



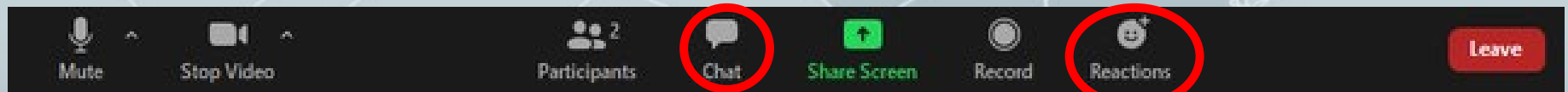
Clean Waters Initiative

Efforts to Improve the Region's
Water Quality

August 26, 2021

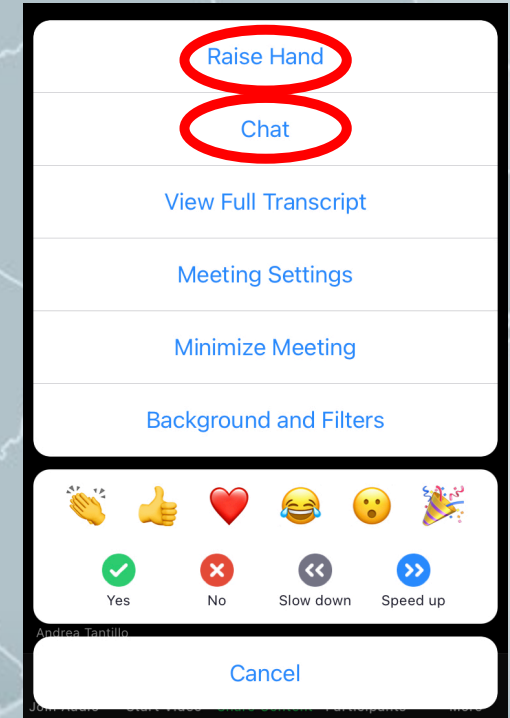
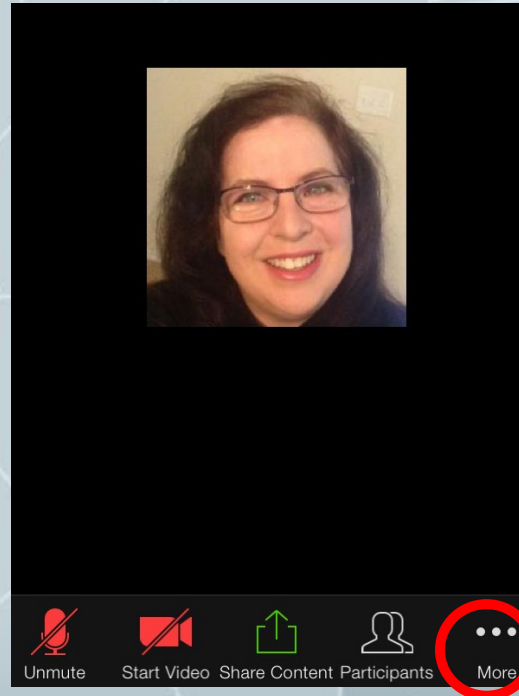
Online Meeting Notes

- The meeting is being recorded
- Microphones will be muted, and cameras turned off
- Ask your questions using the chat function or
- Use the Reactions button to raise your hand to be asked to unmute
- Use *9 to raise your hand if you are calling in on your phone



Handheld Device Tools

- Access chat or raise your hand using the 3 dots at the bottom of the screen



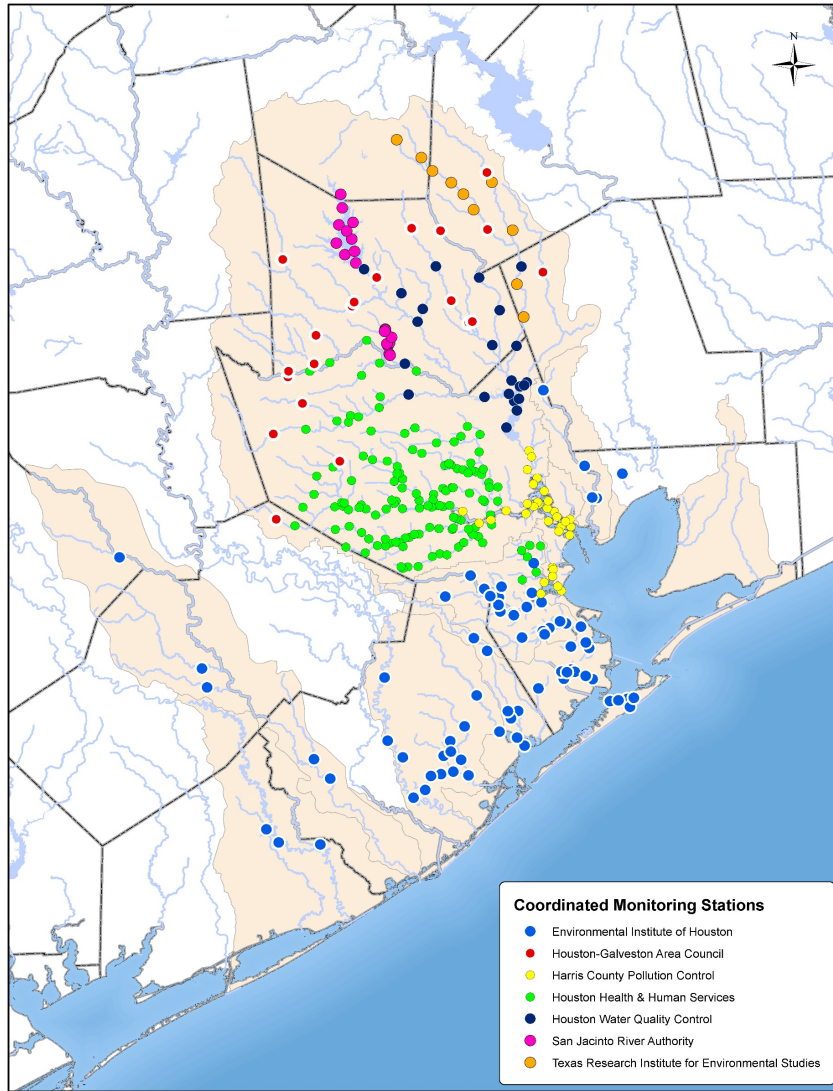
H-GAC's Efforts to Improve the Region's Water Quality

Watershed-based Plans Introduction

Todd Running, Program Manager

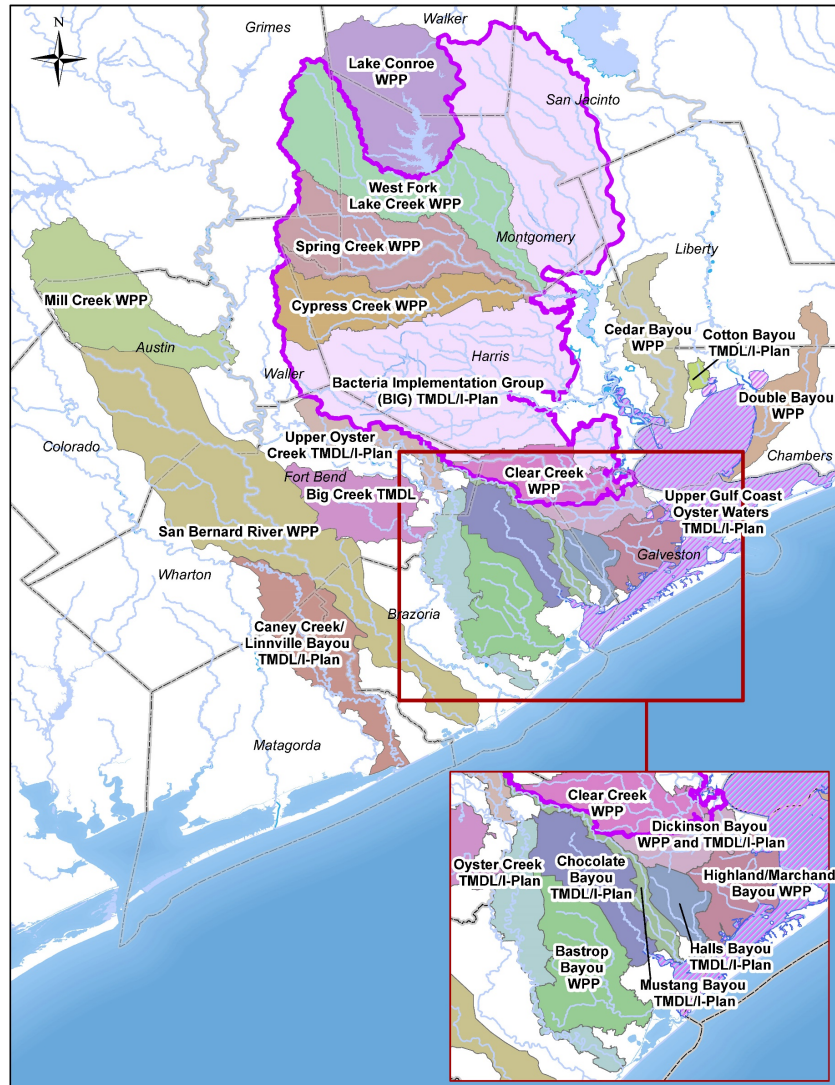
August 26, 2021

Coordinated Monitoring



- Clean Rivers Program Monitoring
- Over 400 Water Quality Monitoring Stations
- Eight Local Partners

Watershed Based Planning



- Watershed Protection Plans
- Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plans

Plan Implementation



On-Site Sewage Facilities



Pet Waste Stations



Targeted Monitoring



Public Education

Agenda

- 1:30 p.m. Watershed-based Plans Introduction.....Todd Running
- 1:35 p.m. Septic System Outreach and Education.....Brian Sims
- 1:50 p.m. Septic System Repair and Replacement.....Daniel Albanese
- 2:05 p.m. Non-point Source Education.....Kendall Guidroz
- 2:20 p.m. Urban Forestry/Riparian Cover.....Justin Bower
- 2:35 p.m. Green Infrastructure.....Steven Johnston
- 2:50 p.m. Targeted Monitoring.....Jessica Casillas
- 3:05 p.m. Closing & Breakout Instructions.....Todd Running
- 3:10 p.m. Watershed-specific Breakout Sessions.....All

H-GAC's Efforts to Improve the Region's Water Quality

On-Site Sewage Facility Outreach and Education

Brian Sims, Senior Planner

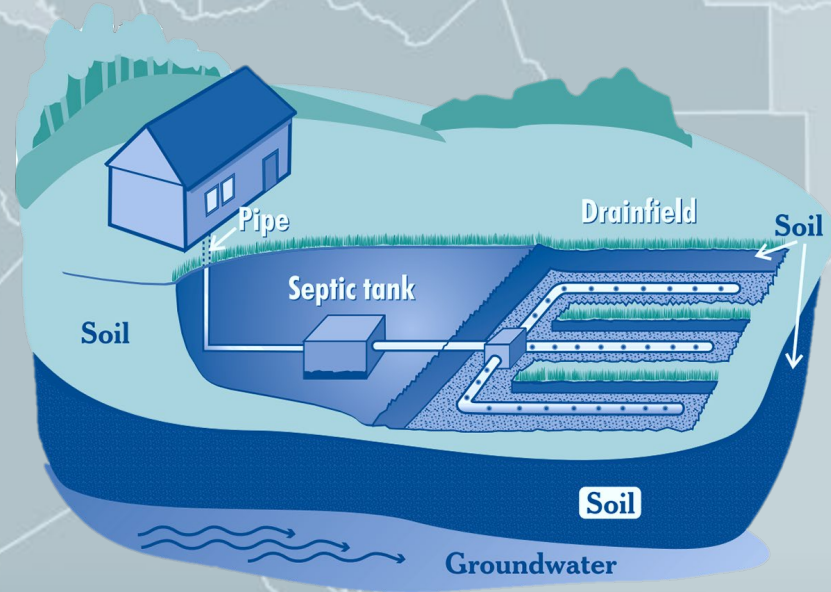
August 26, 2021

Introduction to On-Site Sewage Facilities

On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs)

treat up to 5,000 gallons/day of residential or commercial wastewater “on-site”

- Utilized in areas where connection to a residential sanitary sewer collection system is not available.
- Refers to both conventional septic systems and aerobic treatment unit.
- Provide effective and appropriate wastewater treatment if they are properly designed, installed, operated, and maintained



Source: epa.gov

OSSFs and Wastewater Treatment

OSSFs treat sewage and remove contaminants before they reach groundwater or surface water.

