



HARRIS COUNTY  
FLOOD CONTROL  
DISTRICT

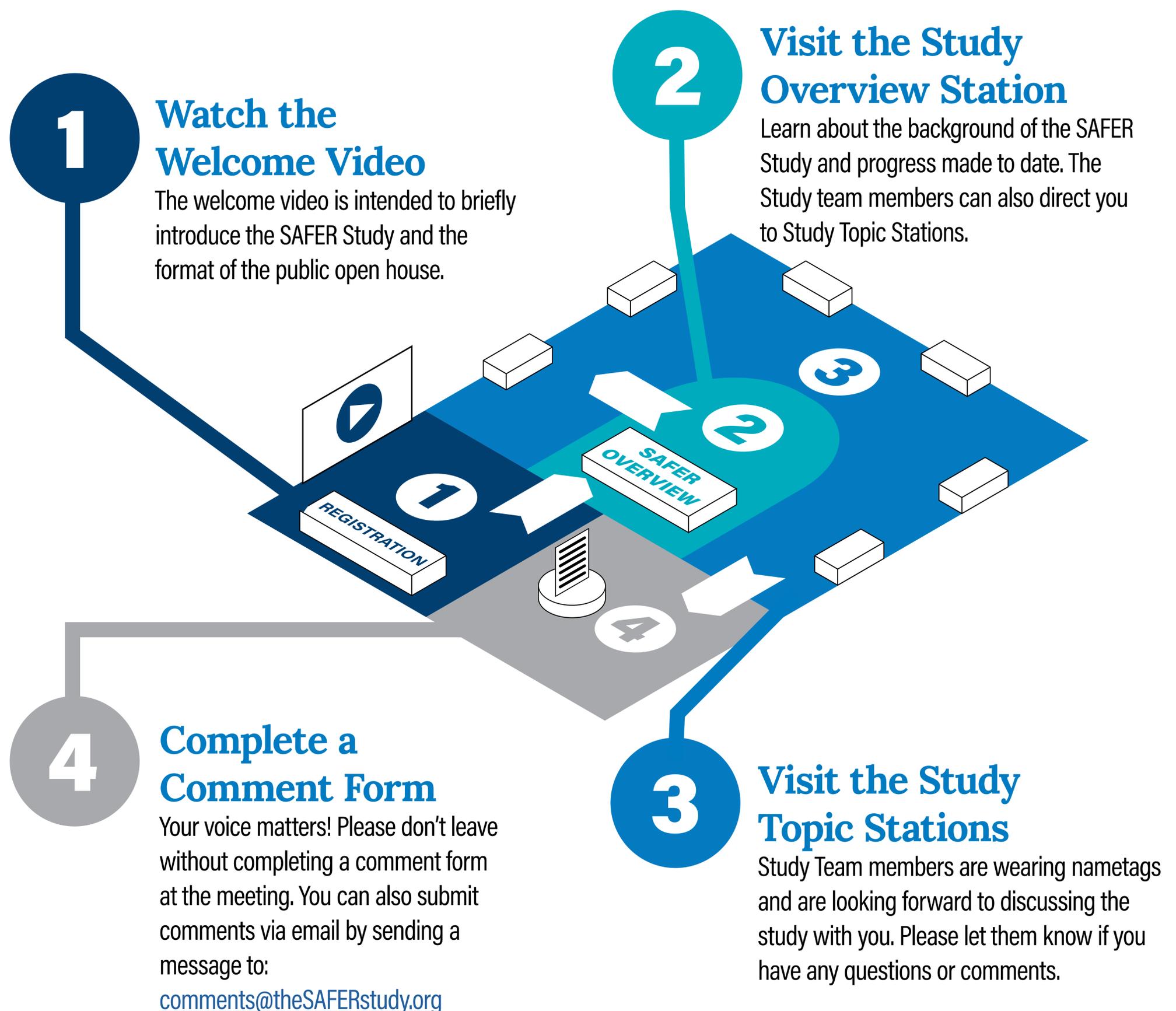
# Welcome!

## Public Scoping Meeting

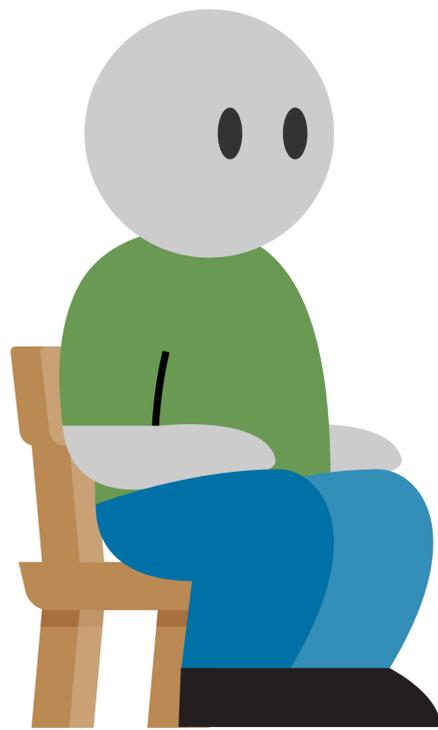
*Solutions for Advancing Floodplain  
Evaluation and Resilience (**SAFER**) Study*

