

ACRES HOME COMPLETE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN



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





Acres Homes Sign

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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.

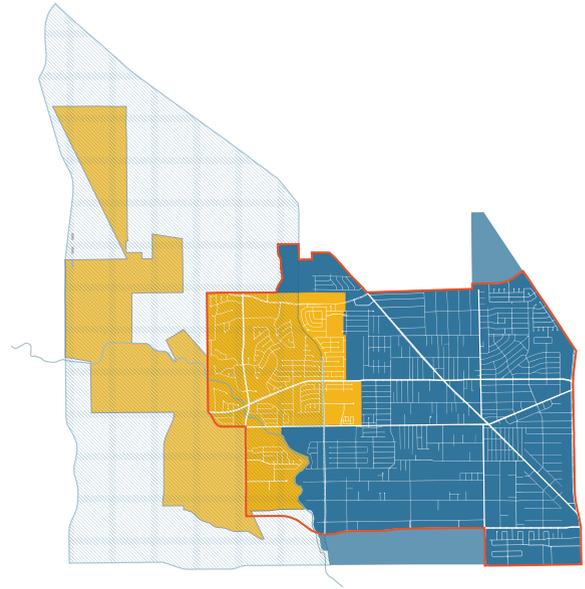
Across the five neighborhoods 3,500 people shared their insights, values, and visions. More than 2,300 participants attended one of the fourteen public meetings, and nearly 1,200 leaders representing faith-based organizations, business owners, non-profit and community-based organizations, and civic, 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 Acres Home Action Plan outlines the vision, policies, goals and projects to realize a healthier, more resilient, prosperous, equitable, and complete future. This is Acres Home's Plan.

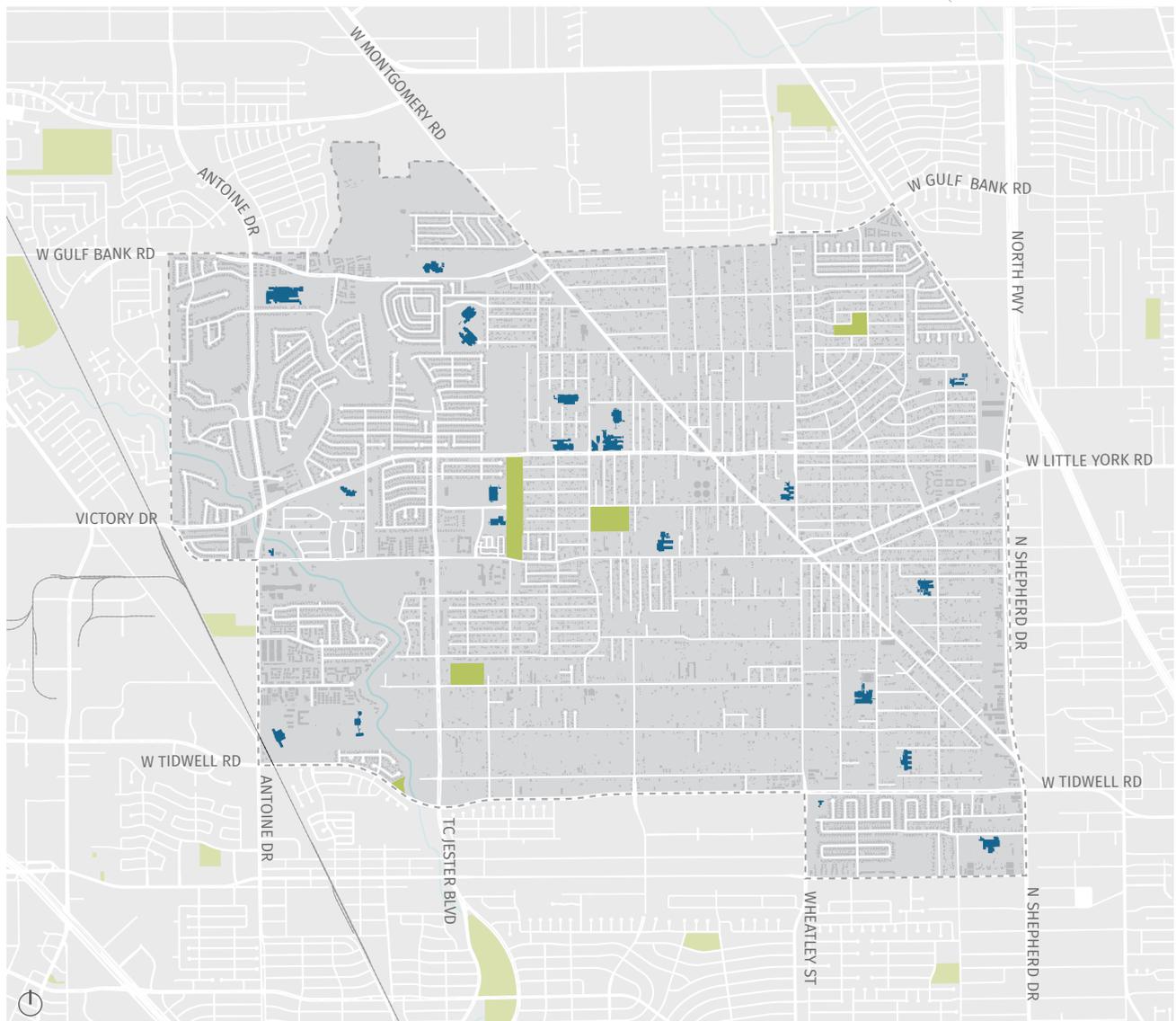
Map of Existing Community Boundaries

- Acres Home Complete Community
- Acres Home Super Neighborhood
- Greater Inwood Super Neighborhood
- ▨ Near Northwest Management District



Acres Home Complete Community Map

- Parks
- Schools



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

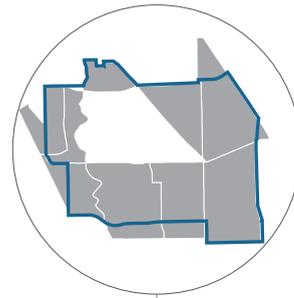
INTRODUCTION

The Acres Home Complete Communities Action Plan outlines the vision, policies, goals and projects that have been identified by hundreds of stakeholders over a six-month planning process that included four large public meetings and a community design workshop. Over 800 leaders, stakeholders, and partners attended these five public meetings, and provided valuable input and guidance. Overall, the goals and projects work towards a vision of a healthier, more resilient, prosperous, and equitable future for the community.

The Acres Home Complete Communities Action Plan has also been informed by one-on-one meetings with City departments and existing citywide planning efforts. The most important effort is Plan Houston, the city's first general plan completed in 2015 that outlines a vision for Houston's future and strategies to realize it. The Acres Home Action Plan supports and reinforces each of the 32 citywide goals identified in Plan Houston. The highest priorities identified by Acres Home stakeholders, that align with Plan Houston goals, include: ensuring access to affordable housing; a thriving, resilient, and diverse economy; nurturing safe and healthy neighborhoods; a respect for history; engaged and informed residents; and, sustaining quality infrastructure.

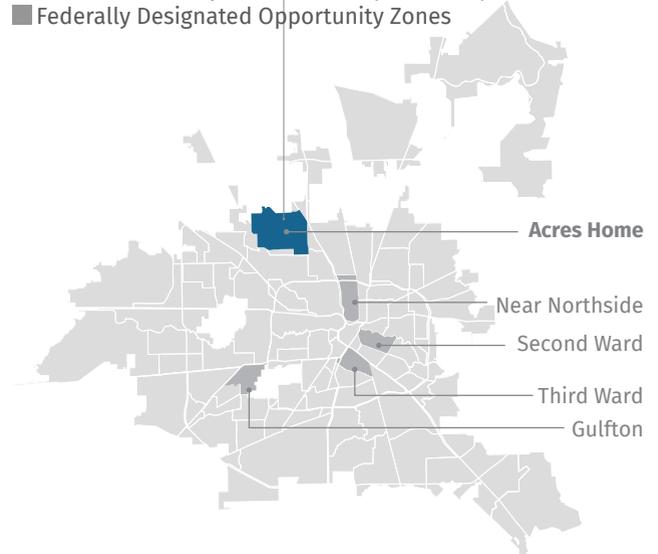
Other citywide planning efforts that shape decision-making and public investment are the annual Capital Improvement Plan, which outlines infrastructure priorities, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's 2015 Parks Master Plan, and the Houston Bike Plan, adopted in 2017. Each of these plans have also informed the Acres Home Action Plan.

The majority of the Acres Home Complete Community is part of 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

- Acres Home Complete Community Boundary
- Federally Designated Opportunity Zones



Map of Complete Communities



Complete Community Meeting

58 Community Outreach and Listening Sessions
459 Participants

5 Community Meetings
800 Participants

5 Neighborhood Support Team Meetings



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 planning processes that align with each community's current position.

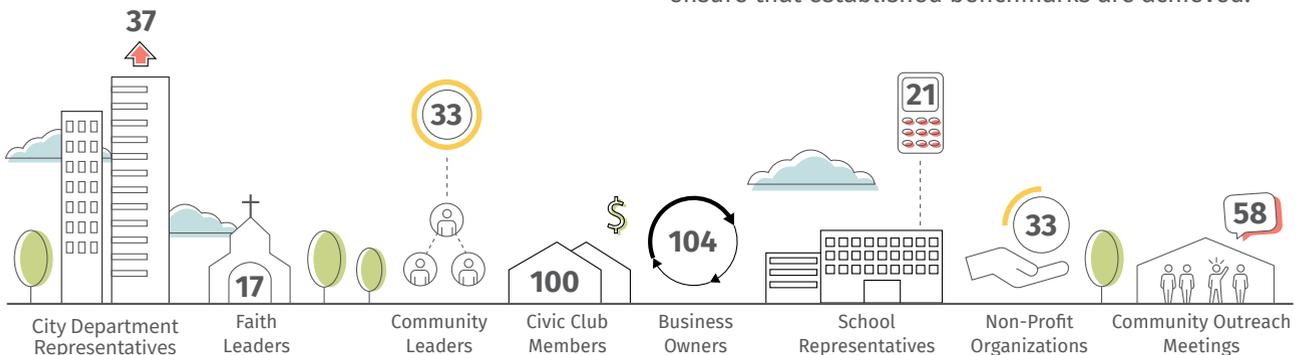
Each Complete Community effort began by conducting outreach and small group meetings with key leaders and stakeholders. Meetings in Acres Home were held with faith leaders, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, business owners, and other civic, educational, and institutional leaders. Overall, 459 people were reached through this effort.

Following the outreach effort, an engagement plan was established for each Complete Community based on past planning efforts. The most recent plan developed for Acres Home was in 1999. As a result, four public meetings were scheduled to accomplish the following objectives: establish a vision; develop goals and projects; identify priorities and partners; and, to review the final Action Plan. In addition, a Community Design Workshop was held to further refine both the goals and projects.

