



WHERE DOES *the Dirt Go?*



Hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of dirt are moved from each detention basin project. So where does the dirt go?

For flood damage reduction projects such as Project Brays, millions of cubic yards of dirt are removed from the channel and stormwater detention basins. A cubic yard is how HCFCD measures dirt. Imagine a square-shaped block of dirt measuring 3 ft. high 3 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep.

But where does all this dirt go? HCFCD requires the construction contractor to find suitable sites to place the dirt. The most common uses of this "byproduct" include:

- Other public infrastructure projects such as roadway projects
- Placing it on the same project site to create an amenity for the surrounding community to enjoy
- Developer projects such as building a new residential subdivision
- Landfill areas to create clay caps for waste disposal sites

Of course, the placement of dirt must comply with all appropriate local, state and federal laws. But reliance upon the ingenuity of the private sector to find suitable uses for the dirt keeps construction costs down while avoiding long-term costs that would be necessary if HCFCD had to acquire property merely to stockpile all of this dirt.

Project Brays Keeps Construction Moving

Project Brays ended the year with several construction projects moving closer to completion, while other projects are starting fresh in the new year.

Arthur Storey Park Detention Basin

Jay-El Consultants was awarded the \$6.6 million contract for Phase 10 of the Arthur Storey Park Stormwater Detention Basin and began work in early November. Phase 10 will create an additional 700 acre feet of stormwater storage by removing 1.1 million cubic yards of dirt. To date, the entire project is 89 percent complete. The next phase, at approximately \$3.2 million, is expected to go to bid in the first quarter of 2006.

Eldridge Detention Basin

Eldridge Stormwater Detention Basin is also steadily progressing. At the end of October, contractor Sprint Sand and Clay began construction on Phase 4, which is a \$7.2 million contract. Once Phase 4 is complete, an additional 1.2 million cubic yards of dirt will be removed and more than 550 acre feet of stormwater storage will be added. Eldridge currently stands at 24 percent complete. Upon completion, the basin will have the capacity to store 4,666 acre feet of stormwater. The next phase, at a cost of approximately \$3 million, is expected to go to bid some time in the first quarter of 2006.

Willow Waterhole Detention Basin

Construction continues on the Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention Basin in 2006. An \$8.25 million contract was awarded to Ramos Industries for Phase 2, which began construction in mid-October. Upon completion of Phase 2, more than 920,000 cubic yards of dirt will be removed and almost 570 acre feet of stormwater storage will be added. The basin stands at five percent complete. Phase 3, at a cost of approximately \$10 million, is expected to go out for bid in the second quarter of 2006.



Construction continues with work on the Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention Basin. Once Phase 2 is complete, 700 acre feet of stormwater storage will be added.

Contract Awarded for Channel Construction

In January, a bid was awarded to BRH - Garver Construction for conveyance improvements of Brays Bayou between the mouth of Brays Bayou and Lawndale. The cost of the contract is approximately \$6.75 million. Construction will take approximately 365 days, weather permitting.

CONSTRUCTION *Snapshot for 2006-2007* *

Channel Modifications

- Old Westheimer Road to Highway 6
- Mouth to Lawndale
- Calhoun to Ardmore

Stormwater Detention Basins

- Willow Waterhole
- Eldridge
- Arthur Storey Park
- Old Westheimer Road

Bridge Modifications

- Telephone Road
- Forest Hill Boulevard

*Note: Schedule is anticipated and subject to change.



Construction of the Freshwater Tidal Marsh was completed in January 2006. The tidal marsh is just one of the many projects the Harris County Flood Control District is undertaking to reduce flood damages while incorporating community and natural values along Brays Bayou.

Brays Bayou Featured in *Texas Parks & Wildlife*

Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine recently published an article written by Brays Bayou resident Bill Dawson, describing the beauty and progress being made along the winding waterway. Dawson's article, entitled *Return to Bayou City*, highlights the way the Harris County Flood Control District and its partners are bringing nature back to the many bayous in Houston.

Complete with pictures along Brays Bayou and quotes from Mike Talbott, HCFCD Director, the article describes the efforts being made to incorporate the natural beauty and efficiency that Houstonians crave. If you missed the article, you can read it on the *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine's website at: www.tpwmagazine.com/archive/2005/dec/ed_3.

NEIGHBORHOOD

News & Events

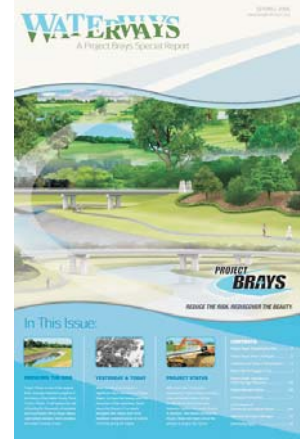
Save the Date – Biannual Breakfast Approaches in April

Project Brays will hold the Community Work Group Biannual Breakfast on April 11. The time and place have yet to be announced, but Community Work Group members will be sent an invitation letter as soon as it is confirmed. Held twice a year, these breakfast meetings provide a great opportunity for community work group members to come together and learn the latest Project Brays updates, talk to the project team members and exchange ideas with other community leaders. For more information, please visit www.projectbrays.org or call the Project Brays Hotline at 713-316-4820.

Life Along the Bayou – Focus of Upcoming Special Report

This Spring, residents living within the Brays Bayou watershed will find an informative insert, titled *Waterways: A Project Brays Special Report*, in their neighborhood papers – Houston Chronicle, La Voz and the Houston Business Journal.

This report will provide an up-close look at Project Brays to give a better understanding of the project benefits, planned improvements and construction information. Along the way, readers will discover some of the bayou's rich history and meet some of the unique people who are part of the Brays community. In addition, *Waterways* is packed full of facts and figures, a historical timeline of events along the bayou and a full-sized map of the Brays Bayou watershed with more than 70 projects that comprise Project Brays.



SPOTLIGHT *on Our Past*

The Eastwood Community

As William A. Wilson developed his idea for what would become Eastwood, he realized he wanted much more than homes built together – he wanted a whole community.

Originally boasting 215 acres and 1,000 terraced lots for homes, Eastwood, located southeast of U.S. 59 and downtown Houston and northeast of I-45 along Brays Bayou, was developed in 1911, and the community officially opened in 1913.

One of the natural highlights of the community was the ravine that ran through Eastwood, which helped with stormwater drainage. Water would run down the terraced lots into the ravine and then into Brays Bayou.

Eastwood is a community that is full of history. In October of 1913, Eastwood was called "A model suburb ... one of the most convenient, attractive and beautiful home site additions in the city of Houston." But there also have been times when the community hit a rough patch, like in the 1980s when the oil bust sent houses and businesses into foreclosure and properties were left uncared for and dilapidated.

Today, Eastwood is thriving and growing again. Homes are being restored, and new businesses and housing are joining the community at a steady rate.

To learn more about the Eastwood community, visit www.eastwood-houston.com

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 website at

www.projectbrays.org

