



2339 Commerce St. Suite #163 | Houston, TX 77002

November 16, 2023

Dear Bayou Preservation Supporter,

As I sit down to reflect on the journey of Bayou Preservation Association, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Gratitude for the bayous whose waters shape the history of Houston, for the remarkable community that rallies around them, and for the unwavering support that you, our cherished supporters, have shown us over the years.

At Bayou Preservation Association, we believe our bayous are much more than waterways; they are the lifeblood of our city. They are where families gather, where memories are made, and where the very essence of Houston comes alive. We are not just protecting our watersheds; we are safeguarding our community, our identity as Houstonians. With this commitment to our environment, our focus now shifts to one of the many communities in need of protection. We strongly believe in the significant endeavor of supporting these communities and protecting what we cherish for the betterment of all.

Situated just south of Sims Bayou lies Pine Gully, a natural waterway that serves as a cornerstone of the Park Place community. This vibrant neighborhood, bordered by I-45, 610, and Highway 225, embodies diversity, with over 70 percent of households speaking languages outside of English. It is a tapestry of generations, where grandparents and grandchildren coexist, learn, and play together. But amidst its rich tapestry, Park Place faces challenges—disparate health outcomes, lack of healthcare coverage for 37 percent of its residents, and an unequal balance between concrete roads and green spaces. It is a community labeled as having some of the most polluted waterways in the Houston region, a fact underscored by a 31-member committee from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (1).

As the longest-running conservation organization in the region, Bayou Preservation Association is committed to taking action amidst these challenges. Our aim is to enhance the well-being of the diverse communities in Greater Houston by nurturing and preserving the health of our waterways. We have taken on the roles of monitors, educators, and advocates, and we are making a real difference. In the summer of 2023, we initiated a groundbreaking project aimed at targeting bacteria in impacted waterways, reducing pollution, and safeguarding public health. As of this letter, Bayou Preservation has meticulously identified, sampled, monitored, and reported several points of interest along Pine Gully. From our on-the-ground monitoring and investigation, we were able to identify four samples that had bacteria counts higher than the state limit. This information was reported to the City of Houston for investigation, and they successfully identified and resolved a sewer blockage and two underground water breaks. This is the type of impactful work we are committed to continuing, preserving the ongoing vitality of our bayous.



Our dedicated young adults who became sample collection experts this year, captured in action collecting along Pine Gully.

As we reflect on the past year and the journey of years past, we want you to know that our progress has only been possible because of you, our steadfast supporters. This holiday season, we are profoundly grateful for your unwavering trust, dedication, and belief in our mission. Our path has been marked by science, collaboration, and a commitment to restoring the health of our bayous.

Our community is our strength, and together, we have achieved remarkable feats. Yet, our journey is far from over. I invite you to join us once again in our mission to celebrate and protect the vital natural resources that define our city. Your contribution—whether through your time, resources, or expertise—is not merely a donation; it's an investment into the heart and soul of Houston. It's a testament to your love for this city, its people, and the natural wonders that define our landscape.

As we approach the holiday season, join us in making a lasting impact, for this is our home, and together, we can ensure a brighter, healthier future for all of the diverse communities we serve.

With gratitude,

Brittani Flowers, MUEP
President and CEO

Paul R. Nelson
Chair, Board of Directors

P.S. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration in supporting our mission to enhance the health and beauty of our bayous in the Houston region. Your generous contribution, whether it's \$50, \$100, \$250, \$1,000, or any other amount, will make a meaningful difference in ensuring that our waterways are accessible and secure for both our community and the wildlife that call them home. To contribute, you can use the enclosed envelope to send a check or visit our website at www.bayoupreservation.org/support. Your help means the world to us and is immensely appreciated.

(1) Retrieved from <https://www.h-gac.com/bacteria-implementation-group>