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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

101 South Main Street
Temple, Texas
76501-7682

January 23, 1996

SUBJECT: Personnel - AmeriCorps

TO: Paula Cole Jones
Americorps Program Manager
USDA - NRCS, NHQ
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, DC 20013

Please find the attached request from Eddie Seidensticker, Program Manager, USDA/AmeriCorps, Galveston Bay, to convert five full-time vacant AmeriCorps positions to five part-time positions. We would like for this request to become effective February 15, 1996.

Your assistance and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARK R. FREEMAN
State Program Director
USDA/AmeriCorps

Attachment

cc: Richard D. Babcock, ASC (Programs), Temple, TX
Dee Difore, Secretary (PRG-CAR), Wash., DC
Rodney Hyatt, Human Resources Officer, Temple, TX
Randy Wells, Supvr. Pers. Mgmt. Spec., Temple, TX
Debbie Buckholtz, Personnel Assistant, Temple, TX
Eddie Seidensticker, AmeriCorps Program Leader, Baytown, TX



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Eddie Seidensticker
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
AmeriCorps - Galveston Bay -- Project Manager
7705 West Bay Road
Baytown, TX 77520

January 9, 1996

Mark Freeman
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Program Director
101 South Main Street
Temple, TX 77520

Dear Mark:

I would like to request that five of the full-time vacant AmeriCorps positions be changed to five part-time AmeriCorps positions. Instead of the required 1700 hours, the part-time positions would be required to complete 900 hours, in exchange for 1/2 of the educational stipend. The positions were originally filled as full-time AmeriCorps members, but for one reason or another, the members resigned or were terminated. At this point in the program, new-hires would not be able to complete the required 1700 hours before the program terminates, therefore, I am requesting that the five vacant positions be changed to part-time as of 2/15/96.

Sincerely yours,



Eddie Seidensticker
Program Manager
USDA/AmeriCorps -- Galveston Bay

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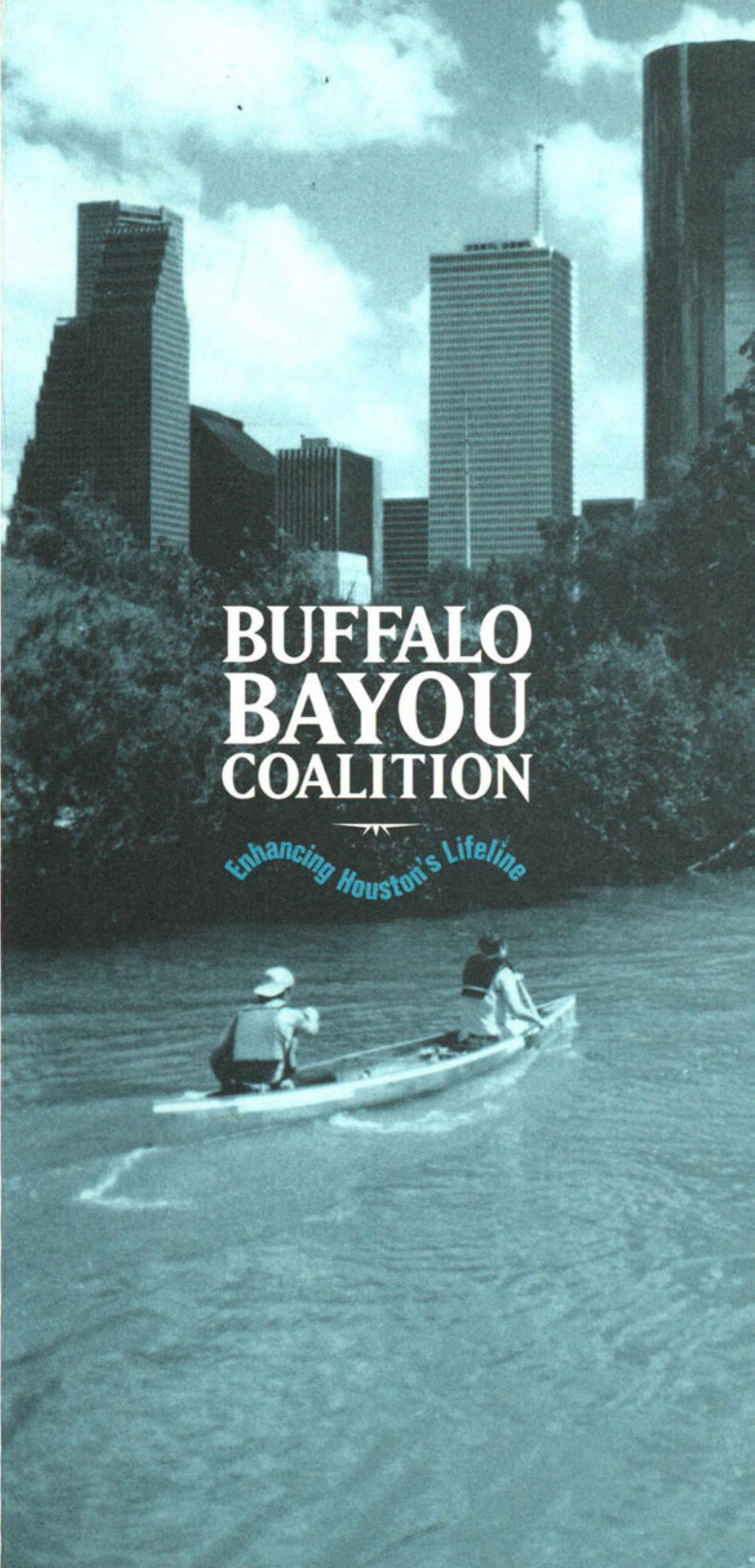
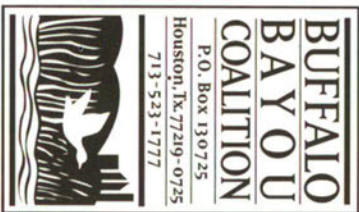
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Buffalo Bayou Coalition
[pamphlet]

