



City Forest Credits Planting Project Application

Note to applicants: within six months of approval of your application, you must submit the following documents to City Forest Credits (the "Registry"):

- *One or more high-resolution photo to include on project page on Registry website*
- *Project Design Document*
- *Declaration of Ownership of Land – applicable when the Project Operator owns the land where project trees are planted*
- *Project Implementation Agreement – contract with City Forest Credits*

1. Project Name

Houston, TX - TC Jester Park Riparian Restoration Project

2. Project Type

Planting

3. Project Location

T.C. Jester Park, Houston, TX
Watonga Park, Houston, TX

4. Project Operator

Name of organization/entity and contact information. May have multiple project operators or contacts.

Organization: City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Address: 2999 S Wayside Drive

City: Houston

State: Texas

Zip: 77023

Contact(s): Kelli Ondracek, Natural Resource Manager, Kelli.Ondracek@houstontx.gov

5. Project Description

This will be visible to the public on your project page on the Registry website.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department installed 3,000 trees, made up of 22 native species, along a 7.7-acre section adjacent to White Oak Bayou in TC Jester Park and Watonga Park, both owned by the City of Houston. This project is one of the inaugural plantings of the City of Houston Riparian Restoration Initiative. The City of Houston Riparian Restoration Initiative is an ambitious plan led by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to restore forested buffers in all parks adjacent to a bayou.

Historically, much of the Houston area was coastal prairie habitat with forested riparian habitat lining the bayous. As a result of past flooding and erosion problems in the city, most of the bayous have been channelized and the forested riparian zones removed. The city continues to face challenges with flooding and water quality issues as urban development and loss of greenspace continue at a rapid pace. The forested buffers provide a nature-based solution to mitigating flooding, improving water quality, reducing erosion, creating wildlife habitat, and establishing areas for passive recreation. This initiative will restore diverse, native riparian habitat in 70 parks and will restore over 1,000 acres of land with an installation of 200,000 native trees by 2030.

6. Project Benefits

Examples include equity for underserved or disadvantaged communities, flood control, open space preservation, watershed protection, human health, bird, or wildlife habitat, etc. This will be visible to the public on your project page on the Registry website.

This plan was created to fill the various needs of the community through the ecosystem services that forested riparian buffers can provide. HPARD is committing to play a more prevalent role in improving water quality, mitigating flooding, reducing the heat island effect, creating habitat for wildlife, and improving air quality for Houston. This plan provides an opportunity for parks across the city to contribute green infrastructure solutions to Houston’s environmental challenges.

7. Total trees planted and planting-approach

A total of 3,000 trees were planted on January 25, 2020 along the riparian corridor of one of Houston’s major bayous. The trees were spaced at 10-foot centers along an approximate 100-ft wide buffer throughout a City of Houston linear park.

Species		Total
Am. Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	180
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	120
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	175
BlackGum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	20
Cedar Elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	130
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis var. canadensis</i>	100
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	155
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	180
Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	310
Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	150
Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	100
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum L. var drummondii</i>	150
Roughleaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	20
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	100
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	150

sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	150
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	100
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	70
Water Oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	200
Water Tupelo	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	50
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	150
Willow Oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	240
Total		3000

8. Does your project fall within an Urban Area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau, or within the boundaries of a city or town? (Click here for Census Bureau mapping information).

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>

Within an Urban Area

Within a city or town

9. Additional Information

Examples include project goals, work with other stakeholders, etc. This will be visible to the public on your project page on the Registry website.