

SPECIAL DISTRICT LOCAL LAWS CODE
TITLE 4. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT
SUBTITLE C. DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT
CHAPTER 3921. TEXAS HERITAGE PARKWAY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 3921.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the district's board of directors.
- (2) "Director" means a board member.
- (3) "District" means the Texas Heritage Parkway Improvement District.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The Texas Heritage Parkway Improvement District is a special district created under Section [59](#), Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 3, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.003. PURPOSE; DECLARATION OF INTENT. (a) The creation of the district is essential to accomplish the purposes of Sections [52](#) and [52-a](#), Article III, and Section [59](#), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and other public purposes stated in this chapter. By creating the district and in authorizing a municipality, county, or other political subdivision to contract with the district, the legislature has established a program to accomplish the public purposes set out in Section [52-a](#), Article III, Texas Constitution.

(b) The creation of the district is necessary to promote,

develop, encourage, and maintain employment, commerce, transportation, housing, tourism, recreation, the arts, entertainment, economic development, safety, and the public welfare in the district.

(c) This chapter and the creation of the district may not be interpreted to relieve a municipality or county from providing the level of services provided as of the effective date of the Act enacting this chapter to the area in the district. The district is created to supplement and not to supplant municipal or county services provided in the district.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.004. FINDINGS OF BENEFIT AND PUBLIC PURPOSE.

(a) The district is created to serve a public use and benefit.

(b) All land and other property included in the district will benefit from the improvements and services to be provided by the district under powers conferred by Sections 52 and 52-a, Article III, and Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and other powers granted under this chapter.

(c) The creation of the district is in the public interest and is essential to further the public purposes of:

- (1) developing and diversifying the economy of the state;
- (2) eliminating unemployment and underemployment; and
- (3) developing or expanding transportation and commerce.

(d) The district will:

- (1) promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents, employers, potential employees, employees, visitors, and consumers in the district, and of the public;
- (2) provide needed funding for the district to preserve, maintain, and enhance the economic health and vitality of the district territory as a community and business center;
- (3) promote the health, safety, welfare, and enjoyment of the public by providing pedestrian ways and by landscaping and developing certain areas in the district, which are necessary for

the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of scenic beauty;
and

(4) provide for drainage, road, and recreational facilities for the district.

(e) Pedestrian ways along or across a street, whether at grade or above or below the surface, and street lighting, street landscaping, parking, and street art objects are parts of and necessary components of a street and are considered to be a street or road improvement.

(f) The district will not act as the agent or instrumentality of any private interest even though the district will benefit many private interests as well as the public.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.005. DISTRICT TERRITORY. (a) The district is composed of the territory described by Section 2 of the Act enacting this chapter.

(b) The boundaries and field notes contained in Section 2 of the Act enacting this chapter form a closure. A mistake in the field notes or in copying the field notes in the legislative process does not affect the district's:

(1) organization, existence, or validity;

(2) right to issue any type of bonds for the purposes for which the district is created or to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds;

(3) right to impose or collect an assessment or tax; or

(4) legality or operation.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 4, eff. June 14, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 5, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.006. ELIGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION IN SPECIAL

ZONES. All or any part of the area of the district is eligible to be included in:

(1) a tax increment reinvestment zone created under Chapter 311, Tax Code;

(2) a tax abatement reinvestment zone created under Chapter 312, Tax Code;

(3) an enterprise zone created under Chapter 2303, Government Code; or

(4) an industrial district created under Chapter 42, Local Government Code.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.007. APPLICABILITY OF MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS LAW. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, Chapter 375, Local Government Code, applies to the district.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.008. CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER. This chapter shall be liberally construed in conformity with the findings and purposes stated in this chapter.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 3921.051. GOVERNING BODY; TERMS. (a) The district is governed by a board of five voting directors who serve staggered terms of four years, with two or three directors' terms expiring June 1 of each odd-numbered year.

(b) The board by resolution may change the number of voting directors on the board if the board determines that the change is in the best interest of the district. The board may not consist of fewer than five or more than nine voting directors.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.052. APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DIRECTORS. (a) The governing body of Fort Bend County shall appoint voting directors from persons nominated by the board.

