

Plan Houston

Houston's First General Plan

Presented by Patrick Walsh, P.E.
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City of Houston

Quality of Life Committee
July 29, 2015



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A photograph of a park area with a paved path, green grass, and trees under a clear sky.

Community Spaces

A photograph of a white car driving through a flooded street, with water splashing around it.

Drainage

A photograph of a row of colorful, two-story houses with white railings and porches.

Housing

A photograph of a city skyline with many skyscrapers, viewed from a distance across a body of water.

Transportation

A photograph of a parade float featuring a large globe with a face and a yellow Volkswagen Beetle decorated with colorful patterns.

Arts/Culture

A photograph of the Houston City Hall building, a tall, classical-style structure with many windows.

Governance

A photograph of several construction cranes against a dark sky, with a bright light source visible in the background.

Growth

A photograph of a large, colorful sign that says "WE LOVE HOUSTON" with a heart symbol, surrounded by flowers.

& More



Vision Statement

“Houston offers opportunity for all. We celebrate our diversity of people, ideas, economy, culture, and places. We promote healthy and resilient communities through smart civic investments, dynamic partnerships, education, and innovation. Houston is the place where anyone can prosper and feel at home.”



Houston

Opportunity. Diversity. Community. Home.



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Core Strategies

High-level City actions to help
achieve community vision & goals.



Developing the Core Strategies



Steering
Committee

Stakeholder
Groups

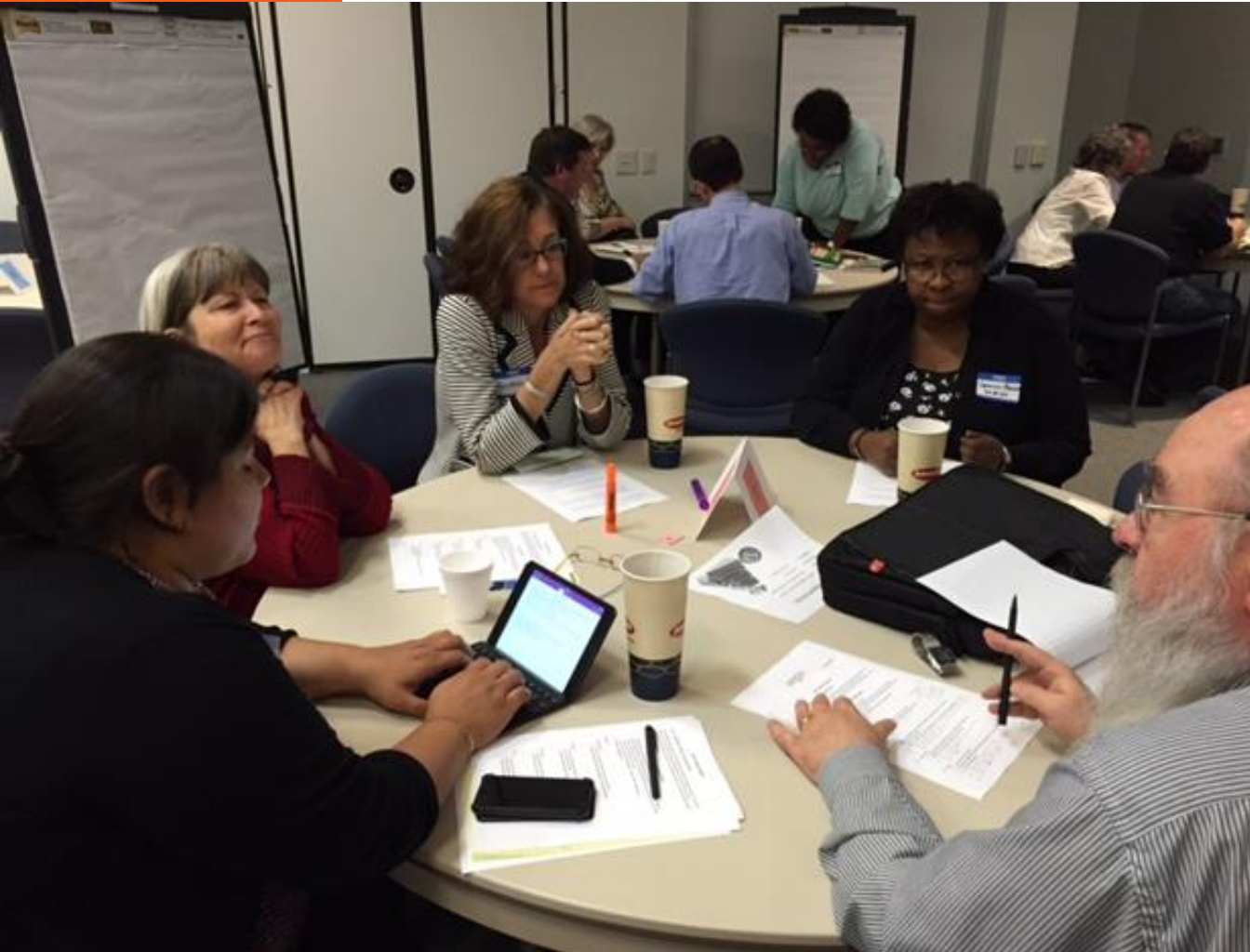
Public
Meetings



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Developing the Core Strategies



