



JUST THE *Facts*

- As one of the most highly urbanized watersheds in Harris County, the Brays Bayou Watershed encompasses more than **128 square miles**, or about three times the size of the City of Galveston.
- With a population of more than **700,000**, the Brays Bayou Watershed is nearly seven times the current population of the City of Beaumont.
- Brays Bayou is approximately **31 miles long**, making it one of the longest bayous in Harris County.
- Project Brays comprises more than **75 individual projects** that will together take approximately 14 years to complete.
- Upon completion, the four stormwater detention basins will detain approximately **3.5 billion gallons of stormwater**, which is enough water to fill the Reliant Astrodome almost seven times.
- The added green space along Brays Bayou will equal the **size of 800 football fields**.
- The dump trucks used to carry the excavated dirt for Project Brays can carry about **70,000 pounds** or the equivalent of 23 cars in each load.



Mastering Multi-Use with Arthur Storey Park

Every weekend, hundreds of Harris County residents enjoy all that Arthur Storey Park has to offer. Located at the Sam Houston Tollway and Bellaire Boulevard, this park is a great example of how a flood damage reduction project can be transformed into a multi-use facility for the community that features recreational amenities such as picnic pavilions and activities such as bird watching.



Arthur Storey Park is home to many species of coastal and migratory birds.

Arthur Storey Park consists of approximately 200 acres and serves as one of four large stormwater detention basins along Brays Bayou. Once complete, the detention basin will have the capacity to hold about 1.15 billion gallons of stormwater, resulting in a reduced risk of flood damage for thousands of residents and businesses along Brays Bayou.

In 1997, Harris County Commissioners Court changed the park's name from Brays Bayou Park to Arthur Storey Park in honor of Arthur L. Storey, Jr., P.E., who is currently the director of the Harris County Public Infrastructure Department. He brought his vision to life by promoting the use of flood damage reduction properties as a way to provide the community with more green space and beautiful recreational areas.



Precinct 3 Commissioner Steve Radack held a dedication on April 12th for the new Tai Chi Court at Arthur Storey Park. The event included demonstrations of the ancient Chinese discipline.

"This remarkable project has become a model for future HCFCD flood damage reduction projects," said Mike Talbott, P.E., Director of HCFCD. "It demonstrates how different partners can work together and combine resources to create something great for our community."

The partnership with Harris County Precinct 3 has allowed community members to use Arthur Storey Park for running, walking, parties, picnics and other types of recreation. The park currently includes a pond, a gazebo, walking trails bordered by beautiful oak trees, playground equipment, picnic tables, a new Tai Chi court and a meeting room/learning center. The park also includes a man-made habitat for native plants and wildlife and has become one of Houston's newest hot spots for viewing coastal and migratory birds. More environmental features will be added over the years.

CONSTRUCTION *Snapshot for 2005*

Channel Modifications

- Freshwater Tidal Marsh
- Old Westheimer Road to Highway 6
- Mouth to Lawndale
- Calhoun to Ardmore

Stormwater Detention Basins

- Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention Basin
- Eldridge Stormwater Detention Basin
- Arthur Storey Park Stormwater Detention Basin
- Old Westheimer Road Stormwater Detention Basin

Bridge Modifications

- Telephone Road Bridge
- Forest Hill Boulevard Bridge

NEIGHBORHOOD *News & Events*

Running for the Willow Waterhole Greenway Project

On May 7, the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy hosted its first annual Willow Waterhole Fun Run and Walk at the Willow Waterhole Greenway Project in southwest Houston. More than 50 participants ran or walked the 5K trail to raise \$6,000 for further enhancement of the project. Immediately following the Fun Run and Walk, participants gathered for a dedication of the greenway project.



Walkers take it in stride at the first annual Willow Waterhole Fun Run and Walk.



Students wade knee-deep in the educational wetlands exhibit at "La Cuenca Cuenta."

Watershed Festivities a Success

On May 17, the Texas Coastal Watershed Program hosted "La Cuenca Cuenta" or "The Watershed Tells a Story," an environmental education and awareness festival at Mason Park. The fiesta focused on watershed issues such as the impact of local water quality and the variety and importance of native habitats in the watershed. More than 400 residents came to enjoy the wetland exhibit, storytelling and a mariachi band.

What's Happening Now?

Freshwater Tidal Marsh

A portion of Mason Park is being transformed into the Freshwater Tidal Marsh. Construction is expected to be completed late this summer. Once complete, the community and project partners will begin transplanting native plants into the new wetlands.

Arthur Storey Park Stormwater Detention Basin

Arthur Storey Park Stormwater Detention Basin is currently 85 percent complete and a popular green space along Brays Bayou.



Progress continues on the stormwater detention basins at Arthur Storey Park where construction is estimated to be completed in 2009.

Old Westheimer Road Stormwater Detention Basin

The Old Westheimer Road Stormwater Detention Basin will add about 48 acres of green space and is currently approximately 30 percent complete.

Eldridge Stormwater Detention Basin

At approximately 340 acres, Project Brays' largest stormwater detention basin is well underway and approximately 20 percent complete.

SPOTLIGHT *on History*

The Brays Bayou Watershed has a long, rich history - from a former Texas capital to the Eighth Wonder of the World. Some of the bayou's historically significant places include:

Old Harrisburg Historical Marker

Founded in 1826 by John R. Harris, this is the site of the early Texas port and trading post that featured the state's first steam saw, grist mill and railroad terminal. Old Harrisburg was annexed by the City of Houston in 1926.

Alief Cemetery Historical Marker

On the corner of Bellaire and Dairy-Ashford, this cemetery stands as a reminder of the area's pioneer heritage. In fact, it is the burial place for the founders of Dairy, which was established by farming and ranching families in 1896.

Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railroad Historical Marker

Chartered in 1850 by General Sidney Sherman, this rail line became the first railroad in Texas. In 1870, the name was changed to Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio, and the rail line eventually became part of the Southern Pacific Railroad system.

Reliant Astrodome

Once hailed as the "Eighth Wonder of the World," the Astrodome was the first domed stadium ever constructed. It featured the first synthetic turf and was home to the first indoor baseball game. Completed in 1965 at the cost of \$38 million, the 208-foot structure was built on drained marsh land.

(Data courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission).

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

