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Mayor Sylvester Turner City of Houston Planning and Development Department December 2020

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# **An Equitable Houston That Works For Everyone**

Three years ago, I issued this call: It is time for Houston communities to overcome the economic, environmental and equity challenges that have existed for far too long. To help accomplish this, I launched the Complete Communities initiative in five pilot communities: Acres Homes, Gulfton, Near Northside, Second Ward and Third Ward. In June of 2019, I announced five more: Alief/Westwood, Fort Bend Houston, Kashmere Gardens, Magnolia Park/Manchester and Sunnyside

Every neighborhood deserves housing options, job opportunities, quality grocery stores, beautiful and accessible parks, educational opportunities, and mobility choices that are safe and accessible to all. Each Houstonian should feel that their neighborhood matters and that the private, public, and non-profit sectors alike support its ability to thrive. Each community should be able to identify its priorities and have an avenue to achieve success.

This is what Complete Communities is all about: working with community members and outside partners to find solutions and achieve transformational change. We have listened to the community, and this plan will serve as a catalyst for investment, engagement and increased opportunity. City departments are collectively tapping all available resources to infuse more investment into our communities.

Unfortunately, in 2020, the Complete Communities planning process was interrupted by COVID–19, a global pandemic that the world had not experienced anything like in decades. We were challenged to push forward with community engagement plans while keeping residents safe and healthy. We started by making all meetings virtual. We created engagement opportunities to assess community needs and implement COVID-19 relief strategies in our 10

Complete Communities. We listened, responded and documented community actions and goals in each plan.

The Office of Complete Communities facilitates the work of our City departments and outside partners as they work together to develop long-term solutions that are transferable to other communities across the City of Houston. With partners from different sectors of our community, we will deploy the best tools to create transformational change in them.

I am committed to this city. I am committed to investing in neighborhoods that have been overlooked for decades so they can thrive. We will not be a city of haves and have-nots. Together, we can strengthen and empower communities so that all of Houston neighborhoods are neighborhoods of opportunity.

Mayor Sylvester Turner





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# What is a Complete Community?

A complete community is resilient and sustainable, strengthening and supporting the capacity of people, places, and systems to be safer and stronger.

# An engaged community with . . .

Strong community partners Civic engagement Community buy in

# An affordable community with . . .

Diversity of income
No concentrated poverty
A strong base of homeowners
Quality rental units
Energy efficient homes

# A healthy community with . . .

A quality grocery store Access to quality health care Parks Urban gardens or farms

# A safe community with . . .

Low crime
Low rates of automobile crashes
No unsafe environmental hazards
Safe places for residents to walk, run,
bicycle, and recreate

# An economically strong community with . . .

Opportunities for upward mobility
Quality and diverse retail
Quality jobs within or easily accessible from the
community
Thriving small businesses
Strong city tax revenues to pay for municipal

# A community with quality schools including . . .

Highly rated elementary, middle and high schools Easy access to high quality and affordable early childcare

Access to quality vocational schools, community colleges

# A community with good infrastructure including . . .

Complete streets that include sidewalks, bike paths, and accessible transit stops Utility infrastructure Proper lighting

# A connected community with . . .

Access to broadband internet connectivity
Quality public transit or other affordable
transportation options
Good roads connecting to other major job centers
and central business districts
Strong community organizations that connect
residents with each other and to others
throughout the city

# A beautiful and interesting community with . . .

Street trees
Public art
Public spaces
Preservation of historic neighborhoods

# A flood resilient community with . . .

Flood protection Good drainage Community and public services



services

# COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

In April of 2017, Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the kick-off of the Complete Communities initiative. Mayor Turner noted:

Complete Communities is about improving neighborhoods so that all of Houston's residents and business owners can have access to quality services and amenities. It's about working closely with the residents of communities that haven't reached their full potential, understanding their strengths and opportunities, and collaborating with partners across the city to strengthen them. While working to improve these communities, we are also working to ensure existing residents can stay in homes that remain affordable.

The Complete Communities initiative was established to be collaborative, impactful, and transformative. An Advisory Committee guided the planning process for the pilot neighborhoods. The committee was comprised of community leaders and advocates with a balanced perspective ranging from city-wide to neighborhood specific knowledge and engagement. The committee served as a sounding board whose members were ambassadors for the effort and provided connections to residents and businesses in the selected neighborhoods. With support from the Complete Communities Advisory Committee, a working definition of a complete community was established to identify the qualities that lead to a thriving neighborhood (see opposite page, left).

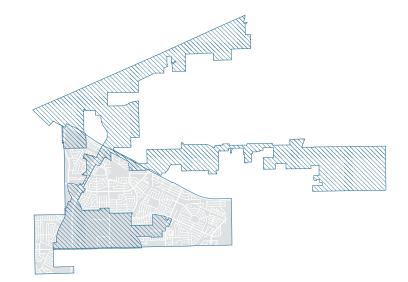
The five pilot neighborhoods—Acres Home, Gulfton, Near Northside, Second Ward, and Third Ward completed their plans in 2018. Since then, the communities are partnering with City departments and outside organizations to implement the plans. In June 2019, Mayor Turner announced the second round of Complete Communities - Alief-Westwood, Fort Bend Houston, Kashmere Gardens, Magnolia Park-Manchester, and Sunnyside. As with the pilot communities, communities in the second round have their own strengths and challenges. As a result, stakeholders in each developed a vision that represents their ideal of a complete community. This shared vision has guided the effort in each community.

Across ten neighborhoods and three and a half years, 5,900 people shared their insights, values, and visions. More than 4,100 participants attended one of the 37 public meetings. Nearly 1,800 leaders representing faith-based organizations, business owners, non-profit and community-based organizations, and civic, educational and institutional leaders attended listening sessions with community planners. A Neighborhood Support Team, comprised of locally identified leaders, residents and allies, guided each Complete Community effort and working groups emerged to accomplish each of the goals identified in the Complete Communities Action Plans.

Commitment to the Complete Communities initiative is far reaching. Mayor Turner created the Mayor's Office for Complete Communities in 2019, with dedicated staff to support implementation. One-on-one meetings were held with over thirty City departments to present community-identified priorities and projects and establish mechanisms for implementation. In the coming years, the City and its staff will continue to work sideby-side with community leaders and allies to realize the vision for a complete community in each of the neighborhoods.

Although the Complete Communities planning process was interrupted by COVID-19, community engagement proceeded in a virtual format. The Mayor's Health Equity Response (H.E.R.) Task Force, created in April 2020, set out to learn about immediate needs resulting from the pandemic in all ten communities. An additional 1,515 people participated in extended engagement via online surveys, virtual meetings, and website activities. Each plan includes a section documenting the resulting goals and actions.

After the year and a half of engagement and collaboration with thousands of stakeholders, we have summarized what we heard in each of the five second round Complete Communities in an Action Plan. The Fort Bend Houston Action Plan outlines the vision, policies, goals and projects to realize a healthier, more resilient, prosperous, equitable, and complete future. This is Fort Bend Houston's Plan.



# Map of Boundaries and Plans

- ☐ Fort Bend Houston Complete Community
- Hiram Clark /Ft Bend TIRZ #25
- Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood #41 Strategic Plan



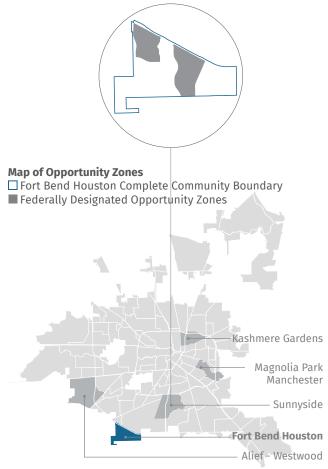
# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### Introduction

The Fort Bend Houston Complete Communities Action Plan outlines the vision, goals, projects, policies, and programs identified by stakeholders over the yearlong planning process that included three public meetings, one of which was conducted virtually. The Health Equity Response (HER) Task Force also conducted a survey and hosted a Town Hall meeting focused on issues related to COVID-19, the results of which are included in the plan. In total, over 350 leaders, stakeholders, and partners attended these meetings, providing valuable input and guidance. Overall, the goals and projects detailed in this plan work towards achieving a more resilient, engaged, prosperous, and healthy community.

The Fort Bend Houston Complete Communities Action Plan has also been informed by recent studies, such as the Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 Strategic Plan, one-on-one meetings with City department representatives, Council Members, and citywide planning efforts. The two most important citywide efforts are Plan Houston, the City's first general plan, and the Resilient Houston strategies. The Fort Bend Houston Action Plan supports and reinforces each of the 32 citywide goals identified in Plan Houston. The highest priorities identified by Fort Bend Houston stakeholders that align with Plan Houston goals include: economic development and revitalization, engaged and informed residents, quality housing, and schools and communities that invest in each other. The alignment of goals and projects identified by Fort Bend Houston stakeholders with the strategies in the Resilient Houston Plan is provided in the Action Plan tables.

Other citywide planning efforts that shape decision making and public investment in Houston are the



**Map of Complete Communities** 

annual Capital Improvement Plan, the Houston Climate Action Plan, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan, the Houston Bike Plan, and Vision Zero. Each of these plans has informed the Fort Bend Houston Complete Communities Action Plan. Finally, the project plans of the Hiram Clark/Fort Bend TIRZ #25 have also been reviewed.

Fort Bend Houston has two census tracts that are State designated Opportunity Zones, which provide the potential for increased partnership and funding. Opportunity Zones are a community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and lobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities.

# **Complete Communities Planning Process**

Each Complete Community is different. Some have engaged in substantial planning efforts, while others have not had plans developed for decades. As a result, the City has designed and implemented planning processes that align with each community's current position.

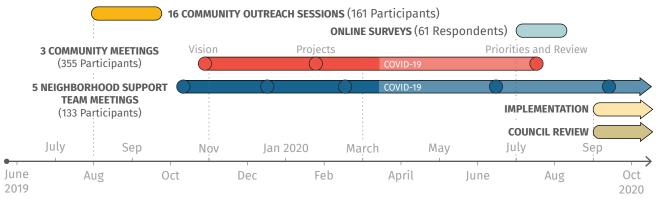
In Fort Bend Houston, the planning effort began by summarizing existing neighborhood and citywide plans and conducting outreach and small group meetings with key leaders and stakeholders. Meetings were held with faith leaders, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, business owners, and other civic, educational, and institutional leaders. Over 160 people were engaged through these efforts.

Following this research and outreach, an engagement plan was established for each Complete Community. In Fort Bend Houston, three public meetings were scheduled to accomplish the following objectives: establish a vision and goals; develop projects and partners; and, review and prioritize the final Action Plan. Overall, 355 people attended the public meetings, providing valuable feedback.

The Action Plan was also informed by a virtual Town Hall focused on the impacts of COVID-19, hosted by the Mayor's Health Equity Response (HER) Task Force, online surveys, and one-on-one meetings with City departments. At the City department meetings projects and priorities identified by community stakeholders were presented and discussed, and strategies to move towards implementation were identified where possible.

Throughout the process, the Complete Communities initiative has been guided by the Neighborhood Support Team, which has met five times to provide their insight and suggestions. As the Complete Communities initiative moves forward, projects will be championed by neighborhood working groups, who will work directly with City staff and departments to oversee implementation.

The Fort Bend Houston Action Plan builds on prior planning efforts, existing City initiatives, and includes the vision of hundreds of residents and stakeholders collected over the year-long public engagement process. The Action Plan is a summary of goals, projects, programs, policies, action steps, priorities, time frames, partners, and metrics to measure success.



