

BUFFALO BAYOU AND TRIBUTARIES RESILIENCY STUDY

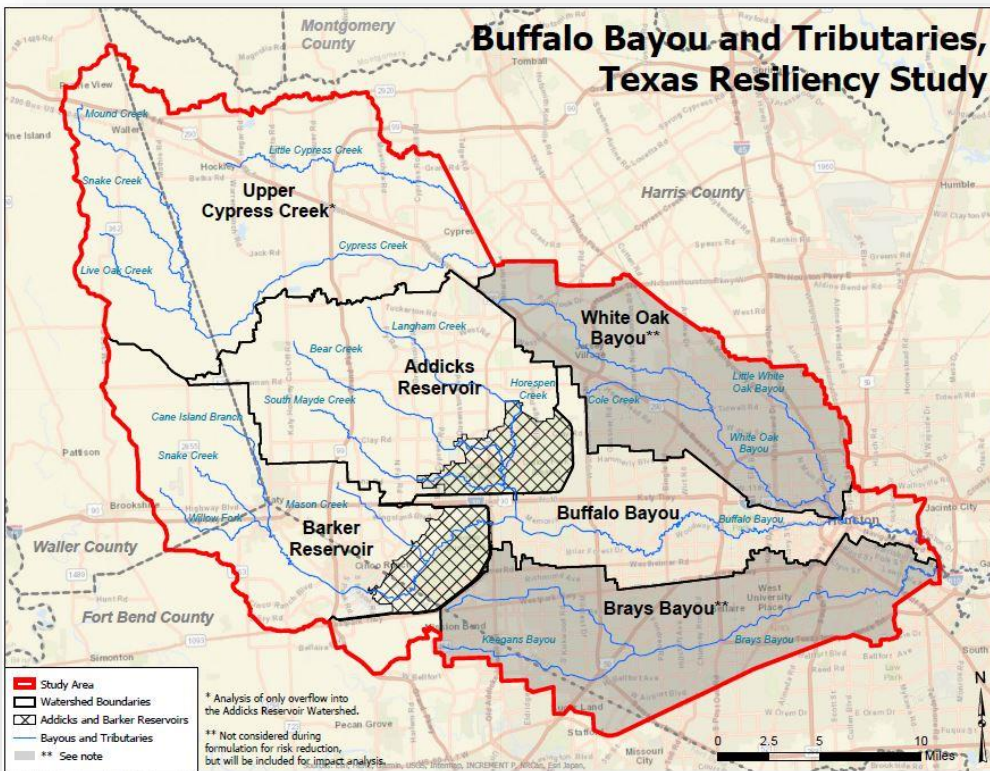


US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Galveston District



About the Study: In October of 2018, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) signed a partnership agreement with Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) to examine the feasibility of construction projects to address the flooding risks along Buffalo Bayou and its tributaries. The study will also complete a Dam Safety Modification Evaluation (DSME) on Addicks and Barker Dams.

Need for this Study: Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries, Texas Project was authorized in 1938 leading to the construction of Addicks and Barker Dams. Since their completion, there has been significant changes in land use and development in the watershed. The watershed has experienced significant flooding in recent years.



**PUBLIC MEETINGS
APRIL-MAY 2019**

More Information is available online at:

<https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/Buffalo-Bayou-and-Tributaries-Resiliency-Study/>

What is a Feasibility Study?

The Feasibility Study is the first stage of development for a potential Federal water resources development project. The feasibility study phase is the disciplined process under which Corps planners work with a non-federal study sponsor and multi-disciplinary study teams to identify, evaluate and recommend to decision makers a workable solution to identified water resources problems and opportunities. A feasibility study is used to investigate the Federal interest, engineering feasibility, economic justification and environmental acceptability of a recommended water resources project. A feasibility study determines if Congressional authorization and implementation of a Civil Works project are warranted.

The final feasibility report documents the study results and findings, including the formulation of alternatives, the selection process of the recommended alternative, and the costs and benefits of the recommended plan. The final feasibility report provides a sound and documented basis for decision makers and stakeholders regarding the recommended solution.

A feasibility study ends when the Chief of Engineers signs a "Chief's Report" and transmits it to The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (ASA(CW)). The ASA(CW) then officially submits the report to Congress for consideration of authorization to construct the recommended plan.

Following the transmittal of the Chief's Report, the Corps and its non-federal sponsor complete the detailed engineering and technical studies and design needed to begin construction in a phase known as the "Pre-Construction Engineering and Design" phase. Construction may begin after congressional authority and appropriations for the recommended are made.

Where are we in the Study Process?

We are currently in the public scoping phase of the study. Scoping provides an opportunity for the public, interested stakeholders, and resource agencies to provide input on the range of issues to be addressed by the study. The most common way for the agency to reach the public is through public meetings.

Following this period, the study team will review and address the input received during the comment period. The information will be used to further develop the alternatives and aid in the impact analysis. It is anticipated that the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement will be published for public review in the spring of 2020.

What is National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

NEPA is a Federal law applicable to all Federal agencies. NEPA requires that agencies take a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of a proposed federal action before making decisions and taking action.

The NEPA process is intended to promote better agency decisions by ensuring high-quality environmental information is available to decision makers and the public before the agency decides whether or how to undertake a federal action.

