HOUSTON PARKS MASTER PLAN
PHASE II

The Houston Parks and Recreation (HPARD) Parks Master Plan presents the vision of the residents of Houston and the goals, or Big Moves, to be made by the Department in the next 20 years. An online survey was conducted from March 2014 through July of 2014. Approximately 1,800 responses were received. Two-thirds of survey respondents identified connecting their neighborhood to hike, bike, and walk trails and revitalizing existing parks as their highest budgetary priority for HPARD.

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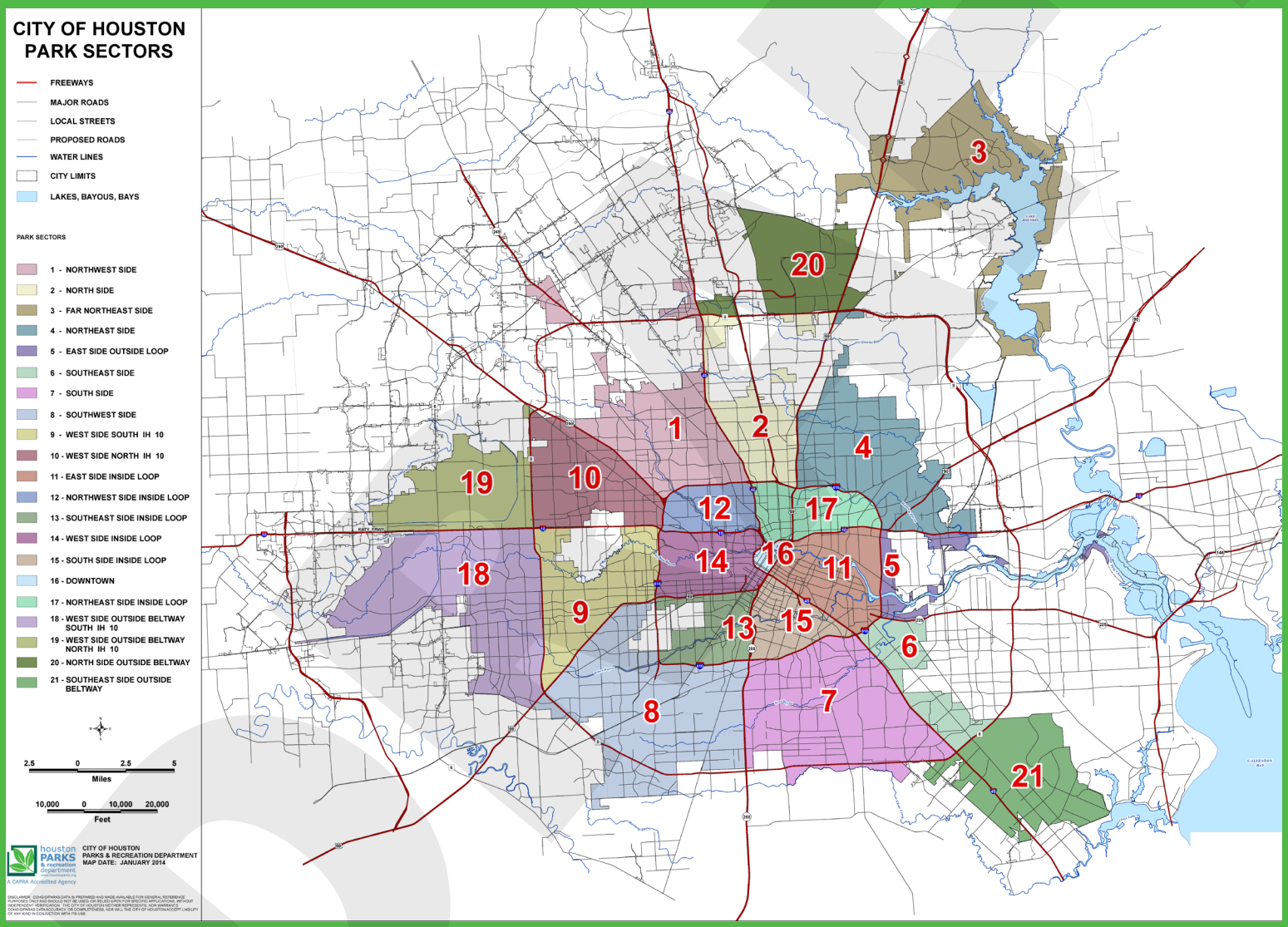
HOUSTON / HARRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE

