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# Regional Focus

Your Monthly Newsletter from the Houston-Galveston Area Council  
March 2024

*This March at H-GAC, our calendar is full of events and ways you can make an impact in your neighborhood or throughout the region!*

*Watch the video below to learn more!*



## Application Period Open for: Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence Awards



Apply now for the [2024 Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence \(WISE\) Awards](#) ! This program is overseen by the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, an advisory committee to the H-GAC Board of Directors, and seeks to recognize innovative projects, programs, or individuals in the 13-county region that serve as models for improving and protecting water quality.

**Applications close at noon on Friday, March 29.**

For more information, including an application guide, visit [h-gac.com/wise-awards](http://h-gac.com/wise-awards) or email [Rachel Windham](mailto:Rachel.Windham@h-gac.com).

## 30th Annual Trash Bash to be Held on March 23, 2024

[Find more details in the events section down below and watch our video to](#)



## Nearly \$34 Million of Regional Mitigation Projects Approved in the Houston-Galveston Region

In February, several communities in the Houston-Galveston region received approval for projects representing \$33,700,989 in Regional Mitigation Program funds from the Texas General Land Office (GLO).

“These projects will help reduce flood risk, enhance emergency preparedness, and increase wastewater utility resilience in the cities of Columbus, League City, and Brookshire,” said Justin Bower, director of Community and Environmental Planning at the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). “This funding will be instrumental in helping our region become more resilient in the face of future disaster events.”

Funding Recipient	County	Project	Funded Amt.
League City	Galveston County	Drainage Study, Flood Preparedness, and Drainage Improvements	\$15,561,500
Brookshire	Waller County	Drainage Improvements	\$1,310,000
Columbus	Colorado County	Generator and Drainage Improvements	\$1,018,300
Houston-Galveston Area Council <i>(for the city of Columbus)</i>	Colorado County	Generator and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	\$15,811,189

The Texas General Land Office allocated Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to local governments in the Houston-Galveston region based on a Method of Distribution developed by H-GAC through an extensive public participation process.

The purpose of these funds is to increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship during future disasters. HUD requires that at least 50 percent of total funds must be used for activities benefiting low-to moderate-income persons.

Watch to learn about the city of Columbus' Wastewater Treatment Plant:



**Get Ready to Ride!** H-GAC's Commute Solutions Program Partners with TxDOT and Uber for Rodeo Season

**Get Your \$20 Uber Voucher for NRG Stadium!**  
(ConnectSmart Offer Expires March 18)

Be Responsible. Ride, Don't Drive.  
#EndTheStreakTX

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Download on the App Store

**H-GAC Livable Centers:  
Call for Study Sponsors Continues**



H-GAC's [call for study sponsors for the Livable Centers Program](#) is now open.

H-GAC seeks to identify and fund Livable Centers studies and Focused Livable Centers studies. Livable Centers studies will be scaled at a community level, and Focused Livable Centers studies will focus on a smaller geographic area and/or specific issue (e.g., transit-oriented development, first/last mile connections).

Sponsors are limited to local governments and other eligible entities in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties. **This is not a request for proposals from consulting firms.**

Interested sponsors are encouraged to attend the pre-submittal meeting for an explanation of the application process. The pre-submittal meeting will be at 9:30 a.m., **Thursday, March 14**, on Zoom or in person at H-GAC.

Registration is *required* to [attend the online meeting](#) and *requested* to [attend the in-person meeting](#). Click to view information about [deadlines, specific application content, and important dates](#) on our website.

All eligible sponsors must complete a Notice of Intent to Apply by **Thursday, May 9**. Final applications are due **Monday, July 8**.

For more information, or questions about upcoming deadlines, email [LivableCenters@h-gac.com](mailto:LivableCenters@h-gac.com) or contact [Sarai Osorio](#).

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## H-GAC Honors Parks and Natural Areas Award Winners

In February, the Houston-Galveston Area Council hosted its annual Parks and Natural Areas Awards recognition ceremony. In all, 23 projects throughout the Houston-Galveston region were honored as models for best management practices in parks and natural areas by panels of expert judges and industry professionals.

