

## Public Hearing Process Begins for the Halls Bayou Keith-Wiess Park Multi-Use Project

### February 18, 2004

The public hearing process for the Halls Bayou Keith-Wiess Park multi-use project was initiated at the City of Houston on February 18, 2004. Mke Talbott, P.E., Director of the Harris County Flood Control District, and Roksan Okan-Vick, AIA, Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department co-presented the project to Houston City Council at a public hearing administered by Senior Assistant City Attorney, Kathryn J. Farley.

Parks are considered "protected land" under Texas law, and the public hearing process is to determine that there is not "feasible and prudent" alternative use of parkland and that any use "minimizes harm" to the park. By carefully devising a fully compatible joint-use plan for parkland, the District is actually enhancing Keith-Wiess Park and the quality of life for area citizens. The result is a master plan for the Park that seamlessly integrates flood damage reduction features with the land, the neighborhood and the environment. Not only does the plan minimize harm to Keith-Wiess Park, it actually enhances the Park and advances its development. This project is one example of how creativity and cooperation are serving to improve the quality of life for Harris County residents.

Findings of the public hearing will be presented to the City of Houston at a later date. The District will also be conducting a public hearing with its governing body, Harris County Commissioners Court, starting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

[> Learn more about the overall Halls Bayou project and Keith-Wiess Park.](#)

### Current News

#### 2009 News Archive

[November 25, 2009](#)  
[November 24, 2009](#)  
[September 30, 2009](#)  
[September 18, 2009](#)  
[August 26, 2009](#)  
[July 21, 2009](#)  
[July 8, 2009](#)  
[June 30, 2009](#)  
[June 22, 2009](#)  
[June 18, 2009](#)  
[June 3, 2009](#)  
[April 24, 2009](#)  
[April 1, 2009](#)  
[March 27, 2009](#)

#### 2008 News Archive

[December 8, 2008](#)  
[September 18, 2008](#)  
[July 2, 2008](#)  
[May 29, 2008](#)  
[April 16, 2008](#)  
[March 31, 2008](#)  
[March 25, 2008](#)  
[March 21, 2008](#)  
[March 3, 2008](#)  
[February 13, 2008](#)  
[February 8, 2008](#)

#### 2007 News Archive

#### 2006 News Archive

#### 2005 News Archive

#### 2004 News Archive

[December 21, 2004](#)  
[November 05, 2004](#)  
[October 18, 2004](#)  
[September 16, 2004](#)  
[September 15, 2004](#)  
[September 01, 2004](#)  
[August 19, 2004](#)  
[August 03, 2004](#)  
[August 03, 2004](#)  
[July 28, 2004](#)  
[July 16, 2004](#)  
[July 06, 2004](#)  
[June 28, 2004](#)  
[June 21, 2004](#)  
[June 10, 2004](#)  
[May 27, 2004](#)  
[May 17, 2004](#)  
[May 10, 2004](#)  
[May 03, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 26, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 19, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 05, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 24, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 22, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 08, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 07, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 01, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 18, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 11, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 05, 2004](#)

#### 2003 News Archive

⋮

- Capital Improvement Program
- Major Projects**
  - General Info
  - Armand Bayou
  - Brays Bayou
  - Carpenters Restoration
  - Clear Creek
  - Clear Creek - 2nd Outlet Channel
  - Cypress Creek
  - Greens Bayou
  - Halls Bayou
  - Hunting Bayou
  - Memorial Park
  - Demonstration Project
  - Poor Farm Ditch
  - Sims Bayou
  - Terry Hershey Park
  - Surveying Contract
  - Vogel Creek**
  - W129-00-00
  - White Oak Bayou
- Infrastructure
- Home Buyout
- Geographic Information Systems
- Greens Bayou Wetlands Mitigation Bank
- Stormwater Quality
- TS-Allison Recovery Project
- Watershed Environmental Baseline Program

## Vogel Creek Homeowner Association President's Meeting

**February 25, 2004**

Homeowner Association presidents in the Vogel Creek Project area were invited to attend a status briefing on February 25, 2004 at Living Word Fellowship Church. Attendees included representatives of the Inwood Forest Community Improvement Association, the Northwest Management Association, the Greater Inwood Partnership, the Arbor Oaks Civic Association, the Inwood Forest Country Club & Golf Course and Councilmember Toni Lawrence.

## Vogel Creek Conveyance Improvement Project

- > Project Overview
- > Project Status
- > Environmental Permits
- > Utilities & Bridge Modifications
- > Home Buyout Along Vogel Creek
- > Vogel Creek Maps & Exhibits
- > Vogel Creek Images
- > Vogel Creek VR Panoramas
- > Vogel Creek FAQs
- > **News & Information**
  - March 2005 Update
  - February 2005 Update
  - January 25, 2005
  - November 22, 2004
  - September 29, 2004
  - February 25, 2004**
  - December 8, 2003
- > Vogel Creek Downloads
- > Vogel Creek Contact Info



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
**Mar. 01, 2004**  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive



## Harris County Flood Control District To Release Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data on Floodplains and Floodways

#### First Phase of Completed Data to Be Released March 8 CONTACT:

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015



View press release, plus FAQs (PDF, 368KB, 01 March 2004)

#### March 01, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District (the District) announced that, on March 8th, it will release Flood Hazard Recovery Data for the Brays, Goose, Jackson, Luce, and San Jacinto (North of I-10) watersheds as part of the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project (TSARP).

Flood Hazard Recovery Data represents the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways of these watersheds using the latest engineering and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The DFIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

#### Communicating Now About Possible Changes in Mapped Floodplains

"In essence, Flood Hazard Recovery Data is a preview of the preliminary DFIRMs," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary DFIRMs. We want to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways in their area."

#### Advances in Technology Promote the Understanding of Flood Risks

Advances in technology - in particular a laser technology called LiDAR that was developed by NASA and used extensively in the TSARP project to define the ground surface - have allowed the District and FEMA to obtain and document a more precise understanding of Harris County's flood risks than previously possible.

"This project has used the best engineering and technology available to define the primary flood risks in Harris County. Advances in technology are also allowing us to communicate more effectively with the public about what we have found," Talbott said.

#### Address Searches via the Internet

Beginning on March 8th, Flood Hazard Recovery Data will be available through the TSARP Web site, [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Brays, Goose, Jackson, Luce, and San Jacinto watersheds will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data for their area by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1%, and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for these areas.

Engineering information regarding these watersheds will be able to be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information), and plotted channel water surface profiles.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 17 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released every Monday in the order in which work is completed.

#### Data Is For Educational and Informational Purposes

The District stressed that the Flood Hazard Recovery Data is intended for educational - not regulatory - purposes. While the floodplain and floodway boundaries are believed to be what will be reflected in the preliminary DFIRMs, they are still subject to change.

In addition, the Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not subject to an appeal. When preliminary DFIRMs are released in late spring, individuals who believe that their floodplain designation is in error will be given an opportunity to file a technical appeal with FEMA through their local floodplain administrator.

#### Community Outreach and Education

Since the inception of TSARP in late 2001, FEMA and the District have embarked on an extensive outreach effort to keep the community informed about the progress of the project. To date, more than 100 presentations have been given to community and professional groups across the county.

It is hoped that the release of the Flood Hazard Recovery Data will spark further community interest in flood risks, TSARP, and the National Flood Insurance Program.

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the Web site at [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or to schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
**Mar. 07, 2004**  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

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## Flood Gains: It's About Reducing the Risks

By Michael D. Talbott, P.E.

Director, Harris County Flood Control District

As originally printed in the *Houston Chronicle*, Outlook section, March 7, 2004.

March 07, 2004

Flooding will once again be the center of attention this week, although (hopefully) not due to an actual flood event.

On Monday, March 8th, the Harris County Flood Control District will release important [Flood Hazard Recovery Data](#) for the Brays Bayou, Goose Creek, Jackson Bayou, Luce Bayou, and San Jacinto River watersheds of Harris County. Similar Data for the remaining 17 watersheds of Harris County will be released on a weekly basis as the work is completed.

Flood Hazard Recovery Data represents the most current understanding of the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways of these watersheds using the latest engineering and technology.

This information is being developed through the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#), a partnership between the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Flood Hazard Recovery Data will be used by FEMA to issue new preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for all communities in Harris County in late Spring. Issuing the DFIRMs will initiate the administrative process to make the new floodplain information official for flood insurance purposes.

While the Flood Hazard Recovery Data must be considered to be a "preview" of the information that will be contained on the preliminary DFIRMs, and therefore subject to change, the information should be nearly identical. Our confidence is based on the applications of the most advanced engineering methods and technology used throughout the project. One of the most dramatic advances involves a NASA-developed airborne laser technology called LiDAR to establish ground surface elevations with a level of precision never before possible. TSARP has also produced excellent results due to the active involvement of concerned citizens, building officials, and technical organizations to advise us throughout the study process.

