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Regional Focus

Your Monthly Newsletter from the Houston-Galveston Area Council
Aug. 2024

Beryl, an early-season hurricane for our region, recently reminded us how important it is to get and stay ready and safe this hurricane season. Watch below to learn about the resources we have available to help you stay prepared this season. Access and download our Hurricane Guide and other resources at: h-gac.com/HurricanePrep.

Click to learn more about the [lessons learned from Hurricane Beryl](#).



H-GAC Offers Customizable Storm Debris Response & Preparation Templates

The Houston-Galveston Area Council recently worked with TetraTech to develop a set of customizable debris-related public information messages and templates. These outreach templates and tools are designed for local governments and other partners to customize and use to provide information to communities and residents before, during, and after a debris-generating event, such as floods, wildfires, or hurricanes.

Tools include graphics and messages that can be used on social media posts, on websites, and on flyers; public information/news release templates; and tips for setting up a call center.

The additional graphics and messages are available in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

For several years, H-GAC has provided flyers and videos that provide easy-to-understand instructions for the public in English and Spanish on the proper method to sort and set out debris. These customizable materials have been used across the region, state, and country, and even in a few international locations.

The tools and templates are available for download on [H-GAC's Disaster Debris Cleanup and Management Resources web page](#).

GIS Day

Secure your spot as a sponsor today!

Nov 21-22 | Houston, TX

LIMITED SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

- GIS Industry Influence
- Targeted Exposure
- Networking Opportunities

In 2023, GIS Day attracted an impressive crowd of more than 250 professionals, and this year's event will be even better! The Houston-Galveston Area Council is thrilled to collaborate on the launch of GIS Day 2024 – Houston's leading GIS event – and YOU have the opportunity to sponsor this event.

You Can't Afford to Miss This:

- Targeted Exposure: Connect with other industry professionals attending this year's GIS Day and engage with more than 300 students and educators from Houston and the surrounding region.
- Premium Visibility: Secure a dedicated space for your company in the exhibit hall, participate in the educational awareness program, and associate your brand with a growing and influential event.
- Networking Opportunities: Interact directly with decision-makers, innovators, and stakeholders, creating valuable connections and potential collaborations.

Act Now to Secure Your Sponsorship:

Join us as a sponsor for GIS Day 2024 and ensure you don't miss out on the benefits that come with it. The exposure, connections, and influence you gain will be invaluable to your business and professional network.



SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP

H-GAC Honors Projects to Improve Water Quality and Resources



The Water Innovations Strategies of Excellence (WISE) Awards ceremony on July 29 honored nine outstanding projects and programs across the H-GAC region.

The [WISE Awards](#) program, overseen by H-GAC's Natural Resource Advisory Committee,

recognizes and celebrates projects, programs, and individuals using innovative strategies to protect and improve the Houston-Galveston region's water quality and resources.

Winners were selected for recognition by a panel of expert judges and industry professionals.

Those recognized include:

- Chrysalis Lake, Howard Hughes - Bridgeland, Winner, Completed Effort (Greater Than \$200,000)
- Water Loss Reduction, city of La Marque, Winner, Completed Effort (Less Than \$200,000)
- Galveston Bay Foundation Rain Barrel Workshop Program, Galveston Bay Foundation, Winner, Education and Public Awareness
- Teri MacArthur, Woodlands Water Agency, Winner, Individual Excellence
- Exploration Green, SWA Group, Winner, Policy and Planning
- Sanitary Sewer Overflow Prevention Program, city of West University Place, Winner, Program Performance
- Buffalo Bayou Park Revegetation and Biostabilization Project, Harris County Flood Control District, Winner, Research and Monitoring
- Sustainable Interactive Customer Connections (SICC), city of Galveston, Special Recognition, Innovation in Water Resources Management
- SCADA Improvements, city of West University Place, Special Recognition, Water Quality Protection Technology



H-GAC's annual [Parks and Natural Areas Awards program](#) will begin accepting applications on **Sunday, September 1.**

- The Parks and Natural Areas Awards recognize projects in four categories:
- Projects Over \$500,000
- Projects Under \$500,000
- Planning Process and Policy Tools
- Programming

Winning entries serve as models for planning and project implementation for parks and natural areas in the region. The application period will close at 3 p.m., **Monday, September 30.**

The application portal is not open yet; however, an [online application guide](#) is available to help you prepare your application early. No funding is associated with this awards program.

