NEAR NORTHSIDE COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

ACTION PLAN

HOUSTON COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

Mayor Sylvester Turner
City of Houston
Planning and Development Department
June 2018

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An Equitable Houston That Works For Everyone

For Houston to be truly great, we cannot be two cities in one: one of haves, and one of have-nots. All of Houston's neighborhoods should be vibrant communities of opportunity.

That's why on April 17, 2017, I announced the creation of Houston's Complete Communities program, and selected Acres Home, Gulfton, Second Ward, Near Northside and Third Ward as the first Complete Communities neighborhoods. These five neighborhoods – and frankly, too many others in Houston – have been ignored for far too long. The significant challenges facing these neighborhoods can only be solved through a focused, community-led effort like Complete Communities, with the City acting as a committed neighborhood partner.

Every neighborhood is unique, but there are common elements we all look for in the place we live: a mix of quality and affordable home choices, job opportunities, and quality retail; good parks and schools; and reliable transportation options. We all deserve freedom from overgrown, weeded or abandoned lots, poor drainage, failing infrastructure, and crime. Each Houstonian should feel that his or her neighborhood matters, and that the private and public sectors support its growth and success.

To achieve this goal, City departments have been working closely with community members and outside partners to find solutions and achieve transformational change. We have listened to the community. This plan is the result of these conversations and the first step toward a new future for these neighborhoods.

The Complete Communities program will attract more partners and resources toward targeted areas in a focused way, enabling more livable communities. I expect City departments to work alongside private and non-profit organizations, as well as local residents and businesses, to raise the bar in each neighborhood.

This is just the beginning. The five pilot communities have diverse demographic and physical characteristics, and a base level of community activism, making them ideal testing grounds for this new program. After we see real and sustainable change in these five areas, I am committed to turning to the next set of neighborhoods to create transformational change in them, too.

The Complete Communities program is the embodiment of my vision for a more equitable Houston. I am committed to rebuilding neighborhoods that have been underserved and under-resourced for decades. All Houstonians deserve to live in neighborhoods that support their dreams.

— Mayor Sylvester Turner

Moody Park Station, Red Line

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Our Thanks **50**

What is a Complete Community?

A sustainable 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 services

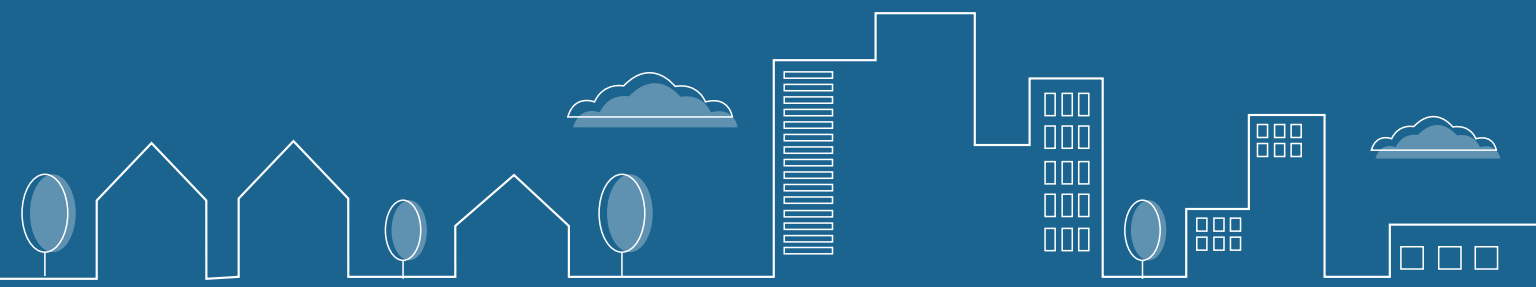
A community with quality schools including . . .
- Highly rated elementary, middle and high schools
- Easy access to high quality and affordable early childcare
- Access to quality vocational schools, community colleges

A community with good infrastructure including . . .
- Complete streets including 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 resilient community with . . .
- Flood protection
- Good drainage
- Community and public 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.

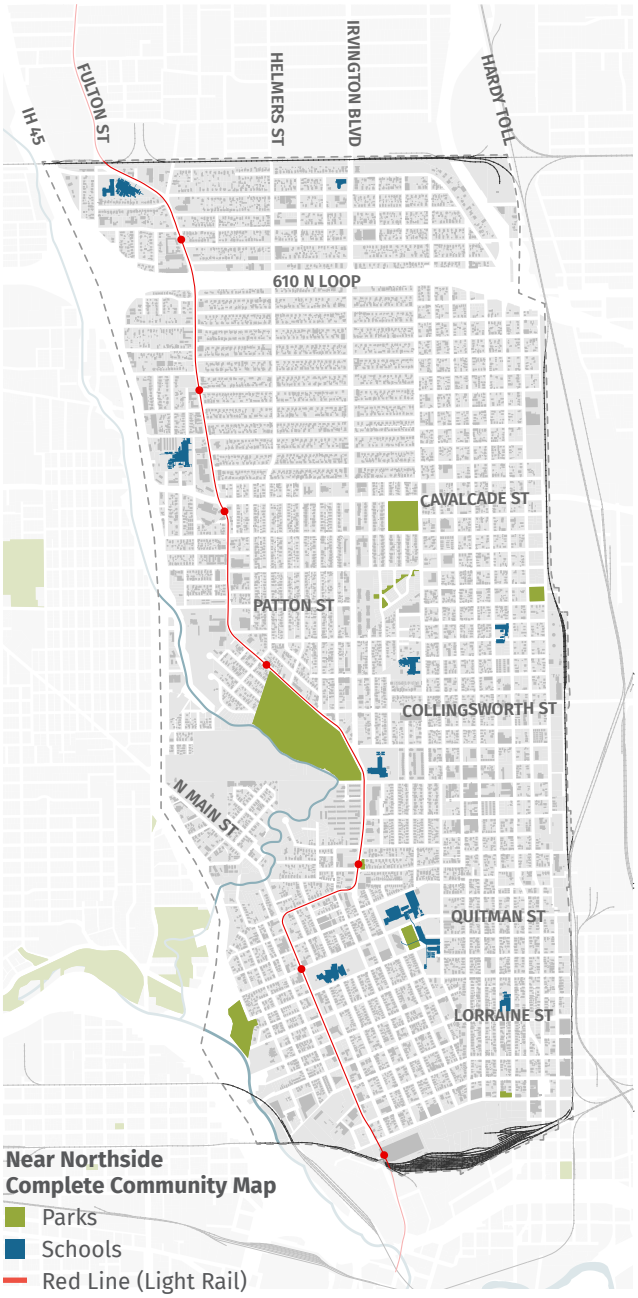
The Complete Communities initiative was established to be collaborative, impactful, and transformative. The initiative has been guided by an Advisory Committee that met for the first time in January of 2017, and that has continued to meet regularly. The committee is comprised of 26 community leaders and advocates with a balanced perspective ranging from city-wide to neighborhood specific knowledge and engagement. The committee serves as a sounding board whose members are ambassadors for the effort and who have 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).

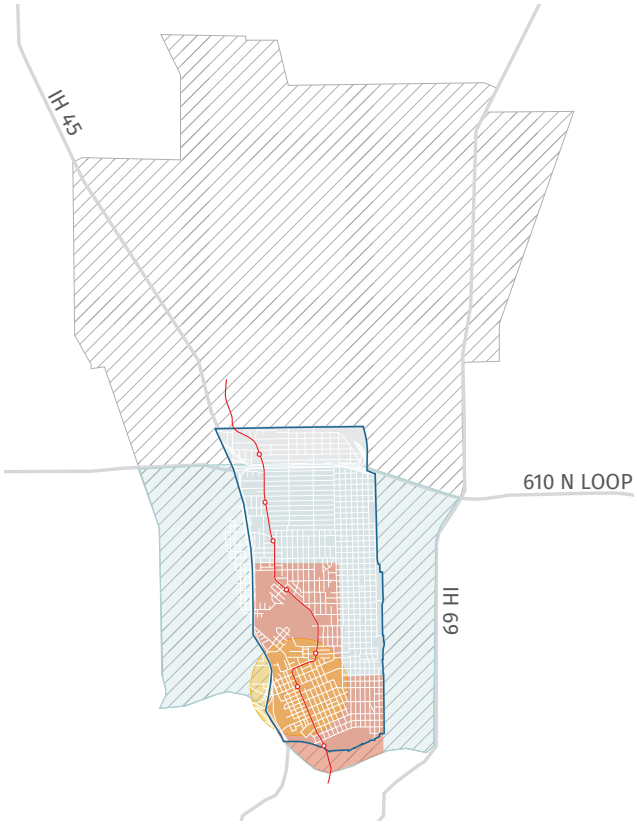
The five Houston neighborhoods selected to participate in the pilot initiative—Acres Home, Gulfton, Near Northside, Second Ward, and Third Ward—have very different strengths and challenges. As a result, stakeholders in each neighborhood developed a vision that represented their ideal of a complete community. This shared vision has guided the effort in each community.

Across the five neighborhoods 3,500 people shared their insights, values, and visions. More than 2,300 participants attended one of the fourteen public meetings, and nearly 1,200 leaders representing faith-based organizations, business owners, non-profit and community-based organizations, and civic, educational and institutional leaders attended one of hundreds of listening sessions with community planners. A Neighborhood Support Team, comprised of locally identified leaders, residents and allies, has guided each Complete Community effort.

Commitment to the Complete Communities initiative is far reaching. Over the last year the City has provided support through a team of dedicated staff across City departments, this support will continue. One-on-one meetings were held with over two-dozen 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 side-by-side with community leaders and allies to realize the vision for a complete community in each of the five neighborhoods.

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





Map of Existing Plans and Studies

- Near Northside Complete Community Action Plan
- Near Northside Quality of Life Agreement
- Northside Livable Centers Study
- Greater Northside Pedestrian Transit Access Master Plan
- City of Houston Heights-Northside Mobility Study
- Healthy Living Matters

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

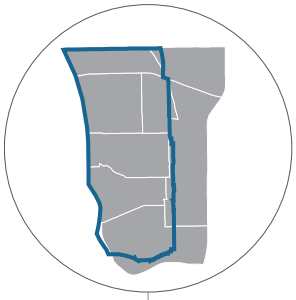
The Near Northside Complete Community Action Plan outlines the vision, policies, goals, and projects that have been identified through a community planning process to move the neighborhood towards a healthier, more prosperous, resilient, and equitable future.

The Near Northside Action Plan is based on the most recent plans and studies for the neighborhood (see map, opposite page left), and includes newly developed projects, actions, priorities, and partners. Prior Near Northside plans include those led by Avenue and the Greater Northside Management District. Specifically, recent plans include the Near Northside Quality of Life Agreement, Northside Livable Centers Study, Greater Northside Pedestrian Transit Access Master Plan, City of Houston Heights-Northside Mobility Study, and the Healthy Living Matters report.

In addition, the City of Houston has recently completed a number of citywide planning efforts. The broadest of these is Plan Houston, the City's first general plan completed in 2015. Plan Houston outlines a vision for Houston's future and strategies to realize it. Out of Plan Houston's 32 citywide goals, Near Northside identified the following as priorities: nurturing a safe and secure neighborhood; access to parks and public spaces; an attractive, healthy and walkable neighborhood; and, affordable housing.

Other citywide planning efforts that shape decision-making and public investment include the annual Capital Improvement Plan, which outlines infrastructure priorities, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's 2015 Parks Master Plan, and the Houston Bike Plan, adopted in 2017.

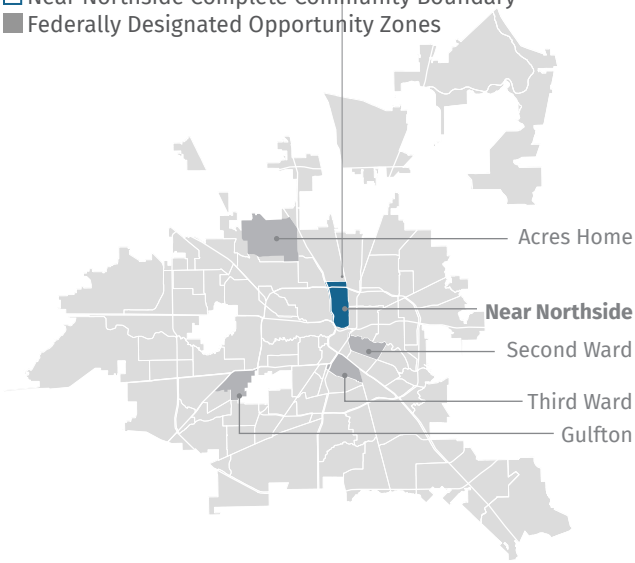
The Near Northside Complete Community is a State designated Opportunity Zone, a new community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities.



Map of Opportunity Zones

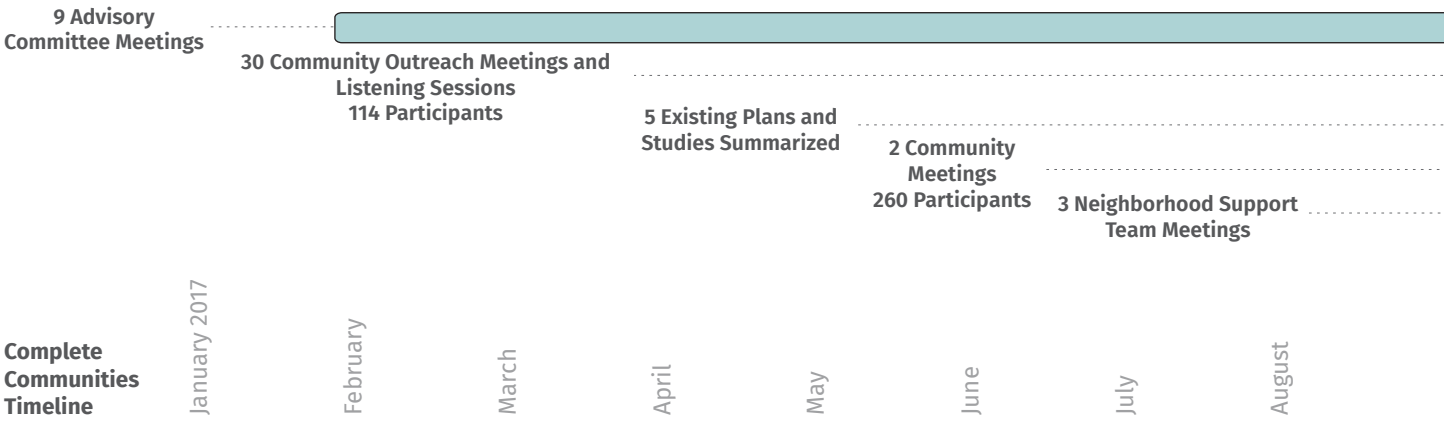
☐ Near Northside Complete Community Boundary

■ Federally Designated Opportunity Zones



Map of Complete Communities

Complete Community Meeting



COMPLETE COMMUNITIES PLANNING PROCESS

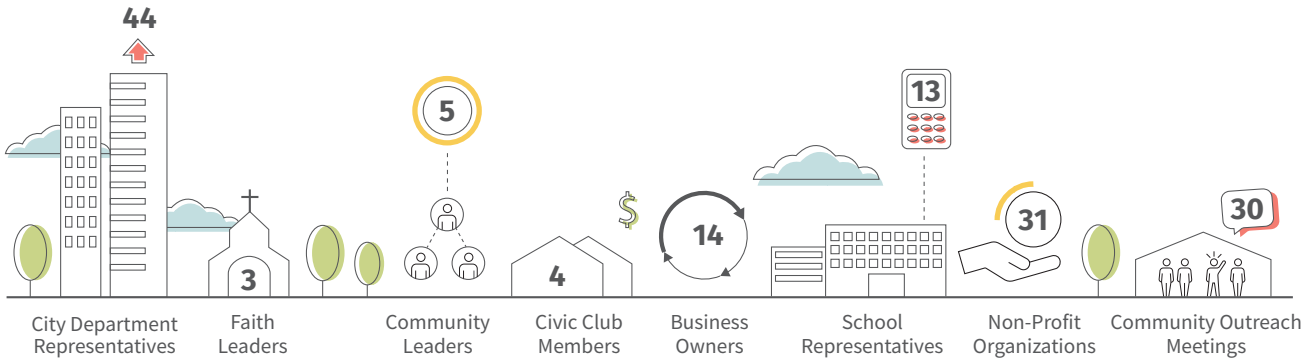
Each Complete Community is different. Some have engaged in substantial planning efforts, while others have not had plans developed for decades. As a result, the City designed and implemented individualized planning processes that align with each community's current position.