Beginning tomorrow, residents of the released watersheds will be able to view our best understanding of where the floodplains lie by visiting [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org). On this web site, (as well as the District's - [www.hcfc.org](http://www.hcfc.org)) they will also be able to learn about our area's natural and historic risk of flooding, what is being done about it, and of the importance of carrying flood insurance.

To the District's knowledge, it is unprecedented that Data of this nature is being made available to the community in this accessible a format prior to FEMA issuing preliminary DFIRMs.

Put simply, the District and FEMA want the public to have as much time as possible to become aware of their flooding risks. An informed community is a more damage-resistant community.

Toward that end, it is important that the community keep a series of facts in mind so that the Data can be placed in proper perspective.

A common misconception is that the current county floodplain maps are "wrong." In fact, they are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. However, new technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely *new* study of flooding potential, not an *update* of old information. As such, it is not appropriate to characterize mapped floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in *flood risk* - it is simply a *new understanding* of our flood risk.

Indeed, a number of technical differences in the new study approach make direct comparisons to the old study inappropriate. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. Another is the use of new (larger) rainfall values than the old study based on additional years of rainfall records.

These and other differences make it impossible to attribute any change in our understanding of flood risk to an individual cause. Also, each watershed is unique and possesses independent flooding conditions; information released from one watershed should not be used to make generalizations about another.

Nevertheless, there will be those who will attribute changes in our floodplains to a single source - new development. Development has played a role in our flooding problems, but not in the way most people realize. Historically, what development has done is place people in the path of a naturally flood prone landscape.

Quantifying our flood risk is a fairly recent development - the 1% (100-year) flood was not adopted as a standard until the National Flood Insurance Program was established in 1968, local floodplain regulations were not established until the early 1970's, and the first detailed studies of flooding for Harris County were not published until 1985. The unfortunate result is that most of the chronic flooding problems in our region are found in areas that were developed before adopting the standard of measuring risk (the 1% flood), and before regulations.

Part of the study effort to understand Tropical Storm Allison confirmed that floodplains today are smaller than they were 100 years ago - evidence that the massive flood damage reduction projects have been very effective. Flood risks continue to be reduced every day as flood damage reduction projects are provided, and building regulations are enforced to help ensure that new problems are not created.

On Monday (and for weeks thereafter) there will undoubtedly be those who will check to see if their residence falls within the estimated mapped floodplain, and if it does not will improperly surmise that they possess no flood risk.

It is imperative to keep in mind that every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and high levels of annual rainfall. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison).

Moreover, as advanced as our engineering technologies have become, mapped floodplains still represent simulations (albeit highly informed) of a theoretical rainfall event - about 13 inches of rain in 24 hours for the 1% (100-year) event. Although there are extensive checks against actual storm and flooding events to be sure the computer models can reproduce observed information, the mapping is not directly based on any flooding event that has ever occurred - it is still theoretical.

The Data should also be viewed as a snapshot in time of flood risk. Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects will help shrink floodplains in many areas, while preventing their enlargement in others.

For example, Brays Bayou watershed is in the first group of Data to be released, and is one of the areas where historical flooding is well documented. Brays Bayou also has underway the [largest flood damage reduction project in the history of Harris County](#), a \$450 million effort being conducted in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The District will start using the Flood Hazard Recovery Data on "[Project Brays](#)" now and we will apply similar knowledge to all of our other current and planned projects as it becomes available.

The countywide potential of [Flood Hazard Recovery Data and TSARP](#) will not be fully realized, however, if the District alone uses the information, or if people wait for the new DFIRMs to be approved before applying the knowledge.

The Harris County Flood Control District is not a floodplain administrator, nor is it a regulatory agency. It is a special purpose district charged by the Texas legislature (in part) with responsibility for "the control, storing, preservation and distribution" of Harris County's rivers, streams, tributaries, and flood waters.

Local regulatory oversight of floodplain maps rests with each of Harris County's 35 communities. Typically, communities have waited for floodplain maps to be formally approved by FEMA before adopting them into their building ordinances. However, in light of the fact that Flood Hazard Recovery Data represents the latest information, it is advisable (at a minimum) that each community ensure that developers applying for permits are asked to confirm that the new information was made available.

Government cannot address flooding alone, however. You will recall the damage suffered by the Texas Medical Center during Tropical Storm Allison. Since that time, various institutions in the Medical Center have undertaken a significant effort to flood-proof buildings and tunnels to protect themselves and ensure they do not suffer similar damage in the future. They deserve tremendous credit for setting an example of enlightened flood control leadership that other institutions and land developers are following.

Individuals too have a responsibility. They have a responsibility to pay attention to the Flood Hazard Recovery Data as it is released and make informed decisions about protecting themselves against a possible flood, including a responsibility to carry flood insurance whether or not they are required to do so.

While flooding will be the center of attention over the next few months because of the new floodplain maps, I can assure you we will focus on actual flooding again in the future. The storm will be called by a name other than Allison (that name has been retired) or it may not have a name at all.

This is not to say that we cannot reduce the risk of flooding. We *can* do that, we *have* done that, and we *are* doing that - in a more innovative and effective manner than at any time in the Harris County Flood Control District's 67-year history.

As devastating as [Tropical Storm Allison](#) was for Harris County, it did have some positive aspects - especially a renewed public awareness of flooding and flood damage reduction as one of the most important issues affecting our community.

We are also witnessing an unprecedented energy and long-term commitment by the majority of our county's communities to tackle local flooding issues.

I am confident that countywide we can harness this energy to understand our flooding problems and continue to construct new stormwater systems that will improve our quality of life - by reducing the devastation of flooding and creating wonderful open space for use between floods.

- top -



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
**Mar. 08, 2004**  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

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## Harris County Flood Control District Releases Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data On Floodplains And Floodways For Five Watersheds Information Accessible Via Internet CONTACT:

Lillie Laws  
Harris County Flood Control District  
713-684-4015



View press release, plus FAQs (PDF, 380KB, 08 March 2004)

#### March 08, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Brays Bayou, Goose Creek, Jackson Bayou, Luce Bayou, and San Jacinto River (north of I-10) watersheds, as part of the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project (TSARP).

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for these watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and will be used to produce new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The DFIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary DFIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is "not" a preliminary DFIRM. The administrative process to adopt the DFIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in late Spring. Flood insurance requirements and rates are "not" affected by the current release of Data.

#### Educating the Public About Flood Risks

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary DFIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

#### Addresses Searches via the Internet

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Brays, Goose, Jackson, Luce and San Jacinto watersheds will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for these areas.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site, including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 17 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the [TSARP web site](http://www.tsarp.org), the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

#### Important Facts To Keep In Perspective

As the public begins to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

As the public begins to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

TSARP represents an entirely "new" study of flooding potential, not an "update" of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a "new understanding" of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects will help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County. For example, a massive flood damage reduction project on Brays Bayou, "Project Brays," is well underway and is the largest flood damage reduction project in the history of Harris County. Project Brays is a \$450 million effort being conducted by the District in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the Harris County Flood Control District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
**Mar. 22, 2004**  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Releases Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data on Floodplains and Floodways for Carpenters Bayou Watershed Information Accessible Via Internet

**CONTACT:**

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015

[View press release, plus FAQs](#) (PDF, 380KB, 22 March 2004)**March 22, 2004**

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Carpenters Bayou watershed as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for the watershed using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The DFIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary DFIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary DFIRM. The administrative process to adopt the DFIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in late Spring. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

**Educating the Public About Flood Risks**

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbot, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary DFIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbot said.

**Addresses Searches via the Internet**

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Carpenters Bayou watershed will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for these areas. Flood Hazard Recovery Data released on March 8 for Brays Bayou, Goose Creek, Jackson Bayou, Luce Bayou, and San Jacinto River watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 16 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

**Important Facts To Keep In Perspective**

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects will help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not



If an individual thinks that they do not live within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
**Mar. 24, 2004**  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive



## ProjectBrays.org Goes Live

### Residents and Businesses Are Just A Click Away From Learning About Reducing The Risk Of Flood Damage Along Brays Bayou

[www.projectbrays.org](http://www.projectbrays.org)

#### New Website Keeps Communities Along Brays Bayou Informed And Connected BRAYS MEDIA

**CONTACT:**

**Kiska Stancek**  
[kiska@vollmerpr.com](mailto:kiska@vollmerpr.com)  
713-970-2100  
VOLLMER

March 24, 2004

**WHO**

Brays Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Project ([Project Brays](#)), the largest, most extensive flood damage reduction project ever to be managed by the Harris County Flood Control District.

**WHAT**

With the concern of flooding at the forefront of many people's minds, particularly along Brays Bayou, the District has recently launched [www.projectbrays.org](http://www.projectbrays.org). This website will educate the community about flood damage reduction along Brays Bayou and track the progress of Project Brays.

