

Discover Wharton



On behalf of our citizens, let me welcome you to the City of Wharton, Texas. As the Gateway to the Texas Gulf Coast, Wharton has many thriving businesses and industries that secure a stable tax base. Founded in 1846, the City of Wharton is located along the I-69 corridor just 50 miles southwest of Houston.

Wharton is the perfect place to grow your business and your family. I invite you to see just what Wharton has to offer.

- Mayor Tim Barker

What's in the Works?

- 2019 Street Improvement Project \$800,000
- Water Well Plant Project \$4,900,000
- FM 1301 Overpass Project Phase I \$15 million
- LCRA Phase I Flood Risk Management Project \$74 million

City of Wharton Announces New Community Logo & Tourism Campaign!

The City of Wharton is excited to announce the launch of the City's new community logo and tourism campaign, 'Discover Wharton!' 'Discover Wharton' is a result of the recently adopted 'Tourism & Heritage Study' that recommended the City lead the way in promoting area tourism and in celebrating the heritage of Wharton to encourage more tourism from a diverse range of visitors. The City has re-vamped its website visitor pages and will start rolling out marketing and other tools in conjunction with the 'Community Branding & Wayfinding' study. The 'Community Branding & Wayfinding' study is currently underway, but the first portion has resulted in possible renderings of a new community logo for Wharton pictured here.

The City of Wharton, in partnership with the Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA), and the Wharton Chamber of Commerce, completed the 'Tourism & Heritage Study' in Spring of 2020 and it was adopted into the Comprehensive Plan by City Council on May 11th, 2020. This 'Tourism & Wayfinding' study, funded through the now dissolved Wharton Industrial Foundation and WEDC, and conducted by members of the Office of the Governor Economic Development, and Tourism, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Department of Transportation, and the Texas Commission on the Arts yielded observations and recommendations for Wharton. A variety of community groups and members also contributed to this study to document notable icons, land marks, and locations that would be of interest to all kinds of tourists.



---Proposed Logo Designs---
NOT FINAL!

The WDBA is currently leading partners in a 'Community Branding & Wayfinding' Study, funded by the now dissolved Wharton Industrial Foundation. This is a 2-step study, which has recently completed the first step in identifying a new community logo. The second portion of the study will provide signage recommendations that reflect both the design and colors of the new community logo and will include a phased implementation plan. The City has requested that implementation be in phases that are reasonable enough for the City to start installing signs that direct visitors to points of interest, with the most needed ones going in first. Council will be asked to consider adoption of this plan once it is completed by the WDBA with the anticipation that Council will move forward with installing new signs with this multi-year phased implementation plan.



Check out the new [Discover Wharton tourism pages here!](#)

Upcoming City Holidays



The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:
Veterans Day - November 11th
Thanksgiving - November 26-27th
Christmas - December 24-25th
New Years - January 1st



USCOE
Levee
Updates

COVID
Updates





City of Wharton
120 E. Caney St.
Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 979-532-2491
Fax: 979-532-0181

Helping pinpoint areas of need helps everyone! A sign down, street lights out, or even too many mosquitos can all be issues that affect our residents. The City of Wharton wants to hear from you. Reporting issues that need attention is as simple as calling City Hall at: 979-532-2491.

Public comments on any of the City's projects is encouraged and anyone wishing to do so may attend one of the regularly scheduled City Council meetings.

City Meeting Schedule

All meetings held at City Hall at 120 E. Caney St. unless otherwise posted.

City Council

Every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7pm

Mayor's Committee On People With Disabilities

Every 2nd Wednesday at 8a

Beautification Committee

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm

Update on Grants

I. GRANTS

INFRASTRUCTURE & CONSTRUCTION

CDBG-DR – Infrastructure: Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,650,172.00 for infrastructure projects related to Hurricane Harvey. The City Staff met with the GLO for a kickoff meeting 02/17/2020 to review contracts and projects. Jones & Carter has completed surveys and staff is currently working on easement acquisition and project budget.

HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome: HMGP Application submitted by WISD for FEMA Shelter/Dome. The City received notification of Award on January 21, 2020. The City Council accepted the award of the funding for Phase 1 on 02/10/2020 and the staff attended a kickoff meeting at the WISD Administration Building on 2/18/2020. Agreement with WISD has been reviewed and approved by the School Board. Signed agreement was submitted to the City and is filed with the project. WISD is responsible for all grant activities with the City Staff providing cursory review. WISD has advertised a RFP for architectural services for this project

2019-2020 CDBG: South East Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs Application has been submitted and we are awaiting a response.

