

Cottage Grove Urgent Infrastructure Request

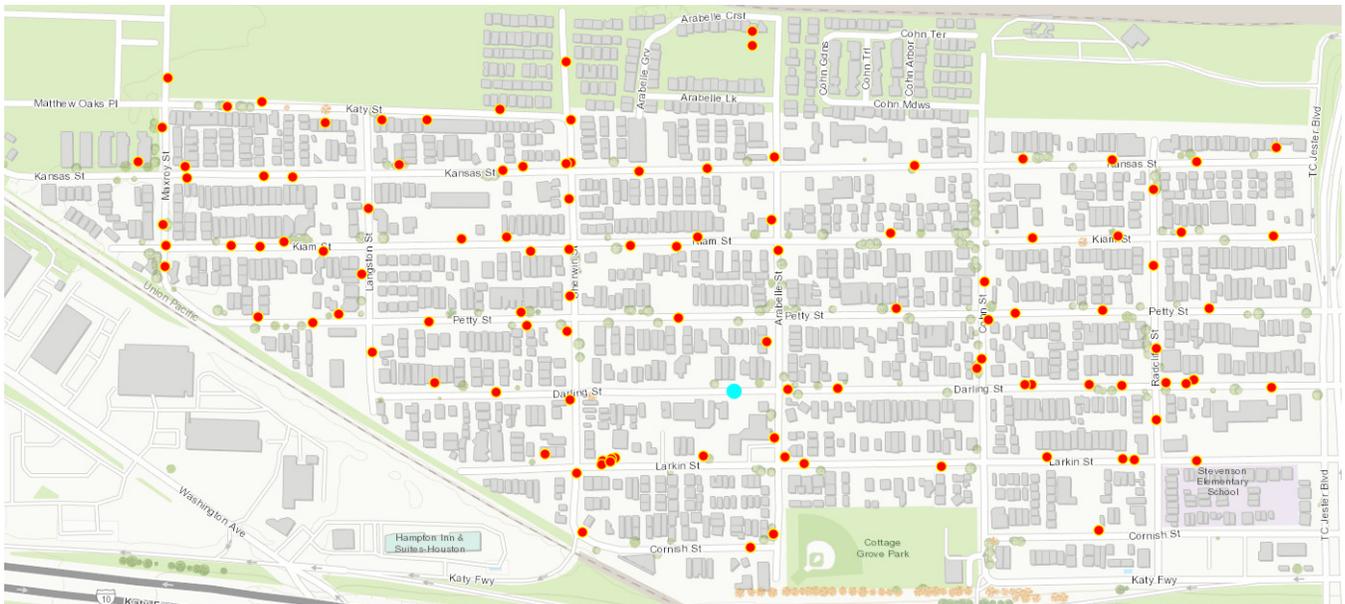
November 15, 2021

Background

Cottage Grove is a historic Houston neighborhood, established in 1910. It is roughly centered at TC Jester and I-10. Cottage Grove has a population density over three times the City average because of its relatively small size and large population of more than 5,846 residents.

Over Cottage Grove's long history, it is evident there has been a lack of investment in basic infrastructure from the City of Houston. Roads, sidewalks, drainage, and power lines are in a state of decay that residents struggle to navigate every day. The missing sidewalks, lack of emergency vehicle access, and poor drainage capacity create serious health and safety risks for the residents. This has been brought to the attention of City Officials in the past, but there has been no progress.

The Civic Association and its residents find the current situation unacceptable and have taken steps to document neighborhood infrastructure. We have utilized an ArcGIS survey tool to record 104 data points in the central and western portions of Cottage Grove. At each location, we measured the conditions of the road, sidewalk, drainage ditches, and overhead lines. The results of the survey are below.



Infrastructure Survey Locations

Key Findings



- 81% of roads are less than 20' wide and do not meet the minimum width of the Houston Fire Department Code.
- 27% of drainage ditches are in poor condition. This means collapsed or completely filled in.
- 32% of power lines are drooping severely or have tree interference
- 20% of Sidewalks are completely missing. This is scattered across the neighborhood, so not a single block is whole.

Action Items

We request that the City of Houston immediately address these issues and bring forward a capital project to install basic infrastructure in all of Cottage Grove. This would include streets, sidewalks, drainage and power/data line remediation.

Capital Improvement Plans include a delayed project in Cottage Grove East, but we insist on the entirety of Cottage Grove to receive this same capital investment plus the added investment of covered ditches and buried utilities. **We also insist that the Cottage Grove East project move forward in 2022** rather than deferred 2023 as currently planned.

Please consider this letter a formal notification from the residents of Cottage Grove of serious safety and health hazards due to our failing infrastructure. We will hold the City and its leadership completely accountable going forward.

We look forward to hearing your plan to fix these urgent issues.

Sincerely,

Cottage Grove Civic Association Leadership, on behalf of the concerned citizens of Cottage Grove

Ian Fortney, *President*

Katie Niemann, *Secretary*

John M. Lynk, *Infrastructure Chair*

Drew Wiley, *Vice President*

Rob Burke, *Treasurer*

Feng Feng, *Infrastructure Vice Chair*