[Projectbrays.org](#) features up-to-date [construction information](#) on the various flood damage reduction project features along the bayou, information on traffic detours and a [community calendar](#) listing upcoming Project Brays presentations at local community meetings, information fairs and public meetings. The site also includes a Project Brays [overview](#) and [history](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), [photographs](#) and [maps](#), a [learning center](#) and many more tools and resources.

**WHAT ELSE**

[Projectbrays.org](#) is part of an overall public information program, which also includes:

- A Project Brays hotline at 713-316-4820 for information and inquiries
- Public meetings and open houses
- Speaking engagements to community groups and other organizations

Project Brays, a cooperative effort between the [District](#) and the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), is designed to benefit thousands of residents and businesses by reducing the risk of flood damage along Brays Bayou. In addition, Project Brays provides opportunities for third parties to sponsor multi-use greenspace recreational amenities, such as parks, picnic areas and hike and bike trails for the Brays Bayou community.

The District is responsible for approximately 1,700 square miles of Harris County, specifically the 22 major watersheds and 2,500 miles of watercourses throughout Harris County.



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
**April 05, 2004**  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Releases Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data on Floodplains and Floodways for Buffalo Bayou and Sims Bayou Watersheds Information Accessible Via Internet CONTACT:

Lillie Laws  
Harris County Flood Control District  
713-684-4015



View press release, plus FAQs (PDF, 384KB, 05 April 2004)

#### April 05, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Buffalo Bayou and Sims Bayou watersheds as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

Some additional stream miles are being modeled as part of TSARP that have not been modeled in previous studies. The Data for some of these additional stream miles are not yet completed for the Buffalo and Sims Bayou watersheds. The Flood Hazard Recovery Data for these additional stream miles in the Buffalo and Sims Bayou watersheds will be released at a later date.

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The DFIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary DFIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary DFIRM. The administrative process to adopt the DFIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in late Spring. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

#### Educating the Public About Flood Risks

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary DFIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

#### Addresses Searches via the Internet

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Buffalo and Sims Bayou watersheds will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for these areas. Flood Hazard Recovery Data previously released for Brays, Carpenters, Goose, Jackson, Luce and San Jacinto watersheds is also available through the website.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP website including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 14 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the [TSARP web site](#), the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

#### Sims Bayou Flood Control Project Significantly Reduces Flood Risks

The Harris County Flood Control District is pleased to announce that many citizens residing in the Sims Bayou watershed now have a lower risk of flooding than in the past. This is because they are benefiting from the construction of the Sims Bayou Flood Control Project, spearheaded by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers with the HCFCFD serving as its non-federal sponsor. Evidence of the reduced flood risks can be seen in the Flood Hazard Recovery Data map showing the Sims Bayou floodplain to be either in banks or nearly in banks from the Ship Channel to Cullen, where construction is complete with the exception of Martin Luther King Bridge.

The project consists of 19.3 miles of channel enlargements and enhancements, as well as 20 bridge replacements or modifications extending from the Houston Ship Channel to Croquet Street. Construction is over half completed, with flood risks being reduced incrementally until construction is ultimately completed in 2009.

This project has been a great opportunity for the Corps and the HCFCFD to embrace both community and natural

values. Both entities are glad to be providing flood damage reduction while creating habitat for wildlife along an aesthetically pleasing corridor.

In addition to the federal project, the HCFCD will construct three regional detention basins within the Sims Bayou watershed. Initial construction of two of the basins was completed, allowing partial reduction in flood risks to structures along the upstream project reaches prior to the channel modifications reaching them. The third basin, named the Hill at Sims Greenway, planned to begin construction this summer includes provisions for a system of mountain bike and multi-use trails and other recreational amenities.

#### **Important Facts To Keep In Perspective**

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County. This is particularly evident on Sims.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the Harris County Flood Control District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
**April 19, 2004**  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Releases Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data on Floodplains and Floodways for Spring Creek Watershed Information Accessible Via Internet CONTACT:

Lillie Laws  
Harris County Flood Control District  
713-684-4015



View press release, plus FAQs (PDF, 384KB, 19 April 2004)

#### April 19, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Spring Creek watershed as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#). This data covers the areas of Spring Creek that lie within Harris County and the City of Houston only.

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The DFIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary DFIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary DFIRM. The administrative process to adopt the DFIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in late Spring. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

#### Educating the Public About Flood Risks

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary DFIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

#### Addresses Searches via the Internet

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Spring Creek watershed will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for these areas. Flood Hazard Recovery Data previously released for Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Goose, Jackson, Luce, San Jacinto and Sims watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 13 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the [TSARP web site](#), the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

#### Important Facts To Keep In Perspective

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the Harris County Flood Control District's web site - [www.hcfd.org](http://www.hcfd.org).





## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
**April 26, 2004**  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive



## Harris County Flood Control District Releases Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data on Floodplains and Floodways for Willow Creek Watershed Information Accessible Via Internet CONTACT:

Lillie Laws  
Harris County Flood Control District  
713-684-4015



[View press release, plus FAQs \(PDF, 384KB, 26 April 2004\)](#)

#### April 26, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Willow Creek watershed as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The DFIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary DFIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary DFIRM. The administrative process to adopt the DFIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in late Spring. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

#### Educating the Public About Flood Risks

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary DFIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

#### Addresses Searches via the Internet

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Willow Creek watershed will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways for these areas. Flood Hazard Recovery Data previously released for Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Goose, Jackson, Luce, San Jacinto, Sims and Spring Creek watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 12 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

#### Important Facts To Keep In Perspective

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not

assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the Harris County Flood Control District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).





## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
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June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
**May 03, 2004**  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Releases Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data on Floodplains and Floodways for Hunting Bayou Watershed Information Accessible Via Internet

**CONTACT:**

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015

 [View press release, plus FAQs \(PDF, 384KB, 3 May 2004\)](#)**May 3, 2004**

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Hunting Bayou watershed as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The FIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary FIRM. The administrative process to adopt the FIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in late Spring. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

**Educating the Public About Flood Risks**

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbot, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary FIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbot said.

**Addresses Searches via the Internet**

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Hunting Bayou watershed will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas. Flood Hazard Recovery Data previously released for Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Jackson, Luce, San Jacinto (north of I-10), Sims, Spring Gully/Goose Creek, Spring Creek, and Willow Creek watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 11 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

**Important Facts To Keep In Perspective**

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County. In fact, the District is currently working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to define a flood damage reduction plan to reduce the risk of flooding in the Hunting Bayou watershed. This planning effort is currently nearing completion. After the plan is accepted, engineering and design of particular plan features will take place ultimately leading to construction.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new, and larger, rainfall values based on additional

represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the Harris County Flood Control District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

### 2007 News Archive

### 2006 News Archive

### 2005 News Archive

### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
**May 10, 2004**  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

### 2003 News Archive

### 2002 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Releases Flood Hazard Recovery Data

### New Data on Floodplains and Floodways for Little Cypress Creek Watershed Information Accessible Via Internet CONTACT:

Lillie Laws  
Harris County Flood Control District  
713-684-4015



[View press release, plus FAQs \(PDF, 384KB, 10 May 2004\)](#)

#### May 10, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Little Cypress Creek watershed as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The FIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA in late Spring.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary FIRM. The administrative process to adopt the FIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in late Spring. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

#### Educating the Public About Flood Risks

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary FIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

#### Addresses Searches via the Internet

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Hunting Bayou watershed will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas.

Flood Hazard Recovery Data released previously for Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Hunting, Jackson, Luce, San Jacinto (north of I-10), Sims, Spring Gully/Goose Creek, Spring Creek, and Willow Creek watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 10 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

#### Important Facts To Keep In Perspective

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the Harris County Flood Control District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## FEMA Press Release: Homeland Security Releases Grant Funds For Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning And Preparedness

### Jersey Village and Harris County Flood Control Receive Over \$4 Million for Acquisition and Elevation Projects

**CONTACT:**

**David Passey, FEMA**

**Number: 940-898-5287**

**NR: R6-04-49**

 [View press release, plus fact sheet \(PDF, 178KB, 17 May 2004\)](#)

**May 17, 2004**

DENTON, TEXAS - Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced today the release of over \$4 million in Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C) Grant Program funds to Texas for pre-disaster mitigation activities. The grant program is a Presidential initiative, administered by Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects primarily addressing natural hazards.

"President Bush recognizes the great importance that mitigation is an essential step in reducing the loss of life and property to natural disasters," said Brown. "States and localities are critical leaders in disaster reduction, and the Department of Homeland Security is committed to providing our partners with the tools they need to be prepared."

