



Melissa Phillip photos / Houston Chronicle

Becky Zitterich and her dog, Spencer, enjoy a recent walk through Lake Creek Preserve, a hidden gem in Montgomery County.

A walk on the wilderness side



A numbered post marks Palmetto palms, just one of the types of flora that flourish in the Lake Creek Preserve.

Group attempting to protect 10,000 acres of bottomland north of The Woodlands

By Mihir Zaveri

A dirt trail winds across a patch of forest just north of The Woodlands, running between Overcup oak and loblolly pine trees, huge green Palmettos and groves of native bamboo.

Many area residents won't recognize the trail or the place. There's no sign yet on the busy road to the west signaling the existence of this preserve in the rich bottomlands of Lake Creek, a meandering tributary of the San Jacinto River.

In recent months, volunteers have installed short boardwalks on some of the trail's soggy patches, but other segments remain submerged in rainwater.

While work on the Montgomery County Lake Creek Preserve is just beginning, it's only a small portion of the real project underway, an ambitious attempt to protect more than 10,000 acres along some 20 miles of the creek's sinuous waters, mirroring the celebrated Spring and Cypress Creek

Greenway continues on B10