- Organic materials
- Nutrients
 - Phosphorus
 - Nitrogen
- Pathogens
 - Bacteria
 - Viruses
 - Parasites



Failing OSSFs and Water Quality Impairments

When OSSFs fail, wastewater does not receive adequate treatment

- Source of bacteria, other pathogens, and nutrients
- Can contaminate groundwater and surface water

Factors in system failure:

- Lack of maintenance
- System age
- Inappropriate system design
- Inappropriate soil type
- Hydraulic overload
- Alteration of the drainfield



“Grandfathered” systems (installed before permit requirements were in place) are often not as efficient as new systems and are more prone to failure.

Failing OSSFs and Water Quality Impairments (cont.)

- Malfunctioning systems can contribute significant nutrient and bacteria loads to waterways, particularly those in close proximity (<500 ft)
- To evaluate OSSFs as a source of pollutants, it is necessary to know the distribution and failure rates of malfunctioning systems
 - In many cases, this has to be estimated
 - If local data is not available, literature values may be used



Failing OSSFs and Water Quality Impairments (cont.)

■ OSSF Failure Rates

- EPA cites 10 – 20% failure rate nationwide
- Estimated at 12% in Texas
 - Varies by location, socioeconomic factors, etc.
 - Local knowledge (Authorized Agents, local stakeholders, etc.) is very important for accurately estimating failure rates
- **EXAMPLE:** OSSF Failure Rate estimated at 50% for Westfield Estates Watershed Protection Plan due to
 - age of systems,
 - history of non-compliance with maintenance, and
 - local enforcement data from Authorized Agent

Failing OSSFs and Water Quality Impairments (cont.)

How much bacteria comes from a failing OSSF?

E. coli concentration of a failing OSSF = 1.0×10^7 cfu/100 mL

Sewage discharge rate = 70 gallons/person/day

Household Occupancy = 2.86 persons/household

Conversion Factor (CF) = 3785.4 mL/gallon

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Potential Daily OSSF Load Per Day} &= \frac{1.0 \times 10^7 \text{ cfu } E. coli}{100 \text{ mL}} \times \frac{70 \text{ gal}}{\text{person} \times \text{day}^{-1}} \times \frac{2.86 \text{ persons}}{\text{household}} \times \frac{3785.4 \text{ mL}}{\text{gal}} \\ &= 7.58 \times 10^{10} \text{ cfu } E. coli \text{ per household/day}\end{aligned}$$

75,800,000,000 bacteria per household per day

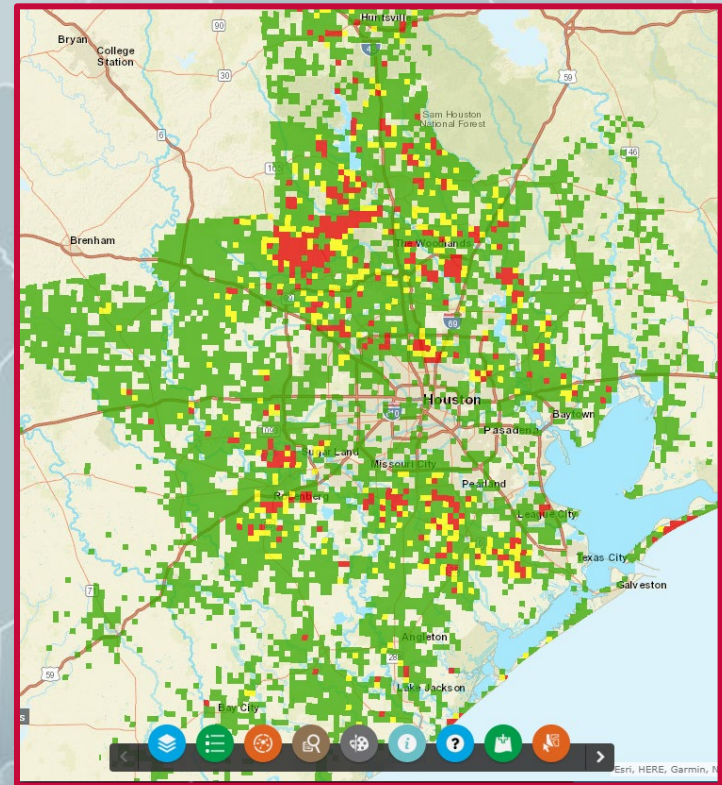
To determine the total load for a watershed, you can multiply this value by the total number of households and the estimated failure rate

OSSFs Locations in the Region

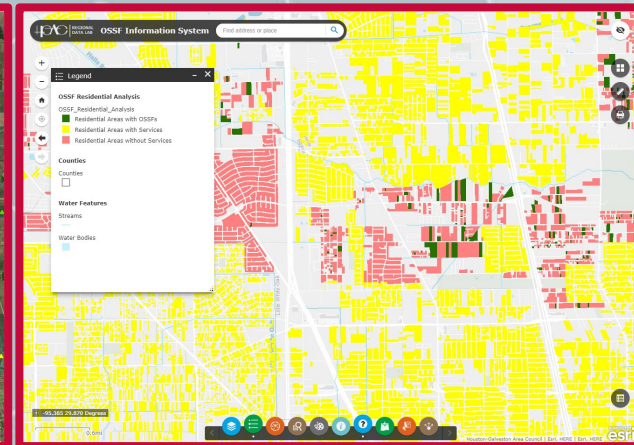
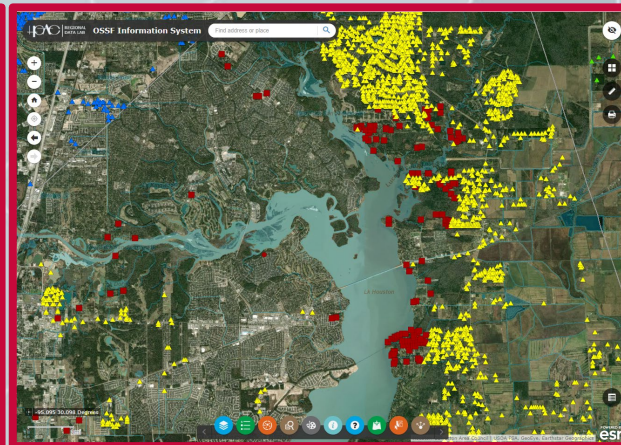
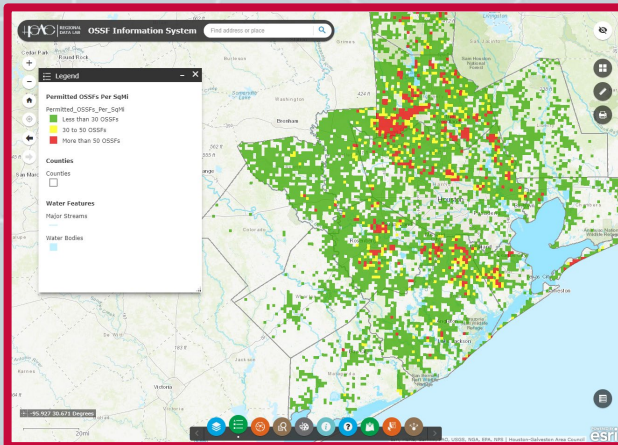
■ H-GAC's OSSF Mapping Tool

- Online database and GIS mapping of OSSF permits in the 13-County Region
- Compilation and analysis of OSSF permitting data submitted to H-GAC by Authorized Agents
 - 111,021 permitted OSSFs
 - 199,006 unpermitted OSSFs (estimated)
 - 310,027 total OSSFs (estimated)

<http://datalab.h-gac.com/ossf/>



H-GAC's Online Information System



- Able to examine concentration of OSSFs (number of systems per square mile)
- Able to examine systems by age (based on permit date)
- Able to examine location of individual OSSFs based upon GPS coordinates
- Can measure proximity to water body
- Able to estimate the number and locations of unpermitted systems based upon parcel data for areas:
 - where there are no permitted systems
 - that are outside of a service area boundary for a permitted wastewater treatment facility

Reducing Pollution from OSSFs

- Options to reduce pollution from failing or malfunctioning OSSFs include:
 - Maintenance or repair
 - Installation of new OSSFs (when feasible)
 - Installation of low-flow devices to reduce influent volumes
 - Ongoing maintenance contracts
 - Abandonment and connection to residential sanitary sewer system
 - Homeowner education



H-GAC OSSF Educational Courses

- **Homeowner Education Course**

- **2-hour course**

- **Offered throughout the H-GAC region through watershed-based programs**

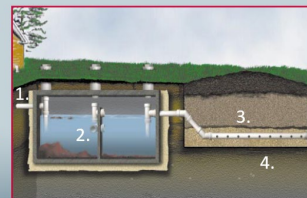
- **Topics include:**

- Basics of OSSF operations and maintenance
- Guidance to assist homeowners with maintaining conventional and aerobic OSSFs
- Course does **NOT** authorize a homeowner to maintain their own system in lieu of a maintenance contract

Basic OSSF Components

- A typical OSSF will consist of four general components:

1. **Wastewater Source** (Sewage pipes from a building or dwelling)
2. **Collection and Storage Tank** (septic or aerobic)
3. **Disposal System** (drainfield, leachfield spray field, etc.)
4. **Soil** (where final treatment occurs)



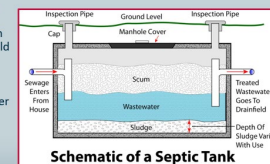
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Serving Today • Planning for Tomorrow



OSSF Maintenance: When is it time to pump?