The announcement of the PDM-C grant awards includes nearly \$2.6 million to the Harris County Flood Control District to acquire homes in the City of Houston and Harris County that are within the 100-year floodplain. In the past decade, FEMA has awarded \$131 million in mitigation funds to purchase more than 2,400 flood-prone properties in the greater Houston area. Today's announcement also includes \$1.5 million for the City of Jersey Village. The City will use the funds to elevate 17 homes above the 100-year flood level. Since Tropical Storm Allison struck Houston in June 2001, FEMA has also invested more than \$200 million in flood protection efforts at the Texas Medical Center and other Houston hospitals.

The fiscal year 2003 budget provided \$150 million under the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund to initiate a competitive grant program for pre-disaster mitigation activities, and has moved forward since Congress reauthorized the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program this past January. The intent of the PDM-C grant program is to provide a consistent source of funding to state, tribal, and local governments for pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.

States, territories, tribes, and local governments submitted over 450 mitigation project and planning sub-applications for consideration under the PDM-C grant program. To fulfill the competitive requirements of the program and to select the most cost-effective applications, all applications were reviewed for their eligibility and completeness, and then ranked and evaluated by a competitive national evaluation panel. The national evaluation process was rigorous in design and implementation, ensuring that all applications competed fairly and that the most cost-effective applications were recommended for selection.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

### Current News

#### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

#### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

#### 2007 News Archive

#### 2006 News Archive

#### 2005 News Archive

#### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
**May 17, 2004**  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

#### 2003 News Archive

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## Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project Update

### CONTACT:

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

Number: 713-684-4015



[View press release](#) (PDF, 76KB, 27 May 2004)

### May 27, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District today announced an updated schedule for the completion of Flood Hazard Recovery Data being prepared as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The District anticipates that, by the end of June, it will complete and release to the public Flood Hazard Recovery Data for 14 to 18 of Harris County's 22 watersheds. Similar data for the remaining watersheds should be completed and released by early August.

TSARP Flood Hazard Recovery Data represents the most current understanding of the 1% and 0.2% floodplains (100- and 500-year) and floodways of Harris County using the latest engineering and technology. This summer, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will issue new preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for all of Harris County, based on the Data.

FEMA and the District anticipate that the boundaries depicted in Flood Hazard Recovery Data will be virtually identical to those contained in the preliminary DFIRMs.

To date, Flood Hazard Recovery Data has been released for the following watersheds: Brays Bayou, Buffalo Bayou, Carpenters Bayou, Hunting Bayou, Jackson Bayou, Little Cypress Creek, Luce Bayou, San Jacinto River (north of I-10), Sims Bayou, Spring Creek, Spring Gully and Goose Creek, and Willow Creek Watersheds.

FEMA and the District anticipate that the boundaries depicted in Flood Hazard Recovery Data will be virtually identical to those contained in the preliminary DFIRMs.

To date, Flood Hazard Recovery Data has been released for the following watersheds: Brays Bayou, Buffalo Bayou, Carpenters Bayou, Hunting Bayou, Jackson Bayou, Little Cypress Creek, Luce Bayou, San Jacinto River (north of I-10), Sims Bayou, Spring Creek, Spring Gully and Goose Creek, and Willow Creek Watersheds.

Residents in these watersheds can view Flood Hazard Recovery Data through the TSARP website - [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org) or by calling 713-722-7227.

Upon TSARP's completion, FEMA and the District will have remapped the floodplains and floodways for all of Harris County - approximately equivalent in length to the Mississippi River - in less than three years.

### Current News

#### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

#### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

#### 2007 News Archive

#### 2006 News Archive

#### 2005 News Archive

#### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
**May 27, 2004**  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

#### 2003 News Archive

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## The District's Director, Mike Talbott, Presents at a Greater Houston Partnership Workshop

**June 10, 2004**

The Greater Houston Partnership's Flood Control Committee hosted a half-day workshop and luncheon on June 10 to educate the business community about flooding; actions the Harris County Flood Control District is taking to better manage future floods; to explain the new flood insurance rate maps and to provide a forum for attendees to get specific questions answered.

### Current News

#### 2009 News Archive

[November 25, 2009](#)  
[November 24, 2009](#)  
[September 30, 2009](#)  
[September 18, 2009](#)  
[August 26, 2009](#)  
[July 21, 2009](#)  
[July 8, 2009](#)  
[June 30, 2009](#)  
[June 22, 2009](#)  
[June 18, 2009](#)  
[June 3, 2009](#)  
[April 24, 2009](#)  
[April 1, 2009](#)  
[March 27, 2009](#)

#### 2008 News Archive

[December 8, 2008](#)  
[September 18, 2008](#)  
[July 2, 2008](#)  
[May 29, 2008](#)  
[April 16, 2008](#)  
[March 31, 2008](#)  
[March 25, 2008](#)  
[March 21, 2008](#)  
[March 3, 2008](#)  
[February 13, 2008](#)  
[February 8, 2008](#)

#### 2007 News Archive

#### 2006 News Archive

#### 2005 News Archive

#### 2004 News Archive

[December 21, 2004](#)  
[November 05, 2004](#)  
[October 18, 2004](#)  
[September 16, 2004](#)  
[September 15, 2004](#)  
[September 01, 2004](#)  
[August 19, 2004](#)  
[August 03, 2004](#)  
[August 03, 2004](#)  
[July 28, 2004](#)  
[July 16, 2004](#)  
[July 06, 2004](#)  
[June 28, 2004](#)  
[June 21, 2004](#)  
**[June 10, 2004](#)**  
[May 27, 2004](#)  
[May 17, 2004](#)  
[May 10, 2004](#)  
[May 03, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 26, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 19, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 05, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 24, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 22, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 08, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 07, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 01, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 18, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 11, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 05, 2004](#)

#### 2003 News Archive

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## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
**June 21, 2004**  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Releases New Flood Hazard Recovery Data For Barker Reservoir Watershed

### Revisions to San Jacinto Watershed Being Made

#### Information Accessible Via Internet

**CONTACT:**

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

Number: 713-684-4015

[View press release, plus FAQs \(PDF, 384KB, 21 June 2004\)](#)**June 21, 2004**

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) released Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) today for the Barker Reservoir watershed, including Mason Creek and Cane Island Branch, as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The Data represents the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The FIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA later this year.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LIDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary FIRM. The administrative process to adopt the FIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form later this year. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

**Educating the Public About Flood Risks**

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbot, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary FIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbot said.

**Addresses Searches via the Internet**

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Barker Reservoir watershed will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas.

Flood Hazard Recovery Data released previously for Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Hunting, Jackson, Little Cypress Creek, Luce, San Jacinto (north of I-10), Sims, Spring Gully/Goose Creek, Spring Creek, and Willow Creek watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LIDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 9 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on Mondays in the order in which the work is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

**Data on San Jacinto Watershed**

On March 5, the District released Data for the San Jacinto Watershed (North of I-10). The District has since found that its original estimates of the Base Flood Elevations for the west fork of the San Jacinto River are likely to be overstated.

The District is committed to providing the public with the best possible estimates of the flood risks in their area prior to the release of the preliminary FIRMs by FEMA. For this reason, Data for this portion of the watershed is being recalculated and will be posted in revised form on the TSARP website upon its completion.

**Important Facts To Keep In Perspective**

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas



Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk – it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

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#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

### 2007 News Archive

### 2006 News Archive

### 2005 News Archive

### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
**June 28, 2004**  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

### 2003 News Archive

⋮

## FEMA Press Release: FEMA Funds Ongoing Flood Buyouts

**Release Date:** June 28, 2004

**Release Number:** R6-04-073



[View press release, plus fact sheet \(PDF, 180KB, 28 June 2004\)](#)

### June 28, 2004

DENTON, Texas - The U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today nearly \$4.5 million in grants to support ongoing flood reduction activities in Harris County. The grants will fund the purchase of 64 repetitively flood homes in Crosby, unincorporated Harris County, Houston, Humble and Kingwood. The Harris County Flood Control District will receive the funds as part of the district's ongoing comprehensive flood management activities.

"Flooding remains the most pressing disaster risk to residents of Harris County," said Ron Castleman, FEMA Regional Director. "The grants announced today will help families move out of harm's way and will return flood-prone land to its natural state. The buyouts aid the community and the property owners."

The FEMA mitigation grants, available through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation-Competitive (PDM-C) program, provide 75 percent of project costs. The remaining funds come from local resources. Harris County competed with communities around the country for these funds. FEMA previously awarded two other grants to Harris County worth \$2.6 million. With today's announcement, the County has received more than \$7 million from the program to address repetitive loss properties.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.



## District Partnership Program Wins EPA's 2004 Gulf Guardian Award

July 6, 2004

A stormwater quality partnership program that is sponsored in part by the Harris County Flood Control District recently took 1st Place in the Environmental Protection Agency's [2004 Gulf Guardian Awards](#), [Government Category](#).

