



Regional Focus

Your Houston-Galveston Area Council Monthly Newsletter

October 2023 Edition

"What's Happening at H-GAC"

H-GAC is celebrating Biketober all month long! Learn how to get involved in this and other events throughout the region by watching October's edition of "What's Happening at H-GAC!"



BIKETOBER
BIKE THE GULF



H-GAC's Commute Solutions Program Launches its Biketober Challenge

Ride, learn about bike safety, and win prizes throughout the month!

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and its Commute Solutions program invite bike riders throughout the eight-county region, which includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties, to participate in the free Bike the Gulf Biketober Challenge from October 1-31, 2023.

"With October bringing cooler temperatures to the area, this is a great opportunity for residents to hop on a bike and enjoy the host of benefits riding a bike has to offer," said Emanuel Andrews, H-GAC senior program coordinator. "Biking can help to reduce stress and anxiety, improve heart health, and strengthen the immune system."

H-GAC, Commute Solutions, and Love to Ride, a program that inspires individuals and communities to start riding more, have partnered again to champion biking in the region. Riders of every level have the opportunity to log their rides taken during October on the Love to Ride Bike the Gulf website to be entered to win prizes.

Individuals, community groups, and workplaces can register to join the Biketober Challenge. Each ride an individual logs can help them earn points toward prize drawings for a \$4,000 vacation and other great prizes.

Points accrued by individuals help workplaces climb the Biketober Challenge leaderboards. Workplaces compete against other organizations of a similar size in this friendly competition that aims to help get more people cycling in the eight-county region.

For more information about the Biketober kick-off event and to register for the Biketober Challenge, visit lovetoride.net/biketothegulf.

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 STATE OF THE REGION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024
9:00 A.M.



Growing **Stronger** Together



THE BRIAR CLUB
2603 TIMMONS LANE
HOUSTON, TX 77027



Reminder: Solid Waste Application Deadline Approaching!

Grant Funding Opportunity!



H-GAC'S SOLID WASTE GRANT

Application Deadline: Noon, Tuesday, Oct. 17

H-GAC receives a portion of the money collected as tipping fees at landfills across the state as pass-through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to fund solid waste grant projects throughout the 13-county region.

As part of this program, H-GAC will award \$1 million in solid waste program grant funds to eligible projects through a competitive process. Grants will begin in March or September 2024, and all work must be completed by June 2025. This is the only call for projects planned for this biennium.

The grant application period will close at **noon Tuesday, October 17.**

For more information about the grant program or to be added to an email list to receive future solid waste grant notifications:

- contact: erin.livingston@h-gac.com, or
- click the button below to access the application and related information.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Reducing Flood Risk While Enhancing Water Quality

As home to more than 16,000 miles of waterways and shoreline, most residents in the Houston-Galveston region live within a mile or two of a waterway. Rivers, lakes, bays, and bayous enhance local economies, make up a crucial part of water supplies, and provide habitat for wildlife. Protecting and preserving the quality of these water bodies is essential to the region's quality of life.

By 2035, much of the region's drinking water will come from water in rivers, lakes, and bayous. Pollutants in these waters can increase the cost of treating water to be suitable for drinking. Today, most water bodies in the region do not meet the state standard for contact recreation.

One of the ways water quality in the region can be improved is through preserving, restoring, or enhancing natural areas through conservation practices. Conserving land adjacent to waterways and in upland natural areas like wetlands, forests, and prairies helps reduce the amount of pollution running off the land and into water bodies via stormwater.

An example of this is the Jersey Meadows Stormwater Detention Basin.

THE JERSEY MEADOWS STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN

A partnership project between the Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Precinct 4, and the city of Jersey Village resulted in the purchase of the Jersey Meadows Golf Course in 2008.

The conversion of this old golf course into the 43-acre, 114 million-gallon capacity Jersey Meadows Stormwater Detention Basin not only removed 4,000 structures from the 100-year floodplain but also led to significant water quality benefits.



The basin project included wetlands to filter water pollutants, native trees and shrubs, and a walking trail for residents.

Incorporating natural plantings and riparian vegetation has helped reduce bacteria concentrations in White Oak Bayou in addition to the neighboring community's flood damage reduction.

Enhancing urban areas with natural functions like wet-bottom detention ponds, trees, and native landscaping in new developments also helps reduce runoff pollution from roads and parking lots.

In 2021, the Houston-Galveston Area Council launched the Regional Conservation Initiative aimed at magnifying local conservation efforts and assisting local governments and nonprofits in securing the funding and resources needed to launch their own conservation projects.

More information about the initiative, including a conservation funding guide and toolbox, model projects throughout the region, ecosystem service benefits, and mapping tools, is available at www.hgac.com/regional-conservation.



The [Houston Area GIS Day](#) is slated for Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. GIS Day is the largest showcase of its kind showcasing the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) throughout the city of Houston and surrounding areas.

Interested in presenting at GIS day? [Submit your abstract](#).

Does your company use GIS? Support GIS Day by helping sponsor the event!

