

It takes as much energy to wish  
as it does to plan.

-Eleanor Roosevelt

Fall Planning Workshop:  
Environmental Planning for Local Governments

Thursday, November 10, 2011  
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

# AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 .....Registration, Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 ..... **Establishing the Framework: Why Environmental Planning?**

*Jeff Taebel, FAICP, Director of Community and Environmental Planning,  
Houston-Galveston Area Council*

9:15 – 10:50 ..... **Cracking the Code:**

**Getting to Greener Outcomes through Local Ordinances**

*Gary Mitchell, Vice President, Kendig Keast Collaborative*

10:50 – 11:00 ..... **Break**

11:00 – 11:40 ..... **The Dollars and Sense of Brownfield Redevelopment:**

**Exploring the Economic Benefits**

*Sue Darcy, President, Marsh Darcy Partners, Inc.*

11:40 – 12:20 ..... **Wildfire at the Edge of Town:**

**Understanding Risk Along the Wildland Urban Interface**

*Chuck Wemple, Economic Development Program Manager, H-GAC*

*Mike Montgomery, Fire Marshal, Harris County*

12:20 – 12:30 ..... **Concluding Remarks**

*Jeff Taebel, FAICP, H-GAC*

# SPEAKERS



Jeff  
Taebel

**Jeff Taebel**, FAICP, is Director of Community and Environmental Planning at H-GAC, where he oversees the agency's community and environmental planning, socioeconomic modeling, economic development, community enhancement, disaster recovery, and sustainable development initiatives. He has 29 years of experience in urban and regional planning, including 24 in his current position.

Actively involved in community service, professional development and planning education, Mr. Taebel is a former President of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association and in 2008 was inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Mr. Taebel received a Master of Urban Planning from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences from the University of Nebraska.



Gary  
Mitchell

**Gary Mitchell**, AICP, is Vice President of Kendig Keast Collaborative, based in Sugar Land. Over his 22-year career, Mr. Mitchell has had the opportunity to complete a wide variety of plans and special studies addressing: land use, transportation, growth management and annexation, housing, economic development, infrastructure, community facilities, public services, parking, bicycle/pedestrian circulation, downtowns, neighborhoods, special districts, environmental and cultural resources, park systems and trail networks, historic preservation, urban design, and transit-supportive station area planning.

Prior to consulting, Mr. Mitchell was with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (1990-99), eventually serving as Chief Regional Planner. Mr. Mitchell earned his Master of Urban Planning at Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics at the University of Texas at Austin.

# SPEAKERS



Sue  
Darcy

**Sue Darcy** is President of Marsh Darcy Partners, Inc. Ms. Darcy has worked extensively in the field of economic development, special district financing, and community revitalization having been involved with the creation of more than 30 special districts including tax increment reinvestment zones, management districts, neighborhood empowerment zones, municipal utility districts, and public improvement districts. She also has 20 years of commercial real estate sales and development experience. Ms. Darcy received her B.A. in History from Lamar University and completed post-graduate studies in history at the University of Houston.



Chuck  
Wemple

**Chuck Wemple** is the Economic Development Program Manager for H-GAC, the regional planning commission covering 13 counties and 126 cities centered around Houston and Harris County. Mr. Wemple

oversees regional hazard mitigation planning, disaster recovery, and regional community development initiatives that include local food, urban forestry and downtown revitalization. Mr. Wemple is the current President of the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council, manages the Gulf Coast Economic Development District and currently chairs the H-GAC Regional Sustainability Plan Consortium Committee.



Mike  
Montgomery

**Mike Montgomery** is the Fire Marshal for Harris County, the third-most populous county in the United States. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, and holds degrees in Business Administration and Fire Science Technology, along with various fire protection and hazardous materials certifications. He has received recognition for his work during Tropical Storm Allison, and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike. He deployed to the World Trade Center as a member of TX TF-1 US&R team, and serves on local and state planning committees for emergency response and homeland security. Mr. Montgomery is a lifetime member of the Cy-Fair VFD, and a member of the IAFC, the Texas Fire Marshals Association, and other professional organizations.