Every Complete Community effort began by conducting outreach and small group meetings with key leaders and stakeholders. Meetings in the Near Northside were held with faith leaders, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, business owners, and other civic, educational, and institutional leaders. Overall, 114 people were reached through this effort.

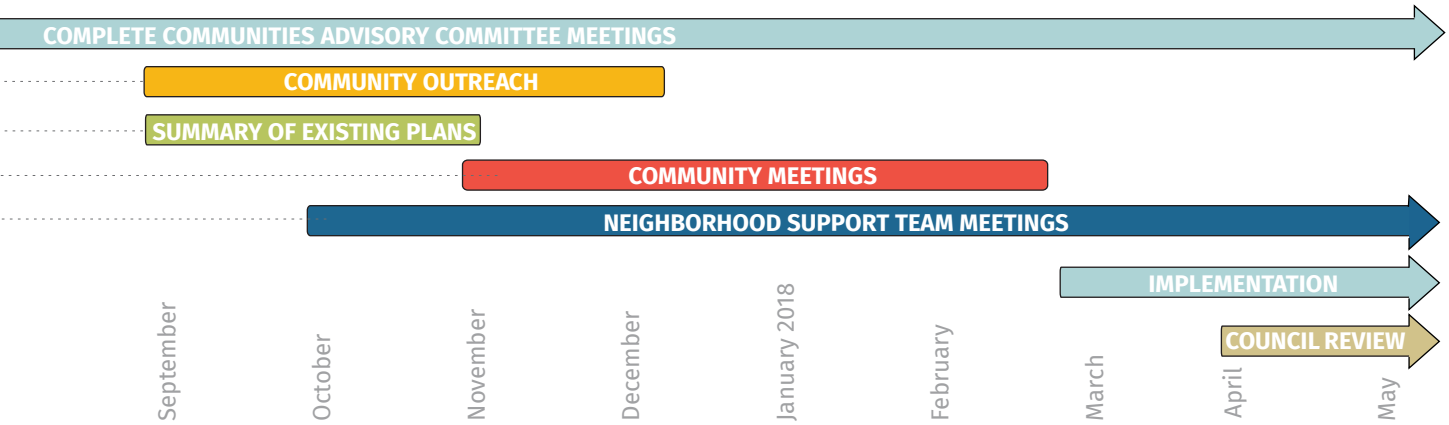
Following the outreach effort, a series of public meetings were held in each Complete Community to accomplish the following objectives: establish a vision; develop goals and projects; identify priorities and partners; and, review the final Action Plan. In communities, such as the Near Northside, where substantial planning has already occurred, two public meetings were held. The first meeting focused on reviewing the existing goals and projects, filling any gaps, and identifying new opportunities and partners. The second, and final meeting, was to review the final Action Plan. 260 people attended these meetings and provided valuable feedback. The result is that the Near Northside Action Plan builds on prior planning efforts and encompasses new goals and projects identified through these public meetings. In addition, the Action Plan aligns clear implementation strategies, priorities, policies, timeframes, partners, and metrics to measure success based on both the prior plans and new input.

The Action Plan has also been informed by one-on-one meetings with City department decision-makers. At these meetings, community-identified projects and priorities were presented, and mechanisms to achieve implementation identified.

Throughout the process, the Complete Communities initiative has been guided by the Neighborhood Support Team (NST) which met three times to provide their insight and suggestions. The Neighborhood Support Team will work alongside existing community organizations and teams to oversee implementation and work directly with City staff to ensure progress is made and established benchmarks achieved.



Complete Communities Outreach



NEAR NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY

The Near Northside, located just north of downtown Houston, is one of the City's historic neighborhoods. The neighborhood is generally bounded by I-10 to the south, I-45 to the west, and Hardy Street to the east, while extending a number of blocks north of I-610 to the Burlington Northern railroad.

The Near Northside saw its first development in the late 1800s with the growth of the city's railroad industry. The Hardy Rail Yards, which once defined the southern edge of the community, drew residential and commercial development to the area. The Near Northside is still home to a variety of small, locally owned businesses, many Victorian style homes, and a variety of social service and healthcare agencies.

In 2015, the Near Northside was home to over 27,000 people, the majority of whom were Hispanic or Latino. The neighborhood is serviced by METRORail's Red Line, extending along two major commercial arteries: North Main and Fulton Street. Moody Park is an important gathering place in the community, along with Northside High School (formally Jefferson Davis High School). The southern part of the neighborhood is anchored by Marshall Middle School, Castillo Park and Carnegie Library. The annual Sabor del Northside festival is held at Castillo Park and brings together residents, businesses, schools, and community organizations in the Near Northside neighborhood in celebration of its vibrant culture.

Complete Community Meeting

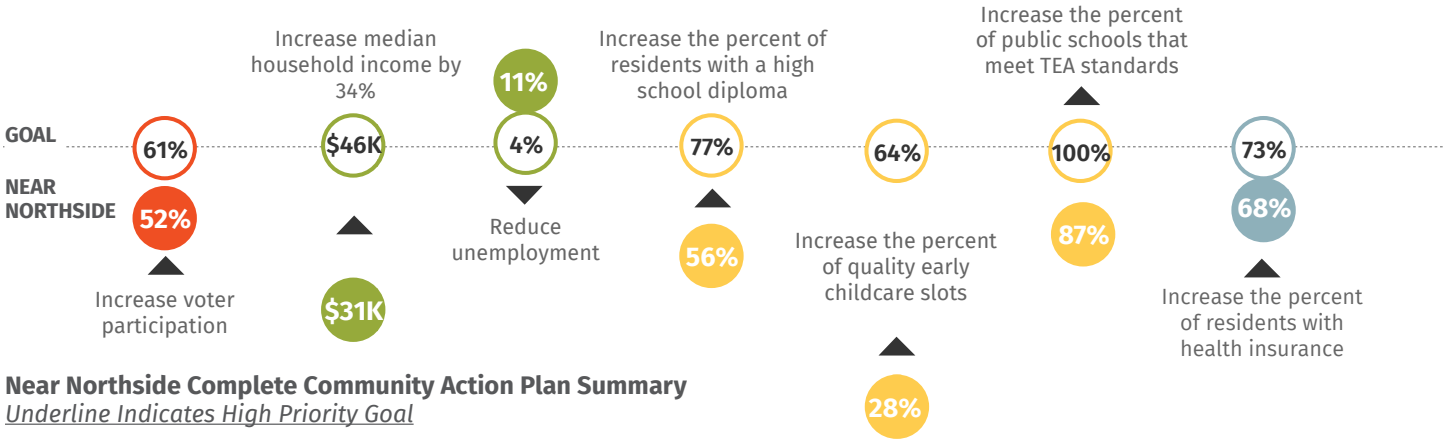
In the past decade, with the expansion of the light rail and proximity to downtown, the Near Northside has become attractive to developers and new residents. The result has been rising property values and new development that many existing residents cannot afford. Community-based efforts to protect the character of the neighborhood and build additional affordable housing are having a positive impact, and are planned to continue into the future. At the same time, safety has emerged as a primary concern, particularly for the young and the old, and new coalitions, such as Safe Walk Home, have been established to address this challenge.

The Near Northside Complete Communities Action Plan works to build on neighborhood assets and opportunities—such as active civic engagement, the diverse collection of organizations working to spark change in the neighborhood, a variety of affordable housing developments, the University of Houston-Downtown, and the METRO Red Line—while also working to address new challenges.

The Near Northside Complete Community Action Plan establishes a set of actionable projects, policies and programs that will result in a complete community, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

A summary of the Action Plan, including the key focus areas and goals, is provided on the following pages. The highest priorities in the community are safety, infrastructure improvements, parks, affordable housing, and economic development. Additional focus areas include education, health, neighborhood character, and civic engagement.

Complete Community Metrics to Measure Success



Near Northside Complete Community Action Plan Summary

Underline Indicates High Priority Goal

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A complete community is an engaged community where people work together through advocacy, shared leadership, and collaboration. The goals are:

- **Nurture Community Leaders** by providing leadership training and expanding opportunities for youth
- **Increase Civic Engagement** by increasing voter registration and strengthening area civic clubs and organizations
- **Expand Neighborhood Advocacy** by developing an annual advocacy agenda, staying informed on projects impacting the neighborhood, and advocating for Super Neighborhood Council funding

ECONOMY and JOBS

A complete community is a thriving community with strong local businesses, economic investment, and employment and training opportunities. The goals are:

- **Expand Workforce Development Opportunities** by increasing career development and placement programs and connecting youth to summer employment opportunities
- **Attract New Economic Development** by identifying new businesses and establishing economic development incentives
- **Grow Local Businesses** by increasing access to grants and loans, developing a "shop local" campaign, creating a neighborhood guide, and implementing a facade improvement program

EDUCATION

A complete community is a learning community with high quality schools, early childcare, out of school enrichment programs, and engaged parents. The goals are:

- **Nurture Parents and Lifelong Learning** by providing leadership skills, training and resources, and supporting parents continuing education
- **Expand Opportunities for Out of School Enrichment** by increasing the capacity of local programs to provide out of school academic, enrichment, and art programs for children and youth
- **Expand Enrollment and Access to Early Childhood Education** by working with partners to increase both the quality and affordability of early childcare
- **Increase Educational Success** by working in partnership with area schools and connecting students to college and career readiness programs

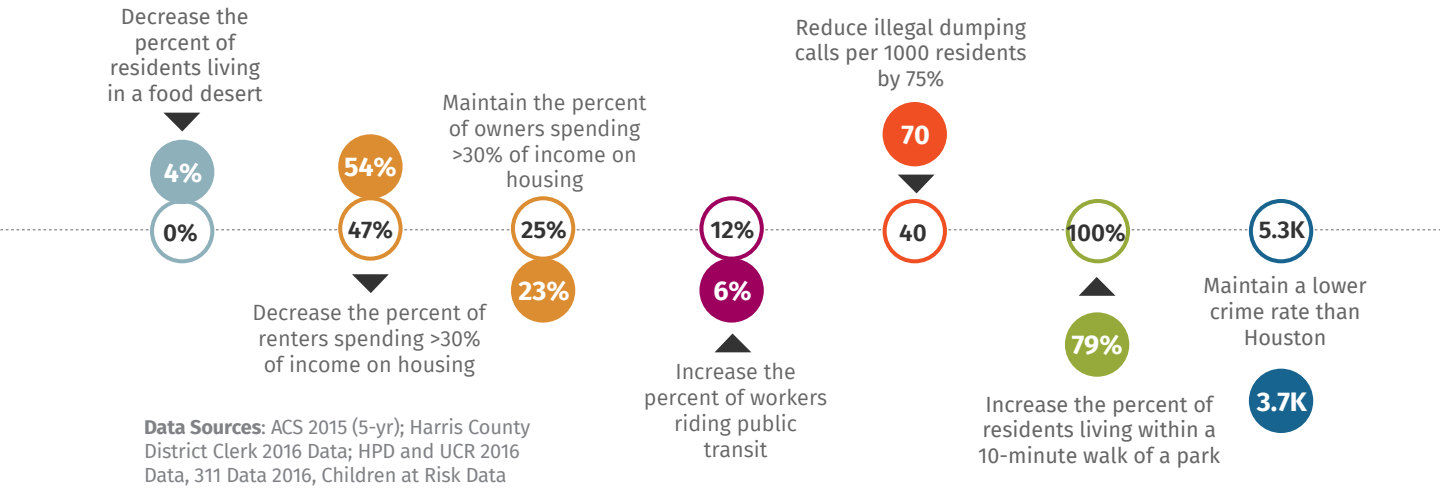
HEALTH

A complete community is a healthy community with access to nutritious food, healthcare, and active living. The goals are:

- **Expand Access to Healthy Food** by advocating for schools to provide healthier lunch options, addressing food insecurity through farmers markets and gardening, and providing additional opportunities to enroll in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- **Promote Opportunities for Active Living** by expanding walking and biking options and supporting active living events such as the Tour de Northside
- **Improve Access to Health Services** by expanding enrollment in affordable health insurance and health services, providing additional mental health services, and expanding outreach and preventative care

HOUSING

A complete community is an affordable community with high quality housing accessible to people with a diversity of incomes, where existing residents are



Data Sources: ACS 2015 (5-yr); Harris County District Clerk 2016 Data; HPD and UCR 2016 Data, 311 Data 2016, Children at Risk Data 2017, Texas Education Agency 2016

protected from displacement, and homes are repaired and preserved. The goals are:

- **Renovate Existing Housing** through the Rebuilding Northside Together home repair program, establishing a low-interest home improvement loan fund, acquiring existing housing for repair and resale, and exploring strategies to improve Irvinton and Fulton Villages
- **Build New Housing** that meets the needs of people with a diversity of incomes, including single-family infill housing, new affordable multi-family housing, and transit-oriented development projects
- **Grow and Secure Homeownership** by expanding homebuyer and homeowner education and counseling and down payment assistance for new homeowners

MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

A complete community is a connected and resilient community with high quality public transit, walkable streets, bike amenities, and good infrastructure. The goals are:

- **Build Great Streets** by improving area streets and prioritizing streetscape enhancements
- **Improve Neighborhood Mobility** by expanding sidewalks and crossings, improving streetlighting, and increasing public transit ridership
- **Expand Bike Lanes and Facilities** by building additional bike routes and trails and providing new bike amenities

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

A complete community is a beautiful community with historic neighborhoods, public art, and festivals and events that celebrate culture. The goals are:

- **Protect the Character of the Neighborhood** by fighting illegal dumping, nuisances and blight, adopting minimum lot size restrictions, and expanding area historic districts and landmarks
- **Create a Place for Art** by developing a public art plan, installing new public art projects, and attracting a new cultural center
- **Celebrate the Community** by supporting neighborhood festivals and events and expanding art and cultural experiences for residents

PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

A complete community is a sustainable community with high quality parks and community amenities. The goals are:

- **Develop New Parks and Green Spaces** by identifying vacant or under-utilized property for new parks and extending green spaces along White Oak Bayou
- **Expand and Improve Existing Parks and Public Spaces** by working with partners to identify needed improvements at Castillo, Irvington and Moody Parks

SAFETY

A complete community is a safe community where strong partnerships are formed between the community and law enforcement, everyone feels secure, and pets are healthy and safe. The goals are:

- **Create Safe Places** by addressing civility issues, advocating for safe policies, and utilizing crime prevention through environmental design principles
- **Develop Strong Partnerships with Law Enforcement** to address crime and safety, including participating in the Positive Interaction Program
- **Support Safe Environments for Pets** by expanding spay and neuter programs and working with partners to reduce the number of stray animals through education and outreach

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:

Key to Priority Graphic

- ● High Priority
- ◐ Medium Priority
- ○ Low Priority

City, School, and Government Departments:

Administration and Regulatory Affairs, **ARA**
Bureau of Animal Control and Regulation, **BARC**
Department of Housing and Urban Development, **HUD**
Department of Neighborhoods, **DON**
Differential Response Team (HPD), **DRT**
Economic Development Department, **EDD**
General Services Division, **GSD**
Greater Northside Management District, **GNMD**
Harris County Appraisal District, **HCAD**
Harris County Flood Control District, **HCFCD**
Housing and Community Development Department, **HCDD**
Houston Community College, **HCC**
Houston Fire Department, **HFD**
Houston Health Department, **HHD**
Houston Housing Authority, **HAA**
Houston Independent School District, **HISD**
Houston Parks and Recreation Department, **HPARD**
Houston Police Department, **HPD**
Houston Public Library, **HPL**
Houston Public Works, **HPW**
Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority, **LARA**
Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, **MOCA**
Mayor's Office of Education, **MOE**
Mayor's Office of Innovation, **MOI**
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, **MOPD**
National Endowment for the Arts, **NEA**
Office of Business Opportunity, **OBO**
Planning and Development Department, **PDD**
Positive Interaction Program (HPD), **PIP**
Small Business Administration, **SBA**
Solid Waste Department, **SWD**
Texas Department of Transportation, **TxDOT**
University of Houston Downtown, **UHD**

Partner Organizations and Other Abbreviations:

American Association of Retired Persons, **AARP**
Communities in Schools, **CIS**
Community Development Block Grant, **CDBG**
Community Supported Agriculture, **CSA**
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, **CPTED**
Financial Opportunity Center, **FOC**
Healthy Living Matters, **HLM**
Houston Arts Alliance, **HAA**
Houston Parks Board, **HPB**
Local Initiatives Support Corporation, **LISC**
Neighborhood Support Team, **NST**
Northside High School, **NSHS**
Super Neighborhood Council, **SNC**
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, **SNAP**
Theater Under the Stars, **TUTS**

NEAR NORTHSIDE ACTION PLAN

The Near Northside Action Plan identifies 27 goals and 72 projects, organized into nine focus areas, to work towards a Complete Community. The highest priority focus areas in the Near Northside are: safety; infrastructure; parks; economic development; and, housing. Additional focus areas include: education; health; neighborhood character; and, civic engagement. The Action Plan that follows was developed through public meetings and a summary of the existing community plans. The Action Plan includes goals, projects, priorities, timeframes, metrics to measure success over the next five years, and potential partners and programs.

The projects and action steps identified in this plan will be championed by the Near Northside Neighborhood Support Team (NST) in coordination with existing community leadership teams, the City and the Planning and Development Department. The City departments and agencies listed as leads in this plan will provide support and leadership to the NST to move projects forward to implementation. Near Northside stakeholders will also form working groups to lead the nine focus areas. These working groups will work closely with the NST, existing community organizations and teams, and City departments to further implement the plan.

Moody Park Festival

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Introduction
Civic engagement strengthens a neighborhood's social cohesion and is fundamental to creating a complete community. Social cohesion is defined as the willingness of community members to cooperate with each other in order to prosper, and has been identified as one of the key indicators of community and personal well-being, contributing to both health and economic prosperity. There are seven active civic clubs and organizations in the Near Northside, a Super Neighborhood Council, and numerous organizations, such as Avenue and the Greater Northside Management District, who work in partnership with civic leaders to spark positive change.

Since 2009, when the Near Northside was selected to become a Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) GO Neighborhood, many new leaders have emerged and have dedicated their time and efforts to creating sustainable community-led change. Continuing to expand the capacity of civic leaders and organizations to engage, advocate, and shape the future of the neighborhood will help to create a complete community.

Civic Engagement Goals
The three goals for civic engagement were compiled from existing Near Northside plans and a series of community meetings. The goals focus on further nurturing community leaders, increasing civic engagement, and expanding neighborhood advocacy. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The civic engagement goals are:

Nurture Community Leaders
A complete community is dependent on the capacity of area leaders to work together for positive change. Over the last decade Avenue and GO Neighborhoods have provided leadership training for youth, parents and families, and community residents—cultivating both new leaders and advocates. The goal to nurture community leaders will continue this trajectory. The most important part of this goal is to provide leadership training for area youth to help them build their skills and be active participants in creating positive change in the neighborhood. Youth leadership opportunities will be expanded through partnerships with area schools and community-based organizations, while additional shared leadership opportunities are also pursued.

Increase Civic Engagement
Civic engagement enhances the quality of life in a community by motivating people to make a difference and advocating for neighborhood improvement.

Complete Community Meeting

52% Of Near Northside registered voters cast a ballot in the 2016 election

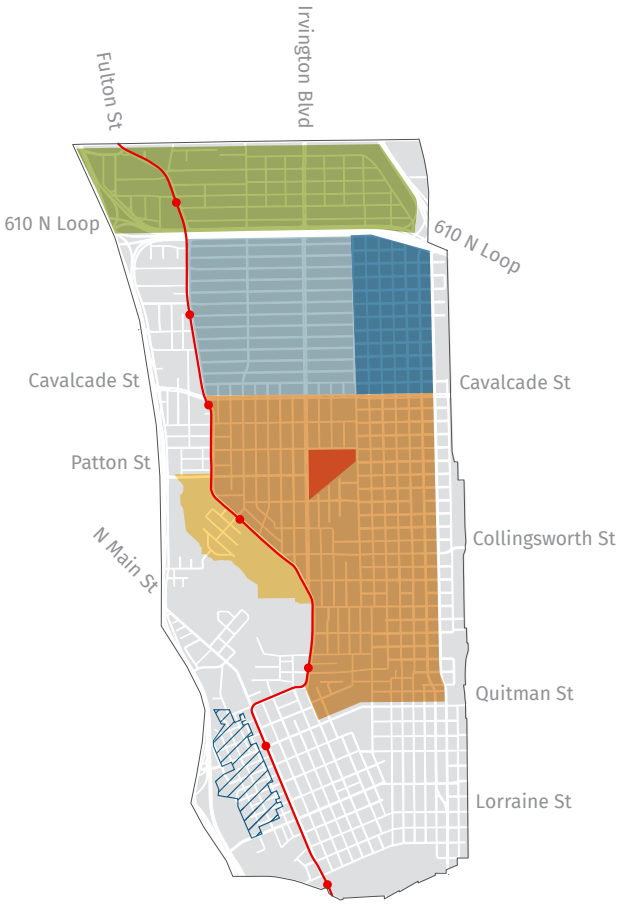
61% Of Harris County registered voters cast a ballot in the 2016 election

Data Sources: Harris County District Clerk, 2016; City of Houston Planning and Development Department

A **complete community** is an **engaged community** where people work together through advocacy, shared leadership, and collaboration

Civic engagement includes cultivating the necessary skills to engage with elected officials and candidates, increasing voter registration and participation, and supporting and growing the capacity of area civic organizations. The work completed to expand civic engagement has already had an impact. Between 2008 and 2016 the percent of residents voting in elections increased slightly from 49% to 52%. The objective is that by 2020 Near Northside voters will participate in elections equal to Harris County at 61%, or higher.

Expand Neighborhood Advocacy
Expanding neighborhood advocacy includes creating leadership programs and services, supporting civic institutions, developing partnerships, and changing public policies to strengthen the overall community. Expanding the capacity of leaders to be neighborhood advocates will ensure the overall success of this plan. To achieve this goal an annual advocacy agenda will be developed and shared with elected officials, and training and advocacy will be organized around both the North Houston Highway Improvement Project and recent SB4 legislation. Permanent funding for the Super Neighborhood Council will also be pursued to sustain this important civic organization, and ensure community-based decision making.



Complete Community Meeting

Map of Active Civic Clubs

- North Lindale Civic Association
- North Central Civic Association
- Silverdale Civic Club
- Lindale Park Civic Club
- Ryon Addition Action Association
- Avenue Place Civic Club
- Historic Near Northside Civic Club

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Nurture Community Leaders PLAN:	**Provide youth leadership training and a youth forum at Northside High School** ACTION STEPS: Partner with Northside High School student leaders to develop and implement youth leadership training; Identify funding and partner organizations	●
	Provide leadership training ACTION STEPS: Identify partners and funding to continue shared leadership training; Take advantage of local and citywide leadership training opportunities	○
Increase Civic Engagement PLAN:	**Engage with elected officials and candidates** ACTION STEPS: Host Near Northside election forums for candidates pursuing elected office; Develop candidate questionnaires and priorities	●
	Increase voter participation ACTION STEPS: Provide voter registration events and voter education and information	◐
	Support and grow area civic clubs ACTION STEPS: Identify areas that currently do not have civic clubs and work with area leaders to develop civic organizations; Support existing civic clubs through small grants and leadership training	◐
Expand Neighborhood Advocacy PLAN:	**Develop an annual advocacy agenda** ACTION STEPS: Develop an annual advocacy agenda in collaboration with Near Northside stakeholders and leaders; Provide advocacy training; Actively engage elected officials and other agencies to forward this agenda	●
	Engage with the North Houston Highway Improvement Project ACTION STEPS: Identify key leaders and stakeholders to advocate for the Near Northside and participate in meetings regarding the I-45 expansion project	○
	Advocate for citywide Super Neighborhood Council funding ACTION STEPS: Explore the potential for Super Neighborhood Council funding to be distributed through Councilmember District Funds	○
	Provide SB4 Training and Information ACTION STEPS: Work with area schools and organizations to develop and implement SB4 training and information, to keep area residents informed; SB4 is immigration enforcement legislation that requires local governments and law enforcement agencies to enforce immigration policies	○

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	**20** Youth will enroll in leadership training annually	**LEAD:** NSHS Student Government, SN Council **SUPPORT**: LISC, Avenue	DON Neighborhood Matching Grants, Stronger Region, Mayor's Youth Council (MYC), Mayor's Young Ambassadors Program (YA)
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** LISC, Avenue **SUPPORT:** DON	LISC Training for Trainers, LISC Great Opportunities Neighborhoods, Stronger Region
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	**61%** Of registered voters in the Near Northside will vote in the 2020 election, equal to Harris County in 2016 Source: Harris County District Clerk	**LEAD:** GO Leadership and Advocacy Committee, SN Council, Avenue	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** Mi Familia Vota **SUPPORT:** Avenue	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** SN Council, DON	Neighborhood Matching Grants
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	**Annual** Advocacy agenda is developed	**LEAD:** Harris Country Public Health **SUPPORT:** GO Leadership and Advocacy Committee, SN Council, Avenue	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** Avenue, GNMD, SN Council **SUPPORT:** TxDOT, LINK Houston	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** SN Council	Plan Houston
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** DON, Office of New Americans **SUPPORT:** HISD, Avenue, ONE Houston	

ECONOMY and JOBS

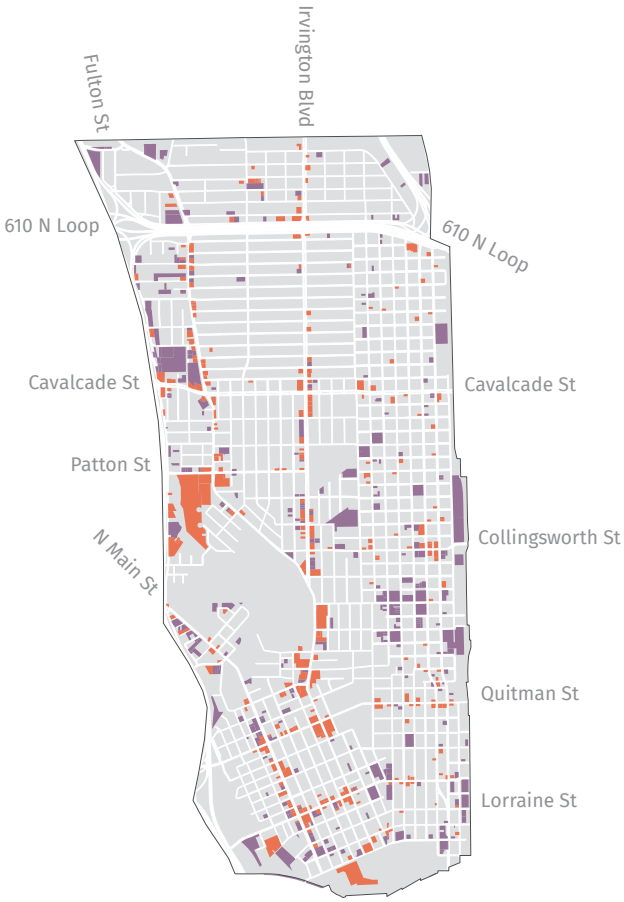
Introduction
Expanding access to workforce development programs, attracting new economic development, and supporting area small businesses will strengthen the Near Northside's local economy and provide local jobs. In 2015, the Near Northside study area was home to over 7,000 jobs, compared to over 11,000 workers aged 16 years and over. The number of jobs in zip code 77009 declined by 5.5% between 2014 and 2015. A key strategy is to reverse this trend by expanding access to both local and citywide jobs for area youth and adults.

Economy and Jobs Goals
The three goals to expand the local economy and job opportunities focus on developing job-training opportunities, attracting new economic development, and promoting and growing local businesses. The economy and jobs goals are:

Expand Workforce Development Opportunities
Providing well-paying jobs and opportunities for career development can increase family wealth and security, and lead to greater neighborhood stability. According to the 2015 American Community Survey, the unemployment rate in the Near Northside was 11%, significantly higher than the City overall.

Expanding access to community job training, career development, and placement programs will lead to greater economic stability. Leaders will work in partnership with city departments, HCC, Workforce Solutions, the Northside Chamber of Commerce and others to ensure residents have access to jobs in growing sectors of the economy. The goal is to reduce unemployment in the Near Northside to be equal to that of the city by 2023.

Attract New Economic Development
The Near Northside has many small businesses that serve the needs of residents. However, a 2014 market



Commercial and Industrial Land Uses
Commercial
Industrial

Early Successes
The National Home Building Institute is offering a 10-week job training program for home building.

Facebook is providing digital skills training for small business owners.