City of Wharton Flood Reduction Project: The Lower Colorado River Basin Phase I, Texas WHARTON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT The City of Wharton was notified that the Flood Reduction Project was funded in the early part of 2018. City staff has been meeting with USACE staff monthly on items to be addressed. HDR was selected by the City Council on 06/14/19. The acquisition progress has started and HDR is working with State Side to provide relocation assistance. Impacted property owners can expect to start receiving offers and relocation support starting August 2020. The City successfully completed

its' first acquisition as of August 7th, 2020. USACE staff has indicated they will be ready to begin work in Early 2021, dependent on the completion time for the relocation process.

Phase 2 Design Charette held virtually w/ USACE, Kenall, Inc., Freese & Nichols and City of Wharton staff Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Staff continues monthly coordination meetings and has begun receiving Phase 2 ROE's.

HOUSING

TDHCA – HOME Preservation Participation: 5 applicants have been awarded funding as of 7/17/19. 1 subject has declined the contract. Construction on the first home is complete and signed over and the 2nd and 3rd homeowner signed closing documents and construction is anticipated to start this quarter.

CDBG-DR – Buyouts/Acquisitions: Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,693,784.00 for buyout/acquisition projects related to Hurricane Harvey. The guidelines have been approved by the GLO and no public comment was received during the required posting period. Intake meetings have started with property owners and GrantWorks.

2016 CDBG-DR – Housing Elevation/Reconstruction: Notification of \$2,000,000 funding was received by city staff on February 4, 2019. This funding will assist homeowners with elevation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of homes to address existing damage and mitigate future damage. 1 application has been approved and is in home build selection phase, 1 applicant is pending additional documentation. 3 applicants are still in process and 1 has withdrawn. GrantWorks will be going out to bid for construction contractor within the next 30 days.

TxDOT – Safe Routes to School: The City submitted the Preliminary Application in April 2019. City staff was notified that

the preliminary application had been selected for review and City staff met with TxDOT Representative on May 10, 2019. City Staff submitted the detailed application August 15th, 2019. The City was not selected during the 2019-2020 funding. The City was notified that the project will be recommended for the 2020-2021 funding cycle under the SRTS program. Status is still pending, response not expected until Spring of 2021.

DISASTER RECOVERY (NON INFRASTRUCTURE OR HOUSING)

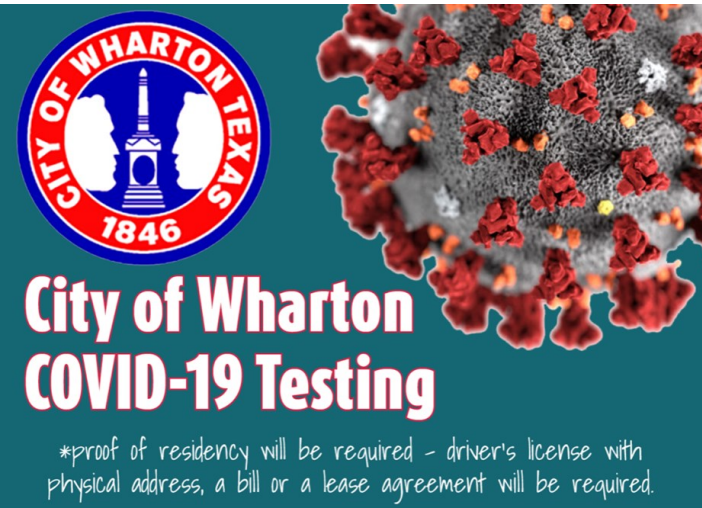
TDEM - Coronavirus Relief Funds: Funds made available for reimbursement of medical expenses, public health expenses, payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, and any other COVID-19 – related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the fund's eligibility criteria including possible economic assistance funding.

City Council approved expenditures to be presented by each City Department Head at the Council Meeting held on August 10th, 2020.

HMGP – Critical Facility Generators: HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and we received notification of award by TDEM 02/18/2020. 1 RFI has been requested and responded to. Award has been made to City and kick-off meeting conducted with TEDM on August 6th, 2020. Engineering and design is currently underway.

II. STUDIES

City of Wharton, Texas Community Wayfinding Program:



**City of Wharton
COVID-19 Testing**

**proof of residency will be required - driver's license with physical address, a bill or a lease agreement will be required.*

Pre-Registration available!
up to 15 tests per day.
Oak Bend Medical Clinic
10141 Hwy 59 | Wharton, TX
281-344-6595

Starting Sept. 14, 2020
Monday - Friday
1st & 3rd Saturday
8AM - 1PM
(excludes holidays)

**testing will not be performed on free State of Texas testing dates at the Wharton Civic Center*

**Free testing for
City of Wharton residents only.**

Free COVID-19 Testing

The City of Wharton and Oak Bend Hospital have teamed up to offer FREE COVID-19 Testing to City of Wharton residents. If you are or someone you know have been exposed to or may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, and you are a City of Wharton resident, contact Oak Bend Hospital at 281-344-6595 today to schedule your FREE test!