- Distance between **bottom** of scum layer and **bottom** of Outlet T should be at least 2"
- Distance between **top** of scum layer and **top** of Outlet T should be at least 2"
- Distance from **top** of sludge to **bottom** of Outlet T should be at least 12"



Schematic of a Septic Tank

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OSSF Maintenance: Do's and Don'ts

- Do not flush things that could kill the bacteria in the tank
- NEVER flush:
 - ☐ Gasoline/oil
 - ☐ Pesticides
 - ☐ Paint/paint thinners/varnish
 - ☐ >1 gallon of liquid bleach/week
 - ☐ Antifreeze
 - ☐ Pharmaceuticals
 - ☐ Drain cleaners
 - ☐ Photographic solutions
 - ☐ Antibacterial soaps

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OSSF Maintenance: Do's and Don'ts

- Monitor Laundry Use
 - Your system will not support several large loads of laundry in one day
 - Could stir up sludge layer
 - Space out smaller loads of laundry
 - Be mindful of water use, do not wash a small load on a large load setting
 - Use COMMON SENSE

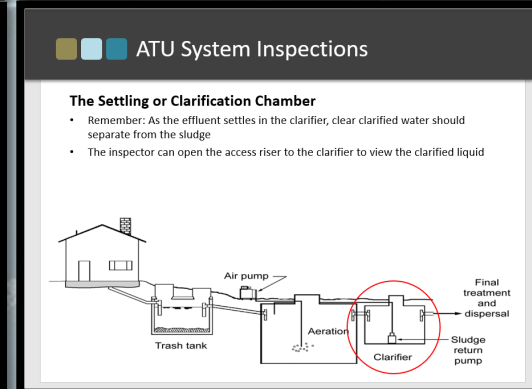
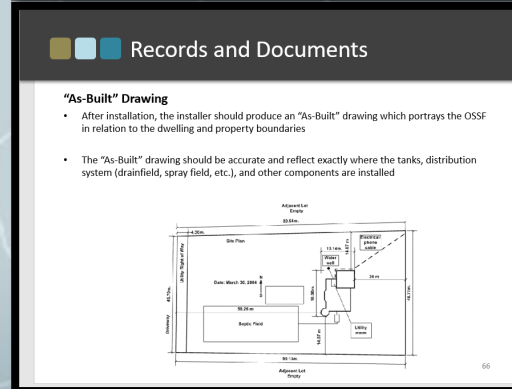


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H-GAC OSSF Educational Courses (cont.)

- **Real Estate Visual Inspection Training Course**
- 6-hour course
- Approved by the Texas Real Estate Commission for Continuing Education credits
- Offered throughout the H-GAC region
- Topics Include:
 - Basics of OSSF operations and maintenance
 - Different types of OSSFs
 - Rules and Regulations
 - Safety
 - Records and Documents
 - Visually inspecting conventional, low-pressure dosing, and aerobic treatment unit systems
- Includes a field portion to visually inspect an OSSF



H-GAC OSSF Educational Courses (cont.)

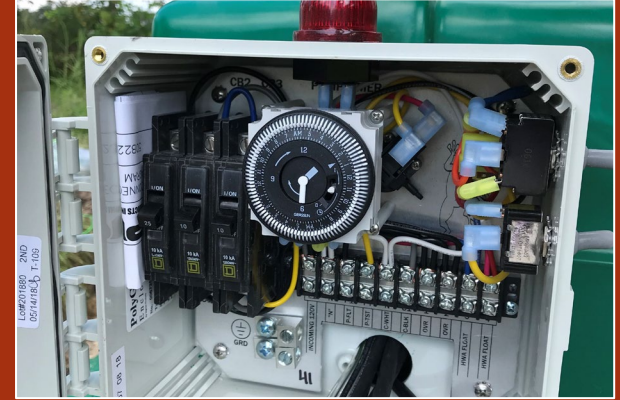
- Due to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements, no OSSF Educational Courses were offered during 2020 – 2021.
- H-GAC plans to develop the **Homeowner Education Course** for a virtual environment so remote-learning options can be available.
- Virtual learning opportunities will likely not be available in the immediate future for the **Real Estate Visual Inspection Training Course** since that course is specifically designed to include an in-person field component (the inspection of an actual functioning system).
 - To be reevaluated as the COVID-19 threat level changes

Questions? Comments?

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian Sims
Senior Planner
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Phone: (713)-993-2438
Email: brian.sims@h-gac.com



H-GAC's Efforts to Improve the Region's Water Quality

Septic System Repair and Replacement

Daniel Albanese, Planner

August 26, 2021

Project Description

Provides assistance to low-income homeowners to repair or replace malfunctioning or failing on-site sewage facilities (OSSFs)



Failing conventional system



New aerobic OSSF

Applicant Qualifications

- In order to qualify, applicants must:
 - own and reside in the home
 - reside in one of the eligible counties
 - have a combined household income at or below 80% of the median income for the county
 - have a failed or malfunctioning OSSF



Pipe discharging to field



Installation of new spray field

Source of Funding

- Funding for this project is being provided by both TCEQ and the Harris County District Attorney's Office

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
PROJECT FUNDING
for SEPTIC or AEROBIC SEWAGE
FACILITY REPAIR/REPLACEMENT**

**WORK PERFORMED WITH PENALTY MONIES FROM A
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENFORCEMENT ACTION**



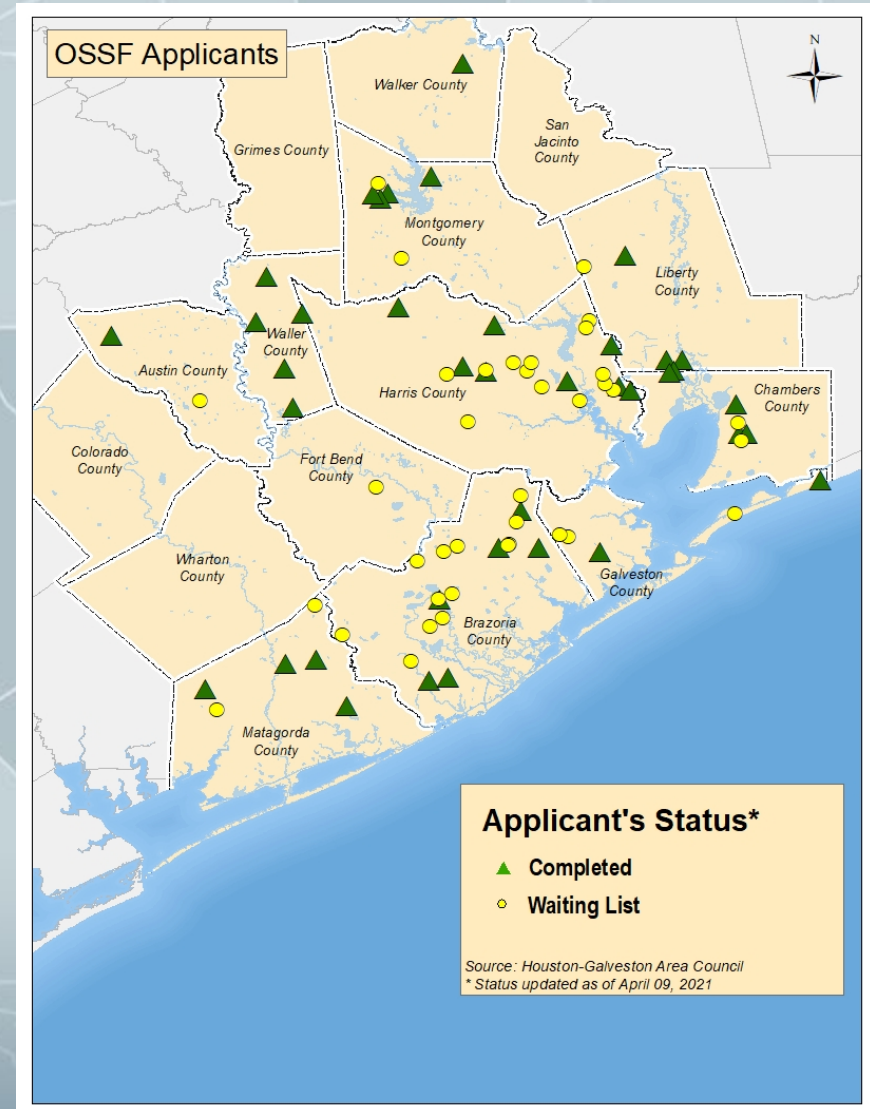
**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
PROJECT FUNDING
SEPTIC or AEROBIC SEWAGE
FACILITY REPAIR/REPLACEMENT
DONATED BY**



**HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KIM K. OGG**

SEP History

- \$339,926.00 in funding utilized to date
- 39 applicants have qualified and are on the waiting list
- 14 OSSF repairs
- 24 replacement Aerobic OSSFs installed
- 2 replacements upcoming
- Pump-outs for seven homeowners in Bailey's Prairie (Brazoria County)



Failing OSSFs



Recent Project Success

- **Installation of new aerobic OSSF in Bay City (Matagorda County) – October 2020**
 - Funded by T.C.E.Q
- **Installation of new aerobic OSSF in Industry (Austin County) – January 2021**
 - Funded by T.C.E.Q



Next Steps

- Continue marketing SEP program to potential contributors
- Continue seeking qualified applicants
 - Local Authorized Agents and Designated Representatives
 - Referrals from local governmental officials and agencies
 - Public Outreach events
 - Word-of-mouth from previous program recipients
- Continue identifying qualified vendors

Quotes from Project Recipients

"I really appreciate your help and assistance in helping my mother out. Thank you so much! And glad to know that there are people and organizations that help their citizens and people in these situations. Just to let you know people do appreciate your consideration and help! You don't know how much.... I just want you to know you make a huge difference in people's lives."

- Resident, Baytown

For More Information

For more information regarding H-GAC's SEP for Homeowner Wastewater Assistance, please contact:

Daniel Albanese
Program Support Specialist
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Daniel.Albanese@H-GAC.com
832-681-2692



H-GAC's Efforts to Improve the Region's Water Quality

Non-point Source Education: Coastal Communities Toolbox, Interactive Exhibits, and More

Kendall Guidroz, Planner

August 26, 2021

The Coastal Communities project is funded in part by the TCEQ through a grant from the United State Environmental Protection Agency



Coastal Communities Project

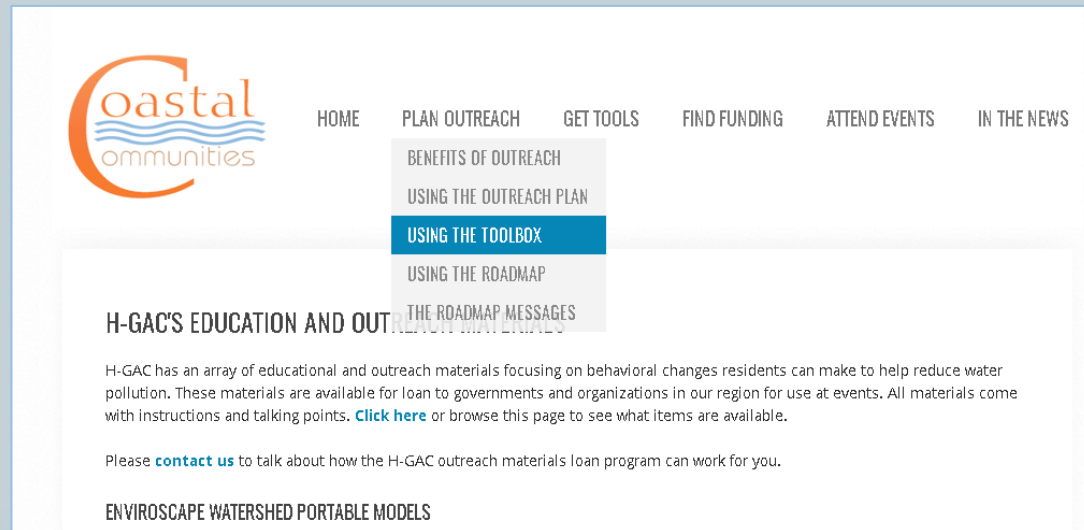
- What?
 - Water Quality Outreach & Education resources
- Who?
 - Our smaller coastal communities
- Why?
 - To remove barriers for city staff
- How?
 - A One-Stop-Shop for resources



www.coastalcommunitiestx.com

Outreach Toolbox & Roadmap

- Project website
- Roadmap messaging
- H-GAC & partner resources
- Model ordinances
- Links to funding, training, and meeting opportunities

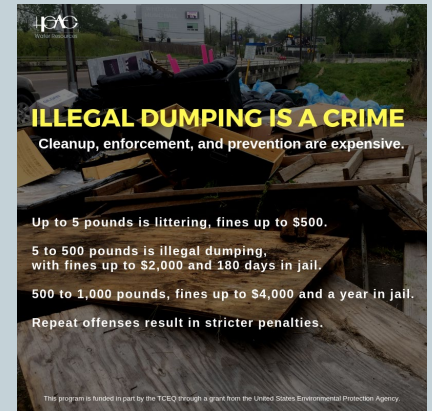


www.coastalcommunitiestx.com

Outreach Toolbox & Roadmap

Four Focus Behaviors

- Pet Waste Disposal
- Disposal of Fats, Oils, & Grease (FOG)
- Litter & Illegal Dumping
- Maintenance of On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs)



The Roadmap Messaging

Please Pick Up my Poop.

