

September 2026 Tributary Health Report



BAYOU PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION

Country Club Bayou

Tributary Restoration for Watershed Resilience
Country Club Bayou, Brays Watershed
Bi-Monthly Cycle: September 2026

As stewards of regional watersheds, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA) collaborates with local partners to monitor and restore prioritized waterways in the greater Houston area. The Tributary Health Report is a bi-monthly (every two months) series documenting habitat conditions, progress on enhancements, and water quality outcomes at various sites of interest throughout the region. Through this initiative, BPA strives to offer transparent and accessible insights into the health of smaller waterways and their influence on the overall watershed system.



Photo Source: H-GAC, Country Club Bayou Above Tidal

Country Club Bayou (also known as Slaughterpen Bayou) is a small urban **tributary*** in Houston's East End that feeds into Brays Bayou, a major component of the regional **stormwater system***. Though modest in size, the tributary functions as an active drainage corridor, conveying **runoff*** from surrounding neighborhoods, streets, and industrial areas downstream to the broader Brays Bayou **watershed***.

Monitoring efforts indicate that elevated bacteria levels are impairing water quality, limiting safe human contact, and affecting ecological function.

KEY TERMS*

Fundamental terminology and definitions for watershed management and water quality are highlighted as they first appear in the document. For more in-depth knowledge, please check out our resources list highlighted at the end.

- **Tributary:** a smaller waterway that flows into and feeds a larger one
- **Stormwater System:** the network of natural and engineered infrastructure that captures and conveys water from rainfall events
- **Runoff:** water that flows across land surfaces, collects pollutants, sediment, and debris as it moves toward a waterway
- **Watershed:** a land area that drains to a common waterway; collects rainfall, runoff, and the pollutants they carry into a shared basin

WHAT DOES MONITORING TELL US?

Monitoring shows how conditions shift for people, wildlife, and aquatic life.

- pH held near neutral.
- Nutrient levels stayed relatively low.
- E. coli fell sharply from July, though 3 of 14 samples were still above 126 MPN/100 mL, mostly after rain, as runoff carried bacteria downstream with litter, debris, and sediment.
- Dissolved oxygen averaged 4.18 mg/L, below the 5 mg/L standard.

Alligator gar were among the most observed species, growing more active through late summer as the water warmed.

Ongoing monitoring tracks how conditions change after rain and guides work to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Parameter	July	August	State standard
E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	536.66	3.33	126 geometric mean
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	4.08	4.28	5
pH	7	7	6.5 to 9.0

Sampling: June-August 2026 · Country Club Bayou



Sample Collection from Country Club Bayou

The following factors collectively degrade water quality and reduce the bayou's ecological function.

- Stormwater runoff carries bacteria, nutrients, sediment, and debris
- High-velocity flows during storm events cause channel erosion
- Trash and floatable debris accumulate along the streambanks and within the channel
- Presence of invasive vegetation limits riparian health
- Sanitary sewer overflows and failing infrastructure introduce pathogens into the channel

RESTORATION IN ACTION: ALONG THE CORRIDOR

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The TxCC youth crew waters tree seedlings along the Country Club Bayou.

Since May, work along the 1.25-mile corridor has moved into the field:

- 815.4 lbs of litter removed by Texas Conservation Corps (TxCC) youth crews working alongside BPA, May to August 2026
- 2,200 native seedlings planted by Harris County Flood Control District to curb erosion, including loblolly pine, oaks, and other hardwoods
- Invasive species cleared with Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), including Chinese tallow, Macartney rose, and waxleaf ligustrum, reopening access paths

This clears the way for native plantings and bank stabilization that support water quality, habitat, and public health.

In November: seasonal vegetation changes, monitoring trends, and a closer look at nutrients.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS?

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Targeted, site-specific interventions, and where each stands this cycle:

Intervention	Status	Progress
Invasive species removal	Completed	Cleared with Resource Environmental Solutions (RES)
Litter removal and maintenance	Underway	815.4 lbs with TxCC crews
Native vegetative buffers	Underway	2,200 seedlings by HCFCF
Water quality monitoring	Ongoing	Reported each cycle
Bioengineered streambank stabilization	Next up	Mar 2027
Pet waste stations and education	Next up	Mar 2027

Estimated Investment: \$150,000



\$150,000 is the base investment needed to fund implementation, maintenance, and community engagement through 2027, with additional support expanding the work further.

\$22,500 of \$150,000 raised (15%).

Thank you to our partners and donors.

REFLECTION ON OUR WATERSHED

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Country Club Bayou reflects a regional pattern: small tributaries absorb the impacts of rapid development and stormwater runoff. Even as E. coli levels dropped this cycle, post-rain spikes show why improvements work best upstream, where pollutants first enter the water. Native buffers, stable banks, and pet waste stations act at that point, so progress here carries downstream to Brays Bayou and the wider watershed.

RESOURCES

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For more information on watershed health, tributary management, and conservation strategies, check out the following resources:

- [Houston's Watersheds](#)
- [My Waterway](#)
- [Nonpoint Source Pollution Program](#)
- [Water Resources Information Map \(WRIM\)](#)
- [311 Protect Our Pipes](#)

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