

Dear Friends,

I want you to know my husband and I are homeowners within the reach of the Memorial Park Demonstration Project ("MPDP"), and we support the project completely.

Living on the bayou, we have seen and continue to see serious erosion taking place. The silt-laden water is ugly and unhealthy. We believe the benefits of a full reach of natural erosion control far outweigh the construction mess proposed. Some factual information about the project is attached. This information is unlike the comments I have been reading or hearing from a few. As an example of the type of bio-engineering work that has been proposed, please look at the following five photos which I hope will help to paint a picture of how the MPDP will protect Memorial Park ("MP"), the Bird Sanctuary, River Oaks Country Club ("ROCC"), and the homes along the bayou, as well as improve the water quality and storm water flow of the bayou. Simply planting trees will not work.



Photo A - Oct. 2006



Photo B - Oct. 2006

Photos A & B: This is the erosion that was taking place at our home in 2006, also affecting our neighbors' land. You will notice all the trees which came down with the erosion.



Photo C - Mar. 2008

Photo C: This is a picture of our bio-engineering work in process. Please notice the destruction to the shoreline which had to take place first to stabilize our shoreline. We used rock at the toe and a bio-engineered stair step with native materials, planting many native trees and plants between the steps.



Photo D - May 2014



Photo E - May 2014

Photos D & E: These are pictures of the same shoreline from Photos A, B, and C. Six years later, the trees are in place and growing strongly. In Photo E you may even be able to see the silt/sand from the May 28, 2014 flood collecting around the grasses and trees.

At the time we were doing our bio-engineering control work, I requested Flood Control ("FC") to take part in the project and go around their easement on Mimosa Point. Mike Talbott, Director of Harris County Flood Control, told me they could not do it for me without helping every other homeowner on the bayou with their band-aid approach. I told him that I understood, was disappointed, and I would be back. I am back as a strong supporter of the MPDP, a project which will address both sides of the bayou for about a mile. Dr. Dave Rosgen has developed a natural waterway design for erosion control. I have studied his design, and support it tremendously. I am working with FC to make sure the project is done the best it can be.

This region now has the opportunity to do a small complete reach of Buffalo Bayou with this natural erosion design. Buffalo Bayou is a distressed natural waterway. [Please take the time to read the factual information about this project!](#) The Tree Inventory which you can read on the Flood Control website is quite extensive and good, www.hcfc.org/mpdp.org. It is not an old growth riparian forest which is being destroyed. Yes, go down to the bayou with a plant person and check out what the vegetation by the bayou really is presently. Please read what FC

intends to plant afterwards, creating a closed canopy of native trees within ten years from completion of the project.

I would greatly appreciate you forwarding this email to your contact list. I hope some people will consider writing a letter of support to the Corps of Engineers for this fabulous public/private partnership project. All of the public agencies are getting to a financial point that they must partner with private money in order to get projects done. People who love Memorial Park should be thanking ROCC for their willingness to help the park as well as their own golf course. Believe me, if this project is stopped, ROCC will do their own erosion control. Who will help Memorial Park and the Bird Sanctuary then? One of our neighbors has been attempting to get something done to the drainage outfall within the Bird Sanctuary for 14 years. No governmental agency would take the responsibility to pay for the needed repair. This MPDP will finally address the erosion of the Bird Sanctuary from this badly installed drainage outfall without cutting many trees down, but instead building up to the tall slopes with the steps of soil, with native trees and plants planted between the steps.

Terri Thomas
territhomas@comcast.net