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Chris Browne, Director, *EHRA*
Elaine Finger, Director, *Community Volunteer*
Jim Robertson, Director, *Community Volunteer*
Frank C. Smith, Jr., Historian, *Community Volunteer*

May 23, 2014

Re: Memorial Park Demonstration Project

Dear BPA Board of Directors, Advisory Board,
Watershed Representatives, BPA members
and friends of the bayous,

The Bayou Preservation Association (BPA) has sought long-term solutions to bayou degradation in Houston since it's founding in the mid 1960's. The BPA continues to support bayou preservation efforts through its ongoing riparian restoration by removing invasive species and planting native plants, encouraging and monitoring sound methods of bank restoration, overseeing water quality programs, developing public educational programs, developing recreational uses and paddle trails and local partnership collaboration.

The Bayou Preservation Association began an initial study in 2010 funded by Ms. Terry Hershey that was to focus on stabilization of a portion of Buffalo Bayou using principles of Natural Channel Design. Natural Channel Design (NCD) is a holistic approach to waterway restoration and stabilization pioneered by Dr. Dave Rosgen of Wildland Hydrology. The NCD method is an evidence-based method that demonstrates respect for and uses the processes of fluvial morphology which is the science of understanding waterways in a natural setting, as well as how they respond to human-induced changes in a watershed. This project has since become known as the Memorial Park Demonstration Project.

Much of Buffalo Bayou and its riparian corridors have suffered from and will continue to suffer from stresses related to dynamic and dramatic changes in drainage flows of this now urban-impacted waterway. These unnatural forces include reduced flood plain availability and well-intended but ineffective schemes of riparian landowners to prevent or reduce erosion. The failure of piecemeal engineering schemes is observable on most every reach of Buffalo Bayou. From the beginning, the intent of this project was to demonstrate that through a science-based understanding of the stresses and changing conditions the bayou is facing, a stabilization solution can be found that includes respect for the natural world while addressing the increasing threats from our drainage footprints in the urban development.

Advisory Board

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John R. Bartos, *Houston Canoe Club*
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Melvin Spinks, *CivilTech Engineering, Inc.*
Art Storey, *HC Public Infrastructure Dept.*
Gary Struzick, *Klotz Associates, Inc.*
Mike Talbott, *HC Flood Control District*
Brittany Tones, *Terracon*
Rico Torres, *Bayou Shuttle Service LLC*
MaryAlice Torres-MacDonald, *Texas Tech University*
Len Waterworth, *Community Volunteer*
Carolyn White, *HC Flood Control District*
Carla Wyatt, *HC Flood Control District*

Watershed Representatives

Tom Kartrude, *Armand Bayou*
Bob Schwartz, *Brays Bayou*
Mike Garver/ Anne Olson, *Buffalo Bayou*
Linda Jones, *Cedar Bayou*
Mike Mize, *Clear Creek*
Jim Robertson, *Cypress Creek*
Charriss York, *Dickinson Bayou*
Jill Bouillion, *Greens Bayou*
Merrie Talley, *Hunting Bayou*
Eileen Hatcher, *Japhet Creek*
Becky Houston, *Little White Oak Bayou*
Joanna Friesen/ Amy Sullivan, *Sims Bayou*
Jennifer Lorenz, *Spring Creek*
Tom Gall/ Bob Lee, *White Oak Bayou*
Katharine C. Lord, *Executive Director*

The Bayou Preservation Association's mission has always been and continues to be a focus on protecting and restoring the richness and diversity of our waterways through activism, advocacy, collaboration and education. The Memorial Park Demonstration Project clearly demonstrates a protection and restoration intent based on long-term solutions to issues threatening our bayou system, and is focused on providing a synchronized planned solution that will encourage riparian restoration for the entire system.

It should be understood that a "sit back and observe" management style of some natural processes and features does work, and works well in some situations that occur primarily in natural and unthreatened settings. A bayou that runs through a heavy pinched urban environment in the fourth largest city in the United States with changing conditions and increasing storm water management demands is unfortunately beyond the "sit back and observe" solution. Evidence of such is in the subject area now. Within the reach of the Memorial Park Demonstration Project limits, the centerline of Buffalo Bayou has "relocated itself" over 325' since 1995 based on actual aerial photography and site investigations. These are rapid changes that demonstrate that Buffalo Bayou is changing course in search of a more stable configuration. This should be sound enough proof that this is not a static stable "natural" bayou, as it is believed to have existed before bank side developments and Houston's incorporation.

The BPA has been active for many years overseeing the Bayou City's greatest natural resources and will continue to seek and support long-term sustainable solutions to the demands being placed on the region's bayous and creeks.

In Deed,



Robert L. Rayburn
President
Bayou Preservation Association