[Mghty Tidy](#), a refuse skimmer boat, is the bright pink focal point in this program for which the District has provided over \$240,000 in operating and maintenance costs this year alone.

### Entry Description From the Gulf Guardian Awards

In June 2003, the Port of Houston Authority, the Harris County Supplemental Environmental Program, the Harris County Flood Control District, and the nonprofit group Buffalo Bayou Partnership, launched the largest stormwater pollution cleanup program in Harris County, Texas history. By providing substantial initial and continuing operations funding and in-kind services for the skimmer boat [Mghty Tidy](#), there is now a massive and continuing cleanup of floatable pollution from the watersheds serving more than 400 square miles that empty into the Port of Houston and flow south to the significant national estuary of Galveston Bay and then into the Gulf. This project is helping restore Buffalo Bayou to an ecologically functional system. Fish and other wildlife no longer suffer the effects from eating debris or getting caught up in and then dying in floating trash flushed from Houston area streets. Beyond the dramatic visual improvement of three major bayous and the port, the water quality is improving without the toxicity created during the breakdown of floating debris. Natural habitat along Buffalo Bayou and Galveston Bay stretching to the Gulf is no longer contaminated by floating trash. More than 1,000 cubic yards of floatable litter have been collected to date - nearly double the anticipated amount. An unexpected result is the overwhelmingly positive visibility achieved through a launch media event with more than 250 attendees, a "Name The Skimmer" contest at area schools for the winning [Mghty Tidy](#) name, and a visually bold (pink) and unforgettable vessel resulting in regular, very positive media and public attention on the issue of floatable pollution.

### Building Partnerships, Building Progress

The [Mghty Tidy](#) is yet another example of the District working hard to keep Harris County's waterways [flowing and clean](#).

### Current News

#### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

#### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

#### 2007 News Archive

#### 2006 News Archive

#### 2005 News Archive

#### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
**July 06, 2004**  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

#### 2003 News Archive

⋮





## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
**July 16, 2004**  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive



## Harris County Flood Control District Releases New Flood Hazard Recovery Data For Addicks Reservoir Watershed

### Information Accessible Via Internet

**CONTACT:**

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015

[View press release \(PDF, 216KB, 16 July 2004\)](#)**July 16, 2004**

On Monday, July 19th, at 9:00 am the Harris County Flood Control District (District) will release Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) for the Addicks Reservoir watershed and additional streams along Buffalo Bayou, including Soldiers and Rummal Creeks, as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The Data will represent the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and will be used to produce new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The FIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA later this year.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary FIRM. The administrative process to adopt the FIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary format later this year. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

**Educating the Public About Flood Risks**

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary FIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

**Addresses Searches via the Internet**

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Addicks Reservoir watershed and Buffalo bayou Additional Stream areas will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas.

Flood Hazard Recovery Data released previously for Barker, Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Hunting, Jackson, Little Cypress Creek, Luce, San Jacinto (north of I-10), Sims, Spring Gully/Goose Creek, Spring Creek, and Willow Creek watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 8 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on the TSARP website as soon as it is completed.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

**Important Facts To Keep In Perspective**

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional

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If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Harris County Flood Control District Releases 2004 Interactive Tracking Chart

**CONTACT(S):**  
**Fred Garcia, P.E**  
**Director of Communications**  
**Harris County Flood Control District**  
**713-684-4172**

**Alisa Max, P.E**  
**Asst. Division Manager, Communications**  
**Harris County Flood Control District**  
**713-684-4078**

 [View press release \(PDF, 84KB, 28 July 2004\)](#)

### July 28, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District has developed an important new tool for the 2004 hurricane season. It's an interactive hurricane tracking chart that is also filled with valuable, informative content to keep citizens informed... and prepared.

The Harris County Flood Control District's 2004 Hurricane Tracking Chart is easy to use and is downloadable from the District's website in both PC and Mac formats. **Packed With Features**

The Harris County Flood Control District's 2004 Hurricane Tracking Chart includes:

- An automatic tracker
- A printable tracking chart
- Interactive, animated historical storms
- Hurricane & flood safety info
- Downloads
- Contact info & more!

### Tracker Lite Tool

For users who do not wish to download the full, feature-packed version of the tracker, there is a "Tracker Lite" web version that is viewable online. It automatically tracks active storms with current coordinate feeds. The Macromedia Flash plug-in is required to view Tracker Lite.

"We're excited to provide this free educational tool for Harris County citizens, and the actual tracker is useful for citizens anywhere," said Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "While we're not an emergency management agency, we want to leverage our ability to help educate and prepare local citizens to better cope with the dangers and seriousness of hurricanes and flooding."

For more information on flooding and the District's efforts to reduce flooding in Harris County, log on to [www.hcfcfd.org](http://www.hcfcfd.org)

- Current News
- 2009 News Archive
  - November 25, 2009
  - November 24, 2009
  - September 30, 2009
  - September 18, 2009
  - August 26, 2009
  - July 21, 2009
  - July 8, 2009
  - June 30, 2009
  - June 22, 2009
  - June 18, 2009
  - June 3, 2009
  - April 24, 2009
  - April 1, 2009
  - March 27, 2009
- 2008 News Archive
  - December 8, 2008
  - September 18, 2008
  - July 2, 2008
  - May 29, 2008
  - April 16, 2008
  - March 31, 2008
  - March 25, 2008
  - March 21, 2008
  - March 3, 2008
  - February 13, 2008
  - February 8, 2008
- 2007 News Archive
- 2006 News Archive
- 2005 News Archive
- 2004 News Archive
  - December 21, 2004
  - November 05, 2004
  - October 18, 2004
  - September 16, 2004
  - September 15, 2004
  - September 01, 2004
  - August 19, 2004
  - August 03, 2004
  - August 03, 2004
  - July 28, 2004**
  - July 16, 2004
  - July 06, 2004
  - June 28, 2004
  - June 21, 2004
  - June 10, 2004
  - May 27, 2004
  - May 17, 2004
  - May 10, 2004
  - May 03, 2004
  - Apr. 26, 2004
  - Apr. 19, 2004
  - Apr. 05, 2004
  - Mar. 24, 2004
  - Mar. 22, 2004
  - Mar. 08, 2004
  - Mar. 07, 2004
  - Mar. 01, 2004
  - Feb. 18, 2004
  - Feb. 11, 2004
  - Feb. 05, 2004
- 2003 News Archive
- 



## Current News

### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

### 2007 News Archive

### 2006 News Archive

### 2005 News Archive

### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
**August 03, 2004**  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

### 2003 News Archive

### 2002 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Will Release Flood Hazard Recovery Data For the Greens and Cedar Bayou Watersheds

### Information Accessible Via Internet

#### CONTACT:

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015



[View press release](#) (PDF, 168KB, 3 August 2004)

#### August 3, 2004

On Wednesday August 4th at 9:00 am, the Harris County Flood Control District (District) will release Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) for the Greens Bayou and Cedar Bayou watersheds, as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

Work is ongoing along three additional streams in the Greens Bayou watershed that were not previously studied by FEMA. The Data for these streams will be added when it is complete. The southern most part of Cedar Bayou is affected by coastal flooding and Data for that area will be released at a latter date, when it is complete.

The Data will represent the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The FIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA later this year.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

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## Harris County Flood Control District Featured in Article on Use of LiDAR

### Article Featured on Cover of Professional Surveyor Magazine

 [View article](#) (PDF, 724KB, July 2004)

#### August 3, 2004

The Harris County Flood Control District was recently featured in the [cover story](#) of the July 2004 issue of [Professional Surveyor Magazine](#). It highlights how the District has harnessed the use of a new technology called [LiDAR](#) in its partnership with [FBMA](#) to produce [all new Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County](#).

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#### Current News

##### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

##### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

##### 2007 News Archive

##### 2006 News Archive

##### 2005 News Archive

##### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
**August 03, 2004**  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

##### 2003 News Archive

⋮



- ⌵ Current News
- ⌵ 2012 News Archive
  - December 17, 2012
  - November 26, 2012
  - October 30, 2012
  - October 25, 2012
  - September 20, 2012
  - September 17, 2012
  - August 16, 2012
  - August 1, 2012
  - July 14, 2012
  - July 9, 2012
  - June 25, 2012
  - May 29, 2012
  - May 24, 2012
  - May 15, 2012
  - May 14, 2012
  - May 10, 2012
  - April 19, 2012
  - April 19, 2012
  - April 9, 2012
  - April 9, 2012
  - March 15, 2012
  - March 8, 2012
  - February 29, 2012
  - February 16, 2012

- ⌵ 2011 News Archive
  - November 28, 2011
  - November 03, 2011
  - October 25, 2011
  - September 28, 2011
  - September 02, 2011
  - September 01, 2011
  - August 30, 2011
  - August 23, 2011
  - August 12, 2011
  - August 08, 2011
  - July 01, 2011
  - June 20, 2011
  - June 17, 2011
  - May 26, 2011
  - May 25, 2011
  - May 23, 2011
  - May 19, 2011
  - May 9, 2011
  - April 18, 2011
  - April 6, 2011
  - March 30, 2011
  - February 14, 2011
  - February 2, 2011

- ⌵ 2010 News Archive

## The District's Director, Mike Talbott, Presents at a Greater Houston Partnership Workshop

### August 19, 2004

The Greater Houston Partnership's Flood Control Committee hosted a half-day workshop and luncheon on June 10 to educate the business community about flooding; actions the Harris County Flood Control District is taking to better manage future floods; to explain the new flood insurance rate maps and to provide a forum for attendees to get specific questions answered.