Winners will be notified in December and recognized in 2025. For more information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#).



AUG 6

TUESDAY,
AUG

6

AT 10 AM

Workforce Solutions

GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD MEETING



Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Ln. | Houston, TX 77027
Second-Floor Conference Rooms A, B & C

wrksolutions.com

AUG 20

TUESDAY,
AUG

20

AT 10 A.M.

HYBRID H-GAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln.
Houston, TX 77027
Second-Floor Conference Rooms A, B & C



H-GAC.COM/LIVE



AUG 22

Clean Waters Initiative Workshop (Hybrid)

Join H-GAC for a Clean Waters Initiative on-site sewage facilities (OSSF) workshop from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Thursday, August 22**, at H-GAC in the second-floor conference rooms and on Zoom.

[Registration](#) is requested to attend in person and required to attend online.

Clean Waters Initiative workshops offer education and information to local governments, nonprofit organizations, landowners, and residents to develop effective strategies to reduce pollution in local waterways.

For more information, contact [Rachel Windham](#).

AUG 29



Pull your boots on and join us as we step up *Economic Development and Tourism* in our region through this riveting and informative collaboration between the [Houston-Galveston Area Council](#) and the [Texas Economic Development & Tourism Department of the Office of Governor Greg Abbott](#).

Sessions will include local, state, and federal partners who will provide information on resources and funding opportunities to grow economic development and tourism in your communities.

This complimentary workshop will be held from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, August 29** at the **Federal Reserve Bank** in the 3rd Floor conference room. The Federal Reserve Bank is located at 1801 Allen Parkway, Houston, TX 77019,

This is an *in-person only* workshop and lunch will be provided compliments of [GrantWorks](#).

Registration is required to secure an accurate lunch headcount. Please register [HERE!](#)

For more information contact [Cynthia Jones](#) at 713-993-4591.

SEP 9

Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable

Make plans to attend the next H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. **Monday, September 9**, at H-GAC in the second-floor conference rooms.

Tentative agenda presentations include:

- Ashley R. Morgan-Olivera, director of Research and Education/Outreach for the Texas Invasive Species Institute at Sam Houston State University - invasive species in the Houston-Galveston region, their removal, and reporting them on [Texasinvasives.org](#)
- Bryan Frazier, Brazoria County Parks director - award-winning projects and programs
- Eric Heppen, Harris County Pct. 3 project manager - templates and other efficient tools for park planning

Attendees will also:

- Discuss the Parks and Natural Areas Awards program
- Learn about a new online, interactive trail mapping tool
- Hear about the 2024 WISE Awards winners
- Engage in a roundtable discussion of events and activities in the region

Registration will open soon.

For more information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#).

SEP 19



Are you passionate about creating a more sustainable future? Do you want to learn how transportation, environmental justice, and social equity intersect to shape our communities? Then mark your calendar for our upcoming workshop!

At the annual Livable Centers Workshop: Incremental Steps Towards Transportation, Environmental, and Social Equity, we'll bring together experts in transportation, environmental sustainability, and social equity to share insights and explore how we can create transportation systems that serve everyone's needs while protecting the environment and promoting equity.

Join us as we:

- Explore the intersectionality of transportation equity, environmental justice, and social equity.
- Share incremental successes in working towards a future where transportation systems are inclusive and environmentally sustainable.
- Hear from experts on strategies for integrating environmental and health considerations into transportation planning and policy.
- Share best practices for encouraging sustainable transportation options.

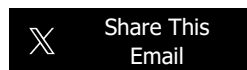
Make plans to attend H-GAC's Livable Centers Workshop from 8 to 11 a.m., Thursday, September 19, at H-GAC, Second Floor Conference Rooms.

Registration is requested, but not required to attend. Steps Toward Transportation, Environmental, & Social Equity: H-GAC's Livable Centers Workshop (constantcontactpages.com)

For more information, email livablecenters@h-gac.com.

Let's get social!

@HouGalvAreaCOG



Houston-Galveston Area Council | PO Box 22777 | Houston, TX 77227-2777 US

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