The first Acres Home public meeting, held in October of 2017, focused on establishing a vision and goals; approximately 300 people attended this meeting. The second public meeting was held in November with 150 attendees and focused on defining projects that aligned with the vision and goals. The third public meeting worked to develop partners and priorities. The fourth meeting was a community design workshop, focused on further exploring key focus areas and projects in the community. Finally, the fifth public meeting was held in January of 2018, to review the draft of the final Action Plan. Overall, 800 people attended these meetings and worked together to develop the vision, goals, and projects and to align clear implementation strategies, priorities, timeframes, partners, and metrics to measure success.

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

Throughout the process, the Complete Communities initiative has been guided by the Acres Home Neighborhood Support Team, who met five times to provide their insight and suggestions. Projects are now being led by the "A-Team" who will oversee implementation and work directly with City staff to ensure that established benchmarks are achieved.



Complete Communities Outreach

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT TEAM MEETINGS

IMPLEMENTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW

September

October

November

December

January 2018

February

March

April

May

ACRES HOME COMMUNITY

The Acres Home Complete Community study area includes all of the Acres Home Super Neighborhood and the eastern portion of Greater Inwood. The Acres Home study area is located approximately ten miles northwest of downtown Houston, between Loop 610 and Beltway 8. The boundaries of the study area are approximately Interstate 45 and North Shepherd Drive to the east, Tidwell Road to the south, Antoine Drive to the west, and West Gulf Bank Road to the north.

The Acres Home study area is home to nearly 55,000 residents and grew in population by 9% between 2010 and 2015. Acres Home is a historically Black or African American neighborhood, although this is changing as more Hispanic or Latino residents move into the community. In 2015, the Black or African American population comprised the majority of the study area at 56%, followed by 35% Hispanic or Latino, 7% White, and 1% Asian.

Acres Home is one of Houston’s most important neighborhoods, and it has a long and powerful history as one of the south’s largest unincorporated black communities. The historic landmark in the neighborhood states “In 1910, land developer Alfred A. Wright platted the first of several subdivisions that eventually became the African American community of

Acres Home.” The name of the neighborhood reflects the historical practice of selling home sites by the acre. The acre lots are still evident, providing sites large enough for small gardens and livestock. Acres Home once had its own school district, an organized volunteer fire department, and a black-owned bus company. In 1974, the area was annexed by the City of Houston, and for the first time received municipal water and sewer services. The legacy of self-sufficiency is as important today as it was in the early twentieth century, and is an asset to build on.

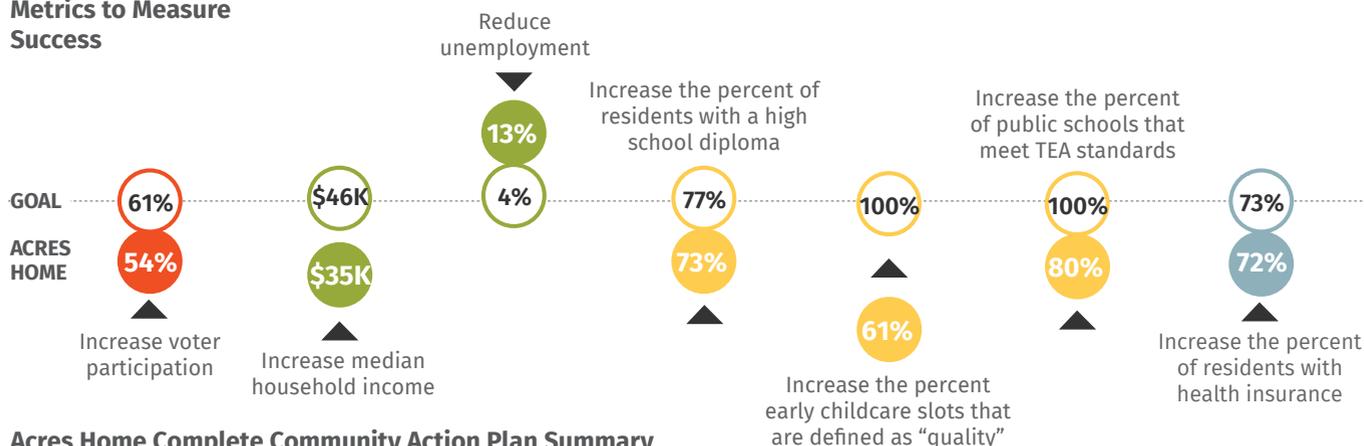
Today, the Acres Home study area is characterized by urban, suburban, and rural development patterns spread across the landscape in a patchwork. There are over 250 subdivisions in the area and substantial vacant land. In recent years, new development has been concentrated in the southern portion of the neighborhood. Overall, the area is rich with resources, such as the former Inwood golf course, White Oak Bayou, Bethune Academy, and many other assets, all of which can be enhanced through the Complete Communities initiative.

The Acres Home Complete Community Action Plan establishes as 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 expanding economic development and opportunities, new affordable housing, safeguarding the history and character of the neighborhood, and expanding civic leadership and engagement. Additional focus areas include education, health, parks and community amenities, safety, and mobility and infrastructure.



Complete Community Metrics to Measure Success



Acres Home Complete Community Action Plan Summary

Underline Indicates High Priority Goal

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A complete community is a connected community that is committed to civic engagement, building strong civic organizations, and nurturing new leaders. The goals are:

- **Create a Civic Coalition** to ensure that all organizations are working together to transform the community
- **Strengthen Civic Organizations** through the creation of a Neighborhood Toolbox, and by providing information, education, and outreach
- **Nurture Leaders**, including youth, by providing leadership training

ECONOMY and JOBS

A complete community is a thriving community with local jobs and opportunities, small business resources, retail and amenities, and quality banking services. The goals are:

- **Expand Workforce Training and Resources** through the proposed Texas Workforce Solutions center, by attracting additional job training programs, and by connecting youth to summer jobs and internships
- **Support Small Businesses** by creating an economic development hub, connecting small business owners to loans, grants, skills training, and other resources
- **Create New Jobs** by attracting new industries in growing sectors of the economy and connecting area youth to job opportunities
- **Build a Town Center** to bring needed retail and amenities to the community
- **Grow Family Wealth** through financial literacy programs and by attracting a full-service bank

EDUCATION

A complete community is a community with high quality schools, early childcare, and lifelong learning opportunities. The goals are:

- **Provide Quality Education for Learners of All Ages** by expanding supportive resources for students at area schools, including out of school enrichment and college and career readiness programs, and increasing access to high quality early childcare
- **Develop Strong School-Community Partnerships** by improving communication between schools, parents, and other partners working together to enhance student success
- **Create a Knowledge Community** by expanding adult education programs, resources, and programs at the neighborhood library, and by sharing resources between community and higher education facilities

HEALTH

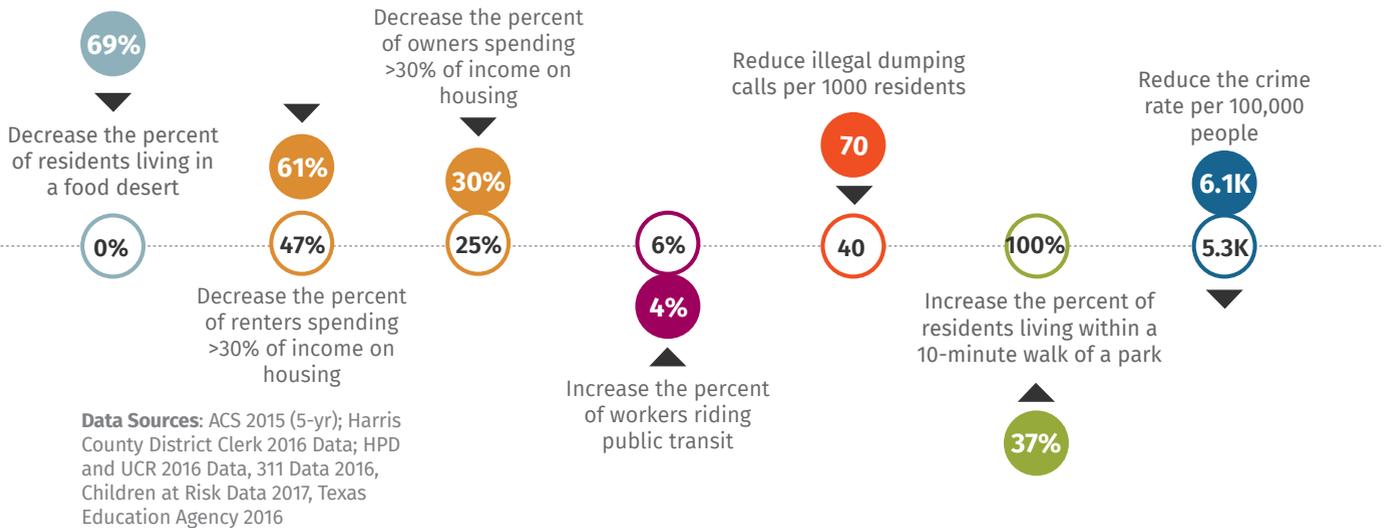
A complete community is a healthy community with access to healthy food, active living and healthcare. The goals are:

- **Increase Access to Fresh and Healthy Food** by attracting a new grocery store, building community gardens and farms, hosting regular farmers markets, and ensuring that food insecurity is addressed
- **Nurture Healthy and Active Living** by attracting a gym or wellness center and expanding exercise amenities at area parks
- **Improve Well-Being** by expanding healthcare services and programs across the neighborhood

HOUSING

A complete community is an affordable community with high quality housing accessible to people with a diversity of incomes, where existing residents are protected from displacement, historic homes are repaired and preserved, and where community-based organizations are empowered to build. The goals are:

- **Build New Affordable Housing** for people with a diversity of incomes and needs



- **Expand Homeownership** by expanding access to homebuyer education and assistance programs
- **Ensure Homes are Safe and Secure** by enrolling seniors and other income-eligible homeowners into home repair programs, expanding access to home improvement loans, and repairing and preserving historic housing
- **Grow Local Community Builders** by providing training, capacity building and workshops for community-based housing and development organizations

MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

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

- **Create Safe Streets** that improve walkability, pedestrian and bike safety
- **Build Great Streets** by working in partnership with the City to prioritize projects
- **Improve Flood Resiliency** by improving drainage systems, preserving natural areas, and planning for the future
- **Expand Mobility** by improving public transit services and access, including transit amenities
- **Create a Network of Hike, Bike and Bridle Trails** that meet the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders
- **Span the Digital Divide** by expanding the number of broadband providers

