URGENT REQUEST FOR YOUR HELP

PLEASE ATTEND
CHARTING BUFFALO
COMMUNITY MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2012

TIME: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

PLACE: Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter Drive

Tracy Gee Community Center is located just south of Richmond Avenue about a block east of Beltway 8. Park along Westcenter Drive if the lot for the Tracy Gee Center is full.

The Harris County Flood Control District ("HCFCD") has announced its public "Community Meeting" for its *Charting Buffalo* Study addressing flooding mitigation in the Buffalo Bayou watershed and proposed detention basin sites. It will probably be **the only meeting** on the West Side of Houston. **Here citizens can express their concerns for preserving forested areas along Buffalo Bayou from Beltway 8 to Highway 6**.

This meeting is THE TIME to visibly show the officials of HCFCD your support to "Save Our Forest".

CROWD SIZE MATTERS!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. **Bring friends, family and neighbors who share your concerns with you to the meeting.**

2. **Prepare a written statement -** in advance of the meeting, prepare four copies of a written statement supporting the preservation of the urban forest which you can possibly read (and certainly submit) at the meeting. Below the date of your statement write, "For Inclusion in the Official Public Record of the Charting Buffalo study." Sign your statement and include your printed name and address, along with your email address. Submit one copy to HCFCD officials, give another copy to a "Save Our Forest" coordinator (they'll be wearing khaki hats), mail one copy to the Mayor of Houston, and keep one copy for your records. A sample statement can be found on the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood website (briarforestsn.org). Please make sure to modify it to make it your own.

3. **If you haven't already signed a "Save Our Forest" petition, please sign the on-line petition.** This can be found at the **Briar Forest Super Neighborhood** website (***briarforestsn.org)***; look for a blue header entitled, **"Save the Terry Hershey Park Forest Online Petition."** The Briar Forest Super Neighborhood has formally supported this cause and its website contains a wealth of information which may help you in preparing your written statement.

4. **Keep displaying Save Our Forest yard signs - show your solidarity with other citizens who share your concerns.**

OUR VIEW: We support efforts to reduce flooding in Houston, but want alternative detention areas used which are not on the banks of Buffalo Bayou such as a "Clodine Water Hole" in Fort Bend County and "Deerwood Basin" just off of Beltway 8 south of Deerwood. We support the construction of "pocket basins" in open areas along Buffalo Bayou which are not in a wild, natural state and have few trees. We also want flood control efforts to have a regional approach, e.g., include Addicks/Barker Reservoirs and the Corps of Engineers. **HCFCD should prioritize the construction of all proposed detention projects on the basis of LEAST IMPACT FIRST.** This means avoiding environmentally sensitive areas and preserving sites with value to the local community, such as the few remaining wild forested areas on public land along Buffalo Bayou, thus saving the forest for future generations to enjoy.

More information about the Save Our Forest issue can be found on the Briar Forest Super neighborhood website ***briarforestsn.org*** and about the Charting Buffalo study at ***chartingbuffalo.org***.

Let's Work Together to Keep The Forest for Houston and Preserve it for Future Generations!