# How to Participate in the Public Meeting

Thanks for attending the meeting today! Your voice matters. We are glad you are here and encourage your participation and input. This meeting is conducted in an open-house style, with no formal presentation. This handout will help you navigate through the public meeting event experience. Today you will be able to:



# 1



**Watch  
the Study Video**

# About the Harris County Flood Control District

The Harris County Flood Control District was created in 1937 to help protect the county from flooding. Our singular focus is reducing flood risk by planning, building, and maintaining infrastructure projects. The Flood Control District works with local cities and federal partners to bring in funding and develop solutions. We also collaborate and engage with our community to make sure projects balance flood mitigation with the needs of residents and the environment.

***Our Mission:  
Provide flood  
damage reduction  
projects that work,  
with appropriate  
regard for  
community and  
natural values.***



# Flood Risk

## Reduction Methods and Tools

The Flood Control District uses a comprehensive approach that includes three main types of flood damage reduction tools: **Structural Tools**, **Non-Structural Tools**, and **Infrastructure Maintenance**.

### Non-Structural Tools

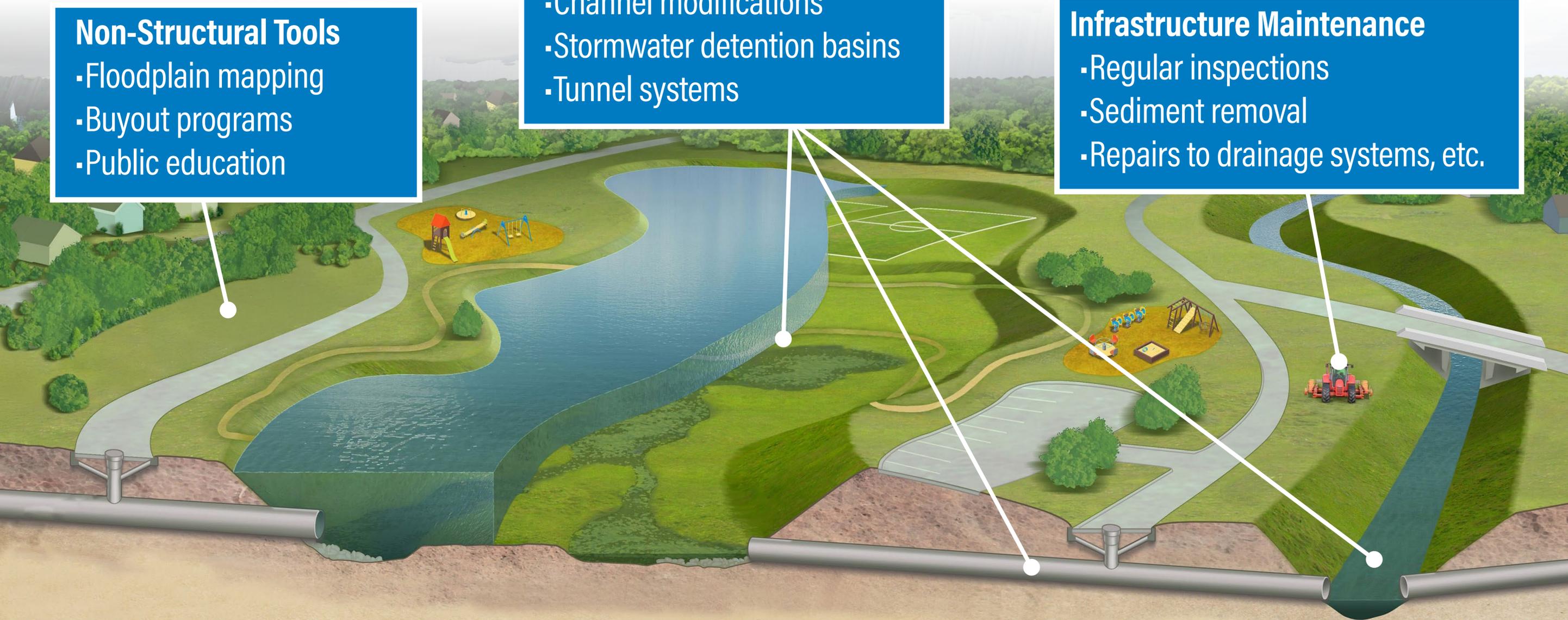
- Floodplain mapping
- Buyout programs
- Public education

