

TOMMY & SUE BROWN PARK WETLAND PRESERVATION

Welcome

This 15-acre wetland preservation was created so that its unique natural ecological conditions would be preserved and to protect nearby ecosystems. Wetlands are very important as they provide buffer zones that act as a sponge soaking up runoff from the surrounding neighborhoods during rain events, thus providing some protection from widespread flooding. Native wetland plant materials like reeds, cattails and lilies act to filter soil particles from water as it passes through, creating an environment rich in organic matter and typically clear water. In addition to diverse plant life, this area hosts a variety of small creatures and many types of birds. Rabbits can be seen, with a close look, blending in with trees and native grasses.

Did you know this area is permanently protected, to be preserved as a pristine natural area for all North Richland Hills citizens to enjoy? During the development of Tommy & Sue Brown Park, one of the area's original wetlands was redirected and partially lost. In order to move forward with construction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers required the property owner to make up for the loss. This led to the transfer of approximately 20 acres of natural space, consisting of wooded areas and wetlands, to the City of North Richland Hills and forever preserving it as an undeveloped area. Therefore, altering this area's vegetative state, such as trimming, clearing or pruning, is prohibited. The City of North Richland Hills supports the natural vegetative growth which is crucial for healthy habitats and filtering water runoff.

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

-Aldo Leopold

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