

# Save Our Forest

## Mission Statement

### **Mission:**

The *Save Our Forest* campaign objective is to preserve the urban forest along the banks of Buffalo Bayou west of Beltway 8, and to work to reduce flooding in our neighborhoods.

### **The Issue:**

The majority of The Forest, on the banks of Buffalo Bayou between Highway 6 and Beltway 8, is slated for removal under plans of the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department and Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). Charting Buffalo is a HCFCD study that proposes to cut down numerous, very large tracts of trees in this forest. This area would be tragically transformed by adding large detention basins along Buffalo Bayou. There are effective alternatives with even greater detention that do not require devastation of any part of this urban forest.

### **Strategy:**

Work with City of Houston, Harris County and other elected officials to find acceptable solutions and influence the perspective of our officials through broad community input with petitions, letter writing to public officials and strong neighborhood turnout at public meetings.

### **Guiding Principles:**

We are opposed to the destruction of the forested areas along Buffalo Bayou between Beltway 8 and Highway 6 and the construction of detention basins in their place.

We are strongly in favor of regional detention solutions to reduce flooding in West Houston, and advocates of detention alternatives which are not in-channel. Examples include Clodine site in Ft Bend, Deerwood at Beltway 8, Turkey Creek Basin at I-10 and Eldridge and others.

We wholeheartedly support projects to reduce neighborhood street flooding and Rebuild Houston activities, advocating the recognition and use of under street and other out-of-channel detention alternatives where storm water runoff mitigation is required.

### **The Forest:**

The Forest is the last remnant of riparian woodland in west Houston, a wooded habitat of about 200 acres along Buffalo Bayou. This lovely urban forest is home for many birds and mammals, especially vital because it provides contiguous habitat and links to the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary of the Houston Audubon Society.

The Forest contains a diversity of plant life with sections of dense undergrowth and exceptional, old growth trees that predate channelization of the original bayou in the 1950's. It also provides an effective natural sound barrier for noise from I-10 and Beltway 8.

### **Our Legacy:**

We have this forest today because of an earlier generation. Terry Hershey and George Bush came forward to protect Buffalo Bayou from being paved as a ¼-mile wide ditch. Now our generation has responsibility for protecting this forest. What a wonderful legacy if we can leave this vital urban forest for future generations of Houstonians.

*The issue of detention for the Buffalo Bayou watershed and preservation of riparian forest along Buffalo Bayou in west Houston is ongoing. The most rewarding thing is seeing that good things can come when people are engaged with their neighbors and involved in community affairs. Making your opinion known through participation in public meeting and letters to public officials is the strongest influence we can have. The greater the number of comments and letters registered the more significant our impact.*