Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) and Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) are making repairs along Buffalo Bayou

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
August 16, 2019

Beginning August 19, 2019, Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) in coordination with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) will be completing major repairs along Buffalo Bayou, between Shepherd Drive to Sabine Street, to contain erosion and bank failures caused by Hurricane Harvey. While this work along Buffalo Bayou is not classified as a flood damage reduction project, the repairs are necessary to stabilize the channel and prevent further erosion and damage to the channel.

1) What is the work being done along Buffalo Bayou between Shepherd Drive and Sabine Street?
The purpose of this project is to remove sediment from areas designed to accumulate it, and to make erosion repairs in areas previously not worked on by the District. Once the major construction of an area is complete, the contractor will install initial turf to cover the repair, and then BBP will work to install additional vegetative stabilization to areas where erosion repairs were made, by installing vegetation to provide additional stability to the slopes.

Following the heavy infrastructure work, the asphalt footpaths in Buffalo Bayou Park will be repaired and BBP will be working with HCFCD to plant a variety of native grasses and tree saplings to provide additional stability to the slopes where erosion repairs were made.

2) Who is doing this work?
Harris County Flood Control District has selected a professional contractor – James Construction, LLC.

3) Where are the locations for this work and how long will this take to complete the work?
The project, expected to take approximately one year to complete, will be split into seven separate phases along Buffalo Bayou to minimize disruption, while maintaining access to recreational amenities in the area.
4) Will all of these areas be closed at once?
The project includes seven (7) phases, and the Contractor will only be allowed to work in one (1) phase at a time. Pedestrian traffic will be closed in the phase that is under construction, and when the construction in the phase is totally finished, the Contractor will reopen pedestrian traffic to that phase, and move on to the next phase scheduled for construction, until all 7 phases of construction are complete. Signage will be placed for any trail closures and we ask for park users to adhere to these signs to ensure safety.

5) Is flood reduction part of the plan?
No, the objective of this project is to make erosion repairs to the system that were caused by Hurricane Harvey. The project does not intend to increase conveyance capacity or storm water storage; it intends to maintain the existing system.

6) How to ensure these areas will not fail after another flood?
All of the areas being worked in this contract are either 1) having sediment accumulations removed from them because they accumulated sediment as they were designed to do, or 2) erosion repairs. The locations where erosion repairs are being made are all areas that have not been previously improved by the Flood Control District. Once the project is complete, BBP will work to install vegetation to provide additional stability to the slopes where erosion repairs were made.

7) Who do I contact for more information?
For project information, please visit www.hcfcd.org/X068 or contact Trudi Smith, BBP’s Director of PR and Events at tsmith@buffalobayou.org or 713.752.0314 ext. 103.