# PLANNING RESOURCES

## SMART GROWTH

Smart Growth Online - Supporting the development of vibrant, healthy communities  
[www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)

Smart Growth America - A Coalition of national, state, and local organizations promoting Smart Growth  
[www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org)

Water Quality Scorecard - Incorporating green infrastructure practices at municipal, neighborhood and site scales  
[http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/gi\\_municipal\\_scorecard.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/gi_municipal_scorecard.pdf)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community and Economic Development - Federal and state grant programs in rural communities, regional workforce initiatives, downtown revitalization and beautification  
<http://www.h-gac.com/community/community>

Policy Guide on Smart Growth - Using comprehensive planning to guide, design, develop, revitalize and build communities  
<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/smartgrowth.htm>

Texas Main Street Program - Helping Texas cities revitalize historic downtowns and neighborhood districts by utilizing preservation and economic development strategies  
<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/mainstreet/msdefault.shtml>

Brownfields Center at the Environmental Law Institute - Providing essential information on brownfields cleanup and redevelopment with a focus on the concerns and needs of community groups across the country  
<http://www.brownfieldscenter.org/big/resources.shtml>

International Economic Development Council Brownfields Resource Center- Offering a comprehensive “how-to” manual, research publications, links and more  
[http://www.iedconline.org/?p=Brownfields\\_Resource\\_Center](http://www.iedconline.org/?p=Brownfields_Resource_Center)

# PLANNING RESOURCES

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Local Government Commission - First stop shop for water resources

<http://water.lgc.org/tools>

Riparian Setbacks - Technical information for decision makers

[http://www.crwp.org/pdf\\_files/riparian\\_setback\\_paper\\_jan\\_2006.pdf](http://www.crwp.org/pdf_files/riparian_setback_paper_jan_2006.pdf)

Local Government Environmental Assistance Network - Model ordinances to protect local resources

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/NPS/ordinance>

Texas Urban Landscape Guide - Environmental-friendly plants and practices for the challenging Texas landscape

[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/urbanlandscapeguide/ordinance\\_approach.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/urbanlandscapeguide/ordinance_approach.html)

Watershed Forestry Resource Guide - A clearinghouse for all things related to forests and watersheds

<http://www.forestsforwatersheds.org/>

Riparian Forest Buffers - Function and design for protection and enhancement of water resources

[http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/n\\_resource/buffer/cover.htm](http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/n_resource/buffer/cover.htm)

Texas Forest Service - Wildfire prevention tips and news

<http://txforestservation.tamu.edu>

Central Texas Conservation Partnership – Resource protection and wildfire prevention

<http://texasconservation.org>

## DENSITY

Focus on Livable Communities - Compact development for more livable communities

[http://www.lgc.org/freepub/docs/community\\_design/focus/compact\\_development.pdf](http://www.lgc.org/freepub/docs/community_design/focus/compact_development.pdf)

# PLANNING RESOURCES

## RURAL PLANNING AND CONSERVATION PLANNING

Conservation Subdivisions - A better way for every beautiful place in America slated for development

[www.landchoices.org/conservationsubs.htm](http://www.landchoices.org/conservationsubs.htm)

Growing Greener - Putting conservation into local plans and ordinances

[http://www.greenerprospects.com/gg\\_d.html](http://www.greenerprospects.com/gg_d.html)

Download the Ordinance.org - Preserving communities' water quality, rural character and property values

<http://downloadtheordinance.org/>

# TODAY'S PRESENTATIONS

To find today's presentations, visit:

<http://www.h-gac.com/community/qualityplaces/workshops/fps.aspx>

# NOTES



Houston-Galveston Area Council  
P.O. Box 22777  
Houston, Texas 77227-2777  
713-627-3200