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## Fourth Annual Volunteer Tree Seedling Potting Event Yields More Than 3,000 New Trees For Future District Plantings

February 13, 2008

Gearing up for tree planting season, the Harris County Flood Control District recently held its Fourth Annual Volunteer Tree Seedling Potting Event at the District's tree nursery in South Harris County. The event drew more than 100 participants, including students from Chavez, Jones and Worthing high schools, parents and school sponsors. More than 3,000 new trees were potted. The potted seedlings will grow throughout the summer at the District's tree nursery, which currently houses about 10,000 trees. New tree plantings will begin in the fall on project sites countywide. On average, the District plants about 20,000 trees every year, making it the No. 2 tree-planting government agency in Harris County.



Volunteer students prepare tree seedlings for potting. The potted seedlings will be grown for future plantings.

### Restocking the Inventory

New, potted seedlings will replenish the current stock at the District's tree nursery, which grows roughly 12 different species including bald cypress, loblolly pine, shumard oak, river birch and cedar elm. The typical planting season lasts from October through March.



The District's tree nursery can accommodate more than 20,000 hard-to-find trees for future plantings.

### Benefits From Large-scale Tree Plantings Are Numerous

Although the numbers may seem large, trees provide a great number of benefits. Once a successful canopy of trees is established, the need for mowing decreases and consequently saves taxpayers money. Trees intercept rain and lessen the impact upon soil, thus reducing the amount of erosion that can occur. Less erosion on the banks of a stormwater detention basin or drainage channel means greater storage for stormwater.



Newly planted trees near Meyer Park along Cypress Creek.

In addition to discouraging the spread of undesirable vegetation, trees improve air quality and aesthetics, and can even increase property values and energy conservation.

> [Learn about the Greens Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project](#)

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## 36th Annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta: Saturday, March 8

**March 3, 2008**

The 36th annual **Buffalo Bayou Regatta** is planned for March 8, 2008. Beginners and competitive paddlers alike will be racing down Buffalo Bayou in canoes and kayaks. The regatta is Texas' largest canoe and kayak race, and endurance is put to the test on the 15-mile course through the heart of Houston. More than 200 participants are expected.

The regatta starts near 7700 San Felipe (just west of Voss) and finishes at the Sesquicentennial Park (adjacent to the Wortham Theater Center) at Preston (between Bagby and Smith) in Downtown Houston.

[> Register Online](#)

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 8, 2008

**WHERE:** **Start:** 7700 San Felipe (just west of Voss )  
**Finish:** Sesquicentennial Park (adjacent to the Wortham Center)  
Preston Street (between Bagby and Smith streets)

**SCHEDULE:** 7:30am Regatta Registration Opens  
9:00am Race Begins  
1:00pm Awards Ceremony  
2:00pm Regatta & Festivities End



Kayakers and Canoeists alike compete in the annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta.

Houstonians of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate in the USCA-sanctioned race along the scenic **Buffalo Bayou**. Competitors can see Houston from a whole new angle, and those not wanting to paddle can come out to enjoy the event and cheer on the racers.



Spectators at the annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta.

The annual regatta is sponsored by the **Buffalo Bayou Partnership**, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing Houston's historic waterway. There are also several Corporate and private sponsors.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three place winners in the Corporate Cup, Unlimited Divisions and one grand prize winner for the Styrofoam Cup.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the Buffalo Bayou Partnership and its conservation, recreational, and beautification programs for Buffalo Bayou.

[> Register Online](#)

[> Learn about the Buffalo Bayou watershed](#)

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## District's Watershed Coordination Department is Relocating

### Commercial Receiving Also Moving to Same Location

March 21, 2008

Effective April 17, 2008, the Harris County Flood Control District's Watershed Coordination Department, as well as Commercial Receiving, are moving from 10000 Northwest Freeway to a new location on Hwy. 290/Northwest Freeway.

The new address is 10555 Northwest Freeway.



> [Download and view larger map with move information \(PDF, 484KB, 03/14/2008\)](#)

Site Plans and Analyses must be submitted at our new location:  
10555 Northwest Freeway, Suite 170, 77092

New phone numbers for commercial receiving are:  
713-316-4892  
713-316-4893

Fire Code and Permit Applications remain at 10000 Northwest Freeway, Suite 130, 77092

> [Download and view larger map with move information \(PDF, 484KB, 03/14/2008\)](#)

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## Trash Bash 2008 to be Held March 29: Rain or Shine!

