



## Sims Bayou Riparian Restoration

<b>Water Body</b>	Sims Bayou Above Tidal (Assessment Unit 1007D_02)
<b>Location</b>	Houston
<b>River Basin</b>	San Jacinto River
<b>Contractor</b>	Student Conservation Association, Inc. (SCA)
<b>Project Period</b>	February 11, 2017 - May 31, 2019
<b>Project Total</b>	\$438,797 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

### Background

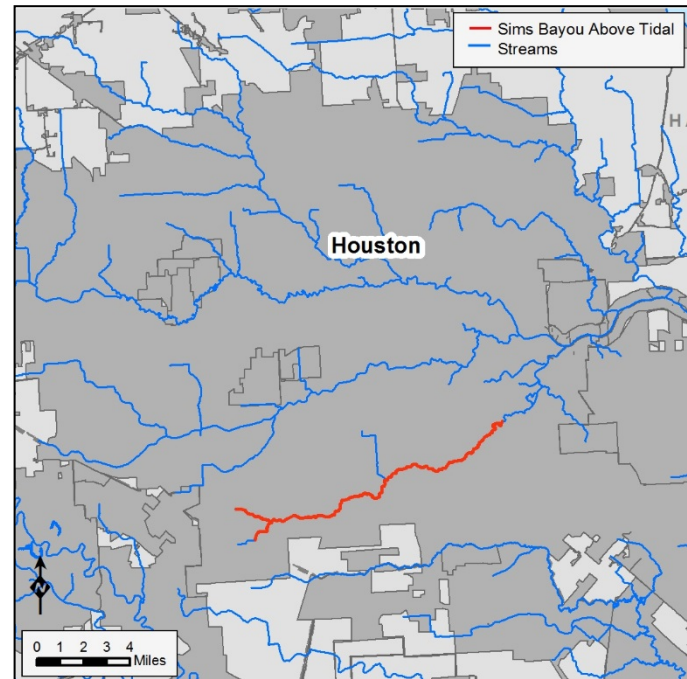
The Sims Bayou Above Tidal watershed encompasses approximately 64 square miles of urbanized land located southwest of Houston, Texas. Sims Bayou is considered impaired for contact recreation because it does not meet the standards for *E. coli*. In 2010, TCEQ published the Four Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Indicator Bacteria in Sims Bayou Above Tidal and Tributary for Segments 1007D and 1007N.

According to the TMDLs, potential sources of bacteria within the watershed are non-compliant wastewater treatment facility discharges, stormwater runoff from permitted storm sewer sources, sanitary sewer overflows, illicit discharges from storm sewers, failing on-site sewage facilities, and runoff from areas not covered by a permit.

### Project Description

This project targets assessment unit (AU) 1007D\_02 on the Sims Bayou Above Tidal segment which is impaired for bacteria. AU 1007D\_02 includes Milby Park, a 67-acre public park surrounded by an industrialized area. SCA will implement best management practices in this area including trash litter cleanup, erosion control using mulch and vegetation, habitat restoration in the riparian buffer, and public education.

SCA will recruit and train student crews and interns to restore two acres of the riparian zone in Milby Park along Sims Bayou. The restoration will slow the velocity of stormwater runoff and allow sediment to settle out, reducing the pollutant load to the waterbody. Interns will receive online and in-person training. In addition to establishing a riparian zone, this project will engage volunteers in trash cleanup and conservation activities at Milby Park and will provide for Texas Stream Team monitoring.



### Current Status

Interns and crews have been hired. Three publicized work events have occurred at Milby Park. Riparian restoration is ongoing. Regular Texas Stream Monitoring is occurring. Monthly volunteer events and weekly intern maintenance events are occurring at the project site.

### For More Information

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## Project Highlights

- 02/2017 – Contract executed.
- 03/2017 – Post-award meeting held at TCEQ.
- 03/2017 – Interns and crew members hired for the first year of project.
- 04/2017 – Earth Day cleanup event hosted at Milby Park with community volunteers invited to work with project staff and interns on restoring the site.
- 05/2017 – Texas Stream Team monitoring at Milby Park began.
- 06/2017 – Weekly and monthly cleanup and maintenance work days began at Milby Park.
- 07/2017 – Independence Day work day event hosted at Milby Park with community volunteers invited to plant trees with interns and project staff.
- 04/2018 – Earth Day work day event hosted at Milby Park with work focused on cleaning up debris from Hurricane Harvey.