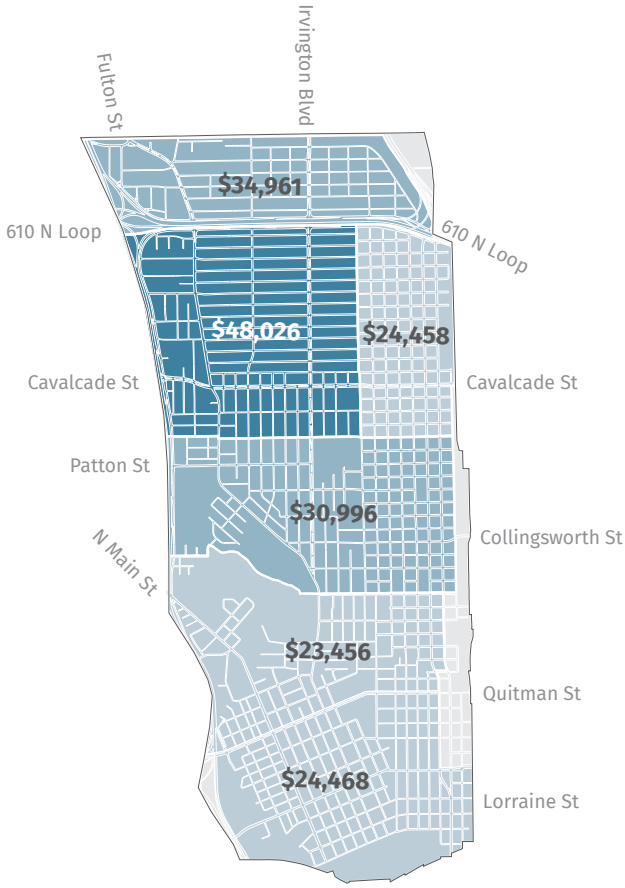
A **complete community** is a **thriving community** with strong local businesses, economic investment, and employment and training opportunities

study identified the need for new businesses focused on general merchandise, clothing, health and personal care, in addition to a coffee shop and restaurants. The study also identified three focus areas for new economic development: Calvacade near Fulton; North Main adjacent to Boundary Station; and the Quitman Station area. Attracting a new grocery store, commercial kitchen, maker space and co-working space for emerging entrepreneurs were goals identified by stakeholders through the planning process.

New economic development in the Near Northside will grow area jobs, increase investment, and provide new amenities for residents. The objective is to attract a minimum of twenty new businesses to the neighborhood in five years by working in partnership with City departments to identify incentives, funding, and implementation strategies.

Grow the Local Economy
Local businesses are important economic engines. Small businesses provide opportunities for people to shop close to home and increase the wealth of business owners and their employees. Finally, at the most basic level, when you buy local more money stays in the community. Overall, local small businesses promote economic, neighborhood, and community development—increasing family income and wealth, health, and neighborhood stability.

Area small businesses attracted 360 small business loans in 2015, totaling over $10 million. By ensuring local businesses have access to grants, loans, and mentoring opportunities, while also creating a "shop local" campaign, a neighborhood shopping guide, and continuing the facade improvement program, small businesses in the Near Northside will continue to grow. The objective is to secure $15 million in annual small business loans by 2023.



Median Household Income by Tract, 2015

11% Unemployment Rate in Near Northside, 2015

4% Unemployment Rate in Houston, 2018

Data Sources: ACS 2015 (5-yr); Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics, 2014 and 2015; SBA Loans 2015; Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Expand Workforce Development Opportunities **PLAN:**	**Expand community job-training, career development, and placement programs to prepare residents for, and employ them in, growing sectors of the economy** ACTION STEPS: Survey residents to identify skill training and continuing education needs; Advocate for HCC and Workforce Solutions to open satellite offices in the Near Northside; Work in partnership with the Northside Chamber of Commerce to develop job training and workforce development programs; Expand enrollment in Wesley's healthcare and child development workforce programs	●
	Connect youth to summer job opportunities ACTION STEPS: Partner with Hire Houston Youth and DON Summer Youth Internship Program to enroll youth in summer jobs; Identify additional partnerships to expand opportunities for youth	●
Attract New Economic Development **PLAN:**	**Attract new businesses focused on neighborhood needs** ACTION STEPS: Develop a plan in partnership with City departments to attract new economic development to strategic locations, including Cavalcade near Fulton, North Main adjacent to Boundary Station and near Quitman Station; Work to attract a new grocery store, commercial kitchen, retail and restaurants, maker space and co-working space for emerging entrepreneurs	◐
	Develop incentives for new businesses, including small business development grants and loans ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with HCDD to identify small business grant and loan programs and connect area entrepreneurs to these programs	◐
Grow Local Businesses **PLAN:**	**Strengthen and grow existing businesses through access to grants, loans and mentoring** ACTION STEPS: Partner with the Small Business Association and the City of Houston to create a guide of business resources, including business loans and mentoring programs; Provide access to training and capacity building for contracting with the City and other government agencies	●
	Create a Near Northside "Neighborhood Guide" ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with the Northside Chamber of Commerce to develop a user-friendly guide, in both digital and print form, to highlight neighborhood businesses, opportunities, and amenities	◐
	Develop a "shop local" and small business promotional campaign ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with the Northside Chamber of Commerce to create a "shop local" and promotional campaign	○
	Facade improvement program ACTION STEPS: Identify locations and funding opportunities to implement a facade improvement program, focus on the North Main corridor	○

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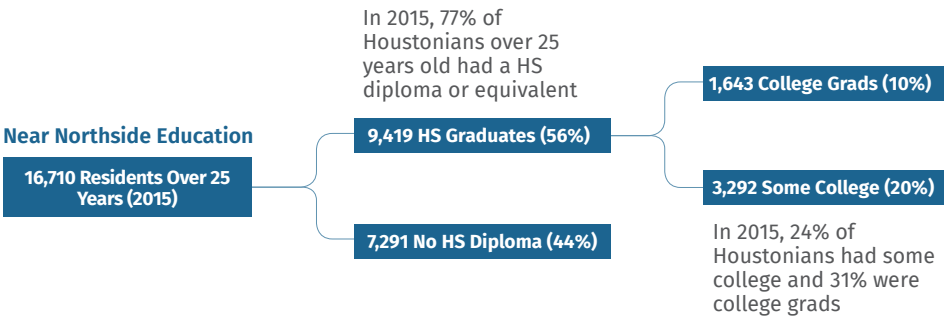
ECONOMY and JOBS

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**4** Agencies will provide job training and placement programs in the Near Northside by 2023	**LEAD:** OBO, Wesley Community Center, LISC, FOC, HPL, Project GRAD **SUPPORT:** HCC, Workforce Solutions, Northside Chamber of Commerce, AARP, SER Jobs for Progress	National Home Building Institute, Open Job Labs at Carnegie Library, cafécollege, Upskill Houston Initiative, Bridges to Career Opportunities (LISC), Financial Opportunity Center (LISC), AARP Back to Work 50+, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Hire Houston First
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** MOE, DON **SUPPORT:** HISD, Avenue, Greater Northside Workforce Coalition	Hire Houston Youth, DON Summer Youth Internship Program
Long (5+ yrs)	**20** New businesses in the Near Northside by 2023	**LEAD:** OBO, HCDD, Northside Chamber of Commerce, GNMD **SUPPORT:** Avenue	Build Up Houston, Economic Development Loan Program, City of Houston Permitting Center, Maker Space and Co-Working Space Development
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HCDD, Avenue **SUPPORT:** Northside Chamber of Commerce, GNMD	SBIR Grant, STTR Grant, STEP Grant, SBA/7A/S04/Express Loans, Women's Business Center, SCORE, Small Business Revolving Loan Fund, HBDI-Start-Up and Small Business Loans
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**$15 mil** In small business loans annually In 2015, 360 small business loans were granted, totaling $10.2 million Source: 2015 SBA Loans	**LEAD:** OBO, GNMD, SBA **SUPPORT:** HPL, Northside Chamber of Commerce, Interagency Mentor-Protege Program	Interagency Mentor-Protege Program, Build Up Houston, Liftoff Reloaded Classes at Carnegie Library, SCORE, SBA Small Business Loans, Procurement Technical Assistance Program, CDFI Fund, Economic Gardening
Short (0 -2 yrs)		**LEAD:** Northside Chamber of Commerce, GNMD **SUPPORT:** SN Council	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** Northside Chamber of Commerce, GNMD	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** Avenue **SUPPORT:** Area banks and financial institutions, GNMD	Small Business Loans provided by both area banks and SBA



EDUCATION

Introduction
High quality educational opportunities that are available to people of all ages create a complete community. Over the last fifteen years the number of Near Northside residents over the age of 25 years with a high school diploma has risen steadily from 42% in 2000 to 56% in 2015. Yet, there is an ongoing gap between educational attainment in the Near Northside and greater Houston where in 2015, 77% of residents over 25 had a high school diploma. In 2015, nearly half of the Northside High School's graduates went to college, but only 11% completed their degree after six years according to the Texas Education Agency. Overall, 10% of Near Northside residents have a college diploma, which is far below Houston's average of 31%.

The Near Northside is home to eight public schools: Roosevelt, Jefferson, Looscan, Clemente Martinez, Ketelsen and Sherman Elementary Schools, Marshall Middle School and Northside High School. The neighborhood is also home to four private and charter schools: Brazos School for Inquiry and Creativity, Houston CAN Academy, Bayou Village School, and United Christian Academy. All but one area school, Looscan Elementary, met Texas Education Agency standards for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Education Goals
The four education goals established for the Near Northside Complete Community were created from existing plans and a series of community meetings.

Marshall Middle School

The goals focus on nurturing parents, expanding opportunities for out of school enrichment, increasing access to early childhood education, and improving area schools. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The education goals are:

Nurture Parents and Lifelong Learning
Parent involvement in a child's education can lead to success. Providing the resources and programs parents need to assist their children in school and prepare them for their future is key to creating a complete community. Partnerships with area schools and community organizations to provide leadership skills, training, and continuing education for parents will provide them with the tools they need to support their children in school.

Expand Opportunities for Out of School Enrichment
After school and summer enrichment programs provide a supportive environment for students to learn and grow. The Near Northside is home to over 5,000 young people between the ages of 5 and 17. Yet, area summer programs have the capacity to serve fewer than 400. Expanding out of school programs, including those provided by Project GRAD and the Carnegie Library, will provide additional opportunities to enhance student success. The objective is to provide out of school programs for 800 youth by 2023.

Expand Access to Quality Early Childhood Education
A child's first years are a time of learning and

56% Of Near Northside residents over the age of 25 had a high school diploma in 2015

77% Of Houston residents over the age of 25 had a high school diploma in 2015

Data Sources: 2015 ACS (5-yr), 2010 Census, and 2000 Census, HCAD Public Data 2016

A **complete community** is a **learning community** with high quality schools, early childcare, out of school enrichment programs, and engaged parents

development. Quality early childcare and education programs positively impact a child's school achievement and lead to the increased likelihood of graduation. Children at Risk reports that the Near Northside has 1,181 early childcare seats, of these 316 are subsidized and 331 are defined as "quality", with 173 of these being Texas Rising Star certified. Over the next five years the objective is to increase the number of high quality early education slots by 300, including expanding the number of subsidized seats.

Increase Educational Success
The 2016 Texas Education Agency report provides STAAR performance ratings in math and reading for schools throughout Texas. Roosevelt, Ketelsen, and Sherman Elementary Schools performed better than the Houston Independent School District average on third grade STAAR tests in both reading and math. Jefferson, Looscan, and Martinez Elementary Schools fall below the HISD average. Good reading skills in the third grade is one of the strongest indicators of graduation.

Improving educational outcomes at area schools includes expanding wraparound services, increasing access to college and career readiness programs, and improving parent and community involvement. The objective is for all area public schools to meet Texas Education Agency standards by 2023.

Early Successes
The United Way, in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Education, the Houston Endowment, and Harris County Department of Education launched the Out 2 Learn website, a directory of out of school programs for youth. Visit http://out2learnhou.org/.

The Houston Public Library has expanded youth programs at many Complete Communities libraries. Visit the Carnegie Neighborhood Library to learn more, http://houstonlibrary.org/location/carnegie-neighborhood-library-and-center-learning.

Near Northside School Map

1. Roosevelt Elementary School
2. Jefferson Elementary School
3. Looscan Elementary School
4. C. Martinez Elementary School
5. Ketelsen Elementary School
6. Sherman Elementary School
7. Marshall Middle School
8. Northside High School
9. United Christian Academy
10. Brazos School for Inquiry and Creativity
11. Bayou Village School
12. Houston CAN Academy

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Nurture Parents and Lifelong Learning	**Provide leadership training, skills and resources for parents** ACTION STEPS: Expand leadership development programs for parents, including connecting parents to engagement programs provided by HISD; Create the "Civic Academy" to educate parents on the HISD system; Strengthen local PTAs and PTOs to ensure strong local schools; Support the Capital One Northside Education Coalition's work on civic advocacy, offer Spanish translation to improve communication	●
PLAN: ●○●○○○○○	**Support parents continuing education** ACTION STEPS: Expand knowledge of and access to GED test preparation courses; Expand enrollment in GED testing; Expand knowledge of and access to adult workforce programs at Wesley Community Center, Castillo Center, HCC, HPL and other providers; Promote literacy through Little Free Libraries at area washaterias in partnership with HPL's Groomed for Literacy Project	●
Expand Opportunities for Out of School Enrichment **PLAN:** ○○●○○○○○	**Expand after school and summer programs for youth** ACTION STEPS: Promote the Out 2 Learn directory of out of school programs to area parents; Expand after school tutoring, enrichment programs, and arts; Expand participation in the FACE program at Marshall MS, part of 21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative at HISD for after school or summer programs; Promote programs provided at the Carnegie Library and summer career exploration programs of Project GRAD	◐
Expand Enrollment and Access to Quality Early Childhood Education	**Increase the number of high quality early education slots** ACTION STEPS: Create partnerships to recruit qualified teachers; Educate parents on the importance of quality early education; Support the neighborhood's goal to increase the number of early education slots by 300, including additional childhood education centers; offer bilingual pre-k education, offer opportunities for early diagnosis of learning disabilities	◐
PLAN: ●○●○○○○○	**Increase the number of high quality early education subsidies** ACTION STEPS: Partner with workforce boards to increase parent stipends and incentivize Texas Rising Star certification; Identify additional subsidies to assist parents	○
Increase Educational Success	**Improve educational outcomes at area schools** ACTION STEPS: Develop strategies to advocate for the allocation of school funds focused on equity; Recruit residents to volunteer and mentor at area schools; Work with HISD to expand community engagement; Support the provision of wraparound services at area schools in partnership with HISD, CIS and the Mayor's Office of Education	○
PLAN: ●●●○○○○○	**Increase number of high school graduates who complete a certificate, vocational program, or 2-4 year college degree after six years** ACTION STEPS: Connect students to area programs, including Project GRAD programs and EMERGE-HISD which links high-performing students from underserved backgrounds to top-tier institutions; Organize trips to area colleges; Partner with Career Readiness programs at HISD to support students pursuing vocations and other alternatives to college	○