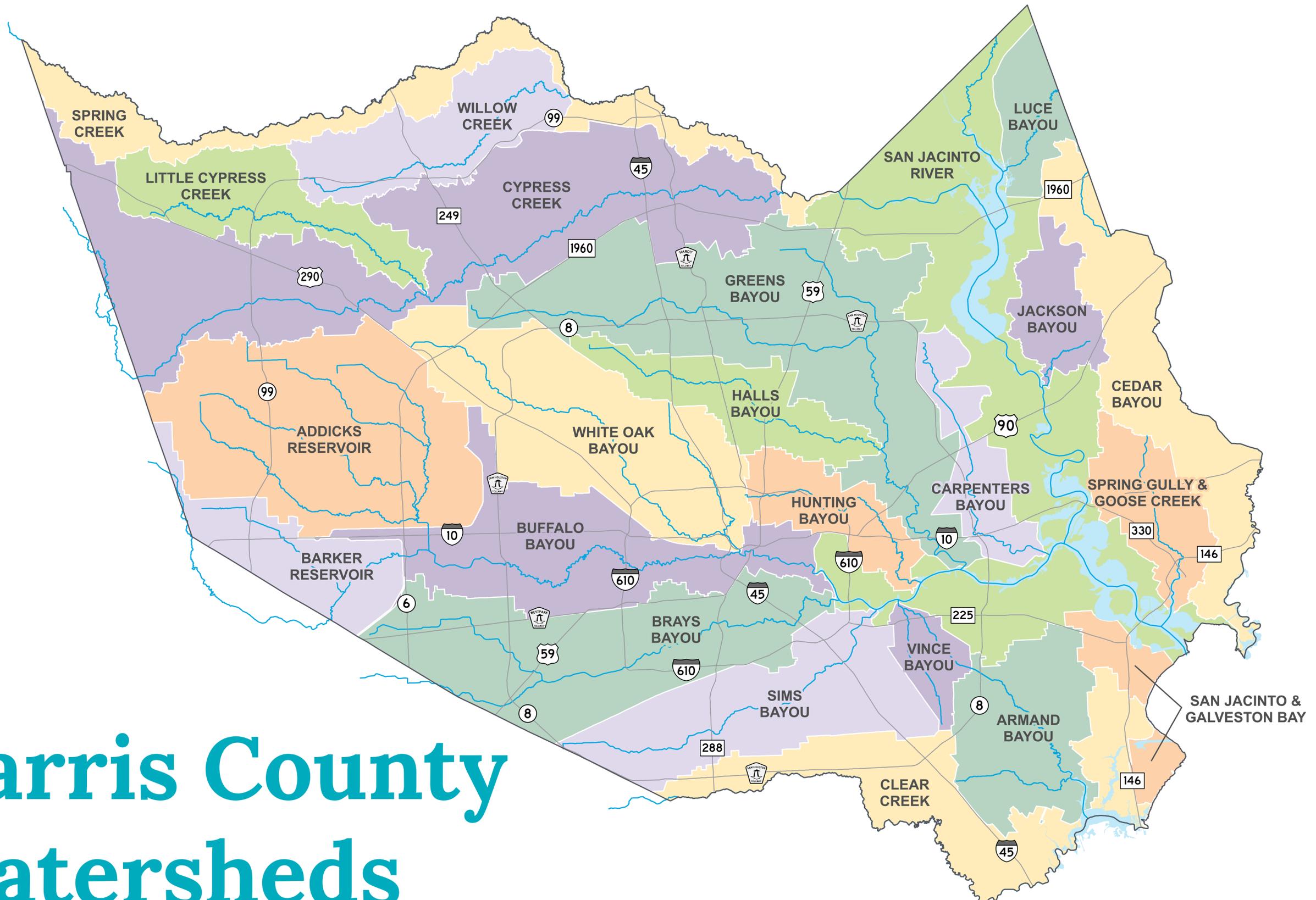
### Structural Tools

- Channel modifications
- Stormwater detention basins
- Tunnel systems

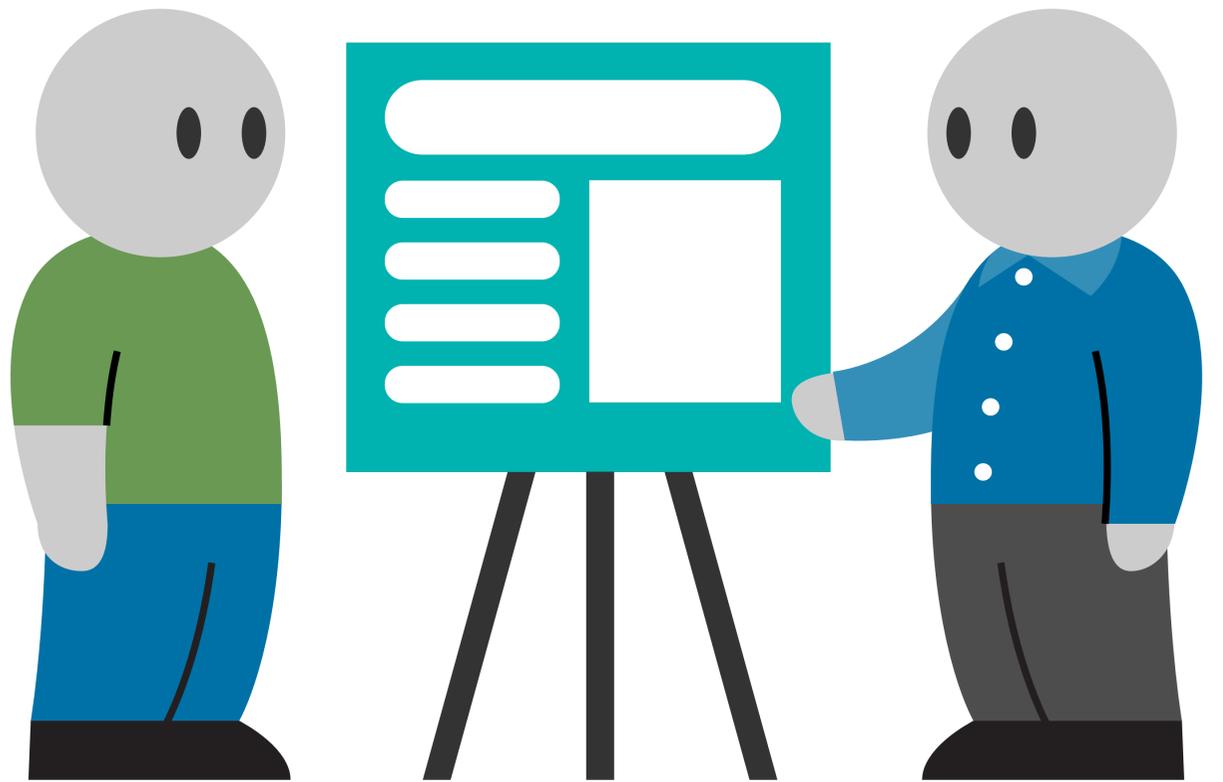
### Infrastructure Maintenance

- Regular inspections
- Sediment removal
- Repairs to drainage systems, etc.





# Harris County Watersheds



**Visit the Study  
Overview Station**

# About the SAFER Study

SAFER stands for **Solutions for Advancing Floodplain Evaluation and Resilience**. This locally led initiative focuses on large-scale flood risk reduction projects that are grounded in data, guided by community input, and aimed at building a safer, more resilient future for Harris County.

The SAFER Study represents a forward-thinking approach and will help lay the groundwork for securing federal funding and implementing large-scale, transformational flood risk reduction projects in the future.



# The SAFER Study: Why now and what's different

## Why launch the SAFER Study now?

Harris County's vulnerability to flooding is well documented. There's a demonstrated need for large-scale solutions to address multiple issues across Harris County. The scope and cost of these potential projects are so large, the goal is to share the cost with a range of partners.

## What's different about the SAFER Study?

The SAFER Study will help lay the groundwork to secure funding from the federal, state and local levels of government with the goal of designing and constructing projects that are much larger in scope and cost than the Flood Control District normally manages on its own.

# SAFER Study Goal and Objectives

## Goal:

Position Harris County, its communities, and its nationally significant resources to be more resilient to future flood events by delivering transformational, community-driven flood risk reduction solutions, in concert with other ongoing efforts.



## Flood Risk Objectives

- Reduce riverine and urban flood risks and economic damages.
- Reduce risks to public safety and life loss during flood events.
- Address factors which contribute to channel erosion, land loss, and sedimentation in bayous and navigation channels.



## Social Objectives

- Achieve flood risk management objectives while avoiding or minimizing detrimental impacts to communities within the study area.
- Through flood risk management actions, strengthen communities and address factors which impair quality of life.



## Environmental Objectives

- Avoid or minimize adverse impacts to environmental and cultural resources.
- Preserve or enhance habitat, greenspace, and recreational opportunities, as part of an integrated flood risk reduction strategy.



