

The Bayou Beat

Reduce the Risk. Rediscover the Beauty.

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REDUCING *the Risk*

Project Brays consists of 75 individual projects designed to benefit thousands of residents and businesses by reducing the risk of flood damage.

These projects include channel modifications, bridge modifications, and the creation of stormwater detention basins. Listed below are highlights of several projects that are currently underway.

WORKING *Together*

A Message from Mike Talbott

We are excited to introduce the first *Bayou Beat*, a special newsletter for community members along Brays Bayou. This first edition is a sneak preview for our Project Brays community work group members and elected officials with an update on the very latest Project Brays news.

Your role in Project Brays is vital to the project's success. As you know, we are looking to each of you to assist in our outreach efforts by providing feedback, sharing concerns and serving as a conduit of information about Project Brays to your communities. This partnership will ensure an open dialogue with those living and working along Brays Bayou.

Working together, we will reduce the risk of flood damage for thousands of residents and businesses along Brays Bayou, while creating partnership opportunities to fulfill the community's desire for more aesthetic and recreational features.

Thank you again for your commitment and support to Project Brays.

Sincerely,
Mike Talbott, P.E.
Director, Harris County Flood Control District



Brays Bayou, shown here at the Texas Medical Center, provides an opportunity for beautification while reducing the risk of flood damage and strengthening community partnerships.

Willow Waterhole Greenway Project

Construction of the first phase of the [Willow Waterhole Greenway Project](#) began in May and includes the excavation and development of approximately 40 acres of land. The project is located near S. Post Oak

Road and US 90. When all phases are complete, the detention basin will be able to hold approximately 600 million gallons of stormwater. When not serving its primary purpose of flood damage reduction, it will provide up to 280 acres of green space.



After working together to design the Willow Waterhole Greenway Project, the Project Brays team, comprised of (from left) Raouf Farid, P.E.; Gary Zika, P.E.; Director of the HCFCD Mike Talbott, P.E.; Karen Cullar; Mike Perez, P.E.; David Goldberg, P.E.; and Glenn Laird, celebrates the start of construction with a ceremonial groundbreaking.

Arthur Storey Park Detention Basin

Construction of the third phase of [Arthur Storey Park](#) began in May. This detention basin is already 85 percent complete and is scheduled for completion in 2007. When all phases are finished, the detention basin will have the capacity to hold about 1.15 billion gallons of stormwater. When not serving its primary purpose of flood damage reduction, it will add more than 200 acres of green space. The project is located west of the Sam Houston Tollway and just south of Bellaire Blvd.

Eldridge Detention Basin

The first phase of construction at [Eldridge Detention Basin](#) is underway. As the largest of the detention basins, Eldridge is scheduled for completion in 2010. Upon completion, it will be able to hold about 1.5 billion gallons of stormwater. When not serving its primary purpose of flood damage reduction, it will add about 340 acres of green space. The project is located at Highway 6 and the Westpark Tollway at Eldridge.

Freshwater Tidal Marsh Project

Construction on the [3.5 acres of freshwater tidal marsh](#) is scheduled to start in October 2004. The project is [located across from Mason Park](#) in southeast Houston, about two miles north of the IH-610 and IH-45 interchange. When complete, it will improve water quality, create habitat and serve as an educational resource for the community.

Channel Modifications

- **Mouth to Lawndale** – Construction of the most downstream channel segment of Brays Bayou is scheduled to go to bid in December 2004, with construction lasting approximately one year. The widening of the segment will increase the channel's stormwater carrying capacity.
- **Old Westheimer to Highway 6** – Construction on this four-mile segment of the channel is anticipated to begin in December 2004. This channel segment will help the [Old Westheimer](#) and [Eldridge Stormwater Detention](#) Basins function more effectively.

CONSTRUCTION

Snapshot for 2005



Channel Modifications

- Mouth to Lawndale
- Lawndale to Old Spanish Trail
- Freshwater Tidal Marsh
- Calhoun to Ardmore

Stormwater Detention Basins

- [Willow Waterhole](#) Greenway Project
- [Eldridge](#) Detention Basin
- [Arthur Storey Park](#) Detention Basin
- [Old Westheimer Road](#) Detention Basin

Bridge Modifications

- Lawndale Avenue Bridge
- Telephone Road Bridge
- Forest Hill Boulevard Bridge
- S. 75th Street Bridge
- Galveston Rail Road Bridge
- Wheeler Street Bridge
- Holcombe Pedestrian Bridge

WHAT'S *for Breakfast?*

Get ready!

You're invited to the Community Work Group Breakfast on September 21st from 7:30 - 9 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood. The breakfast will be a great opportunity for community work group members representing various communities along Brays Bayou to come together.

You can look forward to learning the latest Project Brays updates, talking to the Project team and exchanging ideas with other community leaders.

Neighborhood News

- Several communities along Brays Bayou have taken advantage of the information fairs held to educate the public about Project Brays. More than 265 community members have attended and have provided great feedback to the HCFCD.
- Project Brays team members have presented to nearly two dozen homeowners associations and other community organizations this year.
- Project Brays team members hosted three informational kiosks at Arthur Storey Park in June. Park goers were happy to receive complimentary ice-cold water and learn more about Project Brays and the Harris County Precinct 3 park!



Project Brays team member David Goldberg, P.E., answers questions from a community member at the information fair held on April 13, 2004.

If you are interested in having a Brays team member present at your upcoming meeting, call 713-316-4820.

SPOTLIGHT *on the Community*

Featuring the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy

This Spotlight on the Community is shining on the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy for their tireless dedication and support to the Willow Waterhole Greenway Project and Project Brays. May marked an exciting time for the group and the HCFCD, as construction broke ground on the [Willow Waterhole Greenway Project](#). For years, this organization has led the effort and nurtured the vision to turn this stormwater detention basin into a multi-use facility that the community can use and enjoy. A BIG thanks goes to our featured community group for their years of hard work and commitment!

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback! If you have questions, please e-mail us at info@projectbrays.org or call the Project Brays Hotline at 713-316-4820.

For up-to-date information, you can also visit the Project Brays Web site at www.projectbrays.org.

