



Resilient Houston

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Awards & Recognition Program Guide and Program Overview

The Resilient Houston Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Award, led by the Mayor's Office and Green Building Resource Center, seeks to recognize and reward some of Houston's most innovative green stormwater infrastructure projects that demonstrate a specific focus on green stormwater infrastructure and effectively address the goals of Resilient Houston, the City's Resilience strategy. Our vision is to draw public attention to resilience-oriented development projects and incentivize the further development of such in the city of Houston.

SECTION I. General Information

The winners will receive:

- ❖ Recognition at the awards ceremony
- ❖ Letter of recognition or certificate from Mayor Turner
- ❖ Recognition and publicity through feature on:
 - Resilient Houston Annual Report & www.houstontx.gov/chief-resilience-officer
 - www.greenhoustontx.gov
 - www.codegreenhouston.org/
 - www.houstontx.gov/igd
 - A feature on Mayor's Social Media, other departmental social media
 - Feature in internal City departmental newsletters, including City Savvy
 - Feature on CitizensNet
 - Feature to Council Members' office for release within their constituents
- ❖ Recognition and publicity through feature on Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan (RCP)'s annual press release (www.GulfHoustonRCP.org and www.HoustonWilderness.org)
- ❖ Publicity through a feature article following the press release associated with award ceremony
 - Potential feature and recommendation to for other programs with Kinder Institute, Houston Chronicle, USGBC Texas Chapter, ULI Houston, U.S. EPA, ASLA, ECEC, ASE

SECTION II. Eligibility Criteria

Green stormwater infrastructure means infrastructure designed and constructed for stormwater management to minimize the downstream impacts of development while providing additional environmental, social, or ecosystem benefits or services, which may include mitigating risk of flooding, reducing heat island effect or other climate-related hazards, improving water quality, sequestering carbon, encouraging water conservation, restoring native ecosystems, creating economic growth, or addressing quality of life challenges.

Projects that are eligible to apply include:

- ❖ Privately owned, including single or multifamily residential and commercial projects,
- ❖ Public road, park, building, and drainage projects,
- ❖ Other innovative research and design projects.

These projects must either have been completed within the past (3) years, or currently be in progress with a set date of expected completion prior to award.

SECTION III. Application Requirements

- ❖ Complete Application Form (Section I-II)
- ❖ Photos & Attachments
 - Project Narrative
 - At least 3 photos, renderings, visual images of project highlight the GSI features. Photos must be high resolution, high quality images which will be utilized for the purposes of highlighting projects in the awards program and future GSI program education and outreach.
 - Design plans
 - Map of project location
 - Maintenance plan
 - Letters of support (optional, but recommended for project scoring)
 - Linkage to *Resilient Houston Green Stormwater Infrastructure Resource Matrix* (optional, but recommended for project scoring)
 - Quantification of co-benefits (optional, but recommended for project scoring)
 - The Green Infrastructure Co-benefits Valuation Tool is intended to provide a framework, methods, and values to support rapid screening-level analysis of the costs and benefits associated with a range of GI investments. It was developed by Earth Economics with guidance from Exchange members.
 - Below are links to the most current version of the valuation tool and additional resources:
 - <https://giexchange.org/green-infrastructure-co-benefits-valuation-tool/>
 - Fact Sheet: [GreenStormwaterInfrastructure_Handout](#)
 - Valuation Tool: [Green-Infrastructure-Valuation-Tool_-Version-1.01](#)
(save as new file to avoid overwriting template)
 - User Guide: [Green-Infrastructure-Valuation-Tool-User-Guide-Version_1.01](#)
 - Please submit completed spreadsheet electronically, as part of the application.
 - Applicants may also utilize [Ecosystem Services of Regional Native Trees Species](#) as an additional reference tool for ecosystem services valuation of trees.

Selected project will be required to provide a short PowerPoint to showcase project. Format will be provided.

