

Keeping you up to date on the community planning, economic development, and environmental planning programs at H-GAC.



Your Monthly News & Updates

Upcoming Events

Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable - July 9

The next [Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable](#) will be from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. **Monday, July 9**, at H-GAC Conference Room A, Second Floor.

Speakers will include Marlon Conley with the Trust for Public Land, and Tim May with Half Associates, Inc. A roundtable discussion will follow the presentations, and the group will discuss changes to the annual PNA awards timeline and recognition event.

The [Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable](#) serves as a forum for discussion of parks and natural areas in the H-GAC region and is open to anyone who would like to participate.

[Registration](#) is requested. For more information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#) at 832-681-2507.



Buy-outs, Acquisitions, Elevations Workshop - July 13

Join H-GAC for a voluntary [Buy-outs, Acquisitions, and Elevations workshop](#) from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Friday, July 13**, at H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor.

The workshop will bring together professionals with extensive knowledge on voluntary buy-outs, acquisitions, and elevations in the region. Local practitioners and state agencies will share their strategies and resources to develop a program for local communities.

[Registration](#) is requested. For more information, contact [Joey Kaspar](#) at 713-993-4547.



Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable - July 24



H-GAC's next [Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable](#) will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon **Tuesday, July 24**, at the West Columbia Civic Center, 512 East Brazos, West Columbia.

Jaimie Masterson, Associate Director of [Texas Target Communities](#), will discuss planning and technical assistance services available to small and rural communities. The group will also hear from small business owners in Rosenberg about how to engage and collaborate with local businesses to reduce vacancy and build a better commercial corridor.

[Registration](#) is requested. For more information, contact [Clint McManus](#) at 832-681-2513.

Hosting a Pharmaceutical Take Back Event Roundtable - July 26



Join H-GAC for Hosting a Pharmaceutical Take Back Event roundtable from 10 a.m. to noon **Thursday, July 26**, at H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor.

Local agencies and organizations interested in hosting a take back event as part of the Drug Enforcement Agency's collection efforts in April and October each year can hear tips from people who have hosted multiple events. Featured presenters include Cheryl Burton-Fentress with Harris County and Becki Begley with H-GAC.

[Registration](#) is requested. For more information, contact, [Erin Livingston](#) at 832-681-2525

Housing for the Future: A Regional Conversation - August 17



Join H-GAC for [Housing for the Future: A Regional Conversation](#) from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Friday, August 17**, at H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor.

This summit will bring together housing experts and local officials from across the region to discuss a broad vision for the region's housing and the specific strategies that can be used to increase housing availability, quality, and choice across rural, suburban, and urban communities.

Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. [Registration](#) is requested. For more information, contact [Amy Combs](#) at 713-993-4544 or [Clint McManus](#) at 832-681-2513.

Regional Recycling Roundtable - August 23



The next [Regional Recycling Roundtable](#) will be from 10 a.m. to noon **Thursday, August 23**, at H-GAC Conference Room A, Second Floor. The topic will be tire recycling.

This roundtable series provides education/outreach to bring new ideas and knowledge to local governments, solid waste businesses, and interested residents on a wide range of recycling-related topics.

[Registration](#) is requested. For more information, contact [Becki Begley](#) at 713-993-2410.

Announcements

H-GAC Seeks Feedback on Hurricane Harvey Funding Draft Method of Distribution



H-GAC is seeking input on the [draft method of distribution](#) (MOD) of \$241 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funding to counties and local jurisdictions for buyout/acquisition and infrastructure projects associated with Hurricane Harvey. The allocation includes \$111 million for a local buyout/acquisition program and \$130 million for local infrastructure projects in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Waller, Walker, and Wharton counties.

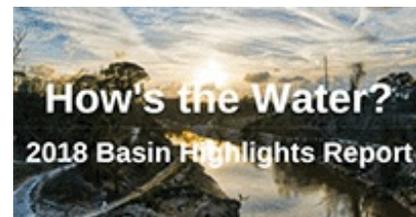
H-GAC will accept written comments on the MOD through **4 p.m. Friday, July 6**. Comments can be made [online](#), mailed to H-GAC (Attention Jeff Taebel), or hand-delivered. More information about the comment period and methods for delivering comments are published [online](#).