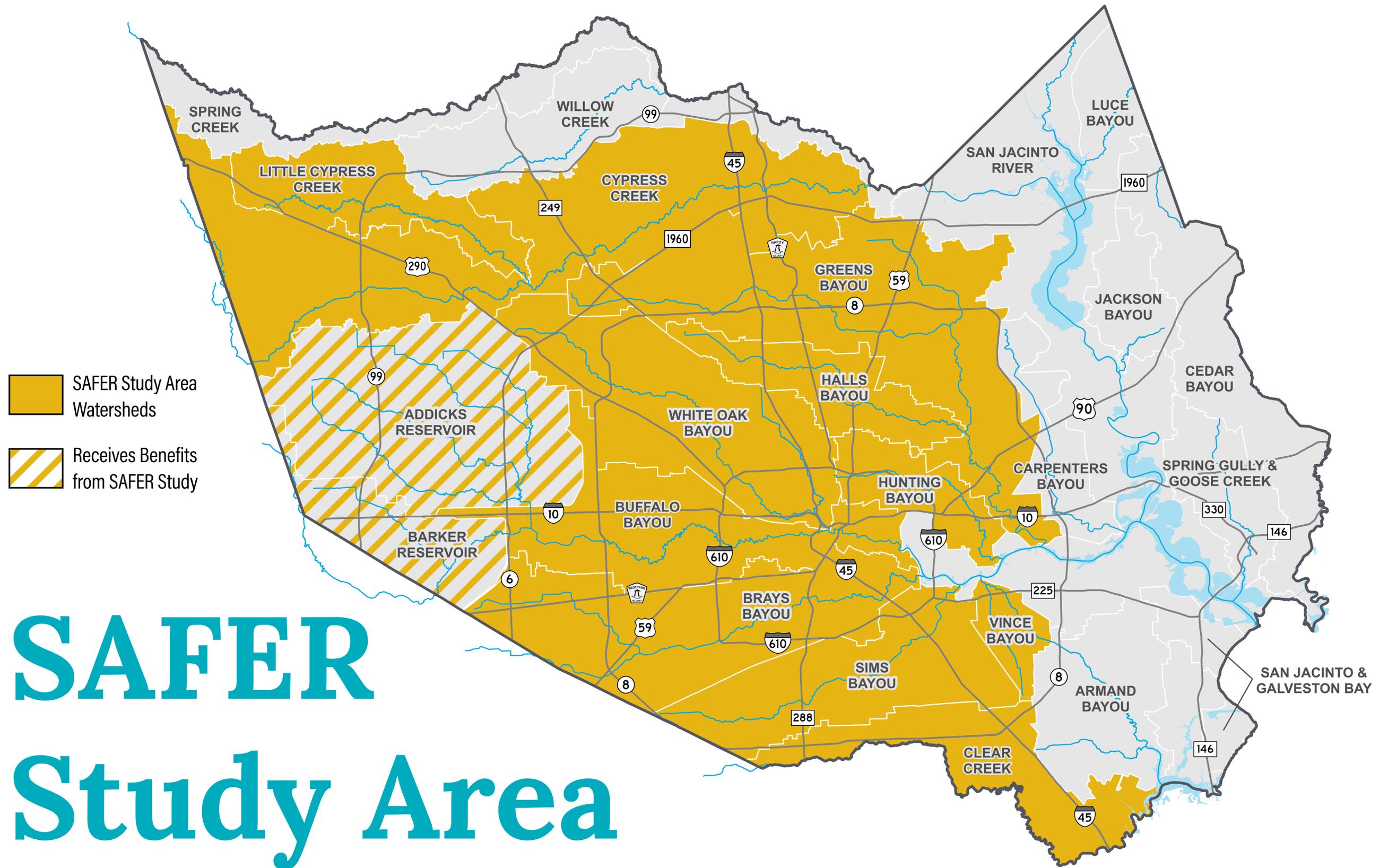
## Resilience Objectives

- Strengthen the social and economic resilience of individuals and communities, including the ability to better withstand and more efficiently recover from future flood events.
- Increase the resilience, robustness, redundancy, and adaptability of drainage infrastructure to manage reasonably foreseeable changes to flood events.



## Multi-use/Partnership Objectives

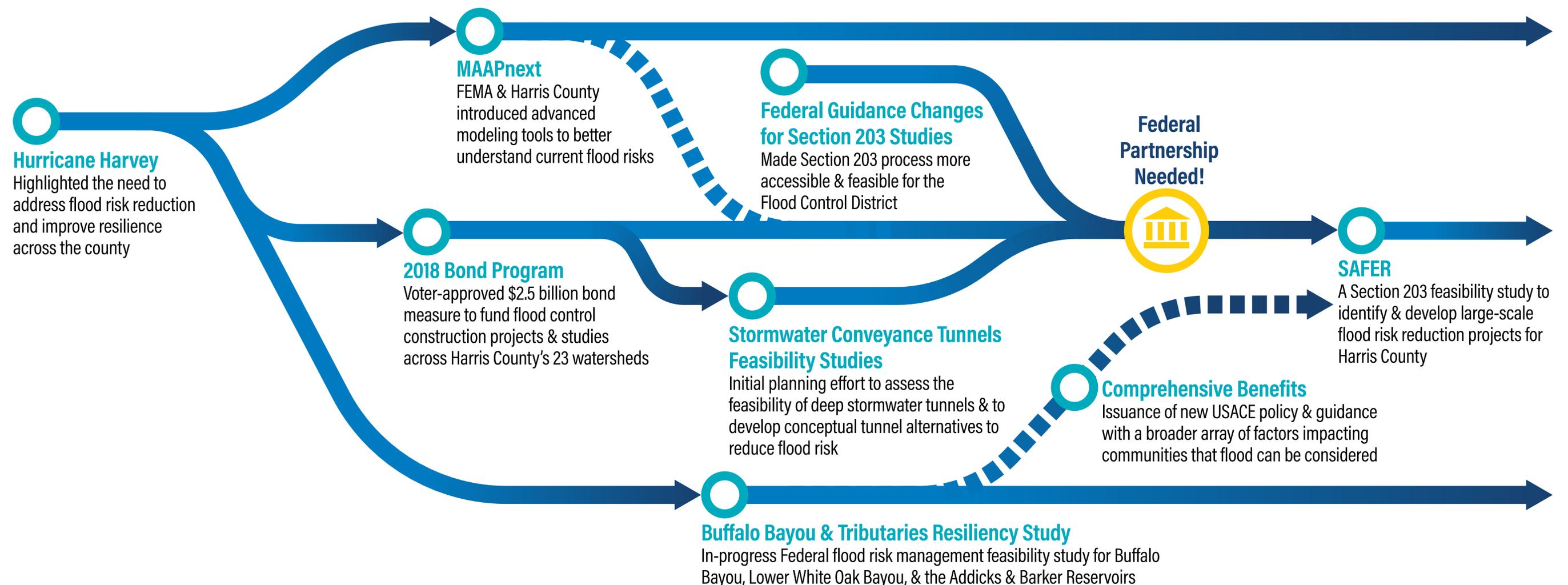
- Leverage opportunities for beneficial use of excess earthen materials.
- Explore opportunities for public and private partnerships to augment flood risk management actions, including water supply, recreation, ecosystem restoration, and navigation considerations.