### THOSE RECOGNIZED INCLUDE:

#### Planning Process / Policy Tools

##### Winners:

- Houston Parks and Recreation Department for the Houston Nature Preserve Ordinance
- Harris County Precinct 3 for the Harris County Pct. 3 Parks and Trails Master Plan

##### Honorable Mention:

- League City for Clear Creek Master Plan

##### Special Recognition:

- Kemah Economic Development District for 57-acre Nature Center
- Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department for the Missouri City Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan
- North Houston District for the North Houston District 2023 Parks Master Plan
- Fulshear for Primrose Park
- Harris County Precinct 2 for the Harris County Pct. 2 Parks and Trails Plan

#### Projects Over \$500,000

##### Winners:

- Mont Belvieu for Hackberry Park Phase I
- Angleton for Lakeside Park

Honorable Mention:

- Alief Independent School District for the Alief Jefferson Early Learning Center
- Howard Hughes for Chrysalis Lake

Special Recognition:

- East Aldine Management District for the East Aldine Town Center
- Brazoria County Parks Department for San Luis Pass County Park Education Center & Multi-Use Renovation

**Projects Under \$500,000**

Winners:

- New Hope Housing for Reed Park at the Urban Prairie

Honorable Mention:

- Galveston Island Parks Board for Beach Toy Borrow Boxes

Special Recognition:

- The Parish School for the Oak Creek Exploration Zone
- Chambers County for Fort Anahuac Park Wetland and Native Grasses Restoration
- Bay City Parks and Recreation Department for the Riverside Tree Giveaway
- Michael Lee for the Texas AIDS Memorial Garden

**Programming**

Winners:

- Bayou Preservation Association for Clean Bayous Program: Pots for Plots Initiative

Honorable Mention:

- Harris County Precinct 3 Park Programs

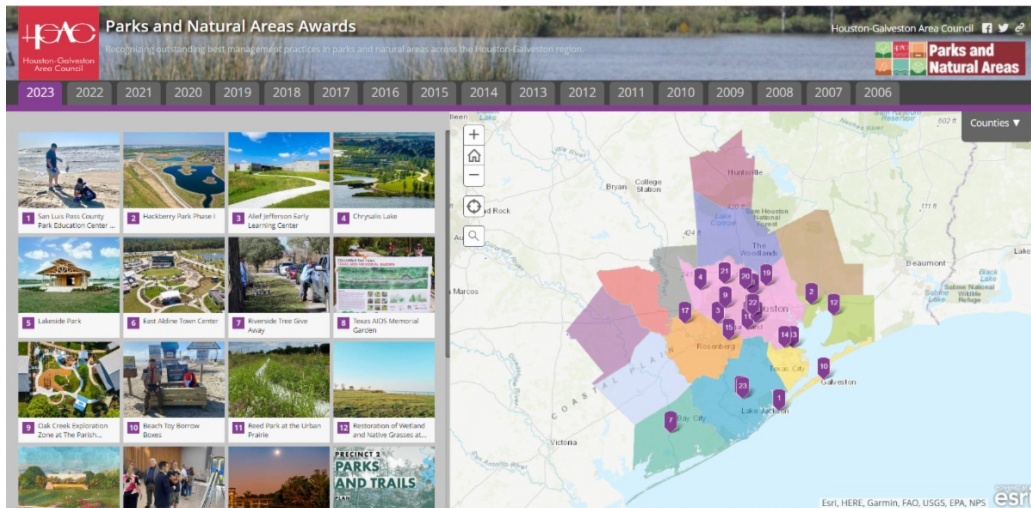
Special Recognition:

- Angleton Parks and Recreation's In-School Program

**The application for the 2024 Parks and Natural Areas Awards opens in September. Learn more about this year's and future awards at:**

[h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas/awards](https://h-gac.com/parks-and-natural-areas/awards)

View this and prior years' recognized projects using the story map linked below!