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

A complete community is a beautiful community with historic neighborhoods and public art that celebrates the identity and culture of the community. The goals are:

- **Work Together to Create a Beautiful Community** by ending illegal dumping, maintaining vacant lots, and organizing clean-ups

- **Preserve History and Plan for the Future** by creating a master plan, implementing neighborhood protection strategies, and enforcing deed restrictions and other regulations
- **Spread Arts and Culture Across the Community** by attracting an arts center, expanding public art, and hosting celebrations and events

PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

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

- **String a Necklace of Beautiful Parks** by improving, expanding, and connecting the existing parks and open spaces
- **Build a Network of Trails** by exploring the potential of bayous, easements, and right-of-ways
- **Create Great Community Centers** by improving and expanding existing centers

SAFETY

A complete community is a safe community with well-lit streets, healthy pets, and partnerships to reduce crime. The goals are:

- **Create Partnerships to Reduce Crime** by nurturing strong relationships between the community and law enforcement agencies
- **Ensure Healthy Pets and Safe Streets** by addressing stray animals and animal welfare
- **Provide Well-Lit Streets** by creating partnerships to repair broken lights and identify areas in need of additional streetlighting

Key to Abbreviated Organizations

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

City, School, and Government Departments:

Aldine Independent School District, **AISD**
Administration and Regulatory Affairs, **ARA**
Bureau of Animal Control and Regulation, **BARC**
Department of Neighborhoods, **DON**
Department of Housing and Urban Development, **HUD**
Differential Response Team (HPD), **DRT**
Economic Development Department, **EDD**
General Services Division, **GSD**
Harris County Appraisal District, **HCAD**
Harris County Flood Control District, **HCFC**
Harris County Public Library, **HCPL**
Housing and Community Development Department, **HCDD**
Houston Community College, **HCC**
Houston Galveston Area Council, **HGAC**
Houston Fire Department, **HFD**
Houston Health Department, **HHD**
Houston Independent School District, **HISD**
Houston Police Department, **HPD**
Houston Public Library, **HPL**
Houston Public Works, **HPW**
Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority, **LARA**
Lone Star College, **LSC**
Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office, **MCAO**
Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, **MOCA**
Mayor's Office of Education, **MOE**
Mayor's Office of Innovation, **MOI**
Mayor's Office of Special Events, **MOSE**
National Endowment for the Arts, **NEA**
Near Northwest Management District, **NNMD**
Office of Business Opportunity, **OBO**
Planning and Development Department, **PDD**
Positive Interaction Program (HPD), **PIP**
Small Business Administration, **SBA**
Solid Waste Department, **SWD**

Key to Priority Graphic

-  High Priority
-  Medium Priority
-  Low Priority

Partner Organizations and Other Abbreviations:

American Association of Retired Persons, **AARP**
Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, **AAMA**
Community Design Resource Center, **CDRC**
Community Development Corporation, **CDC**
Community Development Resource Center, **CDRC**
Community Housing Development Organization, **CHDO**
Communities in Schools, **CIS**
Greater Houston Black Chamber, **GHBC**
Houston Area Urban League, **HAUL**
Houston Arts Alliance, **HAA**
Houston Black Leadership Institute, **HBLI**
Houston Parks Board, **HPB**
Inwood Forest Community Improvement Association, **IFCIA**
League of United Latin American Citizens, **LULAC**
Local Initiatives Support Corporation, **LISC**
Memorial Assistance Ministries, **MAM**
My Brothers Keeper, **MBK**
Rebuilding Together Houston, **RTH**
Lone Star College Small Business Development Center, **SBDC**
Super Neighborhood Council, **SNC**
Training for Trainers (LISC), **T4T**
Trust for Public Land, **TPL**
Young Audiences Houston, **YAH**

ACRES HOME ACTION PLAN

The Acres Home Action Plan has 33 goals and 92 projects, organized into nine focus areas. The highest priority focus areas, as identified by community stakeholders, are economy and jobs, housing, neighborhood character, and infrastructure. Additional focus areas include civic engagement, education, health, parks and community amenities, and safety. The Action Plan that follows was created through five public meetings, including a community design workshop. The 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 Acres Home Neighborhood Support Team and the A-Teams (working groups), in partnership with the City and the Planning and Development Department. The A-Teams are working groups established to lead each of the nine focus areas and will report back to the Neighborhood Support Team regarding their progress. The City departments and agencies listed as leads in the plan will provide support and leadership to the A-Teams and the Neighborhood Support Team. Other partners will provide support for the projects.



Greater Ward A.M.E. Church

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Introduction

Strong social cohesion and civic engagement 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. Social cohesion has been identified as one of the key indicators of community and personal well-being, and contributes to both health and economic prosperity.

The Acres Home study area is a community of neighborhoods. There are eleven active civic clubs in the area, two active Super Neighborhood Councils, and the Near Northwest Management District. Continuing to expand civic engagement across the neighborhood will work to empower area leaders to be both advocates and agents for change.

Civic Engagement Goals

The three goals to expand civic engagement across the Acres Home Complete Community focus on building a coalition of civic leaders and organizations, increasing the capacity of civic clubs and associations, and nurturing strong leaders. The goals, developed through public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The civic engagement goals are:

Create a Civic Coalition

The Acres Home study area has many active civic organizations, including the Near Northwest Management District and Super Neighborhood Councils in both Greater Inwood and Acres Home. One of the challenges is to improve coordination among these different entities in order for them to work together for positive change. As a means to facilitate working together, a series of projects have been identified to improve communication, participation, collaboration, and action. These include communicating meeting dates, officers, and bylaws for each organization, updating the city website to provide accurate information, and promoting meetings through media outlets.

In addition, a proposed quarterly Complete Communities meeting with all active organizations and the newly developed A-Team will ensure coordination and successful implementation of the projects included in this Action Plan.

Strengthen Civic Organizations

Civic organizations are the heart of a neighborhood. Ensuring that these organizations have the skills and knowledge to advocate for needed improvements and work in partnership with the myriad of City departments and decision-makers will increase the



Complete Community Meeting

54% Of Acres Home 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

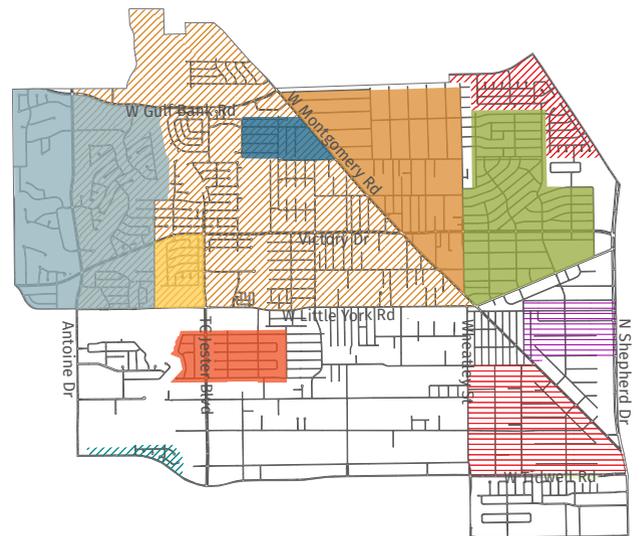
A complete community is a connected community that is committed to civic engagement, building strong civic organizations, and nurturing new leaders

chances of success. The objective is to develop and provide training on City of Houston services and programs, including 311, neighborhood protection strategies, code enforcement, and other regulatory programs. A Complete Communities Neighborhood Toolbox will also be developed to further support area leaders.

Nurture Leaders

A complete community is dependent on area leaders' capacity to work together for positive change. Providing leadership training to civic club and Super Neighborhood Council officers will ensure that regular meetings of these organizations are well-run and effective. An important part of this goal is to encourage area leaders to enroll in leadership training to further build their capacity to lead and empower others to do the same.

Nurturing young leaders is an important part of this goal. Partnerships will be developed between the Young Adults Building Communities project (Y-ABC project) of the Houston Health Foundation and the Houston Health Department's My Brothers Keeper program and area civic organizations. The Young Adults Building Communities project provides leadership training for youth, and supports youth initiatives and projects in the community.



Active Civic Clubs

-  Council for Community Improvement
-  Glen Oaks Civic Club
-  Lincoln City Civic Club
-  Willow Run North Plaza Civic Club
-  Ferguson Street Citizens for Neighborhood Improvement
-  Montgomery Terrace Civic Club
-  Garden City Civic Club
-  Oaks of Inwood CIA
-  Yorkdale White Oak Terrace
-  Inwood Forest Community Improvement Association
-  Candlelight Oaks Civic Inc



Complete Community Meeting



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Create a Civic Coalition	<p>Provide information on area civic clubs and Super Neighborhood Councils officers, bylaws, schedules and agendas <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Inventory active civic clubs and HOAs; Collect updated information on officers, bylaws, meetings dates, times, location and contacts; Update the City of Houston website with new information; Explore the development of social media platforms such as Facebook and NextDoor to further share this information; Coordinate and establish bilingual interpreters and translators to reach out to the Hispanic community at area meetings</p>	
	<p>Promote area civic club meetings <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Explore using water bills, schools, churches, the Multi-Service Center, local newspapers, yard signs, and websites to communicate civic club meeting dates and times and encourage additional participation, including youth and young people</p>	
	<p>Establish quarterly meetings across civic clubs, Super Neighborhood Councils, and city representatives <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Coordinate quarterly shared meetings across civic organizations</p>	
	<p>Create Neighborhood Action Task Force Teams (A-Teams) <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop teams to champion the projects created through the Complete Communities initiative; Form partnerships with public and private agencies for implementation</p>	
Strengthen Civic Organizations	<p>Develop and provide “Community University—City 101” training to ensure residents and organizations are familiar with available programs and services <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Collaborate with the Super Neighborhood Alliance and the Department of Neighborhoods to develop training on 311 and other City services and programs; Record the training with HTV</p>	
	<p>Create a Complete Communities Neighborhood Toolbox <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Planning and Development Department to develop and publish a Neighborhood Toolbox that can be shared with area leaders and residents to build their capacity to create change, partner with public and private agencies, and build civic engagement and participation</p>	
Nurture Leaders	<p>Provide civic leadership training <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create partnerships to develop training on meeting agendas, meeting organization, basic leadership for civic leaders, engagement and succession planning</p>	
	<p>Develop youth leaders <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with Young Adults Building Communities project (Y-ABC project) of the Houston Health Foundation and the Houston Health Department’s My Brothers Keeper to provide leadership training for youth; Identify additional funding and grants to support initiatives and projects developed by youth in the community</p>	
	<p>Build leadership capacity <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with organizations such as the Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce (GHBC) to implement leadership training programs; Encourage local leaders to enroll in programs such as HBLI’s nine-month program for young leaders and professionals between the ages 25-35 that develops and sustains a system of succession planning for African American leadership in the City of Houston; Identify other leadership programs, such as Leadership Houston and Hispanic leadership organizations</p>	