H-GAC Releases Interactive Report on Socio-Economic Changes



The Socioeconomic Modeling team at H-GAC released a new [Interactive Regional Growth Report](#). It compares key demographic and socio-economic changes of the Houston-Galveston Region to other major metropolitan areas in the US over the past few decades. It helps understand the reasons, strengths and potential challenges behind the region's growth.

How's the Water? 2018 Basin Highlights Report Available Online



The H-GAC [Clean Rivers Program](#) publishes an annual report for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality summarizing the state of water quality in the region.

The [2018 Basin Highlights Report](#) includes a regional water quality summary and trends analysis, detailed characterizations of three watersheds, and a technical water quality primer. The report is accessible online with interactive maps, photos, and graphics.

Partner Announcements

2019 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards

Each year, the Governor's Office and commissioners from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality honor the state's most outstanding environmental projects through the [Texas Environmental Excellence Awards](#). Winners from across the state exemplify how Texans set the standard for ensuring clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste. [The application period for the 2019 awards is now open](#). Winners will be honored at an awards banquet held on **May 15, 2019**, where videos of the winning projects will be featured. [See the winner videos for 2018](#). Applications will be accepted through **Friday, September 28**.



2018 EPA Region 6 Outstanding GI/LID Project Competition

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 is seeking abstracts for outstanding Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development projects to be highlighted at the [EPA Region 6 Stormwater Conference](#)



August 19-23 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Students and professionals are invited to [submit abstracts](#) by **Monday, July 9**. The [call for project abstracts](#) and [competition rules](#) are available online. For more information, contact Nichole Young at 214-665-6447 or Suzanna Perea at 214-665-7217.

NADO Innovation Awards

Each year, the [National Association of Development Organizations](#) recognizes member organizations that demonstrate innovative approaches to regional economic and community development through the [Innovation Awards](#) program. Previous award-winning projects have showcased innovative efforts in a variety of program areas including business and economic development, community health initiatives, emergency planning, brownfields, sustainability, technology, transportation, and workforce development. Applications are due **Friday, July 20**. For more information, contact [Brett Schwartz](#) or [Laurie Thompson](#).



Texas Main Street Designation Application

The Texas Historical Commission is accepting applications from cities interested in becoming designated [Main Street Communities](#). Each year, the Texas Historical Commission may select up to five cities for official Main Street Designation. Communities selected this year will enter the program in January 2019. Main Street is an economic development program focusing on small business development, using reuse of historic properties and historic preservation as primary tools. Full applications are due **Tuesday, July 31**. Main Street communities in the region are Bay City, Huntsville, Rosenberg, and Sealy.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

STAR Summit Exhibitor, Sponsor Packets Available

[State of Texas Alliance for Recycling \(STAR\) 2018 Summit exhibitor](#) and [sponsor](#) packets are available for the annual conference set for **October 28-31** in Galveston. Approximately 200 to 300 professionals representing private sector companies, government, academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and trade associations attend the summit each year. The summit features educational sessions, equipment demonstrations, round table discussions, and training opportunities. The deadline to guarantee sponsorship benefits is **Wednesday, August 1**.



More Upcoming Events

Center for Houston's Future Summer Salons

[The Center for Houston's Future](#) is hosting [three monthly summer salons](#) at 7:30 a.m. at the Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston. These casual breakfast conversations will bring big-picture thinkers and regional experts together with broader audiences for an extended discussion on regional issues, with a focus on the next steps for creating a sustainable and competitive Houston region. Registration is \$30 per person and includes a seated breakfast. [Registration](#) for all three is \$60 per person. Upcoming salons include Follow the Dollars: Tracking Houston's Economic Vitality, **Tuesday, July 10**; Follow the Construction: Development in the Post-Harvey World, **Wednesday, August 8**; and Follow the Big Ideas: Smart Cities, **Wednesday, September 13**.