Pet Waste Pollutes.

It makes a mess.
It spreads disease.
It adds bacteria to our water.

Learn more at petwastepollutes.org





This project is funded in part by the TCEQ through a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency

Please Pick Up my Poop.

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The Roadmap Messaging (cont.)

NO WIPES IN THE PIPES
Only flush toilet paper - NOTHING ELSE

Items like wipers, paper towels, and other hygiene products might be flushable but don't break down so they get caught in the pipes and cause sewer system backups

This costs cities and residents more \$\$\$\$



h-gac
Water Resources

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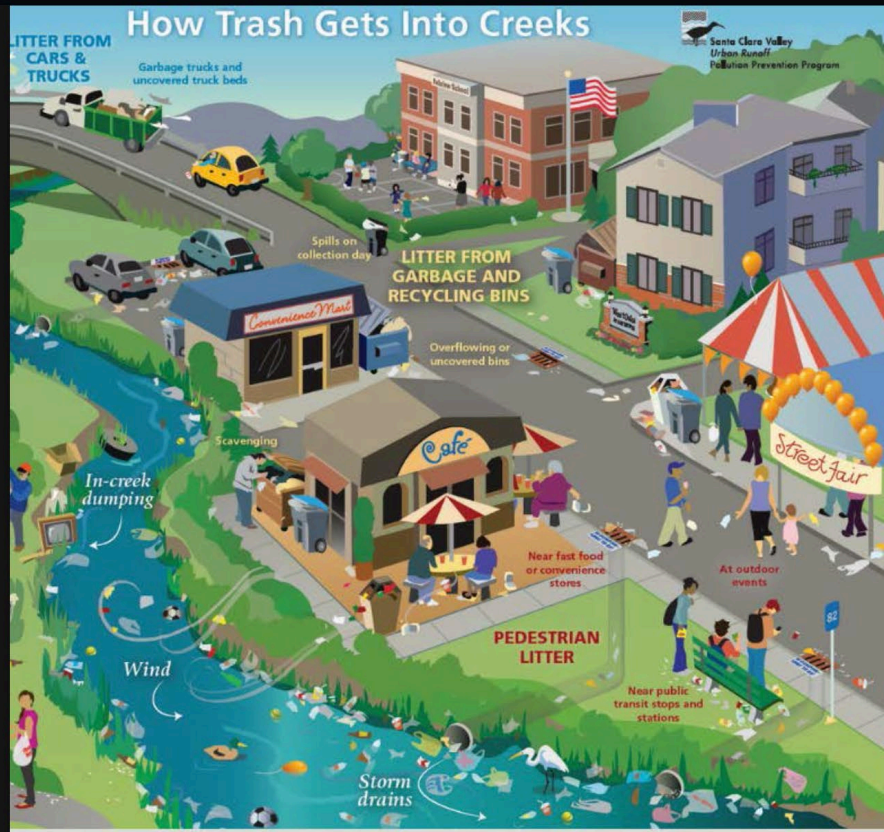
This costs cities and residents more \$\$\$\$



h-gac
Water Resources

This project is funded in part by the TCEQ through a grant from United States Environmental Protection Agency

The Roadmap Messaging (cont.)



This Labor Day make sure your trash does not end up in our waterways so we can enjoy celebrating outside for years to come!



City of Bay City, TX USA

· August 28, 2019 ·

-Litter is the leading cause of debris, plastic, and trash along our roads and streets. Often people litter and assume that others will pick up behind them, or that there is someone employed to keep the streets clean. We are all responsible for our trash, plastic and recyclables.

Litter is carelessly discarded refuse

- Beverage containers, plastic bags, cigarette butts, snack wrappers, paper, and fast food containers/wrappers, light construction debris etc., etc., etc.
- Can be intentional or unintentional
- Additionally not bagging up and disposing of grass clippings (another form of litter) clogs drains and contributes to the drainage issues.
- Whether intentional or not we must all do our part to work towards a clean litter free community.

#LoveWhereYouLive #BayCityTx

58

19 Comments 17 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant ▾



Write a comment...



Expanding the Toolbox

- Expanding the Resources Expanding the Toolbox Resources
 - Engaging more communities
 - Working with partners on a Community-Based Social Marketing Pilot Project
 - Combatting improper FOG disposal in apartments

Hands-on Exhibits & Posters



LOW IMPACT DESIGN DISPLAY AND MATERIALS (FOCUS ON STORMWATER)



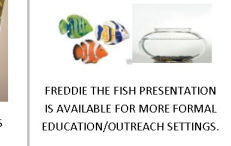
A variety of other brochures created by partner organizations may be available. Availability of reports and other documents should be discussed with project managers.



PITCH THE POOP INTERACTIVE GAME AND MATERIALS (FOCUS ON BACTERIA)



PLEDGE SHEETS FOR ALL THREE DISPLAYS



FREDDIE THE FISH PRESENTATION IS AVAILABLE FOR MORE FORMAL EDUCATION/OUTREACH SETTINGS.



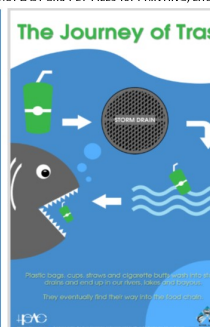
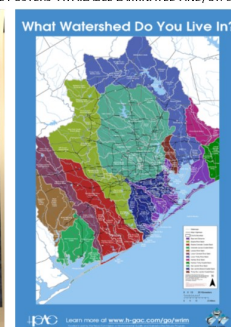
DEFEAT THE GREASE MONSTER DISPLAY AND MATERIALS (FOCUS ON FATS, OILS, GREASE DISPOSAL)



H-GAC OUTREACH MATERIALS




WATER QUALITY BROCHURE (LEFT)
TRASH BASH EVERGREEN BROCHURE (BELOW)



Hands-on Exhibits & Posters






THE TROUBLE WITH DOG POOP

and how we can protect our waterways, one bag at a time.


We love our pups, but not the germie little "gifts" they leave behind. Turns out our rivers, streams, and lakes don't like them much, either.



There are:
900,000
Dogs in the Houston-Galveston Region


Collectively depositing
312 Tons
of poop per day.

Which is the equivalent of
52 dump truck loads per day!



RAIN WATER washes poop left on the ground into our storm drains which connect to creeks and baysou where it decomposes. During decomposition, the poop uses up precious oxygen needed by fish and other creatures to stay alive and healthy.

Not to mention the risk of illness for swimmers and fisherman using the waterway...yuck!



THIS MEANS THAT...

You could be exposed to bacteria, viruses, and parasites that live in dog poop.

This can be quite dangerous to the old, young, and folks with compromised immune systems.

Pathogens are dangerous to kids playing in the yard, and they can contaminate anything edible growing in your garden.


WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Always pick up after your pet, no matter where it is.


Carry spare bags on your daily dog walk, and use them to encourage others to pick up after their pooch!

If bags aren't your thing, bury waste at a minimum of 5 inches in the ground and far away from your garden or well.

LEARN MORE about the effects of pet waste and what you can do to make a difference by visiting our website, www.petwastepollutes.org.



Funded in part by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Galveston Bay Estuary Program.



Hands-on Exhibits & Posters

(cont.)



I PLEDGE...

To fight the **GREASE MONSTER** in all his forms,
And never let pouring grease down the drain become my norm.

Whether salad dressing or bacon grease,
I hereby pledge to scrape and squeeze.

After each meal, quick as a flash,
I will put the remnants in the trash.

To always make sure my drain stays clear
With each and every meal I cook this year.



Bacteria is a common source of pollution in Texas waters.
Improper disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOG) contributes to the problem.

Where does FOG come from?

- ⬆ Meat
- ⬆ Cooking oils, lard, shortening
- ⬆ Butter & margarine
- ⬆ Dairy products
- ⬆ Mayo, salad dressings, sour cream



Why does FOG matter?

- ⬆ Sticks to pipes from the sink to the sewer
- ⬆ Causes sewage backups into homes, streets, and storm drains
- ⬆ Pollutes local waters with raw sewage
- ⬆ Costly repairs for homeowners and taxpayers

What can YOU do?

- ⬆ No FOG or food scraps down the sink or garbage disposal
- ⬆ Wipe grease off dishes before rinsing
- ⬆ Flushing FOG with hot or cold water will NOT prevent grease build-up in pipes
- ⬆ Call a professional rather than use chemicals to clear a grease clog



GREASE: A MONSTER OF A PROBLEM

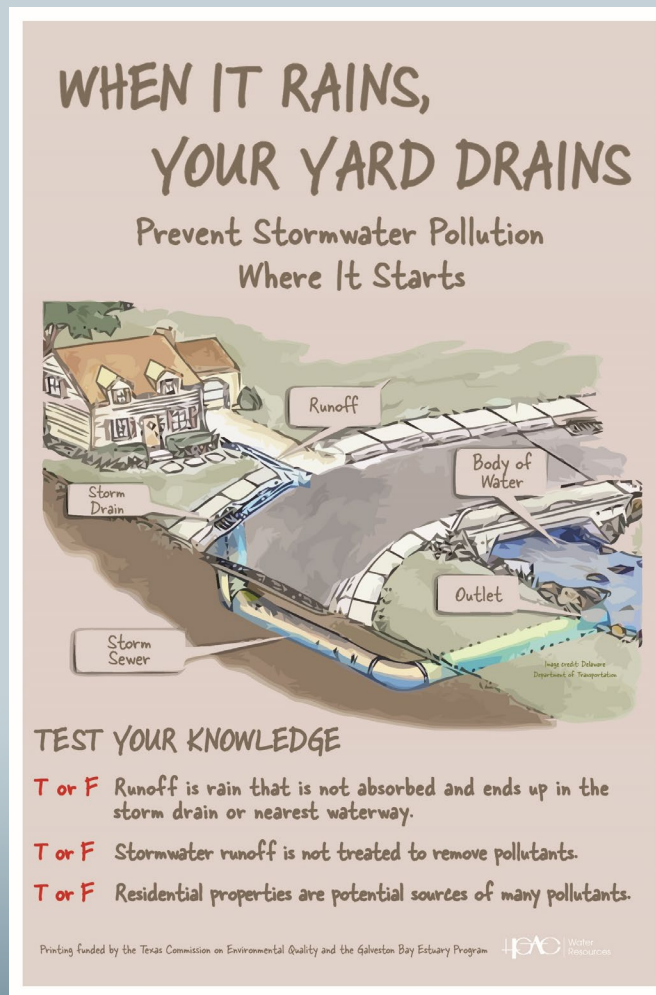


Funded in part by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Galveston Bay Estuary Program

