



Keep Montgomery County Beautiful 2014 Annual Report

Message from the Chairman

2014 was a year of reflection and change for KMCB. We saw a reduction in revenue and volunteers while so many changes impacting our environment are happening very quickly in Montgomery County and in particular in Magnolia. We are proud of what we accomplished in 2014 and have renewed our commitment to growing our board, volunteers and impact in our community.

We are very grateful for our volunteers, members, and others who help us make Montgomery County a better place to live and work. We continue our focus on the greater Magnolia area with a commitment to building programs to be replicated throughout the County.

Board Members

Our board began with five members in 2014 but we regretfully said goodbye to two long term board members both of whom will be missed.

Brenda Biggerstaff began serving on the KMCB board in 2004 and served as Treasurer for most of those years. She was committed and provided valuable support and service for each of those 10 years.

Christine Leard joined the board in 2008 and provided much needed input and work on our logo and marketing materials and spearheaded several volunteer recognition dinners. Her commitment and creative contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to the board members who continue to serve – Charlotte Riser Harris, Glenn Buckley, and Phyllis Stegen. Your contributions and commitment are appreciated and valuable to KMCB and our community.

Events and Activities

In 2014 KMCB:

- Held the Sixth Annual Growing Green Plant Sale
 - Raised \$1085 to fund grants
 - Promoted county recycling centers
 - Educated about native plants (Henry Duelberg salvia)
- Funded grants and purchased and donated plants for:
 - Daniel Flynn – Lake Creek Preserve Eagle Project - \$147.86
 - Purchased plants for City Hall flower beds
 - Purchased plants and trees for Unity Park Pavilion beds and Lake/Gazebo area
 - Ty Maldonado – Lake Creek Preserve Boardwalk Eagle Project - \$500
 - Brendan Scott – Lake Creek Preserve Boardwalk Eagle Project - \$200
- Led by Phyllis Stegen and with support from volunteers, maintained the two main flower beds at Magnolia City Hall which had been refurbished with Texas native plants in 2013.



Worked with two Girl Scout troops to adopt these beds for on-going maintenance. The troops were recognized at a City Council meeting.

- Participated in educational events by providing information and materials about litter abatement, recycling, decomposition rates (via an interactive game), green space, and waterways at:
 - Texas Forest Expo
 - Trash Bash
 - The Woodlands GreenUP event
 - Magnolia Stroll Events
 - National Night Out event
- Handed out 500 tree seedlings at The Woodland GreenUP and Magnolia Stroll events. Trees were donated by Texas A&M Forest Service.
- Received an ExxonMobil VIP Grant in the amount of \$500
- Sent out five press releases and two other communications
- Held a contest for art to be included on the 2014 Growing Green Plant Sale poster. The winning artist is from MISD Magnolia West High School and will be awarded a \$500 scholarship in 2013.
- Obtained media coverage of events and activities which resulted in five articles in local newspapers
- With students from ALPHA Academy, presented a resolution for the creation of a Magnolia Adopt a Road/Spot program which was approved.
- Attended the Keep Texas Beautiful conference
- Worked with Litter Patrols at several Stroll events, the MACC BBQ cook off, and the Magnolia Summer Festival to pick up litter and interact with the crowds about anti-litter messages. Also provided recycling bins at events to redirect some trash to recycling.
- Actively worked with the Boy Scouts, Precinct 2 and the City of Magnolia to identify, plan and carry out projects on November 15th as part of the Boy Scouts' Century of Service activity day. Projects at Unity Park involved litter pickup, heavy trash removal, tree planting, flower planting, flower bed building, trail clearing, path rehabilitation, and removal of invasive species. Projects at the Lake Creek Preserve included completion of a loop trail, installation of 110 feet of wetland boardwalk, and installation of interpreted nature guide posts. A total of 300 volunteers logged over 1200 hours in one day of work.
- Through the guidance, vision and hard work of board member, Glenn Buckley, the Lake Creek Preserve area has become a reality for our community. This is a cooperative effort between KMCB, the East 1488 Community Association, and Montgomery County Precinct. The completed trail winds through 1.5 miles of bottomland habitats. The preserved land will continue to be developed into a precious piece of land protected from development for the enjoyment of all residents. The preserve project is now part of a regional plan being developed by Houston Wilderness and Lake Creek has been approved as part of a watershed protection plan being developed for the upper San Jacinto/Lake Creek Watersheds.

Goals for 2015

KMCB will focus in 2015 on recruiting more volunteers, board members, members and sponsors to increase the impact we can make. We particularly need volunteers to serve in leadership positions – whether as a member of the Board of Directors or as the head of a committee or project. We will more proactively reach out to those in the community who are concerned about litter, recycling, beautification and other environmental issues to solicit donations and volunteer work.



In 2015, KMCB's focus will continue to be on litter, recycling, waste reduction, green space and waterway issues. Specific projects and activities include:

- Recruitment of volunteers to propagate native plants for donation to be used in beautification projects in our community
- Although we will not hold our annual Growing Green Plant sale as it was done over the past six years, we are planning a different kind of sale to supplement our grant program
- Redesign of one of the City Hall flower bed areas which holds water and prevents plants from growing well
- Design and installation of flower beds and trees at the Library
- Write articles to raise awareness of environmental issues
- Continue to support litter free events in Magnolia
- Work with Precinct 2 Commissioner to broaden the offerings at the Recycling Center
- Install recycling bins and signage at the County ball parks and other public areas to education about recycling and litter.
- Work with the City of Magnolia to implement the Adopt a Road/Spot program
- Continue to solicit county, city, business, non profit and private partners in developing a green belt along Lake Creek and promoting educational and recreational opportunities along the same.

As always, we encourage and welcome anyone who is interested in working with us as a member, sponsor, volunteer or Board member. Our number one need is passionate individuals who are interested in becoming involved with KMCB as a Board member or as a leader of a program or project.

We also encourage you to become a member of KMCB to assist us with our operating expenses and to make a donation to our Growing Green Grant Program to help us continue to provide funds to those doing projects in our community.

Give us a call or shoot us an email – we have some interesting things going on and would love to have you on board! 832-567-3404 or kmcbtexas@yahoo.com

Keep Montgomery County Beautiful
Board of Directors
December 2014