# **BEAR TRAILS**

The Bear Branch Trail

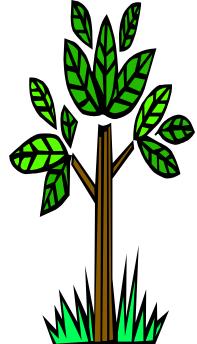
If you would like to dedicate some of your time to the Association, please call Kingwood Association Management (KAM) at 281-359-1102 for more information.

Additional maps of the greenbelts and the Kingwood community are available at no charge from KAM's office at 1102 Kingwood Drive, Suite 104, Kingwood.

## Who We Are

Association (BBTA) is responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the greenbelt areas within the borders of Kingwood Drive, Woodland Hills Drive. NorthPark Drive and West Lake Houston Parkway. All the trails within the villages of Bear Branch, Hunters' Ridge, Kings Crossing, Kings Forest and Kings Forest Estates are under the jurisdiction of the Association. The Association is represented by an unpaid Board, elected by residents to three -year terms .

**BBTA** operates and assesses independently of the five village community associations included in the area. Our responsibilities include mowing, mosquito fogging, dead tree harvesting, repairs and the replacement of deteriorating trails, fences, benches and the general maintenance of all common areas adjoining the greenbelt trails.



Get to know the community, walk the trails, enjoy the outdoors, and please keep your pets on leashes.

#### Rules and Regulations

The following is a short recap of the rules and regulations governing the use of the Association greenbelts. This listing is not meant to supercede the official Declarations, Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions, but to be used as a reference for residents.

- 1. The greenbelts are considered as nature areas, not a park.
- 2. Unauthorized alterations and/or modifications including digging, cutting of trees or shrubs, adding synthetic material is strictly prohibited. Therefore, graffiti, construction of motorbike/bicycle racing tracks, forts, and skateboard ramps gazebos, gardens, and woodpiles, etc. are prohibited.
- 3. All motor vehicles, including motorized scooters, except for maintenance vehicles or those specifically authorized, are not allowed on greenbelt property.
- 4. The disposal of trash, grass clippings, tree limbs and trunks, garbage, landscaping materials, or other litter is strictly forbidden. Offenders will be charged for the clean-up costs incurred by the Association.
- 5. Owners of property adjoining the greenbelts may clear undergrowth and trees with a trunk diameter of less than two inches from greenbelt property for a distance of three feet only from their property line. However, no construction or alteration of the contour of the land is permitted. These owners may, if desired, clear a single path not more that three feet in width between their property and the greenbelt trail. This pathway cannot be paved or edged with logs, stones, or other synthetic materials.
- 6. The fences along Woodland Hills and NorthPark Drive are Association property; damage sustained to these fences will cause the offender to be charged for repairs.
- 7. The possession or use of firearms, including pellet or BB guns on greenbelt property is prohibited.
- 8. Dogs, or other pets on the greenbelt must be leashed. (The City of Houston enacted an Ordinance on December 22, 2003 that requires "each person in control of a dog or cat to promptly remove and dispose, in a sanitary manner, feces left by such dog or cat." Thus if you walk the trails you should carry and use materials to pick up and dispose of droppings. If you are convicted of a violation, the fine can range from \$75 to more than \$500)
- 9. Absolutely nothing may be planted on Association greenbelt property without prior approval from the Board of Directors.
- 10. Open fires, the burning of benches, bridges, fences, or causing damage to trees is strictly prohibited and offenders will be prosecuted.

Board of Directors of Bear Branch Trail Association sincerely thanks all our residents for helping keep our greenbelts clean and attractive. Your help reduces our maintenance and replacement costs.



This appears to be juvenile Krider's light morph red tailed hawk who spends some of his time visiting Bear Branch Trails.

Photo courtesy of Bob Rehak, Kings Forest

#### Bear Branch Trail Association

c/ o Kingwood Association Management 1102 Kingwood Drive, Suite 104 Kingwood, TX 77339

http://www.kingwoodserviceassociation.org/

REMEMBER, OUR TRAILS ARE YOURS, IF YOU SEE A DOWNED TREE THAT IS BLOCKING THE TRAIL, OR IF YOU FIND A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TRAIL CONDITION, PLASE CALL IT TO OUR ATTENTION AT 281-359-1102. WE WANT OUR TRAILS TO BE AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF EVERYONE.

For the sixth year Bear Branch Elementary Cub Scout Pack 3603 participated in our trail cleaning program. Our thanks go out to the boys and their parents for donating their time to make our trails a cleaner place to walk.

Photo courtesy of Ellen Fankell, Kings Forest

#### Where your money goes

Total Your Percent 2005 Family's Of Budget Share Budget Accounting & Administration \$ 17,385 \$ 6 8% **Dead Tree Removal** \$ 41,600 \$ 14 20% \$ **Green Belt Maintenance** 79,790 \$ 27 38% **Trail & Fence Replacement** \$ 71,196 \$ 25 34% Total 209,971 \$ 72 100% \$

Michele Stallman Walt Schroeder Steve Wischoff Ray Anderson David Cooper Tony Geldens Joe Frey Clayton Jones Larry Polich Ed Stewart Nancy Wallace

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer



# Trail Tips

#### We can all help in keeping our trails safe and beautiful. Here are a few suggestions:

- Ride Friendly bicyclists should give an audible warning before overtaking pedestrians. A simple statement such as "passing on your left (right)" will do. A bicycle bell is a traditional signal.
- Ride Safely The Texas Code of Laws says that anyone under the age of 18 MUST wear head protection while riding a bicycle.
- Cell Phone Tips If you need emergency assistance while on our trails keep in mind that 911 call takers cannot locate your exact location from a cell phone. We and our sister trails have marked the block numbers of the streets by our trail entrances to enable you to help Emergency Services respond quickly.
- Be Thoughtful Please discard your trash at home or in one of the trash receptacles located on the trails. A special thanks to all those conscientious walkers who carry plastic bags to pick up debris on the trail that has been carelessly discarded.

### Joint Kingwood Trails Association

The Bear Branch Trail Association has joined together with 14 other community and trail associations to form the Joint Kingwood Trails Association. It is an informal association designed to promote communications among the Associations. It creates a forum in which the Associations can share ideas and discuss concerns. The goal of the Joint Kingwood Trail Association is to improve the maintenance of Kingwood's medians, right-of-ways, and trails. To this end the Associations have coordinated their efforts in the mowing of NorthPark and Kingwood Dr. Beginning the week of February 28<sup>th</sup>, NorthPark will be mowed every other Wednesday and Kingwood Dr. will be mowed every other Thursday. The City of Houston is scheduled to mow on the weeks opposite the Associations. Hope-fully, this will improve the overall curb appeal of the area.