**March 25, 2008**

Each Spring, sponsors and volunteers of all ages unite to clean and preserve the area waterways flowing into Galveston Bay.

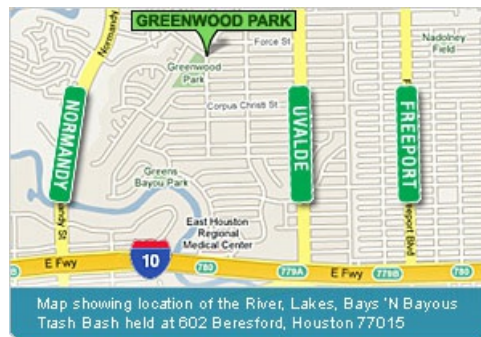
Join the Harris County Watershed Protection group and your neighbors on **March 29 from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm** at the 14th Annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash at **Greenwood Park, 602 Beresford, Houston 77015**.

Gloves and trash bags will be distributed to volunteers during registration beginning at 8:30 am. To expedite the registration process, visit [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org) to download and fill out a registration/liability form and bring it to the event.

After the cleanup, lunch, entertainment, exhibits and door prizes will be provided.

> [Download Event Flyer \(PDF, 164KB, 03/25/2008\)](#)

Visit [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org) for more information and to download your registration form



**Volunteers can also call 713-376-0384** or visit [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org) to choose from 16 other Trash Bash locations to find the closest one.

\* Scouts are encouraged to participate for merit badges.

### Clean-up and Safety Instructions

1. VOLUNTEERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING ALL TRASH BAGS BACK TO THE COLLECTION AREA.
2. Wear appropriate clothing and gloves. Long sleeves can protect against poison ivy, scratchy brush, and sunburn.
3. Monitor children and student groups closely.
4. There are certain items that are hazardous and should NOT be collected. Do not pick up heavy items or partially buried items, broken glass, medical waste, or 55-gallon drums or similar materials. They may be flammable or toxic. Note the location of these hazardous drums and report them to the zone captain or the registration table. The proper authority will be called for the collection of these items.
5. Tires can be collected but **DO NOT PUT THEM IN THE DUMPSTER**. Tires will be piled near the dumpster.
6. Please return gloves to the registration area. They will be washed and recycled.

> [Download Event Flyer \(PDF, 164KB, 03/25/2008\)](#)

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## Celebrate Buffalo Bayou's Nights on Blue Bayou and Stargazing Series

March 31, 2008

Continuing the Nights on Blue Bayou and Stargazing series, the Buffalo Bayou Partnership is hosting another night of stargazing, storytelling and more at Houston's downtown waterfront park, Sabine Promenade. For the second year in a row, the experience will be enhanced by the presence of the Houston Museum of Natural Science's Discovery Dome. George Observatory volunteers will be on-hand with their telescopes, and park performers will be present, as well.



There are many family activities and offerings at the Nights on Blue Bayou along Buffalo Bayou.

**WHEN:** Friday, May 9, 2008  
6-9pm

**COST:** Free and open to all

**WHERE:** Sabine Promenade at Sabine Street Bridge on the north side of Buffalo Bayou.

**PARKING:** Free parking is available at City Lot H (next to Fonde Recreation Center at Sabine Street and Memorial Drive) and Lot C (Memorial Drive and Houston Street) and paid parking at the Hobby Center for Performing Arts at Bagby and Walker.

There will also be boat rides along Buffalo Bayou for those at least 4 years of age.

Bring a picnic or purchase food and drinks on site. Blankets or lawn chairs and canoes or kayaks are encouraged for optimal stargazing.



Nightview of the Sabine-To-Bagby Promenade, bathed in blue light, signifying the new moon phase.

The award-winning blue lights will reveal the bridges, trails and water of the park. The colors of the lights change in tandem with the phases of the moon.

The park along the banks of Buffalo Bayou features jogging and biking trails, lush landscaping, canoe launches, public art and a new pedestrian bridge.

[> Learn about the Buffalo Bayou watershed](#)

[> Learn about the Buffalo Bayou Partnership](#)

[> See news item about Sabine-to-Bagby Promenade](#)

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## Elementary Students Take a Field Trip to the Harris County Flood Control District

April 16, 2008

Before testing begins for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), students at McDougle Elementary are teaming up with the urban foresters of the Harris County Flood Control District for some outdoor learning.