Community Calendar

OCTOBER



10/5 - Food Truck Lunch 11-2 @ Guffey Park

10/19 - Food Truck Lunch 11-2 @ Guffey Park

10/24 - Party Under the Bridge 5p @ Dinosaur Park

NOVEMBER



11/2 - Food Truck Lunch 11-2 @ Guffey Park

11/16 - Food Truck Lunch 11-2 @ Guffey Park

11/21 - Holiday Market 4-8 @ Guffey Park

11/24 - Wharton Chamber Christmas Holiday Parade @ Monterey Square **TBD**

11/28 - Small Business Saturday all day @ Local Business locations

DECEMBER



12/20 - Snow Day on the Square @ Wharton County Courthouse **TBD**

COVID-19 Notice!

Events listed may or may not be possible during this difficult time and are subject to cancellations. Please contact event host directly for updates!

Update on Grants

(Continued from Page 2)

City of Wharton working in partnership with the Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA), Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), and the Wharton Chamber of Commerce to complete a wayfinding study.

The wayfinding study started in June with community input meetings to develop preliminary ideas. Drafted designs for community logos are being further improved based on recent feedback from partners.

III. OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS:

Mini Mural Art Park – Cultural Arts: Community Development department was not selected for an application to AARP for funding to establish a mini mural art park in the space adjacent to City Hall. City Staff is currently exploring alternative grant opportunities and partnerships to complete this

project.

City of Wharton “Back in Business” Campaign: Community Development department has continued to publish “Back in Business”, with a total of 9 editions, as based on changes issued by Governor Abbott. City has handed out free boxes of masks to over 150 local businesses, in addition to boxes of gloves donated to the City. City staff has been approved to purchase limited number of hand sanitizer stands for high risk/high customer interaction businesses with Council approval. Eligibility for stands to be determined, additional boxes of masks made available to repeat businesses.

City of Wharton “Discover Wharton” Tourism Campaign: City has developed “Discover Wharton” tourism campaign in response to “Tourism Assessment” completed in Spring of 2020 by Wharton Downtown

Business Association (WDBA) and approved for incorporation into Comprehensive Plan by City Council at Council meeting on May 11th, 2020. Community Development Dept. is currently working with contributing partners in updating the City website to incorporate tourism campaign. City staff anticipates public marketing campaign for tourism upon adoption of new community logo from wayfinding study currently underway.

Guffey Park Improvements: City Council approved Community Development Dept. to retain David Bucek as architect to design proposed improvements to Guffey Park in Council Meeting held on August 10th, 2020. Improvement designs are currently underway, and anticipated to be complete by October 2020, with construction planned for the 2020 -2021 fiscal year.



Department Highlight

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department consists of 3 divisions: Streets, City Garage, and Water and Sewer. Each sub-department is responsible for work related to the City's entire Public Works System.

Public Works

The Street division maintains all streets, drainage from storm drains to open ditches, mowing and cleaning of right of way easements and mowing City properties.

1005 E. Milam
Wharton, Texas 77488

The Garage division is responsible for maintenance and repair of City vehicles.

(979) 532-2491

The Water and Sewer division functions to provide water and dispose of sewage, including maintaining and operating the water wells, storage tanks, water transfer (booster) pumps, water lines, wastewater plants, lift pumping stations, and sewer lines.

For more information or to report Public Works problems, contact 979-532-2491!

We're On the Web! Stay up to date with City Information and services at www.cityofwharton.com

Reminder: Water Line Flushing!

City of Wharton Public Works Department flushes water lines at the beginning of every month to make sure everything is working right for you. This flushing sometimes causes rust and other debris to knock loose and water may come out of the faucet discolored or brownish. If this happens at your home or business, let the water run until clear.



Smart 911

Smart 911 is a service the City of Wharton uses to send out a mass communication message to citizens. The notification system enables us to reach anyone, anytime, for more effective emergency notification and community outreach.

Receive timely notifications on your cellphone, telephone or email by signing up now at [Smart911.com!](http://Smart911.com)

Street Update

On 9/9/20 Contractor began dropping rock at Guffey Park and Croom Ballfields parking area. Contractor to notify residents of Wilkes about road work to begin Friday, 9/18/20.



Project construction is scheduled to begin /18/2020, but was delayed due to tropical storm Beta and will now begin the week of 9/18/2020

The project will consist of 290,000 Square Yards of Sealcoat Roadway surfacing.

The project will take approximately 30 working days to complete (not counting weekends and weather days).

Project estimate with change order #1 is approximately \$850,000 at this time..

Sign up for Smart911



A free service:
Provided by your community



Private and secure:
You control your information



Saves time in an emergency:
When seconds count

Smart911.com™