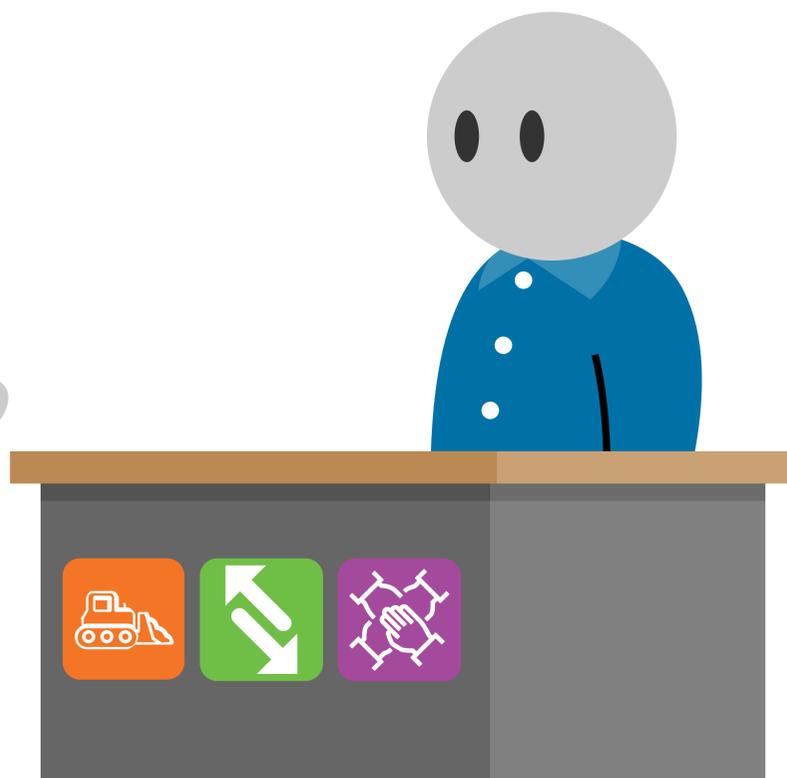
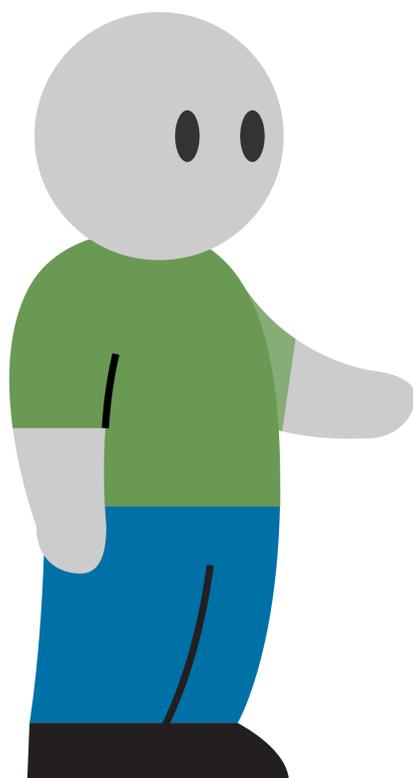


# SAFER Study Area

# Efforts Leading to the SAFER Study

The SAFER Study is the result of years of local and federal efforts to better understand and reduce flood risk after Hurricane Harvey. It builds on major initiatives like Harris County's MAAPnext program, the 2018 Flood Control District Bond Program, and tunnel studies, while aligning with new federal policies that prioritize more community-focused solutions. These efforts laid the foundation for a coordinated, large-scale study like SAFER.





**Visit the Study  
Topic Stations**

# Flood Risk Reduction Strategies

The SAFER Study will look at a wide range of strategies to reduce flooding across Harris County. Options will be carefully assessed to identify the most effective mix of solutions to enhance quality life for communities and improve long-term resilience.

## Potential flood risk reduction strategies

- Expanded stormwater detention basins
- Channel modifications and improvements
- Nature-based strategies, such as wetlands restoration and floodplain expansion
- Large-diameter stormwater tunnels fed by surface intakes
- Non-structural strategies, such as home elevations and voluntary buyout programs.

