

CITY OF HOUSTON MOW-DOWN PROGRAM



**Department of Neighborhoods
Quality of Life Committee**

CITY OF HOUSTON MOW-DOWN PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The program was initially created in the late 1990's
- Pilot programs in District B (Booster Club Program), and District H (Independence Heights Community Lot Cutting Program) led to the current program's foundation.
- Community groups receive a modest fee of \$50 for the mowing of City-approved abandoned lots (5000 Sq. ft. average).
- Payment is made only after the work has been completed and verified.
- Each lot receives six to nine cuts annually.



CITY OF HOUSTON MOW-DOWN PROGRAM GOALS

- Address the problem of overgrown abandoned lots in Houston neighborhoods.
- Encourage civic groups and nonprofit organizations to make a commitment to maintain abandoned lots in their own neighborhoods.
- Enhance the neighborhood setting, protect the value of properties in the area, create unity and instill community pride.



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MAYOR'S MOW-DOWN PROGRAM

The Mayor's Mow-Down Program is a new pilot program created to address the problem of overgrown abandoned lots in Houston neighborhoods. Sponsored by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) in partnership with Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB), the program aims to encourage civic groups and nonprofit organizations to make a commitment to maintain abandoned lots in their own neighborhoods.

By maintaining vacant lots in their neighborhoods, community groups can help address public safety concerns often associated with overgrown lots. Such resident-driven efforts can help enhance the neighborhood setting, protect the value of properties in the area, create unity and instill community pride.

The program offers community groups a modest fee for the mowing of City-approved abandoned lots. The first mowing is carried out by City crews. Thereafter, the community groups take over the maintenance of the lots. Participating community groups will be paid a modest fee of \$50 for each approved cut after the work has been completed and verified. Each cut must be approved in advance. KHB will provide participating groups with access to tools and supplies for the projects.

City-approved abandoned properties are located throughout the City. Participating groups will be assigned to an approved property of their choice in their neighborhood. Any civic association or non-profit organization interested in maintaining a City-approved abandoned property is eligible to apply for participation in the program.

For more information, contact us at 832.394.0554 or mowdown.don@houstontx.gov

Applicant: (please check applicable option(s))

- Applicant is a nonprofit organization
- Applicant is a religious institution
- Applicant is a community organization (Buser Neighborhood, Civic, Homeowner's Association)

Organization Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

City, State:

ZIP:

Please allow at least 10 days for your application to be processed. This form is a statement of request and by receiving it the City of Houston does not commit to transfer property.

SUBMIT RESET

Dept. Of Neighborhoods Links

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CONTACT.DON@HOUSTONTX.GOV

CITY OF HOUSTON MOW-DOWN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Super Neighborhoods/ Civic Clubs

- Chadbury Place
- Heathercrest/ Post Oak Village Civic Association
- Independence Heights Super Neighborhood #13
- South Park Area 237 Civic Club
- Cloverland Civic Club
- Fifth Ward Civic Club
- Settegast Civic Club
- Ella Park Terrace
- Acres Homes Super Neighborhood Council #6

Community Group Organizations

- Achieving Community Task Successfully
- Building Better Communities
- Global Force G. Five
- Jesus is Alpha And Omega Ministries
- Spirit of The World
- Generation One
- New Harvest



CITY OF HOUSTON MOW-DOWN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS *Cont'd*



POTENTIAL COST AVOIDANCE WITH THE MOW-DOWN PROGRAM

493 (lots assigned in the Mow-Down Program which is 33% of the 1500 lots cut by contractors) x \$50.00 = **\$24,650.00** (one cut)

493 (Lots assigned in the Mow-Down Program 2014-2015) + **250** (lots requested additional in FY 2015- FY 2016) = **743** Total Lots for FY 2015- FY 2016 = **\$37,150.00** (One Cut)

743 x \$350.00 (average contractor cost) = \$260,050.00 (One Cut, per year)

743 x \$50.00 (Mow Down Cost) = \$37,150.00 (One Cut)

\$260,050.00 - \$37,150.00

\$222,900.00 Cost Avoidance (One Cut, per year)



Q & A



Department of Neighborhoods

