



Timber Lane Utility District Cypress Creek Hike & Bike Trails

An adventure awaits visitors to the Cypress Creek Hike and Bike Trails developed by the Timber Lane Utility District. Go to explore the trails, discover nature at its best, or simply for the exercise.



Transport yourself out of your hectic concrete life and discover some of nature's gems such as wildflowers, native vegetation, and 80 foot cypress trees with their knees growing out of the wetlands.

The Trails are a perfect excursion to help children (or adults) connect with nature while easing the stresses of daily life.



Hike along one of the many paths in the serene wooded area. Listen to the quiet sounds of nature and observe the beauty all around. View birds, butterflies, lizards, and turtles in the world where they live.

Timber Lane UD was not satisfied with just supplying their community of close to 5,000 homes with water and sewer services. A community needs parks where children can play, picnic, and discover the natural world. Communities also need places to hike and bike for both mental and physical health.

Execution – The Trails' project took a year of planning then another 13 months to complete the work.

Public Involvement – Over 200 volunteers worked on the Trails. Groups that contributed resources and man-hours are: Distinguished Service Graduate Program of Spring ISD, Houston Off Road Biking Association, Houston Master Naturalists, Boy Scouts of America, Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition, and REI with their National Trail Day Event. Also, volunteers from both Timber Lane and surrounding communities pitched in to assist.

Interlocal Agreements with Harris County Flood Control District made it possible to use their properties.

Innovation – The use of the Texas A&M Graduate Landscape Architect Program provided a level of expertise at a reasonable rate. The 'Sustainable Trail Building' class also added additional proficiency to the project. Talon Trails, a professional trail group, ensured that the Trails were designed and laid out correctly and have held up even after the Hurricane Ike.

Cost Effectiveness – The cost of the Trails was \$15,384 per mile. The project includes 5.2 miles of trails with eleven bridges and eight trail heads for a total of \$80,000.