## **Fort Bend Houston Community**

The Fort Bend Houston Complete Communities study area is the same as the geographic area of the Super Neighborhood. Specifically, Fort Bend Houston is bounded on the north by the Sam Houston Tollway, McHard Road to the south, Fondren Road to the west, and Hiram Clark Road to the east. Fort Bend Houston is located in far Southwest Houston, within the Houston city limits. Yet, Fort Bend Houston is unique in that it is the only Super Neighborhood located entirely within Fort Bend County.

In 2018, the Fort Bend Houston Complete Community was home to 37,319 residents, a population increase of 4% since 2000. In 2018, the neighborhood had a population density of approximately 4,800 people per square mile, slightly higher than Houston overall. As the population of the neighborhood grows, Fort Bend Houston is also becoming more diverse. The percentage of residents identifying as Black or African American dropped from 73% in 2000 to 61% in 2018. Over the same time period, the percentage of residents identifying as Hispanic or Latino rose from 22% to 34%. Yet, in 2018, only 18% of Fort Bend Houston residents were born outside the United States, as compared to 29% in Houston overall.

Fort Bend Houston was developed in the 1960s and 1970s in a series of residential subdivisions. many of which continue to have active home owners associations. A number of these home owners association maintain private amenities. such as parks, swimming pools, and club houses. In addition, nearly all of the subdivisions have a centrally located elementary school that serves area children and families. The amenities, schools, and quality housing originally attracted many middleclass and professional African American families to the neighborhood to raise their families. The neighborhood's primary shopping corridor is South Post Oak Road.

The Fort Bend Houston Complete Community Action Plan establishes a set of prioritized projects. policies, and programs. A summary of the Action Plan, including key focus areas and goals, is provided on the following pages. The highest priorities in the community are jobs and economic development, community leadership and advocacy, education, and neighborhood character and housing. Additional focus areas include environment and health, mobility and infrastructure, parks and community amenities, and safety.





# **Fort Bend Houston Action Plan Summary**

**Underline Indicates High Priority Goal** 

# **Community Leadership and Advocacy**

A complete community is an engaged community that supports inclusive and multi-generational leadership, celebrates diversity, and promotes advocacy. The goals are:

- **Create a Community of Leaders and Advocates** by establishing a diverse and inclusive Fort Bend Coalition, expanding voter registration, providing leadership training, and creating a youth-led community service organization
- Celebrate Diversity by organizing community events and activities that bring people together
- **Develop a Connected and Informed Community** by inventorying existing programs and services, creating a community resource guide, and expanding media coverage

# **Economy and Jobs**

A complete community is a thriving community with a diversity of retail and amenities, strong local businesses, and workforce development opportunities. The goals are:

- **Promote Diverse Economic Development** by establishing a development task force, creating an economic development plan, and advocating for new commercial and retail, including the Edison Arts project
- Create a Strong Local Economy by supporting and expanding locally-owned small businesses
- **Provide Comprehensive Workforce Development** by advocating for the development of a career and life skills training center

#### Education

A complete community is a learning community with engaged parents, high quality schools, and thriving students. The goals are:

- **Promote Engaged Parent Advocates** by providing leadership training to parents and students and developing a school resource guide
- Support Strong Schools by creating a Fort Bend Houston education coalition
- **Ensure Students are Thriving** by expanding career and college readiness programs, connecting students to professional opportunities, increasing out of school enrichment activities, and ensuring safe and inclusive school environments

#### **Environment and Health**

A complete community is a healthy community that supports active living, is free from environmental hazards, and has access to high quality healthcare. The goals are:

- Advocate for a Clean and Healthy Environment by monitoring air and water quality and regulating development on toxic soils
- **Increase Environmental Awareness** by developing an environmental coalition, organizing environmental justice tours, and increasing disaster preparedness
- Promote Healthy People by identifying and addressing critical health issues, improving access to healthcare, and promoting active living

# **Mobility and Infrastructure**

A complete community is a connected community with high quality infrastructure and transit. The goals are:

- **Develop an Accessible Pedestrian Network** by improving and expanding area sidewalks
- **Build Great Streets** by improving and repairing area streets, calming traffic on neighborhood streets, and developing streetscaping
- Create a Flood Resilient Community by maintaining area ditches and drainage easements and improving flood mitigation strategies
- Create a Mobile and Connected Community by expanding regional transit, improving local transit services, and providing additional amenities at area bus stops

# **Neighborhood Character and Housing**

A complete community is a beautiful community. The goals are:

- **Expand Resources for Single-Family Home Repair** by assessing existing home conditions and advocating for the expansion of citywide home repair programs
- Fort Bend Houston is Beautiful by addressing illegal dumping and organizing a Keep Fort Bend Houston Beautiful campaign
- **Promote Active Home Owners Associations** by engaging board members in leadership training and other workshops
- Build New Housing by focusing vacant infill lots in area subdivisions for new single-family housing

# **Parks and Community Amenities**

A complete community is a green community with a necklace of beautiful parks, a network of trails, and active community centers. The goals are:

- Create Beautiful Parks by improving, maintaining, and providing programming at existing parks, including Blueridge and South Post Oak parks
- **Build Great Community Meeting Places** by developing a centrally located community center and by expanding programs for children, youth, and seniors, including those provided at the Stimely-Blue Ridge Neighborhood Library
- Expand Neighborhood Parks by increasing the number of area SPARK Parks and developing new public parks
- **Develop a Green and Connected Community** by creating a greenbelt trail and connectivity plan

### Safety

A complete community is a safe community with strong partnerships between community members and law enforcement agencies, safe streets and places, and healthy pets. The goals are:

- Keep Fort Bend Houston Safe by increasing police presence, visibility, and response times, by improving partnerships among law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders, encouraging the reporting of crime, and creating neighborhood watch programs and block captains
- **Create Safe Environments**\_by improving street lighting and reducing nuisances at area businesses
- **Ensure Healthy Pets** by promoting the resources available for pet owners and addressing animal regulations and welfare

# **Key to Abbreviated Organizations**

Many City departments and organizations will assist in implementing the projects identified in this Action Plan, while other organizations have been identified as potential partners. Below is a key to the organizations that are abbreviated:

#### City, School, and Government Departments:

Administration and Regulatory Affairs, ARA Bureau of Animal Regulation and Control, BARC City of Houston, COH

Department of Neighborhoods, DON

Fort Bend County, FBC

Fort Bend County Drainage District, FBCDD

Fort Bend County Parks Department, FBCPD

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, FBCSO

Fort Bend Independent School District, FBISD

Housing and Community Development Department, HCDD

Houston Community College, HCC

Houston Financial Empowerment Center, HFEC

Houston Fire Department, HFD

Houston Health Department, HHD

Houston Police Department, HPD

HPD National Night Out, HPD NNO

HPD Differential Response Team, HPD DRT

Houston Parks and Recreation Department, HPARD

Houston Public Library, HPL

Houston Public Works, HPW

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, MOPD

Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, MOCA

Mayor's Office of Economic Development, MOED

Mayor's Office of Education, MOE

Mayor's Office of Homeless Initiatives, MOHI

Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, MOPSHS

Mayor's Office of Resilience, MOR

Mayor's Office of Veteran's Affairs, MOVA

METRO Universal Accessibility Program, METRO UAP

Office of Business Opportunity, OBO

Office of Emergency Management, OEM

Planning and Development Department, PDD

Solid Waste Management Department, SWD

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT

# **Key to Priority Graphic**

High Priority



Medium Priority



#### **Role Definitions:**

Outreach: Convey information to community members and

encourage engagement

**Organize**: Gather people and organizations together to work on

the project

Advocate: Publicly support the project

Assist: Bring information, technology, advice, connections, and

other non-financial resources to the project

Implement: Complete the project

#### **Partner Organizations and Other Abbreviations:**

Air Alliance Houston, **AAH** 

Baylor College of Medicine, BCM

Community Improvement Association, CIA

Fort Bend Houston Neighborhood Support Team, FBH NST

Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood Council, FBH SNC

Houston Area Urban League, HAUL

Houston Land Bank, HLB

Houston Parks Board, HPB

Home Owners Association, HOA

Keep Houston Beautiful, KHB

League of Women Voters of Houston, LWVH

Local Initiatives Support Corporation, LISC

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, TIRZ

Texas Medical Center, TMC

# **FORT BEND HOUSTON ACTION PLAN**

The Fort Bend Houston Action Plan has 27 goals and 60 projects, organized into eight focus areas, and a special introductory section focused on COVID-19. The highest priority focus areas as identified by community stakeholders are economy and jobs, community leadership and advocacy, education, and neighborhood character and housing. Additional focus areas include environment and health, mobility and infrastructure, parks and community amenities, and safety. The Action Plan that follows was developed over the course of a year with input received at three public meetings, through online surveys, and Neighborhood Support Team meetings. The plan

includes goals, projects, priorities, time frames, partners, roles, and metrics to measure success over the next five years.

The projects and action steps identified in the Action Plan will be championed by the Fort Bend Houston Neighborhood Support Team and a series of working groups in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Complete Communities, the Planning and Development Department, additional City departments and representatives, and other nongovernmental partners. A list of partners and their roles is provided for each project in the Action Plan.



# COVID-19

#### Introduction

In early March of 2020, COVID-19 began to impact residents in the City of Houston. The potential health risks created by the pandemic required the City to shift from in-person to online meetings, impacting the Complete Communities process. COVID-19 has also exacerbated health disparities and inequalities across the city and made day to day life more difficult for many community members. The Health Equity Response (HER) Task Force, established by Mayor Turner, partnered with Bloomberg Associates to conduct a citywide survey and host a Town Hall with stakeholders from each of the Complete Communities, including Fort Bend Houston, to identify the challenges facing families because of COVID-19. Overall, 37 Fort Bend Houston residents completed the online survey.

The survey revealed that many households in Fort Bend Houston were relying on food programs and area organizations and institutions to help feed their families. For example, 48% of respondents were receiving food from faith-based organizations and 30% were depending on either school, park-based programs, or the Houston Food Bank. Additional findings included that half of area households

were home to essential workers and over 40% were satisfied with the number of COVID-19 testing sites.

In addition, Fort Bend Houston stakeholders provided important feedback at the virtual Town Hall held on June 30, 2020. The specific challenges identified included inaccessibility of information surrounding COVID-19 resources, testing processes, and sites. The priority projects which follow were developed in collaboration with stakeholders to address the challenges of COVID-19.

# **COVID-19 Media Campaign**

Ensuring that people are accurately informed of the health risks related to COVID-19 and ways to protect themselves is critical to slow the spread of the pandemic. To achieve this goal, a targeted media campaign should be developed in partnership with civic organizations to help inform and prepare people to protect themselves from the risks of COVID-19. Information should include the importance of wearing masks, social distancing, and quarantining if exposed. The campaign should be broadcast by local television stations, and included in newspapers, press briefings, Council District Newsletters, and in other media outlets.

Of Fort Bend Houston respondent households have at least one adult who is an essential worker

Of Houston respondent households have at least one adult who is an essential worker

Of Fort Bend Houston respondents were satisfied with the number of COVID-19 testing sites in the community

Of Houston respondents were satisfied with the number of COVID-19 testing sites in the community

# **Accessible Testing**

Testing sites across Houston change weekly. In the first week of September 2020 there were no publicly supported or private COVID-19 testing sites inside the Fort Bend Houston Complete Community. However, three nearby CVS pharmacies were providing testing. Expanding COVID-19 testing sites within the Fort Bend Houston neighborhood, including walk-up sites, and ensuring that information on their location, costs, and accessibility is readily available will ensure residents are connected to this vital resource.