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>75% Of the 11 neighborhood civic clubs will conduct regular meetings and market their events Source: MCAO Data</p>	<p>LEAD: DON, PDD SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, HOAs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC</p>	iSpeakHouston
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: DON, PDD SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, HOAs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC</p>	DON-Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP)
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: PDD, A-Team SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, HOAs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC</p>	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: PDD, A-Team SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, HOAs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC</p>	LISC T4T (Training for Trainers), Stronger Region
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>50 Area leaders will attend the “Community University” training Source: SN Alliance and DON</p>	<p>LEAD: DON, HTV SUPPORT: SN Alliance, Acres Home SNC, IFCIA Greater Inwood SNC</p>	MCAO, Stronger Region
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: PDD SUPPORT: SN Alliance, Acres Home SNC, IFCIA Greater Inwood SNC</p>	Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: DON SUPPORT: SN Alliance, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, IFCIA, LISC</p>	LISC T4T, LISC Great Opportunities (GO) Neighborhoods Program, Stronger Region
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD, MBK, DON SUPPORT: Houston Health Foundation, area churches and schools, Boys and Girls Clubs</p>	Y-ABC Project, DON- Neighborhood Matching Grants, Stronger Region, Mayor’s Youth Council (MYC), Mayor’s Young Ambassador’s Program (YA), Nation Sync Leadership Training, Boy and Girl Scouts
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>5 Area leaders will enroll in leadership training each year</p>	<p>LEAD: PDD SUPPORT: GHBC, 100 Black Men of Metro Houston, LSC-Victory Center, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, University of Houston, AAMA, LULAC</p>	HBLI, Brother for Brother at LSC-Victory Center, 100 Black Men Mentoring Program, Collegiate 100, Emerging 100 of Houston, Houston Hispanic Leadership Initiative

ECONOMY and JOBS

Introduction

Generating local opportunities for employment and job training, while also expanding local businesses and resources, will strengthen the local economy to meet the needs of area residents. In 2016, there were 5,167 jobs in Acres Home, a ratio of one local job per four local workers. As a result, many people travel outside of the neighborhood for work.

In addition, the Acres Home study area is poorly served by retail services and other basic amenities, including financial institutions. The Census Zip Code Business Patterns data for 2012, reported that 254 retail stores were located in zip codes 77088 and 77091 combined. Of these, 17% closed within one year. Overall, there was one retail store for every 315 people in these zip codes, which is 25% less than the number of retail stores per person in Houston. Many area residents report that they leave the community to do their shopping.

Economy and Jobs Goals

Five goals were established to build the local economy and job opportunities and include expanding job training resources, local jobs, small business opportunities, and financial literacy and services. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The economy and jobs goals are:

Expand Workforce and Training Resources

Providing improved access to workforce development and job training programs in Acres Home will

provide greater opportunities for residents to secure stable and good paying jobs. To this end, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board will be bringing a Texas Workforce Solutions center to Acres Home. Additional partnerships to attract job training programs will also be pursued. Unemployment in the neighborhood will be reduced by expanding access to employment opportunities and training.

Support Small Businesses

Expanding opportunities for small businesses will be achieved by creating an economic development hub (potentially at Bethune Academy), connecting small business owners to loans, grants, and other resources, and certifying local businesses as contractors with the city and as historically under-utilized businesses. In 2015, 443 small business loans were secured for a total of \$16 million. In the next five years, the metric to measure success is to increase this investment by 25%, to \$20 million.

Create New Jobs

Attracting new industries in growing sectors of the economy, while also building economic opportunities around community assets such as equestrian programs, will create new jobs and expand the local economy. In addition, projects to support area youth by connecting them to job opportunities and apprenticeships will be pursued. Success will be measured by expanding the number of local jobs in Acres Home by 10% in five years, which totals over 500 new jobs.

13% Unemployment Rate in Acres Home, 2015

4% Unemployment Rate in Houston, 2018

315 People per each retail establishment in Acres Home, 2012

252 People per each retail establishment in Houston, 2012

Data Sources: ACS 2015 (5-yr); Economic Census, Zip Code and Place Business Patterns, 2012; Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018

A **complete community** is a **thriving community** with local jobs and opportunities, small business resources, retail and amenities, and quality banking services

Build a Town Center

Acres Home is without many of the basic shopping amenities that serve other communities. Developing a mixed-use “town center” in the heart of the community, near the intersection of W. Montgomery Road and W. Little York, would attract new retail amenities and residents and expand access to employment.

Grow Family Wealth

The Acres Home Complete Community is home to nearly 55,000 people and has a single financial institution, First Convenience Bank branch inside Joe V’s Smart Shop. There are seven nearby check cashing, payday loans, and pawn shops. Civic leaders will work to campaign against payday loan providers and other predatory lending practices, while also working to attract high quality banking services to the community. A Financial Empowerment Center will support this work by providing free professional financial counseling to assist with improving credit, budgeting, and growing savings.

Early Successes

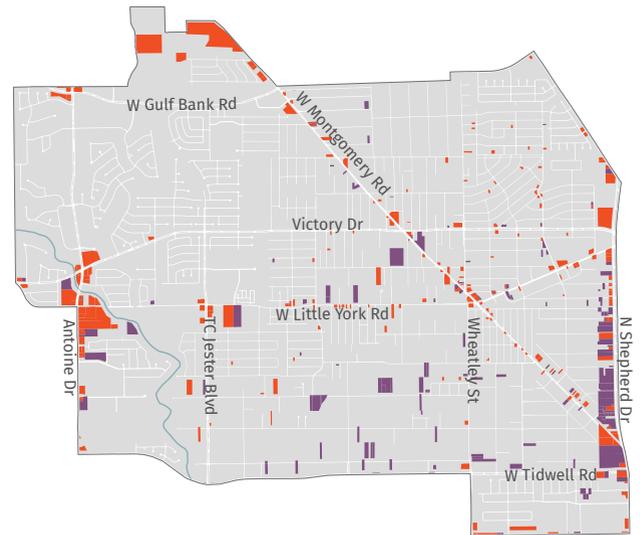
The Gulf Coast Workforce Board will bring a Texas Workforce Solutions site to Acres Home.

A Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) is being developed for Acres Home. FEC clients will receive free, one-on-one professional counseling assistance with money management, budgeting, reducing debt, establishing and improving credit, connecting to safe and affordable banking services, and building savings.

The City’s Office of Business Opportunity is providing entrepreneurship, financial education and literacy for the re-entry population in Acres Home through a \$10,000 grant .

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.



Map of Commercial and Industrial Land Use

- Commercial
- Industrial

Map of Area Banks

- Bank





GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Expand Workforce Training and Resources	Establish a Texas Workforce Solutions Center in Acres Home <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board to bring a Workforce Solutions center to Acres Home	
	Expand access to job training programs in the community <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Expand enrollment in Lone Star College’s career training programs, including the Building Trades program at Victory Center; Expand awareness of the bi-annual job fairs hosted by the Near Northwest Management District; Work in partnership with the Office of Business Opportunity and area colleges to attract additional job training programs to the community; Enroll area residents in the National Home Building Institute 10-week job training program for home building	
	Provide employment opportunities for youth <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Promote and expand existing youth employment programs, such as Hire Houston Youth, DON Summer Youth Internships, and other local opportunities; Work with area high schools to enroll youth in programs; Partner with Prairie View A&M and Volunteers for America to build youth skills, particularly around agriculture/horticulture	
Support Small Businesses	Create an Acres Home Economic Development Hub—with job training, small business resources, co-working spaces, small business incubators, youth internships and apprenticeships and skill building programs <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop partnerships with Aldine ISD, area leaders, Carver High School and the city to explore the potential to re-purpose Bethune Academy as an Acres Home Economic Development Hub; Explore the potential programs for the Hub, including youth internships, early childcare; Identify funding and implementation partners	
	Expand local businesses participation in Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and Houston First contracting <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop curriculum and training to assist contractors and businesses to become HUB vendors	
	Provide small business loans and grants to support local businesses <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Lone Star Small Business Development Center, banks, LIFT funds and others to provide financial resources to area businesses	
	Expand training and resource for small businesses and entrepreneurs <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify programs and resources to expand the success of area small businesses, including enrollment in programs like the Facebook Digital Skills program and Build Up Houston programs	
Create New Jobs	Identify growing sectors of the economy and attract new job opportunities <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Office of Business Opportunity to identify growing sectors of the economy and bring new businesses and industries to Acres Home in key sectors, such as technology, agriculture, horticulture, and vocational industries	

ECONOMY and JOBS

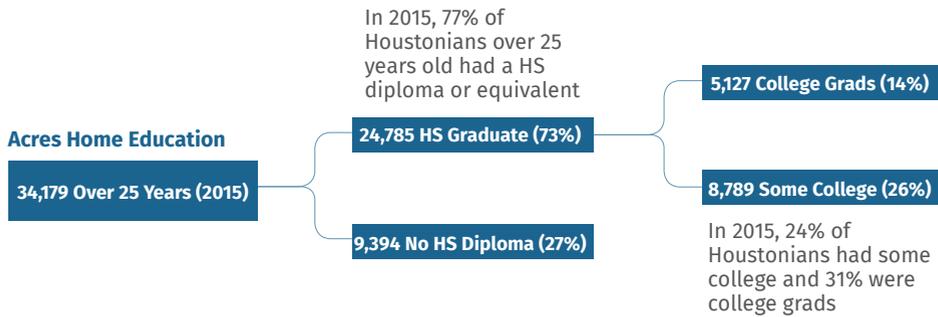
TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		LEAD: OBO, Gulf Coast Workforce Board	Interagency Mentor Protege Program
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>50%</p> <p>Reduction in the Acres Home unemployment rate by 2023 In 2015, unemployment was 13% in Acres Home</p> <p>Source: ACS 2015</p>	<p>LEAD: OBO, Nation Sync CDC, Volunteers of America</p> <p>SUPPORT: Volunteers of America, AARP, NNMD, Lone Star College</p>	Interagency Mentor Protege Program, National Home Building Institute Program, NNMD Job Fairs and Online Job Board, Lone Star College Career Training Programs
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: MOE, OBO, DON, Beauty's Garden, Creative Group Economics</p> <p>SUPPORT: Area High Schools, Kings Bike and Hike Community, Prairie View A&M, Volunteers for America</p>	Hire Houston Youth, DON Summer Youth Internship
Long (5+ yrs)		<p>LEAD: OBO, AISD, PDD</p> <p>SUPPORT: Lone Star Small Business Development Center, SBA, AARP, HAUL, Creative Group Economics</p>	Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), AARP Foundation's Work for Yourself @50+, Working in the Digital Age, TEK, Open Jobs Lab, Learn @50+, Hire Houston First
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>\$20 mil</p> <p>In annual small business loans by 2023</p> <p>In 2015, 443 small business loans were secured for a total of \$16 million</p> <p>Source: CRA, 2015</p>	<p>LEAD: OBO, HCDD</p> <p>SUPPORT: Nation Sync CDC, Creative Group Economics</p>	Procurement Technical Assistance Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: SBDC, LIFT, OBO, HCDD,</p> <p>SUPPORT: LISC, Wells Fargo Small Business Loans, SBA, HBDI</p>	SCORE, Women's Business Center, Small Business Revolving Loan Fund, HBDI-Start-Up Business Loan, HBDI-Small Business Loan
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: OBO,</p> <p>SUPPORT: Lone Star SBDC, Facebook, Build Up Houston, HCC</p>	Facebook Digital Skills Program, Build Up Houston, Lone Star SBDC, The Leader in Me
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>10%</p> <p>Growth in local jobs by 2023 In 2016, there were 5,167 jobs</p> <p>Source: LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics, 2016</p>	<p>LEAD: OBO, HGAC</p> <p>SUPPORT: Gulf Coast Workforce Board</p>	AARP Foundation's BACK TO WORK 50+ The Farmer-to-Farmer Program, Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program, Hire Houston First



