighting.

**Basketball Court** - The Basketball Court in the plaza is shaded by the overhead freeway and is lit at night during park hours. This is the first permanent, public outdoor court in Downtown.

**Dog Play** - The Dog Play area will be a welcome amenity - more than forty-percent of Downtown's 14,000 residents have at least one dog.

**The Gardens-** Three oval-shaped planted areas create a richly patterned and colorful garden amenity in the park. Crushed stone walkways with benches wind through the plantings of ornamental grasses and flowering perennials.

**Fountain Plaza** - Fountain Plaza is located at the prominent corner of Pacific Avenue and Pearl Street. With 117 water jets of varying heights, the plaza is a dynamic play space with 5 tall jets at its center creating a beacon of water and light. 112 jets arch in various directions to create a “bird’s nest” effect. At night, the water feature sequence is synchronized with the lighting display under the overhead freeway.

**Walking Paths** - Wide sidewalks line the perimeter of the park to create a safe respite for park visitors and connect the park to its surroundings.

## **Plant List**

### TREES

*Acer buergerianum* - Trident Maple  
*Koelreuteria paniculata* - Golden Rain Tree  
*Magnolia grandiflora* "D.D. Blanchard" - Southern Magnolia  
*Pistacia chinensis* - Chinese Pistache  
*Platanus mexicana* - Mexican Sycamore  
*Quercus macrocarpa* - Bur Oak  
*Quercus muehlenbergii* - Chinkapin Oak  
*Quercus virginiana* - Live Oak  
*Quercus polymorpha* - Mexican White Oak  
*Taxodium distichum* - Bald Cypress  
*Parrotia persica* 'Ppcm2' - Contemplation Parrotia  
*Ulmus crassifolia* - Cedar Elm  
*Ulmus* 'Frontier'- Frontier Elm  
*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Emer II'- Allee Lacebark Elm  
*Cercis canadensis* var. *mexicana* - Mexican Redbud  
*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* -Texas Redbud  
*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Oklahoma' - Oklahoma Redbud  
*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Texas White' - Texas White Redbud  
*Magnolia x brooklynensis* 'Lois' - Lois Magnolia  
*Prunus mexicana* - Mexican Plum

### GROUNDCOVERS

*Ohiopogon japonicus* - Mondo Gras  
*Liriope muscari* 'Evergreen Giant' - Giant Liriope  
*Carex divulsa* - Grassland Sedge

## Hedge

*Abelia* x 'Edward Goucher' - Abelia Edward Goucher  
*Abelia* x *grandiflora* 'Frances Mason' - Abelia Frances Mason  
*Caryopteris* x *clandonensis* 'Blue Mist' - Blue Mist Bluebeard  
*Ilex cornuta* 'Needlepoint' - Needlepoint Holly  
*Ilex cornuta* 'Dwarf Burford' - Dwarf Burford Holly  
*Leucophyllum frutescens* 'Silverado' - Silverado Texas Sage  
*Loropetalum chinense* 'Shang-White' - Emerald Snow Loropetalum  
*Myrica cerifera* - Wax Myrtle  
*Cleyera japonica* - Japanese Cleyera  
*Hibiscus syriacus* 'Diana' - Rose Of Sharon

## Garden 1

*Carex divulsa* - Grassland Sedge  
*Carex texensis* - Texas Sedge  
*Eryngium yuccifolium* - Rattlesnake Master  
*Echinacea pallida* - Pale Purple Coneflower  
*Gaura lindheimeri* - Lindheimer's Beeblossom  
*Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Lenca' - Regal Mist Muhly Grass  
*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* - Lindheimer's Muhly Grass  
*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah' - Switchgrass

## Garden 2

*Carex cherokeensis* - Cherokee Sedge  
*Cotinus coggyria* 'Ncco1' - Winecraft Black Smokebush  
*Eryngium* X *zabelii* 'Big Blue' - Sea Holly  
*Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'White Cloud' - White Cloud Muhly Grass  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Standing Ovation' - Little Bluestem  
*Sedum* x 'Matrona' - Matrona Stonecrop  
*Sorghastrum nutans* 'Sioux Blue' - Indian Grass

## Garden 3

*Bouteloua curtipendula* - Sideoats Grama  
*Salvia leucantha* - Mexican Bush Sage  
*Rudbeckia triloba* - Brown-Eyed Susan  
*Nasella tenuissima* - Mexican Feather Grass  
*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' - Hameln Fountain Grass

## Carpenter Park By the Numbers

**1** - Carpenter Park has the first public basketball court in Downtown Dallas.

**3** - Carpenter Park is the third of four Priority Parks being built Downtown.

**5.75** - Carpenter Park is a **5.75**-acre park and is the largest park Downtown.

**6** parking spots are outfitted for Food Trucks.

**15** Corten steel panels make up Robert Irwin's reconfigured sculpture *Portal Park Slice*

**123,000** cubic feet of soil was shaped to create the hill in the center of *Portal Park Slice*. The hill reaches **13** feet in height and overlooks the entire park and the Dallas skyline.

**20** - There are **20** species of trees in Carpenter Park, **12** of which are native to Texas.

**117** water jets and cannons are incorporated into the Fountain Plaza to create a dynamic play space.

**132** new trees are planted in the park. **15** mature trees were preserved and transplanted.

**7,400** square feet of gardens with **20** different species of Texas native and adaptive plants are at the center of the park.

**3,000+** linear feet of granite walking paths meander through the park.