SECTION IV. Evaluation Process

Projects will be evaluated, by an evaluation committee (jury) comprised of representatives of local organizations.

Each year the evaluation committee will be comprised of 5 representatives from the pool of respective organizations below. Organizations that are serving on the panel for that year, will not be allowed to apply to receive an award.

Proposed Evaluation Committee Pool:

Note: Not all of these organizations are confirmed evaluators, under any given year.

The Nature Conservancy
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Buffalo Bayou Partnership
Houston Land and Water Sustainability Forum
Green Building Resource Center
Houston Wilderness
Houston Area Research Council
H-GAC
USGBC – Houston/Texas
Houston Land Bank
Houston Parks Board
City of Houston
Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience
Bayou City Water Keeper
Urban Land Institute Houston
Kinder Institute
Bayou Preservation Association
Houston Audubon Society
Galveston Bay Foundation
Environment Texas

If your organization would like to participate as an evaluator, please contact GSIHouston@houstontx.gov

SECTION V. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Max. Points	Min. Points for Consideration
Completion of Application	15	15
GSI Investment Located in a Complete Community, LMI area, or area of extreme heat, sensitive habitat, limited greenspace and significant redevelopment	5	1
GSI investment Located in 100 year floodplain; within 1 mile of bayou watershed; area of significant flooding/flood claims	5	1
Number of GSI techniques involved	5	1
Demonstrates efforts for Conservation, Preservation, or incorporation of native flora	5	5
Project narrative which shows impact of the project and co-benefits, methodology explained, at least one additional co-benefit beyond stormwater is demonstrated	15	5
Educational opportunities (allows for site visits, document sharing, best practices, photos, plans & photos, embedded educational program)	10	2
Plans, permits, certification documentation or proposed plans - robustness of plans (may be in transition as plans develop)	10	10
Proposed maintenance plan - robustness of plan (may be in transition as plans develop)	10	10
Link to Resilient Houston (see Appendix 1) - A minimum of 5 direct linkages to Resilient Houston goals and actions.	15	5
Letters of support	5	5
Total	100	60

SECTION VI. Award Process

Evaluation committee will utilize submitted application packages, evaluation criteria, and Resilient Houston to score project. Although a project may be eligible for consideration after meeting minimum thresholds, number of awards will be based on highest scoring applications and number of applications received. All categories and project types are eligible for an award.

SECTION VI. Important Dates

- ❖ Application opening – August 1st
- ❖ Application period closes – September 30th
- ❖ Application review period – September 30th through October 30
- ❖ Projects Selected for award/individual award notification - November 15th
- ❖ Awards Ceremony & Announcement – February – Resilient Houston Anniversary & Annual Report

SECTION VII. Resilient Houston GSI Resource Matrix

Resilient Houston Areas of Focus / Chapters	All Resilient Houston Goals	RH Actions Related to GSI	RH Sub-Actions Related to GSI	You may use this matrix to further explain how the project meets the RH goals.
PREPARED & THRIVING HOUSTONIANS	GOAL 1: We will support Houstonians to be prepared for an uncertain future	2 Mobilize Houstonians to adapt in the face of climate change	2.1 Grow climate risk awareness.	
			2.2 Weatherize existing homes and properties.	
			2.3 Advance green stormwater infrastructure.	
		4 Encourage community leadership, stewardship, and participation		
	GOAL 2: We will expand access to wealth-building and employment opportunities	7 Prepare Houston’s workforce and all young Houstonians for the jobs of the future	7.1 Support and enhance career pathways in resilience-related industries	
	GOAL 3: We will improve safety and a well-being for all Houstonians	8 Make our streets 100% safe for all Houstonians		
		10 Proactively care for Houstonians’ mental health		
		11 Create a city where Houstonians of different ages and accessibility needs can thrive		
SAFE & EQUITABLE NEIGHBORHOODS	GOAL 4: We will ensure that all neighborhoods have equitably resourced plans			
	GOAL 5: We will invest in arts and culture to strengthen community resilience			
	GOAL 6: We will ensure all neighborhoods are healthy, safe, and climate ready	16 Make Houston neighborhoods greener and cooler to combat extreme heat	16.2 Accelerate tree planting and prairie restoration. Target: adding 4.6 million new native trees by 2030 and accelerating prairie restoration	
			16.3 Expand cool and green roofs	