**MAR 18**



**MAR 19**

**TUESDAY,  
MAR.  
19  
AT 10 A.M.**

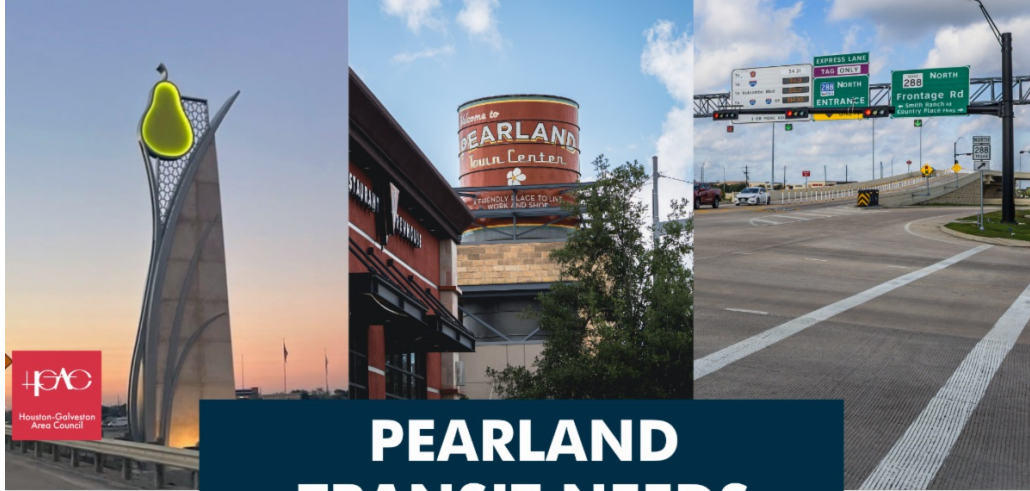
**H-GAC  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
MEETING**

2nd Floor, 3555 Timmons Ln.  
Houston 70277

[H-GAC.COM/LIVE](https://www.h-gac.com/live)

Houston-Galveston Area Council

**MAR 19-21**



# PEARLAND TRANSIT NEEDS

PEARLAND PUBLIC MEETING SERIES

The Houston-Galveston Area Council, in partnership with the city of Pearland, will host three public meetings for Pearland residents to learn about the Pearland Transit Study.

<p><b>6 - 7:30 PM</b>  <b>Tuesday, March 19</b>          West Pearland Library          11801 Shadow Creek          Ranch Pkwy., Pearland</p>	<p><b>6 - 7:30 PM</b>  <b>Wednesday, March 20</b>          Pearland City Hall          3519 Liberty Dr.          Pearland</p>	<p><b>1:30 - 3 PM</b>  <b>Thursday, March 21</b>          Online Meeting          To register &amp; attend, visit:  <a href="https://bit.ly/PearlandTransitNeeds">bit.ly/PearlandTransitNeeds</a></p>
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For more information, contact: Alan Rodenstein  
 Alan.Rodenstein@h-gac.com or 713-993-2407

Scan QR code for more information:



## MAR 22




## TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

**9:30 A.M. | FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024**  
**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**  
 2nd Floor Conference Room  
 3555 Timmons Ln., Houston, 77027

## MAR 23





RIVER, LAKES  
BAYS 'N BAYOUS TRASH BASH®



# "Clean It Like You Mean It!"®

March 23, 2024  
8 AM - 1 PM  
Multiple Locations

Texas's largest single-day waterway cleanup!

Learn more at  
[www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org)



*Is it you who we've been searching for?*



**If you...**

- Have team spirit!
- Are passionate about serving others
- Enjoy challenging work while changing lives for the better

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
[h-gac.com/careers](http://h-gac.com/careers)

**OPEN POSITIONS**

- Regional Planning Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Audio/Video Specialist
- Outreach Coordinator
- Contract Specialist
- Sr. Writer & Editor
- Controller
- And more!

Let's get social! @HouGalvAreaCOG

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