



# CULLINAN CLOSE UP

MAY 2018  
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## Looks what's happening in Cullinan Park

### Phase 1 improvements to begin this fall:

- Installation of permanent restroom
- Improvement and expansion of existing trails including a new lookout
- Beautification of the area around the pavilion and entry way.
- Permanent donor recognition wall

The funds for these enhancements have been made possible by the Cullinan Park Conservancy. Over \$1 Million has been raised and presented to the City of Sugar Land for continued capital improvements. A large part of these funds is due to a matching grant from The George Foundation.



Thank you to John Null and The George Foundation for their generous \$60,000 grant for Cullinan Park improvements! Mr. Null is outgoing President of the Board and this grant was bestowed in honor of his service to the Foundation. We are so appreciative of all the support both Mr. Null and The George Foundation have given the Conservancy - and thus, the Park - since we started working together a few years ago. THANK YOU!! Here, he presents the "big check" to CPC Development Committee Chairperson Nancy Olson and CPC Vice President Susie Goff. Photo courtesy The George Foundation.

From our  facebook page:

## SAVE THE DATE!

**2nd Annual Cullinan Picnic for the Park**

Friday, October 19th  
River Pointe Church

Stay tuned for details on a  
very exciting speaker!!!

## Big News At The Park!!!

**C**urrently, the Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) is clearing both sides of Oyster Creek thru the Park in preparation for much needed dredging of the creek.

The clearing along the North bank of the creek will not only benefit the drainage project, it will also greatly enhance the ability of Cullinan Park visitors to more fully utilize Oyster Creek.

The drainage project was not initially initiated at the Conservancy's request, but when Fort Bend County learned of the Conservancy's plans for hiking trails and a paddling trail along the creek, the County contacted the Conservancy.

Understanding how important these trails, with their large trees, would be for the Park, Fort Bend County and GCWA required the contractor to adjust their standard clearing method. Both sides of the creek were utilized so trees along the creek could be saved in preparation for dredging. The trees were hand tagged by GCWA, under direction of the City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation staff and a representative of Cullinan Park Conservancy.

**A BIG THANK YOU to GCWA  
and Fort Bend County!!!!**

# Cullinan Park History

**I**n 1983, Nina Cullinan's will bequeathed funds to the Houston Parks Board for a "place of beauty and peacefulness in the city" in memory of her parents. Over the next 5 years, the Parks Board identified and acquired this large tract that they foresaw would fulfill Nina's wishes.

Far from the City of Houston's base of operations, Cullinan Park was neglected for 25 years. Cullinan Park Conservancy was created to raise funds to restore it to its original vision.

The Conservancy is now guided by a Master Plan prepared by White Oak Studios.

## Have you seen our Anhinga

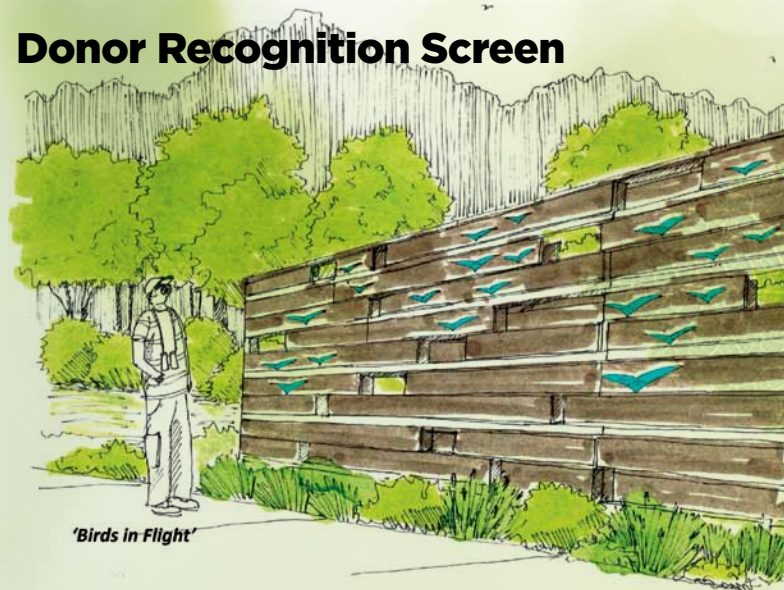


**T**he Cullinan Park logo is an Anhinga. Anhingas are bountiful in the Park. Anhingas are large and slender waterbirds with long fanlike tails that resemble a turkey's tail.

They're also known as "snake birds" because only the colored necks of these birds appear above the water when swimming so they look like snakes ready to strike. The word Anhinga comes from the Brazilian Tupi language meaning "snake bird."

In the the logo, it appears the Anhinga is stretching its wings to dry them, as they can often be spotted doing in their habitats, such as White Lake at Cullinan Park...

