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Cleveland plans preserve by river

By: Jamie Nash



Photo by Glen Dodson

Near highway 105, on the east fork of the San Jacinto River, the city of Cleveland is about to make history through a conservation project, the likes of which has never been seen in the area.

Cleveland has joined with Legacy Land Trust, a conservation group, to create an easement pact protecting a five acre tract of land filled with the flora and fauna that represents southeast Texas. The preserve will be known as the City of Cleveland Land Preserve. Coupled with the other anticipated growth for the area in upcoming years, the city hopes the preserve will become a popular tourist attraction, bringing in more visitors and revenue.

Naturalists, conservationists, and city leaders converged on the site last Friday to document plants and wildlife and to announce plans for the land.

The property is owned by the city, which sets it apart from most other conservation easements, which are privately owned and not open to the public. Plans are being made to add a launching site for kayaks and canoes, providing even more diversity to the ways of enjoying the property.

The site is conveniently located, near the intersection of highway 59 and highway 105, both busy thoroughfares. Yet it will retain it's unspoiled beauty and be a haven for wildlife and plants that might otherwise be swallowed up by the ever-expanding metropolis of the greater Houston area. The project was originally proposed by City Manager Philip Cook, who is known for his progressive thinking and battling those who would like to keep Cleveland from growing.

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