Below is an online version of the presentation given by the District's director, Mike Talbott:

<http://webcast.houston.org/2004/0610/>



## Current News

### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

### 2007 News Archive

### 2006 News Archive

### 2005 News Archive

### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
**August 19, 2004**  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

### 2003 News Archive



## Harris County Flood Control District Will Release Flood Hazard Recovery Data For the Clear Creek, Armand Bayou and Galveston Bay Watersheds

### Information Accessible Via Internet

#### CONTACT:

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015



[View press release](#) (PDF, 168KB, 19 August 2004)

#### August 19, 2004

On Friday August 20th the Harris County Flood Control District (District) will release Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) for the Clear Creek, Armand Bayou and Galveston Bay watersheds, as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The data will contain both riverine and costal floodplains for the communities located along Galveston Bay and Clear Lake.

The Data will represent the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to produce new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for communities in Harris County. The FIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA later this year.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary FIRM. The administrative process to adopt the FIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form later this year. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

#### Educating the Public About Flood Risks

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary FIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

#### Addresses Searches via the Internet

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Clear Creek, Armand Bayou and Galveston Bay watersheds will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas.

Flood Hazard Recovery Data released previously for Addicks, Barker, Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Cedar, Greens, Hunting, Jackson, Little Cypress Creek, Luce, San Jacinto (north of I-10), Sims, Spring Gully/Goose Creek, Spring Creek, and Willow Creek watersheds is also available through the web site.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining 3 watersheds in Harris County, it will be released on the TSARP website as soon as it is completed. It is anticipated that all of the Data for the remaining watersheds (Cypress Creek, Vince Bayou and White Oak Bayou as well as some additional streams, the West Fork of the San Jacinto River, the ship channel, and the costal portion of Cedar Bayou) will be available by the end of August.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

#### Important Facts To Keep In Perspective

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Ongoing and future flood damage reduction projects have and continue to help shrink floodplains in many areas, thereby lessening flood risks throughout the County.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the District's web site – [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

### 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

### 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

### 2007 News Archive

### 2006 News Archive

### 2005 News Archive

### 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
**September 01, 2004**  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

### 2003 News Archive

### 2002 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Will Release Flood Hazard Recovery Data For the Cypress Creek and White Oak Bayou Watersheds

### Information Accessible Via Internet

#### CONTACT:

Lillie Laws  
Harris County Flood Control District  
713-684-4015



View press release (PDF, 168KB, 1 September 2004)

#### September 1, 2004

On Thursday September 2nd, the Harris County Flood Control District (District) will release Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) for the Cypress Creek and White Oak Bayou watersheds, as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#).

The Data will represent the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and FEMA, and will be used to produce new FIRMs for communities in Harris County. The FIRMs are expected to be released in preliminary format by FEMA later this year.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LiDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary FIRM. The administrative process to adopt the FIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary format later this year. Flood insurance requirements and rates are not affected by the current release of Data.

#### Educating the Public About Flood Risks

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary FIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

#### Addresses Searches via the Internet

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Cypress Creek and White Oak Bayou watersheds will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas.

Flood Hazard Recovery Data has now been released for over 90% of Harris County including the following watersheds: Addicks, Armand, Barker, Brays, Buffalo, Carpenters, Cedar, Clear, Greens, Hunting, Jackson, Little Cypress Creek, Luce, Galveston Bay, San Jacinto (north of I-10), Sims, Spring Gully/Goose Creek, Spring Creek, and Willow Creek.

Engineering data regarding these watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LiDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

As additional Flood Hazard Recovery Data becomes available for the remaining areas in Harris County, it will be released on the TSARP website as soon as it is completed. It is anticipated that all of the Data that is remaining (Vince Bayou, some additional streams, the West Fork of the San Jacinto River, the ship channel, and the coastal portion of Cedar Bayou) will be available shortly.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

#### Important Facts To Keep In Perspective

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

Flood damage reduction measures are currently being constructed in the White Oak Bayou watershed as part of the White Oak Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Plan (plan). The current and future benefits of implementing this plan are not yet reflected in the TSARP Data. As phases of the plan are completed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) will be revised to reflect the benefits of implementing the plan.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

understanding of flood risk.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

**Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

### 2009 News Archive

[November 25, 2009](#)  
[November 24, 2009](#)  
[September 30, 2009](#)  
[September 18, 2009](#)  
[August 26, 2009](#)  
[July 21, 2009](#)  
[July 8, 2009](#)  
[June 30, 2009](#)  
[June 22, 2009](#)  
[June 18, 2009](#)  
[June 3, 2009](#)  
[April 24, 2009](#)  
[April 1, 2009](#)  
[March 27, 2009](#)

### 2008 News Archive

[December 8, 2008](#)  
[September 18, 2008](#)  
[July 2, 2008](#)  
[May 29, 2008](#)  
[April 16, 2008](#)  
[March 31, 2008](#)  
[March 25, 2008](#)  
[March 21, 2008](#)  
[March 3, 2008](#)  
[February 13, 2008](#)  
[February 8, 2008](#)

### 2007 News Archive

### 2006 News Archive

### 2005 News Archive

### 2004 News Archive

[December 21, 2004](#)  
[November 05, 2004](#)  
[October 18, 2004](#)  
[September 16, 2004](#)  
[September 15, 2004](#)  
[September 01, 2004](#)  
[August 19, 2004](#)  
[August 03, 2004](#)  
[August 03, 2004](#)  
[July 28, 2004](#)  
[July 16, 2004](#)  
[July 06, 2004](#)  
[June 28, 2004](#)  
[June 21, 2004](#)  
[June 10, 2004](#)  
[May 27, 2004](#)  
[May 17, 2004](#)  
[May 10, 2004](#)  
[May 03, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 26, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 19, 2004](#)  
[Apr. 05, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 24, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 22, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 08, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 07, 2004](#)  
[Mar. 01, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 18, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 11, 2004](#)  
[Feb. 05, 2004](#)

### 2003 News Archive

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## Project Brays Willow Waterhole Greenway Project Recognized by National Park Service



[View NPS Willow Waterhole Success Story](#) (PDF, 236KB, 15 September 2004)

[www.nps.gov/ncrc/successes/](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/successes/)

### September 15, 2004

The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project, a significant component of the Harris County Flood Control District's [Brays Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Project \(Project Brays\)](#), has been recognized as a [2004 National Park Service Conservation Success](#) by the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project, which broke ground in May 2004, will serve as a regional stormwater detention basin that will provide flood damage reduction benefits, as well as a park and recreational facility for residents and businesses in southwest Houston.

"The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project is the result of a lot of hard work and commitment by our organization, as well as numerous individuals and other organizations that had the shared vision to build upon the flood damage reduction component to make this green space a reality," said Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "The District and our partners are honored to receive such remarkable recognition from the National Park Service."

### Reducing the Risk, Rediscovering the Beauty

This stormwater detention basin, one of many for Project Brays, will hold 600 millions gallons of water and bring about 300 acres of useable green space to the nearby communities. Upon completion, it is anticipated that the Willow Waterhole Greenway Project will: directly reduce the risk of flood damage for approximately 700 structures along Brays Bayou in the most flood-prone portion of the watershed during a 1% (100-year) storm event; and will reduce potential flood damage along Brays Bayou by about \$100 million during that same 1% (100-year) storm event, which averaged over time, equals roughly \$5.5 million in flood damage reduction each year.

With construction well underway, the District is currently working on the excavation and development of approximately 40 acres of land. As flood damage reduction portions of construction are completed, recreational amenities are being added through a \$750,000 grant that was awarded by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The Willow Waterhole Greenway Project will include such features as walking paths, bike trails, a gazebo, a picnic pavilion and small lakes.

### More About Project Brays

Project Brays is a cooperative effort between the Harris County Flood Control District and the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) designed to reduce the risk of flood damage for residents and businesses along Brays Bayou. Project Brays is the largest, most extensive project ever to be managed by the Harris County Flood Control District. To learn more about Project Brays, call the project hotline at 713-316-4820 or visit [www.projectbrays.org](http://www.projectbrays.org).