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EDUCATION

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 -2 yrs)	**65%** Of residents over the age of 25 years will have a high school diploma or equivalent by 2023 In 2015, 56% had a high school diploma or equivalent. Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)	**LEAD:** Capital One Northside Education Coalition, HISD, MOE **SUPPORT:** Avenue, Wesley Community Center, Leonel Castillo Center, BakerRipley	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** Capital One Northside Education Coalition, HISD, HCC, HPL **SUPPORT:** Wesley Community Center, Leonel Castillo Center, BakerRipley	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**800** Youth will be served by area summer programs by 2023 Source: Out 2 Learn	**LEAD:** Capital One Northside Education Coalition, HISD, MOE, Project GRAD **SUPPORT:** Avenue, Wesley, Leonel Castillo Center, BakerRipley, YMCA, HPL	Out 2 Learn, cafécollege, Project GRAD College and Career Institute
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**300** New early childhood education slots by 2023 Source: Collaborative for Children	**LEAD:** Collaborative for Children, Capital One Northside Education Coalition, Wesley Community Center **SUPPORT:** HISD, MOE, YMCA, Philanthropic Organizations	Texas Rising Star Program Head Start Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** Collaborative for Children, Capital One Northside Education Coalition, Wesley Community Center **SUPPORT:** HISD, MOE, YMCA, Philanthropic Organizations	Workforce Solutions
Long (5 + yrs)	**100%** Of area schools will meet Texas Education Agency Standards by 2023 In 2016, seven of the eight public schools met standards Source: Texas Education Agency, 2016	**LEAD:** Capital One Northside Education Coalition, CIS, HISD, MOE **SUPPORT:** Philanthropic Organizations, Residents	HISD Every Community, Every School
Long (5 + yrs)		**LEAD:** Capital One Northside Education Coalition, HISD, MOE, Project GRAD **SUPPORT:** UHD, Area Universities	EMERGE HISD, Hire Houston Youth, cafécollege, Project GRAD College and Career Institute

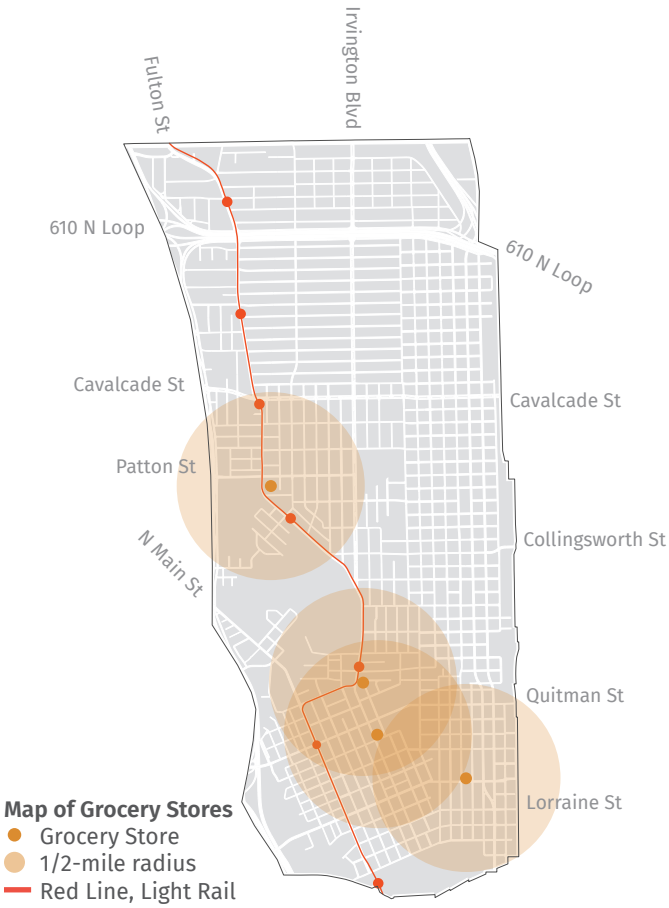
HEALTH

Introduction
A complete community is a healthy community. Over the last several decades, health care costs have escalated and sedentary and unhealthy lifestyles have become more pervasive. Combined, these factors are putting at risk prior gains in longevity and health. A new emphasis on the relationship between where we live and our health is needed.

Health Goals
The three goals for health focus on providing access to healthy foods, promoting opportunities for active living, and improving access to health services. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The health goals are:

Expand Access to Healthy Food
Food insecurity impacts many families in the Houston area. The Houston Food Bank reports that one in four children live in food insecure homes. While the Near Northside is well served by grocery stores, many families still experience food insecurity. Overall, 38% of families in the Near Northside qualify to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, but only 20% receive this benefit.

Expanding access to healthy food includes advocating for schools to provide healthy lunch options and



Complete Community Meeting

68% Of Near Northside residents had health insurance in 2015

73% Of Houston residents had health insurance in 2015

Data Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)

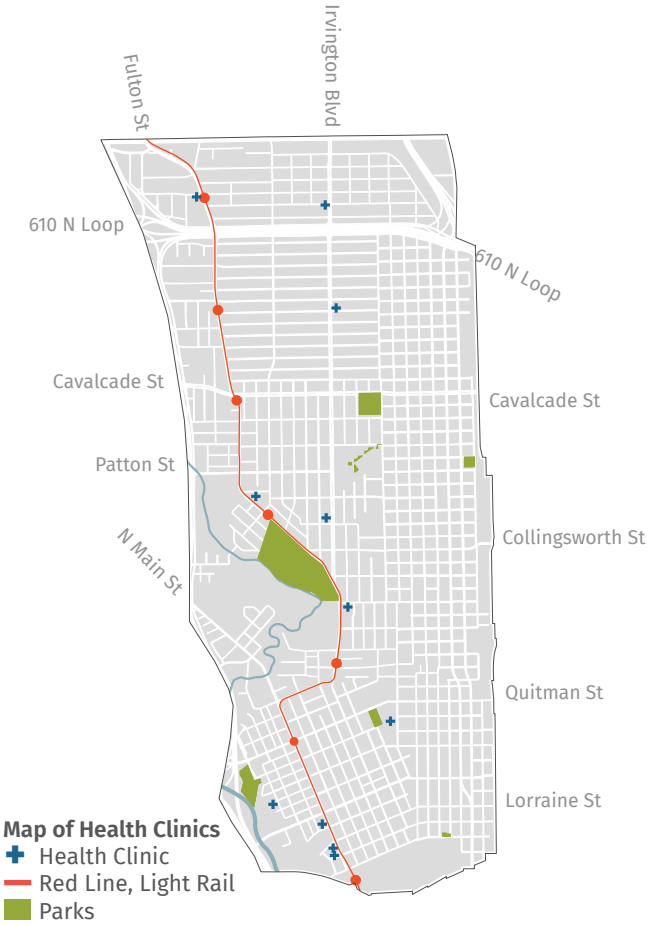
A **complete community** is a **healthy community** with access to nutritious food, healthcare and active living

partnering with the Houston Health Department and other non-profit organizations to offer cooking, nutrition, and gardening classes. Food insecurity can be addressed by bringing a farmers market, healthy corner stores, and additional Brighter Bites locations to the neighborhood, as well as increasing enrollment in SNAP. The objective is to ensure that healthy food is affordable and available to all Near Northside families.

Promote Opportunities for Active Living
Today, one out of three children in the U.S. are overweight or obese. The Near Northside Healthy Living Matters Study found that "43% of students at Ketelsen Elementary had high-risk BMIs (body mass index) that placed them in the overweight or obese categories. This compares to 33% county-wide."

Parks and safe places to walk or bike can help people lead active and healthy lives. Promoting events in the neighborhood, such as the Greater Northside Management District's Tour de Northside and CIGNA Sunday Streets, that encourage biking or walking and improving neighborhood sidewalks and bike amenities will encourage active living and improve health. The objective is for 71% of residents to engage in regular physical activity by 2023.

Improve Access to Health Services
According to data provided through the American Community Survey, in 2009 only 40% of Near Northside residents had health insurance. By 2015, 68% of residents had health insurance. In the next five years, the goal is to increase access to insurance navigators and health services and resources across the community, including mental healthcare. The objective is to continue to expand the number of residents covered by affordable health insurance, ensuring that they are able to secure the care they need.



61% Of Near Northside adults exercised regularly in 2013-2014

71% Of Houston adults exercised regularly in 2013-2014

Data Source: Complete Community Health Profile, Near Northside 2017, Houston Health Department

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Expand Access to Healthy Food PLAN:	**Increase food security by expanding area farmers markets, healthy corner stores, and Brighter Bites** ACTION STEPS: Partner with Brighter Bites, Can DO, and other area organizations, such as Urban Harvest, to expand access to healthy food inside of the neighborhood	●
	Offer cooking, nutrition and gardening education classes ACTION STEPS: Partner with the Houston Health Department (HHD) or other organizations for nutrition classes, fitness, and diabetes self-management education (DAWN); Partner with the YMCA and HHD to offer community gardening classes	◐
	Advocate for schools to expand healthy food options ACTION STEPS: Adopt healthy food and healthy vending policies in schools and public facilities; Secure grant funding for implementation	○
	Develop a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program or a Food Co-Op ACTION STEPS: Identify partners and strategies; Select a location and establish a Co-Op or CSA	○
	Increase opportunities to enroll in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ACTION STEPS: Join the SNAP/EBT action group at the Houston Food Bank; Recruit SNAP enrollment ambassadors through area churches, schools, and organizations; Expand enrollment in SNAP	○
Promote Opportunities for Active Living PLAN:	**Expand options for walking and biking in the neighborhood** (Also see infrastructure) ACTION STEPS: Expand safe routes to schools programs; Adopt a safe routes to parks policy; Explore the development of a City fund to support the construction and maintenance of sidewalks; Add bike racks to area destinations and businesses	●
	Expand Tour de Northside and CIGNA Sunday Streets ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with the GNMD and CIGNA Sunday Streets to expand these programs in the Near Northside	○
Improve Access to Health Services PLAN:	**Identify and address mental health care needs** ACTION STEPS: Increase access to the Houston Health Department's counselors from Harris Center at local clinics; Partner with the City on the proposed campaign to identify and address mental health needs	◐
	Increase access to healthcare insurance, providers and resources ACTION STEPS: Provide Affordable Care Act benefits application assistance and navigation; Partner with Houston Health Department to identify qualifying individuals for affordable healthcare services; Work with area clinics to provide targeted health services and screening	◐

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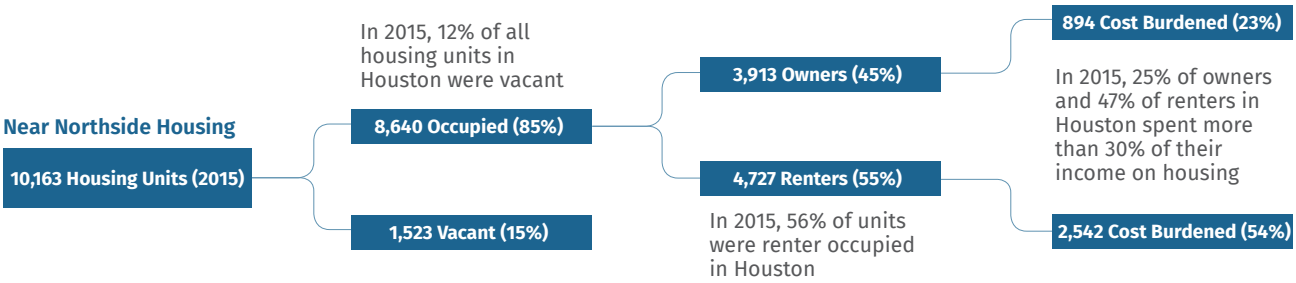
HEALTH

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**50%** Of SNAP eligible families will receive this benefit by 2023 Currently 38% of eligible families receive SNAP benefits Source: Feedingtexas.org	**LEAD:** Memorial Hermann, HHD **SUPPORT:** Can DO Houston, Brighter Bites, Urban Harvest, BUILD Partnership	Can DO Healthy Corner Stores, Brighter Bites, Houston Food Bank Food Scholarships
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** HLM, HHD, YMCA **SUPPORT:** HISD, AARP, American Heart Association, Recipe for Success, Urban Harvest	Recipe for Success, DAWN Program
Long (5 + yrs)		**LEAD:** HLM, Memorial Hermann, School Health Advisory Committee **SUPPORT:** HHD, HISD, BUILD Partnership	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** Avenue **SUPPORT:** HHD, Urban Harvest, Finca Tres Robles, Plant It Forward, BUILD Partnership	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** HHD **SUPPORT:** Memorial Hermann, Houston Food Bank, Avenue, HLM, BUILD Partnership	
Long (5 + yrs)	**71%** Of residents will engage in regular physical activity by 2023 Currently 61% of residents regularly exercise. Source: Houston Health Department, Complete Communities Near Northside Profile, 2013-2014	**LEAD:** HPW, HLM, Memorial Hermann, Safe Walk Home **SUPPORT:** HHD, GNMD, YMCA	Exercise is Medicine Program; Houston Bike Racks Donation Program, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** GNMD **SUPPORT:** CIGNA Sunday Streets	Tour de Northside, CIGNA Sunday Streets
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**75%** Of residents will have health insurance by 2023 In 2015, 68% had insurance Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)	**LEAD:** HHD, Harris Center for Mental Health **SUPPORT:** HLM, Memorial Hermann, HPD, HFD	CIS Mental Health Initiative
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HHD, HLM	



HOUSING

Introduction
High quality housing that meets the needs of people with a diversity of incomes and housing-related services that support both current and future residents is one step towards creating a complete community. This includes expanding housing choices, increasing homeownership, attracting new residents, and stabilizing existing homeowners through education and home repair programs.

Since 2000, the number of housing units in the Near Northside has increased by 6%, rising from 9,608 units in 2000 to 10,163 in 2015. During the same time period the percent of vacant units has risen sharply, from 8% of units in 2000 to 15% of units in 2015, when over 1,500 housing units sat vacant. In 2015, vacant units made up 12% of all housing in Houston.

Many Near Northside residents are burdened with high housing costs. Overall 54% of renters and 23% of owners spent more than 30% of their income on housing in 2015. In the same year, 47% of renters and 25% of owners in Houston spent more than 30% of their income on housing. In addition, 92% percent of renters and 60% of owners in the Near Northside who make less than $20,000 spent more than 30% of their income on housing in 2015.

Complete Community Meeting

Housing Goals
The three housing goals established for the Near Northside Complete Community were identified through existing plans and a series of community meetings. The goals focus on renovating existing housing, building new affordable housing, and growing and securing homeownership. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The housing goals are:

Renovate Existing Housing
The Near Northside is a historic community that was founded in the late 1800s and developed slowly in the decades that followed. Over 80% of housing in the Near Northside was built before 1969, compared to only 36% in the City of Houston. As a result, much of the housing in the neighborhood is in need of repair.

Supporting current programs and developing new strategies to repair and stabilize existing housing will preserve the historic character of the Near Northside and ensure families and seniors have high quality housing. Existing programs, including Rebuilding Northside Together, will be supported to ensure home repairs are completed for a minimum of ten income-eligible seniors and families each year. Establishing a low-interest home improvement loan fund and acquiring neighborhood properties for restoration will assist both existing homeowners and attract new residents. Finally, a partnership will be established with the Houston Housing Authority to identify strategies to improve both Irvinton and Fulton Villages.

