



COMMITMENT *to the Community*

As part of the Harris County Flood Control District's (HCFCD) commitment to keeping the community informed, we would like to introduce *The Bayou Beat*, a special quarterly newsletter for the communities along Brays Bayou. Our goal is to share information with you about Project Brays and its many components, keep you up-to-date on the latest construction and communicate the progress that is being made to reduce the risk of flood damage.

In each issue, you can look forward to seeing the following:

Feature — This section features an up-close look at a particular project, including recent photos, work accomplished and anticipated benefits.

Construction Snapshot — This snapshot conveys the estimated 2005 Project Brays construction schedule, which includes the creation of stormwater detention basins, as well as channel and bridge modifications.

Neighborhood News — This section shares how the HCFCD is reaching out to communities along Brays Bayou and continually taking a proactive approach to informing residents about Project Brays.

Spotlight — Each quarter, the spotlight will shine on a particular organization that has contributed greatly to the success of Project Brays.

We hope you enjoy *The Bayou Beat* and will continue with us on our journey as progress continues on Project Brays.



Site preparations began in September 2004 for the Freshwater Tidal Marsh Project located at Mason Park.

Willow Waterhole Greenway Project Receives National Recognition

The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project, an important component of Project Brays, has been recognized as a 2004 National Park Service Conservation Success by the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project, which broke ground in May 2004 near South Post Oak Road and US 90, serves as a regional stormwater detention basin that provides flood damage reduction benefits, as well as park and recreational amenities for residents and businesses in



In November 2004, grass begins to grow at the Willow Waterhole stormwater detention basin soon after the first phase of construction was completed.



southwest Houston. "The project is the result of a lot of hard work and commitment by our organization, as well as numerous individuals and other organizations that had the shared vision to make this green space a reality," said Mike Talbot, Director of the HCFCD. "The Harris County Flood Control District and our partners are honored to receive such remarkable recognition from the National Park Service."

The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project is being constructed in a series of eight phases. The first phase of construction was completed in September 2004, and included excavating approximately 40 acres of land for the first compartment of a stormwater detention basin, as well as the addition of some park features. The features that are currently in place include walking paths and bridges, benches, a picnic pavilion and a gazebo. These recreational amenities were made possible through a \$750,000 grant that was awarded by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

The second phase of construction on Willow Waterhole is currently being designed and is scheduled to go to bid in January 2005. Construction typically begins 90 days after the bidding process is complete and will focus on creating the hydraulic connection between the stormwater detention basin and Brays Bayou.

Upon completion, the Willow Waterhole stormwater detention basin will be able to hold approximately 600 million gallons of stormwater and bring about 300 acres of useable green space to the nearby communities.



Top: Southeast Houston residents are already enjoying the new walking paths surrounding the Willow Waterhole stormwater detention basin.

Bottom: The magnitude of the Willow Waterhole Greenway Project is evident in this aerial photograph.

CONSTRUCTION

Snapshot for 2005

Channel Modifications

- Mouth to Lawndale
- 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

- Telephone Road Bridge
- Forest Hill Boulevard Bridge

Project Brays Branches Out with Tree Survey

Throughout Project Brays, the HCFCD is working to sustain and preserve the natural environment along Brays Bayou. Proposed designs for bayou parkways and greenways include preserving or moving existing trees where possible, and planting thousands of new trees and shrubs along the bayou.



The HCFCD recently completed a comprehensive survey of more than 6,000 trees along Brays Bayou and is using this new information to relocate or replace trees after construction is finished. Interesting facts discovered from the tree survey include:

- Trees located along Brays Bayou from the mouth to Fondren Road**
- 6,157 individual trees were located and evaluated
 - A total of 110 different species were found
 - 61 percent of the trees were less than six inches in diameter
 - Less than 9% of individual trees were more than 30-feet tall
 - 571 groves of trees covering 208 acres were mapped for future reference

- Trees located along Brays Bayou from Dairy Ashford Road to State Highway 6**
- 204 individual trees were located and evaluated
 - A total of 22 different species were found
 - 51 percent were less than six inches in diameter
 - No individual trees were more than 30-feet tall
 - 34 groves of trees covering 20 acres were mapped for future reference

Project Brays is committed to preserving the environment along Brays Bayou, as exemplified here at the Willow Waterhole Greenway Project.

NEIGHBORHOOD

News

Many communities along Brays Bayou have participated in four information fairs that have been held to educate the public about Project Brays. To date, the HCFCD has held information fairs in the following areas:

- March 2004: Beltway 8 West
- April 2004: West Loop South
- June 2004: East End
- November 2004: 288 Area



Community members get involved by attending an overview presentation at an information fair held in April.

The HCFCD will continue to visit communities along Brays Bayou and share the vision of the overall project, as well as local construction information. If you're interested in learning more, the Project Brays team is available to present to your organization or homeowner's association. This year alone, nearly three dozen community organizations already have taken advantage of this great educational opportunity.



SPOTLIGHT

on our Partner

Featuring the Texas Cooperative Extension

This spotlight is shining on our partner, the Texas Cooperative Extension, for the significant contributions it has made to the Freshwater Tidal Marsh Project at Mason Park. The Texas Cooperative Extension is a member of the Texas A&M University System that offers practical, how-to education based on university research.

This group not only funded the design of the 3.5 acres of wetlands that will be created, but is also working with local students from Austin and Chavez high schools to nurture plants for these wetlands. With its focus on restoration and education, the Texas Cooperative Extension has taken the time to show students how to care for wetlands, as well as teach them the positive effect wetlands have on our environment. A big thanks goes to our partner for its hard work and dedication to Project Brays!

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.

