



Endorsement of Houston Wilderness' Slate of Initiatives

HOUSTON WILDERNESS is a broad-based alliance of business, environmental and government interests that act in concert to protect, preserve and promote the unique biodiversity of the region's precious remaining ecological capital from bottomland hardwoods and prairie grasslands to pine forests and wetlands.

This mission is accomplished through **Convening** various groups to promote protect and preserve the biodiversity in our 10 ecoregions; providing collaborative **Problem-solving** opportunities on critical environmental issues; and **Educating** the public on the many exciting outdoor opportunities in the Greater Houston Region and the health benefits associated with nature. These ecoregion landscapes decrease repetitive flooding, improve water quality, boost outdoor recreation, ecotourism, and economic growth. **Houston Wilderness concentrates on the following initiatives:**

I. **Convening**

- a) **Network Partner Initiative and Collaborative Access Program** - Inviting the entire environmental/conservation community to support Houston Wilderness' slate of initiatives and collaborate on various regional efforts. Also, through a series of bi-monthly *Collaborative Access* forums, Houston Wilderness provides the environmental community with access to people, places and information that benefit the greater Houston region by strengthening environmental programs and organizational operations within this community. All Network Partners and other stakeholders are invited to each Collaborative Access event.
- b) **Collaborative Grant-organizing Program** - Convening Network Partners and related stakeholders to provide assistance in packaging large funding requests that 1) help protect and preserve areas of the Sam Houston Greenbelt and/or 2) help to facilitate ecosystem services studies that provide benefits in water and air quality, water supply, flood/erosion control and carbon sequestration.

II. **Problem Solving**

Ecoregion Infrastructure Advocacy - Providing problem-solving assistance and facilitation of various policy issues as requested by the Network Partners and related stakeholders that work toward benefitting all areas of the seven land-based and three water-based eco-regions.

- a) **Sam Houston Greenbelt Network Initiative** - A special focus on issues affecting the *Sam Houston Greenbelt Network*, a connection of watersheds and open spaces at the region's core which are most affected by the region's explosive population and development growth. The *Sam Houston Greenbelt Network* incorporates all 7 land-based and 3 water-based eco-regions and is defined by Spring Creek to the north, Trinity River to the east, Galveston Bay to the south and Brazos River to the west *and* 4 cornerstones including (1) the Columbia Bottomlands at the southwest corner, (2) Katy Prairie at the northwest corner, (3) Trinity Bottomlands/Piney Woods at the northeast corner, and (4) Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge/High Island at the southeast corner.
- b) **Ecosystem Services within all Eco-regions** - Targeting the ecosystem services within all of the eco-regions for assessment and development of "protection strategies" to allow for continued flood abatement, water quality, carbon sequestration, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, health, eco-tourism and education.

III. Educating

- a) **Get Outdoors Houston! Website and Ecotourism** – Working with all Network Partners and related stakeholders to provide one online location for citizens and visitors to find the many exciting outdoor opportunities in the greater Houston region. And, concentrating on education of the 7 land-based and 3 water-based eco-regions in Houston and surrounding counties.
- b) **Wilderness Passport** – Creating Level 2 electronic-based distribution and increased use as a part of Houston Wilderness’ other initiatives and programs.
- c) **Healthy Lifestyles Initiative** – Convening and facilitating discussion between Network Partners and various anti-obesity organizations to find ways to incorporate nature and the outdoors into current anti-obesity implementation strategies in the region.

Organization Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Endorsement and Support of Houston Wilderness’ Slate of Initiatives

_____ supports Houston Wilderness’ Slate of Initiatives and wants to be included as a Network Partner. Implementation of these initiatives will help protect, preserve and promote the unique biodiversity of the region’s precious remaining ecological capital which include 10 ecoregions from bottomland hardwoods and prairie grasslands to pine forests and wetlands. These initiatives also enhance the quality of life of all the citizens of the greater Houston area and increase awareness of our regions natural assets.

Authorized Signature

Organization Affiliation/Position

Please list other individuals from your organization who should be listed in our mailing list:

Name

Email

For more information, please contact
Deborah January-Bevers
President and CEO
713-524-7330 x 205

Endorsement forms can be sent to:
Houston Wilderness
550 Westcott Street, Suite 305
Houston, Texas 77007
-or-

deborah@houstonwilderness.org