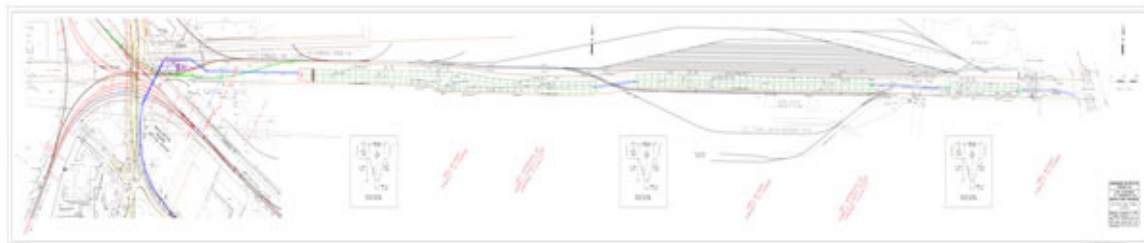


Eureka Bike Trail Developments



The Cottage Grove Civic Club continues to pursue the development of the off-road hike and bike trail at the northern boundary the neighborhood. The 1.5 mile long route between White Oak Bayou and Kansas Street encompasses 17 linear acres in a corridor at least 100 feet wide. The trail connects with the TC Jester bike route under the rail yard bridge and has industrial and natural habitants along its east west path. Red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks soar above the rail yard and path in the hunt for food between 11th Street and Memorial Park forests. Osprey spend some winter seasons at the east end of the trail near White Oak Bayou. The rail yard activity might include train cars carrying rolled metal, aggregate, or circus performers depending upon when you visit. In the western half of the acreage the trail has a southern boundary defined by a tree-covered and understoried ravine edged with wildflowers and native vines. A pedestrian gate provides access to the neighborhood streets in the 2800 block of Sherwin. Elderberry, deciduous holly, pecan, oak and dogwood trees, passion flower and mustang grape vines create a lush entrance to the trail. The natural assets provide food and shelter to nesting and migrating birds, filter and use rain water to recharge the earth, and provide a perpetual pollution break between the nearby industrial and residential habitants. Even in the very dry seasons of 2008, the habitat is healthy and green.



Texas Department of Transportation started planning in 2007 to convert most of the 17 acres into a connected series of open channels that will convey storm water from nearby highway expansion projects into the new drainage channel. The roadway storm water facility was not planned to handle neighborhood redevelopment detention or neighborhood street runoff. The City Houston, as the landowner of the acreage and the entity that will maintain the facility, has some say in how TxDOT uses the City owned land. The civic club and other organizations, including Super Neighborhood 22, White Oak Bayou Association, and Greater Houston Off-road Bike Association, Citizens Transportation Coalition, and the Park People presented resolutions to City Council to call for modifications to the plan. As a result, Mayor White has committed to begin planning trail development in the acreage, the open segments have been revised into wet-bottom vegetated segments, and some trees have been added to the plans.

However, preserving the existing green assets remains an open item in the community plan. SN 22 and the civic club are working with City to try to change that outcome so that the existing habitat, ravine and some recreational areas will survive as public assets after

the roadway expansion projects are completed. Please contact the civic club if you would like to work on the Eureka Trail project or attend the Labor Day late afternoon picnic on the M-K-T.

Good Green News

Each year, Super Neighborhoods have the right to submit requests for area projects to the City. The project scopes have specific limits and are paid for out of operating rather than capital improvement budgets. In 2008, SN 22 at the request of Cottage Grove Civic Club submitted a request to the City regarding adding trees to the M-K-T corridor. The current status of the project shown at the City's tracking system site is that the Parks Department has accepted the project to coordinate planning, planting, invasive removal and maintenance activities with the neighborhood. Please contact Cottage Grove Houston <http://www.cottagegrovehouston.org/> (3 of 4) [9/4/2009 10:48:57 AM] the civic club if you would like to be involved with this native plant project.