

LOOK UPSTREAM

NOVEMBER 2007

Look Upstream. A series of articles on flooding, loss of native forests and grass roots efforts by residents to reduce such losses while undergoing massive urban development pressures in the Cypress Creek Watershed's neighborhoods of northwestern Harris County, Texas.

This article is about the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition's (CCFCC) Cypress Creek Greenway Project (CCGP), a major preservation undertaking in which "floodway" land will be used for out-of-bank floodwater damage reduction, preservation of native forest land and development of regional and neighborhood parks – all connected by interlinking trail systems. When completed it will encompass a continuous, 40-mile stretch of riparian corridor along Cypress Creek from west of US 290 to the east where Cypress Creek joins Spring Creek. Residents throughout this area will enjoy quality-of-life recreational opportunities, preservation of natural habitat / forests and historically improved home market values.

We have two broad tasks in our Greenway efforts: first, establishing linear connectivity along the Greenway and, secondly, establishing new anchor parks as part of the Greenway. We continue to work with HCFCD, the Parks Departments of Harris County Precincts 3 and 4, developers and MUD's (Municipal Utility Districts) and HOA's (Home Owner Associations) bordering Cypress Creek. Some recent highlights of progress are:

- The Bridgeland development is constructing the first mile of several miles of trails to be developed along Cypress Creek upstream from US 290.
- We are working with a land use planner interested in connectivity along Cypress Creek from a new development west of US 290 downstream to Telge Park.
- Excavation of a regional stormwater detention basin at Cypress Park near North Eldridge Parkway at Cypress Creek is nearing completion. We are continuing to coordinate with local government in the need for timely planning and subsequent development of a park including a wet bottom detention pond here.
- A board of directors for The Friends of the Kickerillo Mischer Preserve is making plans for when the Preserve acreage is deeded to the County. This 80 acre tract, including a 40 acre lake, is adjacent to Cypress Creek on former HP property. V&W Partners, developers of The Vintage, will be donating the acreage to Harris County.
- Cypress Forest PUD is developing plans for connecting the Kickerillo Mischer Preserve to Meyer Park.
- Precinct 4 Parks Department has resolved easement issues and is

proceeding with development of a trail connecting Meyer and Collins Parks.

- Timber Lane UD dedicated 4.5 miles of natural surface trails across Cypress Creek from Mercer Arboretum on 11/10/07. This is the first phase of their master plan which includes parks, canoe and kayak launches, additional trails and a pedestrian bridge across Cypress Creek to Mercer Arboretum.
- Precinct 4 Parks Department is working on connectivity downstream from Mercer Arboretum to where the Cypress Creek Greenway will join the Spring Creek Greenway.
- We have met with approximately 20 MUD's to encourage their participation in the CCGP by planning for Greenway and trail development in their areas.
- We continue to contact developers with projects along Cypress Creek to develop their interest and participation.

For additional information please visit www.CCFCC.org or contact Jim Robertson, CCGP Chair, at JHRVER@aol.com, or 281-370-8243.

The Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition, a grass-roots, all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) group of local residents in Northwest Harris County. Visit their website, www.ccfcc.org for more information on needed flood protection, environmental preservation, flood insurance and membership. If your community is not a member, arrange to join up so that you too have public representation in these matters. There are no fees or dues – all costs are paid by voluntary contributions and grants.

