

Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition

Biennial Report 2020-2021

www.ccfcc.org

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DEAR CCFCC STAKEHOLDERS AND FELLOW HOMEOWNERS:

This Biennial report summarizes projects, board of directors/committees, and financial information updated as of Dec 31, 2021. Also, it provides next year 2022 plans.

Flood Damage Reduction Goals:

- In the planning after Harvey: Due to much opposition, the idea to construct a 3rd reservoir had not reached fruition by the end of 2021.
- The updated plan/implementation of HCFCD/TWDB 2003 recommended major tributaries detention basins is now in the phase of land acquisition and the start of excavation.
- Development of the San Jancinto Regional Plan work-in-progress continues.
- The USACE Buffalo Bayou Major Tributaries (BBTRS) planning continues with CCFCC review/comment.

No Adverse Impact (NAI): This is the heart of Harris County's drainage regulation for which if not met the Harris County Engineer is required by regulations to not approve permit applications for new development.

Preservation Goals:

Optimize preservation of surrounding trees and native forest flora in design/construction of major tributaries detention basins

Political Highlight:

In July 2020 the Harris County Judge's Office (CJO) replaced the long standing Harris County Flood Control District Task Force with a new organization named "*Harris County Community Flood Resilience Task Force*", with the announced goals of reflecting a broader approach within the CJO organizational structure. This was followed by voiding the bylaws of the prior task force in their entirety and eliminating 100% of the existing Task Force membership.

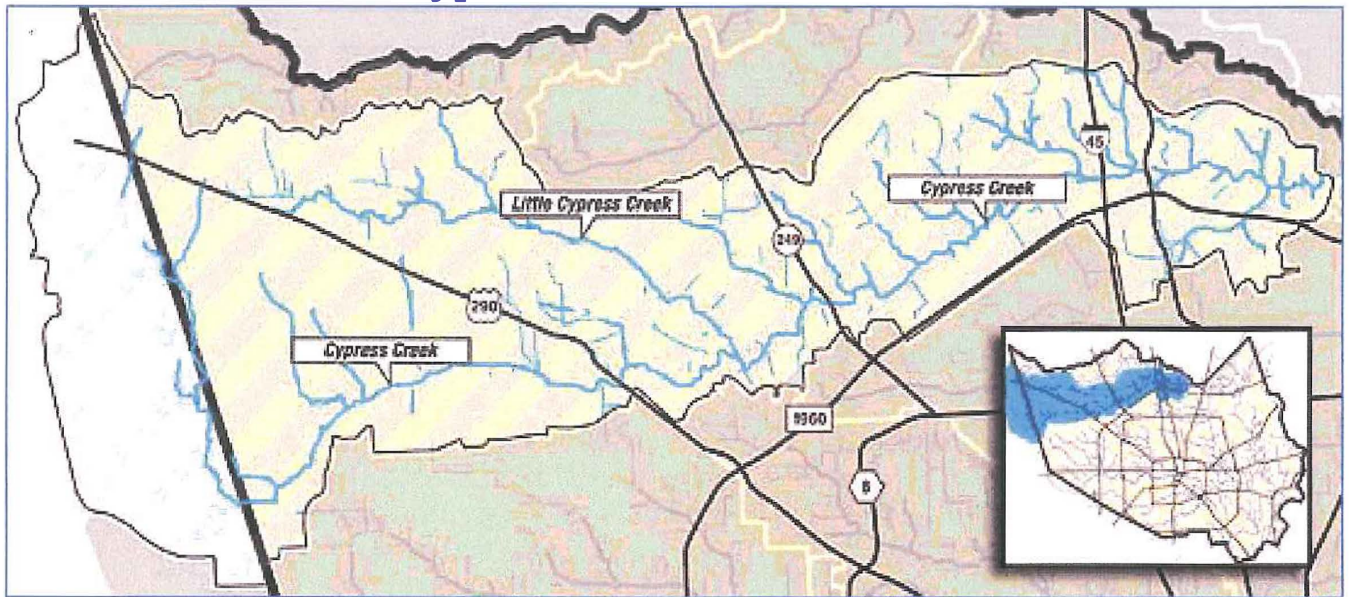
Plans for 2022:

- **"Rising Waters" Campaign** - The current Phase 2 underground floodwater conveyance tunnel system study does not include the Cypress Creek Watershed update. This campaign headed by a new Tunnel Advocacy Committee has the goal of obtaining inclusion in the plan and obtaining government funding for implementation usage. (Note: the Cypress Creek Watershed was later included in further tunnel studies).
- Evaluation of HCFCD engineering flood bond implementation plans for 22 detention basins along the of the watershed from US 290 to the Hardy Toll Rd.
- Continue the CCFCC Technical Management committee development of the master watershed drainage flood mitigation structural framework. Also, develop upgraded drainage regulations.
- Review and comment on 2023-24 updated FEMA flood risk mapping of Cypress Watershed before public release.

Richard D. Smith, President
Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition

(December 31st 2021)

Cypress Creek Watershed



(map & text: courtesy of the HCFCDD 03-21-07)

About the Watershed

The Cypress Creek watershed is located in the northwestern portion of Harris County and extends into Waller County. The watershed includes the City of Waller and a small portion of the City of Houston. The overall area of the Cypress Creek watershed covers about 323 square miles and includes two primary streams: Cypress Creek and Little Cypress Creek.

Little Cypress Creek is a major subwatershed of the larger Cypress Creek Watershed and is usually considered the "22nd Watershed" within Harris County, although it is generally not categorized separately. It comprises more than 15% of the larger Cypress Creek watershed, with a drainage area of about 50 square miles.

There are about 303 miles of open streams within the entire Cypress Creek watershed, including the primary streams and over 30 other tributaries, both man-made and natural. Recent estimates of population within the watershed (Harris County portion) put the number as high as 500,000.

Frequent and deep flooding of structures along Cypress Creek is due primarily to the fact that they were built deep in the floodplain prior to detailed floodplain maps and prior to the adoption of floodplain management regulations. The Creek has wide extensive floodplains, it has very steep side slopes, severe meandering, areas of severe erosion and other characteristics of a natural channel. The desire to continue to address the existing flooding problems along the creek and have guidance for implementing new drainage infrastructure as future

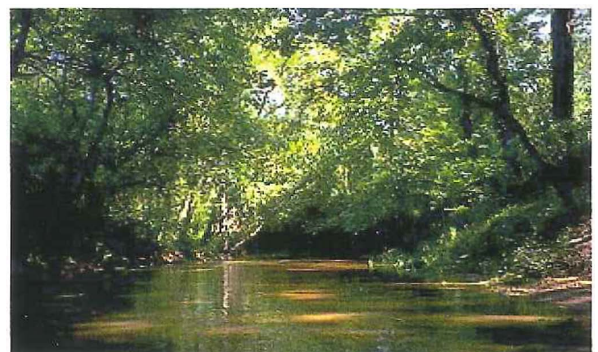
land development occurs, has prompted new regional planning efforts for the watershed.

Land Use

The western portion of the watershed -- home of the Katy Prairie Conservancy, a highly valued friend of watershed residents -- is historically farmland or rangeland, while the eastern and central portion has developed rapidly in the last 20 years. New isolated land development pockets in the western portion of the watershed are taking place, and large scale land development projects are expected to continue.

Environment

The watershed is characterized by a diverse environment where animal species, including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and the American alligator, have been spotted. The watershed upstream of Highway 290 is part of the sensitive Katy Prairie ecosystem. The main Cypress Creek channel has been cleared in the past to increase conveyance or provide access to the channel for adjacent developments; however, much of the channel is heavily vegetated.



Biennial Report

Year Ending December 31, 2021

Mission Statement

In collaboration with government and the private sector, actively pursue the development of a re-regional Cypress Creek Watershed flood reduction/environmental preservation plan designed to achieve the following objectives:

- **Flooding:** Research and advocate flood damage reduction measures implemented in advance of urban development on a cost-effective basis.
- **Preservation:** Promote park, recreational, forest, and wildlife habitat development consistent with the preservation of the watershed's natural environment.
- **Education:** Enhance communication between government and the private sector on matters concerning the Coalition's mission and objectives.



