

# The meeting will begin shortly



Please mute your microphone until called for questions.



Please disable your video unless you are speaking.



Please enter your name and title in the chat.



Please insert questions in chat or raise hand to speak.



This meeting is being recorded.



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

# NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

---

## AGENDA

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 1:30 PM

Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting

# NRAC Agenda

## 1. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

## 2. Certify Quorum

A quorum of 12 is required to conduct committee business.

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 3. Approve Meeting Report

Request approval of August 7, 2025 meeting report.

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 4. Membership

H-GAC staff will provide a brief status update on membership.

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 5. Environmental Committee Highlights

Coordinators for H-GAC environmental committees will provide information on activities and updates from the past quarter.

- Regional Flood Management Committee (Rachel Windham for Amanda Ashcroft)
- Solid Waste Management Committee (Erin Livingston)

# Regional Flood Management Committee



- Met on October 15, 2025
- Heard presentations from:
  - San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
    - Shared call for needs and project submittals through Summer 2026
    - Upcoming public meeting series tentatively planned for Q1 2026
- The next meeting will be in person at H-GAC on:

**January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 6. Environmental Program Highlights

H-GAC Staff will highlight Community & Environmental Planning projects to seek comment and feedback from Committee members.

- Update on Wastewater Workforce Initiatives (Todd Running)
- Update on OSSF Homeowner Education Workshops (Bill Ervin)
- Total Maximum Daily Load and Environmental Protection Agency Projects Update (Steven Johnston)
- Watershed-Based Plans Update (Rachel Windham)
- Parks and Natural Areas Update (Rachel Windham for Andrea Tantillo)
- Discussion on Post-Flood Monitoring (Jenny Oakley)

# PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS ROUNDTABLE



Monday, October 6 – Planning for Resiliency, Fitness Court



18 people attended and participated in the roundtable, information exchange

# Annual Awards Cycle

| Activity                                                                                    | Timeline                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Review Application and Select Judges                                                        | July and August                                                                                      |
| Advertise Awards/Solicit Applications                                                       | August                                                                                               |
| Accept Applications                                                                         | August 25-September 30                                                                               |
| Judging                                                                                     | October/November  |
| National Resources Advisory Committee<br>Previews Award Recommendations                     | Early December                                                                                       |
| Notify Winners and share recommendations with<br>Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable Members | Mid December/January                                                                                 |
| H-GAC Board recognizes winners                                                              | January                                                                                              |
| Advertise Recognition Event                                                                 | January/early February                                                                               |
| Host recognition event                                                                      | Friday in early February                                                                             |



**Parks and  
Natural Areas  
2025 Awards**

**APPLY NOW!**



Winning projects serve as models for the H-GAC region on how parks can improve water quality, habitat, and quality of life.

Apply at [h-gac.com/parks](http://h-gac.com/parks)

Applications due 8/25/25–9/30/25

A program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

# Next Meeting

**Park Tour in Kemah**  
**December 10, 2025**  
**9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

# Thank You!

**ANDREA TANTILLO**

*Principal Program Coordinator*

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Direct | 832-681-2507

[www.h-gac.com](http://www.h-gac.com)

[Andrea.Tantillo@h-gac.com](mailto:Andrea.Tantillo@h-gac.com)

Find more at: [h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas/awards](http://h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas/awards)



# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 6. Environmental Program Highlights

H-GAC Staff will highlight Community & Environmental Planning projects to seek comment and feedback from Committee members.

- Update on Wastewater Workforce Initiatives (Todd Running)
- Update on OSSF Homeowner Education Workshops (Bill Ervin)
- Total Maximum Daily Load and Environmental Protection Agency Projects Update (Steven Johnston)
- Watershed-Based Plans Update (Rachel Windham)
- Parks and Natural Areas Update (Rachel Windham for Andrea Tantillo)
- Discussion on Post-Flood Monitoring (Jenny Oakley)

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 7. Subcommittees

### **Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence Subcommittee**

Staff coordinator, Rachel Windham, will provide an update on the status of the Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence Awards and future action.

# 2025 WINNERS



## AWARDS

### Education and Public Awareness

Texas Watershed Steward Program  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

### Program Performance

Urban Forestry Drone Program  
City of Pearland

### Completed Effort (Less Than \$200,000)

Arts in the Park  
City of La Marque

### Completed Effort (Greater Than \$200,000)

Wastewater Treatment Plant  
A&S Engineers and Partners

### Policy and Planning

Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Water Management Plan  
Houston Parks and Recreation Department

### Individual Excellence

Protecting Water Quality  
Tom Douglas

### Individual Excellence

Protecting Water Quality  
Marissa Llosa

## RECOGNITIONS

### Special Recognition for Innovation in Planning For Sustainable Resource Management

Jersey Village 2024 Water and Wastewater Master Plan  
City of Jersey Village

### Special Recognition for Expanding Access to Natural Resources

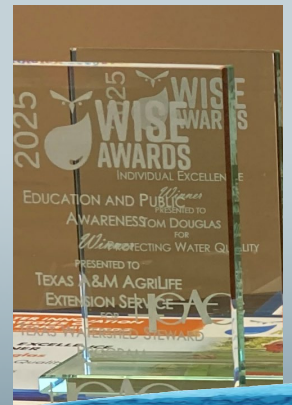
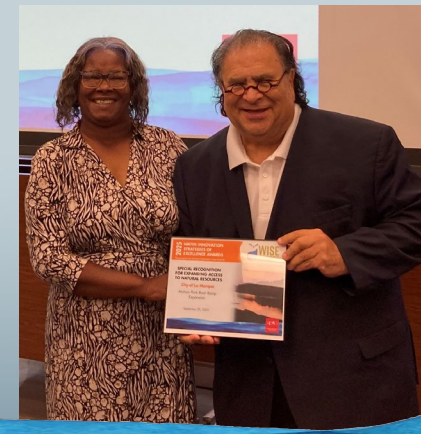
Mahan Park Boat Ramp Expansion  
City of La Marque



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

# 2025 CEREMONY

For more information, visit:  
<https://www.h-gac.com/wise-awards>



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 8. Topic of the Day

Rachel Windham will lead members in a discussion of goals and directions for the committee to prioritize in 2026.