48%

Of Fort Bend Houston respondents reported that faith-based distribution of food was important to their family

10%

Of Houston respondents reported that faith-based distribution of food was important to their family

Data Source: HER Task Force Town Hall Report, 2020

# **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP** and ADVOCACY

#### Introduction

Community leadership and advocacy are at the core of a complete community. Civic coalitions in Fort Bend Houston, the only City of Houston Super Neighborhood that is located completely in Fort Bend County, have been challenged by complicated political and municipal boundaries, and with not feeling fully represented by their elected officials, both at the City and County levels. Strengthening community leadership and advocacy can work to reduce the real and perceived barriers to amplifying the voice of community members.

Today, Fort Bend Houston has nine active civic and home owners associations. Community, non-profit, educational, and faith-based organizations are also active in advocating for the community. The neighborhood is also within the boundaries of the Hiram Clark/Fort Bend TIRZ #25.

Area civic organizations, schools, churches, and other partners have created a strong community network. Continuing to expand and support this network through additional engagement, advocacy, and partnerships will help to strengthen the complete community.

# **Community Leadership and Advocacy Goals**

The three goals for community leadership and advocacy in Fort Bend Houston focus on fostering a community of leaders and advocates, celebrating diversity, and strengthening connections throughout the neighborhood. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The community leadership and advocacy goals are:

# **Community of Leaders and Advocates**

Strengthening and expanding the capacity of leaders to bring people together across generations and cultures to work for change is a critical component of a Complete Community. To accomplish this goal, a diverse and inclusive Fort Bend Houston Coalition will be established to work together and advocate for community change. In addition, leadership training will be provided for all generations, including for the board members of area civic clubs and home owners associations, and a youth community service organization will be created in cooperation with Willowridge High School. Finally, expanding voter turnout by establishing a Fort Bend Houston Votes program will increase the number of registered voters and those who regularly vote. The objective is to increase voter turnout to 60% by the 2024 election.

Of Fort Bend Houston registered voters cast a ballot in the 2016 election

Of Harris County registered voters cast a ballot in the 2016 election

30%

Of Fort Bend Houston residents spoke Spanish at Home in 2018

Of Houston residents spoke Spanish at Home in 2018

A **complete community** is an **engaged community** that supports inclusive and multi-generational leadership, celebrates diversity, and promotes advocacy

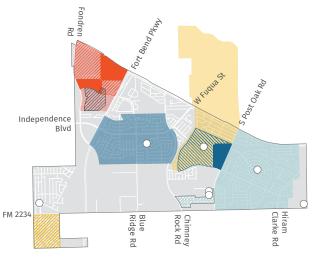
# **Celebrated Diversity**

Fort Bend Houston has become increasingly diverse over the past two decades. In 2018, approximately two-thirds of area residents identified as Black or African American and one-third Hispanic or Latino. In the same year, one in every five residents was born outside of the United States. Embracing diversity will create a more inclusive coalition of community leaders. To accomplish this goal, community events and activities will be organized and hosted to celebrate cultural diversity and bring people together. Events may include National Night Out, holiday events, or other celebrations of food, dance, and music. The objective is to host one annual event each year.

# **Connected and Informed Community**

A key strength of a complete community is the capacity to keep everyone informed. The projects identified to achieve this goal include creating an inventory of existing community services and programs and developing a Fort Bend Houston Community Guide. Additionally, advocating for the inclusion of Fort Bend Houston news and calendars in area newspapers, government newsletters, and other media outlets will promote social cohesion and community engagement. Success will be measured by the completion of an inventory of community services and programs by 2025.





#### **Active Civic Clubs**

- HOA Owned Club Houses/Community Centers
- Chasewood Community Improvement Association
- Southwest Crossing One
- Chasewood Civic Club
- Briargate Community Improvement Association
- Ridgegate Civic Association
- Ridgegate Community Improvement Association
- Quail Bridge Community Improvement Association
- Ridgemont Community Improvement Association
- Quail Glen Homeowners Association

# 1 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP and ADVOCACY

#### **GOAL** PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES

### **PRIORITY**

# 1.1.1 Develop a diverse and inclusive Fort Bend Houston Coalition to advocate for community change

ACTION STEPS: Develop a Fort Bend Houston Coalition to improve communication and collaboration between area organizations and civic clubs to work together for community change, including increasing political accountability, engagement, and promoting community priorities. Develop multi-lingual and multi-modal outreach campaigns that include canvassing, phone calls, flyers, social media (NextDoor, etc.), TV and radio stations.



# 1.1.2 Develop a Fort Bend Houston Votes program

ACTION STEPS: Develop and implement a "Fort Bend Houston Votes" program to register voters, increase voter turnout, and provide information on voting districts, polling stations, and area representatives.



# 1.1.3 Provide leadership training for all generations

ACTION STEPS: Provide leadership training and mentoring to area civic leaders and youth through high schools and neighborhood organizations, focus on expanding the diversity of area leaders and those running for elected office.



### 1.1.4 Create a Youth Community Service Organization

ACTION STEPS: Organize and support area youth in developing a community service organization to host events and complete community service projects.



#### **PLAN:**

1.1

**A Community** 

of Leaders and Advocates



**Diversity** 

**PLAN:** 

1.3

**Connected** 

Community

and Informed



ACTION STEPS: Organize and host community events at parks and schools to connect the community, celebrate cultural diversity, and break down barriers to collaboration. Events could focus on food, dance, music, games, and could include OCO a multi-cultural night, field days, National Night Out, holiday events, etc.



## 1.3.1 Inventory existing community services and programs

ACTION STEPS: Inventory existing services and programs in the community, evaluate community needs, and identify gaps in services particularly for vulnerable residents. Identify priority areas where partnerships and resources are needed to fill gaps in services, including public and private funding.



#### 1.3.2 Advocate for Fort Bend Houston News in Local Media

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the inclusion and distribution of Fort Bend Houston news in the Houston Chronicle, Houston Forward Times, and other community newspapers. Partner with District K to enroll area residents to receive the District's monthly newsletter and weekly updates.



## 1.3.3 Develop a Fort Bend Houston Community Guide

ACTION STEPS: Develop a Fort Bend Houston Community Guide that includes all services and programs available in the community, including those provided by Fort Bend County or the City of Houston, area businesses, churches, and organizations. Distribute the guide in web and print-based forms, including on Next OOOOOO Door. Update the guide annually.



# PLAN:

**PLAN Legend:** Complete Communities CoH CIP 2019-2023







TIMEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)	of registered voters will vote in the 2024 election (In 2016, 55% of registered voters cast a ballot)	Community: FBH NST City: DON Community Connector: Area HOAs	Organize, Implement Assist Organize, Implement	Goal 1 Action 4
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: DON, HPL Community Connectors: : LWVH, Fort Bend County Clerk, Area Churches, Schools, and Civic Organizations	Organize, Implement Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 1 Action 4
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: DON Community Connectors: LISC Houston, FBISD, Area HOAs	Organize, Implement Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 1 Action 4
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST, Area High Schools City: DON, MOE Community Connectors: Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club, Volunteer Houston, KHB, Area Faith-Based Organization Youth Groups	Organize, Implement Assist Organize, Implement	Goal 1 Action 4
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	Annual event will be organized and hosted by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: DON, HPD, District K Community Connectors: NNO, Area Schools, Churches, and Civic Organizations, MOCA	Organize, Implement Assist Support, Organize, Implement	Goal 12 Action 40
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HHD, DON, MOHI, MOPD, MOVA Community Connectors: FBH SNC	Advocate Assist Assist	Goal 12 Action 40
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)	Inventory of existing community services and programs completed by	Community: FBH NST City: District K, DON Community Connectors: Area Civic Organizations, FBH SNC	Organize, Implement Assist, Implement Assist	Goal 4 Action 12
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)	2025	Community: FBH NST City: District K Community Connectors: Area Civic Organizations, FBC	Organize, Implement Outreach, Assist Assist	Goal 1 Action 4

# **ECONOMY** and **JOBS**

#### Introduction

Fort Bend Houston developed primarily as a residential community. As a result, many residents commute outside of the neighborhood for work. Over the last several decades economic development has been centered around large warehousing, particularly along Fondren Road, which is having a negative impact on area subdivisions. There has also been limited investment in new retail services and amenities.

COVID-19 will undoubtedly continue to disrupt employment and consumer spending for the foreseeable future. Yet, engaging community leaders and partners in shaping new development is critical for a complete community. This includes creating partnerships to identify economic development incentives, such as those related to Opportunity Zones or Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones, that will spark new investment and create a more resilient local economy.

#### **Economy and Jobs Goals**

The three goals for economy and jobs in Fort Bend Houston focus on expanding and diversifying economic development, strengthening the local economy through the support of locally owned small businesses, and providing residents with comprehensive workforce development programming. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The economy and jobs goals are:

## **Diverse Economic Development**

In 2017, the annual household expenditure in Fort Bend Houston was \$58,000, which is equal to household expenditures in Houston overall. Yet, there has been little new retail or commercial development in the neighborhood over the last several decades. Establishing a Fort Bend Houston development task force comprised of elected officials, government agencies, stakeholders, and developers to create guidelines and a plan for new development, including identifying incentives and other subsidies, will spark new investment in the neighborhood that is shaped by community priorities. In addition, supporting proposed projects, such as the Edison Arts Complex, will spark additional investment and redevelopment in the community.

# **Strong Local Economy**

In 2017, 29% of all jobs in Fort Bend Houston were at businesses with fewer than 20 employees. In Houston



29%

Of jobs in Fort Bend Houston were at businesses with fewer than 20 employees in 2017

12%

Of jobs in Houston were at businesses with fewer than 20 employees in 2017

Data Source: 2017 LEHD

A **complete community** is a **thriving community** with a diversity of retail and amenities, strong local businesses, and workforce development opportunities

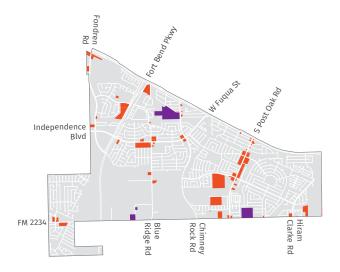
overall, only 12% of jobs were at small firms. Local businesses are important economic engines, providing opportunities for people to shop close to home and income for business owners and employees. Providing resources, support, and counseling to area small business owners will improve their opportunities for success, while also nurturing new businesses. Locally owned small businesses promote economic and community development by increasing family income, wealth, and neighborhood stability.

# **Comprehensive Workforce Development**

Beyond sparking new economic development and supporting locally owned small businesses, it is critical that individual residents have the skills necessary to secure well-paying jobs in growing sectors of the economy. This goal will be achieved by establishing a Career and Life Skills Training Center to provide financial literacy courses, life skills, vocational training, and career development programs. It is proposed that the Training Center be located at Willowridge High School, and be implemented through a partnership between Fort Bend ISD, Houston Community College, Workforce Solutions, and others.

# **Early Successes**

The Edison Arts Complex, which is proposed to include a performing arts center, new housing, a festival park, Pre-K center, new retail spaces, restaurants, Constable's Office, health care services, community after school program, business incubator, and other potential programs has received \$5 million from the Housing and Community Development Department to support the public facilities and the retail component of the project and \$8 million in tax credits for the housing component.





Commercial
Industrial



# **Map of Grocery Stores and Opportunity Zones**

- Grocery Store
- Small Market
- Opportunity Zones

# 2 ECONOMY and JOBS

# GOAL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES

# **PRIORITY**

### 2.1.1 Establish a Fort Bend Houston Development Task Force and Plan

ACTION STEPS: Establish a Fort Bend Houston development task force comprised of elected officials, government agencies, stakeholders, and developers, to create guidelines and a plan for new development, including commercial, industrial, and large-scale warehousing. The plan should also identify priorities and incentives for commercial and retail investment, such as a technology or business center, support for locally owned businesses, and redevelopment of area retail space.