Projects Update 2021

Summary: CCFCC efforts were concentrated on evaluation/coordinating with Harris County Flood Control District and elected officials concerning Cypress Creek projects resulting from the 2018 flood bond election. This included but was not limited to the following:

- **Flood Risk Maps** (2023 or 2024 release). HCFCF/FEMA
- **Primary Tributaries flood detention basins** (HCFCF Flood Bond)
- **BBTRS Project** (US Army Corps of Engineers)
- **Upper Cypress Watershed 3rd Reservoir or alternatives**
- **Resolution of channel restricted flow** (Various)
- **Underground tunnel (stormwater conveyance system)** (HCFCF)
- **Interconnected watersheds drainage system**

Flooding

Flood Maps Update

The FEMA Cypress Creek Watershed flood mapping originated shortly after Tropical Storm Allison (2001) were determined by CCFCC to be significant error. Our request to FEMA for corrections were denied, an appeal was (also denied) was eventually resolved following lawsuits by the Sierra Club and another NPO. The a Scientific Resolution Panel (SCP). The SCP composed of 6 national engineering/ scientific experts found in favor of the CCFCC/ HCFCF version end 2008.

The 2008 mapping is being updated in 2023. It will also be revised/evaluated by CCFCC consultants.

Why Do We Regulate the Floodplain?

- **To protect the people and property.** Floodplain management is about building smart. It makes good sense. If we know part of our land will flood time to time, we should make reasonable decisions to help protect our families, homes and businesses.
- **To make sure that federal flood insurance and disaster assistance are available.** If your home or business is in the floodplain, and federal flood insurance isn't available, then you can't get some types of federal financial assistance. Home mortgages will be hard to find, and you won't be able to get some types of state and federal loans and grants.
- **To save tax dollars.** Every flood disaster affects your community's budget. If we build smarter, we'll have fewer problems the next time the river rises. Remember, federal disaster assistance isn't available for all floods, temporary housing, repair, and clean-up.
- **To avoid liability and lawsuits.** If we know an area is mapped as floodplain and likely to flood, if we know people can be in danger, and if we know that buildings could be damaged, it makes sense to take reasonable protective steps when we develop and build.
- **To reduce future flood losses in Texas.** State legislation was amended in 1999 to require all cities and counties to adapt ordinances or orders, as appropriate, to participate in the NFIP. In 2001, the authority was amended again to allow communities to require compliance with stricter local floodplain management requirements.

Ref: Texas Quick Guide 2002

Primary Tributaries Detention Basins

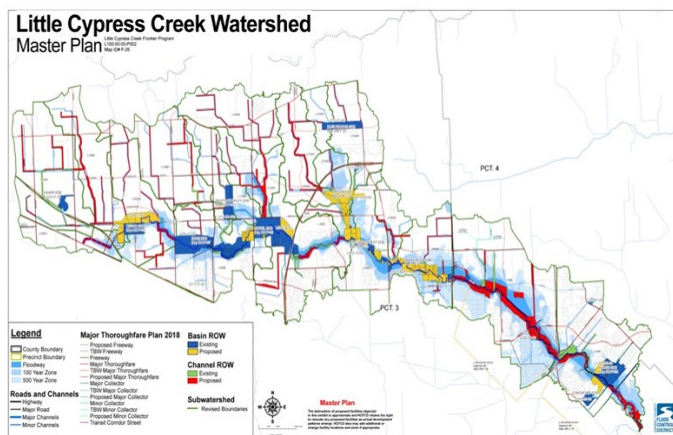
The 2018 flood bond funded project include updating the 2023 plans for 22 detention basins. These are documented in a Jones Carter implementation plan scheduled to be published in 2022. CCFCC has been working with this group for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of the plan in terms of reducing the peak elevation level during major 100 year storms.