54% Of Near Northside renters paid more than 30% of their income on housing in 2015

23% Of Near Northside owners paid more than 30% of their income on housing in 2015

Data Sources: 2015 ACS (5-yr), 2010 Census, and 2000 Census, HCAD Public Data 2016

A **complete community** is an **affordable community** with high quality housing that is accessible to people with a diversity of incomes, where existing residents are protected from displacement, and historic housing is repaired and preserved

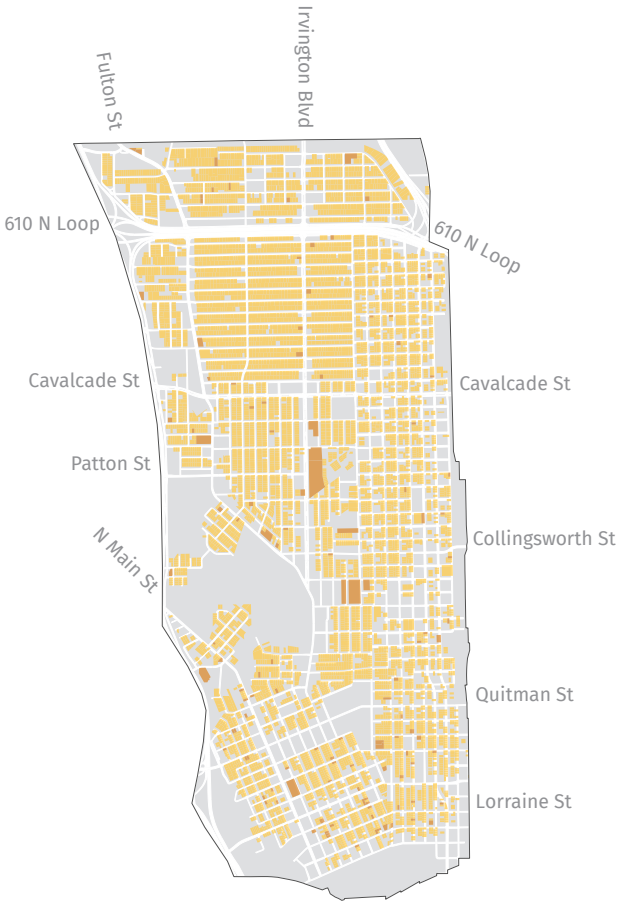
Build New Housing
As new development comes to the Near Northside, ensuring that there is adequate affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents, as well as new market rate housing, will make the neighborhood attractive and attainable for people with a diversity of incomes and needs.

Avenue has been working in the Near Northside since 2002. Major affordable housing developments in the neighborhood include Avenue Place, Avenue Terraces, Avenue Station, Avenue Villas, and Fulton Gardens. Between 2010 and 2016, Avenue completed over 300 new affordable and market rate units. Additional affordable and market rate housing is currently under construction.

Over the next five years, programs to build single-family infill housing in the neighborhood will be pursued, along with constructing additional affordable multi-family housing and transit-oriented development projects. The goal is to build a minimum of 100 new units by 2023.

Grow and Secure Homeownership
Homeownership is one of the most important factors in building family wealth and improving neighborhood stability. Yet, between 2000 and 2015, homeownership rates in the Near Northside declined from 50% to 45% of households. Rising property values and tax burdens have also had an impact on the community. In 2018, the average price of homes for sale in the Near Northside was over $300,000, and the average rent was over $1500 per month. In 2014, the median sales price for homes was $170,000.

Expanding homeowner education and support programs, such as those provided by Avenue at their Homeownership Center, will help to stabilize homeownership rates. This includes ensuring that existing owners are secure in their homes and that new homebuyers have the tools they need to purchase a home. The objective is to maintain the 2015 homeownership rate of 45%.



Housing by Type Map
Single-family
Multi-family

78% Of all Near Northside renters had incomes less than $35,000 in 2015. Of these, **81%** spent more than 30% of their income on housing

Data Source: 2015 ACS (5-yr)

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Renovate Existing Housing PLAN:	**Provide home repair programs for seniors and others with high needs** ACTION STEPS: Continue and expand the home repair program for income eligible, low- and moderate-income homeowners through the Home Repair Program in partnership with Rebuilding Northside Together and Avenue; Partner with Housing and Community Development for matching grants to the Houston Health Department to complete lead abatement; Fund and start a job skills and home repair program in partnership with workforce centers or community service requirements	●
	Develop a program to acquire and restore existing single- and multi-family housing to increase affordable housing ACTION STEPS: Identify and acquire existing single- or multi-family properties; Partner with Housing and Community Development to assist with acquisition and explore the potential transfer of properties to a Community Land Trust; Determine feasibility and impact in Near Northside	●
	Improve Irvinton Village and Fulton Village without displacement ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with the Houston Housing Authority to explore the potential for improvement or redevelopment	◐
	Explore creation of a home improvement loan program ACTION STEPS: Develop a home improvement loan program to serve households within the 80-120% of area median income (AMI); Focus on developing a low-interest, revolving loan fund	○
Build New Housing PLAN:	**Build new housing for purchase and rental for a variety of income levels** ACTION STEPS: Partner with Housing and Community Development (HCDD) to develop a single-family infill lot proposal for new affordable housing (at 80% AMI or below), including the potential for infill housing to be placed into a community land trust; Partner with HCDD to explore the development of affordable multi-family housing or transit-oriented development projects; Explore alternative housing strategies such as tiny homes, green building strategies, condominiums, and community land trusts; Provide incentives to developers providing mixed-income housing	●
Grow and Secure Homeownership PLAN:	**Grow Homeownership** ACTION STEPS: Promote homeownership through home buyer education and counseling; Expand Homebuyer Assistance Programs in the Near Northside, including down payment assistance and other grant programs	●
	Provide workshops for homeowners to ensure their security ACTION STEPS: Partner with Housing and Community Development and the Harris County Appraisal District to provide workshops on property tax protests, exemptions, deed transfer and wills to secure homeowners	●

PLAN Legend:

- Complete Communities Action Plan
- City of Houston Plans and CIP
- Near Northside Quality of Life Agreement
- Northside Livable Centers Study
- Sector 17 Parks Plan
- Greater Northside Pedestrian Transit Access Master Plan
- METRO Transit Oriented Development
- Healthy Living Matters NNS Recommendations

HOUSING

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**10** Homes repaired each year	**LEAD:** HCDD, Avenue, HHD, Rebuilding Northside Together **SUPPORT:** Philanthropic Organizations	HCDD Home Repair Program, HHD Lead Abatement Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, Texas Ramp Project, Rebuilding Together Houston (including Roofs Over Houston, Interior Repair Program, Safe and Sound Program, Ramp Angels)
Long (5 + yrs)		**LEAD:** HCDD, Avenue	
Long (5 + yrs)	**24** Home lead abatements each year	**LEAD:** HHA **SUPPORT:** Avenue, HUD	Choice Neighborhoods Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HCDD, Avenue **SUPPORT:** Area Banks, Philanthropic Organizations	
Long (5 + yrs)	**100** New homes constructed, owner and renter, in five years Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)	**LEAD:** HCDD, Avenue **SUPPORT:** LISC	Incremental Development Alliance
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**45%** Stabilize homeownership at the 2015 rate of 45% of households Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)	**LEAD:** HCDD, Avenue **SUPPORT:** LISC, FOC	Avenue Homeownership Center, Homebuyer Assistance Program, My First Texas Home, Mortgage Credit Certificate Program, Five-Star Texas Advantage Program
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** HCDD, HCAD **SUPPORT:** Avenue	Homeowner Education Workshop

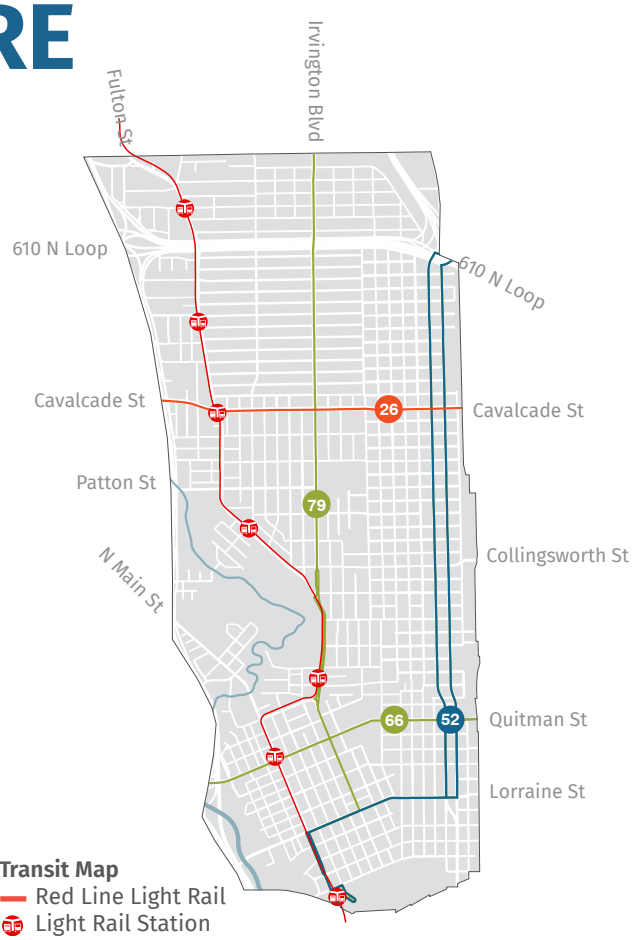
MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduction
The Near Northside community is well-served by public transit, including the Red Line light rail and four local bus routes. The Red Line travels along N. Main and Fulton Streets in the western portion of the neighborhood, and connects to HCC Northline, downtown, the Museum District, NRG Park, and other destinations, as well as linking to the Southeast Corridor light rail (Purple Line) and the East End light rail (Green Line). The Red Line opened in 2013, improving connectivity in the neighborhood and sparking new development.

While the Near Northside is well-connected to the city through buses and rail, the local streets and sidewalks need improvements to enhance safety, walkability, and connectivity. In the near future, both the North Houston Highway Improvement Project and the Hardy Toll Road extension will impact the neighborhood.

Mobility and Infrastructure Goals
The three goals for mobility and infrastructure were compiled from existing Near Northside plans and a series of community meetings. The goals focus on improving streets and sidewalks, providing bike amenities, and improving safety, walkability, and connectivity. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The mobility and infrastructure goals are:

Improve Neighborhood Mobility
In 2015, 18% of Near Northside households did not own a vehicle, compared to 9% in the City overall. Yet, only 6% of Near Northside workers used public transit to get to work, compared to 4% in Houston. An additional 8% of Near Northside residents walked or biked to work in 2015. Because a significant number of residents walk or ride transit in the neighborhood, the condition and safety of sidewalks and streets is an important element in creating a complete community.



Transit Map
- Red Line Light Rail
- Light Rail Station
- Bus Route 52, Low Frequency
- Bus Route 79 and 66, Medium Frequency
- Bus Route 26, High Frequency

6% Of Near Northside workers 16 years and older used public transportation as a means to get to work in 2015

4% Of Houston workers 16 years and older used public transportation as a means to get to work in 2015

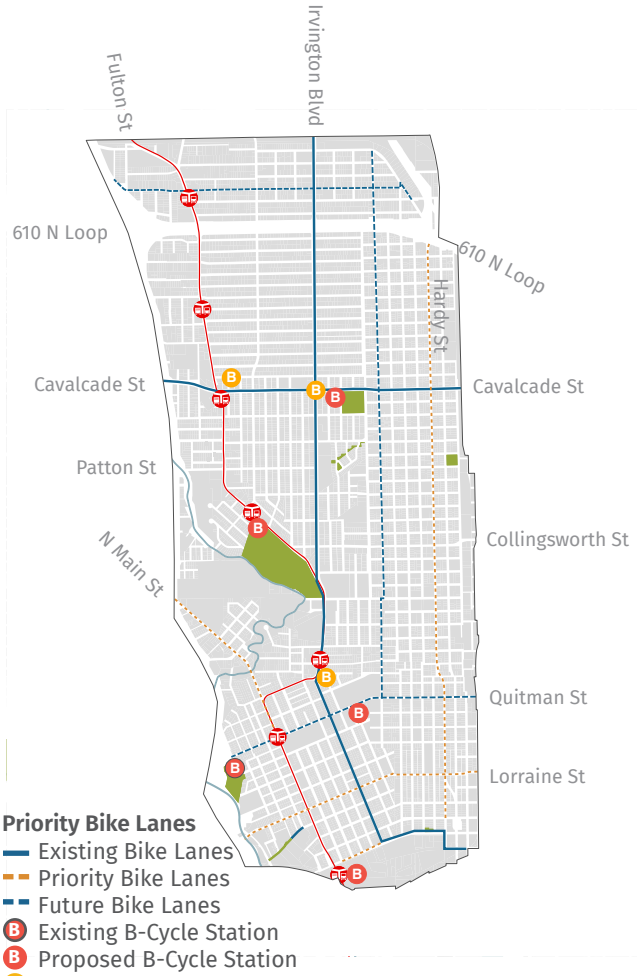
Data Sources: City of Houston GIS, Capital Improvement Plan, ACS 2015 (5-year)

A **complete community** is a **connected and resilient community** with high quality public transit, walkable streets, bike amenities, and good infrastructure

New and improved sidewalks and street lighting would enhance walkability across the neighborhood. Sidewalk improvements should be focused adjacent to transit routes, area schools, and public spaces, and include accessibility improvements, such as ramps, and high visibility crosswalks. Current sidewalk priorities include Cochran and Campbell Streets. Improving the safety and walkability of the neighborhood overall will improve connectivity, and expand the number of residents utilizing public transit. The objective is to increase the percent of residents using public transit over the next five years.

Great Streets
A complete community is a community with quality infrastructure and complete streets. Improving streets can encourage economic development, increase property values, and provide for greater mobility. Near Northside civic leaders will be working in partnership with Houston Public Works to evaluate and prioritize street improvement projects. Current priorities include Lorraine and Hogan Streets. In addition, streetscaping projects will be pursued for major corridors, Including the Greater Northside Management District's Quitman Pedestrian Enhancements Project from South Street to Gano Street.

Expand Bike Lanes and Amenities
The Near Northside currently has five miles of area bike lanes running primarily along Cavalcade and Irvington. The neighborhood also has one B-Cycle Station at Leonel Castillo Center. A number of projects are proposed to expand bike lanes and amenities in the neighborhood over the next five years. These include priority bike lanes on Hardy Street and Quitman Street. B-Cycle Stations are proposed at Castillo Park, Quitman Station, Fulton Station, and the Burnett Transit Station. Bike racks are proposed along Fulton at the intersections of both Cavalcade and Boundary, and along Irvington Boulevard. Finally, developing bike connections to the Little White Oak Bayou Greenway is a priority.



Early Successes
Houston Public Works is currently working on the following sidewalks: Cochran Street from James to Noble; and, Campbell Street from Gano to Cochran.

Council Member Karla Cisneros is working in partnership with Houston Public Works to identify funding for the Hardy Street bike lane.

METRO is extending bike lanes from the Quitman and Cavalcade Stations along the Red Line.