# 2.1 Diverse Economic Development

2.1.2 Advocate for a diversity of new retail and commercial development

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for new commercial development, including a high-quality grocery store, restaurants, and banking services. Identify incentives to attract new development such as 380 agreements, 381 GLO Texas Back in Business resources, Opportunity Zones, and economic development funds such as state enterprise projects and new market tax credits.



## 2.1.3 Advocate for the Edison Arts Complex

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the completion of the Edison Arts project which is proposed to include a performing arts center, new housing, a festival park, Pre-K center, new retail spaces, restaurants, Constable's Office, health care services, community after school program, business incubator, and other potential programs.



# **PLAN:**



### 2.2.1 Support and expand locally owned small businesses

ACTION STEPS: The Office of Business Opportunity to develop outreach materials and host community-based workshops promoting the programs and services available through the Solutions Center, including business development resources, legal counseling, minority and women-owned business certification workshops, and information on Hire Houston First policies.



#### PLAN:

**Strong Local** 

**Economy** 

2.2



# 2.3.1 Develop a Career and Life Skills Training Center

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the development of a career and life skills training center in the community, to provide financial literacy courses, life skills, vocational training, and career development. Explore the potential of locating the center at Willowridge High School in partnership with Fort Bend ISD, HCC, Workforce Solutions, and others.



#### **PLAN:**

2.3



Comprehensive

Development

Workforce

## **PLAN Legend:**









**RESILIENT TIMEFRAME METRICS** COORDINATION **ROLE HOUSTON Community: FBH NST** Organize, Implement City: MOED, PDD, District K Assist Short Community Connectors: TIRZ #25, Implement Goal 4 Area HOAs, Area Property Owners, Action 12 (0 - 2 yrs)Area Business Owners, Area Developers **Community: FBH NST** Advocate, Assist Long City: MOED, District K Assist, Implement Goal 4 Community Connectors: TIRZ #25, Action 13 (5 + yrs)Advocate, Assist business loans by 2025 OBO, FBH SNC (In 2017, there were \$6.6 million in small business loans) Community: FBH NST Advocate Short City: MOED, HCDD, District K Assist, Implement Goal 5 Community Connectors: George E. Assist, Implement Action 14 (0 - 2 yrs)Johnson Development, TIRZ #25 **Community: FBH NST** Organize, Outreach City: MOED, OBO Assist, Organize, Short Goal 2 Outreach, Implement Of area iobs will be Action 6 (0 - 2 yrs)Community Connectors: TIRZ #25, Assist at small businesses Area Small Business Owners with fewer than 20 employees by 2025 Community: FBH NST Advocate City: MOED, HPL, MOE **Assist** Medium Goal 2 Community Connectors: FBISD, Assist, Implement Action 5 (3 - 5 yrs)Career and Life Skills HCC, Area Employers, SER Jobs, Training Center will be Gulf Coast Workforce Board, HFEC developed by 2025

In 2018, 78% of Houstonians over 25 years old had a HS 4,478 College Grads (20%) diploma or equivalent 18,466 HS Graduate (81%) **Fort Bend Education** 7,443 Some College (33%) 22,911 Over 25 Years (2018) In 2018, 24% of ,445 No HS Diploma (19%) Houstonians had some college and 32% were college grads

# **EDUCATION**

#### Introduction

The Fort Bend Houston Complete Community is served by the Fort Bend Independent School District. The area has six public schools: Briargate Elementary School, Ridgegate Elementary School, Ridgemont Elementary School, Blueridge Elementary School, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, and Willowridge High School.

In 2018, 81% of Fort Bend Houston residents over the age of 25 years had a high school diploma or equivalent, slightly higher than the 78% in Houston overall. Yet, in the same year, only 20% of Fort Bend Houston residents had completed college, compared to 32% in Houston.

High quality educational opportunities that are available to people of all ages create a Complete Community.

## **Education Goals**

The three education goals established for the Fort Bend Houston community were developed from existing plans as well as a series of community meetings. The goals focus on engaging parents as student advocates, strengthening neighborhood

schools, and providing students with the support needed for academic success. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The education goals are:

# **Engaged Parent Advocates**

Ensuring that students and parents have the information and tools necessary to succeed is a collaborative project. A key goal is to ensure parents are able to be their child's best advocate. To achieve this goal a partnership will be formed with the Fort Bend Independent School District to provide leadership training to both students and parents. The objective is to ensure that parents, students, and schools are working together for success. In addition, a multi-lingual school and parent resource guide will be developed to help inform area parents of the educational resources available to children of all ages, from early childhood education to career and college readiness programs.

#### **Strong Schools**

The percent of high school graduates over the age of 25 years in Fort Bend Houston was very high in 2018. Yet, the four-year graduation rate at Willowridge High School, which serves the community, was much lower



**84%** Willowridge High School four-year graduation rate, 2018-2019

Fort Bend ISD four-year graduation rate. 2018-2019

Data Source: Texas Education Agency, 2018-2019 Data

A **complete community** is a **learning community** with engaged parents, high quality schools, and thriving students

than in the Fort Bend Independent School District (ISD) overall in the 2018-2019 academic year, 84% compared to 96%. Finally, while the Fort Bend ISD has an accountability rating of "B" from the Texas Education Agency, Willowridge High School has a rating of "C".

To strengthen area schools and address disparities a Fort Bend Houston Education Coalition will be created to strengthen partnerships between parents, students, teachers, school administrators, local businesses, and community leaders. The coalition will support the success of area schools, including advocating for equitable school funding, strong parent-teacher organizations, volunteer and service programs, scholarships, and student support.

# **Thriving Students**

Ensuring that students have access to the programming, resources, and support necessary to succeed is a key component to creating a complete community. In 2018-2019, the Texas Education Agency identified 69% of Willowridge High School students as at-risk of dropping out of school. In the same academic year 40% of all high school students in Fort Bend ISD were identified as at-risk of dropping out. At Willowridge High School 77% of students are enrolled in Career or Technical programs, much higher than the 25% in Fort Bend ISD.

To ensure thriving students employment and internship opportunities will be developed, out of school enrichment and education programs expanded, and partnerships to promote and increase vocational, career, and college prep improved. In addition, ensuring safe and supportive environments at area schools, including minimizing youth violence and bullying programs is a priority. The objective is to increase the four-year graduation rate at Willowridge High School from 84% in 2018-2019 to 90% by 2025.



# **Map of Area Schools**

**Public Schools** 

- Briargate Elementary School
- 2 Ridgegate Elementary School
- Ridgemont Elementary School
- 4 Christa McAuliffe Middle School
- Willowridge High School
- 6 Blue Ridge Elementary
- Blue Ridge Library

69%

Of Willowridge HS students identified as being at risk of dropping out of school based on state-defined criteria

40%

Of Fort Bend ISD students identified as being at risk of dropping out of school based on state-defined criteria

Data Source: Texas Education Agency, 2018-2019 Data

# **3 EDUCATION**

#### **GOAL** PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES

**PRIORITY** 

# 3.1.1. Provide leadership training to area parents and students

ACTION STEPS: Partner with Fort Bend ISD to provide parent and student leadership training, to ensure that children and parents are working together for success.



3.1

# Engaged **Parent Advocates**

### 3.1.2 Develop a School and Parent Resource Guide

ACTION STEPS: Develop a multi-lingual school and parent resource guide to help inform area parents of the educational resources available to children of all ages, from early childhood education to career and college readiness programs, and to encourage parent engagement in area schools. Promote the guide through newsletters, emails, physical mailers, social media, and texts.



### **PLAN:**



# 3.2.1 Create a Fort Bend Houston Education Coalition to advocate for high quality and equitable schools

ACTION STEPS: Establish a Fort Bend Houston Education Coalition to strengthen partnerships between parents, students, teachers, school administrators, local businesses, and community leaders to support the success of area schools, including advocating for equitable school funding, strong parent-teacher organizations, volunteer and service programs, scholarships, and student support.



# **Strong Schools**





# 3.3.1 Connect students to professional opportunities

ACTION STEPS: Connect students to employment and internship opportunities. Facilitate the creation of new internship opportunities through partnerships with area businesses and industries.



#### 3.3.2 Expand out of school enrichment and education programs

ACTION STEPS: Expand out of school enrichment programs for students, including tutoring, mentoring, SAT prep, scholarship and internship application workshops, and financial literacy courses.



# 3.3 **Thriving Students**

# 3.3.3 Create inclusive and supportive environments at area schools

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for teacher and administration training and strategies to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all students at area schools, including minimizing youth violence and bullying.



# 3.3.4 Promote and expand career, vocational, and college level opportunities for students

ACTION STEPS: Increase partnerships to promote and expand vocational, career,



# **PLAN:**



and college prep programs in area schools. Connect students to the resources ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ available at James Reese Career and Technical Center.



## **PLAN Legend:**









TIMEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	School and parent resource guide created by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: MOE Community Connectors: FBISD, LISC Houston, HAUL	Organize Assist Assist, Implement	
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: MOE Community Connectors: FBISD	Organize Assist Implement	
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)	Fort Bend Houston Education Coalitions created by 2025	Community: FBH NST  City: MOE Community Connectors: FBH SNC, FBISD, Area Civic Organizations	Organize, Outreach, Implement Assist Assist	
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)	90% Four-year graduation rate by 2025 (In 2018-2019 the four- year graduation rate at Willowridge High School was 84%, compared to 96% in Fort Bend ISD overall)	Community: FBH NST City: MOE Community Connectors: Area Businesses, Hire Houston Youth	Organize, Outreach Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 2 Action 7
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: MOE, HPL Community Connectors: FBISD, Out2Learn, Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club, HFEC	Advocate Assist Implement	Goal 2 Action 7
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPD, HHD Community Connectors: FBISD	Advocate Assist Implement	
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: MOE Community Connectors: James Reese Career and Technical School, HCC, FBISD	Advocate, Organize Assist Implement	Goal 2 Action 7

# **ENVIRONMENT** AND HEALTH

## Introduction

A complete community is a healthy community. In 2018, 82% of Fort Bend Houston residents had health insurance coverage, higher than the 77% in Houston overall. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation average life expectancy in Fort Bend Houston is 78 years, just slightly lower than the average life expectancy of 80 years in Harris County. Understanding the relationship between where people live and their health is increasingly necessary to create complete communities.

Fort Bend Houston has a number of hazardous land uses that have impacted the quality of the environment and the ability to attract economic development to the neighborhood. This includes the Blue Ridge Landfill, operated by Republic Services, and located just outside of the neighborhood to the south, and large tracts of land being used for resource mining. The result is broad based concern in regards to the quality of the air, water, and soil.

#### **Environment and Health Goals**

The three goals developed for the environment and health focus area were developed from existing plans as well as a series of community meetings. The goals

focus on creating a clean and healthy environment, increasing environmental awareness, and encouraging healthy living for area residents. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The environment and health goals are:

# **Clean and Healthy Environment**

Fort Bend Houston faces a number of environmental challenges created by industrial and hazardous land uses in and adjacent to the neighborhood. As a result, projects focus on monitoring air quality hazards in cooperation with the Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood Council and advocating for a "push" notification system to keep residents informed. In addition, a water quality testing program will be implemented and development restrictions for properties with soil contamination will be strengthened. The objective is to install two air quality monitors by 2025.