The study results will determine the types of strategies that best meet the study's goals and objectives, which are reducing the risk of flooding for residents and increasing the long-term resilience across Harris County.

Example stormwater detention basin



Example channel modification



Example wetland restoration



Example stormwater tunnel



Example home elevation



# SAFER Study Process and Timeline

The SAFER Study is designed to meet rigorous federal requirements while making sure community voices and environmental goals are at the heart of the process from the start. The study will follow a federal planning process, include a full environmental review, and gather public input at every stage. The Flood Control District is also planning ahead not just for approval, but for action, ensuring the final recommendations can be built and funded.



**WE ARE HERE**

# The NEPA and Feasibility Study Process for Section 203 Projects

## The Study Team and Public



The Non-Federal Interest  
Leading the Study



The Lead Federal  
Agency for the EIS

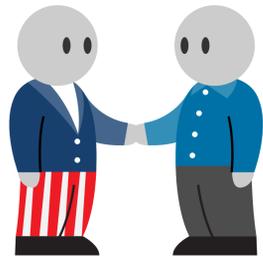


The Public and  
Local Stakeholders

## WE ARE HERE

### Scoping Meeting

- Natural Environment
- Human Environment
- Air and Water Quality
- Socioeconomic
- Historic and Cultural



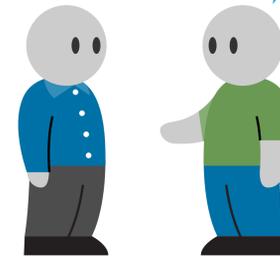
### 1 WRDA Section 203 Authorization

Section 203 allows the Flood Control District to conduct a Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study in the same manner as the Corps of Engineers.



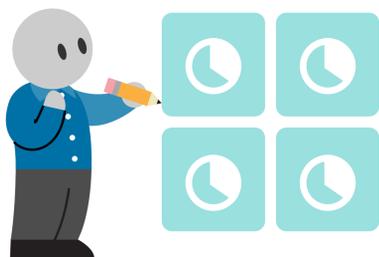
### 2 Public Noticing

Several noticing methods are used to inform the public about the Study and upcoming meetings.



### 3 Public Scoping Meetings

Your feedback matters! Information provided at this stage helps the Study Team determine what should be considered in the Study.



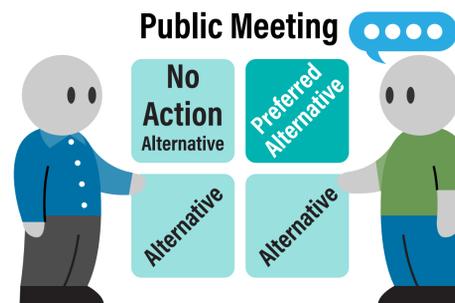
### 4 Developing Solutions

Incorporating public comments, the Study Team develops a variety of solutions to address flood risk reduction objectives, and assesses the impacts and benefits of each.



### 5 Draft EIS and Feasibility Report

The Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) present preliminary study findings and assessment of environmental impacts.



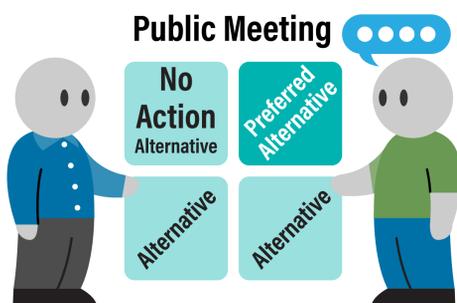
### 6 Draft Report Public Meeting

The Public is invited to learn about proposed alternatives and comment on the Draft EIS/Feasibility Report.



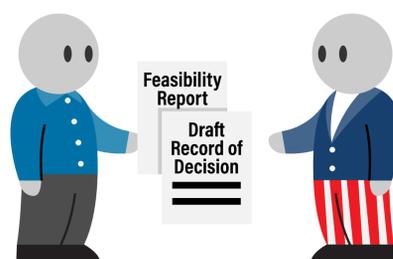
### 7 Final EIS and Feasibility Report

Public comments are considered as the recommendation is refined and finalized, and the EIS is completed.



### 8 Final Report Public Meeting

The Public is invited to review the Final EIS/Feasibility Report and provide final comments.



### 9 Final Report Transmitted to USACE

The Final EIS/Feasibility Report are submitted to the USACE for review.



