



## Lake Houston Wetland Demonstration and Water Quality Education Center

<b>Water Body</b>	Lake Houston (Seg 1002)
<b>Location</b>	Harris County
<b>River Basin</b>	San Jacinto River (10)
<b>Contractor</b>	City of Houston
<b>Project Period</b>	December 10, 2009 to August 31, 2012
<b>Project Total</b>	\$934,013 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

### Project Description

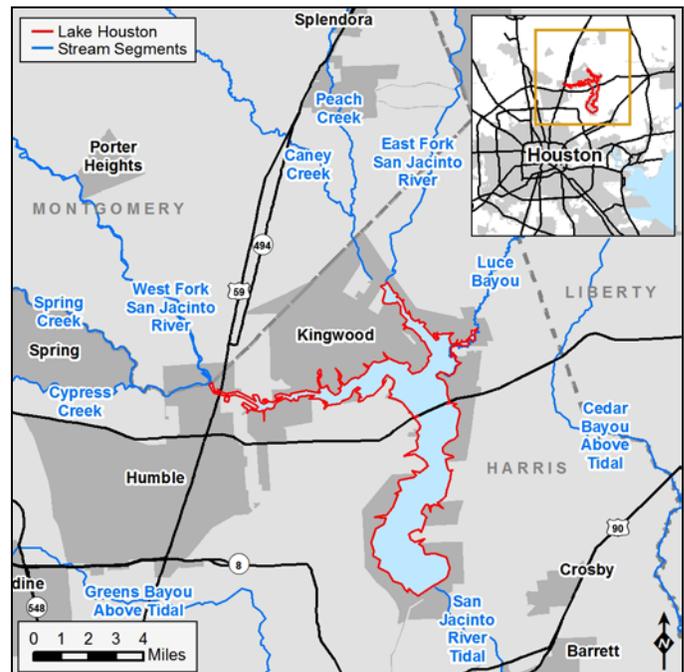
Lake Houston is a primary source of drinking water for the City of Houston and its surrounding communities. It was first listed on the 303(d) List in 2006 for high bacteria levels on the northwest side of the lake. The water quality of Lake Houston is largely dependent on the quality of inflows from its tributaries. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for bacteria are currently being developed for nine segments flowing into Lake Houston. The ongoing TMDL study implies that nonpoint sources (NPS) of bacteria are a major contributor to the impairment.

The Houston Public Water Supply Division indicates action must be taken to protect the city's water supply. As part of its Source Water Protection Strategy, the City of Houston is developing programs to evaluate, monitor, and prevent the introduction of pollutants into its drinking water reservoirs. One element of this program includes strategically located wetlands as a means of reducing nonpoint source bacteria, nutrients, and sediment loads to area reservoirs. An additional program element encompasses public education and outreach regarding the impacts of urbanization and NPS pollution on water resources.

For this project, the City of Houston will construct a large-scale demonstration wetland. The wetland will be located at the confluence of the West Fork San Jacinto River and Lake Houston. In addition, the City of Houston will develop and install NPS educational exhibits in the WaterWorks Science and Education Center to educate citizens about the importance of protecting water quality. The center will be state of the art and include more than 30 educational, entertaining, and interactive exhibits relevant to both children and adults alike.

### Current Status

An amendment to extend the contract to August 31, 2012 was signed in late August 26, 2011. The sub-contract for design and construction of the wetland is



being readied for presentation to the City Council for approval.

### For More Information

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#### Websites

<<http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/>>

## Project Highlights

- 12/10/2009 – The contract was initiated.
- 10/12/2010 – The WaterWorks Science and Education Center was officially opened.
- 02/23/2011 – The city was given approval to submit an amendment to extend the contract to August 31, 2012 in order to complete design and construction of the demonstration wetland.
- 03/15/2011 – The city submitted the contract amendment to TCEQ.
- 08/26/2011 – Contract amendment signed.