#### Increased Environmental Awareness

The Fort Bend Houston community has taken bold steps towards addressing the neighborhood's environmental challenges. Developing an Environmental Awareness Advocacy Coalition,



Of Fort Bend Houston residents had health insurance in 2018

Of Houston residents had health insurance in 2018

Data Source: 2018 ACS (5-yr)

A complete community is a healthy community that is free from environmental hazards, supports active living, and has access to high quality healthcare

comprised of both stakeholders and experts, will support these efforts and create a body to advocate for policies and programs that protect the environment. In addition, organizing local environmental tours to increase awareness of the challenges and the solutions will build momentum for action. Finally, increasing environmental hazard preparedness through the creation of an "environmental awareness toolbox" and standardized notification system for area households will ensure that all residents are able to remain safe and healthy in the face of a hazardous release or other emergency.

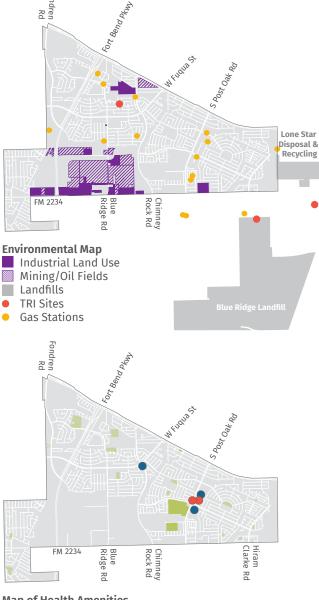
# **Healthy People**

In 2018, Fort Bend Houston residents were more likely to have health insurance than those in Houston overall. Yet, Fort Bend Houston has limited access to quality medical care and services. Improving access to healthcare services through the establishment of new urgent care, dental care, and mental health services and developing a healthy living campaign are two ways to support the health goal. Additionally, organizing block-walking events and neighborhood surveys to identify and prioritize critical health issues facing residents, particularly respiratory illnesses, will provide guidance on the needs in Fort Bend Houston.

Life expectancy in years for Fort Bend Houston residents in 2018

Life expectancy in years for Harris County residents in 2018

Data Source: U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP) 2018, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems



## **Map of Health Amenities**

- Clinics
- **Pharmacies**

# **4 ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH**

# **GOAL** PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES **PRIORITY** 4.1.1 Monitor air quality hazards and keep people informed ACTION STEPS: Install stationary air quality monitors in the neighborhood, focusing on areas adjacent to mining sites, landfills, concrete batch facilities, recycling centers, highways, and schools. Advocate for real-time air quality alert systems that provide "push" notifications to residents when air quality conditions are unsafe. 4.1 4.1.2 Provide water quality testing Clean and ACTION STEPS: Create a water quality testing program for all existing buildings and Healthy enforce mandatory testing for all new developments. Monitor water quality in the **Environment** Chasewood Drive area. Partner with District K for a tour of water plant. 4.1.3 Strengthen development restrictions for properties with soil contamination ACTION STEPS: Inventory prior land uses in the neighborhood, including oil **PLAN:** fields, industrial sites, and gas stations, to identify areas with potential soil contamination and regulate development on the sites. 4.2.1 Increase environmental hazard preparedness ACTION STEPS: Create an "Environmental Awareness Toolbox" for area families detailing how to shelter in place and use the 311 reporting system. Provide a system to notify residents in real-time in the case of hazardous releases or other environmental emergency. 4.2 4.2.2 Develop an Environmental Awareness Advocacy Coalition Increased ACTION STEPS: Create a community-based environmental awareness coalition **Environmental** to advocate for policies and programs that improve the health and safety of the **Awareness** environment in Fort Bend Houston. **4.2.3 Organize Environmental Tours** ACTION STEPS: Organize and host environmental tours of Fort Bend Houston to strengthen awareness of environmental hazards and environmental injustices, **PLAN:** ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ and advocate for stronger environmental policies and regulations. 4.3.1 Improve access to healthcare services ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the expansion and access to healthcare in the community, including general and urgent care, dental and mental health services. Promote the Mental Health Resource Guide developed by District K. 4.3.2 Campaign for healthy living 4.3 ACTION STEPS: Develop a community-wide campaign to identify priorities to Healthy improve healthy living, including advocating for healthier food options at stores **People** and restaurants, installing exercise equipment at area parks, and other projects. 4.3.3 Identify and address critical health issues ACTION STEPS: Organize block-walking events and neighborhood surveys to

# **PLAN Legend:**

**PLAN:** 

Complete CommunitiesCoH CIP 2019-2023

• OOOOOO illnesses.

Houston Bike Plan (2017)

METRO Next Plan

HPARD Master Plan (2015)FBH SN41 Strategic Plan

identify and prioritize critical health issues facing residents, including respiratory

Climate Action PlanHiram Clark/Ft Bend TIRZ #25

TII	MEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
(	<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)	Air quality monitors installed by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HHD, District K, HFD, HPD, OEM Community Connectors: AAH, TCEQ, FBC	Advocate, Implement Advocate, Implement Advocate, Implement	Goal 6 Action 20
(	Short 0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HHD, District K, MOR, HPW Community Connectors: TCEQ	Advocate Assist, Implement Assist, Implement	Goal 8 Action 26
	<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HHD, PDD, MOR Community Connectors: TCEQ	Advocate Assist Implement	Goal 6 Action 20
(	<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)	Annual environmental tour provided	Community: FBH NST City: HHD, OEM, MOPSHS Community Connectors: Area Industries, TCEQ, AAH	Organize, Implement Assist Assist	Goal 6 Action 20 Goal 17 Action 53
(	<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: ARA, MOR, HHD Community Connectors: Area HOA's, Churches, Schools, and Civic Organizations, AAH	Organize, Advocate Assist Implement, Assist	Goal 6 Action 20
(	<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HHD, District K, ARA Community Connectors: Area Businesses, AAH, TCEQ	Organize, Implement Assist Assist	Goal 6 Action 20
	<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)	Outdoor gym installed by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HHD, MOED, District K Community Connectors: TMC, Legacy Clinic, MD Anderson, BCM	Advocate Advocate Implement	Goal 3 Action 10
	<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST  City: HHD, HPARD, District K  Community Connectors: Area  Stores and Restaurants	Outreach, Organize, Advocate Assist, Implement Assist	Goal 6 Action 18 Action 19
	<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HHD Community Connectors: Area Churches, Schools, and Civic Organizations	Organize, Implement Assist Assist	Goal 3 Action 9

# MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Introduction

A complete community is connected to opportunity through transit, walkable streets, and quality infrastructure. High quality streets and sidewalks increase walkability, connectivity, and spark new development.

The Fort Bend Houston neighborhood is served by four METRO bus routes. The 170 Missouri City Express and 171 Fort Bend Town Center are high frequency routes running every 15 minutes, while the 49 Chimney Rock / S. Post Oak and 98 Briargate are mid-frequency routes running every 30 minutes.

Although the neighborhood is fairly well-served by transit, less than 2% of Fort Bend Houston residents over the age of 16 years rode public transit to work in 2018. Transit ridership correlates with the fact that in the same year only 2% of households did not have

a vehicle, significantly lower than the 9% in Houston

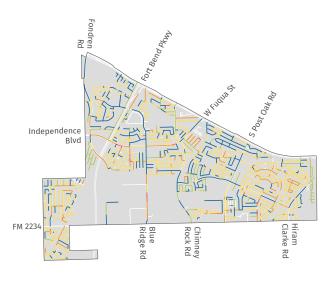
## **Mobility and Infrastructure Goals**

The four mobility and infrastructure goals were developed from existing Fort Bend Houston plans as well as a series of community meetings. The goals focus on completing an accessible sidewalk network, improving local streets, maintaining area drainage, and ensuring that public transit is adequately serving all neighborhood users. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The mobility and infrastructure goals are:

# **Complete and Accessible Sidewalk Network**

Fort Bend Houston, as compared to other complete communities, has a well-developed sidewalk network. Specifically, 69% of area streets are served by sidewalks. Constructing new sidewalks, repairing





# Pavement Conditions Map Good Fair Very poor Satisfactory Poor

# A **complete community** is a **connected** community with high quality infrastructure and transit

existing sidewalks, evaluating area crosswalks, and completing accessibility improvements for people with disabilities, particularly in areas adjacent to schools, parks, shopping areas, and transit corridors will improve mobility and connectivity.

#### **Great Streets**

Improving local streets encourages economic development, increases property values, and improves mobility and connectivity within a community. Fort Bend Houston has over 110 miles of streets. According to the pavement conditions analysis provided by Houston Public Works, 13% of area streets, or 14 miles, are in poor or very poor condition. Currently, there are four miles of street improvements being implemented through the Capital Improvement program, which include repairs to Fondren Road, Blue Ridge Road, W. Fuqua Street, and S. Post Oak Road. Community members identified the need for additional street

repairs and improvements, including streetscaping, such as signage, street trees, art, landscaping, benches, and other pedestrian amenities along major corridor. In addition, an outreach campaign will be established to encourage residents to report pot holes or poor street conditions to 311 and street light outages to CenterPoint. Finally, a project to explore the use of traffic calming devices to reduce speeds and ensure pedestrian safety, particularly in areas adjacent to schools and parks, was also identified. A well-maintained local street network supports a complete community.



#### **Street Improvement Projects and CIP Map**

- Proposed Street Improvement
- CIP Street Project



# **Map of Existing and Proposed Sidewalks**

Sidewalk

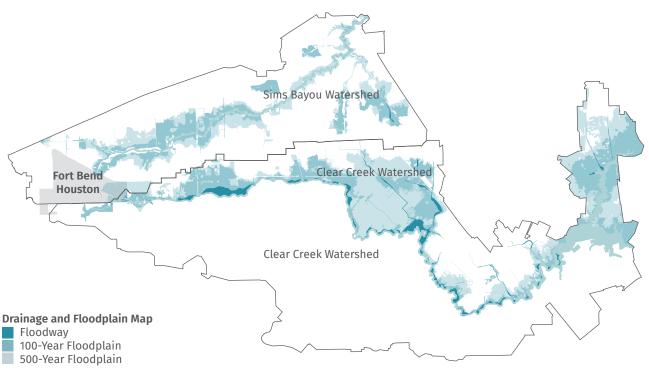
- CIP Sidewalk Project
- Proposed Sidewalk Improvement

# **Flood Resilient Community**

The majority of Fort Bend Houston homes and properties are located outside of mapped floodplains. The area most vulnerable to flooding is the southeast corner of the neighborhood adjacent to the Clear Creek watershed. Improving flood resilience by advocating for the design and implementation of flood mitigation strategies in the Clear Creek watershed, including near the Quail Bridge subdivision, can reduce flood risks in this area and protect property owners. In addition, advocating for improved storm drainage and the maintenance of area ditches and tributaries will reduce localized flooding in area neighborhoods. Protecting properties from flooding is key to a complete community.

# **Mobile and Connected Community**

The Fort Bend Houston neighborhood is served by four METRO bus routes, of which two are high frequency running every 15 minutes and two are mid-frequency running every 30 minutes. While, presently very few workers utilize transit for their daily commutes, improving area transit services could change this fact. To enhance transit, mobility, and connectivity in the neighborhood improvements to the existing bus network should be explored, including increasing bus frequency and exploring options to utilize smaller buses on neighborhood routes. In addition, a METRO community connector route that provides transit services for Willowridge High School students and the planned new housing along Chimney

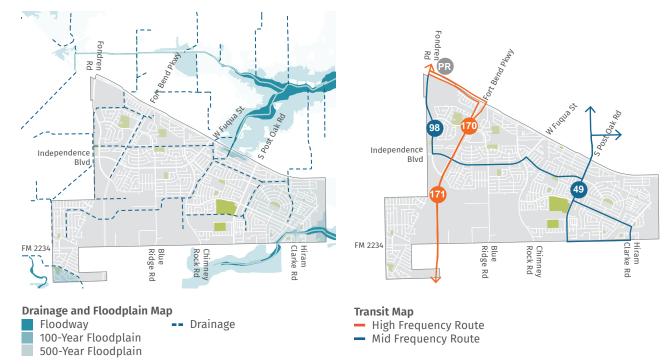


Rock will improve mobility. Improvements to the public transit system at a regional scale should also be explored, including the potential development of a Fort Bend Houston Park and Ride.