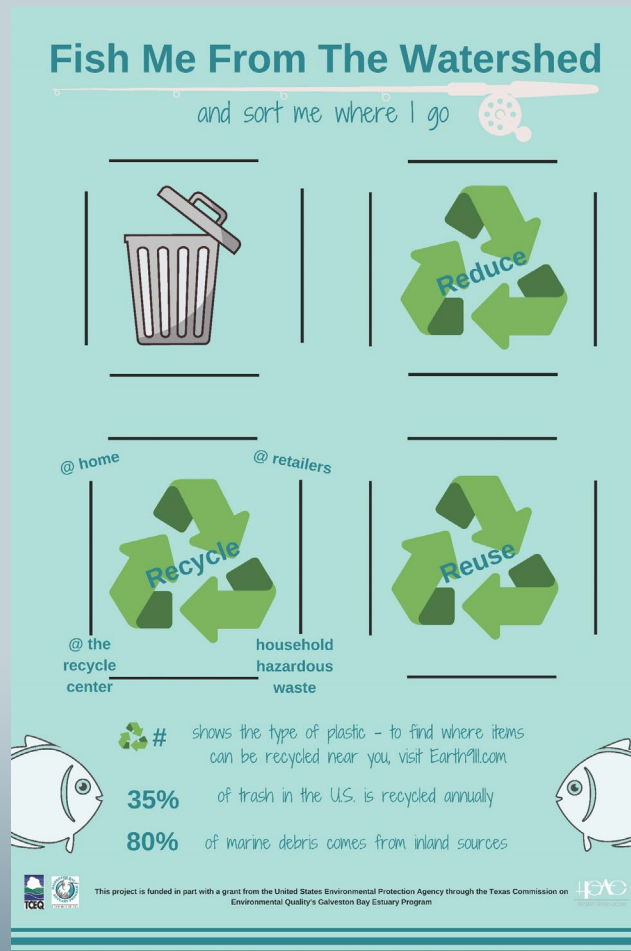


Hands-on Exhibits & Posters

(cont.)



Hands-on Exhibits & Posters (cont.)



Trash Free Texas

- A Trash Free Waters project
- Key Goals:
 - Add "Adopt-A-Spots"
 - Support local cleanup efforts
 - Help restaurants reduce single-use plastics

TRASH
FREE
TEXAS

www.trashfreetexas.org
www.h-gac.com/trash-free-texas

Texas Stream Team

- Citizen Science volunteer water quality monitoring
 - 3 Phases of Training
 - Part of a state-wide program
 - Trainings on hold
- Contact:
stream.team@h-gac.com



THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
TEXAS STREAM TEAM

h-gac.com/Texas-stream-team

Contact Information

KENDALL GUIDROZ

Environmental Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Direct | 713-993-2469

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CoastalCommunitiestx.com

waterresources@h-gac.com

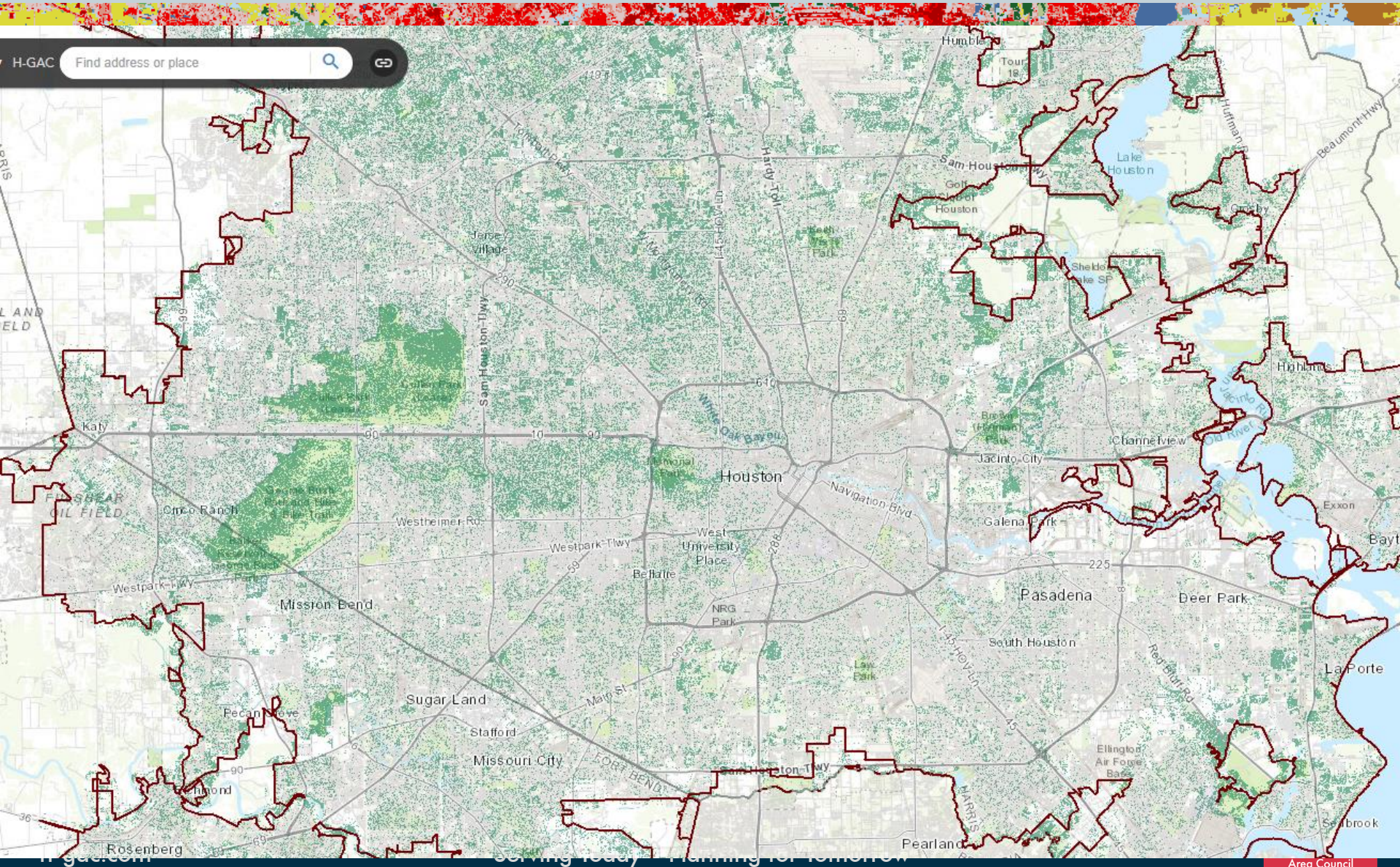
H-GAC's Efforts to Improve the Region's Water Quality

Urban Forestry and Riparian Cover

Justin Bower, Principal Planner

August 26, 2021

The Region's Urban Forests





Houston's Urban Forest

- Ecosystem services beyond aesthetics
 - Heat reduction
 - Flood mitigation
 - Health benefits
 - Water/air quality improvement
 - Biodiversity/habitat
 - Carbon reduction, etc.

- Focus of many local efforts



H-GAC's Role

- Regional Coordination
- Regional Support
- Identifying/pursuing funding
- Data Analyses
- Potential funding role

- Examples
 - Houston Area Urban Forests
 - City of Houston grants
 - Cypress Creek CSP



Building Riparian Function

- Streamside areas are last line of defense
- Multiple benefits; flood, quality, habitat, etc.
- Applicable to urban, suburban, rural land uses
- Many existing programs
- Examples
 - Riparian Tool
 - Focus in WPPs, etc.



For more information, contact:

Justin Bower
Principal Planner, H-GAC
713-499-6653
justin.bower@h-gac.com

**3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120,
Houston, TX 77077**

H-GAC's Efforts to Improve the Region's Water Quality

Green Infrastructure: Designing for Impact

Steven Johnston, Senior Planner

August 26, 2021

Why H-GAC?



