Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Linear Forest Program

"When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

601 Sawyer
Houston, Texas 77007
(713) 865-4500
www.houstonparks.org

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Publicly owned trees are part of a community's infrastructure, just like streets, sidewalks, sewers, public buildings and recreational facilities. Trees are major capital assets in America's cities and towns! Studies show that trees can increase property values, reduce pollution and contribute to the overall aesthetics of the city.

HPARD's Linear Forest Project is designed to protect and increase this valuable asset by promoting the natural regeneration of the city's urban forest. The project specifically aims to plant and promote the growth of trees in areas where mowing can inadvertently damage trees and other vegetation.

During the growing season, HPARD mows over 6,000 acres of park land and library and multi-service center greenspace, as well as an additional 2,000 miles of medians. By converting some acreage into Linear Forests, HPARD reduces the damage to trees, increases Houston's forest canopy, reduces pollution, conserves water, addresses soil erosion, saves energy, and creates wildlife and plant diversity.

Since 2000, HPARD's Linear Forest Project has converted 14 street esplanades into Linear Forests and removed 65 acres of land from the mowing cycle. Will Clayton Parkway, North Shepherd Road and Clay Road are examples of how a Linear Forest can enhance, beautify and benefit a city.

When you see a Linear Forest at work, remember the first year seedlings may be overshadowed by grass and other vegetation. But be assured these areas have not been forgotten! The young trees are working 24 hours a day 365 days a year to expand Houston's Urban Forest.

For more information on how you can help increase Houston's Urban Forest, visit www.houstonparks.org or contact the Greenspace Community Involvement Coordinator at (713) 865-9348.

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