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
October 18, 2004  
**September 16, 2004**  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

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## Harris County Flood Control District Will Release Flood Hazard Recovery Data For the Vince Bayou, Ship Channel, and Coastal Portions of the Cedar Bayou Watersheds

### Information Accessible Via Internet

**CONTACT:**

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015

 [View Press Release](#) (PDF, 168KB, 16 September 2004)**September 16, 2004**

On Thursday September 16th, the Harris County Flood Control District (District) will release Flood Hazard Recovery Data (Data) for the Vince Bayou, Ship Channel, and lower Cedar Bayou watersheds, as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#). Data has now been released for all 22 watersheds in Harris County.

The Data will represent the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for the watersheds using the latest engineering methods and technology. The Data has been developed by the District and FEMA, and will be used to produce new FIRMs for communities in Harris County. Preliminary FIRMs are currently being finished and will be released to all 35 National Flood Insurance Program communities in Harris County in October.

The District believes that the floodplain and floodway boundaries reflected in the Data will be virtually identical to those reflected in the preliminary FIRMs. This confidence is due in large measure to advances in technology that have allowed a more accurate understanding of Harris County's flood risks than what was previously possible. Of particular note, is the extensive use of an aerial laser technology developed by NASA called LIDAR that was used to define the ground surface.

The District stresses that Flood Hazard Recovery Data is not a preliminary FIRM. The administrative process to adopt the FIRMs will begin when FEMA issues the maps in preliminary form in October. Flood insurance requirements and rates will not be affected until the preliminary FIRMs are finalized in 2005.

**Educating the Public About Flood Risks**

"The Harris County Flood Control District is providing Flood Hazard Recovery Data now in order to provide the public and their communities as much time as possible to learn about possible changes to the mapped floodplains and floodways," explained Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District. "To our knowledge, Data in this format and detail has never been released to a community prior to the release of preliminary FIRMs."

It is hoped that the public will use the Data and the knowledge generated by TSARP to become aware of their flood risks and take appropriate steps to deal with these risks, including the purchase of flood insurance.

"An informed community is a more damage resistant community," Talbott said.

**Addresses Searches via the Internet**

Flood Hazard Recovery Data is available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

Residents in the Vince Bayou, Ship Channel and lower Cedar Bayou watersheds will be able to view Flood Hazard Recovery Data by typing in their street address and zip code. They will be able to view a map of their neighborhood and see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas.

Flood Hazard Recovery Data has now been released for every one of the 22 watershed in Harris County. Engineering data regarding all 22 watersheds can be ordered on the TSARP web site including LIDAR topographic data, hydrologic and hydraulic computer models (with supporting information) and plotted water surface profiles for the studied streams.

The West Fork of the San Jacinto River and some additional streams in the Greens Bayou watershed will be released in September. Preliminary FIRMs are currently being finalized and will be release in October.

While the best information about the TSARP effort and the Data can be found at the web site, the District has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

**Important Facts To Keep In Perspective**

As the public continues to review the Flood Hazard Recovery Data, the District underscores the importance of keeping the following in perspective:

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County are a solid and largely accurate representation of where the highest risks of flooding exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by LIDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

If an individual finds that they do not lie within an estimated 1% or 0.2% (100- or 500-year floodplain), they should not assume that they possess no risk of flooding. Every portion of Harris County possesses some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall



can cause flooding well away from any channel as water tries to flow overland, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what is depicted by the mapped floodplains (both scenarios were very evident with Tropical Storm Allison). Flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect themselves from unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Outreach and Education**

The District encourages organizations that are interested in learning more about TSARP and the Flood Hazard Recovery Data to have members visit the project web site [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org), or schedule a presentation by contacting the District's Planning Department at 713-684-4015.

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what is being done about local flooding can be found at the District's web site - [www.hcfd.org](http://www.hcfd.org).



- Capital Improvement Program
- Major Projects**
  - General Info
  - Armand Bayou
  - Brays Bayou
  - Carpenters Restoration
  - Clear Creek
  - Clear Creek - 2nd Outlet Channel
  - Cypress Creek
  - Greens Bayou
  - Halls Bayou
  - Hunting Bayou
  - Memorial Park
  - Demonstration Project
  - Poor Farm Ditch
  - Sims Bayou
  - Terry Hershey Park
  - Surveying Contract
  - Vogel Creek**
    - W129-00-00
    - White Oak Bayou
    - White Oak Bayou
- Infrastructure
- Home Buyout
- Geographic Information Systems
- Greens Bayou Wetlands Mitigation Bank
- Stormwater Quality
- TS-Allison Recovery Project
- Watershed Environmental Baseline Program

## Vogel Creek Homeowner Association President's Meeting

**September 29, 2004**

The Vogel Creek Project team hosted area homeowner association/civic club presidents for a status briefing at the Inwood Forest Country Club on Sept. 29. Attendees included representatives of the Inwood Forest Community Improvement Association, the Northwest Management Association, the Greater Inwood Partnership, the Arbor Oaks Civic Association, the Inwood Forest Country Club & Golf Course and Councilmember Toni Lawrence. The attendees were presented with a progress report on the channel conveyance improvements and coordination with city and state officials. An outline of work that will be accomplished next was also discussed. Project engineers CivilTech Engineering, presented a graphic representation of the ultimate channel conveyance improvements. A follow up letter and handout were mailed to all residents in the The Vogel Creek Conveyance Improvement Project area.

## Vogel Creek Conveyance Improvement Project

- > Project Overview
- > Project Status
- > Environmental Permits
- > Utilities & Bridge Modifications
- > Home Buyout Along Vogel Creek
- > Vogel Creek Maps & Exhibits
- > Vogel Creek Images
- > Vogel Creek VR Panoramas
- > Vogel Creek FAQs
- > **News & Information**
  - March 2005 Update
  - February 2005 Update
  - January 25, 2005
  - November 22, 2004
  - September 29, 2004**
  - February 25, 2004
  - December 8, 2003
- > Vogel Creek Downloads
- > Vogel Creek Contact Info



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
November 05, 2004  
**October 18, 2004**  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

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## FEMA Releases Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps For All Of Harris County

### The Preliminary Maps Are Accessible via the Internet

**CONTACT:**

**Lillie Laws**  
Harris County Flood Control District  
713-684-4015

 [View press release](#) (PDF, 172KB, 18 October 2004)

**October 18, 2004**

On Monday October 18th, the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) released Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for all of Harris County. The release of the Preliminary FIRMs begins the official FEMA public review process that will ultimately result in the Preliminary FIRMs being finalized and adopted, which is expected in late 2005.

FEMA will meet with all [35 National Flood Insurance Communities in Harris County](#). Once these meetings are complete, FEMA will publish two official public notices ten days apart. The official 90-day appeals and protests period will begin on the date the second notice is published. For more information about filing an appeal or protest contact your local floodplain administrator or go to [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

The Preliminary FIRMs show the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for all of Harris County using newly acquired topographic data and the latest engineering methods and technology. The maps have been developed by FEMA and the Harris County Flood Control District as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#). The floodplain delineations shown on the official FEMA Preliminary FIRMs are similar to those previously released by the Harris County Flood Control District as Flood Hazard Recovery Data.

The new Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps can be viewed at the project website [www.tsarp.org/](http://www.tsarp.org/), by contacting your local Floodplain Administrator, or by attending one of five Public Information Fairs scheduled for early November. A list of Floodplain Administrators is available at [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org) or you can call your city hall or Harris County for the unincorporated areas.

Flood insurance requirements and costs will not be affected until the preliminary FIRMs are finalized.

**Public Information Fairs**

Five Public Information Fairs will be held throughout Harris County to allow the public to view the Preliminary FIRMs, ask questions and learn about flood insurance and the FEMA appeals, protests, and map adoption process. The five Public Information Fairs will be held from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the locations and dates listed below.

**Northwest Harris County**

November 3rd, Doss Community Center,  
2500 Frick Rd. Houston, TX 77038

**Central Harris County**

November 4th, Houston Zoo, George R. Brown Education Center,  
1513 N. Macgregor, Houston, TX 77030

**Southeast Harris County**

November 8th, Texas Chiropractic College, Russell Education Center Auditorium,  
5912 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

**Northeast Harris County**

November 10th, James Driver Community Center,  
10918 Bentley St., Houston, TX 77093

**Southwest Harris County**

November 11th, Grace Presbyterian Church, Massey-Tucker Fellowship Hall,  
10221 Ella Lee Lane, Houston, TX 77042

**Address Searches via the Internet**

FEMA Preliminary FIRMs are available through the TSARP web site: [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org). Residents in Harris County can view the Preliminary FIRMs to see the latest information on flood boundaries for the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for these areas.