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Build a Town Center	Develop West Montgomery as a “town square” or “downtown” destination in the community—with retail, restaurants and other amenities <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with Planning and Development to inventory existing occupants/vacancies in the W. Montgomery corridor; Identify potential spaces for renovation and new construction; Develop early concepts, including high-density residential; Develop a market analysis; Identify area property owners; Publicize the Town Square concept; Institute a real estate/developer tour to attract interest	
	Provide quality, affordable banking in the community <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Campaign for high quality banking services; Provide education on the costs of payday loans and alternatives; Understand the impact of the Community Reinvestment Act; Attract a credit union to the community; Develop a CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution)	
Grow Family Wealth	Financial Empowerment Center (in progress) <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> A Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) for Acres Home is in progress; FEC clients receive free, one-on-one professional counseling assistance with money management, budgeting, reducing debt, establishing and improving credit, connecting to safe and affordable banking services, building savings, and referrals to other services and organizations; Partner with additional agencies to expand programs that will be offered at this center	

ECONOMY and JOBS

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Long (5+ yrs)	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New locally owned businesses open by 2023</p>	<p>LEAD: OBO, PDD SUPPORT: Real Estate Developers, Land Owners, Designers, Land Planners, CDRC</p>	<p>Community Development Block Grants, Small Business Development Loans, Incremental Development Alliance, Small Scale Real Estate Development Workshop, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New financial institution will serve the neighborhood by 2023 Currently there is only one full-service bank and one credit union</p>	<p>LEAD: OBO SUPPORT: United Way Thrive</p>	<p>Ready Set Bank</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New financial institution will serve the neighborhood by 2023 Currently there is only one full-service bank and one credit union</p>	<p>LEAD: Financial Empowerment Center, PDD SUPPORT: Unity Bank, United Way, OBO, BankOn Houston, Fitzgerald and McElroy, Memorial Area Ministries</p>	<p>Ready Set Bank</p>



EDUCATION

Introduction

Three school districts serve the Acres Home community—Houston ISD, Aldine ISD and Klein ISD. Aldine ISD serves the majority of the area, with ten schools. Houston ISD has four area schools. Overall, Acres Home is served by fourteen public primary schools, two parochial schools, two early childcare and Pre-K schools and three charter schools. The 2016 Texas Education Agency Academic Performance Report shows that, within Acres Home, Highland Heights Elementary has the lowest reading performance and Wesley Elementary the lowest writing performance. Each of these schools were designated “Improvement Required” in 2016 by the Agency. Osborne Elementary has performed the best in both reading and math. Overall, 80% of area schools were designated as “Met Standards” by the Texas Education Agency in 2016.

The Acres Home study area is also home to Lone Star College, with HCC Acres Home and HCC Northeast campuses just outside the boundaries. In 2015, 27% of the Acres Home population over the age of 25 did not

finish high school, which is higher than the Houston rate of 23%. 14% of Acres Home’s population over the age of 25 had a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2015, compared to 31% in the City overall.

Education Goals

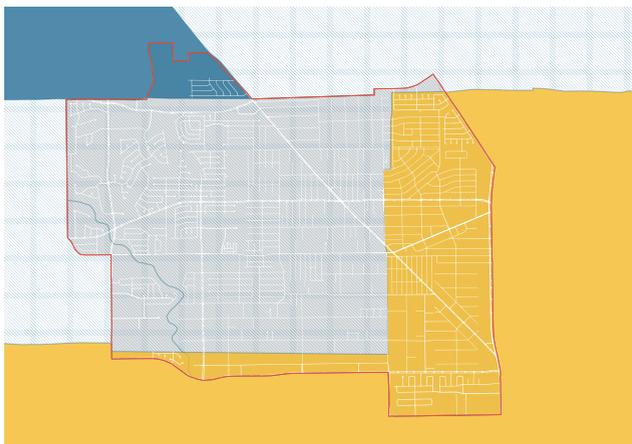
The three education goals work to ensure that quality educational opportunities exist across the community, that strong partnerships are formed between schools, parents, and other partners, and that learning opportunities are available to students of all ages. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The education goals are:

Provide Quality Education for Learners of All Ages

Access to high quality schools and early childhood centers can ensure student success over the long-term, and assist in working towards a complete community. Three of the fourteen public schools in the Acres Home area were designated as “Improvement Required” by the Texas Education

Area School Districts

- Houston ISD
- Aldine ISD
- Klein ISD



73% Of Acres Home 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), Texas Education Agency, 2016, Children at Risk, 2017

A complete community is a knowledge community
with high quality schools, early childcare and
lifelong learning opportunities

Agency in 2016. Identifying supportive resources for students, expanding college and career readiness programs, and increasing out-of-school academic and enrichment programs will help to ensure success in school. The goal is for 100% of area public schools to meet the Texas Education Agency's standards.

According to data provided by Children at Risk, 19% of the 3,136 early childcare seats in Acres Home can be defined as "quality," while only 2% are Texas Rising Star certified. In addition, 11% (or 340) of early childcare seats are subsidized. The subsidized seats meet the needs of only 18% of low-income working parents with children. The goal is to increase the number of both high quality and subsidized early childcare seats to better meet the needs of working parents in the community.

Develop Strong School-Community Partnerships

The National Education Association reports that "family engagement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism, and restores

parents' confidence in their children's education." Parents who are engaged in their children's schools increase the likelihood that their child will succeed. Creating strong school and community partnerships will increase parent engagement in schools, while also inviting partners and leaders to provide needed support and resources. Specific projects include identifying best practices in communication strategies and methods to build strong partnerships.

Create a Knowledge Community

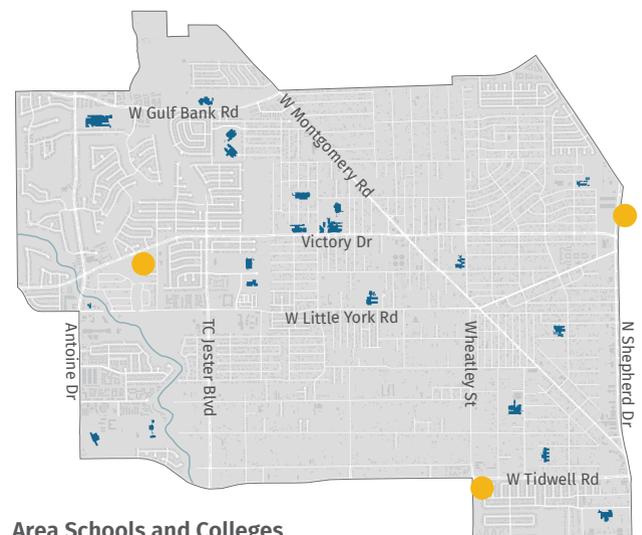
Opportunities for lifelong learning create complete communities. Expanding awareness of career training and education programs at area community colleges and improving access to adult education programs and resources, including those at the neighborhood library, will provide opportunities for adults to build their skills and careers. In addition, developing shared lending agreements, for books and other resources, between the neighborhood library and area community colleges will enhance access to learning tools.

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 Shepard-Acres Home Neighborhood Library to learn more, <http://houstonlibrary.org/location/shepard-acres-homes-neighborhood-library>.

The Mayor's Office of Education hosted a public meeting focused on education in each of the five Complete Communities. The Acres Home meeting was held at HCC Acres Homes Campus in January of 2018.



Area Schools and Colleges

- Primary Schools
- Community Colleges



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Provide Quality Education for Learners of All Ages	<p>Enhance student success <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify existing supportive resources for students and fill any gaps; Inventory and expand art programs, STEM opportunities, nutrition and wellness education, and 4H programs in area schools; Provide support to keep local students enrolled; Provide technology for kids programs; Attract and retain high-quality teachers</p>	
	<p>Expand out of school programs for children and youth (after school and summer) <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Inventory area out of school programs; Ensure all programs are listed on the Out 2 Learn website; Develop an outreach campaign to encourage parents to enroll students in available programs; Expand programs for children of all abilities, including leadership and civic engagement programs for youth</p>	
	<p>Provide college and career readiness programs for students <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Inventory and expand college prep and SAT prep programs; Inventory and expand vocational education programs; Encourage students to enroll in Hire Houston Youth and DON Youth Internship programs; Partner with mentorship programs to expose students to potential careers; Encourage early college dual credit enrollment</p>	
	<p>Expand and improve quality early childhood education <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate the ten existing early childcare centers for quality and affordability; Encourage centers to work towards Texas Rising Star certification; Expand the number of high-quality and subsidized seats</p>	
Develop Strong School-Community Partnerships	<p>Improve communication between schools, parents, non-profit and private partners to enhance student success <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate successful communication programs and existing tools; Develop a plan to improve communication; Use social media, newsletters, blogs, nextdoor.com and other communication tools to keep parents and students informed</p>	
Create a Knowledge Community	<p>Expand adult education programs, including financial education, literacy, ESL/ Spanish, leadership courses, vocational training <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Inventory existing adult education programs; Develop a campaign to advertise and promote available adult education programs, including the forthcoming Financial Empowerment Center</p>	
	<p>Expand and improve Beulah Shepard/Acres Homes Neighborhood Library <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate library hours and potentially provide additional hours; Communicate programs offered at the library to area residents, such as homework assistance, after school programs, college and career prep, summer programs, open job labs; Expand the library to provide additional services, including a larger computer lab, and extended hours</p>	
	<p>Create lending and use agreements between the Beulah Shepard Public Library, and college libraries at HCC and Lone Star College <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify barriers to shared lending agreements; Develop a shared lending strategy</p>	