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Improve Neighborhood Mobility PLAN:	**New sidewalks and crossings** ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with Houston Public Works (HPW) on priority sidewalk projects, including Cochran, James to Noble; Campbell St., Cochran St. to Gano St; Extension of sidewalks on Gale St., Canadian St., and Evelyn St.; Sidewalk on Hogan St. between N. Main St. and Elysian; Evaluate and improve the safety of crosswalks and rail crossings with high visibility markings	●
	Improve sidewalk and ramps to meet ADA standards ACTION STEPS: Partner with METRO and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities to complete sidewalk and ramp accessibility assessments throughout the neighborhood; Identify priority projects and work with Houston Public Works (HPW) and METRO to make accessibility improvements	●
	Improve Neighborhood Streetlighting ACTION STEPS: Partner with HPW to identify areas to complete streetlight surveys, including Cavalcade St.; Hogan St./Lorraine St. between Main St. and Hardy St.; Brooks St. between Main St. and Hardy St.; Near Moody Park Station, Cavalcade Station; Main St., between Boundary St. and Quitman St.; Improve lighting in the Hernandez Tunnel	◐
	Increase transit ridership and other mobility options ACTION STEPS: Develop a "Near Northside Transit Map" to be installed throughout the community; Partner with ARA/Park Houston to evaluate the feasibility of installing 3-5 car share stations at area destinations	○
Great Streets PLAN:	**Streetscaping** ACTION STEPS: Prioritize streetscape enhancements on major arterial roads including N. Main St.; Fulton St.; Irvington Blvd.; Elysian St.; Hardy St.; Burnett St.; Hogan St.; Lorraine St.; Collingsworth St.; Patton St.; Quitman St.	●
	Improve neighborhood streets ACTION STEPS: Work with Houston Public Works to identify priority street improvements; Currently, Lorraine and Hogan St. are priority projects; All street improvement projects should follow the City's Complete Streets Executive Order	○
Expand Bike Lanes and Amenities PLAN:	**Expand area bike lanes and hike and bike trails** ACTION STEPS: Work with HPW on priority bike lanes, including (in order of priority) Hardy St. from Burnett St. to Kelley St.; N. Main St. from Boundary to Whitney; Quitman St. from South St. to Elysian St.; Pinckney Street from Keene St. to MKT Trail	◐
	Hike and Bike Trails ACTION STEPS: Partner with the Houston Parks Board (HPB) to develop strategies to link the Little White Oak Greenway to Quitman Station, neighborhood parks, and the area near Harrington St.; Explore opportunities for new trails in association with the proposed Hardy Toll Road extension and I-45 expansion	○
	Install bike racks at area businesses and other locations ACTION ITEMS: Identify locations for bike racks, including Fulton at Cavalcade, Irvington area restaurants, Fulton St. near Boundary St; Install bike racks	○
	Expand B-Cycle ACTION STEPS: Identify new B-Cycle locations, including Castillo Park or Carnegie Branch Library, and area transit stations; Install B-Cycle Stations	○

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MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

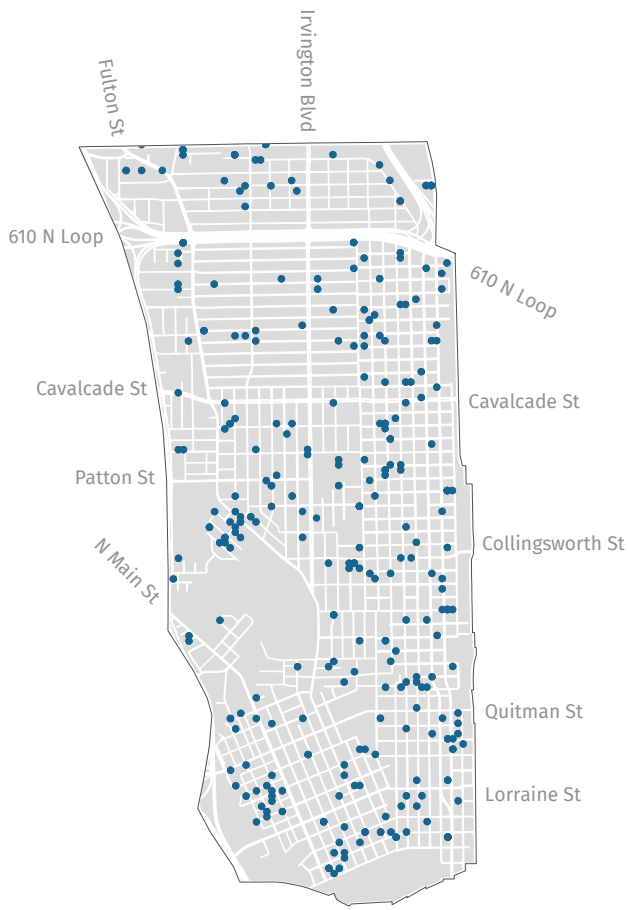
TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HPW **SUPPORT:** SN Council, GNMD, Scenic Houston Streetscape Initiative	Safe Sidewalk Program, CIP
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**9%** Of workers over 16 years will ride public transit to work by 2023 In 2015, 6% rode public transit to work Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)	**LEAD:** METRO, HPW **SUPPORT:** SN Council, DON, MOPD, AARP	Safe Sidwalk Program, METRO Universal Accessibility Initiative, CIP
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HPW, DON, Centerpoint **SUPPORT:** SN Council, Safe Walk Home, GNMD, Scenic Houston Streetscape Initiative	PWE Streetlight Survey Program, DON Streetlight Campaign Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** METRO, ARA/Park Houston, Avenue **SUPPORT:** SN Council, HPW	MOCA + HAA Grants, Neighborhood Matching Grants
Long (5 + yrs)	**5** Miles of street improvements by 2023 Source: City of Houston GIS	**LEAD:** HPW, GNMD, METRO **SUPPORT:** Philanthropy, Trees for Houston, Keep Houston Beautiful	
Long (5 + yrs)		**LEAD:** HPW **SUPPORT:** GNMD, METRO, Rebuild Houston	CIP, Rebuild Houston
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**10** Miles of hike and bike trails or bike lanes serving the neighborhood by 2023 Currently there are 5 miles of bike lanes Source: City of Houston GIS	**LEAD:** HPW **SUPPORT:** HPB, GNMD	Houston Bike Plan, Houston Parks Board Beyond the Bayous Initiative, CIP
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HPB **SUPPORT:** GNMD, HPW	Houston Parks Board Beyond the Bayous Initiative and Bayou Greenway Initiative
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** HHD **SUPPORT:** SN Council, Avenue, GNMD	Houston Bike Racks Donation Program, BUILD Partnership, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** Houston B-Cycle, PDD **SUPPORT:** SN Council	Houston B-Cycle

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Introduction
The Near Northside is a historic and vibrant community that first developed in the late 1800s with the expansion of the Hardy Rail Yards. Victorian style bungalows still line many of the Near Northside's streets, while major corridors are home to local businesses. Over the last three decades disinvestment and low land prices sparked localized redevelopment, but many areas of the Near Northside retain their original homes dating to the beginning of the 1900s. Neighborhood leaders have sought to protect the historic character of the neighborhood, while also advocating for new development along the METRO Red Line, expanding opportunities for public art, and creating events, such as Sabor del Northside, to celebrate the culture of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Character Goals
The three goals for neighborhood character were compiled from existing Near Northside plans and a series of community meetings. The goals focus on protecting the character of the neighborhood, creating a place for art, and celebrating the community. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The neighborhood character goals are:

Protect the Character of the Neighborhood
The Near Northside is a historic neighborhood that continues to grow and change. As a means to protect the character of the neighborhood, Near Northside civic leaders have protected close to 2,000 lots through minimum lot size restrictions. These restrictions protect the character of single-family neighborhoods by preventing the subdivision of lots. Civic leaders will continue to protect the character of the neighborhood by fighting illegal dumping, nuisances and blight, expanding areas protected through minimum lot size restrictions, and working with area civic clubs and community leaders to designate additional historic landmarks and districts.



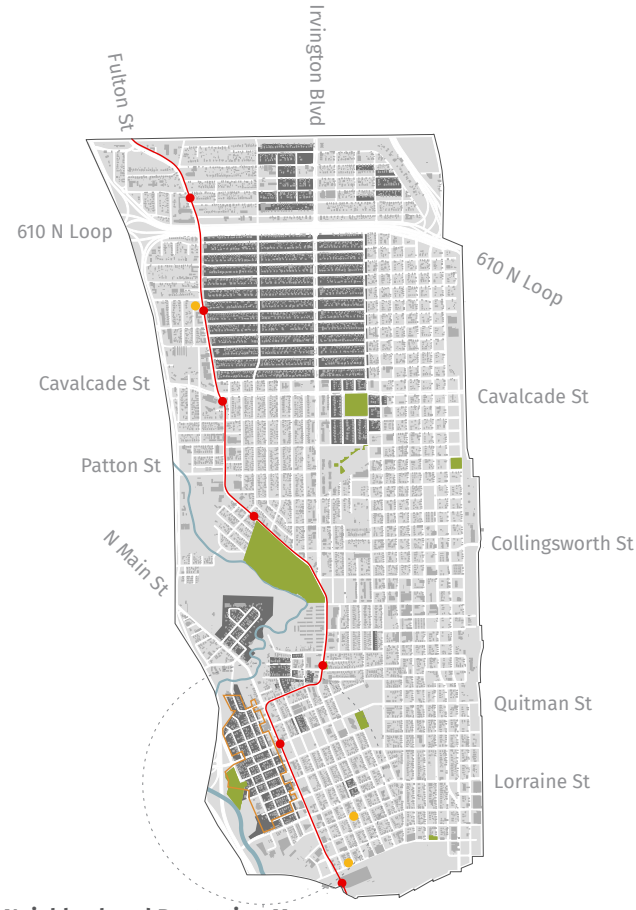
Illegal Dumping
● 311 Calls for Illegal Dumping

Early Successes
The Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs is leading an inclusive cultural strategy to bring new programs and expand existing ones in each Complete Community. This includes four new Mini Murals, a Civic Art project, the Visit My Neighborhood grants, creative writing workshops, a Resident Artists Program (R.A.P), and a Neighborhood Poetry Project by Houston Poet Laureate, Deborah 'DEEP' Mouton. For more information visit: http://www.houstontx.gov/culturalaffairs/cccs/near-northside.pdf

A **complete community** is a **beautiful community** with historic neighborhoods, public art, and festivals and events that celebrate culture

Create a Place for Art
The Near Northside is a vibrant, historic neighborhood with a strong identity and culture. Public art and cultural enrichment enhance and celebrate a place's culture, and contributes to creating a complete community. In the coming years, Near Northside leaders will develop partnerships to create a public art plan, expand public art across the community, including at important destinations such as the Carnegie Library or Moody Park, and attract a new cultural center to the neighborhood.

Celebrate the Community
Festivals, celebrations, and events bring neighbors together, and create stronger social ties which enhance the civic and public life of the neighborhood. The Sabor del Northside festival, established in 2012, is the signature event in the neighborhood, along with the Tour de Northside and the Mercado de Northside. Expanding and supporting these events will continue to strengthen social cohesion in the community. In addition, partnering with the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs and the Houston Arts Alliance to expand arts and cultural experiences for residents and visitors will expand exposure to the arts and artists across the neighborhood.



Neighborhood Protection Map
- Minimum Lot Size Restriction
- National Register Historic District
- City of Houston Historic Landmark
- Parks
- Red Line

7 Calls to 311 for illegal dumping per 1,000 Near Northside residents in 2016

4 Calls to 311 for illegal dumping per 1,000 Houston residents in 2016

Data Source: Houston 311 Calls, 2016

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Protect the Character of the Neighborhood PLAN:	**Protect the neighborhood from nuisances and blight** ACTION STEPS: Work with the Department of Neighborhoods and other City departments to address area nuisances and blight, such as illegal dumping, bandit signs, code compliance, and other issues; Provide additional heavy trash pick up	●
	Protect neighborhood character through minimum lot size restrictions ACTION STEPS: Continue to work with civic clubs and leaders to identify areas for minimum lot sizes	◐
	Expand area historic districts and landmarks ACTION STEPS: Identify and secure historical markers for important sites, events and landmarks in the Near Northside; Work in partnership with the Planning and Development Department to review policies on establishing a historic district	○
Create a Place for Art PLAN:	**Develop a public art plan** ACTION STEPS: Partner with the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (MOCA), Houston Arts Alliance, Hardy TIRZ, the Greater Northside Management District (GNMD), and others to create a public art plan	●
	Expand public art ACTION STEPS: Identify key neighborhood public art projects including a mural at Carnegie Library and Fiesta; Advocate for additional public art expenditures in underserved neighborhoods; Partner with MOCA, HAA, Houston Public Library and others on four new Mini Murals, a Civic Art project, the Visit My Neighborhood grants, a Resident Artist Program (R.A.P.), creative writing workshops and a Neighborhood Poetry Project by the Houston Poet Laureate, Deborah 'DEEP' Mouton	○
	Attract a new cultural center ACTION STEPS: Survey existing cultural centers in Houston; Identify partners who have the capacity to expand; Develop an advocacy team to work towards a new cultural center	○
Celebrate the Community PLAN:	**Organize and support signature events and festivals in the neighborhood** ACTION STEPS: Continue to grow and support area events such as Sabor del Northside, Tour de Northside, Mercado de Northside	●

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NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 -2 yrs)	**2000** Parcels protected through minimum lot size restrictions by 2023 Currently 1500 parcels are protected Source: Planning and Development, My City Map Viewer	**LEAD:** DON, HPD, SWD **SUPPORT:** SN Council, Area Civic Clubs, GO Neighborhoods Teams, GNMD	Blast the Bandit Sign, Cure for the Common Code Roundtable, HPD Differential Response Team, ROW Maintenance, Litter Abatement, Graffiti Abatement
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** Avenue, SN Council **SUPPORT:** PDD	Minimum Lot Size Ordinance
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** SN Council, Civic Clubs, PDD **SUPPORT:** Philanthropic Organizations, National Trust for Historic Preservation	Historic District Ordinance, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Texas Preservation Trust Fund
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** GNMD, Near Northside NST **SUPPORT:** Avenue, Hardy TIRZ, MOCA	National Endowment for the Arts Grants, MOCA + HAA Grants
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**20** Public Art projects completed in the community by 2023	**LEAD:** MOCA, HAA, GNMD **SUPPORT:** Avenue, Area Businesses, Philanthropic Organizations, HHD, BUILD Partnership	Mini-Murals National Endowment for the Arts Grants, MOCA + HAA Grants
Long (5 + yrs)		**LEAD:** Avenue **SUPPORT:** HCDD	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**Annual** Sabor del Northside Festival continues	**LEAD:** Avenue, GNMD, Northside Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORT:** Area Businesses, SN Council, Civic Clubs	Neighborhood Matching Grants, Council District Funds, TUTS

PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Introduction
The Near Northside has eight area parks: Avenue Place, Burnett Street, Castillo, Fulton, Henderson, Hogg, Irvington, and Moody Parks. The eight parks encompass 51 acres. Based on the recommended standards developed in the 2015 Houston Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan, the area has a park deficit of 11 acres. The highest needs for park access, according to the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore Map, is in the northern section of the neighborhood (see map, opposite page right). Currently, approximately 79% of area residents live within 1/2-mile or a 10-minute walk of a park. Identifying opportunities to build new parks, while improving and expanding existing parks, will increase accessibility to quality green spaces.

Parks and Community Amenities Goals
The two goals for parks and community amenities were identified through existing Near Northside plans and a series of community meetings. The goals focus on creating new parks and green spaces as well as expanding and improving existing parks and public open spaces. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The parks and community amenities goals are:

Castillo Park

Develop New Parks and Green Spaces
Proximity and access to open spaces and parks improves property values and encourages healthy and active lifestyles. To address the park deficit in the Near Northside, additional green space sites need to be identified. Opportunities include exploring vacant land and under-utilized spaces for small public plazas and green spaces. In addition, creating a partnership with the Houston Parks Board to develop a green corridor along Little White Oak Bayou to link area parks, including Woodland and Moody, will expand access to green spaces and create greater connectivity across the neighborhood. The objective is to ensure that 100% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park by 2023.

