Cotton Bayou Implementation Status

Date of Status Report: 08/31/26

I-Plan Approval Date: 07/09/25

TCEQ Project Manager: Jazmyn Milford

Responsible Parties and Common Abbreviations

AA – Authorized Agent
BMP – Best Management Practice
HARC – Houston Advanced Research Center
HDR- Henningson, Durham & Richardson, Inc.
H-GAC – Houston-Galveston Area Council
NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRI - Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute
OSSF – On-site Sewage Facility
RUS – Rural Utilities Service
SSO – Sanitary Sewer Overflows
SWCD - Soil and Water Conservation District
TCEQ – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TEEX - Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service
TGLO - Texas General Land Office
TPWD – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSSWCB – Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
TWRI – Texas Water Resources Institute
USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture
WWTF – Wastewater Treatment Facility

Management Measures

Implementation Strategy 1: Reduce Stormwater Sources Such as Pet Waste and Illegal Dumping

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status
Local governments, H-GAC, watershed coordinator	1.1. Collaborate on proposals to fund pet waste stations and educational material delivery	**Year One:** o Identify local partners to develop and submit proposals for funding o Develop proposals for pet waste stations o Number of local partners reached	Not Started

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status
Local governments, H-GAC, watershed coordinator	1.2. Identify locations to conduct channel investigations for illicit discharges and illegal dumping	**Year One:** o Number of locations identified o Number of individuals, groups, or communities reached for collaboration **Years 4-5:** Number of illicit discharge and illegal dumping detection investigations conducted	Not Started
Local governments, H-GAC, watershed coordinator	1.3. Installation and maintenance of pet waste stations and distribution of associated education and outreach materials	**Years 2-5:** o Installation and servicing of a total of 28 stations o Number of individuals, groups, or communities reached. o Amount of outreach materials delivered	On 9/2/25, examples of pet waste ordinances were sent to the City of Mont Belvieu as they do not have a set ordinance in place. After the 08/04/26 annual meeting, H-GAC reached out to the City of Mont Belvieu to determine if there's any change to this.
H-GAC, watershed coordinator, local governments, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, TPWD	1.4. Plan/initiate a stormwater/riparian project (coordinate with Implementation Strategy 3)	**Year Two:** Number of partners identified **Years 2–3:** Develop a proposal for a minimum of one available funding grant. **Years 2-5:** o Completion of stormwater/ riparian demonstration project o Area or stream miles of preserved, protected, or enhanced riparian corridor.	Not Started
H-GAC, watershed coordinator	1.5. Coordinate a stormwater outreach event as part of a watershed workshop	**Years 2–3:** o Completion of stormwater outreach event o Number of individuals, groups, or communities reached.	Not Started
H-GAC	1.6. Provide progress report	**Year Five:** Submission of progress report	Not Started

Implementation Strategy 2: Promote safe OSSF use and maintenance

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status
H-GAC, watershed coordinator	2.1. Homeowner workshop	**Year One and/or Year Four:** o Number of attendees o Number of workshops	Planning to collaborate with HARC to present H-GAC's OSSF Homeowner Training Program at their OSSF-focused workshop in FY27.
H-GAC, AAs, watershed coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, TGLO, USDA RUS	2.2. OSSFs remediation	**Years 2–5:** At least nine OSSFs repaired, replaced, or connected to centralized wastewater systems	At the 06/18/2025 meeting, the City of Mont Belvieu shared that they are annexing a nearby subdivision and will have those residential properties convert their OSSFs to city sanitary sewer services. As of the 08/04/2026 meeting, the project is currently in the early design phase. H-GAC reached out to the City to determine if they have an estimated number of OSSFs the project will address.
H-GAC, AAs, watershed coordinator, real estate agents/inspectors	2.3. Host home inspector training course	**Year Two and/or Year Four:** o Number of attendees o Number of training courses	Not Started
H-GAC	2.4. Provide progress report	**Year Five**: Submission of progress report	Not Started

