



GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND CONSTRAINTS

Buffalo Bayou & Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study

As part of the study process, the Harris County Flood Control District developed goals, objectives, and constraints for the study. Federal objectives satisfy the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, while local goals, objectives, and constraints have been identified to address the interests of the local community. The purpose of developing local goals, objectives, and constraints that work in conjunction with federal objectives is to identify the best plan for the community. The following goals, objectives, and constraints were developed with stakeholder and public involvement.

Goals

- Conduct the necessary engineering, economic, and environmental studies in a timely manner to evaluate flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration and enhancements, and recreation measures along Buffalo Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou.
- Identify a viable project that is acceptable to the public, local sponsors, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Select a plan that is competitive for federal funding.
- Outside the selected federal plan, identify and prioritize viable alternatives for flood damage reduction and environmental enhancements that could be locally funded.

Objectives

Flood Damage Reduction Objectives

- Reduce damages due to riverine flooding along Buffalo Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou.*
- Identify a plan that reasonably maximizes the net economic benefits for the purpose of flood damage reduction.
- Develop flood damage reduction components that enhance or complement the environment where possible.*

Ecosystem Restoration Objectives

- Improve the function and value of significant ecosystem resources along Buffalo Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou.*
- Identify and evaluate opportunities for environmental enhancements.

Recreation Objective

- Identify and evaluate opportunities to improve the aesthetics and recreational features, such as hike and bike trails, and the resulting economic benefits along Buffalo Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou.*

General Objectives

- Strive to preserve cultural resources and plan to minimize and mitigate unavoidable adverse impacts to these resources.
- Strive to identify and form partnerships with other entities to participate in this study.

Constraints

- The project should be limited to the planning area defined by the Buffalo Bayou watershed and the White Oak Bayou watershed downstream of IH 610 (lower White Oak Bayou).
- The flood damage reduction portion of the project must conform to the mission of the HCFCD and be implemented by the HCFCD and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers under existing laws and ordinances.
- The project should not increase water surface elevations in any location.
- An ecosystem restoration plan must have a local sponsor with the authority and funding to implement the plan. If no local sponsor is identified, HCFCD can only participate in an ecosystem restoration plan if plan features are integral with flood damage reduction, conform to the mission of HCFCD, and can be implemented by the HCFCD under existing laws and ordinances.

* Federal and local

