

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PROJECT BRAYS BRINGS FRESHWATER TIDAL MARSH TO SOUTHEAST HOUSTON

### *Project will create wetlands and improve water quality*

HOUSTON (February 8, 2005) – The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) recently finished the site preparations needed to begin construction on the Freshwater Tidal Marsh project, which will focus on widening Brays Bayou at Mason Park. This undertaking is part of Project Brays, an extensive flood damage reduction project designed to benefit thousands of residents and businesses along Brays Bayou.

The 3.5-acre Freshwater Tidal Marsh project is located at Mason Park, two miles north of the IH-610 and IH-45 interchange in southeast Houston. It will serve as a beneficial resource for Magnolia Park, Harrisburg, Idylwood and other southeast Houston communities by creating a wetland that will catch stormwater runoff and improve water quality by removing pollutants entering Brays Bayou. In addition, it includes a gently-sloped freshwater marsh that will create a habitat for native plants and wildlife, also serving as an educational tool for the community.

“The Freshwater Tidal Marsh is an excellent example of how collaboration and partnerships bring about enhanced projects that benefit the surrounding community,” said Mike Talbott, Director of the HCFCD. “For instance, we are focusing on the flood damage reduction part of the project, while our partners are contributing the land, an intensive tree planting program and expertise on the development of the wetland by monitoring the water quality and plant life.”

### **PROJECT BRAYS BRINGS FRESHWATER TIDAL MARSH.../ADD ONE**

HCFCD is primarily responsible for the overall engineering design and construction of the Freshwater Tidal Marsh project, which is scheduled for completion later this year. However, the marsh project is a collaboration between the HCFCD and many city, state and national organizations, both public and private, including the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Natural Legacy, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Reliant Energy, Texas Coastal Watershed Program (Texas Sea Grant), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The marsh project will create a gathering area for educational opportunities by offering an outdoor classroom space for teachers and students, and a site for a community mural about wetlands.

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**PHOTO CAPTION:** Site preparations begin the construction on the Freshwater Tidal Marsh in Mason Park, as part of Project Brays.

### **ABOUT PROJECT BRAYS**

Project Brays is a cooperative effort between the HCFCD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed to reduce the risk of flood damage for the thousands of residents and businesses along the 31-mile stretch of the Brays Bayou. In addition, Project Brays brings green space and recreational amenities to the Brays Bayou community. The project is one of the largest and most extensive to ever be managed by the HCFCD. To learn more about Project Brays, call the project hotline at 713-316-4820 or visit [www.projectbrays.org](http://www.projectbrays.org).

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