RFMC
Regional Flood Management Council

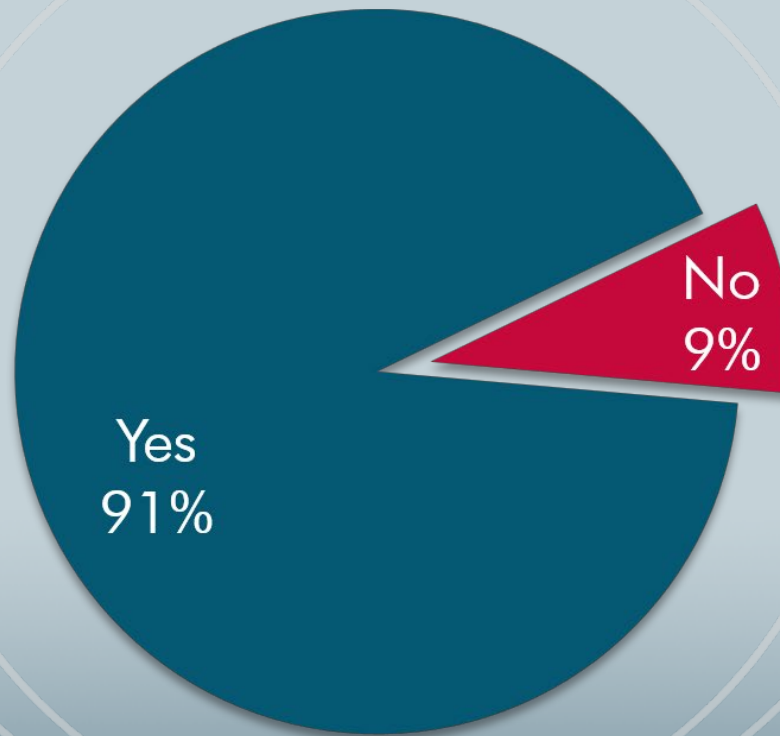


www.h-gac.com/go/LID

LID/Green Infrastructure

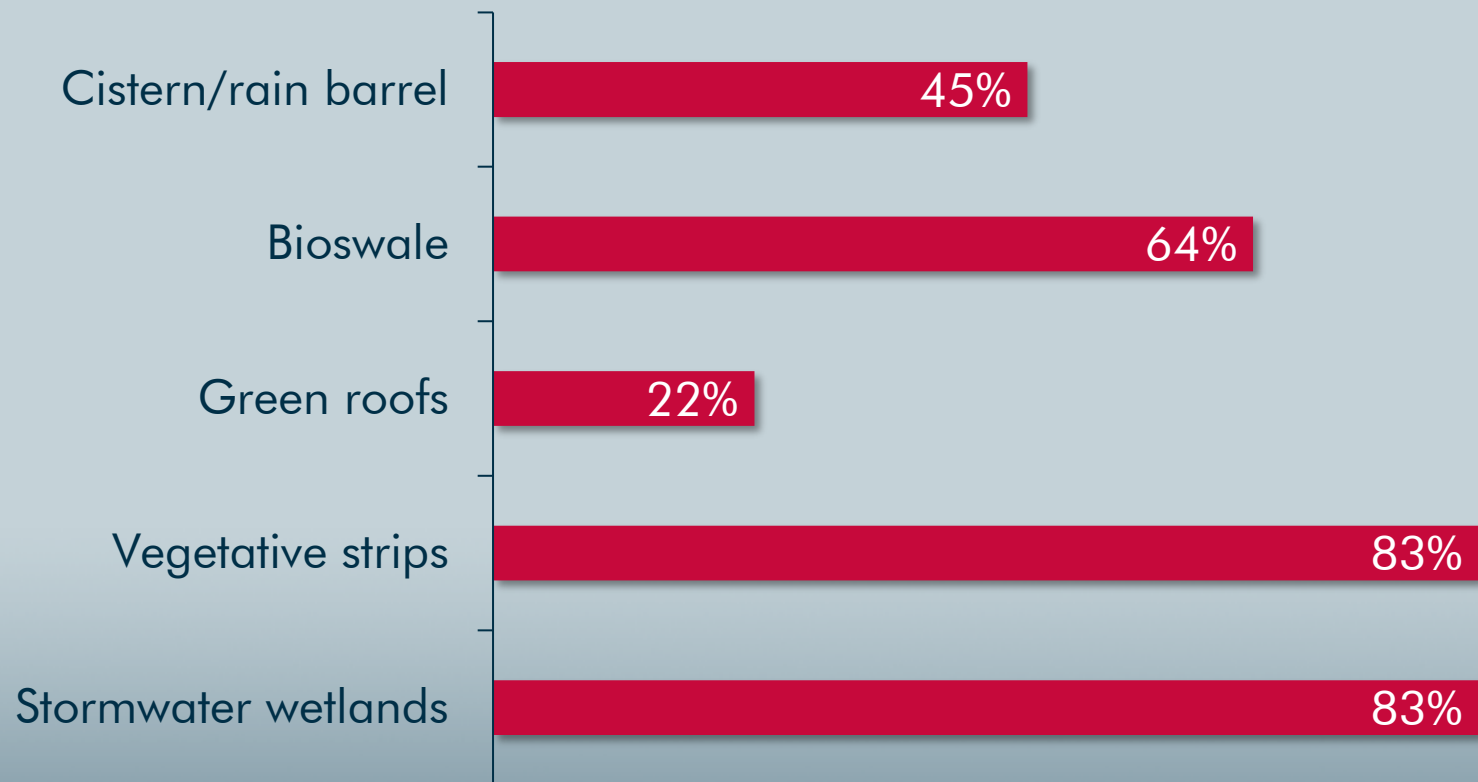
(Survey)

Are you familiar with the terms Low Impact Development (LID) or Green Infrastructure?

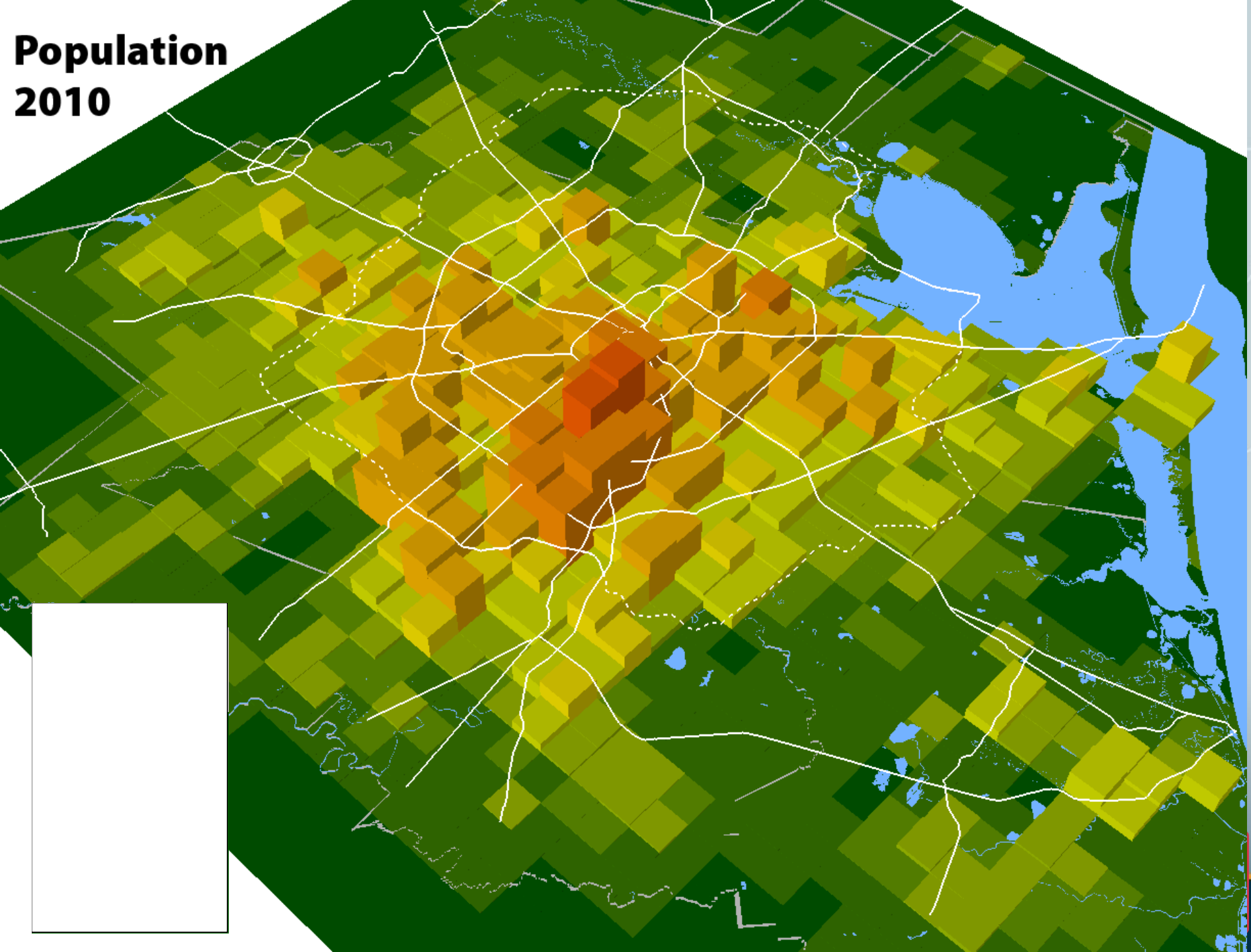


LID Desirability and Feasibility (Survey)

Which LID or Green Infrastructure solutions do you think are most feasible or desirable?



Population 2010



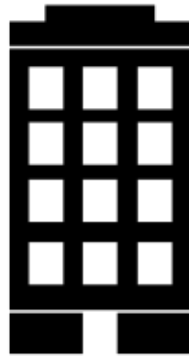
Development Impacts: 2040



6M

Parking Spaces

680M
SQFT



Non-Residential



3.5B
SQFT

Residential

Development Impacts

1.4M More Single-Family Units

390
CINCO
RANCHES



Source: Toll Brothers

Development Impacts

6M Parking Spaces

230

NRG Park
Parking Lots



Source: Houston Chronicle

WHAT is Green Infrastructure?

Comprehensive Stormwater Management Method

HOW does Green Infrastructure work?

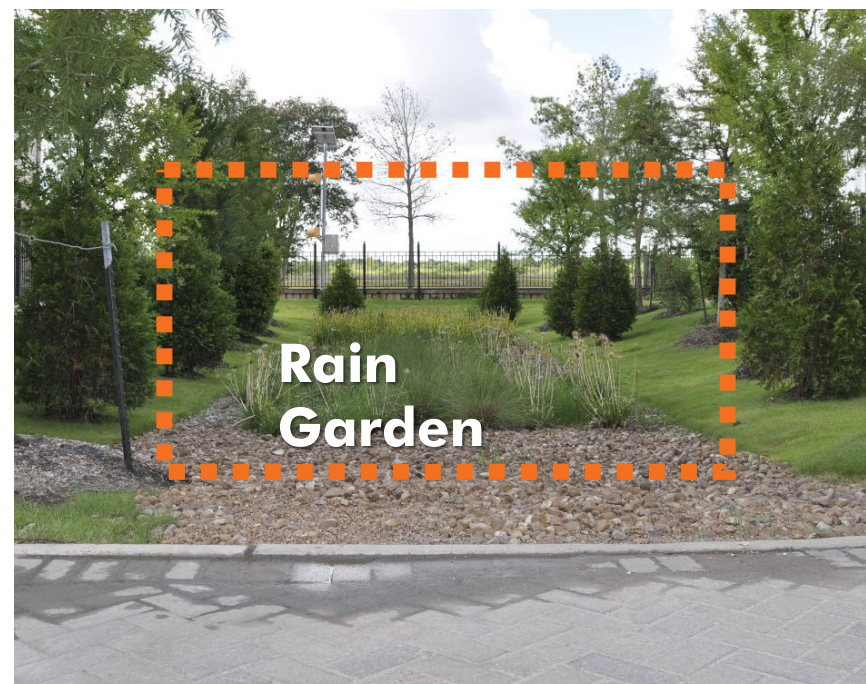
CAPTURES and **DISTRIBUTES** stormwater runoff throughout the site as close to the **SOURCE** as possible

WHERE can Green Infrastructure be used?

EVERYWHERE

New Development, Redevelopment, Parking Lots, and Roadways

What does it look like?



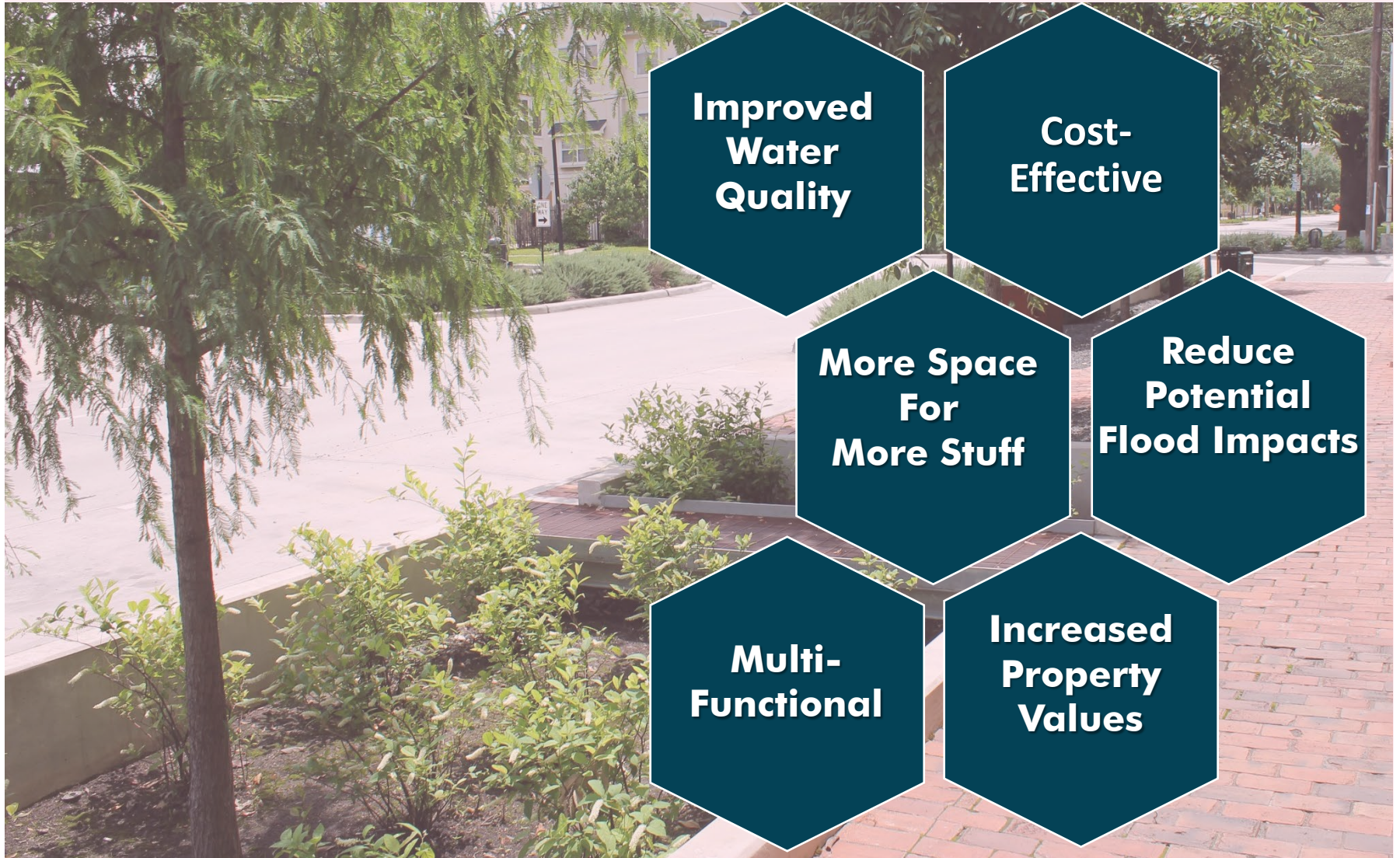
What does it look like?