8 pages



BUFFALO BAYOU COALITION

Enhancing Houston's Lifeline

Non Profit
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Houston, Texas
Permit No. 1875

AmeriCorps-USDA

The President's National Service Program

AmeriCorps is the President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engaged 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

Public Lands and Environment Team, Houston, Texas -- This project restored valuable wetlands in the coastal area. Twenty AmeriCorps members spent the last year raising plants at Cedar Bayou Marine Lab. About 250 acres of wetlands have been planted on an island in the Galveston Bay Area. Partners in this program include USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Houston Lighting and Power, and the Port of Houston Authority.

Anti-Hunger Team, Milwaukee, Wisconsin -- The Milwaukee Anti-Hunger, Nutrition and Empowerment Project is a collaborative effort between Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Community Service Corps, and USDA. About 38 young people identified, developed and implemented a range of anti-hunger community service work projects. The team assisted in increasing the awareness and access to various food and nutrition resources, physical improvement of some food sites, helped farmers deliver products to neighborhood farmers markets, and worked in local food pantries and meal programs.

Rural Development Team, Iowa - Seven Iowa USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Rural Development Team AmeriCorps members joined with nearly 300 citizens in Greene County, Iowa helping remove debris left by Memorial Day weekend tornadoes. Pieces of grain bins, homes, barns, and machine sheds were collected along a three mile path through corn and soybean fields.

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Fact Sheet

What Is The Natural Resources Conservation Service?



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

February 1995

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in Texas

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. Since 1935, NRCS has offered technical help to protect, develop, and wisely use our soil, water, and other natural resources.

In Texas, NRCS works with local soil and water conservation districts. NRCS soil conservationists, soil scientists, agronomists, biologists, foresters, engineers, and planners work together on voluntary programs aimed at:

- reducing erosion
- improving water quality
- preventing floods
- promoting good land use
- conserving soil, water, and other natural resources

NRCS employees serve Texas through the state office in Temple and area offices overseeing field offices in most counties.

Programs include the following:

Program	Purpose
Technical Assistance	Help landowners control erosion, protect water quality, and preserve wetlands through the wise use of their natural resources.
Soil Surveys	Determine soil properties and make soil interpretations available through soil surveys on a county basis.
Plant Material Centers	Select and develop plants to solve conservation problems.
River Basin Studies	Identify resource problems in watersheds and suggest solutions.
Watershed Projects	Help local groups plan and finance small watershed projects for flood prevention, erosion control, water supply, and recreation.
Resource Conservation and Development	Coordinate improvement of environmental, social, and economic conditions in rural areas.
Emergency Watershed Protection	Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation following natural disasters.
Wetland Enhancement	Restore wetlands to improve water quality, protect shorelines from erosion, and improve wildlife habitat.

For more information about Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, request Program Aid 1352, "Assistance Available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service," from your local NRCS office listed in your telephone book under United States Government, Department of Agriculture.

