

## **Final Report**

Project Title: **City of Houston Sims Woods Wetlands Enhancement**

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### **Project Description**

Restore wetlands at 27-acre Robert C. Stuart Park, adjacent to Sims Bayou, by removing invasive species, specifically Chinese tallow trees and Chinese privet.

### **Project Activities**

Professional contractor, Chris Peterson, ACF, Consulting Forester and Licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator was selected from a formal bid process to remove Chinese tallow tree and Chinese privet vegetation. Majority of removal was done via infield shredding with some larger Chinese tallow chainsaw felled and hauled offsite for disposal. Residual stumps were shredded flush with ground. Hand clearing also used if conditions warrant and as necessary to protect non-target native species. All mechanically removed target species were chemically treated via cut-stump herbicide treatment using a properly labeled chemical. Ground disturbance was kept to a minimum to preserve the area for future installation of woody and herbaceous plant material and to protect the biological integrity of the site.

### **Project Benefits**

Invasive Chinese Tallow and Privet were removed from the site to allow for the restoration of native habitat. Robert C. Stuart Park is a mix of upland forest, native grasslands and palustrine wetlands. It is being developed as a nature park for the residents of with trails, boardwalks, and interpretive exhibits. Habitat restoration includes the planting of native woody and herbaceous upland and wetland plants. The project area will be managed for the benefit of residents, children, students, and migratory bird species as well as other wildlife. The most important component of this project is the ease of access it provides the local underserved community and the opportunity to frequently experience nature and exposes children to the natural world.