

How to Use the Flood Education Mapping Tool

You can find the new Flood Education Mapping Tool at the Harris County Flood Control District's website – www.hcfcd.org.

The new Flood Education Mapping Tool is an educational resource for the residents of Harris County providing information about the mapped floodplains in Harris County relative to residences, businesses and other structures. It builds on the mapping tool that was created through the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project (TSARP), a multi-year, joint initiative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Flood Control District in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Allison 10 years ago. TSARP produced a new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM or floodplain map) for Harris County and its 22 major watersheds.

Here are some steps to help get you started using the Flood Education Mapping Tool:

1. Go to www.hcfcd.org. Click the Flood Education Mapping Tool icon to be directed to the mapping tool. The tool opens to the map of Harris County.
2. Type an address in the address search bar. The map will zoom to that address and the floodplains will appear. A text window also will appear with information specific to the address entered, including contact information for the local floodplain administrator and watershed information with a link to that watershed's information page on www.hcfcd.org. If the address entered is in an area where there has been a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), which is an update to the floodplain, a message will appear in the text window that includes a link to FEMA's Map Service Center and a case number to locate more information on that LOMR.

Additional features of the Flood Education Mapping Tool include:

- General Map Controls allow you to pan, or move, the map in any direction, zoom in or out and change the map display to a road map or aerial (satellite map image) view. The road map view is the default option as it allows for optimized viewing of the map view options.
- Map View Options allow you to select (one at a time) mapped floodplains, watersheds (color-coded) or ponding views.
- The mapped floodplain option displays the floodway, 1 percent (100-year) floodplain, 0.2 percent (500-year) floodplain, 1 percent (100-year) coastal floodplain and LOMR boundary.
- The watershed option displays Harris County's 22 major watersheds, which are geographical regions that drain to a common bayou, creek or other waterway.
- The ponding option displays known ponding areas where stormwater typically collects when rainfall exceeds the capacity of a street's drainage system or the land's ability to drain. Dark red indicates deep ponding and light red indicates shallow ponding.
- Other legend items display Harris County's network of channels, watershed boundaries and the Harris County boundary.
- You can select and print, or save, the map shown on the tool.
- Additional help can be found by clicking on the "Help" link above the address search bar.
- The Flood Education Mapping Tool also includes a glossary and frequently-asked questions that generally address topics about flooding risks, floodplains and flood insurance. The new site also contains updated information about TSARP.