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HISTORY

The Harris Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) was organized in 1948 as a political subdivision of the State of Texas. The District is governed by a five-member board of directors who are elected by the agricultural landowners in Harris County. This Board represents five zones covering the 1.1 million acres in the District. The directors provide leadership and direct operations concerning the conservation of our basic natural resources—soil, water, and plants.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the HSWCD is to provide Harris County residents with a better place to live, work, and play by serving as an educational and informational sounding board for the people and to act as coordinator of related federal, state, and local programs. This enables the people of Harris County and the District to work together to determine resource problems and to establish a course of action to solve these problems.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The District took a leadership role in improving agriculture in the 1950's and 1960's. As the District became more urbanized in the early 1970's, emphasis was placed on potential flooding problems and urban encroachment on to flood plains of the county. The District was the primary organization responsible for identification of flood-prone areas by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1972. Throughout the 1980's the District has encouraged the use of a multi-disciplined approach to flood control utilizing flood-prone areas for recreation and agriculture, floodwater detention basins, undeveloped natural areas, and appropriate channelization of waterways to reduce the impact of flooding within the county. The District has been a leader in informing residents about watershed management and presenting ideas to assist in flood reduction, and by means of information and education programs it continues to focus on developing public awareness of urban conservation problems and solutions.

MAJOR CONCERNS

The District has identified ten major long-range planning concerns for Harris County:

- Flooding
- Urban Planning
- Solid Waste Management
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Subsidence
- Recreation Areas
- Government Regulations
- Public Awareness
- Urban Expansion on Prime and Unique Agricultural Land

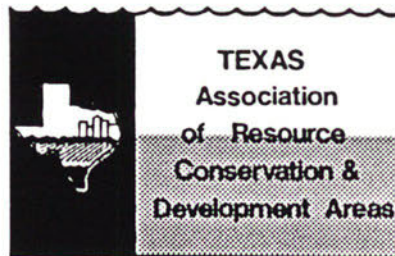
LOCATION

Inquiries regarding District activities and information concerning conservation of soil, water, and related resources may be obtained from the USDA Soil Conservation Service or HSWCD office:

Harris Soil and Water Conservation District
16151 Cairnway, Suite 209
Houston, Texas 77084
Phone: (713) 855-8716

Fact Sheet

Partnerships for Conservation and Rural Development



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

June 1995

What is Resource Conservation & Development?

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is a program directed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), but is led by the efforts of local people. It is a program which uses a multi-county approach to improving the rural economy and environment through the conservation and development of natural resources.

Purpose

The RC&D Program uses the natural resources to improve the level of economic activity and enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC&D areas.

General Information

- The USDA-NRCS directs the RC&D program. NRCS may assign an area coordinator to help the sponsors of a project review problems and opportunities for resource development and environmental protection.
- Each RC&D area is regional--usually covering several counties--and focuses on problems prominent in or unique to that particular area.
- Each RC&D has a board of directors, consisting of volunteers from counties in that RC&D area. The committee acts as an advisory board. The board and area coordinator develop goals and strategies for identified problems.
- RC&D provides a way to coordinate the many federal, state, and local programs available to communities. Primary technical services are also provided in many areas.
- RC&D traditionally focused on soil erosion and other NRCS projects. RC&D now also targets rural development through rural fire protection, waste disposal systems, and recruiting volunteers.
- RC&D projects improve communities by working with the natural resource base. Projects may include building a health clinic, a school, or a road. It may also include training programs or historical preservation.
- NRCS has leadership in the USDA for the RC&D Program. Some federal funds are provided for RC&D projects. State and local funds contribute to the projects also.

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**A Day on Buffalo Bayou
July 18, 1995
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Join us on July 18, 1995 as 200 volunteers converge on Buffalo Bayou at Linear Park One. Volunteers plan on building terraces and planting vegetation for erosion control. This activity will be training for Americorps Project Leaders from all over the United States and numerous agencies of the USDA.

The Honorable Mayor Bob Lanier has been invited to address the group around 9:30 a.m..

The project began in 1989 and was chosen for the community service project for Americorps. The groups involved are:

Americorps Team USDA

USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service)

City of Houston-Parks and Recreation Department

Buffalo Bayou Coalition

Bayou Preservation Association

Sam Houston Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.

Harris Soil and Water Conservation District

Using this country's best resources, its citizens, this partnership benefits the City of Houston and conserves our natural resources.

