# Houston Parks and Recreation Department

## Esplanade Naturalization Program

601 Sawyer
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www.houstonparks.org

houston PARKS & recreation department
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## Houston Parks and Recreation Department Esplanade Naturalization Project

HPARD's Esplanade Naturalization Project was created to transform urban, traditional esplanades into environmentally friendly and less expensive naturalized esplanades. The values generated through the Esplanade Naturalization Project include a reduction in maintenance time, money, water and energy. In addition to the savings in money, time and energy, esplanade naturalization is a great way to set a welcome mat out to birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

**Some Esplanade Naturalization options include:**

**Butterfly Gardens** - are planted with plants that attract and support the butterfly life cycles. Mulch is used between the plantings to replace traditional grass and conserve water.

**Grass Gardens** - ornamental native grasses which require less water are planted in place of traditional turf. Mulch is used between plantings to conserve water.

**Hummingbird Gardens** - are planted with vegetation that attracts hummingbirds. Plants with mainly tubular red and orange flowers are used in these gardens because they provide nectar and attract hummingbirds. Mulch is used to conserve water.

**Islands** - in these areas an "island" effect is created where trees are planted a specified distance from the curb edge. The area between the trees is mulched. This creates a mowing area that is confined to the esplanades perimeter.

For more information on how you can create and adopt an Esplanade Naturalization Project in your neighborhood, visit www.houstonparks.org or contact Marilu De La Fuente by phone at (713) 845-1223 or by email at marilu.delafuente@cityofhouston.net

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