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**Public
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Core Strategies

- ✓ Spend money wisely.
- ✓ Grow responsibly.
- ✓ Nature safe, healthy communities.
- ✓ Connect people and places.
- ✓ Support a global economy.
- ✓ Sustain quality infrastructure.
- ✓ Champion learning.
- ✓ Foster an affordable city.
- ✓ Protect and conserve our resources.
- ✓ Communicate clearly and with transparency.
- ✓ Partner with others, public and private.
- ✓ Celebrate what's uniquely Houston.



Core Strategy Organization

- **Assessment**
 - Description of current status
- **Commitments**
 - Actions that further accomplishment of strategy
 - Basis for future action plan
- **Related Goals**
 - Connect core strategy to the vision



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Partner with others, public and private.

Assessment:

A vital component of Houston's success has been the longstanding tradition of partnerships between the City and other community leaders. It was partnerships that built some of Houston's most notable landmarks and facilities, including parks, community centers and libraries, as well as major entertainment and convention facilities, and the Port of Houston. In the era of constrained public resources, continued use of these partnerships is essential to respond to Houston's needs today and in the future.

Houston should continue to utilize partnerships as a critical tool for achieving its goals. More robust programs are essential to respond to Houston's dire need for education and health care reform. Partnerships are needed to ensure equitable access to parks and open space. Partnerships can support arts and culture activities and improved community facilities, as well as improve social services and job training activities.

Where partnerships currently exist, strengthened ties are necessary to improve resource-sharing, expand programs, and bring services closer to the communities that need them. Better procedures for aggregating public and private dollars are also needed to upgrade existing infrastructure and improve services to Houstonians.

Commitments:

- Continue to coordinate with adjacent counties to ensure policy alignment, identify overlapping services, and find efficiencies.
- Continue to coordinate the work of City departments to encourage efficiency, joint uses, and to become more involved with service providers.
- Expand the use of joint agreements between City of Houston and the larger community to foster collaborative programs for education.
- Consider expanding opportunities for local non-profits to provide services at city-owned facilities.
- Continue public-private partnerships that generate funding for parks, and seek out ways to increase the equity of funding for park improvements.
- Continue to promote shared use of City-owned facilities to provide opportunities for community interaction, and places and events that foster community pride and identity.

Related goals:

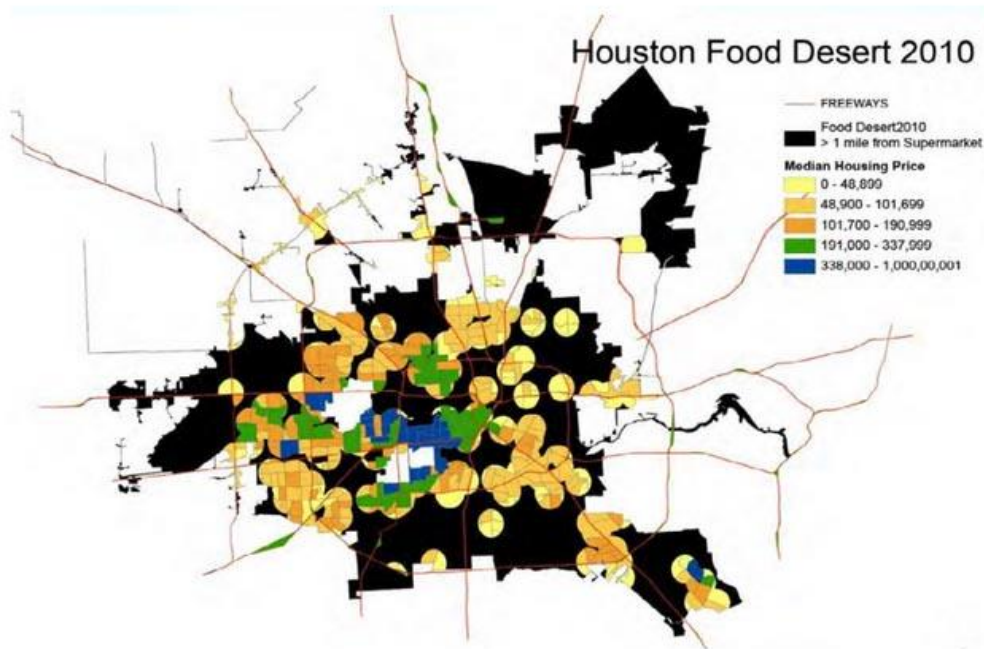
- ✓ Strong social ties supported by social, civic, and faith organizations
- ✓ Supportive services for disadvantaged and at-risk groups
- ✓ High-quality community facilities that provide for the diverse needs of residents
- ✓ Unique and internationally-recognized cultural and entertainment opportunities



Performance Indicators

Performance indicator:

Access to supermarkets or healthy food per capita/half mile



Source: Rice University Shell Center

Indicator description:

This indicator provides a measure of access to healthy food and which areas of the community may be food deserts. The indicator identifies the percentage of the Houston population that does not live within a 0.50 mile or closer to a supermarket.