From April 14-18, students will be at the District's North Service Center to learn about earth and life science through hands-on experiments. Many of the concepts covered are part of the TAKS curriculum.

A pond, a stream and a forested area serve as outdoor classrooms where students learn about [riparian](#) food chains and the natural water cycle. Using plastic containers and watering cans, students see firsthand how erosion can occur along a [channel's](#) banks if vegetation is not in place.



Using plastic containers and watering cans, students see firsthand how erosion occurs.

The students will also be learning about the photosynthesis process and how to properly count rings of a tree and determine its age and the weather conditions during its life.



Students counted backward from the outer most ring to find out how big the tree was the year they were born.

### Continued Involvement With The District

This marks the second year the Flood Control District has worked with McDougle students. Teachers approached the District last year and asked if its foresters would be interested in educating students about flooding and topics relating to vegetation management.

The success of the lessons inspired the District to include more educational topics this year.

[> Learn about the District's Vegetation Management Program](#)

[> Learn about the District's Tree Planting Program](#)

## Buffalo Bayou Partnership Hosts 2nd Annual KBR Kids Day along Buffalo Bayou June 14

**May 29, 2008**

Join the Buffalo Bayou Partnership for a day of adventure and activities along Buffalo Bayou. Admission is free. KBR Kids Day on Buffalo Bayou will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2008 from 10am-2pm at Downtowns Sabine Promenade on Sabine Street between Memorial Drive and Allen Parkway.

This family fun event includes hands-on activities with over 20 Houston non-profit organization partners. Activity stations will include a show case of bayou animals, hands-on activities from over 20 Houston non-profit organizations partners, wetland hikes, a bayou scavenger hunt, kayaking demos with REI, bat games and fishing lessons, and wildflower plantings. Hikes and boat tours will focus on the Sabine Street outfall where participants will learn about how trash arrives in the bayou through the citys stormsewers and how we capture it with our containment booms.

### Special Appearances

10-11am - Skateboarding demonstration with PUSHskaters at the Lee and Joe Jamail Skate Park and Houston Texans TORO mascot appearance

11am-Noon - Breakdancing performances

Noon-1pm - Houston Rockets Power Dancers

1-2pm - Houston Rockets CLUTCH mascot appearance

### EVENT INFO

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 14, 2008, 10am-2pm

**ADMISSION:** Free and open to all. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

**WHERE:** Downtowns Sabine Promenade and Tapley Tributary (east and west of Sabine Street Bridge between Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive).

**PARKING:** Free parking is available at City Lot H (next to Fonde Recreation Center at Sabine Street and Memorial Drive) and Lot C (Memorial Drive and Houston Street).

For more information, call 713.752.0314 or visit [www.buffalobayou.org](http://www.buffalobayou.org)

> [Learn more about the Buffalo Bayou watershed](#)

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## Freedom Over Texas With Fireworks on Buffalo Bayou July 4th

July 2, 2008

The 2008 Chevys Freedom Over Texas with Fireworks presented by Shell will take place on Friday, July 4, along Buffalo Bayou at Eleanor Tinsley Park. The festivities will begin at 4pm with a concert starring three of the biggest names in country music today: Sara Evans, Miranda Lambert and Jo Dee Messina.



Plenty of free fun for the kids at the Freedom Over Texas and Fireworks event on Buffalo Bayou.

Following the concert at 9:30pm will be the largest land-based fireworks show in the nation. In addition to the headliners there will be a display of military artifacts and vehicles, as well as NASCAR racecars, and an interactive racing simulator. There will be plenty of free fun for the kids as well, including free rides, games, face painting, jugglers and more in the All American Kids Zone.

- WHEN:** Friday, July 4, 2008  
4-10pm
- COST:** FREE for children 10 and under  
\$5 before 5PM and if purchased by June 30, 2008  
\$8 at the gate after 5PM
- WHERE:** Eleanor Tinsley Park along Buffalo Bayou

> For more information, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/specialevents/cfd/index.html>



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## Hurricane Ike: Helpful Recovery Phone Numbers, Links, and Information

### September 18, 2008

Hurricane Ike has put a strain on our entire region, and the Harris County Flood Control District is committed to helping in any way we can. Below are phone numbers, links, and other information that may aid in your recovery efforts.