(b) The governing body of Fort Bend County may reject the nomination of a person by the board for a position as a voting director. If the governing body rejects a nomination, the board shall submit a new nominee for that position until the governing body appoints a director to each position on the board.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.053. NONVOTING DIRECTORS. The board may appoint nonvoting directors to serve at the pleasure of the voting directors.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.054. QUORUM. For purposes of determining the requirements for a quorum of the board, the following are not counted:

(1) a board position vacant for any reason, including death, resignation, or disqualification;

(2) a director who is abstaining from participation in a vote because of a conflict of interest; or

(3) a nonvoting director.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.055. COMPENSATION. A director is entitled to receive fees of office and reimbursement for actual expenses as provided by Section 49.060, Water Code. Sections 375.069 and 375.070, Local Government Code, do not apply to the board.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.056. INITIAL VOTING DIRECTORS. (a) On or after

the effective date of the Act enacting this section, the owner or owners of a majority of the assessed value of the real property in the district may submit a petition to the governing body of Fort Bend County nominating the five persons named in the petition as initial voting directors.

(b) The governing body of Fort Bend County may reject the nomination of a person named in the petition described by Subsection (a) for a position as an initial director. If the governing body rejects a nomination, the owner or owners who submitted the petition under Subsection (a) shall submit a new nominee for that position until the governing body appoints an initial director to each position on the board.

(c) Of the initial directors, the terms of directors appointed for positions one through three expire June 1 of the first odd-numbered year following the initial appointment, and the terms of directors appointed for positions four and five expire June 1 of the second odd-numbered year following the initial appointment.

(d) Section [3921.052](#) does not apply to this section.
Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 6, eff. June 14, 2019.

SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

Sec. 3921.101. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The district has the powers and duties necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the district is created.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.102. IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND SERVICES. The district may provide, design, construct, acquire, improve, relocate, operate, maintain, or finance an improvement project or service using any money available to the district, or contract with a governmental or private entity to provide, design, construct, acquire, improve, relocate, operate, maintain, or finance an improvement project or service authorized under this chapter or Chapter [375](#), Local Government Code.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.103. DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION POWERS. The district, using money available to the district, may exercise the powers given to a development corporation under Chapter [505](#), Local Government Code, including the power to own, operate, acquire, construct, lease, improve, or maintain a project under that chapter.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.104. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. (a) The board by resolution may authorize the creation of a nonprofit corporation to assist and act for the district in implementing a project or providing a service authorized by this chapter.

(b) The nonprofit corporation:

(1) has each power of and is considered to be a local government corporation created under Subchapter [D](#), Chapter [431](#), Transportation Code; and

(2) may implement any project and provide any service authorized by this chapter.

(c) The board shall appoint the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation. The board of directors of the nonprofit corporation shall serve in the same manner as the board of directors of a local government corporation created under Subchapter [D](#), Chapter [431](#), Transportation Code, except that a board member is not required to reside in the district.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.105. AGREEMENTS; GRANTS. (a) As provided by Chapter [375](#), Local Government Code, the district may make an agreement with or accept a gift, grant, or loan from any person.

(b) The implementation of a project is a governmental function or service for the purposes of Chapter [791](#), Government Code.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.106. LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. To protect the public interest, the district may contract with a qualified party, including a municipality or county, to provide law enforcement services in the district for a fee.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.107. MEMBERSHIP IN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. The district may join and pay dues to a charitable or nonprofit organization that performs a service or provides an activity consistent with the furtherance of a district purpose.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.108. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (a) The district may engage in activities that accomplish the economic development purposes of the district.

(b) The district may establish and provide for the administration of one or more programs to promote state or local economic development and to stimulate business and commercial activity in the district, including programs to:

- (1) make loans and grants of public money; and
- (2) provide district personnel and services.