This indicator is associated with the following goals:

- High-quality community facilities that provide for the diverse needs of residents
- A city that enables healthy, active lifestyles and social well-being
- Clean, plentiful and accessible water, air, land, and food resources

Note: Plan Houston's performance indicators are intended to inform the public and policy makers on the community's success at achieving Plan Houston's community goals. Identifying current performance is a first step; future steps could include tracking progress over time and establishing preferences on outcomes.

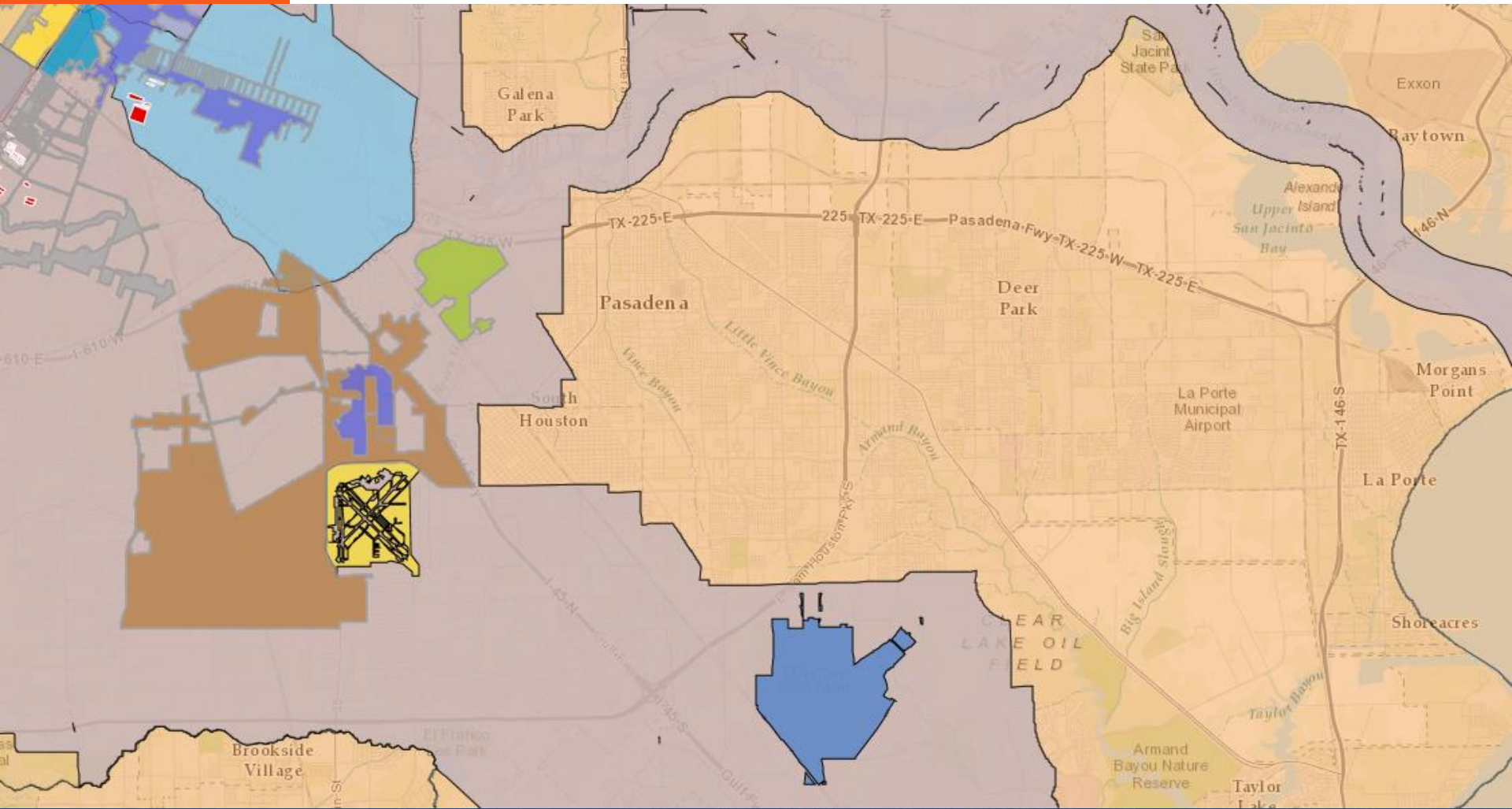


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Planning Coordination Tool



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Next Steps

- Finalize Core Strategies
- Planning Commission public hearing and consideration – August
- Council public hearing and consideration – September
- Take action



Action Plan

- Some immediate/ongoing
- Some require stakeholder engagement
 - Future Council discussion and input
 - Input from incoming Mayor's administration
- Integrate into City operations
 - Basis for planning and decision-making
 - Used by City departments and partner organizations
- Maintain the Plan



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