

# Community Connections

Summer, 2016

## News from the Atascocita Recycling and Disposal Facility

### Manager's report



Gordon Spradley  
District Manager

Hot enough for you? At least it's a break from the floods in May—although it took awhile for us to get caught up with all the flood debris that we received as a result!

We're currently in the process of a couple of construction projects here. We're almost finished building a new landfill cell. In the photo you can see what will eventually

be the "floor" of this new cell; it's a multi-layer composite liner, incorporating 60-mil high-density polyethylene above a layer of compacted clay, and it will receive additional layers (for leachate drainage and protection) before we put it into service. We anticipate starting to deposit waste here in a few weeks, at which point we'll be moving our "working face" (i.e., that small portion of the landfill that is currently receiving waste) from the top of the landfill to this new area.



We also finished installing 14 more landfill gas (LFG) collection wells and a new header line to remove gas from the landfill and transport it to our on-site landfill gas-to-energy plant.

Our LFG collection system is one of the most prominent features of both our sustainability efforts and our approach to minimizing odors. LFG typically has about half the energy

### How we work to control odors at the landfill

- Our LFG collection system removes the gas from the landfill and disposes of it. We currently have 168 wells installed, and more than six miles of buried pipe to contain and transport it.
- We operate multiple flares as needed when LFG production exceeds the capacity of our gas-to-energy plant.
- We cover newly deposited waste with at least six inches of soil or other approved cover material on a daily basis.
- We operate an aromatic misting system that disperses an all-natural odor-neutralizing agent mixed with water to encapsulate odor molecules and neutralize odor-causing components.
- We conduct an odor survey daily at multiple locations around the landfill; the results are tracked to provide ongoing feedback.

content of natural gas, and across the country we have become experts at putting this green energy source to use producing electricity and for other beneficial uses. And removing and destroying LFG is just one of the ways we work to minimize odors.

Although our habitat area has been basically off-limits (the recent rains have kept it so wet that we were only recently able to mow it), we have been busy at the Nature Preserve at Garners Bayou. S&S Trails recently completed a beautiful bridge there, and a group from the Student Conservation Association just finished up two weeks of trail building (see below). We're looking forward to continuing to help make the Preserve a wonderful resource for the community and our employees.

While the weather may not be the most comfortable for being outdoors, anyone who wants to see how we're managing waste in an environmentally responsible manner and helping to make our area a better home is welcome to visit. If your school, church or neighborhood group is interested, please contact Sherrell Cordas (713-365-2163; SCordas@wm.com).

### Atascocita Recycling and Disposal Facility

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Please call us any time to arrange for a landfill tour, or if you have any questions about our operations.

THINK GREEN®

## WM is a Bayou Buddy!

On March 31, the Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition (GBCC) presented Waste Management with its Bayou Buddy award for the company's "outstanding stewardship of the Greens Bayou Watershed."

Our work with the GBCC dates back to 2009, and centers on the Nature Preserve at Garners Bayou, a 43-acre section of Atascocita Landfill property that is being developed as a natural outdoor space. Ongoing work includes trail construction and the addition of various amenities, and the site is planned to feature hiking trails, a natural play-ground and fitness stations.



At GBCC's third annual meeting and luncheon in March, where WM received the group's Bayou Buddy award for 2015 (left to right): Jill Boullion, GBCC Executive Director; Regina D. Adams, GBCC Board; Reginald Lillie, GBCC Board; Lisa Doughty, WM; Gordon Spradley, WM; Shana Lopez, WM, and Chuck Rivette WM



### Atascocita Recycling & Disposal

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## SCA builds trails

In July, a group of 11 students and two mentors from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) spent two weeks clearing limbs and trees from trails at the Nature Preserve at Garner's Bayou here. They also had an outdoor learning session with Kelly Norrid of Texas Parks and Wildlife, who taught the



students about native animals and plants as well as the ecosystem of the area.

This is not the first time that the group has

pitched in alongside Waste Management, and their help is accelerating progress on the 43-acre Preserve. The SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities

by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. According to WM's Sherrell Cordas, "Judging by their hard work and enthusiasm here, these students will definitely be helping to make the world a better, greener place." To learn more about SCA, visit [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org).



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