

SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD 22

WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION - MEMORIAL PARK

To: Mr. Dwayne Johnson
Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-RB
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

June 30, 2014

Re: Memorial Park Demonstration Project, USACE Permit Number: SWG-2012-01007

The footprint of the Washington Avenue Coalition / Memorial Park Superneighborhood (SN22) is defined by Buffalo Bayou to the south, White Oak Bayou to the north, and it includes Memorial Park. The health and preservation of both the park and the bayous are of great concern to SN22's residents.

Of the SN22 Council membership, comprised of representatives from our constituent neighborhoods, many have attended MPDP public meetings, reviewed materials presented, and heard presentations and comments from those both favoring and opposing this demonstration project.

We recognize that there is a critical need to stabilize the bayou banks to prevent continued loss of property, and support a coordinated effort to lessen the impacts of erosion rather than continuing the individual and haphazard approach that has been occurring unsuccessfully through the years.

We also recognize that as development continues to densify throughout the watershed without providing sufficient runoff mitigation, our natural waterways will be increasingly stressed by heavier storm water flow volumes.

The MPDP takes a context sensitive and environmentally appropriate approach toward resolving these issues, and attempts to apply the best scientific stream restoration practices to this short bayou segment that has been experiencing rapid change.

We do request that full evaluation of any revised drainage capacity be initiated to assure that adjacent neighborhoods in the watershed are not subject to increased risk of flooding.

Additionally, we would encourage adequate follow-up to evaluate the success of the project to assure that reduction in erosion, re-growth of the riparian and upland native vegetation, reestablishment of wildlife habitat, and improvement to downstream water quality occur as anticipated.

Bayou Preservation Association, in conjunction with Harris County Flood Control District, is knowledgeable about the functional needs of this waterway, has been thorough in making the public aware of the project details, and should be trusted to act in the best interest of the bayou's protection.

It is imperative that a solution be found that will allow a natural Buffalo Bayou to co-exist within, and effectively serve, this increasingly urbanized watershed.

The SN22 Council supports the Memorial Park Demonstration Project as a viable first step toward achieving that goal.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments,



Tom Dornbusch
Superneighborhood 22 Council President