- \$2,500 - GUID Level Sponsor
- \$1,000 - LiDAR Level Sponsor
- \$550 - Polygon Level Sponsor
- \$350 - Line Level Sponsor
- \$150 - Point Level Sponsor

Learn about the benefits of sponsorship and [become a sponsor today!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

OCT 1-31

BIKETOBER

OCTOBER 1-31, 2023

- >>> Ride anywhere, any time
- >>> Win prizes for riding a bike
- >>> Everybody is welcome
- >>> Join the movement to get more people riding and smiling

Register for FREE at lovetoride.net/bikethegulf



CommuteSolutions

LOVE TO RIDE



connect smart



BIKE-HOUSTON

@lovetoride.net

@lovetorideglobal

@lovetoride

OCT 12



LUNCH* & LEARN RECORDS MANAGEMENT INTEREST GROUP

Featured Speaker:
CRAIG KELSO
Director, State and Local Records Management
Division/State of Texas Records Manager

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 12, 2023

FROM
11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

ATTEND IN PERSON AT
H-GAC OFFICES, 2ND FLOOR
3555 TIMMONS LN., HOUSTON

OR ATTEND ONLINE
VIA ZOOM

TO REGISTER
CLICK HERE OR VISIT:
h-gac.com/events/records-management-interest-group

FOR QUESTIONS
BENJAMINA.COVARRUBIAS@H-GAC.COM

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- City Secretaries
- Records Managers
- Anyone who manages police, municipal, or court records

*Lunch provided for on-site attendees.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council's Records Management Interest Group has been created as a means for H-GAC to support municipal records managers throughout the 13-county Gulf Coast Texas region.

OCT 17

H-GAC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

10 to 11 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17

Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln., Houston 77027
2nd Floor Conference Rooms ABC

For more information, visit: h-gac.com/board-of-directors



OCT 18

REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18

Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln. 77027
2nd Floor Conference Rooms BC



Scan to learn more or visit:
h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-flood-management-committee



BAY AREA BIKE-PED SAFETY PLAN

The Bay Area Bike-Ped Safety Plan will be used to guide short- and long-term priorities for non-motorized mobility, which could include recommendations for improved and expanded sidewalks, trails, street crossings, safety, and signage.

We need your feedback at an upcoming public meeting!

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 18

Bay Area Community Center
5002 E. NASA Parkway
Seabrook 77586



HOSTED BY:



Scan above to take our community survey and learn more about the plan or visit:



linktr.ee/bayarea_bikepedsafetyplan

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING

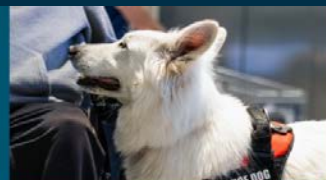
9:30 - 12 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18

Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln. 77027
2nd Floor Conference Rooms ABC



Scan to learn more or visit:
h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee

OCT 19



AGING & DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19



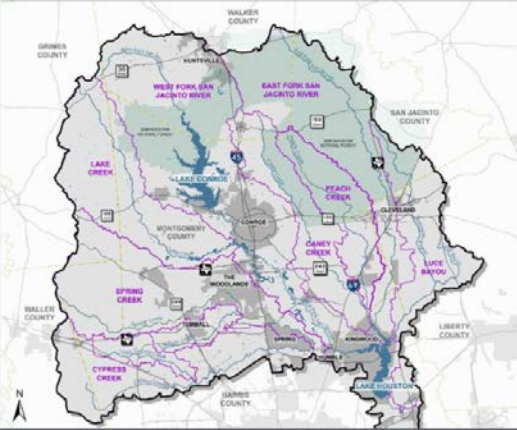
Scan to join the virtually, or attend in-person:

Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons, Ln. 77027
Conference Rooms ABC

**EAST FORK
SAN JACINTO RIVER
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**

IN-PERSON MEETING
2 - 4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19

Montgomery County
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
9020 Airport Road, Conroe 77303



Learn more at: eastforkpartnership.weebly.com

OCT 20

**GULF COAST ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

HYBRID MEETING
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20



Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln. 77027
2nd Floor Conference Rooms BC



Scan to learn more or visit:
<https://www.h-gac.com/gulf-coast-economic-development-district>

OCT 24

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 24

Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons, Ln., 77027
2nd Floor Conference Room B



OCT 25



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL MEETING

**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Wednesday, October 25**



Scan to register &
attend virtual meeting.

OCT 27

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL



HYBRID MEETING

**9:30 - 11 a.m.
Friday, Oct. 27**

Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln. 77027
2nd Floor Conference Rooms ABC



Scan to learn more or visit:
h-gac.com/transportation-policy-council/meeting-agendas

OCT 30

Mobile Counter Training



Monday, Oct. 30
10 - 11:30 a.m.

H-GAC
3555 Timmons Ln.
2nd floor
Houston, TX 77027

Discover the latest equipment for tracking active transportation movements in your area. Learn about the valuable data collected, its potential uses, and witness live installation demonstrations.

To RSVP, scan the QR code or visit:
bit.ly/MobileCounterTraining2023



This event is eligible for 1.50 CM from the American Planning Association.

NOV 1

**TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
SUBCOMMITTEE**

VIRTUAL MEETING

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 1**

**Scan to Join
the Meeting**

Click to learn more or visit:
h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program

NOV 2



NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 2


Click for more
information or visit:
h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/natural-resources-advisory-committee


Scan to join virtually:




Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons, Ln. 77027
2nd Floor Conference Rooms BC

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

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