America Walks Free Webinars

[America Walks](#) is hosting [free monthly webinars](#) at 1 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. These webinars look to expand knowledge, highlight success stories, and share new tools and resources. Registration is required. Upcoming webinars include [Opportunities for Walkability in Rural Communities and Small Towns](#), **July 11**; [Act Fast: The Growing Call of Slower Speeds](#), **August 8**; [Pedestrians are People Too: The Criminalization of Walking](#), **September 12**; [Walk Into Action: Walking and Walkability Policy Issues](#), **October 10**; [Where Do We Go Next? Mapping and Tracking in the Future](#), **November 14**; and [On a Sustainable Path: The Role of Walkability in Addressing Climate Change](#), **December 12**.



TDA TxCDBG Workshop

Texas Department of Agriculture will host a TxCDBG 2018 Implementation Manual workshop in Huntsville at 8:30 a.m. on **Thursday, July 19**, at the Walker County Storm Shelter, 455 Highway 75, Huntsville. Participants will receive their 2018 TxCDBG Administrator certification. [Registration](#) is

required.

Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable

[Registration](#) is open for the [Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable](#) from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, July**

24, at Texas A&M University, Thomas G. Hildebrand Equine Complex, 3240 F&B Road (Andras B Classroom), College Station. Lunch is \$10. For more information, contact [Nathan Glavy](#).



Gulf of Mexico Alliance Wednesday Webinars

The [Gulf of Mexico Alliance \(GOMA\)](#) is hosting a [Wednesday Webinar series](#) at 2 p.m., the last Wednesday of every other month. [Join](#) to learn about resources and projects from around the Gulf. Preregistration is not required. Upcoming webinars include: Microplastics (Eric Sparks), **July 25**; Tool Highlights (Dave Reed), **September 26**; and HAB Detection (Kate Hubbard), **November 28**.



Wetland Delineation Training Course

[Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies \(TRIES\) Aquatic Lab](#) is hosting a Wetland Delineation training course **July 30-August 3** at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville. This intensive training course adheres to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Wetland Delineator Certification Program criteria, and students will gain the legal, theoretical and technical skills necessary to proficiently delineate wetlands. More information, including registration and costs, is available on the TRIES website or by contacting [Kaitlen Gary](#) at 936-294-2501.



Urban Riparian and Stream Restoration Program Workshop

Texas Riparian Association is hosting the [Urban Riparian and Stream Restoration Program workshop](#) from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Thursday, August 16**, at The Recreation Center at Bear Branch Park - Live Oak Room, 5310 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands. [The training](#) will focus on natural design processes for stream restoration projects. Registration is limited to the first 40 people. The cost is \$100 and includes all training materials, lunch, and a certificate of completion. [Registration](#) is required by **Monday, August 13**.

Texas Riparian Association

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Master Gardeners Composter Training

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Association are hosting a [three-day composter specialist event](#) from 10 a.m. to noon **December 5-7** at the AgriLife Extension Office, 1402 Band Road, Suite 100, Rosenberg. This training is sanctioned by the Texas Master Gardener program, and the 24 attendees will receive the title of "Composter Specialist." More information, including an [agenda and registration](#), is available online.



News and Notes

Timmons Talkers Toastmasters Club Starts at H-GAC

[Toastmasters International](#), the world's leading communication and leadership development organization, recently chartered a new club at H-GAC.

[Timmons Talkers](#) is open to anyone who would like to attend and meets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays in one of the H-GAC conference rooms on the second floor (specific room will be posted). More information is available [online](#).



Guests are invited to bring their lunch and see the fun the group has while learning to be better speakers and leaders.

Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan Targets 24% in

Nature-based Infrastructure by 2040

The 8-county [Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan \(Gulf-Houston RCP\)](#), comprised of over 100 governmental, environmental, academic, and business groups with a diverse steering committee, announced the public launch of the Gulf-Houston RCP's 24% by 2040 Nature-based Infrastructure Strategy - a collaboration to improve the quality of life in the 8-county region through increases in protected/ preserved land-use in Harris, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties.



