

# THE POTPOURRI

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## Groups to develop 64-acre greenbelt along Lake Creek

BY GLENN R. BUCKLEY  
Contributing Writer

How many of us on a pleasant spring, fall or even summer day have wanted to take a walk in the woods to observe the birds and other wildlife? There's always a peaceful walk in the woods, but the drive all the way to the national forest may seem a little too daunting.

The Jones State Forest is one of the few public places reasonably close to those in the Magnolia/Tomball area. Fortunately, there soon will be another option close by.

The county, together with Keep Montgomery County Beautiful and the East 1488 Community Association,

will develop a 64-acre nature preserve along Lake Creek as the first phase of a greenbelt similar to the one being developed along Spring Creek.

Members of the East 1488 Association and Keep Montgomery County Beautiful have met with the Bayou Land Conservancy, which controls what can be done on the property, and reached agreement on the location of a nature trail.

Work on the trail system will begin as soon as the location of a parking area is resolved.

The property is located between Lake Creek and the

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Woodforest Golf Course along the Fish Creek Thoroughfare and about 2 miles north of the intersection of FM 1488 and FM 2978.

The property contains a variety of bottomland habitats, including wetland ponds, palmetto/hardwood flats, open hardwood forests and understory thickets. It also has access to Lake Creek.

The trail system has been laid out for the visitor to experience all of these habitats.

The property abounds with considerable wildlife including foxes, raccoons, rabbits, bobcat, deer, amphibians and song birds including the Summer Tanager and Pileat-

ed Woodpecker.

The stream is still high quality for aquatic life and contains a variety of fish and aquatic invertebrates. Occasionally, a Great Blue Heron or other large wading birds frequent the stream.

The bottomland habitats and creek access make the area ideal for classroom and general natural history activities related to understanding ecology, ecosystems and ecosystem services such as flood control, pollution control and recreation.

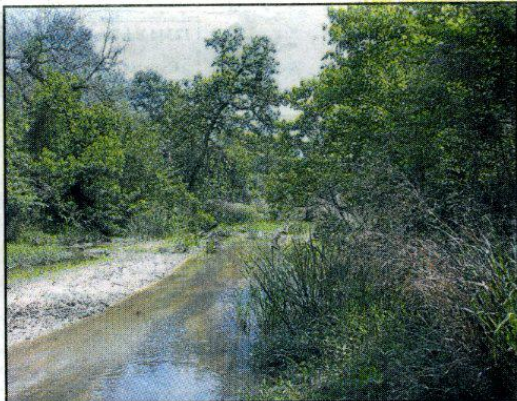
The organizers hope to flag the trail locations within the next few weeks and begin clearing trail before the weather gets too hot. The trail will include several wetland crossings that will require boardwalks from 15 to

45 feet long.

Precinct 2 County Commissioner Craig Doyal has offered to help with the parking area, signage and other safety enhancement as equipment and staff are available.

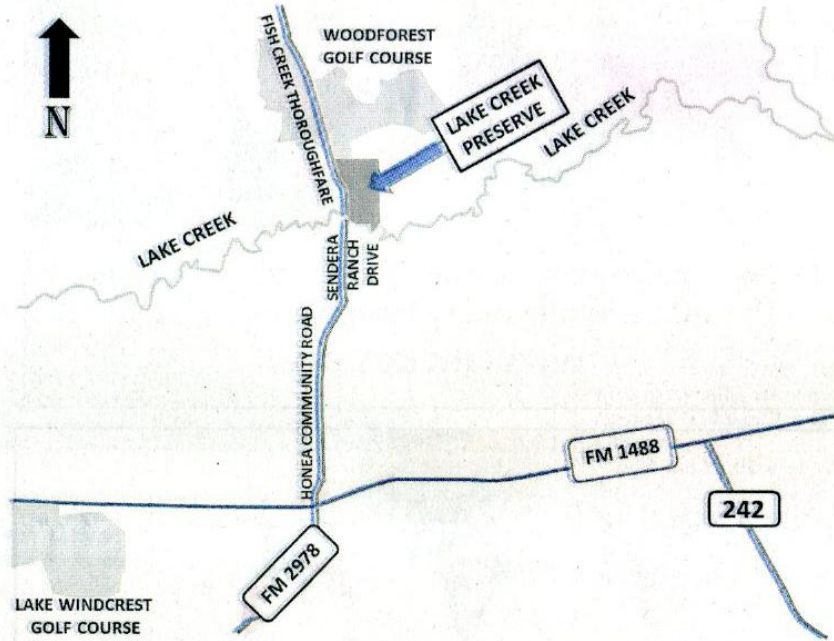
The trails will be developed entirely with volunteer effort including Scout projects and community support. Any Girl or Boy Scout, students looking for a service opportunity or a community member interested in helping can contact Glenn Buckley at [grbuckley419@comcast.net](mailto:grbuckley419@comcast.net) or 936-273-0098.

More details on the Lake Creek Greenway concept may be found by visiting [e1488ca.org](http://e1488ca.org). Go to projects and look for Lake Creek Greenway.



Courtesy Photo

Idyllic scenes like this one can be found along Lake Creek. Development of a nature trail on the 64-acre greenbelt is nearing its start.



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