

Bear Branch Trail Association and the Texas Drought

As the largest trail association in Kingwood with the most miles of trail, Bear Branch Trail Association was hit the hardest when the normal rains just didn't come. The first trees to suffer and die were pine trees that did not have extensive root systems.

We carefully watch the trees that line our greenbelt trails for ones that could drop limbs or fall and injure walkers or bikers. Our landscape contractors remove these dead trees as well as dead trees that endanger resident's homes. We do not attempt to remove dead trees on Bear Branch trail property that are not a danger to the public as the cutting and removal costs would be prohibitive.

CenterPoint Energy the owner of the above ground electric lines has an easement on our property for the maintenance of their equipment. They realize that dead trees pose a threat to the wires strung on their poles. Accordingly they hired contractors to cut all dead trees that could conceivably interrupt electrical service. CenterPoint Energy's contract with their tree cutting contractors does not include the removal of the trees they cut. This cost is borne by the respective trail associations. Bear Branch Trail Association has contracted to pick up and dispose of all those cut trees left by CenterPoint Energy's contract tree cutters.

The cost for dead tree removal on our property so far, is as follows:

Year 2010	\$105,517
Year 2011	\$ 88,503
Year 2012	\$344,024
11 mos 2013	\$129,250