

Eureka Memorial Groves Bikeway Connectivity Proposal

Proposal Summary

This proposal submitted by White Oak Bayou Association presents a logical project to extend and connect several urban communities and facilities. The primary trail, proposed as the Eureka Junction Trail, uses Missouri Kansas Texas, Texas Department of Transportation, and City of Houston rights of way north of Interstate 10 inside Loop 610. Trails on bayou easements connect the Eureka trail with a proposed White Oak Bayou trail shown on the City of Houston Bikeway Program map published in January 2002.

The concepts presented in the Eureka Memorial Groves trail provide:

- Off-road trail connections from Upper to Lower White Oak Bayou;
- Off-road trails between Middle White Oak Bayou and Middle Buffalo Bayou;
- Community connectors to many parks, libraries and schools;
- Biological corridor enhancements between White Oak Bayou and Memorial Park;
- Open space and possible enhanced storm water detention in the White Oak Bayou watershed.

Eureka Memorial Groves Trail Plan

Trailhead and Links

- 1** Eureka Junction Trail —an extension to the MKT ROW trail starting at Lawrence Park continuing west to Eureka Junction.
- 2** Timbergrove Link — an extension of the White Oak Bayou trail and connector to the MKT Trail
- 3** Cottage Grove Link — a bike route to connect Cottage Grove
- 4** Lazy Brook Link — an extension of the Ella bike route
- 5** Memorial Link — an off-road trail and Bayou Corridor pedestrian bridge to connect Memorial Park

A trail map is included with this proposal.

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Trail Features

- Public parking, water fountains and bike racks at Lawrence Park.
- Hike and bike trails
- Pervious surfaces and undulating trail design
- Pedestrian Lighting
- Trash Receptacles
- Benches
- Trail Markers
- Historical Markers
 - 1 City of Houston Annexation Date Markers
 - 2 Austin and Reinerman Survey Boundary Line
 - 3 Gateway Bridge to the Bayou Corridor
 - 4 White Oak Bayou Watershed Map
 - 5 White Oak Bayou Watershed Habitat and Habitants
 - Eureka Junction Old Live Oak
 - Eureka Spring Creek and Woods
 - Watershed Ravines and Native Trees
 - Bat, Great Blue Heron, Red Tail Hawk, Screech Owl
 - 6 Prairie Habitat and Habitants
 - Native Grasses, Wildflowers, Dragonflies, Butterflies, Bees
 - 7 Historical Markers
 - Fishing Holes on White Oak bayou, tributaries and streams
 - Grand Picnic Site 1868
 - Eureka Manufacturing Company 1866
 - Texas State Fair Awards for Cotton and Woolen Goods 1872
 - Cottage Grove and Eureka Mills Rail Stations
 - Central Railroad
 - Houston Texas Central
 - The Katy
 - The Texas Limited
 - Former sites of Rose Bud Inn and Eureka Mills farm

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Consensus and Community Support

Eureka Memorial Groves

Eureka Memorial Groves is a committee organized by the White Oak Bayou Association. Projects of interest to the committee and to the Association include detention, habitat and quality of life planning for the rapidly re-developing watershed of Middle White Oak Bayou. The committee is pleased to submit this proposal for review and consideration by the City of Houston. Please be assured that we welcome the opportunity to further collaborate with the various stakeholders of this project. We have reviewed the path alignment with residents in the neighborhoods listed below to gather input and support for the project.

Neighborhoods with Supporting Residents

- Clark Pines
- Cottage Grove
- Timbergrove Manor
- Houston Heights
- Shady Acres
- Woodland Heights
- Woodcrest

Organizations

- Washington Memorial Super Neighborhood 22
- Memorial Park Conservancy
- White Oak Bayou Association

Officials and Agencies

White Oak Bayou Association has received letters that support our general recommendations to develop the MKT-ROW for public use. While we have not yet had the opportunity to review the attached proposal with them, we believe that a synergistic development of the public land in the area will meet with their approval.

- City of Houston Mayor Bill White
- City of Houston Public Works and Engineering
- City of Houston Parks and Recreation Director
- County Commissioner Jerry Eversole

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Proposed Trail Site

The photo in figure 1 shows committee members standing in the MKT-ROW located 5 miles west of downtown Houston. Nearby, but out of view, are Houston's central district skyline and rapidly redeveloping urban neighborhoods located in and near the flood plains of Middle White Oak Bayou. We believe priority consideration and action in this right-of-way can cost effectively bring immediate and permanent quality of life benefits to residents and employers in the City of Houston and Harris County.

Figure 1

Houston Texas, Spring 2005
The Eureka area MKT ROW



Figure 2

Eureka Memorial Groves Bicycle Connective Trail Map (see attached file)

Figure 3

Timbergrove Link Alternative Designs (see attached file)

Figure 4

Cottage Grove Civic Club President's letter (see content below)

Eureka Memorial Groves
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Cottage Grove Civic Club Inc
5635 Kansas
Houston, Texas 77007
713.862.6966

November 14, 2005

Ms. Lilibeth Andre
Bicycle - Pedestrian Coordinator
City of Houston

Dear Ms. Andre:

On behalf of the citizens of Cottage Grove and as President of the Civic Club, I certainly would appreciate your support and working with us together for a bicycle trail through Cottage Grove. I will gladly meet with you or with any other groups or citizens on this matter.

Again, thanks for your support.

Yours Truly,

E.I. Smith

Earvin I. Smith

Committee's note: This letter was dictated to Linda Mercer on Nov 14, 2005. Please let us know if you require a signature copy. Cottage Grove's northern boundary is the Eureka Rail Yard and White Oak Bayou.