(c) The district may create economic development programs and exercise the economic development powers provided to municipalities by:

- (1) Chapter [380](#), Local Government Code; and
- (2) Subchapter [A](#), Chapter [1509](#), Government Code.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.109. PARKING FACILITIES. (a) The district may acquire, lease as lessor or lessee, construct, develop, own, operate, and maintain parking facilities or a system of parking

facilities, including lots, garages, parking terminals, or other structures or accommodations for parking motor vehicles off the streets and related appurtenances.

(b) The district's parking facilities serve the public purposes of the district and are owned, used, and held for a public purpose even if leased or operated by a private entity for a term of years.

(c) The district's parking facilities are parts of and necessary components of a street and are considered to be a street or road improvement.

(d) The development and operation of the district's parking facilities may be considered an economic development program.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.110. ANNEXATION OF LAND. The district may annex land as provided by Subchapter [J](#), Chapter [49](#), Water Code.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.111. ACCESS TO ROAD FACILITIES. The district may control, restrict, and determine the type and extent of access to or from a road facility, including designating and approving the locations of access to the road facility from a street, road, alley, highway, or other public or private road intersecting the road facility.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.112. ROAD STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS. (a) A road facility must meet all applicable construction standards, zoning and subdivision requirements, and regulations of each municipality in whose corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction the road facility is located.

(b) If a road facility is not located in the corporate limits of a municipality, the road facility must meet all applicable construction standards, subdivision requirements, and

regulations of each county in which the road facility is located.

(c) If the state will maintain and operate the road, the Texas Transportation Commission must approve the plans and specifications of the road facility.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.113. NO EMINENT DOMAIN POWER. The district may not exercise the power of eminent domain.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

SUBCHAPTER D. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS; ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 3921.151. DISBURSEMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF MONEY. The board by resolution shall establish the number of directors' signatures and the procedure required for a disbursement or transfer of district money.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.152. MONEY USED FOR IMPROVEMENTS OR SERVICES. The district may acquire, construct, finance, operate, or maintain any improvement or service authorized under this chapter or Chapter 375, Local Government Code, using any money available to the district.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.153. PETITION REQUIRED FOR FINANCING SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS WITH ASSESSMENTS. (a) The board may not finance a service or improvement project with assessments under this chapter unless a written petition requesting that service or improvement has been filed with the board.

(b) A petition filed under Subsection (a) must be signed by the owners of a majority of the assessed value of real property in the district subject to assessment according to the most recent

certified tax appraisal roll for the county in which the assessments are to be imposed.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.154. ASSESSMENTS; LIENS FOR ASSESSMENTS.

(a) The board by resolution may impose and collect an assessment for any purpose authorized by this chapter in all or any part of the district.

(b) An assessment, a reassessment, or an assessment resulting from an addition to or correction of the assessment roll by the district, penalties and interest on an assessment or reassessment, an expense of collection, and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the district:

(1) are a first and prior lien against the property assessed;

(2) are superior to any other lien or claim other than a lien or claim for county, school district, or municipal ad valorem taxes; and

(3) are the personal liability of and a charge against the owners of the property even if the owners are not named in the assessment proceedings.

(c) The lien is effective from the date of the board's resolution imposing the assessment until the date the assessment is paid. The board may enforce the lien in the same manner that the board may enforce an ad valorem tax lien against real property.

(d) The board may make a correction to or deletion from the assessment roll that does not increase the amount of assessment of any parcel of land without providing notice and holding a hearing in the manner required for additional assessments.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.155. RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY NOT EXEMPT. Section 375.161, Local Government Code, does not apply to a tax authorized or approved by the district voters or a required payment for service provided by the district.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.156. TAX AND ASSESSMENT ABATEMENTS. The district may designate reinvestment zones and may grant abatements of a tax or assessment on property in the zones.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

SUBCHAPTER E. TAXES AND BONDS

Sec. 3921.201. ELECTIONS REGARDING TAXES AND BONDS.

(a) The district may issue, without an election, bonds, notes, and other obligations secured by:

- (1) revenue other than ad valorem taxes; or
- (2) contract payments described by Section [3921.203](#).

(b) The district must hold an election in the manner provided by Subchapter [L](#), Chapter [375](#), Local Government Code, to obtain voter approval before the district may impose an ad valorem tax or issue bonds payable from ad valorem taxes.