EDUCATION

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>100%</p> <p>Of the 14 public schools will meet Texas Education Agency standards by 2023</p> <p>In 2016 eleven schools, or 80%, met standards</p> <p>Source: Texas Education Agency, 2016</p>	<p>LEAD: MOE</p> <p>SUPPORT: AISD, HISD, KISD, Communities in Schools of Houston, Houston Ballet, BenCheri' Educational Center, YBSE</p>	<p>HISD Achieve 180, CIS Summer Youth Employment Program, Every Community Every School, X3: Explore, Extend, Excel!, YAH Assistance Fund, YAH Art-Promise Programs, 4H Program, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo</p>
Short (0 -2 yrs)	<p>4</p> <p>Number of Texas Rising Star or Nationally Certified Childcare Centers by 2023</p> <p>Currently two centers are certified</p> <p>Source: Collaborative for Children</p>	<p>LEAD: MOE, HPARD</p> <p>SUPPORT: AISD, HISD, KISD, Children at Risk, Boys and Girl's Club of Greater Houston, YMCA, Loving Kids, Suits for Sons, Musically Inclined</p>	<p>Out 2 Learn, Loving Kids-Acres Home, Life Skills Training for Youth & Teens, Highland Park Community Center, After School Enrichment Program-HPARD, LSC-Discovery College Summer Camp, YAH Assistance Fund, YAH Art-Promise Programs</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>25%</p> <p>Of income-eligible working parents will have access to subsidized childcare by 2023</p> <p>Currently 18% have access (340 seats/1861 eligible parents)</p> <p>Source: Children at Risk, 2017</p>	<p>LEAD: MOE, DON</p> <p>SUPPORT: Lone Star College, HCC, AISD, HISD, KISD</p>	<p>ACE Houston, C-STEM, Change Happens - Rescue Youth Program, LSC-Victory College Test Prep Program and College Summer Camp, Kappa Alpha PSI-Guide Right Program, Hire Houston Youth, DON Summer Internship Program, Junior Achievement</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: MOE</p> <p>SUPPORT: Collaborative for Children, HISD, AISD, KISD, AVANCE</p>	<p>Avance Early Head Start Program</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>100%</p> <p>Of area schools will have active parent organizations by 2023</p> <p>Source: Area Schools</p>	<p>LEAD: MOE</p> <p>SUPPORT: AISD, HISD, KISD, PTO/PTAs, School Principals, Civic Clubs, SN Councils, Alumni Organizations</p>	<p>School Paper App</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: MOE, HPL</p> <p>SUPPORT: HCC, Lone Star College, AVANCE, Houston Area Urban League, Bank on Houston, LISC, HCPL at Lincoln Park</p>	<p>Avance Fathers in Action, AVANCE: Strong Families Strong Communities, HPARD Highland Park Community Center: Adult Literacy Course, Money Managing Course, Houston Center for Literacy, HCPL at Lincoln Park, Open Job Labs for Workforce Assistance</p>
Long (5+ yrs)	<p>77%</p> <p>Of residents over the age of 25 years will have a high school diploma or equivalent by 2023</p> <p>Currently 73% have a high school diploma</p> <p>Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)</p>	<p>LEAD: HPL, GSD</p> <p>SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, SN Councils, MOE, EDD</p>	<p>Hotspot Lending, Learning Link Card, Laptop/Tablet Lending, Groomed for Literacy, Computer Help Sessions</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HPL</p> <p>SUPPORT: HCC, Lone Star College</p>	<p>Extended Learning Center at Lone Star College Victory Center</p>

HEALTH

Introduction

A complete community is a healthy community. According to the USDA’s Food Desert Atlas, seven of the eleven census tracts that comprise the Acres Home study area are in a food desert (located more than a mile from a grocery store). The seven tracts are home to nearly 38,000 people. In addition, over 3,000 low-income families without a vehicle live more than 1/2-mile from a grocery store. There are only two grocery stores in the neighborhood, Joe V’s on N. Shepherd and Foodarama on Antoine Drive, located on the far eastern and western edges of the community respectively. There are numerous small grocers and convenience stores across the neighborhood.

In 2015, 72% of Acres Home residents had health insurance, similar to the City of Houston overall where 73% of residents had health insurance. The United Memorial Medical Center, UT Physicians Victory location, and a number of health clinics and doctor’s offices serve the community.

Healthy and active living requires quality parks, sidewalks and trails, and freedom from safety concerns such as stray animals. The Houston Health Department’s Health Profile found that 65% of adults in Acres Home engaged in regular physical activities, lower than 71% in Houston overall.



Health Goals

The three goals to improve health across the Acres Home Complete Community include expanding access to fresh and nutritious food, increasing opportunities for active living, and ensuring people have access to healthcare and health resources. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The health goals are:

Increase Access to Fresh and Healthy Food

“Making the healthy choice the easy choice” is at the foundation of the projects to expand options for healthy food in the neighborhood. This includes community-based projects such as establishing a weekly farmers market, expanding community gardens and farms, food pantry programs (such as Brighter Bites and the Houston Food Bank’s Food Scholarship program), and providing cooking and nutrition classes. Additional projects include developing partnerships to attract healthier restaurants and a major grocery store, particularly in the central section of the community.

72% Of Acres Home residents had health insurance in 2015

73% Of Houston residents had health insurance in 2015

Data Source: 2015 ACS (5-yr); Complete Community Health Profile, Acres Home 2017, Houston Health Department

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

Nurture Healthy and Active Living

Active living helps to fight obesity and chronic diseases. According to the Houston Health Department's Health Profile for Acres Home, the percentage of adults (18+) in Acres Home who were obese ranged from 40% to 47%, much higher than the Houston rate of 34%. The Healthy People 2020 target is to reduce the proportion of adults aged 20 and older who are obese to 30.5%. To achieve this goal, community leaders will pursue projects to expand area trails and install exercise stations at local parks and the Acres Home Multi-Service Center. In addition, attracting a wellness center or gym to the neighborhood will encourage more people to adopt healthy and active lifestyles.

Improve Well-Being

According to the Health Profile completed by the Houston Health Department, adults in the Acres Home study area are more likely to have received an annual routine check-up than in Houston overall, 74% compared to 67%. Still, access to health information and education was identified as a key priority. In addition, access to comprehensive healthcare, including mental healthcare, dental care, substance abuse prevention and recovery programs, and home services for seniors are important priorities.

74%

Of Acres Home adults (18+) received a routine check-up in 2013-2014

67%

Of Houston adults (18+) received a routine check-up in 2013-2014



Map of Grocery and Convenience Stores

- Grocery Store
- 1/2-mile radius
- Convenience Store

Area Health Services

- ✚ Hospital
- Health Clinics





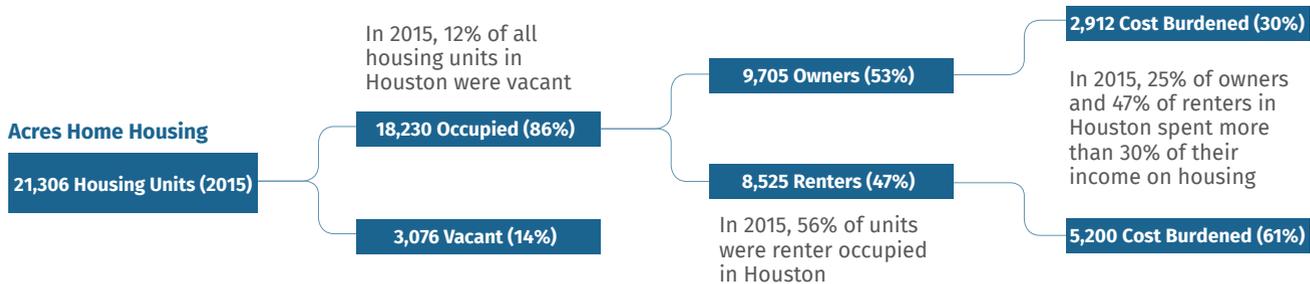
GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Increase Access to Fresh and Healthy Food	Attract a weekly Saturday Farmers Market <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create partnerships to bring a farmers market to the area or expand the schedule of Get Moving Houston Farmers Market	
	Attract a new grocery store <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work with the Grocery Task Force to create a market analysis; Identify potential sites, focus on W. Montgomery and W. Little York area; Develop incentives; Explore potential for a mobile grocery store, GRIT grocery partnership (in progress)	
	Improve and expand community gardening opportunities, particularly for youth and seniors <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify potential sites for community gardens, including existing parks, vacant and LARA lots, Acres Home Health Center and schools; Partner with the Houston Health Department to open the Multi-Service Center garden to the public and provide community gardening classes	
	Establish Food Scholarship Pantries through the Houston Food Bank in Acres Home <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify a partner organization(s); Implement the program	
	Attract healthy restaurant options <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify potential sites, focus on W. Montgomery; Complete a market analysis; Attract new restaurants; Partner with a nutritionist to implement a healthy dining matters initiative similar to the City of Pasadena	
	Partner with Brighter Bites and CAN DO Houston to expand healthy food options at area schools and corner stores <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify area schools and corner stores for the expansion of Brighter Bites and CAN DO programs; Develop partnerships with organizations, stores and schools to implement	
Nurture Healthy and Active Living	Provide healthy cooking and nutrition classes <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify a site, such as Acres Home Multi-Service Center or Highland Park, to provide cooking and nutrition classes	
	Attract a gym or wellness center to the neighborhood <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Explore options for a private or publicly funded gym or wellness center; Study feasibility of a fee-based center; Identify potential sites; Develop partnerships for implementation	
	Expand access to public exercise equipment and amenities <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Improve the exercise amenities at the Acres Home Multi-Service Center; Explore the provision of outdoor exercise stations or other amenities at all existing parks	