**Residents are also reminded to please not discard trash or any storm debris in area bayous, creeks, streams or other channels. Doing so could reduce drainage capacity within Harris County.**

### Important Phone Numbers

<b>CenterPoint Energy:</b>	713-207-2222 Report ONLY Power Lines Down / Reporte líneas caídas
<b>2-1-1 Texas / United Way Helpline:</b>	Dial 2-1-1 or <a href="#">go to this web page</a>
<b>Social Security Assistance:</b>	1-800-772-1213 (if you haven't received your assistance / si no ha recibido su asistencia)
<b>TxDOT:</b>	713-802-5076 or 1-800-452-9292 (Road Closures/ Cierre de Calles)
<b>FEMA:</b>	1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or <a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a> (Housing Assistance / Asistencia de Vivienda)
<b>Red Cross:</b>	713-313-5286 (Shelters / Albergues) or <a href="#">go to this web page</a>
<b>Missing Persons / Personas Perdidas:</b>	713-313-1656
<b>Report Price Gouging / Reportar Estafas:</b>	1-800-252-8011 or/o 713-755-2648
<b>SPCA Pets / Mascotas:</b>	713-861-0161
<b>PoD Locations / Sitios Distribución:</b>	713-881-3100
<b>Debris / Escombros:</b>	1 (800) 207-2325 (How to Set up Debris for Disposal & pickup schedule / Cómo juntar sus escombros para que sea recogidos y las horas previstas)

> [CenterPoint Energy Service Updates](#)

> [Entergy Service Updates](#)

> [United Way of Houston](#)

> [Houston Red Cross](#)

> [When can you return home?](#)

> [Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#)

> [City of Houston Office of Emergency Management](#)

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## Flood Control District Has Strong Showing at GIS Day Map Competition

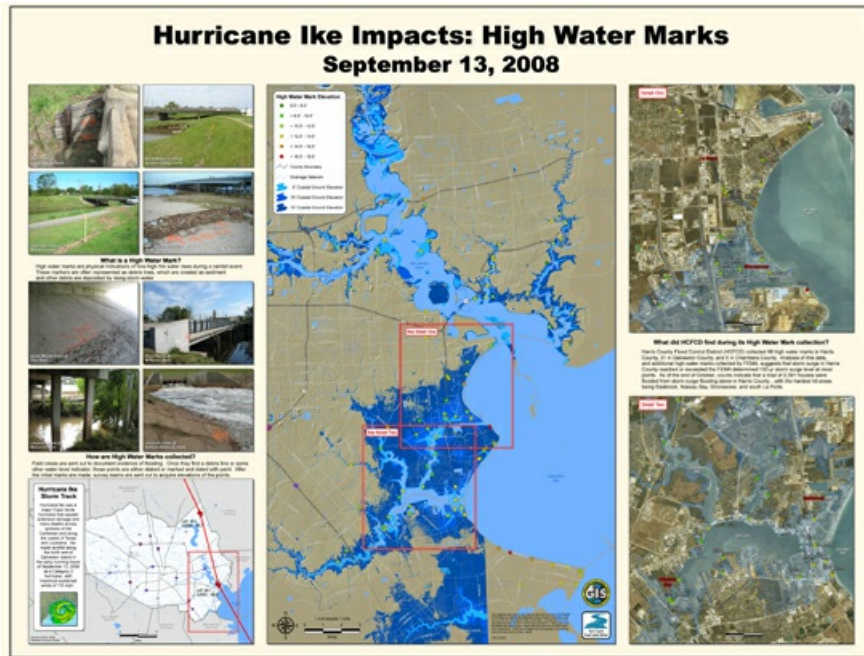
> Learn about Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

December 8, 2008

The Harris County Flood Control District's GIS Section recently participated in the Geographic Data Committee's 2008 GIS Day event, held at the University of Houston-Downtown. The District has participated in this event since its inception in 1999.

A major part of the event consists of the GIS Day Map Gallery and competition. The District takes great pride in the quality of maps and exhibits produced for internal and public use and, each year, enters new maps in the competition with the hopes of being selected among the best. There are different categories for Government Agencies, Educational Institutions, Private Companies and Mentor Students.

