



KARLA CISNEROS
Houston City Council Member, District H

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The Challenges of Naming White Oak Bayou Greenway as a City Park

There has been a lot of discussion about designating the White Oak Bayou Greenway as a city park. There are two important challenges to be aware of regarding the request in the petition that is circulating, to designate the properties along the White Oak Bayou Greenway as a city park:

- (1.) The first issue is that City-owned property along the Greenway is **already** designated as parkland. Please refer to the [map](#) to see the location of city-owned property. The remaining property is **not** owned by the City of Houston. Other property owners along the Bayou Greenways include the Harris County Flood Control District, TXDOT and the Railroads. The City of Houston has no jurisdiction to name property that belongs to someone else as a city park.
- (2.) The second issue is that even if the White Oak Bayou Greenway were to be designated as a one big park, the federal considerations afforded by the [US Department of Transportation Federal Highways Administration Law, Section 4F](#), would not actually protect that park. Instead, the law only requires that there has been “an attempt to show whether or not a property can be completely avoided while meeting the transportation need.” Most commonly, mitigation measures are pursued and result in park improvements elsewhere. Highway construction would be allowed. In return, investments could be required in other parks somewhere else to make up for the loss or damage of park land within the affected park.

Council Member Cisneros remains committed to protecting the natural areas along the hike and bike trail and other amenities along the White Oak Bayou Greenway, and minimizing the impact of proposed TxDOT projects on the surrounding community. She believes that understanding the challenges and legalities will help us better position ourselves to effectively advocate for the White Oak Bayou Greenway now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Karla Cisneros
Council Member, District H