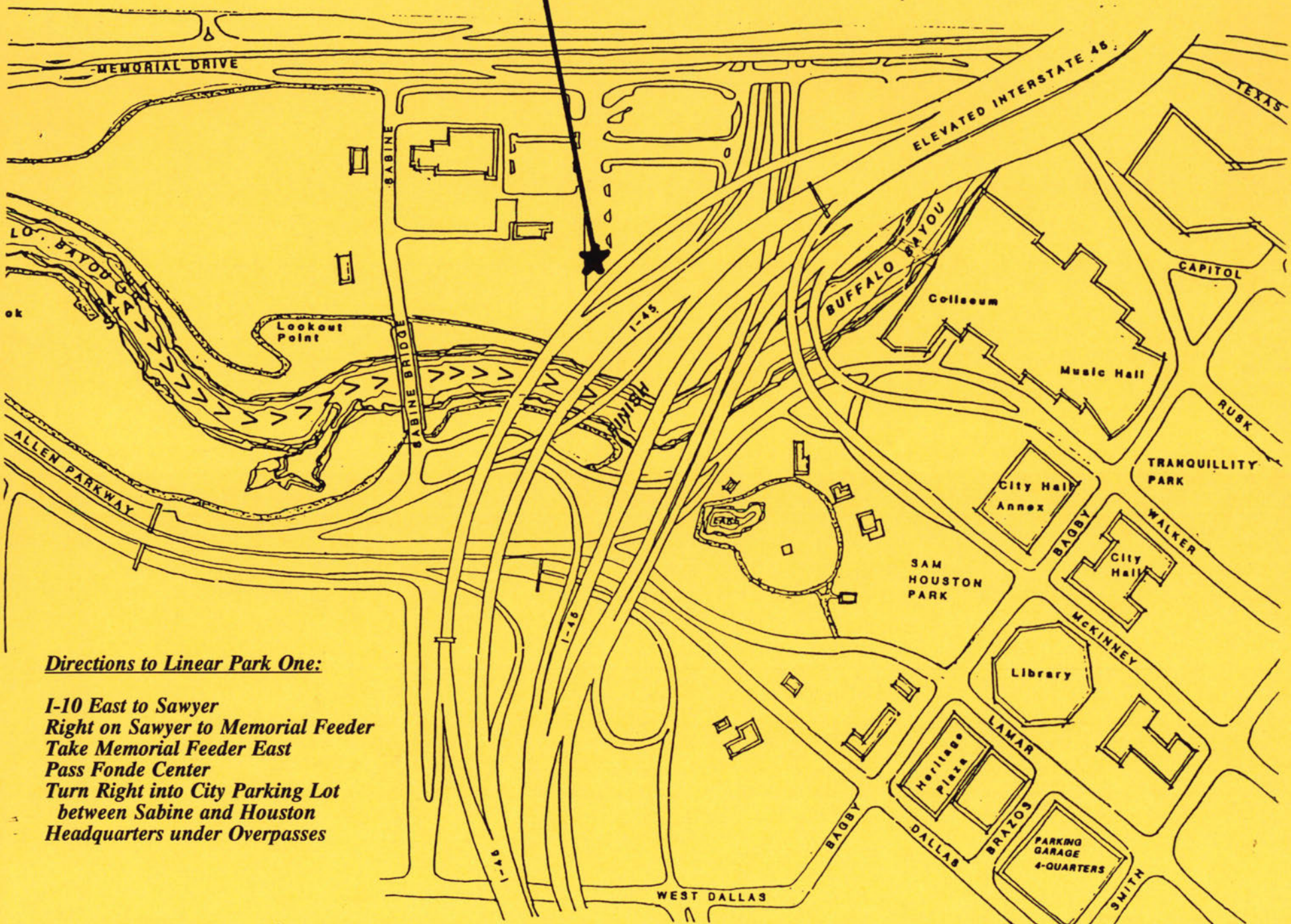
Join us on July 18, grab a shovel and pair of gloves, and make a difference. If you have any questions please call Kathy Dean at 855-8268 or Bennie Billington at 855-8716.



*Rainout date July 19.

Map on Reverse

Headquarters for Day on the Bayou



Directions to Linear Park One:

- 1-10 East to Sawyer***
- Right on Sawyer to Memorial Feeder***
- Take Memorial Feeder East***
- Pass Fonde Center***
- Turn Right into City Parking Lot***
- between Sabine and Houston***
- Headquarters under Overpasses***

The Partnership For Buffalo Bayou and The City of Houston

Americorps Team USDA - Getting things done while promoting opportunity, community and responsibility.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service - (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) - To provide leadership and administer program to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment.

Houston Parks and Recreation Department - Dedicated to working together through partnerships to improve the quality of life in Houston's neighborhoods.

Buffalo Bayou Coalition - A citizen-based organization concerned with preserving, enhancing and enjoying Buffalo Bayou as a unique urban asset.

Bayou Preservation Association - A regional organization concerned with storm water management and waterway restoration.

Sam Houston Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. - Help coordinate projects to provide better community services and protect natural resources.

Harris Soil and Water Conservation District - Dedicated to conserving and sustaining the natural resources of Harris County and promoting conservation education for the youth of the county.



A Special Thanks to those who donated to this project:

- Browning Ferris Industries
- Treesearch, Inc.
- Houston Cellular
- Home Depot