



RESILIENCY AND FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION POLICY PRINCIPLES

April 16, 2018

The Bayou Preservation Association was established in 1966 and has the mission of celebrating, protecting, and restoring the natural richness of all the Houston area's bayous and creeks, which are a unique characteristic of the region. As the region considers resiliency and flood damage reduction efforts after Hurricane Harvey, we call on all Houston-area stakeholders to consider the following principles when evaluating proposed projects:

Principle 1. Avoidance of Adverse Impacts on the Functions and Values of Riparian Corridors. Projects should recognize the value of functional riparian corridors and seek to protect existing riparian areas and not create adverse impacts to existing riparian corridors. Projects should not preclude future establishment of riparian corridors in areas where they have been reduced or removed due to new development. Where possible, projects should look for opportunities to establish or enhance riparian corridors.

Principle 2. Avoidance of Adverse Impacts on Water Quality. New projects should not diminish the water quality of our bayous, streams, lakes, bays and watersheds. Projects should assess impacts both at the site of implementation, as well as potential for impact to downstream areas. Where possible, projects should look for opportunities to improve water quality which is in line with the goal of achieving fishable and swimmable waterbodies throughout our region.

Principle 3. Utilization of Best Practices for Improving Stormwater Management. New projects should look to develop and improve stormwater management facilities which complement the natural environment using current research and science. This could include implementation of Natural Stable Channel Design practices and sustainable vegetation management using native species. New projects should be identified as a part of holistic planning efforts and integrated into the existing built and natural environment such that they add benefit to multiple services.

Principle 4. Accommodation for Both Current and Future Needs. Studies should seek not only to evaluate current needs, but also to accommodate future needs associated with our rapidly growing urban area. Projects should identify and secure real estate necessary for sustainable, resilient projects which derive benefits from multiple services.

Principle 5. Evaluation of ALL Associated Benefits and Impacts. The holistic health and functionality of our watersheds is complex, and is dependent on numerous natural and built components interacting as one comprehensive system. This may include riparian corridors, stormwater conveyance facilities, recreational amenities, aesthetic features, ecosystem services, and natural or built measures which include water quality. New projects should assess benefits and impacts to all the components of a watershed when determining the feasibility of projects and ensuring no adverse impacts to any aspects of a healthy watershed system.