Little Cypress Creek Frontier Project

To facilitate the greater vision of the Little Cypress Creek Frontier Program, the Flood Control District developed a Master Drainage Plan (MDP) to serve as the technical framework for the proposed flood risk reduction projects in the watershed. Projects in the Frontier Program include nine stormwater detention basins in addition to channel stormwater conveyance improvements to Little Cypress Creek and its tributaries.

The MDP outlines the hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) analyses, proposed land use assessments, water quality requirements, cost estimates, proposed right-of-way acquisition, and reevaluation of the Interim Guidelines for New Development in the Little Cypress Creek Service Area. Originally approved by Harris County Commissioners Court in December 2018, the Little Cypress Creek Watershed Master Drainage Plan Atlas 14 Revision, approved January 4, 2022, increases the amount of proposed stormwater detention and adds channel stormwater conveyance improvement projects downstream of Cypress Rosehill Drive to the confluence with Cypress Creek.

To view this document go to: <https://www.hcfdc.org/Portals/62/Watershed/Little-Cy-Creek/20210415-LCCMDP%20-%20ReducedResolution.pdf>



Ref: [HCFC.org](https://www.hcfdc.org)

BBTRS Project (USACE)

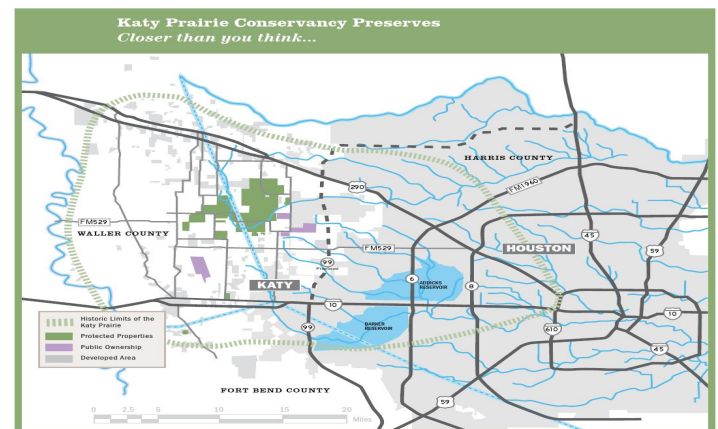
Devastating flooding from Hurricane Harvey and several recent flood events in the Houston metropolitan area were a call to evaluate what could be done to further reduce flood risks to the communities along Buffalo Bayou and its tributaries, both upstream and downstream of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Addicks and Barker dams.

The Corps, in coordination with the Harris County Flood Control District, began evaluating alternatives in 2018 with the goal of helping to reduce flooding under a range of flood events. This effort is the Buffalo Bayou & Tributaries Resiliency Study.

To meet the study's goals, a team of experts is using the best available science and technology to evaluate alternatives for a recommendation that will ensure that the dams are designed, operated and maintained as safely and effectively as possible into the future. Additionally, the study will consider and recommend actions based on the changed conditions of the study area. This could include new projects and/or potential modifications to the Buffalo Bayou system to reduce flood risks to people, property, and communities.

Ref: <https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/BBTRS/>

Preservation Katy Prairie



After Hurricane Harvey, then Harris County Judge Ed Emmett took a strong position on the prairie in an opinion piece published in the Houston Chronicle: "Officials at all levels should commit to preserving the Katy Prairie as a national, or state park or nature preserve," Emmett wrote. "The single act might do more to protect our community than any other. It will not only reduce future flooding, it will send a clear signal that we have a new attitude, that we recognize the value of maximizing natural green space and we understand the importance of allowing water ways to function without interference."

Education

This cornerstone element of the Coalition's charter is undergoing a major upgrade. Our primary communication goals are to:

- Increase MUD membership in the Coalition.
- Increase participation by member MUDs in placing a voluntary, tax-deductible contribution to the Coalition on their invoices to customers.
- Increase the membership of HOAs, Property Owners Associations (POAs) and Common Interest Areas (CIAs) in the Coalition.
- Increase the content and utility of the Coalition's website.

