



RENOVATION CELEBRATION

August 21, 2014

It was a day of celebration with the official ribbon-cutting for the transformation of the corner of Mandell and Richmond. Many years of patience were required, but with the support of volunteers and financial contributors the City now has a new beautiful greenspace!

“This is more than we expected,” said **Mayor Annise Parker** at the ceremony. “Until you see it on the ground — this far exceeded my expectations and the expectations of the people in the neighborhood.”



All smiles for City Parks & Rec. Director, Joe Turner, and the Landscape Architects Margaret Robinson and Keiji Asakura and Mayor Parker. ALL PHOTOS BY TRISH BADGER



Meredith Burke drove in from Austin to join the celebration. Meredith and her family lived across the street from Mandell Park, which was vacated by the city in the early 1980s. The property became an overgrown, illegal dumping site. After neighbors organized and cleaned the Bonnie Brae portion, Meredith, an avid gardener, suggested planting an organic garden. The volunteers were so inspired by Meredith that they voted to name the community organic garden after her.



Friends of Mandell Park board members (above) pictured with Meredith Burke: Skip Almoney, Lynn Kelly, Meredith Burke, Bill Haase, Marianne Jones, Elani Hantel, Karen Anne Vinson, Adra Hook.



Last spring the Friends of Mandell Park voted unanimously to name the garden center "Skip's Shed" [shown below] in honor of Skip Almoney's years of dedication to Mandell Park. Since the early 1990s, Skip has given countless hours in maintaining the property, and then taking on the leadership role of Friends of Mandell Park. Thank you, Skip!