The appropriate NEPA documentation for a particular study depends largely on the significance – in terms of context and intensity – of the project's potential environmental impacts.

THE NEPA AND FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS

The preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and Feasibility Report are being prepared concurrently.

Stages of NEPA and Feasibility Study Process

1. Initiate Study
2. Notify the Public
3. Scoping Meeting
4. Analysis of Alternatives
5. Complete Draft Report
6. Public Review of Draft Report
7. Refinement of the TSP
8. Final Report Available for Review
9. Report Signed

Stages of Public and Private Participation

US Army Corps of Engineers

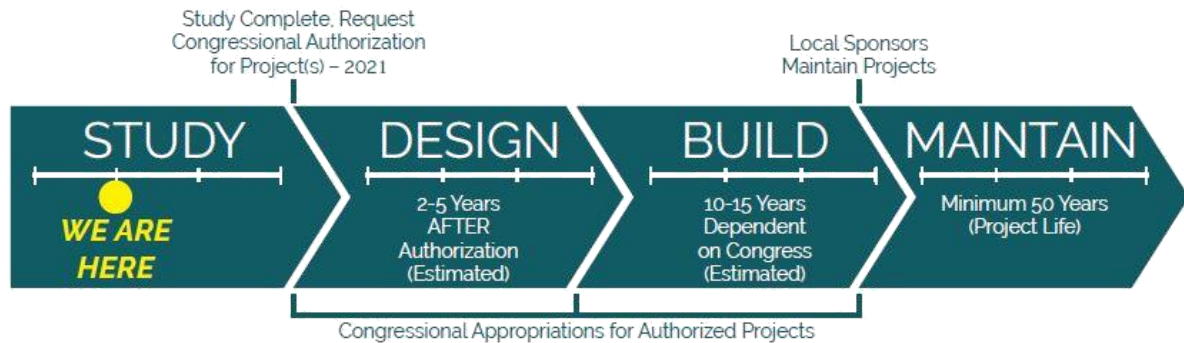
COE and Non Federal

Public

Public Participation In Yellow



ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE



How Can You Participate?

You can participate by providing comments for consideration by the study team. The comment period is open from April 29th- May 31st, 2019.

Comments can be sent by email to bbtrs@usace.army.mil or mailed to

USACE, Galveston
ATTN: BBTRS
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553

What Will Happen Next?

The team will work with the measures developed and the comments that we receive from you to develop alternatives to address the flooding and dam safety risks. From there we will select a Tentatively Selected Plan based on the costs, benefits, and environmental impacts. The analysis of all alternatives considered will be released in a draft report to the public.

Public Scoping Meetings

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

5:00-8:00 pm

Kingsland Baptist Church Activity Center
20555 Kingsland Boulevard
Katy, Texas 77450

Thursday, May 2, 2019

5:00-8:00 pm

Saint John Vianney Catholic Church Activity Center
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, Texas 77079

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

5:00-8:00 pm

University of Houston Downtown
Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson
Auditorium
3rd Floor (Main Street Level) of
Academic Building
1 Main Street, A 350
Houston, Texas 77002
(Visitor Parking available at 201
Girard Street)

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

5:00-8:00 pm

Trini Mendenhall Community Center
1414 Wirt Road
Houston, Texas 77055

Thursday, May 9, 2019

6:00-9:00 pm

(Presentation given at 6:30, 7:30,
and 8:30)
Cypress Ridge High School
9th Grade Cafeteria

Measures Being Considered

Exposure and Vulnerability:

- **Update Emergency Action Plan/Hazard Maps**
- **Dry/Wet Proofing-** Waterproof coatings and coverings for homes and businesses
- **Flood Warning Systems-** Audible warning systems of rising waters
- **Property Acquisition-** Purchase land, remove all buildings and utilities, and allow to restore to pre-development condition
- **Signage**

Dam Safety:

- **Relocation of Auxiliary Spillway-** Moving the auxiliary spillway of Addicks and Barker Dams to a new location
- **Remove Dams-** Demolition of dams. This is a measure considered to compare the benefits and risks that the dams have on the surrounding communities
- **Axillary Spillway Improvements**
- **Modify Dam Operations-** Change the rate or frequency at which the dams can release water from the reservoirs

Convey Water:

- **Bypass-** A channel that redirects water from one bayou around a flood prone area and then back into the original bayou
- **Diversion-** A channel that redirects flow from one bayou or watershed around a flood prone area into a nearby bayou or watershed
- **Tunnels-** An underground floodway that diverts excess floodwater from the surface underground until it has been moved outside of the flood risk area
- **Channel Improvements-** Modifications to the existing Buffalo Bayou Channel to convey water more efficiently

Store Water:

- **Increase Reservoir Storage-** Increasing the capacity of water that Addicks and Barker Reservoirs can hold on government property
- **Levees-** Provide a barrier between surging waters and built structures
- **Detention-** Excavations on the landscape used to receive and temporarily store surface water
- **Sedimentation Basin-** A structure to remove sediment from flowing water to prevent the deposit of sediments which can decrease storage
- **New Reservoir/Dam-** Dam constructed across the bayou to temporarily store flows and then released in an regulated manner