The quality of area bus stops also impact transit ridership. In Fort Bend Houston only 13% of area bus stops, or 7 of the 55 stops, have shelters. Advocating for better maintenance at area bus stops and the provision of amenities such as shelters and benches will encourage more residents to ride public transit in Fort Bend Houston.

#### **Early Successes**

METRO is planning a number of projects that will benefit Fort Bend Houston transit riders. First, the agency is planning for a new Missouri City Park and Ride facility that will serve Fort Bend Houston and also has plans for a "Regional Express Service" that would utilize the Fort Bend Parkway Toll Road and connect to the Texas Medical Center. In addition, a METRO Bus Rapid Transit corridor has been identified for Beltway 8 on the west side of Houston and traveling from Highway 290 to US 90, and a BOOST corridor on the existing Gessner Route #63 beginning at the Missouri City Park and Ride and traveling north to Little York.



# **5 MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### GOAL

#### PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES

#### **PRIORITY**

### 5.1

Complete and Accessible Network

#### **PLAN:**





ACTION STEPS: Identify and advocate for new sidewalks, sidewalk repair, crosswalks, and accessibility improvements for people with disabilities, particularly in areas adjacent to schools, parks, bus stops, and underpasses. Priority streets for inventory include Court Rd, Porter Ridge Dr, E. Ridge Creek Dr, W. Ridgecreek Dr, McCullen Rd, South Post Oak from Beltway 8 to Court Rd, Canaridge Dr, Willowridge HS area, Hillcroft, Fondren, Hiram Clarke, and FM 2234.



### 5.2.1 Repair and maintain area streets

ACTION STEPS: Prioritize streets in need of repair and maintenance and encourage residents to report potholes to 311. Priority streets include W Ridgecreek Dr, Briargate Dr, Chasewood Dr, Fondren Rd, Court Rd, Blueridge Rd, S Post Oak, Hillcroft Ave, Hiram Clark Rd, Chimney Rock Rd, Anderson Rd, and streets in the Mayfair Park and Briargate subdivisions.



#### 5.2 Great Streets

#### 5.2.2 Enhance streetscaping

ACTION STEPS: Identify and prioritize streets where investment in streetscaping is needed, including signage, street trees, art, landscaping, benches, and other pedestrian amenities, prioritize W. Fuqua Street, Fondren, S. Post Oak, and Hillcroft.



#### 5.2.3 Implement traffic calming

ACTION STEPS: Identify and prioritize subdivision streets where traffic calming is needed to reduce speeds and ensure pedestrian safety (identified priorities include Briargate Drive and Chase Creek). Investigate the need for a traffic signal at the western intersection of Hillcroft and Carey Case Dr.



#### **PLAN:**





ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the design and implementation of additional flood mitigation strategies in the Clear Creek watershed, including near the Quail Bridge subdivision and the proposed Hiram Clarke Project Plan which includes the design and construction of new storm water utility systems, detention basins and other improvements.



### 5.3 Flood Resilient Community

#### 5.3.2 Maintain and repair neighborhood drainage and ditches

ACTION STEPS: Maintain area ditches and drains to reduce flood risks. Identify areas for drainage improvements such as along Fort Bend Parkway, W Fuqua St, Fondren, Griffin, Willow St, and Hillcroft at Beltway 8, and in the Mayfair Park neighborhood. Install additional storm drains on Blueridge Rd.



#### **PLAN:**



#### **PLAN Legend:**

Complete CommunitiesCoH CIP 2019-2023







TIMEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
<b>Medium</b> (0 - 2 yrs)	Miles of improved or new sidewalks completed by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HPW, MOPD Community Connectors: FBC Pct 2, METRO UAP, TIRZ #25	Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 3 Action 8, 11 Goal 15 Action 50
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)	Miles of improved streets completed by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HPW Community Connectors: TxDOT, FBC	Advocate Assist, Implement Assist, Implement	Goal 11 Action 35 Goal 3 Action 8
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPW Community Connectors: District K, Trees for Houston, TIRZ #25, MOCA	Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 11 Action 35
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPW, District K Community Connectors: Area HOAs	Advocate Assist, Implement Advocate	Goal 11 Action 35 Goal 3 Action 8
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)	Study of Clear Creek watershed completed by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HPW, Mayor's Office of Recovery Community Connectors: FBCDD, HCFCD	Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 8 Action 25
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPW, Mayor's Office of Recovery Community Connectors: Keep Houston Beautiful, Adopt-a-Ditch Program, FBC	Organize, Advocate Assist, Implement Assist, Implement	Goal 11 Action 34 Goal 10 Action 33

# **5 MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE**

### GOAL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES

#### 5.4.1 Improve local transit

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for expansion and improvements to the existing bus network, including increasing bus frequency and exploring options to utilize smaller buses on neighborhood routes. Explore a METRO community connector to provide transit service to Willowridge High School students and the planned new housing along Chimney Rock and connecting to METRO Route 98 on W. Fuqua.

**PRIORITY** 

### 5.4 Mobile and Connected Community

#### 5.4.2 Maintain area bus stops and provide amenities

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for increased maintenance of area bus stops, including trash collection. Explore "Smart Trash Cans" for the area. Focus maintenance at S. Post Oak and Westridge Creek Route 49. Install bus shelters or benches on Hiram Clarke and Court Road where the right-of-way is adequate and along the W. Fuqua route near Fondren and Chasewood.



#### 5.4.3 Expand regional transit

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for expanded commuter transit that connects Fort Bend Houston to major destinations and employment centers, including the development of a Fort Bend Houston Park and Ride facility.



#### **PLAN:**







TIMEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: METRO Community Connectors: LINK Houston	Advocate Assist, Implement Advocate	Goal 15 Action 48
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	Area bus stops will have shelters by 2025 (In 2020, 7 bus stops had shelters)	Community: FBH NST City: METRO Community Connectors: LINK Houston	Advocate Implement Advocate	Goal 11 Action 35
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: METRO Community Connectors: FBC, LINK Houston	Advocate Assist, Implement Assist, Implement	Goal 7 Action 23

In 2018, 11% of all housing units in Houston were vacant **Fort Bend Houston Housing** 

11,376 Occupied (96%)

405 Vacant (3%)

7,775 Owners (68%)

3,592 Renters (32%)

In 2018, 57% of units were renter occupied in Houston

1,677 Cost Burdened (22%)

In 2018, 22% of owners and 48% of renters in Houston spent more than 30% of their income on housing

2,091 Cost Burdened (58%)

# **NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER and HOUSING**

#### Introduction

11,772 Housing Units (2018)

Fort Bend Houston is a community of singlefamily homes. In 2018, 97% of housing units in the neighborhood were single-family, compared to 50% in Houston overall. Home ownership in the neighborhood was also high in 2018, with 68% of all households owning their home, compared to 43% in Houston. However, the percent of households owning their own home has steadily declined since 2000, when 81% of households were homeowners.

High housing costs are a challenge for many families in Houston, and the Fort Bend Houston neighborhood is no different. In 2018, 22% of homeowners and 58% of renters spent more than 30% of their income on housing. The percent of renters burdened with high housing costs was higher in Fort Bend Houston than in the city overall in 2018.

#### **Neighborhood Character and Housing Goals**

The four neighborhood character and housing goals focus on beautifying the neighborhood, activating area Home Owners Associations, developing new housing, and expanding resources for singlefamily home repair and maintenance. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The neighborhood character and housing goals are:



#### **Expanded Resources for Single-Family Home Repair** and Maintenance

Most of the housing in Fort Bend Houston is over 40 years old, an age at which maintenance and repairs become more critical. In addition, between 2000 and 2018 the number of seniors, over the age of 65 years, in Fort Bend Houston had nearly tripled, rising from 1,120 to 3,732 seniors. While homeownership can protect residents from rising housing costs, owning a single-family home also brings repair and maintenance expenses that can be difficult for those with fixed incomes, including seniors. Expanding the funding and capacity of the City of Houston's home repair program as well as other non-profit home repair programs will ensure that additional households can be served, particularly seniors.

#### Fort Bend Houston Beautiful

The Fort Bend Houston community is committed to preserving the character and beauty of the neighborhood. To achieve this goal, two projects have been identified. The first project is to encourage residents to report illegal dumping to 311 and to develop long term solutions to dumping, such as the installation of cameras at dumping hot spots. The second project is to organize a Fort Bend Houston Beautiful campaign to identify aesthetic improvements in the neighborhood, such as art or



A **complete community** is a **beautiful community** where public and private spaces and buildings are well-maintained

landscaping, to provide information to residents on reporting issues such as overgrown lots and understanding existing city and Home Owners Association regulations and deed restrictions, and developing coalitions to adopt area streets or parks for maintenance and landscaping.

#### **Active Home Owners Associations**

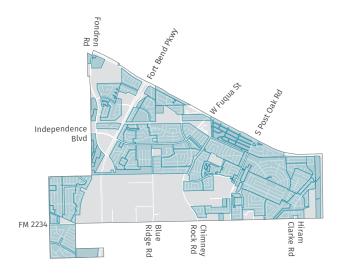
Fort Bend Houston, a neighborhood of single-family developments, has many active Home Owners Associations and much of the area is protected by deed restrictions. Ensuring that the board members of area Home Owners Associations have the information necessary to continue to enforce and maintain deed restrictions will help to protect the character of the neighborhood into the future. The focus is on providing leadership training, grant writing, and information on legal and technical assistance programs to ensure board members have the necessary tools to lead their civic organizations.

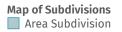
#### **New Housing**

Fort Bend Houston is fully developed and there are very few large parcels for new housing development. Yet, creating a strategic program to incentivize the development of single-family housing on vacant infill lots, within existing subdivisions, will allow the neighborhood to continue to grow and prosper.

