

# LAKEs OF HOMETOWN & HABITAT PRESERVATION



## The Lakes

The Lakes of HomeTown not only add an aesthetic appeal to the surrounding neighborhoods, but are also buffer zones that act as a sponge by soaking up runoff from these areas during rain events, thus providing some protection from widespread flooding. The lakes also act to protect nearby ecosystems from becoming flooded and water logged which could have an adverse effect on that ecosystem's plant ecology and wildlife.

## Natural Preserve

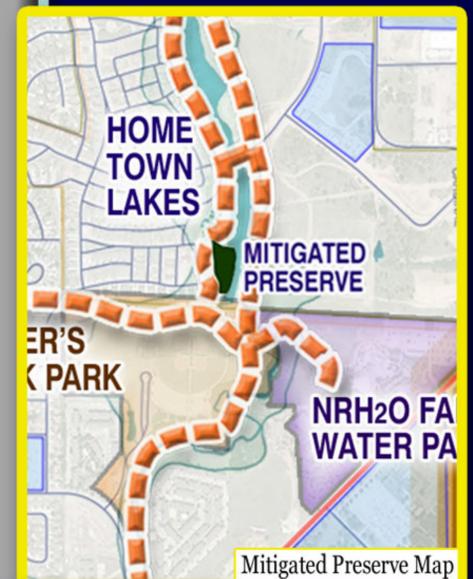
When Walker's Creek Hike and Bike Trail was developed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a federal permit that preserved an area of natural vegetation and habitat surrounding the lakes (displayed on the map to the right). As a condition of this permit, or wetland mitigation, the City of North Richland Hills is obligated to restore and preserve the native trees, vines and other vegetation within the natural habitat area.

## Wildlife

Many species of aquatic birds, such as ducks and geese, can be seen floating along the HomeTown Lakes and, quite often, walking in nearby areas such as the Walker's Creek Trail. They rely on a variety of food sources such as grasses, aquatic plants, fish, insects, small amphibians, and worms. Bluegills, often referred to as Perch, begin spawning when water temperatures reach about 70°F. Nests are created in shallow water, one to two feet in depth. Fifty or more nests may be crowded into a small area, thus creating a spawning bed. Young fish feed on plankton, but as they grow their diet shifts to aquatic insects and their larvae.

## Native & Adaptive Plants

Bushy bluestem is an erect, tufted perennial grass that may grow to 3 feet tall. The leaves have narrow, elongated blades approximately 3/8 of an inch wide, and tend to turn copper to orange in the fall. Numerous groupings of the spikelets are aggregated together to form a bushy terminal cluster, which gives the plant its name. Cattail grow along lake margins and in marshes, often in dense colonies. The plant's root systems help prevent erosion, and the plants themselves are often home to many insects, birds and amphibians.



Mitigated Preserve Map



Mitigated Preserve



Cattail



Bushy Bluestem



Perch



Waterfowl