

News and Events

Low-Impact Development Project Complete

Commissioner R. Jack Cagle hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, June 28 to announce the opening of Birnamwood Drive in Spring.

The nearly one-mile stretch of roadway connects Cypresswood Drive to Spring Creek Drive and was the first low-impact development (LID) project in Harris County. This green project features a bioswale that reduces the impact on the environment and is projected to save approximately \$100,000 in construction costs.

The Birnamwood bioswale features a 32-foot-wide depressed median in the middle of a four-lane concrete boulevard that accommodates storm water runoff during rainfalls. Native plantings, such as Gulf Coast Muhly grass, inland sea oats, bald cypress, Savannah holly, and Texas redbud trees slow down the flow of storm water, giving it time to drain through engineered soils.

"We're not only saving in construction costs, but the Birnamwood bioswale reduces maintenance costs and emissions associated with mowing activities," commented Commissioner Cagle.



John Blount (left), director of Harris County's Architecture & Engineering Division, spoke at the Birnamwood Ribbon Cutting. Shown on right: Commissioner R. Jack Cagle.

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens Announces a Summer Symposium: How to Give Your Garden a Tropical Look

Mercer is teaming with The Mercer Society (TMS) to present the Summer Symposium **Saturday, July 28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The workshop focuses on hardy and bold tropical-looking plants that flourish in the heat. Featured topics and speakers include:

Gingers and Heliconias

David Glover, Tejas Tropicals

Ferns and Hoyas

Mike Lowery, Another Place in Time

Plants for a Tropical Effect

Gary Outenreath, Beaumont Botanical Gardens

Landscape Begonias

Tom Keepin, Begonia Society/Astro Branch

Fee: \$70 for TMS members and \$85 for non-members. Space is limited and **registration fees are required by Monday, July 16.** For information and to register, call 281.443.8731.

Texas Bound! at Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center

Tuesday, July 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Become a survivor among early Texas settlers at this one-day **free** camp where participants win a land grant from Stephen F. Austin.

Held at the park's Redbud Hill Homestead, kids, ages 7 to 12, join together in "families" for a journey to Texas, learning about living history along the way. Using props, games, and hands-on activities, they will buy, barter and trade with each other to supply the necessities of pioneer living.

Reservations are required. For more information and to register, call 281.446.8588. Visit Jones Park's website at www.hcp4.net/jones/index.htm for a complete listing of programs offered in July.