CITY OF HOUSTON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

RICE

THE TRUST for PUBLIC LAND
CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



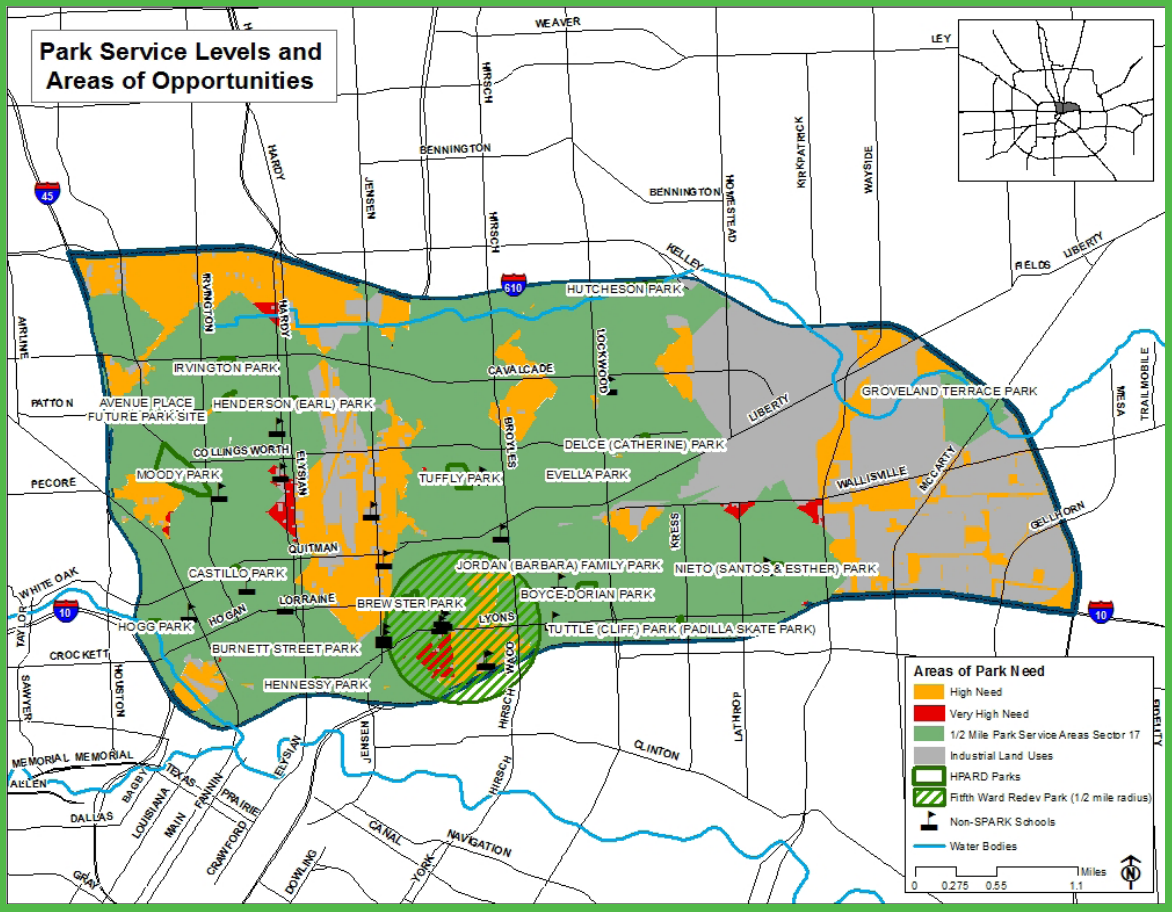
WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV/PARKS/MASTERPLAN.HTML

HPARD performed a year-long initial assessment of each Park Sector in the City with support from the Planning and Development, the Health and Human Services and the Housing and Community Development Departments of the City of Houston, The Houston Parks Board, The Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Center for Sustainability at Rice University. Volunteer Interns from St. Thomas University, Texas A&M University, Lone Star College, and Texas Southern University were indispensable in this effort. Maps of areas of park need were created using data provided by the Trust for Public Land ParkScore™ Project; HPARD continues to partner with the Trust for Public Land to improve the methodology and assess park needs specific to Houston.

PARK SECTOR 17:

This Park Sector contains 97 acres of park land (Harris County , HPARD & other providers). There are approximately 58,000 residents, 65% are Hispanic and there is a high percentage of elderly & youth. The rate of obesity in this Park Sector (49%) is much higher than for the city as a whole (31%). Growth for this Sector is expected along the light rail and closest to downtown. An additional 55 acres of park land are needed in this Sector Park. The Trust for Public Land ParkScore™ shows high need in northwest and central portion of the Park Sector.

This map was produced using data provided by the Trust for Public Land ParkScore™ Project to show areas of park need. The green areas represent a ½ mile service area of public parks (city or county) and SPARK Parks (school parks open to the public after school) or other publicly accessible non-HPARD Parks. The orange and red represent areas where there is not access to a park within ½ mile. The degree of need (red is very high need and orange is high need) is based on population density, household income (less than $35,000), and presence of youth (19 yrs or younger). The office and industrial land uses are represented in grey, so as to specifically highlight residential and commercial areas of need. Approximately 20% of the area in this Park Sector is in need of park land accessible within ½ mile, as compared to the 55% of the population of the City of Houston who need park access.



OPPORTUNITIES

Non-SPARK schools are indicated on the map as black flags to explore as potential future partnerships for park space. The central area, north and south of Quitman Avenue, would particularly benefit from additional Spark Parks. In addition to the existing 6.9 miles of trails, the BG2020 initiative will add 4.6 miles to the Hunting Bayou trail system. Through the TIGER grant HPARD will be adding key connections from this Park Sector into the White Oak Bayou system, providing access to Downtown via the Buffalo Bayou trail system. There is a high percentage of undeveloped land in this Park Sector which could be conserved for future park use.

PARK AMENITIES

The table below shows the total existing amenities (including, HPARD, County and SPARK Parks), the target goal per amenity, and the amenities needed based on population standards for each amenity.

AMENITY	PLAYGROUNDS	PICNIC SHELTERS	TRAILS (MILES)	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	DOG PARKS	SKATE PARKS	COMMUNITY CENTERS	SWIMMING POOLS	OUTDOOR SPRAYGROUNDS	BASEBALL (LIT & UNIT)	SOFTBALL (LIT & UNIT)	SOCCER (LIT & UNIT)
GOAL	26	10	11	16	6	2	1	1	4	2	2	7	2	6
EXISTING	26	10	11*	16	3	0	0	1	4	2	2	7	1	4
NEEDED	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2

* This number includes 4.6 miles of trails currently planned along Hunting Bayou under the Bayou Greenways Initiative, BG2020.