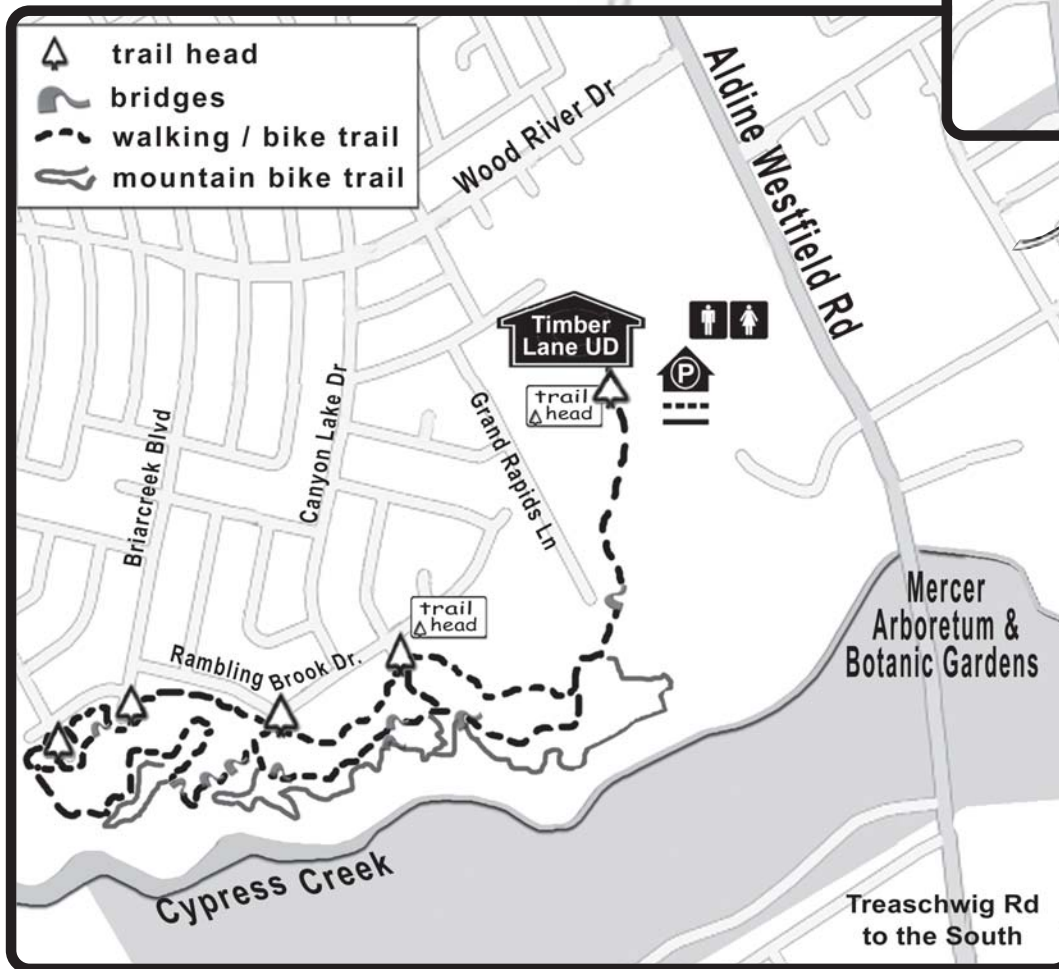
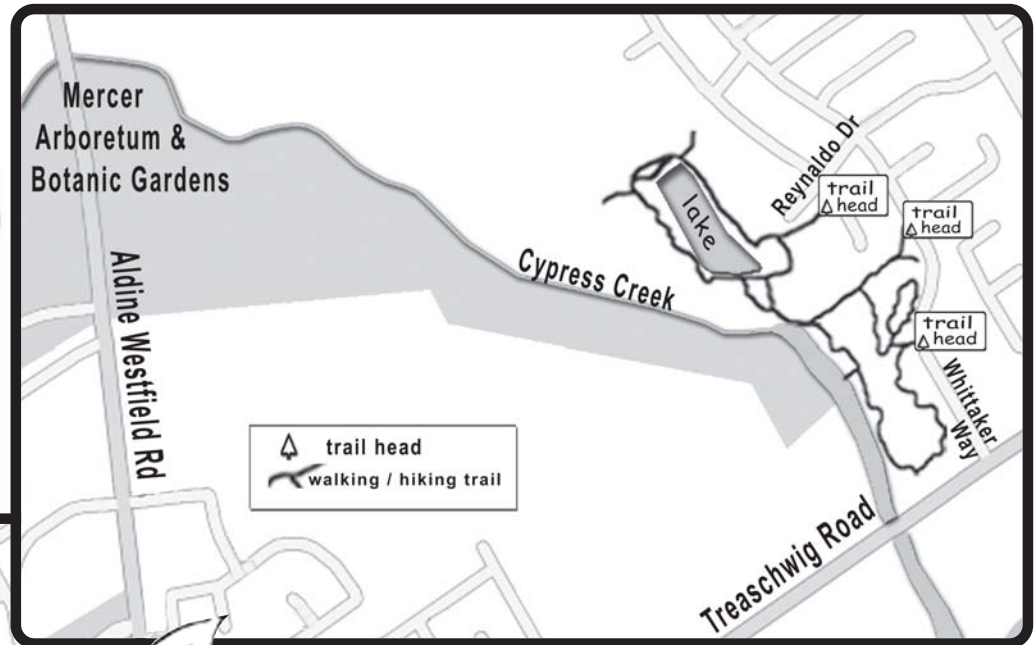
*Bud Gessel, Director / Parks Coordinator
Timber Lane Utility District
Phone: 281-288-9725
www.timberlaneud.com
2615 Ciderwood, Spring, Texas 77373*



Located in the heart of north Harris County, Timber Lane is 26 miles from Houston's downtown and between HWY 59 and the Hardy Toll Road. Coming from the south take the Hardy Toll Road to FM 1960, then east to Aldine Westfield Road and travel north a short distance (see maps on this page).

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) in 2007 awarded Timber Lane the Parks and Natural Area 'Best Management Practices' Award for project planning of the Trails.

In 2008, HGAC awarded Timber Lane UD's Trails the Award for the 'Best Parks and Natural Area Project' under \$500,000.



The Trails are comprised of 5.2 miles of natural surface paths that meander through beautiful wooded areas with Loblolly Pines and Cypress trees along with many other varieties of native plant species.

Half the paths on the Trails have a crushed granite surface to provide better weatherability and the other half is designed for mountain biking but are also excellent for hiking.

A trail close to the Timber Lane building and restrooms is handicap accessible with a bridge at one point to make the loop user friendly.

Timber Lane UD has not only provided an outstanding park, hike, and bike complex for their community but has also become excellent stewards of many acres of land, preserving natural habitat for wildlife and future generations.

The Trails are part of the Timber Lane Ultimate Master Parks Plan and the Cypress Creek Greenway Project.

Additional information about the Trails and Timber Lane UD can be found at their website, www.timberlaneud.com.