2 311 calls to report illegal dumping per 1,000 Fort Bend Houston Residents in 2018

311 calls to report illegal dumping per 1,000 Houston Residents in 2018







Illegal Dumping Map
Low High

Data Source: 2018 City of Houston 311 Dashboard

# **6 NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER**

GOAL	PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES	PRIORITY
6.1 Expanded Resources for Single-Family Home Repair and Maintenance PLAN:	6.1.1 Assess single-family housing conditions and target resources for repair assistance and affordable home improvement loans  ACTION STEPS: Inventory and assess single-family housing conditions across the neighborhood. Advocate for expanding the capacity and funding for citywide home repair programs that assist the elderly, disabled, or other vulnerable residents to maintain, and/or make accessibility and efficiency improvements to their homes, including roofs and foundations. Develop an outreach campaign to assist eligible homeowners in applying for the home repair program and identifying affordable home improvement loans.	
6.2 Fort Bend	<b>6.2.1 Minimize Illegal Dumping</b> ACTION STEPS: Develop an outreach campaign to encourage residents to report illegal dumping to 311, use multiple outreach platforms such as water bills, social and other media. Advocate for the development of long-term solutions to illegal dumping, including the installation of cameras at dumping hotspots. Target areas include the southern section of Blueridge Road and Fort Bend Parkway.	
Houston Beautiful  PLAN:	<b>6.2.2 Develop a Fort Bend Houston Beautiful Campaign</b> ACTION STEPS: Develop materials and promote a "Fort Bend Houston Beautiful" campaign to identify aesthetic improvements, such as art or landscaping and to provide information on reporting issues such as overgrown lots, existing HOA and city regulations and deed restrictions, and adopting area streets or parks for maintenance and landscaping.	
6.3 Active Home Owner Associations PLAN:	<b>6.3.1 Provide training to Home Owners Association (HOA) board members</b> ACTION STEPS: Organize and provide regular leadership training and workshop sessions to HOA board members, including grant writing, bylaws, meeting rules, 501(c)3 status, and deed restriction and city ordinance enforcement strategies.	
6.4 New Housing PLAN:	<b>6.4.1 Develop a single-family housing infill program</b> ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the development of new single-family housing on infill lots across the neighborhood.	
PLAN Legend: Complete Commun CoH CIP 2019-2023	ities Houston Bike Plan (2017) HPARD Master Plan (2015) Climate Action  METRO Next Plan FBH SN41 Strategic Plan Hiram Clark/Ft	

**RESILIENT TIMEFRAME METRICS** COORDINATION **ROLE HOUSTON** Community: FBH NST Organize, Advocate City: HCDD, District K Advocate, Assist Short Goal 1 **Community Connectors:** Assist, Implement Action 2 (0 - 2 yrs)FBC, Frost Bank, Area Banks, Homes repaired Rebuilding Together Houston by 2025 Community: FBH NST Organize, Ourtreach City: DON, SWD, COH Illegal Assist, Outrech, Short Dumping Task Force (FY 2020), Implement Goal 11 (0 - 2 yrs)District K. HPD Action 37 Community Connectors: Crime Assist, Implement Stoppers, FBC Fort Bend Houston Beautiful Campaign **Community: FBH NST** Organize, Outreach, established by 2025 Implement City: ARA/Houston 311, COH Legal Assist Short Goal 11 Department, HPARD, MOCA (0 - 2 yrs)Action 38 Community Connectors: Area Assist HOAs, Keep Houston Beautiful, Trees for Houston Community: FBH NST Organize, Outreach City: DON, District K, COH Legal Assist, Implement Medium Goal 1 Department Action 4 (3 - 5 yrs)Area civic leaders Community Connectors: Area Organize, Implement receive leadership **HOAs** training by 2025 Community: FBH NST Advocate Long City: HCDD, District K Assist, Implement Goal 4 Community Connectors: Area Assist, Implement Action 13 (5 + yrs)New single-family homes constructed on Developers, HLB vacant lots by 2025

# PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

#### Introduction

Proximity and access to parks improves property values and encourages healthy and active lifestyles. Fort Bend Houston has three public parks: Blueridge Park and Mayfair Park, which are owned by the City of Houston, and South Post Oak Park, which is owned by Fort Bend County. Together, these parks provide residents with 67 acres of public green space. South Post Oak Park is home to the Fort Bend County Boys and Girls Club and Pinnacle Senior Center. The neighborhood is also home to 11 privately owned parks that are part of area subdivisions. Five of these park sites include a clubhouse or community facility.

Overall, the neighborhood has 130 acres of park space, far above the standards recommended by the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The neighborhood is also home to the Stimley-Blue Ridge Neighborhood Library and two SPARK Parks located at Briargate Elementary and Ridgemont Elementary.

#### **Parks and Community Amenities Goals**

The four goals for parks and community amenities focus on improvements and maintenance to existing parks, enhanced programming and community facilities, new parks in underserved areas, and



greenbelts for pedestrians and bicyclists. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The parks and community amenities goals are:

#### **Beautiful Parks**

Fort Bend Houston is well-served by public and private parks. However, community members have identified the need to better maintain and improve existing parks, both public and private. Specific projects are to explore new amenities at Blueridge Park, including community gardens, sport courts, exercise equipment, and a pavilion or performance space. In addition, developing a plan for green space connections and trails to link South Post Oak Park, McAuliffe Middle School, and Willowridge High School will enhance connectivity and expand access to area green spaces.

#### **Great Meeting Places**

In a complete community, residents have access to facilities and programming that improves their daily life. Fort Bend Houston is home to Stimley-Blue Ridge Neighborhood Library, several club houses and community centers managed by area Home Owners Associations, and organizations such as the Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club and Pinnacle Senior Center. Providing additional programming and services at existing community centers, such as the library, while also exploring the potential to develop a centrally located community center or multi-service center will work towards the goal of creating great meeting places.

#### **Expand Neighborhood Parks**

Fort Bend Houston is home to two completed and one planned SPARK Park. The finished parks are located at Briargate and Ridgemont Elementary Schools, and the planned park will be at Blue Ridge Elementary. Advocating for the development of additional SPARK

A **complete community** is a **green community** with a necklace of beautiful parks, a network of trails, and active community centers

Parks at area schools will increase access to green spaces for children. Expanding park spaces can also be achieved by exploring the opportunity to create a new park in the vacant property adjacent to Ridgegate Elementary. The objective is to ensure that all residents are within a ten minute walk of a neighborhood park.

#### **Green and Connected Community**

Developing greenbelt trails to connect area parks, schools, community gathering places, and other public amenities will not only improve access to public green space, but also promote healthy living and expand mobility options for pedestrians and bicyclists. Specific priorities identified through the Complete Communities process are to connect Blueridge and South Post Oak Parks, create a connection between the library and Briargate Elementary School SPARK Park, and utilize easements and right of ways as trail routes to link area subdivisions and gathering places across the community.



#### **Parks and Community Amenities Map**

**Public Parks** 

- 1 Mayfair Park
- 2 Blueridge Park
- 3 South Post Oak Park
- Private (HOA) Parks and Open Spaces
- Schools
- Library
- Private (HOA) Club Houses

#### **Early Successes**

Mayor Sylvester Turner recently announced a new city initiative, 50/50 Park Partners, which challenges 50 companies to join a citywide coalition driving improvements to neighborhood parks. Mayfair Park, in Fort Bend Houston, has been identified for this program. In addition, Blueridge Park improvements are being studied through a partnership between Fort Bend County and the City of Houston.

The new park desert program of SPARK Parks has invested in two new projects in Fort Bend Houston, this includes a park at Briargate Elementary School which was recently completed and a future park at Blue Ridge Elementary School.



# **7 PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES**

### GOAL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES

#### **PRIORITY**

#### 7.1.1 Ensure the proper maintenance of all area parks

ACTION STEPS: Develop strategies to ensure the proper maintenance of area public and private parks and open spaces, for example by organizing "Adopt-a-Park" groups, for HOA owned Mayfair and Briargate Parks.



#### 7.1.2 Improve and program Blueridge Park

ACTION STEPS: Identify and prioritize improvements at Blueridge Park, including expanding the park area used for active recreation, upgrading and expanding the parking lot, pavilion, pond, and playground equipment, providing and exploring the provision of amenities such as restrooms, community gardens, grills, bike racks, tennis courts, basketball court, exercise equipment, pavilion or performance space, skate park, dog park, drinking fountains, adding benches, trees, landscaping, and lighting. Organize and host programs, events, and festivals at the park including arts and music, exercise classes, kayaking, and fishing.



### 7.1 Beautiful Parks

# 7.1.3 Develop a plan for improvements and connections between South Post Oak Park, McAuliffe MS, and Willowridge HS

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for improvements in South Post Oak Park to create a state of the art sports complex, including sports fields, amenities for seniors and families, picnic areas, safe walking trails to connect the park with area schools and neighborhoods, and sidewalks along Hobby Road.



#### **PLAN:**



#### 7.2.1 Expand programming for youth and seniors

ACTION STEPS: Inventory existing youth and senior programs in the neighborhood, including those offered by the Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club and the Pinnacle Senior Center. Identify potential sites, including HOA owned club houses or vacant retail spaces, to provide additional services and programming for youth and seniors.



### 7.2 Great Meeting Places

# **7.2.2 Develop a community center or multi-service center that is centrally located**ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the development of a new community center, including identifying a suitable site, conducting a feasibility study, and seeking

political and financial backing. Potential sites include Court Road, West Fuqua, and Blueridge Road.



#### 7.2.3 Expand programming at Stimley-Blue Ridge Neighborhood Library

ACTION STEPS: Expand programming at the library to include High School Equivalency (HSE) classes and language classes.



#### **PLAN:**



#### **PLAN Legend:**

Complete Communities
CoH CIP 2019-2023







1	ΓIMEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
	Short (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST  City: HPARD Community Connectors: FBCPD, Area HOAs and Businesses, TIRZ #25	Organize, Advocate, Implement Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 6 Action 18
	<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)	Plan for improvements at Blueridge Park completed by 2025	Community: FBH NST  City: HPARD, District K  Community Connectors: Area  Businesses, TIRZ #25, FBC Pct 2	Organize, Advocate, Implement Assist, Implement Assist, Implement	Goal 6 Action 18
	<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)	_	Community: FBH NST City: HPARD Community Connectors: FBCPD, Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club, Pinnacle Senior Center, Willowridge High School, McAuliffe Middle School	Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 6 Action 18
	<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPL Community Connectors: Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club, Pinnacle Senior Center, Area Schools	Organize, Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 3 Action 11
	Long (5 + yrs)	New program available to seniors or youth by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HPARD, HHD Community Connectors: FBC, TIRZ #25	Advocate Assist, Implement Assist	
	<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPL Community Connectors: FBISD	Advocate Implement Assist	

# 7 PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

#### **GOAL** PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES

**PRIORITY** 

### 7.3.1 Improve and expand area SPARK Parks

ACTION STEPS: Advocate for the development and improvement of SPARK Parks in the community, including the SPARK Park at Ridgemont Elementary School.



7.3 **Expand** Neighborhood **Parks** 

#### 7.3.2 Develop a new public park in Ridgegate

ACTION STEPS: Transform the property adjacent to Ridgegate Elementary into a new public park with amenities such as a jogging trail, garden, swing set, and benches. Create an agreement with the City to maintain the park.



#### **PLAN:**

7.4



#### 7.4.1 Create a greenbelt trail and connectivity plan

ACTION STEPS: Create a trail and connectivity plan that utilizes drainage and utility easements to connect key destinations in the neighborhood such as parks, schools, and Stimley-Blue Ridge Neighborhood Library, including a feasibility study that identifies sources of funding. Priorities include connecting Blue Ridge and South Post Oak Parks, creating a connection between the library and Briargate Elementary School SPARK Park, and developing hike and bike trails along drainage and utility easements to connect to Sims Bayou Greenways and every community.



#### **PLAN:**



Green and

Connected

Community







TIMEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)	New SPARK Park by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HPARD Community Connectors: SPARK Parks, FBISD	Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 6 Action 18
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)		Community: Ridgegate CIA City: District K Community Connectors: SPARK Parks, FBH NST, TIRZ #25	Advocate Assist Advocate, Implement	Goal 6 Action 18
<b>Long</b> (5 + yrs)	Greenbelt Plan completed by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: HPARD Community Connectors: FBISD, FBCPD, District K, HPB, TIRZ #25	Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	Goal 9 Action 30

# **SAFETY**

#### Introduction

A complete community is safe, and is a place where community members and law enforcement agencies work together. The Fort Bend Houston Complete Community is served by the Houston Police Department's Southwest Division and is located in Beat 16E40. In 2017, the property crime rate was less than half that of Houston overall. The violent crime rate in the neighborhood was also substantially lower than in Houston overall. Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office and Precinct 2 Constable also provide police services to Fort Bend Houston.

