

# SAN JACINTO REGIONAL WATERSHED MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN FACT SHEET



The San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan is a comprehensive regional study led by local partners including the Harris County Flood Control District, the San Jacinto River Authority, Montgomery County, and the City of Houston.

This integrated effort, kick started in April 2019, will identify future flood mitigation projects that can be implemented in the near- and long-term to reduce flood risks to people and property throughout the San Jacinto River regional **watershed**.

The goals of the San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan are to:

- Identify the region's vulnerabilities to flood hazards using Atlas 14 rainfall
- Develop approaches to enhance public information and flood level assessment capabilities during a flood disaster event
- Evaluate flood mitigation strategies to improve community resilience
- Provide a comprehensive Flood Mitigation Plan that supports the needs and objectives of each regional partner

The goals of the project will be achieved by developing a set of hydrologic and hydraulic models for the major tributaries of the Upper San Jacinto River regional watershed (from the **headwaters** in Walker County to the Interstate 10 crossing at the San Jacinto River in Harris County). The models will use consistent, cohesive methodology and rainfall rates, regardless of the county in which those channels are located.

Information to be developed includes *non-regulatory inundation maps* (not intended to replace current effective maps) for the studied streams that show the extent and depth of **riverine flooding** of the larger rivers within the watershed for an array of simulated storm events. Additionally, information will be gathered about the number of structures, acres of land, properties, and miles of roadway that are located within the modeled floodplains. Study results will be used to inform and update **Hazard Mitigation Plans** for each of the participating partners and to provide guidance on regulations for future growth within the study area.

The project area covers nearly 3,000 square miles. The expected completion time frame is Fall 2020. The project is budgeted at \$2.7 million.

## Contact Us

The participating project partners are interested in hearing from you. Please contact your local representative with comments and questions:

- **Harris County Flood Control District** – Jing Chen, [jing.chen@hcfcd.hctx.net](mailto:jing.chen@hcfcd.hctx.net)
- **San Jacinto River Authority** – Matt Barrett, [mbarrett@sjra.net](mailto:mbarrett@sjra.net)
- **Montgomery County** – Diane Cooper, [diane.cooper@mctx.org](mailto:diane.cooper@mctx.org)
- **City of Houston** – Gary Hill, [gary.hill@houstontx.gov](mailto:gary.hill@houstontx.gov)

## GLOSSARY

**Watershed:** A geographical region of land or "drainage area" that drains to a common channel or outlet, mostly creeks and bayous. Drainage of the land can occur directly into a bayou or creek, or through a series of systems that may include storm sewers, roadside ditches, and/or tributary channels.

**Headwaters:** Headwaters are simply the initial source of the water in a river.

**Inundation maps:** Maps that show where flooding may occur over a range of water levels in a community's local stream or river.

**Riverine flooding:** Flooding that is the result of creeks and bayous leaving their banks due to heavy rainfall.

**Hazard Mitigation Plans:** Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters, such as flooding. Governmental organizations engage in hazard mitigation planning to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters, and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property. Mitigation plans are key to breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

# SAN JACINTO REGIONAL WATERSHED MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN STUDY AREA



## 3,000 SQUARE MILES OF STUDY AREA

The watershed for the streams to be studied covers an expanse of nearly 3,000 square miles, located in seven different counties:

- Grimes County
- Harris County
- Liberty County
- Montgomery County
- San Jacinto County
- Walker County
- Waller County

The study includes approximately 535 miles of stream, including West Fork San Jacinto River, East Fork San Jacinto River, San Jacinto River, Lake Creek, Cypress Creek, Little Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, Willow Creek, Caney Creek, Peach Creek, Luce Bayou, Tarkington Bayou, and Jackson Bayou.

Stream Name	Stream Length (Miles)
West Fork San Jacinto River	61.4
East Fork San Jacinto River	73.2
San Jacinto River	16.3
Lake Creek	58.9
Cypress Creek	60.5
Little Cypress Creek	20.8
Spring Creek	69.6
Willow Creek	19.8
Caney Creek	49.3
Peach Creek	53.5
Luce Bayou	10.8
Tarkington Bayou	36.9
Jackson Bayou	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>535.6</b>