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>100%</p> <p>Of households without a car, living in low-income census tracts, will have access to a grocery store or healthy food within 1/2-mile by 2023</p> <p>Currently 80% of households without a car in low-income census tracts have access to a grocery store within 1/2-mile Source: USDA Food Desert Map</p>	<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: Urban Harvest</p>	Get Moving Houston Farmers Market, LARA Lot Program, Harris Health System
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: OBO, EDD, Grocery Task Force SUPPORT: Real Estate Developers, Property Owners, GRIT Grocery, MOI</p>	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: Urban Harvest, Harris Health System, Acres of Angels, Area Schools, Civic Clubs, SN Councils, UT Health</p>	I-Grow Houston Initiative, GRO1000, LARA Lots
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: Houston Food Bank, Lone Star College, Workforce Solutions, Harris Health System</p>	Harris Health System CCHH
Long (5+ yrs)		<p>LEAD: OBO, HHD SUPPORT: EDD, Real Estate Developers, Property Owners, Restaurant Owners and Entrepreneurs</p>	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: CAN DO, Brighter Bites, Urban Harvest, Recipe for Success, Common Threads, HISD, AISD, KISD</p>	Healthy Corner Stores, American Heart Association Advocacy - Healthy Food Access and Food Insecurity
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: Urban Harvest, Recipe for Success, Common Threads, HPARD, UT Health</p>	Healthy-Out-of-School Time
Long (5+ yrs)	<p>70%</p> <p>Of residents will engage in regular physical activity by 2023</p> <p>Currently 65% of residents engage in regular physical activity Source: Houston Health Department Complete Communities Report, 2017</p>	<p>LEAD: HPARD, HHD SUPPORT: Harris Health System, EDD, Commercial Property Owners</p>	Harris Health System, CCHH, BestLife Foundation, Synthesis Health Programs
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD, HPARD, GSD SUPPORT: HPB, TPL, Harris County Precinct 1</p>	Adult fitness, aerobics, and weightlifting-Highland Park Community Center, Fund Your Park, Kaboom! Grants Program, Lowe's Community Partners Grants, Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP)



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Improve Well-Being	Expand and improve health education and information for people of all ages <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify health priorities in the community; Provide health education related to these priorities; Host chronic disease self-management and prevention education workshops; Provide youth wellness programs	
	Expand home services for seniors <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate the number of homebound seniors in need of health services; Develop partnerships to provide seniors services at home	
	Expand access to mental health services <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify existing mental health resources; Identify barriers to accessing these services	
	Expand access to substance abuse treatment programs <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify existing resources; Identify barriers to accessing services	
	Dental Healthcare <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify existing resources; Identify barriers to accessing services	

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>75%</p> <p>Or more, of residents will continue to get annual check-ups with their doctor by 2023</p> <p>Source: Houston Health Department Complete Communities Report, 2013-2014</p>	<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: The Rose, Houston Health Foundation, American Heart Association, Harris Health System, Strive Nation, Area Schools</p>	<p>See to Succeed, Harris Health System CCHH, Altus Foundation, American Heart Association Health Programs, Speakers Bureau Empowered to Serve, Healthy Cooking, Heart Health and Blood Pressure Check, Change, Control Program, Healthy Food Access, UT Physicians Wellness Clinic, UT Health</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: BakerRipley, Meals on Wheels, SN Councils, AARP</p>	<p>Personal Home Care Assistance, Sheltering Arms Senior Services In-Home Services, Hope Personal Assistance Services, Personal Care Services</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>53%</p> <p>Of residents will visit the dentist each year (the Houston average) by 2023</p> <p>Currently 44% of residents visit the dentist annually</p> <p>Source: Houston Health Department Complete Communities Report, 2013-2014</p>	<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: Successful Healing Center LCC</p>	<p>CIS-Mental Health Initiative, Project Milestone</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: North Harris County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, The Council on Recovery</p>	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HHD SUPPORT: Houston Health Foundation, CIS</p>	<p>Project Saving Smiles, CIS Project Move Dental Program, UT Dental</p>



HOUSING

Introduction

The Acres Home Complete Community study area is characterized by housing developments that vary greatly in age, style, and lot size. Each distinct area, from the original acre lots on the southern edge of the community to the 1970s housing in the far western section, has a unique character. The housing goals are as diverse as this landscape. In some areas, preserving the historic housing and development patterns is essential to preventing the displacement of residents and the loss of history. In other areas, such as W. Montgomery, there are substantial vacant lots where new single-family infill housing and higher-density mixed-income housing could help to establish a “town center” and grow the community around a core.

Housing Goals

The four Acres Home Complete Community housing goals focus on building new affordable housing, increasing the number of homeowners, repairing existing housing, and nurturing and growing an Acres Home community development corporation or community housing development organization. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The housing goals are:

Build New Affordable Housing

The Acres Home community is growing, new residents are moving to the area and new housing is being built to fit their needs. As the community grows, home

values have been rapidly rising, as is the case in Houston overall. For example, the median listing price for homes in zip code 77091 (south of Little York Rd) rose from \$98,900 in June of 2015 to \$145,000 in June of 2017, a 47% increase over two years. Median home listing prices in zip code 77088 (north of Little York Rd) rose from \$115,000 to \$139,900 in the same time period, a 22% increase.

Rising housing costs point to the need for new affordable housing. Nearly 8,000 households in Acres Home were burdened with high housing costs in 2015, spending more than 30% of their income towards this expense. Building new affordable single-family housing and higher density mixed-income rental housing will ensure that the area’s housing meets everyone’s needs. New housing will be focused on the 135 LARA lots that are currently owned by the City. Over time, success will be measured by the number of new affordable housing units available in the community.

Expand Homeownership

Acres Home has historically been a community of homeowners. In 2015, 53% of households owned their own homes, a much higher percentage than Houston overall where 44% of households owned their home. Yet, similar to communities across Houston and the United States, homeownership is declining. Between 2000 and 2015, the number of homeowners declined by 445 in Acres Home. Connecting potential buyers to homeowner education workshops and financial



61% Of renters paid more than 30% of their income on housing in 2015

30% Of 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 accessible to people with a diversity of incomes, where existing residents are protected from displacement, historic homes are repaired and preserved, and where community-based organizations are empowered to build

assistance programs will help to increase the number of homeowners in the community.

Ensure Homes are Safe and Secure

Ensuring that existing residents are secure in their current homes is an important goal. In 2015, over 3,500 seniors headed households in Acres Home, and 2,885 were homeowners. Maintenance and repairs can become a burden for seniors, who are often constrained by fixed incomes. In 2015, 13% of all seniors in the area had incomes below the poverty line. Enrollment in home repair programs, providing information on tax exemptions, and offering other assistance programs would ensure that seniors and other eligible homeowners remain safe and secure in their homes into the future. It is also important to assist interested homeowners in securing affordable home improvement loans.

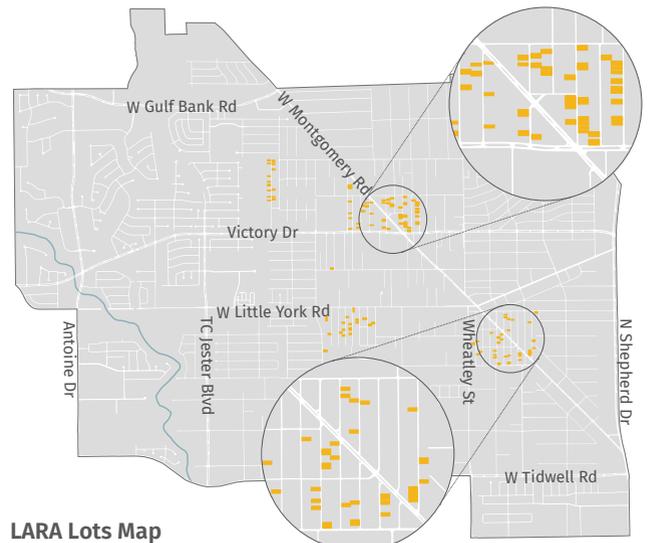
Grow Local Community Builders

The Acres Home community is served by two community development corporations, Common Unity CDC and Nation Sync CDC. Building these organization’s capacity to serve the community, including the ability to build affordable housing and attract outside investment, is critical to ensuring that the goals for new housing outlined in this Action Plan are achieved. Success will be measured by securing city certification of one existing or a newly developed CDC, as a community housing development organization.

25 Home improvement loans were approved in Acres Home in 2016, 28% of all applications

64 Home improvement loans were denied in 2016, 72% of all applications

Data Sources: 2016 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Data, accessed via Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

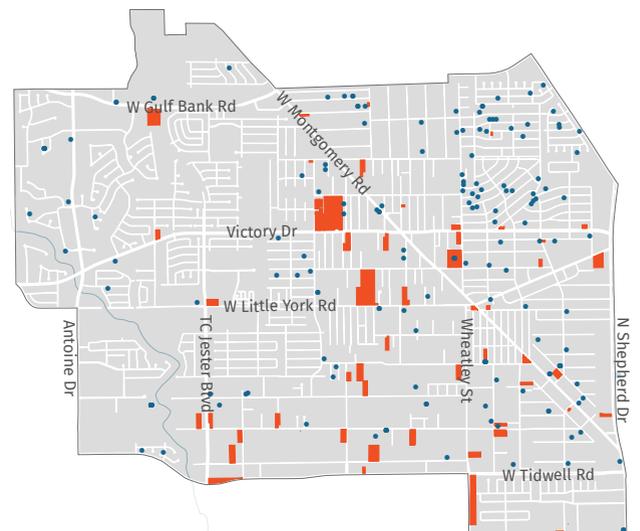


LARA Lots Map

■ Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority (LARA) Lots

Demolitions and New Plats

● Demolition
■ New Plat





GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Build New Affordable Homes	<p>Build new affordable single-family housing <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Housing and Community Development Department and Planning Department to focus new housing on area vacant lots and LARA lots; Identify additional partners or developers to construct new housing at 80% of Area Median Income (\$71,500) or below</p>	
	<p>Develop strategies for building higher-density, mixed-income housing, in key locations such as W. Montgomery <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify potential sites and concepts for new high density and mixed-income housing, including mixed-use developments; Create partnerships for funding and implementation</p>	
Expand Homeownership	<p>Grow area homeowners <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Connect potential homeowners to Homeowner Education Workshops and Homebuyer Assistance Programs; Identify a partner or local organization to provide HUD approved courses and workshops</p>	
Ensure Homes are Safe and Secure	<p>Enroll community seniors, and other eligible homeowners, in home repair programs <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify seniors and other eligible households in need of home repair and enroll them in the Home Repair Program provided by Rebuilding Together Houston and Housing and Community Development; Expand the capacity of home repair programs to meet additional needs, potentially through local non-profit organizations</p>	
	<p>Demolish or repair abandoned homes <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify and map area homes that are abandoned or in need of demolition or repair; Identify property owners; Partner with City departments and other agencies to identify funding for repair, demolition or acquisition; Advocate for legislative changes to better address dangerous buildings</p>	
	<p>Provide low-interest home improvement loans to area homeowners <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Housing and Community Development to develop low-interest or revolving home improvement loans for area homeowners making 80-120% of AMI (\$71,500); Identify qualifying homeowners</p>	
	<p>Prevent the displacement of existing residents <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Provide workshops and information on tax policies and exemptions to ensure homeowners are receiving eligible deductions; Partner with Housing and Community Development and the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) to provide homestead exemption workshops</p>	
Grow Local Community Builders	<p>Strengthen existing community development corporations (CDC) and community housing development organizations (CHDO), or create a new organization <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Organize interested leaders, CDCs and organizations to attend the training workshop with Capital One and the Housing and Community Development Department; Build the capacity of area CDCs through training, partnerships, and workshops</p>	