Implementation Strategy 3: Support land management initiatives

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status
H-GAC	3.1. Host riparian buffer workshop	**Year One and/or Year Four:** o Number of workshops held o Number of attendees	Cotton Bayou Riparian & Stream Restoration Workshop held on 8/24/26. o Guest speakers: TWRI, Texas A&M Forest Service, NRI, HDR, Inc. o Number of attendees: 15
H-GAC, TSSWCB, NRCS, SWCD, watershed coordinator, TPWD, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	3.2. Agricultural BMP workshop	**Year Two and/or Year Four:** o Number of workshops held o Number of attendees	Not Started. Planning to reach out to TSSWCB/SWCD to host a workshop in Year Two
H-GAC, watershed coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, TPWD	3.3. Plan/initiate a stormwater/riparian project (coordinate with Implementation Strategy 1)	**Year Two:** Number of partners identified **Years 2-5:** o Completion of stormwater/ riparian demonstration project. o Area or stream miles of preserved, protected, or enhanced riparian corridor.	Not Started
H-GAC, watershed coordinator, TSSWCB, SWCD, NRCS, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, TPWD, landowners/producers	3.4. Development water quality management plans (WQMPs) and conservation management plans (CMPs)	**Years 3-5:** o Develop at least one WQMP per year o Develop at least one CMP per year **Years 4-5:** o Number of status reviews on existing WQMPs o Number of landowners/producers reached	Not Started. Plan to work with SWCD and TSSWCB to identify landowners in watershed in Year Two.
H-GAC	3.5. Provide progress report	**Year Five**: Submission of progress report	Not Started.

Implementation Strategy 4: Promote feral hog management

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status
H-GAC, watershed coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	4.1. Hog control measures	**Years 1-5:** o Number of feral hogs removed per year o Number of voluntary efforts implemented o Number of landowners, groups, or communities reached via outreach materials o Amount of outreach materials delivered	Not Started
H-GAC	4.2. Hosting of feral hog workshop	**Years 2-3:** o Number of workshops held o Number of attendees	Cotton Bayou Riparian & Stream Restoration Workshop held on 8/24/26. o Guest speakers: TWRI, Texas A&M Forest Service, NRI, HDR, Inc. o Number of attendees: 15
H-GAC	4.3. Provide progress report	**Year Five:** Submission of progress report	Not Started

Implementation Strategy 5: Improve WWTF and sanitary sewer collection function

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status
H-GAC, TCEQ, watershed coordinator, TEEX, water professional associations	5.1. Develop permittee list	**Year One:** List of permittees to include in technical assistance workshops	Plan to develop list in FY27.

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Schedule	Status
H-GAC, watershed coordinator, local governments, USDA RUS	5.2. Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) blockage prevention campaign	**Year One:** o Initiate planning of FOG blockage prevention campaign o Number of partners identified **Years 2-5:** o Number of individuals, groups, or communities reached o Amount of outreach materials delivered **Year Three:** Conduct one home and business owner general outreach/FOG campaign workshop **Year Five:** Assess reduction of the number of SSOs due to infrastructure repairs/replacements	Not Started
H-GAC, watershed coordinator, TCEQ, local governments, TEEX, water professional associations	5.3. WWTF technical assistance workshops	**Year Two:** Conduct one technical assistance workshop **Year Four:** Conduct one technical assistance workshop **Years 2-4:** o Number of attendees o Number of individuals and organizations	Not Started
H-GAC	5.4. Provide progress report	**Year Five:** Submission of progress report	Not Started

Summary of Implementation

The primary focus in FY26 and FY27 is hosting a series of workshops to provide education and outreach and to draw in interest/new stakeholders and partners within the watershed. The annual meeting on 08/04/26 and riparian/feral hog workshop on 08/24/26 saw an increased number of attendees from what H-GAC is typically used to seeing, indicating renewed interest in the project. H-GAC will continue to develop the stakeholder contact list throughout the life of the project. For FY27 and beyond, H-GAC will be working to identify and collaborate with local governments and other external partners to begin the planning process for various implementation strategies.