This year, the District's GIS Section was recognized in several categories, including two First Place honors for Best Analytical Presentation and Best Cartographic Design, respectively. Descriptions of the winning entries are below:



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### Hurricane Ike Impacts: High Water Marks

Best Analytical Presentation

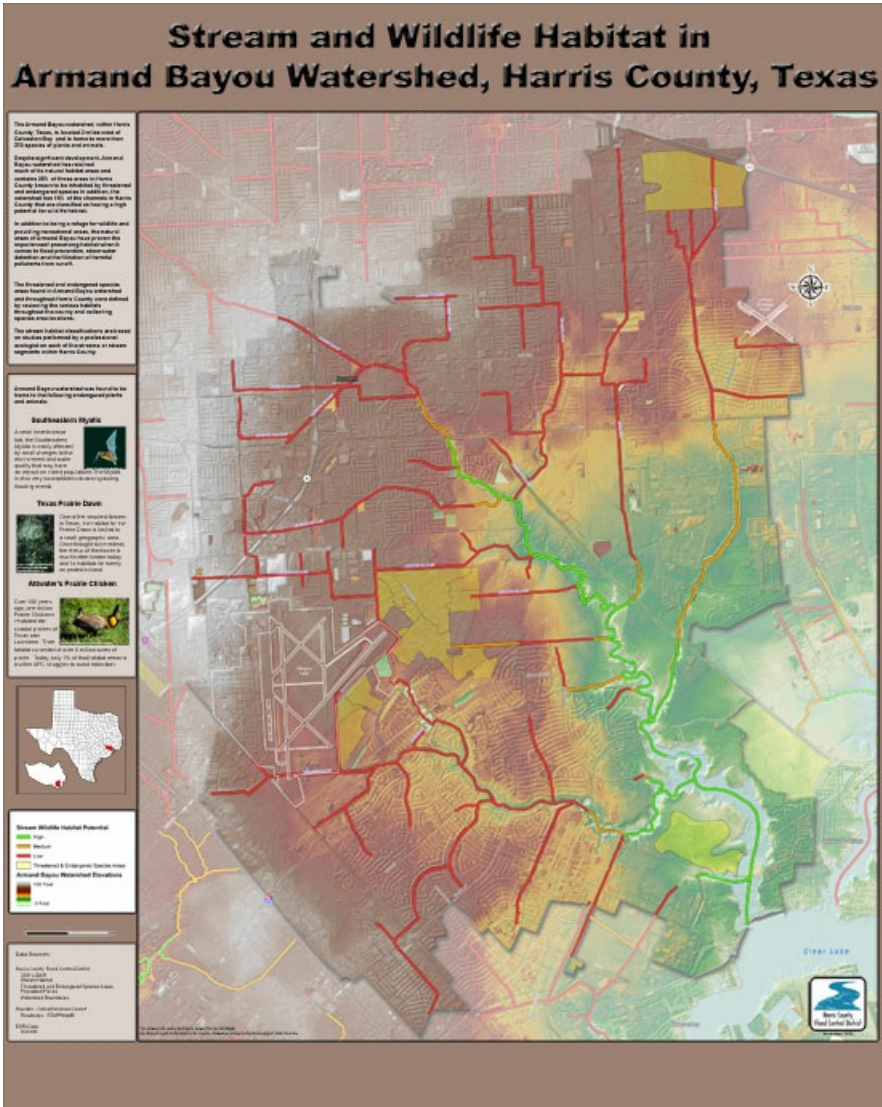
This exhibit is part of a series that focused on Hurricane Ike and the damage caused in Harris County by the storm. It explains what high water marks are, including example photographs, how they are collected and what sort of flooding levels the District recorded during the storm. Coastal ground elevations are depicted, along with the high water marks to give a general representation of areas that were potentially impacted by floodwaters. In addition to a map of recorded high water marks, areas hardest hit by flooding were also displayed in more detailed maps using aerial photographs as a base layer. This data was used to determine the extents of the flooding caused by Hurricane Ike.

- December 15, 2010
- December 15, 2010
- October 18, 2010
- October 11, 2010
- October 06, 2010
- October 4, 2010
- October 4, 2010
- October 4, 2010
- October 4, 2010
- July 27, 2010
- July 21, 2010
- July 8, 2010
- July 1, 2010
- July 1, 2010
- July 1, 2010
- June 30, 2010
- June 3, 2010
- February 11, 2010
- February 8, 2010
- February 1, 2010
- January 27, 2010

- 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
- 2003 News Archive
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**Stream and Wildlife Habitat in Armand Bayou Watershed**  
Best Cartographic Design

This map assessing stream and wildlife habitat was created using primarily data from the District's [Watershed Environmental Baseline Program \(W.E.B.\)](#). The [Armand Bayou watershed](#) was chosen because it has a high percentage of threatened and endangered species acreage in Harris County, and a correlation was sought between development and stream habitat quality.

> [Learn more about Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\) at the District](#)