			16.4 Pilot cool pavement	
			16.5 Develop innovative shade structures	
		18 Ensure all neighborhoods have access to quality parks and nature	18.3 Increase access to nature for young Houstonians	
		19 Grow equitable access to quality food to nourish Houston's status as a culinary capital		
		20 Prevent, mitigate, and recover from the effects of environmental injustice in our communities.	20.1 Coordinate with environmental justice partners	
			20.3 Increase air and water monitoring capacity.	
	GOAL 7: We will build up, not out, to promote smart growth as Houston's population increases			
HEALTHY & CONNECTED BAYOUS	GOAL 8: We will live safely with water	25 Make room for water	25.2 Hold water where it falls, before it enters the bayou.	
			25.3 Expand the detention capacity of bayou corridors.	
			25.5 Increase water storage ambition over time to adapt as the climate changes	
		26 Clean Houston's bayous and waterways	26.2 Advance sedimentation management.	
			26.3 Promote natural infiltration and treatment of stormwater by wetlands, prairies, and woodlands	
	GOAL 9: We will embrace the role of our bayous as Houston's front yard	28 Respect bayous and natural floodplains as an integral part of Houston's urban nature	28.2 Enhance ecological patches and corridors using restoration in city parks as model	

			28.3 Support the Headwaters to Bay Initiative	
		29 Increase access to our bayous for recreational, health, and other community benefits	29.3 Leverage investment for multi-purpose flood mitigation, recreation, transportation, and community health benefits	
		30 Encourage inclusive growth and economic development along bayou corridors	30.1 Promote trail-oriented development	
			30.2 Combine floodway retrofits with neighborhood-scale planning and public and private investment opportunities.	
ACCESSIBLE & ADAPTIVE CITY	GOAL 10: We will demonstrate leadership on climate change through action	31 Adopt and implement the Climate Action Plan Goals and Actions	31.1 Lead by example through renewable energy use.	
			31.7 Lead by example through sustainable materials management	
		33 Holistically manage our water resources to be climate ready	33.3 Implement the City's Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency Plan	
	GOAL 11: We will modernize Houston's infrastructure to address the challenges of the future	34 Integrate green stormwater infrastructure into Houston's built environment	34.1 Advance comprehensive construction and maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure.	
			34.2 Build capacity for the design, construction, and maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure.	
	GOAL 12: We will advance equity and inclusion for all			
GOAL 13: We will transform city government				

	to operationalize resilience and build trust			
INNOVATIVE & INTEGRATED REGION	GOAL 14: We will continue to invest in the region's diverse economy			
	GOAL 15: We will increase regional transportation choice			
	GOAL 16: We will manage our land and water resources from prairie to bay	51 Conserve regional undeveloped land for flood mitigation, environmental health, and recreation	51.2 Support regional land conservation and discourage development in sensitive upstream areas. Target: Conserve 24% of undeveloped regional lands as natural spaces by 2040	
			51.3 Restore land to native prairie, wetlands, and woodlands	
	GOAL 17: We will enhance regional emergency preparedness and response			
	GOAL 18: We will leverage existing and new investments and partnerships	58 Leverage disaster recovery efforts to accelerate the implementation of resilient measures	58 Prioritize and invest in resilient infrastructure	
		59 Leverage planned and proposed transformative regional projects to maximize resilience benefits	59.3 Integrate nature-based solutions and coastal protection infrastructure to provide greater storm surge protection.	

