



RESIDENTS Support PROJECT BRAYS

"The HCFCD has done a great job keeping the community informed about Project Brays. The information the project team has provided through mail outs, e-mails and at meetings has been helpful in educating residents about the project."

~ Frank Silcock,
Resident and Community Work Group member

"The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project will become a major regional park destination if citizens and neighbors keep working with the Project Brays team to make it so."

~ Howard Sacks,
Resident and President of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy

"The project team is very supportive of our community's goal to turn the East End into a true destination spot in Houston."

~ Mary Margaret Hansen,
President of the Greater East End Management District

"Our community has been provided with countless educational opportunities to learn how Project Brays will benefit residents."

~ Cloredia Hawkins,
Resident and Community Work Group member



Progress Continues on Project Brays

Project Brays is really moving along. Last quarter, several Project Brays construction projects were completed. Projects that have been or will soon be under construction include:

Freshwater Tidal Marsh Complete

A portion of Mason Park has been transformed into the Freshwater Tidal Marsh. In the coming months, HCFCD will plant several hundred trees to further enhance the site and restore wildlife habitat. In addition, the community and project partners will begin planting marshland vegetation into the new wetland tidal marsh.



The East End's Mason Park is gaining an educational and environmental feature with the completion of the Freshwater Tidal Marsh.

Phase 4 of Eldridge Goes to Bid

Construction on Phase 4 of the Eldridge Detention Basin, Project Brays' largest stormwater detention basin, is expected to begin in two to three months. Phase 3 was completed in August, bringing the project to 23 percent complete.

Channel Work at Old Westheimer Completed

As part of the construction for the Old Westheimer Stormwater Detention Basin, construction of about 4 miles of channel modifications from Old Westheimer to Highway 6 was completed in August to help the Eldridge Stormwater Detention Basin function more efficiently. The final phase of construction is set to bid in January 2006.

Arthur Storey Park Reaches 86 Percent Completion

The latest construction phase of the Arthur Storey Park Stormwater Detention Basin was completed in August. The basin is now approximately 86 percent complete and is one of the most popular green spaces along Brays Bayou, thanks to the partnership with Harris County Precinct 3. This partnership has provided the community with hike and bike trails, a new Tai Chi court and playgrounds.



A new Tai Chi court at Arthur Storey Park offers a quiet place for the community to reflect and enjoy the outdoors.

New Phase of Willow Waterhole Begins Soon

In September, a construction contract was awarded to Ramos Industries for approximately \$8 million for the section of Willow Waterhole stormwater detention basin bound by South Post Oak, Clematis, Ricecrest and Gasmer roads. Construction will begin in two to three months and will include excavating approximately 920,000 cubic yards of soil in order to create a portion of the stormwater detention facility.

"This has been a productive summer for Project Brays stormwater detention basin projects, and we are looking forward to an equally productive fall," said Project Brays Program Manager, Raouf Farid.

Downstream Channel Construction to Begin in 2006

Construction on the section of Brays Bayou from the mouth to Lawndale is currently scheduled to go to bid in early 2006. Beginning at the mouth, approximately 18-continuous miles of channel widening will be needed to increase the amount of stormwater Brays Bayou is able to carry.

CONSTRUCTION *Snapshot for 2005-2006*

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

Community Involvement in Project Brays

To ensure open dialogue between residents of Brays Bayou and the Project Brays team, HCFCFD created several community work groups throughout the project area. These groups include community leaders, elected officials and residents that play a key role in the project by helping to inform others about Project Brays and serving as a liaison between their respective communities and HCFCFD.



Community Work Group members gather to discuss how Project Brays affects their community.

Evelyn Benfield has lived along Brays Bayou since 1961, and has seen the devastation of flooding firsthand. "I joined a Project Brays Community Work Group because I wanted to learn what was planned for my community and play a part in improving our neighborhood. Attending the meetings has been informative and allowed me to share what I have learned with my neighbors. I encourage anyone living along Brays Bayou to get involved in this project."

Community Work Group members are available to serve the people in their communities by answering questions and providing information about Project Brays. If you would like contact information for the community work group members that represent your area, please call 713-316-4820.

NEIGHBORHOOD *News & Events*

What's on the Menu for Project Brays?

Mark your calendars! The Semi-Annual Project Brays Community Work Group Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, October 18 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Brady's Landing, 8505 Cypress Street, on Brady's Island at the mouth of Brays Bayou. 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.



Project Brays Program Manager Raouf Farid (left) talks to resident Bob Schwartz (right) at the Community Work Group Breakfast in 2004.

Sprucing up the Freshwater Tidal Marsh

With construction complete on the Freshwater Tidal Marsh structure, a team of HCFCFD's partners will join forces in early 2006 to help create a natural marsh habitat by planting native wetland plants. These partners include:



Plantings at the Freshwater Tidal Marsh Project will include native trees and shrubs, as well as wetland plants.

- City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department
- Galveston Bay Estuary Program
- Natural Legacy, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Texas Genco
- Texas Coastal Watershed Program (Texas Sea Grant)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Once complete, this project will serve as an outdoor classroom for local students to showcase the delicate balance of plants and wildlife that exist where fresh water from the bayou and tidal waters from Galveston Bay meet.

SPOTLIGHT *on our Partners*

A Vision Comes to Life along Brays Bayou

The implementation of Project Brays offers an exciting opportunity to beautify neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for the communities along Brays Bayou. Community members' enthusiasm for Project Brays beautification efforts has led to the formation of a grassroots initiative called "Vision Brays," which has recently been adopted by the Greater Houston Partnership's Quality of Life Committee. "Project Brays offers us an opportunity that our community cannot pass up," said Jane Page, Chairperson of the committee. "The Vision Brays initiative aims to make the project even more beneficial to the community by working to create additional greenspace, recreational amenities, natural habitat and visually appealing public facilities." Although specifics for these amenities are not yet planned, the Quality of Life Committee is exploring options for further improvements to Brays Bayou.

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.

