



# Lake Creek Preserve News

## December, 2018



Now that capital improvements to the Montgomery County Lake Creek Preserve are nearly complete (pending completion of a section of boardwalk, second kiosk and additional benches) we will be shifting focus to maintenance, programs and the canoe/kayak trail. With a grant from the Westwood Magnolia Parkway Improvement District (WMPID) we will be able to extend the improved road and parking area for the preserve and start scheduling quarterly educational programs at the preserve and/or adjacent Christine Allen Park. The grant will also allow us to purchase the equipment needed to clear obstacles along the Lake Creek canoe/kayak trail. In parallel with these efforts we will be trying to acquire a commitment on land for the proposed nature/community center.

### **RECENT VANDALISM AT TRAILHEAD**

We have had a recurring problem with theft of materials waiting to be installed for erosion control at the trailhead. Initially someone took two 5 foot sections of telephone poles we were planning to install to prevent erosion at the road/trailhead area. Two additional section were acquired and installed with rebar anchors, but recently stolen. This resulted in quite a bit of erosion of the road and trail at the trailhead (picture to right show missing erosion barrier). In addition, there has been some vandalism of one of the new educational signs and human waste left in front of one of the trail benches. While the vast majority of visitors have been responsible, it only takes one or two to ruin the experience for the rest. The constables have been notified and asked to check the area especially at night. We ask all users to report any problems/suspicious activity (license plate # etc.) to [trails@lakecreektx.org](mailto:trails@lakecreektx.org).



## **NOVEMBER 11 MAINTENANCE DAY A SUCCESS**

On Saturday November 11, 25 Scouts, Scout leaders and residents gathered at the preserve for the fall service day to prepare the trail for fall/winter visitors. New barriers were installed at the trailhead and eroded areas were smoothed (picture). The trail was mowed and widened in places to minimize encroaching vegetation and improve ease of passage. Two sections of boardwalk were repositioned from recent flooding and properly secured to prevent further movement. The work was finished by 1:00pm.



## **SUPPORT FROM TWO EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS**

We would like to welcome our two NRCS Earth Team volunteers Pilar Gutierrez and Clarisa Romero who will be helping with our educational, water monitoring and trail maintenance programs. Pilar has a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and is working on her Masters in Soil Testing at Texas A&M. Clarisa has a Master of Science in Wildlife, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health and is working on her Masters in Environmental Science.

## **DECEMBER 8 FLOOD**

The Lake Creek flood reached 141.89' at the Fish Creek Thoroughfare Bridge (normal creek level ~122'). At that level it rose to just below the bulletin board at the trail head kiosk (picture). We will assess the damage, if any, once the water level drops to allow access to the trail. Hopefully the main issues will be floated logs and debris that will need to be removed from the trail. We will organize a volunteer clean up once we know what needs to be done.



## **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN KYAKING AND CANEOING**

We are ready to grow our committee of those interested in a canoe/kayak trail and begin clearing the first section after the first of the year as the creek levels will allow. The grant from the improvement district will allow us to purchase the boats, gear and safety equipment we need to clear and maintain the route. Those interested should contact [trails@lakecreektx.org](mailto:trails@lakecreektx.org).

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF LAKE CREEK GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP**

Since we are entirely volunteer at this point our overhead is very modest, but we do have some annual expenses related to insurance, PO Box, web site hosting etc. Donations are welcome and can be made through our web site. In addition the Lake Creek Greenway Partnership is registered with Amazon Smile, iGive and Kroger as a relatively painless way to support us if you shop through any of those organizations. A small % purchase is donated to us if you specify us as a recipient.