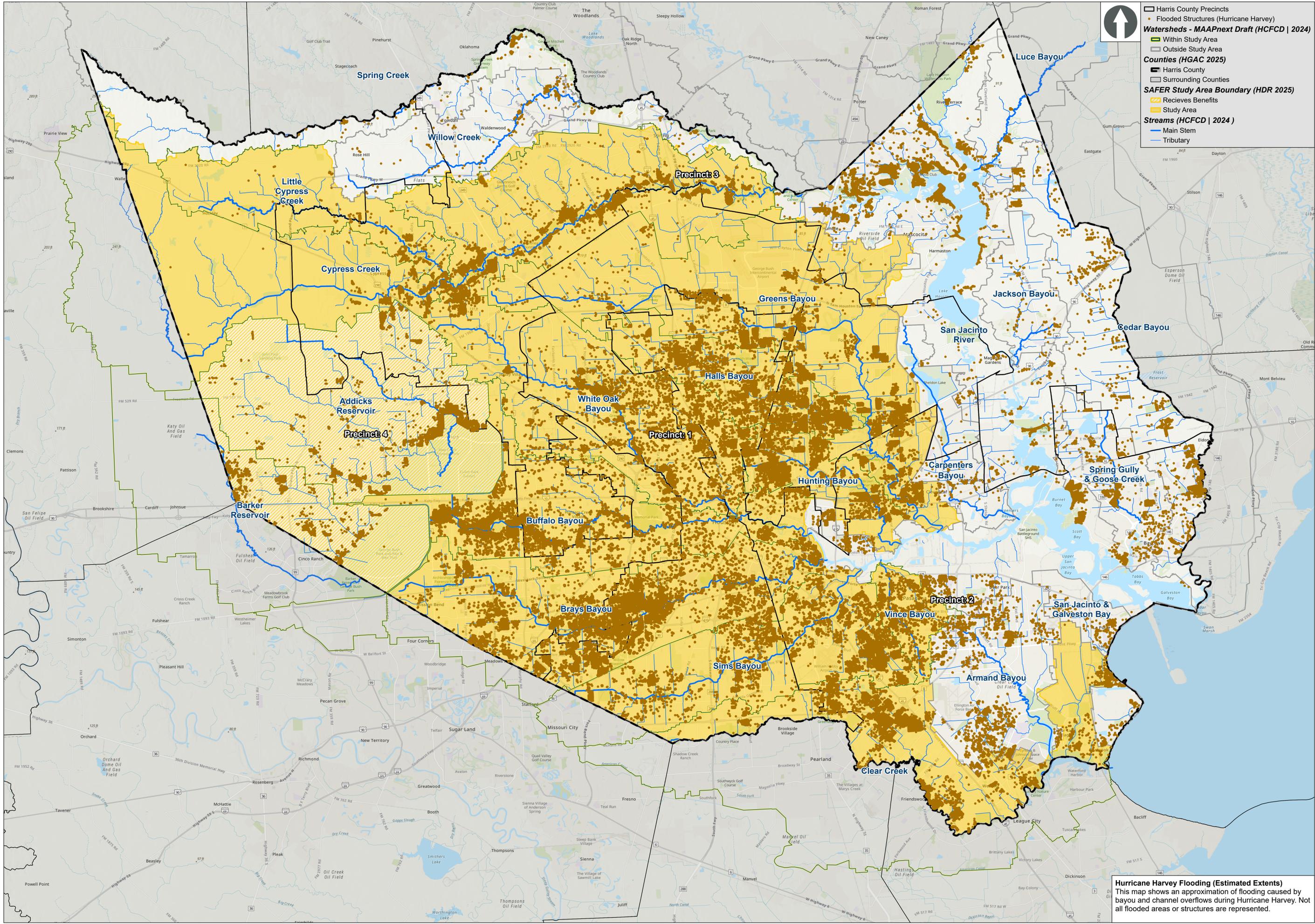
### 10 Next Steps

Upon successful review, the project recommendation and Record of Decision can be sent to Congress for potential authorization as a Federal Flood Risk Management Project.



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# Hurricane Harvey Flooding within the SAFER Study Area



**Hurricane Harvey Flooding (Estimated Extents)**  
 This map shows an approximation of flooding caused by bayou and channel overflows during Hurricane Harvey. Not all flooded areas or structures are represented.



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# Service Request Center

Do you have a service request?  
Scan the QR code here to access  
the service request center.



# Visit the Harris County Flood Warning System Website



[www.harriscountyfws.org](http://www.harriscountyfws.org)



**Complete a  
Comment Form**

# Your Voice Matters

Everyone in Harris County has a voice in the SAFER Study – and your voice matters in this process. Your input helps shape the study's goals and ensures the solutions reflect what matters most to your community.

Written comments may be submitted to:

**Mr. Danny Allen**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**2000 Fort Point Road**  
**Galveston, TX 77550**

Comments may also be submitted via email to:  
**[comments@theSAFERstudy.org](mailto:comments@theSAFERstudy.org)**

**Scan the QR code**  
**to provide your**  
**comment now:**



**COMMENT DEADLINE:**  
**September 25, 2025**



# Share Your Story

Flooding affects people, not just property. Whether you've experienced a flood yourself, helped others during a storm, or seen the impact on your neighborhood, we want to hear your story.

The SAFER Study is about listening to real voices and making sure future flood solutions reflect the needs of our communities.

Choose how you'd like to share:

- 🗣️ Record a short video
- 🗣️ Record an audio message
- 🗣️ Or write it down on a story card

A team member will help guide you through the process.