## Donor Recognition Screen



## What To See In The Park Now

- Pied-billed Grebes
- Red-shouldered Hawks
- American Coots
- Blue Jays
- Cedar Waxwings
- Yellow-rumped Warblers

AND take the trail to the "Large Pecan Tree" - about a 20-minute brisk walk from the Parking lot. This tree hosts a beehive, as well as beautiful long limbs that were obviously untouched or pruned over many years.

## Who is Cullinan Park Conservancy?

**C**PC is a small organization comprised of 12 board members from Houston and Fort Bend County and a part-time Executive Director.

Cullinan Park Conservancy's highest priority is raising money to support the blue-green oasis known as Cullinan Park. Unfortunately, for over 25 years, the park was not maintained properly which caused serious safety and invasive plant issues. Thankfully, since taking over operations in 2016, the City of Sugar Land Police and Parks Departments have been on-site daily to ensure visitors enjoy a safe and pleasant experience.

# Cullinan Park Founders Circle

**C**ullinan Park Conservancy kicked off its FOUNDERS CIRCLE giving program last fall. To date, 23 community members have stepped up to join at the starting level of \$1200.

Founders Circle donors receive unique benefits, in addition to the satisfaction, that funds will be used to improve Cullinan Park.

By investing in the Conservancy at this level, you are investing in the unique blue-green oasis that is home to a vast array of wildlife, including 230 species of birds.

You are also investing in an important respite for Fort Bend County residents and visitors from throughout Southwest Texas – a park that is as big as Central Park in New York City and nearly twice the size of Hermann Park in Houston.

Here is an example of what it takes to improve Cullinan Park:

- \$5,000 pays for 200 feet of new trail built
- \$10,000 pays for parking security lighting
- \$20,000 pays for one major trailhead (paving, benches, wayfinding sign, etc.)
- \$30,000 pays for canoe/kayak access platform
- \$50,000 pays for an overlook on White Lake (boardwalk/pier)
- \$100,000 pays for 2,000 linear feet of decomposed granite trail surfacing
- \$200,000 pays for a permanent restroom (building, not utilities)

## To join the Cullinan Park FOUNDERS CIRCLE

### Cullinan Park Conservancy

PO Box 422  
Sugar Land, TX 77478  
cullinainparkconservancy@gmail.com  
281-616-7860.

Cullinan Park Conservancy is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and contributions are tax-deductible under EIN# 45-4477343.



**Scientific Name:** *Pomacea maculata*, previously *P. insularum*

**Common Names:** Apple snail, giant apple snail, island apple snail, channeled apple snail

## Be a Good Apple! Combat Snail Invasion! See Eggs? See Snails? No eat eggs or snails!

### Where did they come from:



*Pomacea maculata*, a non-native apple snail from South America, has invaded the southeastern United States, including Texas! These apple snails should be considered pests because they threaten freshwater biodiversity, including within the greater Houston area. Flooding events may have contributed to their colonization and spread in recent years. Also, recent publications have synonymized *Pomacea maculata* with previously referred names “island apple snail” or *Pomacea insularum*.

## What's Next

We are currently working to the next \$1 Million for Phase 2 improvements which will include:

- Finishing the loop trail around White Lake,
  - Expanded parking,
  - A nature exploration area,
  - An overlook on the west side of White Lake
  - Upgrading the new restroom to an anaerobic system.
- Stay tuned for our upcoming fundraising events.



## Board of Directors 2018

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**Dee Koch**, Community Volunteer  
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For more information on the Park or Conservancy,  
visit [www.cullinanparkconservancy.org](http://www.cullinanparkconservancy.org),  
email [cullinanparkconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:cullinanparkconservancy@gmail.com) or call 281-616-7860.

# Cullinan Park Conservancy Announces 2018 Officers

**C**ullinan Park Conservancy (CPC) is pleased to announce the Officers of the Board of Directors for 2018.

Gary Tuma, retired CEO of Smart Financial Credit Union, will lead the Conservancy in his second term as President. Tuma has been a Cullinan Park goer for years and brings a strong financial and community background to the organization.

Susie Goff was elected Vice President. Goff was Secretary in 2017, as well as Marketing Committee Chairperson and a key volunteer for the Conservancy's inaugural fundraising luncheon in October. Goff is an involved Sugar Land resident who feels the Park is "a jewel just waiting to happen!"

Mary Von Tungeln was elected Secretary of the Board. Von Tungeln has been active in the Planning Committee for CPC and is a 27-year resident of Sugar Land. Having served on the Sugar Land City Council, numerous boards, commissions and task forces, she has a passion for preserving green spaces and parks for the community.

Robert "Bob" Richter was re-elected Treasurer for a second year. Richter is a municipal court judge in Missouri City living in Houston. He still makes time to be active in other parks and conservation organizations as well as the Conservancy.

## Nature Observation

Additional observation point to view the lake — added seating, and multi-height view openings.