What does it look like?



Benefits



Resources Available



DESIGNING FOR IMPACT

Regional Guide for Low Impact Development



LID Overview

Barriers/Solutions

List of Best Practices

Cost/Benefit Analysis:
LID v. Conventional

Local Case Studies

Case Studies



Designing for Impact

Regional Guide for Green Infrastructure

Barriers

Regulatory

Wide Min. Roadway Widths

- Solution: Narrower Roadway Designs

Curb + Gutter Requirements

- Solution: More Flexible Standards

Excessive Impervious Cover

- Solution: Efficient Site Design

Lack of Incentives

- Solution: Offer Incentives for LID

Perceptual

Is Cost Prohibitive

- Reality: Reduces Costs + Adds Value

Don't Know What it Is

- Solution: Increase Awareness w/ Educ.

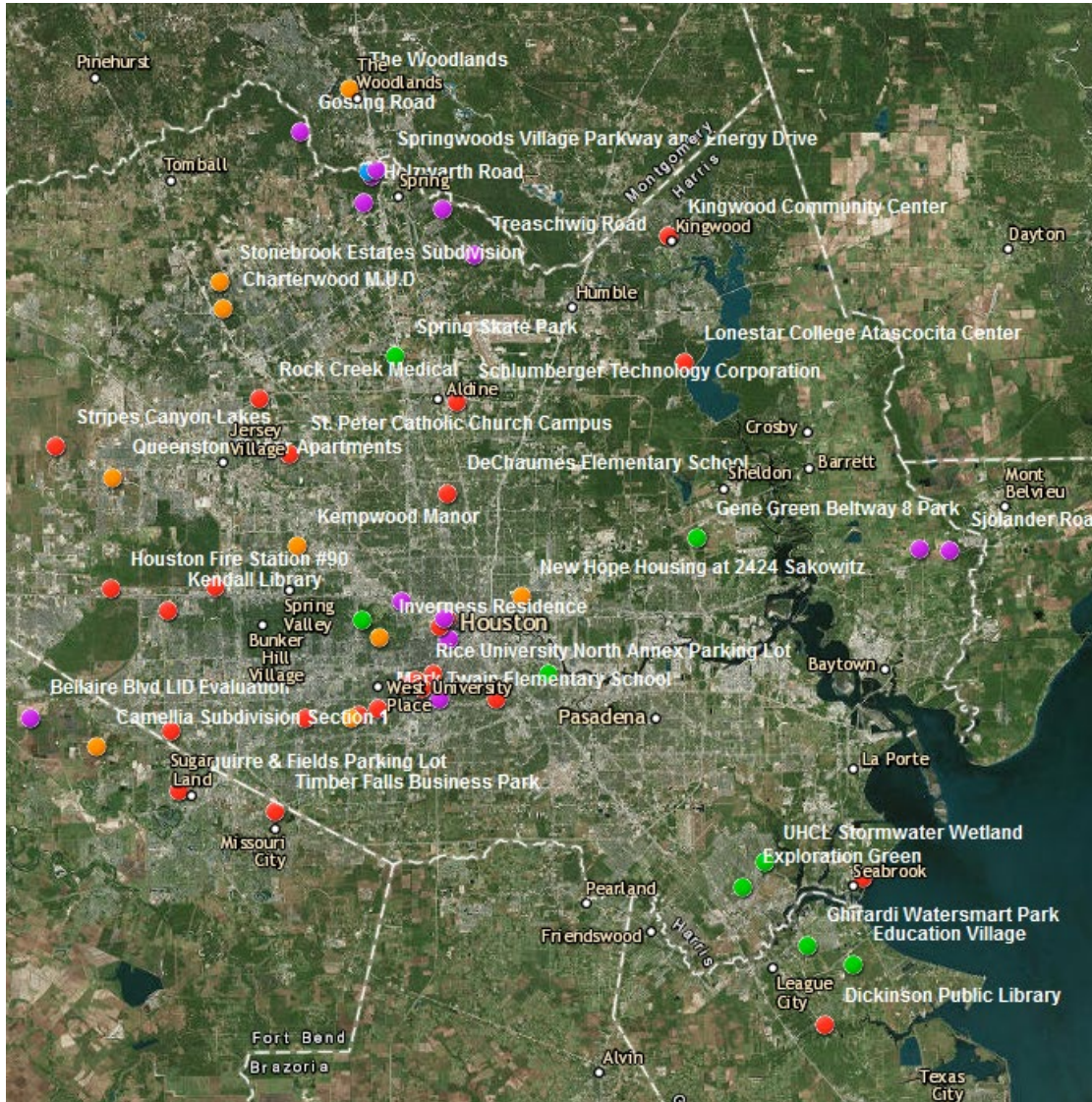
Is Too Difficult to Maintain

- Reality: Maintenance Not Burdensome

Clay Soils Prevent its use

- Reality: FALSE!

Web Page – Local Examples



Designing for Impact

As part of Designing for Impact, H-GAC has created a mapping application that highlights various Low Impact Development (LID) projects across H-GAC's 13 county region. Click the sites on the map to see a project's location, photos, features and benefits. Projects are grouped based on development type:

- **Residential Development Projects (11 projects)**
- **Non-Residential Development Projects (25 projects)**
- **Mixed Use Development Projects (1 project)**
- **Open Space Development Projects (8 projects)**
- **Street Improvements (14 projects)**

[Submit Your LID Project](#)

Ghirardi Watersmart Park

League City, TX

LEGEND

LID Projects

- Residential
- Non-Residential
- Mixed Use
- Open Space
- Street Improv.

H-GAC's Service Region

Houston-Galveston Area...

Designing for Impact

Ghirardi Watersmart Park

www.pinterest.com

3.75 acre Demonstration Park (Rain Gardens, Cistern, Pervious Pavement, Green Roof, and Bioswales) Features of the Ghirardi WaterSmart Park in League City include a tank to collect rain water and lowered wildflower beds that help to clean runoff.

[Back to Open Space List / Main](#)

Facebook Twitter Share

POWERED BY

What's Next?

- Future Workshops
- Efficacy Study
 - Project to begin in September 2022





Steven Johnston
Senior Planner
Houston-Galveston Area Council
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DESIGNING FOR IMPACT

<https://www.h-gac.com/low-impact-development>

H-GAC's Efforts to Improve the Region's Water Quality

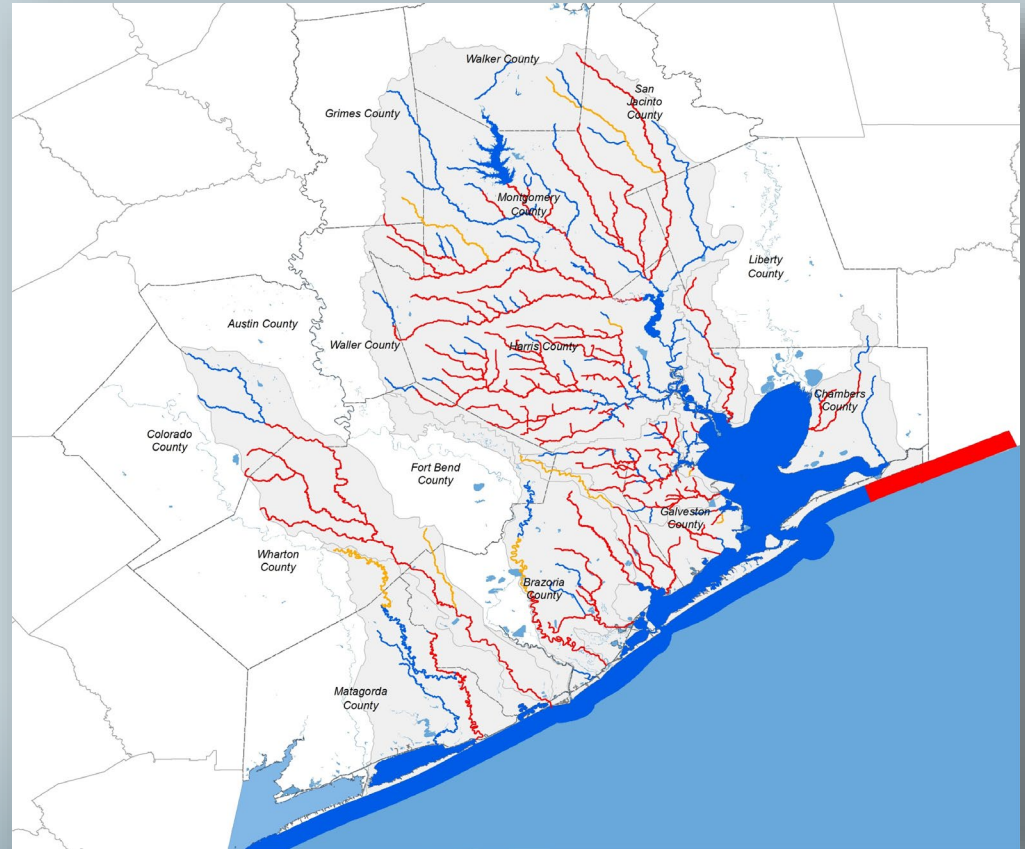
H-GAC Bacteria Targeted Monitoring Project

Jessica Casillas, Planner

August 26, 2021

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

- Bacteria is the most prevalent pollutant
- ~ 80% of the region's streams fail to meet state water quality standards



H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

- PURPOSE

- Identify bacteria sources
- Report findings to appropriate jurisdictions for problem elimination



