



As Hurricane Season Begins, HCFCD Asks

Are You Prepared?

June 1 was the official start of the six-month hurricane season, and with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita leaving such damaging wakes last year, flooding concerns are top of mind for many people living along Brays Bayou and throughout Harris County.

HCFCD, the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, want to remind residents to get prepared.

For a complete list of items to include in your Family Emergency Kit and some tips to assist in organizing plans for flooding and other disasters, visit www.projectbrays.org.

Who Needs

Flood Insurance?

The quick and simple answer is everyone needs flood insurance, and that's not just those living along Brays Bayou, or even in Harris County. Since flooding is a natural disaster affecting all 50 states, every one should invest in flood insurance.

Many homes flood because excess stormwater cannot drain into a storm drainage system fast enough, and even an inch of flood water could cost \$7,000 worth of damages, according to FEMA.

While it's true that there are specific areas that are more likely to flood, a quick onset of a flash flood could easily damage homes located well outside the mapped flood plains.

Harris County and the incorporated cities belong to the National Flood Insurance Program, and anyone living in these areas can purchase flood insurance.

Since flood insurance is not a part of standard homeowner's or renter's insurance, it is important to ask insurance providers specifically about flood insurance and what coverage is needed.

HCFCD Digs into Several Milestone Projects

People living and working along Brays Bayou near the mouth at the Houston Ship Channel may have noticed a few changes along the banks. On May 1, the Harris County Flood Control District broke ground on the channel modifications from the mouth to Lawndale.

"We've reached a major milestone with the start of construction on this channel segment," said Raouf Farid, Program Manager for Project Brays. "There's a lot more work to be done, but we've started, and we're on our way to completion."

BRH-Garver Construction, LP, was awarded the channel modification contract in January and began work on Segment 2 at the beginning of May. At approximately \$6.7 million, the Segment 2 work involves removing 314,000 cubic yards of soil to create an additional 195 acre feet of stormwater storage.



Ricky Denny, an HCFCD Inspector, and Gary Zika, a Project Brays Project Manager, discuss channel modification plans for the construction near the Houston Ship Channel.

The initial channel modifications from the mouth to Lawndale involved changes in the channel around the Freshwater Tidal Marsh area, which was completed in the first quarter of 2006.

While work has just begun at the mouth, there are several projects that have been in progress for years.

Arthur Storey Park Stormwater Detention Basin

The completion of construction on the stormwater detention basin at Arthur Storey Park is another major milestone HCFCD is approaching. The final bid for work in Arthur Storey Park was awarded in May to Serco Construction Group, L.T.D. The final phase will create an additional 220 acre feet of stormwater storage by removing approximately 355,000 cubic yards of soil. Construction is expected to take approximately 200 days and will cost approximately \$3.2 million.

Old Westheimer Stormwater Detention Basin

HCFCD is also in the final stage of construction on the Old Westheimer Stormwater Detention Basin. A bid was opened for the final work on the basin and upstream channel modifications in May. The bid calls for the excavation of approximately 195,000 cubic yards of soil. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 110 days and the contract is approximately \$2.3 million.

Eldridge Stormwater Detention Basin

Phase 4 of the Eldridge Stormwater Detention Basin is expected to go out for bid in the third quarter of 2006 for approximately \$3 million. Phase 5 is expected to go out for bid in the third quarter of 2006 for about \$12.3 million.

Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention Basin

Construction continues on the Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention Basin with Phase 2. Upon completion, more than 920,000 cubic yards of soil will be removed and almost 570 acre feet of stormwater storage will be added. Phase 3 is expected to go out for bid around the third quarter of 2006 for about \$1 million.

Bidding schedules are dependent upon funding allocation and availability.

CONSTRUCTION

*Snapshot for
2006-2007**

Channel Modifications

- Old Westheimer Road to Eldridge
- Mouth to Lawndale
- Calhoun to Ardmore

Stormwater Detention Basins

- Willow Waterhole
- Eldridge
- Arthur Storey Park
- Old Westheimer Road

Bridge Modifications

- Galveston Sub Railroad
- Forest Hill Boulevard

**Note: Schedule is anticipated and subject to change.*

NEIGHBORHOOD

News & Events

HCFCF Receives a Partnership/Synergy Award

In March, the Harris County Flood Control District was awarded the Partnership/Synergy Award from The Park People for the Brays Bayou Freshwater Tidal Marsh project.

This Partnership/Synergy Award was one of six given by The Park People at its 2006 Annual Awards Dinner. Awards are given to people and organizations whose combined work for parks and open spaces have a greater effect than the sum of individual efforts.



The Freshwater Tidal Marsh was a cooperation between the Harris County Flood Control District and its partners, the City of Houston, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Cooperative Extension/Texas Sea Grant, Austin and Chavez high schools, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Coastal Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Master Naturalist, NRG Texas (formerly Texas Genco), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Coastal Management Program/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Project Brays in Your Community

During the months of September and October, HCFCF will be visiting three areas along the bayou to talk with the community about Project Brays. HCFCF invites residents to enjoy the weekend at Arthur Storey Park, Mason Park and Willow Waterhole, where they will inform residents of the many benefits of flood damage reduction projects. For specific locations and times, visit www.projectbrays.org or call 713-316-4820.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON STUDENTS

Help Beautify Brays

Twenty-four University of Houston students recently submitted ideas for beautification projects along Brays Bayou in conjunction with the Greater East End Management District (GEEMD).

Mary Margaret Hansen, president of the GEEMD, said that the effort is a way to generate excitement and increase awareness of the bayou in the community.

A few of the ideas submitted by the students include an amphitheater, sculptural rain gauges, an ecology center and bayou cisterns. Students of Patrick Peters and Cheryl Beckett, instructors of architecture and graphic arts respectively, designed the amenities as class assignments. Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia invited the University of Houston students to show their work at a March East End town hall meeting.

Hansen added that if these public amenities are built, they will be used as tools for fundraising and education to support the continuous trails and greenspace.

The students' display models will be shown around Houston through September. The models will be on display in downtown Houston through July 6 and then will move to Ripley House, 4410 Navigation from July 7 through Aug. 10 with a reception July 11 at 6 p.m. The final stop is at Frost Bank, 1001 Broadway, displaying Aug. 14 through Sept. 15 with a reception Aug. 17 at 10 a.m.

SPOTLIGHT on our Breakfast

More than 60 Community Work Group members and HCFCF staff gathered at the Project Brays Breakfast in April.

Everyone enjoyed breakfast, a short presentation given by Project Brays Project Manager Raouf Farid, which included the latest news and construction updates and a question-and-answer session. Afterward, guest speakers Kevin Shanley of SWA Group and Mary Margaret Hansen of the Greater East End Management District discussed their efforts to build upon Project Brays. The next breakfast will be in the fall.



Theola Petteway, OST/Alameda Corridor Redevelopment Authority, speaks with Mary Margaret Hansen, Greater East End Management District, and Curtis Lampley, Harris County Flood Control District, at the Community Work Group Breakfast.

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!

If you have questions, please e-mail us at info@projectbrays.org or call the Project Brays Hotline at 713-316-4820.

For up-to-date information, you can also visit the Project Brays website at

www.projectbrays.org.

