

ANNUAL FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL REPORT

January 2013

Pine Brook Wetlands Volunteers

Re-Building Forest after Tallows Removed

From January 2008 – January 2013, 250 + **volunteers** cut, removed, and treated **7,200+** non-native invasive Chinese tallows & other non-native invasive species from **100%** of **8.4 acre nature reserve** on the south side of Clear Lake City Blvd., with some tallows also removed in the 2nd prairie pothole in the north side of Clear Lake City Blvd, replanting with **4,000+ native trees, shrubs, plants (100+ new species)** and **thousands of native wildflower** and grass seeds which support **birds & wildlife**. Thanks to everyone for their efforts to **re-build a bio-diverse working ecosystem** which can be enjoyed by both people and wildlife. This **intervention prevented this nature preserve from becoming a tallow monoculture wasteland and serves as a “best practice” model for other neighborhoods with nature preserves**. For more info and/or before & after photos see www.PineBrookWetlands.com.

Expenditures:

\$14,570	Native trees/shrubs/plants
\$1,200	Native grasses (no cost for rescued native grasses - Katy prairie & Houston city lot)
\$875	Native blooming aquatic plants
\$1,000	Native wildflower seeds – most perennial
\$3,957	Tallow removal (herbicide, waste disposal/recycle)
\$1,020	Website updates
<u>\$1,985</u>	<u>Labor- planting (120) hours excludes volunteer planting labor</u>
\$24,607	TOTAL EXPENSES

So far we have accomplished the following 2007-2013:

- **7,200 +** invasive tallows cut and treated (plus 1,000+ rattle bean trees, 100+ privet, and 50+ honeysuckles)
- **4,000+** native trees, shrubs, grasses, aquatic plants and over **20,000** native wildflower seeds planted (**100+** new species) to support migrating & resident birds, butterflies, dragonflies, frogs, toads, rabbits, and other resident wildlife (2008-2013)
- **6,500+** volunteer hours (11/2007-1/2013) **equivalent to 1 full time person working 40 hours per week for 3.2 years!**
- **250+** Pine Brook resident and nonresident volunteers and **8** scout troop projects
- **Savings to Pine Brook Community Association - \$250,000+**
- **Added value to neighborhood and +\$\$\$**
- **\$25,100 donated by residents**

In-Kind Gifts including Volunteer Time (value \$295,692 +):

- ***Pine Brook restoration volunteers***- provided 6,500 hours of time 2007-2013. Value at market rate of \$25 per hour-\$162,500. \$60,000+ savings by eliminating contractor profit and wholesale vs. retail cost of paid labor and plants (30%-50% of retail cost).
- ***Pine Brook residents*** provided ATV to drag tallows, trailer to haul tallows removed and new trees/shrubs, canoe to haul tallows & rattle bean trees out of water, chainsaws & replacement parts, access to water to irrigate new trees/shrubs, temporary irrigation supplies such as hoses, gasoline & oil 2008-2012. Value \$20,000 including delivery cost & tallow removal savings.
- ***Glenn Olsen/ Houston Audubon Society***- provided numerous on-site consultations about trees and plants which support migrating birds & wildlife. Helped volunteers ID native and invasive trees & plants and provided on-site advice about creating bird habitat. Value-*Priceless!*
- ***Houston Audubon Society*** – interpretative sign in 2009. Contributed \$1,500 toward expense and \$1,000 of paid labor for design & editing, with Audubon photographers donating \$6,000 of photos. Wetland project volunteers contributed 40+ hours for research, design, and installation.
- ***Pine Brook Community Association*** – \$692 share of interpretative sign expense and \$1,790 towards tallow disposal in 2008.
- ***City of Houston*** – upon request from Debra Goode 3/08, allowed Eagle Scout project to remove 100+ native grasses from their property. Value \$2,500. Authorizations required from City of Houston legal counsel and fire chief.
- ***Houston Audubon Society***- invited Pine Brook volunteers to participate in 3/08 Saum native prairie grass rescue & relocation. George Macke rescued & relocated 200+ native grasses to Pine Brook's native prairie. Debra Goode & Jean Taylor rescued 50 pots of native wildflowers planted by Rob Plaza. Value \$3,500.
- ***Mark Fox Landscape*** – gift of 150 native blooming aquatic plants relocated by wetland volunteers in 2009. Value \$2,000.
- ***Texas Coastal Watershed program***- gift of 10 aquatic plants 3/08. Value \$250, plus allowed us to purchase from their nursery, native blooming aquatic plants which are very difficult to locate.
- ***US Forest Service*** – gift of 200+ seedlings in 2008. Value \$600.
- ***Armand Bayou***- gift of 20 native grasses in 2008. Value \$300.
- ***Houston Arboretum*** – gift of 30 Hackberry seedlings in 2009.
- ***Apache Foundation Tree Grants (3)*** in March 2009, October 2009 and 2012 – gift of 470 native trees (25 species) with 100 of 470 trees planted in other PBCA parks. Rob Plaza planted all 09 grant trees. Value \$9,400 +.
- ***Trees for Houston Tree Grant (1)*** in October 2012- gift of 272 trees with 240 of 272 planted in other PBCA parks. Value \$8,160 +.
- ***Green Thumb Keep Houston Beautiful Grant*** - received 15 large trees in 2008, planted by playground by pool and basketball court. Value \$2,500. Volunteers watered these trees and other new park trees (to replace trees lost due to hurricane Ike) during 2 record drought summers before personally financing a \$3,000 irrigation system for the playground pool park in 2010. (PBCA unable to fund irrigation system.)
- ***Eagle Scout Projects*** – 7 projects over 100+ volunteer hours each project:
 - (Macke /troop #389) restoration of native prairie by tallow removal & planting 450 rescued native grasses in 2008. (2 projects)
 - (Bowen/troop #848) restoration of 2 wetland areas via removal of debris & planting 350 native blooming aquatic plants in 2009.
 - (Maclean/troop #957) built & installed bird nesting boxes in 2010.
 - (Green/troop #869) removed debris to enable volunteers to access site for tallow removal & replanting. Also, removed invasive honeysuckle adjacent to prairie in 2010.
 - (Nix/troop #848) built a 32' elevated boardwalk on the east end of the nature trail loop around the prairie pothole marsh in 2011.
 - (Dao/troop #869) remove tallow seedlings & saplings in forest fringe area adjacent to prairie pothole marsh in *north side of CLC Blvd* 2011.
- ***Girl Scout Project***-(Soisson/ troop #7140) cared for & planted native grasses.

***Thanks to all the volunteers and residents who donated time, equipment
and funds to support this 6+ year neighborhood project!***

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How you can help:

- ***Volunteer*** – email info@pinebrookwetlands.com or call Debra Goode at 281-280-9944.

THANKS FOR YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME AND DONATIONS!!!

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