#### **Safety Goals**

The three safety goals focus on strengthening partnerships between county and city law enforcement agencies and area residents to create a more secure community, addressing unsafe places, and promoting animal welfare, regulations, and services. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The safety goals are:

#### **Keeping Fort Bend Houston Safe**

In a complete community, every resident feels safe

and secure. Fort Bend Houston has a significantly lower crime rate than Houston overall, as a result the projects seek to ensure that the low crime rate continues into the future. To achieve this goal the first project is to advocate for increased police presence, visibility, and response times in the neighborhood, particularly in relation to drug activity. Second, is to organize an outreach campaign to inform residents on when and how to use non-emergency numbers versus calling 911 and establishing Neighborhood Watch Programs through area civic organizations to engage residents in the process of keeping the neighborhood safe. Finally, organizing joint safety meetings between the Houston Police Department, Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, and area residents will build relationships between law enforcement agencies and residents, encouraging everyone to work together. The objective is to maintain the low crime rate in the neighborhood.

#### **Safe Environment**

Safety and crime are complex issues that materialize as a result of diverse social and environmental factors. Improving street lighting in public spaces throughout Fort Bend Houston and installing



Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in Fort 2,899 Property Crime Rate Bend Houston, 2019

Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in

Data Sources: Beat 16E40 Crime Statistics 2019, HPD; NBIRS Statistics for Houston, 2019

A **complete community** is a **safe community** with strong partnerships between community members and law enforcement agencies, safe streets and places, and healthy pets

visible security cameras in areas of concern are two strategies that will make residents feel more secure in their community and discourage criminal activity. Additionally, advocating for regulatory and legal compliance of game rooms, pawn shops, and payday lenders in cooperation with the Houston Police Department's Differential Response Team will both protect residents from these predatory businesses and raise awareness.

#### **Healthy Pets and Safe Streets**

Animals, particularly dogs, can impact resident's sense of safety, and discourage walking or other active recreation. Forming partnerships between relevant agencies including Fort Bend County Animal Services, Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce, and the City of Houston's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Control will standardize strategies to manage animal welfare. In addition, developing outreach materials to ensure that pet owners are aware of regulations, such as leash laws, and affordable spay and neuter services, will protect pets and enhance the sense of safety for all residents.

1,929 Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in Fort Bend Houston, 2019

2,573 Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in Houston, 2019

Fondren
Rd

Clarke Rd

Rock Rd

Ridge Rd

Ridge Rd







# **8 SAFETY**

#### **GOAL** PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/POLICIES **PRIORITY** 8.1.1 Increase police presence, visibility, and response times in the neighborhood ACTION STEPS: Advocate for increased police patrol, visibility, and response times, focus patrols on area crime hot spots, such as W. Fuqua, Chimney Rock, Ridgegate, and Briargate. Develop targeted strategies to address drug activity along South Post Oak, Court Road, Ridgecreek, Quail Park, Blueridge Rd, and convenience stores along FM2234 (Sunny Store). 8.1.2 Encourage residents to report crime ACTION STEPS: Develop an outreach campaign to educate residents on jurisdictional issues and when and how to use non-emergency numbers for the Houston Police Department and Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office to report suspicious activity and when to use 911. 8.1 8.1.3 Increase partnerships between community residents, the Houston Police **Keeping Fort** Department, and Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office and advocate for a shared **Bend Houston Police Storefront** Safe ACTION STEPS: Organize and host regularly scheduled joint safety meetings, town halls, and tours with community stakeholders, Houston Police Department, and the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. Expand outreach to encourage residents to attend HPD's monthly Positive Interaction Program meetings. Advocate for a city-county agreement for a shared police storefront at the planned Edison Arts Complex. 8.1.4 Neighborhood Crime Watch and Block Captains ACTION STEPS: Organize and advocate for area civic associations to develop Neighborhood Watch Programs and Block Captains in partnership with City and **PLAN:** County law enforcement agencies. •000**0**000 8.2.1 Improve street lighting and other security measures ACTION STEPS: Advocate for improved lighting along area streets and in public spaces, such as parks. Street lighting priority areas include the southern section of Blueridge Rd (south of Independence Blvd.) and W. Fugua St. install security cameras in areas of concern or where crime is concentrated, and 8.2 provide emergency call boxes in public parks. Safe **Environments** 8.2.2 Reduce crimes associated with game rooms, pawn shops, and payday ACTION STEPS: Advocate for regulatory and legal compliance of area game **PLAN:** rooms, pawn shops, and payday lenders. ●000000●0 8.3.1 Promote resources and regulations for pet owners ACTION STEPS: Develop outreach materials to ensure residents are aware of the resources and regulations regarding their pets, including leash laws and affordable animal wellness and spay and neuter services. 8.3 **Healthy Pets** 8.3.2 Advocate for a cross-county partnership to address animal welfare ACTION STEPS: Advocate for a cross-county partnerships to address aggressive **PLAN:** dogs, animal welfare, and cruelty prevention. •00000000 **PLAN Legend:**

HPARD Master Plan (2015)

FBH SN41 Strategic Plan

Climate Action Plan

Hiram Clark/Ft Bend TIRZ #25

Houston Bike Plan (2017)

METRO Next Plan

Complete Communities

CoH CIP 2019-2023

TIMEFRAME	METRICS	COORDINATION	ROLE	RESILIENT HOUSTON
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	Change in the crime rate by 2025 (In 2019, the rate of property crime was 2,889 per 100,000; and the violent crime rate 1,929 per 100,000)	Community: FBH NST City: HPD Community Connectors: FBCSO, FBC Constable Pct 2	Advocate Assist, Implement Implement	
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPD Community Connectors: FBCSO, FBC Constable Pct 2	Organize, Outreach Outreach Outreach	
<b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: HPD Community Connectors: FBCSO, FBC Constable Pct 2, Edison Arts Complex	Advocate Assist, Implement Assist, Implement	Goal 17
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		Community: FBH NST, Area HOAs  City: HPD Community Connectors: FBCSO, FBC Constable Pct 2, Area Churches and Schools	Organize, Outreach, Implement Assist Assist	
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)	Houston Police Department Differential Response Team neighborhood review by 2025	Community: FBH NST, Area HOAs City: HPW, HPARD Community Connectors: CenterPoint, FBCPD	Organize, Implement Assist, Implement Assist, Implement	Goal 6 Action 18
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: ARA, HPD DRT Community Connectors: Area Apartment, Property, and Business Owners, Property Managers	Advocate Assist, Implement Assist	
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)	Pet laws, regulations, and services outreach campaign completed by 2025	Community: FBH NST City: BARC Community Connectors: Emancipet, SNAP, Houston Humane Society	Outreach, Implement Assist Assist	
<b>Medium</b> (3 - 5 yrs)		Community: FBH NST City: BARC Community Connectors: FBC Animal Services	Advocate Assist Assist, Implement	

# **OUR THANKS**

### **Complete Communities**

The Complete Communities initiative would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the Fort Bend Houston Neighborhood Support Team (NST). The Fort Bend Houston NST provided guidance, conducted outreach, and shaped the planning process. Moving forward, Fort Bend Houston Working Groups will be established to oversee implementation for each of the eight focus areas. We thank everyone for their time and commitment to the Complete Communities initiative, both over the last year and in the coming years.

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This list was compiled from sign-in sheets at community meetings. We apologize for any misspellings or omissions.

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# **Appendix: Resilient Houston Plan Matrix**

#### GOAL DESCRIPTION



GOAL 1: We will support Houstonians to be prepared for an uncertain future

- 1. Ensure Houstonians have the information, skills, and capacity to prepare for any emergency
- 2. Mobilize Houstonians to adapt in the face of climate change
- 3. Support small businesses to better withstand any disruption
- 4. Encourage community leadership, stewardship, and participation



GOAL 2: We will expand access to wealth-building and employment opportunities

- 5. Maximize access to economic opportunity and prosperity for all Houstonians
- 6. Provide opportunities for more Houstonians to start, maintain, and grow small businesses
- 7. Prepare Houston's workforce and all young Houstonians for the jobs of the future



GOAL 3: We will improve safety and well-being for all Houstonians

- 8. Make our streets 100% safe for all Houstonians
- 9. Shelter and house any Houstonian in need
- 10. Proactively care for Houstonians' mental health
- 11. Create a city where Houstonians of different ages and accessibility needs can thrive



GOAL 4: We will ensure that all neighborhoods have equitably resourced plans

- 12. Support equitable neighborhoods through community planning and programs
- 13. Accelerate investments in inclusive housing and neighborhood development



GOAL 5: We will invest in arts and culture to strengthen community resilience

- 14. Invest in local arts and culture to build community cohesion and to celebrate neighborhood identity
- 15. Leverage arts and culture to creatively engage Houstonians in risk awareness



GOAL 6: We will ensure all neighborhoods are healthy, safe, and climate ready

- 16. Make Houston neighborhoods greener and cooler to combat extreme heat
- 17. Develop "Lily Pads" to serve as Neighborhood Resilience Hubs
- 18. Ensure all neighborhoods have access to quality parks and nature
- 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



GOAL 7: We will build up, not out, to support smart growth as Houston's population increases

- 21. Create a citywide comprehensive housing study with neighborhood-specific recommendations
- 22. Promote the need for safe, secure, and affordable homes and transportation access for all Houstonians
- 23. Invest in transit-oriented and trail-oriented development
- 24. Protect and strengthen neighborhoods through appropriate infill development



GOAL 8: We will live safely with water

- 25. Make room for water
- 26. Clean Houston's bayous and waterways
- 27. Advance research and technology to improve water management



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
- 29. Increase access to our bayous for recreational, health, and other community benefits
- 30. Encourage inclusive growth and economic development along bayou corridors

#### GOAL DESCRIPTION



GOAL 10: We will demonstrate leadership on climate change through action

- 31. Adopt and implement the Climate Action Plan goals and actions
- 32. Conduct a climate impact assessment to inform City policies and programs
- 33. Holistically manage our water resources to be climate ready



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
- 35. Equitably advance complete streets implementation to build resilient roads
- 36. Advance and modernize building codes and standards
- 37. Advance and modernize Houston's integrated resource recovery management
- 38. Develop and improve partnerships that create and incentivize infrastructure maintenance



Goal 12: We will advance equity and inclusion for all

- 39. Promote equity through citywide policies and programs
- 40. Reach all Houstonians through equitable community engagement



GOAL 13: We will transform city government to operationalize resilience and build trust

- 41. Make resilience a permanent part of Houston's systems and services
- 42. Prioritize resilience in city budgeting, procurement, and capital improvements
- 43. Leverage smart cities investments to address our most critical resilience challenges
- 44. Advance open data policies



GOAL 14: We will continue to invest in the region's diverse economy

- 45. Leverage Houston's energy capital role to lead innovation in the global energy transition
- 46. Incubate, connect, and support established and emerging industries
- 47. Partner with anchor institutions to further resilience innovation that strengthens and protects the region



GOAL 15: We will increase regional transportation choice

- 48. Work with regional partners to invest in an integrated mobility network
- 49. Improve first- and last-mile connections
- 50. Enable Houstonians to make mobility choices that improve well-being and reduce the cost of living



GOAL 16: We will manage our land and water resources from the prairie to the bay

- 51. Conserve regional undeveloped land for flood mitigation, environmental health, and recreation
- 52. Develop long-term strategies with County partners to build the resilience of areas within Houston's extraterritorial jurisdiction



GOAL 17: We will enhance regional emergency preparedness and response

- 53. Enhance regional preparedness
- 54. Increase protection of critical digital assets from cyber attacks
- 55. Improve emergency response and post-disaster recovery coordination
- 56. Develop a regional critical infrastructure catalogue
- 57. Fortify greater Houston's lifelines and supply chains



GOAL 18: We will leverage existing and new investments and partnerships

- 58. Leverage disaster recovery efforts to accelerate the implementation of resilience measures
- 59. Leverage planned and proposed transformative regional projects to maximize resilience benefits
- 60. Address legal and legislative barriers to resilience building with local, state, and federal partners
- 61. Update Plan Houston to integrate resilience goals
- 62. Lead and partner nationally and globally to build resilience

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