The TSARP website has a new tool to assist the public in viewing the new FEMA Preliminary FIRMs. The FEMA Preliminary FIRM Lookup Tool allows the public to locate a specific FEMA Preliminary FIRM Panel and view or download that panel by providing an address, zip code, FIRM panel number or just zooming in on the map. The public will still be able to view the preliminary data, current floodplain maps and other TSARP products such as the two-foot contours, by using the TSARP Interactive Mapping Tool.

While information about the TSARP effort and the FEMA Preliminary FIRMs can be found on the web site, the project has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

**Important Facts**

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County constitute the best representation of where the highest risks of flooding from streams and tidal surge exist. New technologies and engineering methods allow for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

TSARP represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not

correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by an air borne laser technology called LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

Every portion of Harris County faces some risk of flooding due to the flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any bayou or creek as water flows overland simply trying to reach a bayou or creek, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what was used in the computer models to produce the mapped floodplains. During Tropical Storm Allison, roughly 65% of the areas that flooded were outside the mapped 1% floodplain and those areas experienced flooding because of the intense rainfall the area received and the resulting overland flow condition that occurred.

Historically, about one-third of all flood insurance claims are for buildings located outside the 1% (100-year) chance floodplain. Purchasing flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect their financial well being from both identified and unidentified flooding risks.

#### **Community Education**

Information about purchasing flood insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program can be found at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

More information about the history of flooding in Harris County, the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what efforts are being taken to minimize local flooding can be found at the District's web site - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



## Current News

## 2009 News Archive

November 25, 2009  
November 24, 2009  
September 30, 2009  
September 18, 2009  
August 26, 2009  
July 21, 2009  
July 8, 2009  
June 30, 2009  
June 22, 2009  
June 18, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
April 24, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
March 27, 2009

## 2008 News Archive

December 8, 2008  
September 18, 2008  
July 2, 2008  
May 29, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
March 31, 2008  
March 25, 2008  
March 21, 2008  
March 3, 2008  
February 13, 2008  
February 8, 2008

## 2007 News Archive

## 2006 News Archive

## 2005 News Archive

## 2004 News Archive

December 21, 2004  
**November 05, 2004**  
October 18, 2004  
September 16, 2004  
September 15, 2004  
September 01, 2004  
August 19, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
August 03, 2004  
July 28, 2004  
July 16, 2004  
July 06, 2004  
June 28, 2004  
June 21, 2004  
June 10, 2004  
May 27, 2004  
May 17, 2004  
May 10, 2004  
May 03, 2004  
Apr. 26, 2004  
Apr. 19, 2004  
Apr. 05, 2004  
Mar. 24, 2004  
Mar. 22, 2004  
Mar. 08, 2004  
Mar. 07, 2004  
Mar. 01, 2004  
Feb. 18, 2004  
Feb. 11, 2004  
Feb. 05, 2004

## 2003 News Archive

## 2002 News Archive

## Harris County Flood Control District Hosts More Information Fairs For New Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps

### Three Public Information Fairs Remaining

**CONTACT:**

Lillie Laws

Harris County Flood Control District

713-684-4015

[View press release \(PDF, 160KB, 5 November 2004\)](#)**November 5, 2004**

Following the recent release of [FEMA's Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps](#) for all of Harris County, the [Harris County Flood Control District](#), with participation from FEMA, is hosting important [public information fairs](#) throughout the county to educate the public, and to explain the new maps and processes to those who may be affected.

Of the original five scheduled information fairs, three are remaining, and all area residents are encouraged to attend. At these information fairs, the public may view the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and attendees are encouraged to ask questions and learn about flood insurance and the FEMA appeals, protests, and map adoption process.

The three remaining Public Information Fairs will be held from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the following locations and dates:

**Southeast Harris County**Monday, November 8th

5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Texas Chiropractic College, Russell Education Center Auditorium  
5912 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena**Northeast Harris County**Wednesday, November 10th

James Driver Community Center

5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

10918-1/2 Bentley, Houston

**Southwest Harris County**Thursday, November 11th

Grace Presbyterian Church, Massey-Tucker Fellowship Hall

5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

10221 Ella Lee, Houston

**More About the Release of the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps**

FBMA released the new preliminary maps for all of Harris County on October 18. The release of the maps begins the official FEMA public review process that will ultimately result in the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps being finalized and adopted, which is expected in late 2005.

FBMA will meet with all [35 National Flood Insurance Communities in Harris County](#). Once these meetings are complete, FBMA will publish two official public notices, ten days apart. The official 90-day appeals and protests period will begin on the date the second notice is published. For more information about filing an appeal or protest, [contact your local floodplain administrator](#) or go to [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

The Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps show the 1% and 0.2% (100-year and 500-year) floodplains and floodways for all of Harris County using newly acquired topographic data and the latest engineering methods and technology. The maps have been developed by FEMA and the Harris County Flood Control District as part of the [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project \(TSARP\)](#). The floodplain delineations shown on the official FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps are similar to those previously released by the Harris County Flood Control District as Flood Hazard Recovery Data.

**View the Maps Online**

The new Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps can also be viewed online at the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project website [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

On the website, users can use the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map Lookup Tool to view or download any map panel by providing an address, zip code, Flood Insurance Rate Map panel number, or by just zooming in on the map.

The public may also view the maps through their appropriate floodplain administrator. A complete [list of floodplain administrators](#) is available at [www.tsarp.org](http://www.tsarp.org).

While information about the TSARP effort and the FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps can be found on the website and will be presented at the public information fairs, the project has also established a telephone number for additional questions at 713-722-7227.

**Important Facts**

Flood insurance requirements and costs will not be affected until the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps are finalized.

The current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Harris County constitute the best representation of where the highest risks of flooding from streams and tidal surge exist. New technologies and engineering methods have allowed for a more detailed understanding of these risks.

#### **More About the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project**

The [Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project](#) represents an entirely new study of flooding potential, not an update of old information. As such, it is not correct to characterize floodplain changes as an "increase" or "decrease" in flood risk - it is simply a new understanding of our flood risk. For example, the detail of the ground surface defined by an air borne laser technology called LiDAR is unprecedented and represents a significant difference. The new study also uses new and larger rainfall values based on additional years of rainfall records.

#### **Everyone In Harris County Can Flood... Anytime, Anywhere!**

Every portion of Harris County faces some [risk of flooding](#) due to the area's flat terrain, clay soils, and intense levels and volumes of rainfall that this region can receive. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding well away from any bayou or creek as water flows over land simply trying to reach a bayou or creek, and severe storms can produce more rainfall than what was used in the computer models to produce the mapped floodplains. During Tropical Storm Allison, roughly 65% of the areas that flooded were outside the mapped 1% floodplain and those areas experienced flooding because of the intense rainfall the area received and the resulting overland flow condition that occurred.

#### **Flood Insurance and Flooding Information**

Information about purchasing flood insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program can be found at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

Historically, about one-third of all [flood insurance](#) claims are for buildings located outside the [1% \(100-year\) floodplain](#). Purchasing flood insurance is an important way for individuals to protect their financial well being from both identified and unidentified flooding risks.

More information about the [history of flooding in Harris County](#), the evolution of the county's drainage network, and what efforts are being taken to minimize local flooding can be found at the Harris County Flood Control District's website - [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).



- ⌘ Capital Improvement Program
- ⌘ **Major Projects**
  - General Info
  - Armand Bayou
  - Brays Bayou
  - Carpenters Restoration
  - Clear Creek
  - Clear Creek - 2nd Outlet Channel
  - Cypress Creek
  - Greens Bayou
  - Halls Bayou
  - Hunting Bayou
  - Memorial Park
  - Demonstration Project
  - Poor Farm Ditch
  - Sims Bayou
  - Terry Hershey Park
  - Surveying Contract
  - Vogel Creek**
  - W129-00-00
  - White Oak Bayou
- ⌘ Infrastructure
- ⌘ Home Buyout
- ⌘ Geographic Information Systems
- ⌘ Greens Bayou Wetlands Mitigation Bank
- ⌘ Stormwater Quality
- ⌘ TS-Allison Recovery Project
- ⌘ Watershed Environmental Baseline Program

## Arbor Oaks Civic Association

### November 22, 2004

The District was invited to present a status update on the The Vogel Creek Conveyance Improvement Project on Monday, Nov. 22 at Living Word Fellowship Church.

## Vogel Creek Conveyance Improvement Project

- > Project Overview
- > Project Status
- > Environmental Permits
- > Utilities & Bridge Modifications
- > Home Buyout Along Vogel Creek
- > Vogel Creek Maps & Exhibits
- > Vogel Creek Images
- > Vogel Creek VR Panoramas
- > Vogel Creek FAQs
- > **News & Information**
  - March 2005 Update
  - February 2005 Update
  - January 25, 2005
  - November 22, 2004**
  - September 29, 2004
  - February 25, 2004
  - December 8, 2003
- > Vogel Creek Downloads
- > Vogel Creek Contact Info