Roses and Thorns

Meeting Format

Topics

Ideas for  
Future  
Meetings

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 9. Roundtable Discussion

NRAC members can bring up issues of import and/or interest for edification and/or discussion at this time. Please take advantage of this agenda item.

# Announcement



Join us for our hybrid workshop on topics in wastewater management

**Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

in person at H-GAC and virtually on Zoom!



<https://www.h-gac.com/clean-water-initiative-workshops>

# Bayou Preservation Association Fall Symposium on Wednesday Nov. 12

**What:** Bayou Preservation Association  
Fall Symposium

**When:** Wednesday November 12 from  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Where:** United Way of Greater Houston  
50 Waugh Drive, Houston

**Learn More and Register:**

<https://www.bayoupreservation.org/event>



Bayou Preservation Association <https://www.bayoupreservation.org/>

This fall's symposium "**Confluence: Where Ideas and Practice Meet**" returns with the theme **The Space Between: Designing Corridors for Connection and Purpose** - exploring the powerful intersections of mobility, ecology, and equity. Join urban planners, designers, engineers, ecologists, and civic leaders as we explore how green corridors and public lands promote healthier, more connected, and equitable cities.

# Low Impact Development and Nature Based Solutions for Watershed Protection – Nov. 13

**What:** Free Webinar on Low Impact Development and Nature Based Solutions for Watershed Protection

**When:** Thursday, November 13 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Where:** Virtual - Online

**Learn More and Register:**

<https://txstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/udEURtUWQQKJgplfsvv4GA#/registration>



American Institute of Architects-San Antonio

**Mikel Wilkins** is a Senior Engineer at the San Antonio River Authority, where he leads a team of engineers, planners, and landscape designers in the development of nature-based solutions and master plans for major watersheds of the San Antonio River basin. In addition to describing projects for Leon Creek, Salado Creek and the Upper San Antonio River watersheds, he will tell us about the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project, which aims to restore 11 miles of streams in Alazán, Apache, Martinez, and San Pedro Creeks that were channelized back in 1954 as part of a federal flood control project.

This webinar is one of a series of “Lunch and Learn” programs produced by Texas A&M University Corpus Christi’s Harte Research Institute as part of its Clean Coast Texas project.

# Practical Applications of Shoreline Stabilization Through Soft Approaches – Nov. 20

**What:** How Green Infrastructure Can Address Coastal Erosion

**When:** Thursday November 20, 2025 from 11:20 AM to 1:00 PM

**Where:** Cadillac Bar and Grill, 802 Shepherd Dr., Houston (Event includes lunch)

**Sponsored By:** Texas Association of Environmental Professionals

**Register:** <https://www.taep.org/>

If you are not a TAEF member, enter your email address under the New Users section and follow the prompts.

“Living shorelines” address coastal erosion and provide valuable habitat by incorporating natural vegetation that can absorb the energy of incoming waves. Our speakers, **Ryan Gilbert** (ESE Partners) and **Jim Dobberstine** (Lee College), are experts on environmental science and environmental management with extensive experience in Galveston Bay and beyond.



# 2026 State of the Bay Symposium – Feb. 24-25

**What:** 2026 State of the Bay Symposium

**When:** Tuesday-Wednesday February 24-25, 2026

**Where:** Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center, Galveston

**Register at:**

<https://gbep.texas.gov/>



Galveston Bay Estuary Program <https://gbep.texas.gov/>

The **Galveston Bay Estuary Program** coordinates the **State of the Bay Symposium** to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to interact and share environmental policy and management successes, report the latest monitoring and research findings, and illuminate the challenges facing Galveston Bay.

# The Watershed Rock Opera – See It Now Online!



Mt. Adams Institute <https://mtadamsinstitute.org/watershedrockopera/>

***The Watershed Rock Opera***, in five movements, acclaimed as “The Greatest Rock Opera Ever Produced About a Watershed,” was recorded live in **Hood River, Oregon** in April 2025. The story follows the course of water, moving from the sky as rain, to the high Cascades, to fruit orchards, through Hood River’s sewer system, to the Columbia River. It features original music composed and performed by local musicians in accompaniment with original film, audio, and theatrical performances. In the frame shown above, a woman who has just contributed to the sewer system receives a surprise visit from the Wastewater Wizard.

You can view the performance and read about the author and performers at <https://mtadamsinstitute.org/watershedrockopera/>

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 10. Public Comment

Members of the public can sign up to public comment. Three minutes allotted for each public comment.

# NRAC Agenda (continued)

## 11. Next Meeting Date

Unless otherwise notified, the next scheduled meeting is:

**Thursday, February 5, 2026 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

This meeting will be held as a hybrid in-person/online event.

## 12. Adjourn