The strategy is available online as an [interactive project map](#) and [downloadable document](#).

Community Resilience Collaborative Provides Resources to Area Communities

The [Community Resilience Collaborative \(CRC\)](#) is a research- and extension-based coastal planning program that combines the reach and resources of the Texas Sea Grant College Program and Texas Target Communities (TTC).



The CRC provides technical assistance for planning, outreach and education aimed at coastal communities, particularly resource managers, land use planners and emergency managers who deal with hazard mitigation. Planning is emphasized to address critical land use, environmental, hazard mitigation and disaster recovery issues through coastal planning. Priority is placed on providing planning assistance to low-capacity, low-resource and/or underrepresented communities.

For more information regarding the CRC, contact [Heather Wade](#) at 979-845-3855.

Funding Sources

Texas Water Development Board Flood Protection Grants



The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has posted a request for applications (RFA) for \$1.8 million in grants for flood protection planning, flood early warning systems, and flood response strategies.

Applications will be accepted until 2 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 11**. The TWDB anticipates announcing the recipients of the grant funding in September 2018.

All political subdivisions in Texas with the authority to plan for and implement projects related to flood protection are eligible to apply. The TWDB will review applications and award the grants based on criteria outlined in the RFA.

The full RFA is available on the [TWDB's website](#).

For additional information, please contact [Ivan Ortiz](#) at 512-463-8184.

H-GAC Septic System Repair/ Replacement Funding Program

H-GAC has funding available for the repair or replacement of failing traditional or aerobic on-site sewage facilities (septic systems) in the H-GAC service region.

EDA Harvey Recovery Grants

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Austin regional office received \$129,119,000 in supplemental funding for disaster relief and is actively seeking projects to help communities in the Houston-Galveston region recover from Hurricane Harvey.



The recently released [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) outlines the requirements, which include the following:

- Projects require a 20 percent match, which can include in-kind
- Typical projects will range from \$1-\$2.5 million
- First round of 14-15 applications anticipated to be funded by September 2018, with 1 or 2 subsequent rounds of funding
- Must demonstrate a nexus to Harvey, in terms of economic recovery or resilience
- Eligible applicants include governments, nonprofits, and universities

For more information, contact [Robert Peche](#) of the EDA.

H-GAC has compiled a list of [local, regional, state, federal, and private funding sources](#) for local governments and other organizations. H-GAC also maintains a list of ongoing [funding opportunities for parks improvements](#).

If you know of a funding opportunity, forward it to [Andrea Tantillo](#).

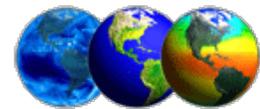
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Community and Environmental Planning Programs

Mapping Applications

Looking for interactive applications or GIS data related to the H-GAC Community and Environmental Planning Department? Visit H-GAC's [interactive applications web page](#) to see the latest information, including Census, Regional Forecast, and more.



Facebook

H-GAC has a [Facebook page](#) where information about current and upcoming events is posted. Please visit and like H-GAC's page. While there, visit other H-GAC pages on Facebook, including [Recycling](#), [Trash Bash](#), [Regional Data Lab](#), [Bacteria Implementation Group](#) (BIG), [West Fork Watersheds Partnership](#), and [Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership](#).



Twitter

Find the latest information about activities around the region at H-GAC's Twitter feed [@hgaccog](#). H-GAC's water resources program also offers Twitter updates on water quality issues in the region [@HGACwater](#).



Banner Photo: A fisherman tosses a cast net from a dock into Armand Bayou at Bay Area Park. Bay Area Park in Harris County Precinct 2 is one of the many parks and natural areas in the H-GAC region.

Would you like us to consider featuring your municipality, program, or regional photo on the C&E Planning Update banner? Just forward [Andrea Tantillo](#) your picture, along with some information about the subject and the photographer, and you might see it in a future month's new sletter.

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