H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

Phase 1 -
Data Analysis

Phase 2 -
Monitoring

Phase 3 -
Reporting

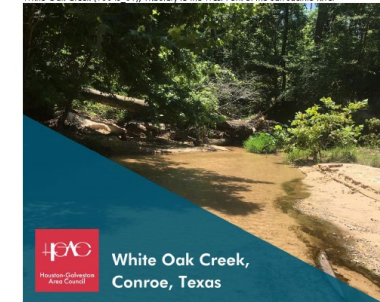
Geomean Ranking**	AU ID	AU Name	Parameter
30.65	1017_04	Whiteoak Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
28.03	1007T_01	Bedford Ditch	E. Coli
26.63	1007I_01	Pump Creek Above Tidal	E. Coli
25.27	1004J_01	White Oak Creek	E. Coli
22.51	1017E_01	Unnamed Tributary of White Oak Bayou	E. Coli
19.53	1013C_01	Unnamed Non-Tidal Tributary of Buffalo Bayou Tidal	E. Coli
17.89	1007K_01	Country Club Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
12.47	1002H_01	Pine Gully Above Tidal	E. Coli
12.02	1007F_01	Berry Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
16.79	1016D_01	Unnamed Tributary of Greens Bayou	E. Coli
15.85	1103G_01	Unnamed Tributary of Gum Bayou	Enterococci
15.11	1010S_01	Little White Oak Bayou	E. Coli
14.53	1007R_04	Hunting Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
13.75	1007U_01	Mimosa Ditch	E. Coli
12.67	1007B_01	Brays Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
12.34	0901A_01	Cary Bayou immediately upstream of Raccoon Drive bridge in Baytown	Enterococci
12.24	1007R_01	Hunting Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
12.22	1014O_01	Spring Branch	E. Coli
11.87	1016C_01	Unnamed Tributary of Greens Bayou	E. Coli
11.57	1014M_01	Neuman Branch (Weimans Bayou)	E. Coli
9.86	1017_03	Whiteoak Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
9.48	2432A_02	Mustang Bayou	E. Coli
9.44	1101C_01	Cow Bayou	Enterococci
8.29	2424A_05	Highland Bayou	Enterococci
7.91	1007S_01	Poor Farm Ditch	E. Coli
7.86	1017B_02	Cole Creek	E. Coli
7.81	1007E_01	Willow Waterhole Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
7.69	1007G_01	Kuhman Gully Above Tidal	E. Coli
7.61	1007_05	Houston Ship Channel/Bufalo Bayou Tidal	Enterococci
7.58	1007D_03	Sims Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
7.10	1017D_01	Unnamed Tributary of Whiteoak Bayou	E. Coli
6.58	1007O_01	Unnamed Tributary of Buffalo Bayou	E. Coli
6.57	1009_04	Cypress Creek	E. Coli
6.37	1007D_02	Sims Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli
6.21	1017A_01	Brickhouse Gully/Bayou	E. Coli
6.18	1006J_01	Unnamed Tributary of Halls Bayou	E. Coli
6.04	1006D_02	Halls Bayou	E. Coli
5.78	1103F_01	Unnamed Tributary of Dickinson Bayou Tidal	Enterococci
5.76	1103C_01	Geisler Bayou	Enterococci
5.70	1006_05	Houston Ship Channel Tidal	Enterococci
5.70	1013_01	Bufalo Bayou Tidal	Enterococci
5.65	1014N_01	Rummel Creek	E. Coli
5.60	1007C_01	Keeams Bayou Above Tidal	E. Coli



Photo credits: Environmental Institute of Houston,
University of Houston-Clear Lake.

BACTERIA MONITORING REPORT

White Oak Creek (1004J_01), Tributary to the West Fork of the San Jacinto River



PREPARED BY
Daniel Albanese
Program Support Specialist
Kendall Guadroz
Planner

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PO Box 22777, Houston, TX 77227-2777

1

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

■ Phase 1 - DATA ANALYSIS

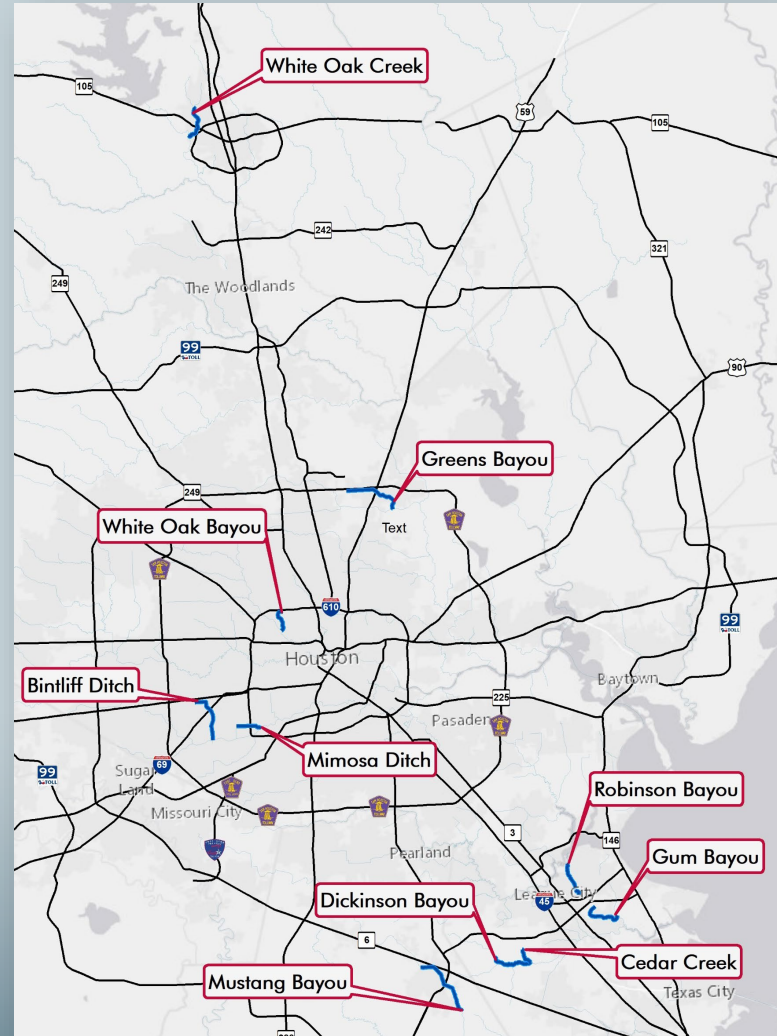
- Identify assessment units and monitoring stations with the highest bacterial concentrations
- Calculate geometric means
- Categorize catchment areas as urban, suburban, or rural
- Work Group (Dec 10, 2019)

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

Predominant Land Cover Type	AU ID	AU Name	Relative Bacteria Geomean	AU Length (miles)
Urban	1007T_01	Bintliff Ditch	24.46	3.9
Urban	1017E_01	Unnamed tributary of White Oak Bayou	17.22	1.92
Urban	1007U_01	Mimosa Ditch	15.37	1.9
Urban	1016D_01	Unnamed Tributary of Greens Bayou	15.11	4.49
Suburban	1004J_01	White Oak Creek	26.39	2.96
Suburban	1103G_01	Unnamed Tributary of Gum Bayou	15.26	3.29
Suburban	2432A_02	Mustang Bayou	11.68	5.08
Suburban	1101D_01	Robinson Bayou (tributary of Clear Creek)	6.62	2.7
Rural	1104_01	Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	14.11	3.43
Rural	1103E_01	Cedar Creek (tributary of Dickinson Bayou)	1.96	1.31

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

- Four* AUs within City of Houston jurisdiction
 - *Greens Bayou partially within boundary
- Robinson Bayou and Cedar Creek within City of League City
- Gum Bayou within Dickinson
- Mustang Bayou mostly within City of Alvin
- White Oak Creek within City of Conroe jurisdiction



H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

■ Phase 2 – MONITORING

- Intensive desktop review
- Windshield survey
 - Samples collected at major crossings
- Field Investigation
 - Dry weather monitoring
 - Permitted flows sampled upstream and downstream
 - Unpermitted flows/tributaries sampled at source
- NELAP testing



Photo credits: Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake.

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

■ Phase 3 - REPORTING

- Report findings to local authorities
- Recommendations to the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG)
- Work with appropriate jurisdictions to implement bacteria reduction measures
- Follow-up monitoring and analysis as needed

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

■ Progress

- TCEQ Approval on Oct 2020
- Windshield Surveys Conducted Jan – March 2021
- Field Investigations Conducted March – April 2021
- City of Houston Referrals (Summer 2021)
- City of League City Referrals (Summer 2021)
- Reports submitted to TCEQ (Aug 2021)



H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

BACTERIA MONITORING REPORT

White Oak Creek (1004J_01), Tributary to the West Fork of the San Jacinto River



White Oak Creek,
Conroe, Texas

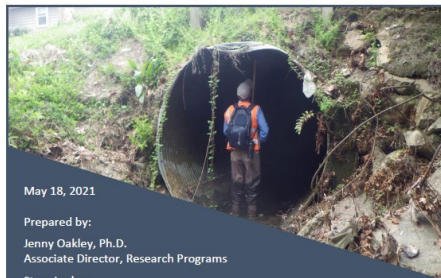
PREPARED BY

Daniel Albanese
Program Support Specialist

Kendall Guidroz
Planner

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PO Box 22777, Houston, TX 77227-2777

Unnamed Tributary of White Oak Bayou (1017E_01) Bacteria Monitoring Report



May 18, 2021

Prepared by:

Jenny Oakley, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Research Programs

Story Leshar
Graduate Research Assistant

Environmental Institute of Houston
University of Houston-Clear Lake



AU ID	AU Name	Windshield Survey Sample Count	Field Investigation Sample Count	Referral Sites
1007T_01	Bintliff Ditch	13	76	8
1017E_01	Unnamed tributary of White Oak Bayou	13	26	3*
1007U_01	Mimosa Ditch	7	26	4
1016D_01	Unnamed Tributary of Greens Bayou	11	47	5
1004J_01	White Oak Creek	9	29	3*
1103G_01	Unnamed Tributary of Gum Bayou	8	22	4
2432A_02	Mustang Bayou	16	39	10
1101D_01	Robinson Bayou (tributary of Clear Creek)	10	53	9
1104_01	Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	4	13	5
1103E_01	Cedar Creek (tributary of Dickinson Bayou)	1	12	1

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

Bintliff Ditch Bacteria Monitoring Report

Referral site: BIN-FI-65

This site is located at along the tributary to Bintliff Ditch. The culvert was located on the right bank in a residential area, just downstream of where the tributary runs belowground under Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital. One sample was collected from this large concrete culvert. The sample collected had a bacteria value of 1,120 MPN/100ML. The water exiting this culvert had a very oily surface. A specific source for the oil and bacteria was not identified. Photo shows large culvert on the right bank.



Mustang Bayou Bacteria Monitoring Report

Referral site: MUS-FI-17

This site is located on the right bank in a residential area. The pipe associated with this site is metal with an inner diameter of 60 inches. There was 1 inch of water in the pipe with a consistent flow. The downstream sample collected bacteria value of 24,200 MPN/100ML while the upstream sample was 754 MPN/100ML, giving a difference of 23,446 MPN/100ML. The field crew noted that the water flowing from the pipe smelled of effluent. Further investigation is recommended. Photo taken shows pipe and amount of outflow.



Page | 8

AU ID	AU Name	Field Investigation Sample Count	Referral Sites	Percent of Samples > State Standard
1007T_01	Bintliff Ditch	76	8	93%
1017E_01	Unnamed tributary of White Oak Bayou	26	3*	70%
1007U_01	Mimosa Ditch	26	4	23%
1016D_01	Unnamed Tributary of Greens Bayou	47	5	85%
1004J_01	White Oak Creek	29	3*	89%
1103G_01	Unnamed Tributary of Gum Bayou	22	4	52%
2432A_02	Mustang Bayou	39	10	79%
1101D_01	Robinson Bayou (tributary of Clear Creek)	53	9	43%
1104_01	Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	13	5	69%
1103E_01	Cedar Creek (tributary of Dickinson Bayou)	12	1	100%

H-GAC Targeted Monitoring

QUESTIONS?

Jessie Casillas

Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120 Houston, TX 77027

Jessica.Casillas@h-gac.com

Direct | 713-993-4594

Project funded by TCEQ Clean Rivers Program.



Photo credits: Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Breakout Sessions Will Begin Now

Discussions will begin after a 5-minute break