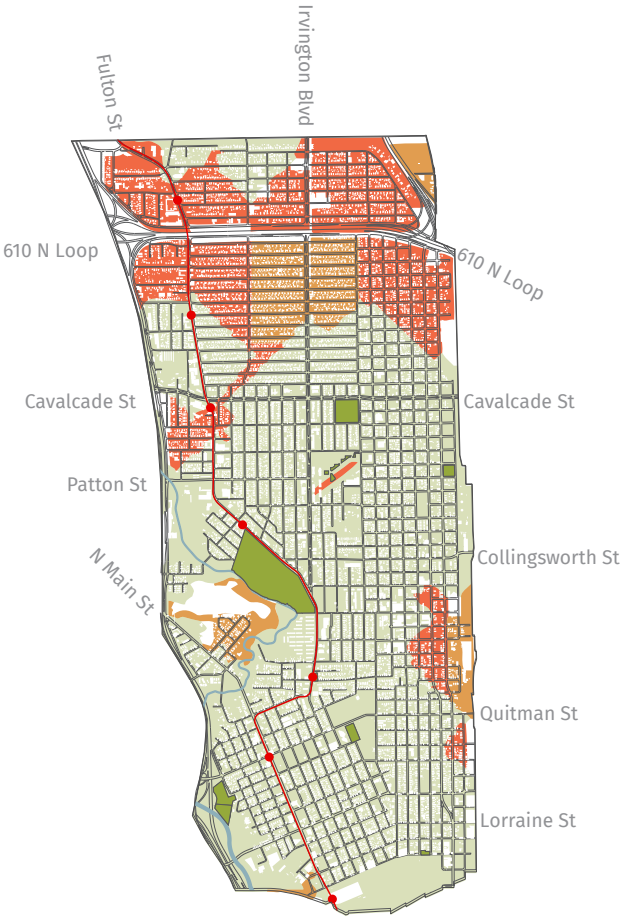
Expand and Improve Existing Parks and Public Spaces
Three of the neighborhood's eight parks were identified as needing improvements: Castillo, Irvington, and Moody. Castillo Park is an opportunity to create a great urban green space in the heart of the neighborhood and directly adjacent to Marshall Middle School, Northside High School, and the Carnegie Library.

Basic improvements such as better lighting, maintenance, and security are needed at both Irvington and Moody Parks. In addition, creating a partnership with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to improve access to Moody Park and explore additional family-friendly amenities will be pursued.

79% Of Near Northside residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park

Data Source: City of Houston GIS

A **complete community** is a **sustainable community** with high quality parks and community amenities



Park Map

1. Avenue Place Park
2. Burnett Street Park
3. Castillo Park
4. Fulton Park
5. Henderson Park
6. Hogg Park
7. Irvington Park
8. Moody Park

— Red Line (Light Rail)

ParkScore Map
Trust for Public Land

- Area Served by parks
- High need for parks
- Very high need for parks

11 Acres Total Near Northside park deficit based on recommended standards from 2015 Parks Master Plan

Data Sources: City of Houston GIS, Trust for Public Land ParkScore Map 2016, Houston Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2015

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Develop New Parks and Green Spaces **PLAN:**	**Transform vacant lots and leftover spaces into public plazas and green spaces** ACTION STEPS: Develop concepts and designs for new pocket parks in areas with high park needs, including sites near Hogan St. for the southeast part of the neighborhood; Complete the Fulton green space and butterfly garden in partnership with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) and Greater Northside Management District (GNMD); Work in partnership with the Hardy Toll Road extension project to identify and develop opportunities for new green spaces; Identify additional sites for small plazas and parks	●
	Create an open space corridor adjacent to Little White Oak Bayou, connecting Woodland and Moody Park ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with the Houston Parks Board to create a green corridor linking area parks along Little White Oak Bayou	◐
Expand and Improve Existing Parks and Public Spaces **PLAN:**	**Castillo Park Improvements** ACTION STEPS: Improve Castillo Park to provide a central park in the heart of the neighborhood; Early action projects include removing the fence, adding lighting, and improving the playground	●
	Moody Park Improvements ACTION STEPS: Identify and complete needed improvements at Moody Park, including the potential of a splash pad, better lighting, senior amenities, maintenance, and security; Work in partnership with METRO to create better accessibility to the park	◐
	Irvington Park Improvements ACTION STEPS: Identify and complete needed improvements at Irvington Park, including adding new lighting for the basketball pavilion and providing regular maintenance	○

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PARKS AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**100%** Of residents will be within a 10-minute walk to a neighborhood park by 2023	**LEAD:** HPARD, GNMD, HPB **SUPPORT:** Avenue, Council District, METRO, Hardy Toll Road, Scenic Houston Streetscape Initiative	Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Parks Grant Program, Urban Outdoor Recreation, Houston Parks Board Beyond the Bayous Initiative
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	Currently, 79% of residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park	**LEAD:** HPB **SUPPORT:** Philanthropic Organizations, GNMD, Scenic Houston Streetscape Initiative	Houston Parks Board Beyond the Bayous Initiative
Long (5 + yrs)		**LEAD:** HPARD, HCDD, Avenue **SUPPORT:** Marshall MS, Carnegie Library, Philanthropic Organizations, GNMD, BUILD Partnership	CDBG Grant Funding Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Parks Grant Program, Urban Outdoor Recreation
Long (5 + yrs)	**1** Neighborhood park will be improved by 2023	**LEAD:** HPARD, METRO **SUPPORT**: BUILD Partnership	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HPARD	

SAFETY

Introduction
Safety is an important key to building a healthy and thriving community. The Near Northside is served by HPD's North Division. Crime statistics, compiled for beat 2A10 (which covers the majority of the Near Northside, but does not include the North Lindale area), indicate lower property crime rates and higher violent crimes when compared to Houston overall. In 2016, crime was concentrated along the light rail line, near the Fulton and Quitman intersection. Since 2010, the Near Northside property crime rate has declined by 12% and the violent crime rate has increased by 5%.

Safety Goals
The three goals for safety were developed from existing Near Northside plans and a series of community meetings. The goals focus on creating stronger partnership with law enforcement, providing safe environments for pets, and creating safe places for residents. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The safety goals are:

Create Strong Partnerships with Law Enforcement
An important way to reduce crime is to work in partnership with area law enforcement agencies including the Houston Police Department, Harris County Constables and Sheriff's Office, and the police and security forces of HISD, METRO, and the Greater Northside Management District. When the community and law enforcement work together to reduce crime the potential impact is greater. This includes focusing police patrols in crime hot spots, continuing to develop neighborhood-led initiatives such as Safe Walk Home to increase safety around area schools and public places, and encouraging civic leaders to attend Positive Interaction Program meetings. The objective is to reduce the violent crime rate in the Near Northside by a minimum of 10% over the next five years, while maintaining a lower rate of property crime.

Support Safe Environments for Pets
Stray animals are a problem across the City of Houston. In 2016, Houston's Bureau of Animal Control and Regulation (BARC) received 47,917 calls for service. The agency took in 27,638 animals, of which 52% were strays. Stray animals, particularly dogs, impact the sense of safety in a neighborhood, and discourage walking or other active recreation. In 2016, Near Northside residents made 464 calls to BARC to report stray animals, which is equal to the per capita rate in the City overall.

To address stray animals in the Near Northside, partnerships will be developed with BARC and other

Complete Community Meeting

2,683 Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in Near Northside, 2016

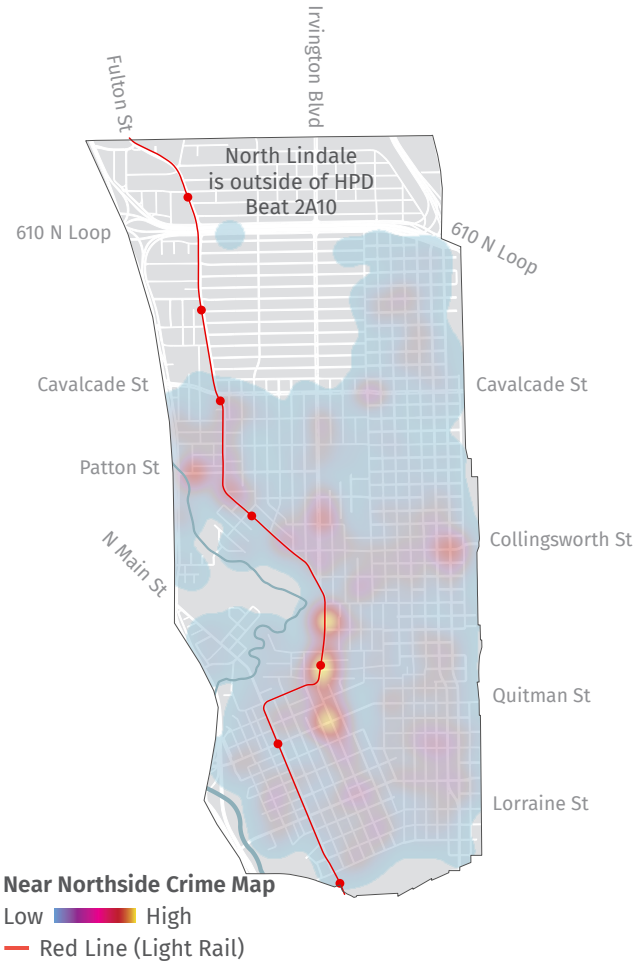
4,321 Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in Houston, 2016

Data Sources: Beat 2A10 Crime Statistics, HPD 2016 Data; 2016 UCR Crime Statistics for Houston, 2016

A **complete community** is a **safe community** where strong partnerships are formed between the community and law enforcement, everyone feels secure, and pets are healthy and safe

animal welfare organizations to provide education and services to encourage responsible pet ownership, including spay and neuter programs. The goal is to reduce the number of stray animals in the community as evidenced by a reduction in calls to 311 to report stray animals.

Create Safe Places
Understanding the types of environments that lead to crime, and addressing these environments, will improve the sense of security and safety across the Near Northside. This includes working in partnership with the Houston Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to address the challenges of loitering and homelessness, particularly along the light rail line and at area rail stops. Additional strategies include revising boarding house regulations, understanding the challenges of human trafficking, and adopting Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles to ensure that any barriers to safety in the community are eliminated.



1,051 Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in Near Northside, 2016

1,026 Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in Houston, 2016

Data Sources: Beat 2A10 Crime Statistics, HPD 2016 Data; 2016 UCR Crime Statistics for Houston, 2016

Early Successes
The Code Enforcement Division has surveyed streetlights in each Complete Community every four months to identify broken lights and report to CenterPoint for repair. Since August of 2017, 11 streetlights have been reported in the Near Northside.

GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Create Safe Places PLAN:	**Address the challenge of loitering, homeless needs and panhandling** ACTION STEPS: Work with HPD to understand and enforce the Civility Ordinance; Encourage law enforcement agencies and other partners to work together; Advocate for additional "Crisis Intervention" beds in Houston	●
	Boarding house regulations ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with the city to identify appropriate regulatory changes for boarding houses to ensure safe communities	●
	Understand and address human trafficking ACTION STEPS: Work in partnership with the Mayor's Office on Human Trafficking to assist in identifying and addressing human trafficking	●
	Utilize the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) ACTION STEPS: Identify locations for safety audits; Carry out safety audits, including near Fiesta and Carnegie Library; Train additional auditors through HPD's CPTED training program	◐
Develop Strong Partnerships with Law Enforcement PLAN:	**Increase police patrol** ACTION STEPS: Identify areas in need of police patrols, such as crime hotspots and on Quitman Street, particularly in the afternoon after school lets out; Add patrols	●
	Develop strong partnerships between neighborhood initiatives, such as Safe Walk Home, and area law enforcement to expand neighborhood safety initiatives ACTION STEPS: Create additional partnerships, similar to Safe Walk Home, to expand neighborhood watch programs and increase safety	◐
	Increase participation in the Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program ACTION STEPS: Encourage civic leaders to attend PIP meetings; Develop quarterly or semi-annual priorities for the neighborhood to present at PIP meetings, or submit "action requests" which identify key issues and can be emailed, faxed, mailed, or delivered to HPD	○
Support Safe Environments for Pets PLAN:	**Continue and expand pet spay and neuter programs** ACTION STEPS: Work with the Bureau of Animal Control and Regulation (BARC) and other partners to expand affordable pet spay and neuter programs	◐
	Expand educational campaigns for healthy pets ACTION STEPS: Work with BARC and other partners to reduce the number of stray and neglected animals; Encourage people to report animal abuse	◐

PLAN Legend:

- Complete Communities Action Plan
- City of Houston Plans and CIP
- Near Northside Quality of Life Agreement
- Northside Livable Centers Study
- Sector 17 Parks Plan
- Greater Northside Pedestrian Transit Access Master Plan
- METRO Transit Oriented Development
- Healthy Living Matters NNS Recommendations

SAFETY

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**4** Safety Audits completed each year	**LEAD:** HPD, Avenue, METRO, HISD, UH Downtown, Safe Walk Home, Salvation Army	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** ARA, Avenue	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking, Avenue **SUPPORT:** HPD, Area Schools	City's Anti-Human Trafficking Strategic Plan, 'Watch for Traffick' Media Campaign Toolkit
Long (5 + yrs)		**LEAD:** AARP, Avenue, Block Captains, Safe Walk Home, Councilmember **SUPPORT:** HPD, BUILD Partnership	CPTED training
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	**10%** Decline in the violent crime rate in the Near Northside by 2023 Currently, the violent crime rate is 3% higher than Houston's at 1,061 crimes/100,000 people Source: HPD 2016 Crime Reports, Beat 2A10 and UCR Data Houston, 2016	**LEAD:** HPD, Harris County Pct 6 **SUPPORT:** Civic Clubs, SN Council, Safe Walk Home, GNMD	Safe Walk Home Program, GNMD Safety Patrol Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		**LEAD:** HPD, Safe Walk Home, SN Council, Harris County Pct 6 **SUPPORT:** Area Civic Clubs	National Night Out, Keep Houston SAFE Initiative, Citizens Patrol Program, GNMD
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** HPD, PIP, Civic Clubs, SN Council **SUPPORT:** Safe Walk Home	Positive Interaction Program, Safe Walk Home Program
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	**25%** Reduction in 311 calls to BARC for stray animals Source: 311 Calls	**LEAD:** BARC, ARA **SUPPORT:** Emancipet, Northside DAWGS, Other non-profit animal organizations	Healthy Pets Healthy Streets
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		**LEAD:** BARC, ARA **SUPPORT:** Emancipet, Northside DAWGS, Other non-profit animal organizations	BARC Stray Animal Program

OUR THANKS

Complete Communities

The Complete Communities initiative would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the Complete Communities Advisory Committee and the Acres Home Neighborhood Support Team (NST). The Advisory Committee, comprised of community leaders and advocates, ensured that the program structure was inclusive, promoted public-private partnerships, and worked effectively and efficiently. The Near Northside Neighborhood Support Team guided the planning process and shaped the initiative at the local community scale. We thank everyone for their time and commitment to the Complete Communities initiative.

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

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The Complete Communities initiative is supported by over 200 representatives of 27 City Departments and partner organizations. We thank you.

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