Our Website (www.ccfcc.org)

In an effort to help educate our members and neighbors about the importance of flood mitigation, education, and environmental preservation in the Cypress Creek Watershed, the Coalition has made good progress in improving the quality, content, and value of its website. It is a "living document," and we invite watershed residents to use it as an important information source about the substantial risks of flooding in our community.

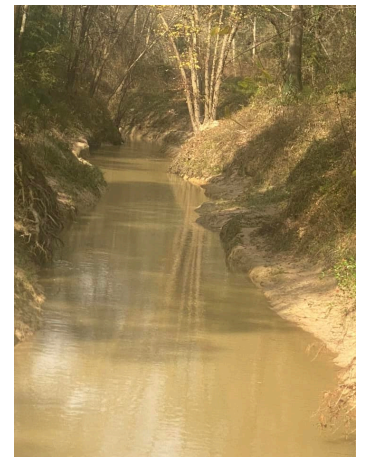
The website includes colorful photographs, an extensive Glossary of Terms, Frequently Asked Questions, useful links, a Basic Fact Sheet and History of the watershed, a Membership List (and how to become a member), our Charter, bylaws, Mission Statement, and a host of other interesting facts.

Cypress Creek Ecological Restoration Project Photo Gallery CCERP

located on website



Cypress Creek Ecological Restoration Project (CCERP)



Financial Information

Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2021

Assets:	
Current Assets	
Checkings	\$101,203.06
Investments	\$.41
Fixed Assets	
Computer & Office Equipment	\$ 2334.30
Total Assets:	\$ 103,537.77
Liabilities & Equity:	
Opening Balance Equity	\$ 24,870.64
Retained Earnings	\$ 68,466.99
Net Income	\$ 10,200.14
Total Liabilities & Equity:	\$ 103,537.77

Income & Expense January through December, 2021

Income	
Voluntary Contribution	\$24,256.61
Interest Earnings	\$.93
Total Income:	\$ 24,257.54
Office Supplies, Print, Postage	\$1,246.89
Contributions & Membership	\$315.00
Engineering/Technical	\$5000.00
Cypress Creek Greenway Project	\$647.75
Administration Expense	\$2,560.97
Fed Income Tax Preparation	\$20.85
Computer Ops & Maintenance	\$ 2,226.32
D&O L Liability Insurance	\$ 954.00
Publications	\$ 360.00
Earthlink, SBC, DSL, Symantec	\$ 180.93
AT&T Internet Services	\$ 544.69
Total Expense:	\$14,057.40
Net Income:	\$ 10,200.14

Operations Budget 2022

Estimated Income:	
Member Voluntary Contributions	\$ 25,000
Interest Earnings	\$ 1
Total Income:	\$ 25,001
Estimated Expenses:	
Community Outreach	\$ 2,815
Administration Expense	\$ 3,525
Computer/Internet	\$ 2,225
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,000
Technical Consultation	\$ 50,000
Cypress Creek Greenway	\$ 2,000
Total Expenses:	\$ 61,565



Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition Board of Directors/Officers/Committees 2021

Mark W. Adam

Bleyl Engineering

Darren Hoyland

Harris County WICD 113

John Porea (Treasurer)

Harris County MUD 383

James H. Roberston

Enclave at Lakewood HOA

John J. (Jack) Sakolosky (Secretary)

Lake Forest Utility District

Richard D. Smith (President)

Timberlake Improvement District

Peter R. Smullen (Vice-President)

Ravensway/Saracen Park HOA

Carl Zeitler

Malconson Rd. Utility District

Committees

Nominations Committee

Technical Management Committee

Membership Committee (MUD/HOA/CIA)

Communications Committee Preservation
Committee

Cypress Creek Greenway Project Tunnel

Advocacy Committee

IT (Information Technology) Management

**Please join us in making our
community a less flood-prone and
more park-friendly place to live.
Thanks for your continuing
support!**



(Upper Cypress Creek Watershed after significant rainfall)

"Rising Waters"

(See pg. 2 - "Plans Post 2022")

(Houston Area Flooding in Harvey)