(c) Section [375.243](#), Local Government Code, does not apply to the district.

(d) All or any part of any facilities or improvements that may be acquired by a district by the issuance of its bonds may be submitted as a single proposition or as several propositions to be voted on at the election.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.202. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TAX. (a) If authorized by a majority of the district voters voting at an election held in accordance with Section [3921.201](#), the district may impose an operation and maintenance tax on taxable property in the district in accordance with Section [49.107](#), Water Code, for any district purpose, including to:

- (1) maintain and operate the district;
- (2) construct or acquire improvements; or

(3) provide a service.

(b) The board shall determine the tax rate. The rate may not exceed the rate approved at the election.

(c) Section 49.107(h), Water Code, does not apply to the district.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.203. CONTRACT TAXES. (a) In accordance with Section 49.108, Water Code, the district may impose a tax other than an operation and maintenance tax and use the revenue derived from the tax to make payments under a contract after the provisions of the contract have been approved by a majority of the district voters voting at an election held for that purpose.

(b) A contract approved by the district voters may contain a provision stating that the contract may be modified or amended by the board without further voter approval.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.204. AUTHORITY TO BORROW MONEY AND TO ISSUE BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS. (a) The district may borrow money on terms determined by the board. Section 375.205, Local Government Code, does not apply to a loan, line of credit, or other borrowing from a bank or financial institution secured by revenue other than ad valorem taxes.

(b) The district may issue bonds, notes, or other obligations payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, assessments, impact fees, revenue, contract payments, grants, or other district money, or any combination of those sources of money, to pay for any authorized district purpose.

(c) The limitation on the outstanding principal amount of bonds, notes, and other obligations provided by Section 49.4645, Water Code, does not apply to the district.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. 1864), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Sec. 3921.205. TAXES FOR BONDS. At the time the district issues bonds payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, the board shall provide for the annual imposition of a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax, without limit as to rate or amount, for each year that all or part of the bonds are outstanding as required and in the manner provided by Sections [54.601](#) and [54.602](#), Water Code.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 827 (S.B. [1864](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

SUBCHAPTER F. DEFINED AREAS

Sec. 3921.251. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH DEFINED AREAS OR DESIGNATED PROPERTY. The district may define areas or designate certain property of the district to pay for improvements, facilities, or services that primarily benefit that area or property and do not generally and directly benefit the district as a whole.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 7, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.252. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION. (a) Before the district may impose an ad valorem tax applicable only to the defined area or designated property or issue bonds payable from ad valorem taxes of the defined area or designated property, the board shall hold an election in the defined area or in the designated property only.

(b) The board may submit the proposition to the voters on the same ballot to be used in another election.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 7, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.253. DECLARING RESULT AND ISSUING ORDER. (a) If a majority of the voters voting at the election held under Section [3921.252](#) approve the proposition or propositions, the board shall declare the results and, by order, shall establish the defined area or designated property and describe it by metes and bounds or

designate the specific area or property.

(b) A court may not review the board's order except on the ground of fraud, palpable error, or arbitrary and confiscatory abuse of discretion.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 7, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.254. TAXES FOR SERVICES, IMPROVEMENTS, AND FACILITIES IN DEFINED AREAS OR DESIGNATED PROPERTY. On voter approval and adoption of the order described by Section [3921.253](#), the district may apply separately, differently, equitably, and specifically its taxing power and lien authority to the defined area or designated property to provide money to construct, administer, maintain, and operate services, improvements, and facilities that primarily benefit the defined area or designated property.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 7, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.255. ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR DEFINED AREA OR DESIGNATED PROPERTY. After the order under Section [3921.253](#) is adopted, the district may issue bonds to provide for any land, improvements, facilities, plants, equipment, and appliances for the defined area or designated property.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 7, eff. June 14, 2019.

Sec. 3921.256. ADDITION OR EXCLUSION OF LAND IN DEFINED AREA. The district may add or exclude land from the defined areas in the same manner the district may add or exclude land from the district.

Added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1225 (H.B. [4721](#)), Sec. 7, eff. June 14, 2019.