HOUSING

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Long (5+ yrs)	<p>100</p> <p>New single-family homes affordable to families making less than \$50,000 by 2023</p> <p>Currently there are 135 LARA Lots in Acres Home</p> <p>Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr), City of Houston Planning and Development Department</p>	<p>LEAD: HCDD, PDD, Developers, Housing A-Team</p> <p>SUPPORT: SN Councils, Common Unity CDC</p>	LARA Lot Program, Homeowner Education Workshops, Can I Be Your Neighbor? Campaign, Home Buyer Education Course, My First Texas Home, Mortgage Credit Certificate, Five-Star Texas Advantage Program
Long (5+ yrs)	<p>10%</p> <p>Increase in the number of homeowners by 2023</p> <p>In 2015, 9,705 families owned their homes</p> <p>Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)</p>	<p>LEAD: HCDD, HUD</p> <p>SUPPORT: Home Buyer CLUB with Covenant Community Capital, LISC, BOSS Life, Banks</p>	Homeowner Education Workshops, Can I Be Your Neighbor? Campaign, Home Buyer Education Course, My First Texas Home, Mortgage Credit Certificate, Five-Star Texas Advantage Program, Texas Heroes Home Loan Program, Homes Sweet Texas Home Loan Program, Seth and TSAHC Program Down Payment Assistance
Short (0 -2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HCDD, Rebuilding Together Houston, AARP</p> <p>SUPPORT: SN Councils, Civic Clubs, Common Unity CDC, Housing A-Team</p>	Weatherization Assistance Program, Securing Our Citizens (SOC), R.I.S.E., Texas Ramp Project, HCDD Home Repair Program, RTH Volunteer Home Repair Program, Roofs Over Houston, Critical Systems Repair, Safe and Sound Program, Ramp Angels, Students in Service, Disaster Recovery Home Repair Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>50</p> <p>Eligible senior homeowners will receive home repairs in five years</p> <p>Currently there are 2,885 senior head of household, of which 17%, or 490 households, live below poverty.</p> <p>Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr)</p>	<p>LEAD: HCDD, DON</p> <p>SUPPORT: SN Councils, Civic Clubs, HPD DRT</p>	Dangerous Building Ordinance
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HCDD</p> <p>SUPPORT: Non-profit Organizations</p>	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HCDD, HCAD</p> <p>SUPPORT: SN Councils, Civic Clubs, Common Unity CDC</p>	HCAD Property Tax Workshop, Homestead and Senior Exemption Workshops
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>1</p> <p>Certified “Community Housing Development Organization” (CHDO) in Acres Home by 2023</p>	<p>LEAD: HCDD, Capital One</p> <p>SUPPORT: Nation Sync CDC, Common Unity CDC, LISC</p>	Capital One / HCDD Community Housing Development Organization Workshop

MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduction

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

Acres Home is adequately served by public transit with seven local METRO bus routes, two of which are high frequency routes, running every fifteen minutes. However, while 11% of households are without a car, only 4% of workers use public transit to get to work, which is equal to Houston overall. Fewer than 1% of area workers walk or bike to their jobs.

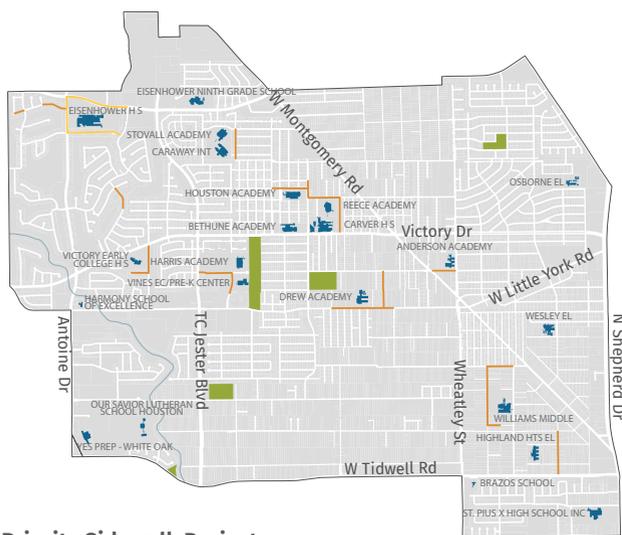
Mobility and Infrastructure Goals

The six goals to improve mobility and infrastructure include building safe and complete streets, improving area streets, ensuring the community is flood resilient,

expanding mobility and transit, linking the community through trails, and spanning the digital divide. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The mobility and infrastructure goals are:

Create Safe Streets

A survey of sidewalk conditions adjacent to area schools was completed. The analysis indicates that nearly all area schools need connecting sidewalks. Encouraging students and parents to walk to school can improve health through physical activity. Planned priority sidewalk projects focus in areas adjacent to schools (see map, below left), but additional sidewalk investment is critical. In addition to creating a complete network of sidewalks, area crosswalks and school zones need to be evaluated for safety. This includes exploring strategies to calm traffic, protect



- Priority Sidewalk Projects**
- New Sidewalk
 - New School Safety Zone
 - Schools
 - Parks



- School Sidewalk Survey**
- No Sidewalk
 - 1/4-mile radius
 - Schools
 - Parks

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

school children from hazards, and advocate for high visibility crosswalks. Overall, increasing walkability and safety in the neighborhood is an important goal.

Build Great Streets

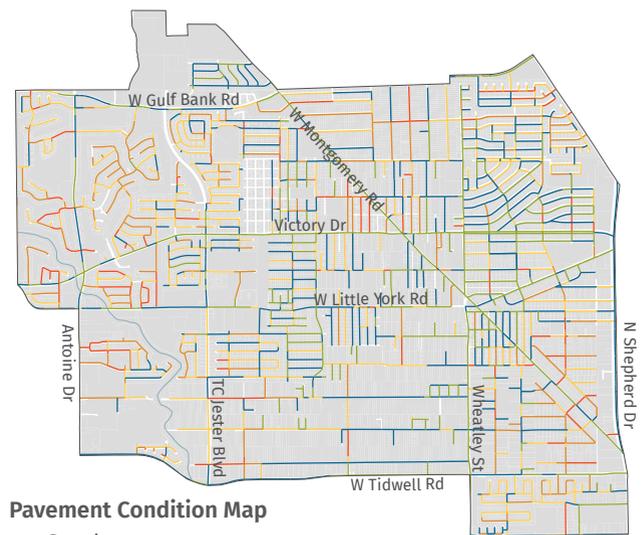
Improving community streets can encourage economic development, increase property values, and provide for greater mobility. Ensuring that streets accommodate all residents’ needs is an important goal. Civic leaders will be working in partnership with Houston Public Works to evaluate and prioritize street improvement projects. Current priorities include De Soto Street, Antoine Drive and the extension of TC Jester north, from Victory Drive to SH 249.



Acres Home Residential Street



Priority Street Improvement Projects
 — Planned (CIP) Street Improvement Project
 - - Proposed Street Improvement Project



Pavement Condition Map

— Good
 — Satisfactory
 — Fair
 — Poor
 — Very Poor

Improve Flood Resiliency

The Acres Home Complete Community has substantial land and buildings inside the 100- and 500-year flood plains. These areas are concentrated along White Oak Bayou and Vogel Creek in the Inwood area, and adjacent to N. Shepherd Drive on the eastern edge of the Acres Home community. During Hurricane Harvey both of these areas had a high number of calls to 311 for flooding, as indicated on the heat map below. Other areas outside of the flood plain also experienced flooding, suggesting that local drainage systems also require improvement.

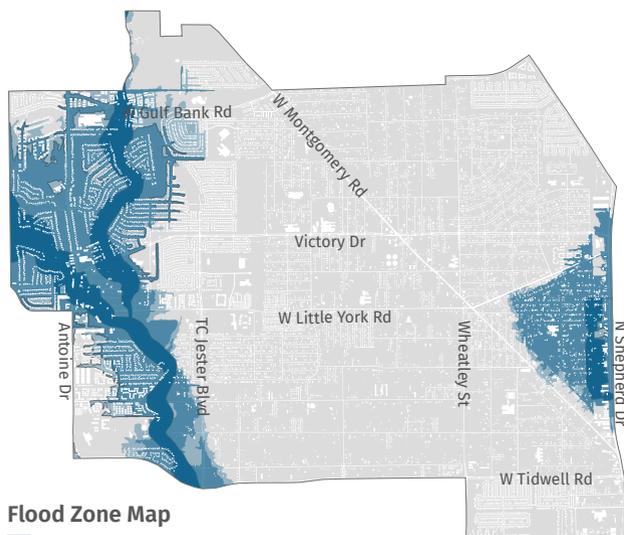
Protecting the area from flooding is a long-term goal. To this end, leaders will work in partnership with the Harris County Flood Control District and Houston Public Works to move forward the proposed re-purposing of the former Inwood Golf Course for flood detention and green space. Furthermore, studies are needed to identify additional strategies to reduce the risk of flooding in the eastern portion of the

neighborhood and other areas outside of the flood plain.

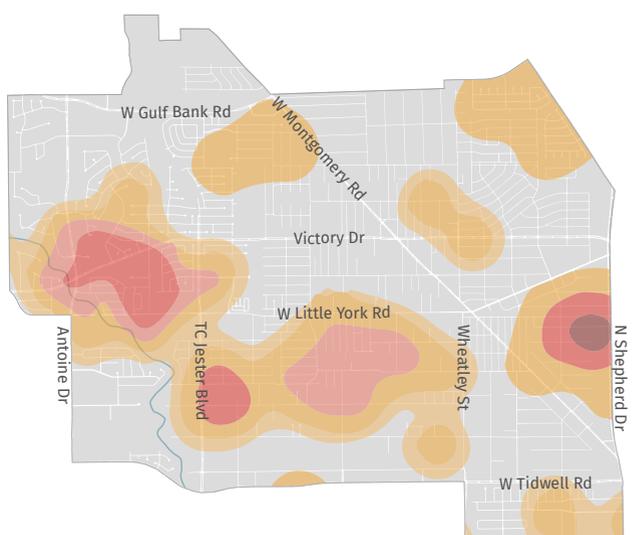
Properly maintaining area ditches and right-of-ways will also ensure that the flood risks in the community are minimized where possible. This includes preventing dumping in White Oak Bayou.

Expand Mobility

Acres Home is served by seven METRO bus routes, yet a number of transit improvement projects were identified to greatly enhance connectivity in the neighborhood. The projects include extending METRO’s Little York (79) bus route to the West Little York Transit Center, exploring the potential for additional high frequency routes, creating a new METRO Community Connector route to link to Lone Star College, and providing basic amenities, such as benches and shelters, at area bus stops. In five years, the objective is to have at least four transit improvement projects completed.



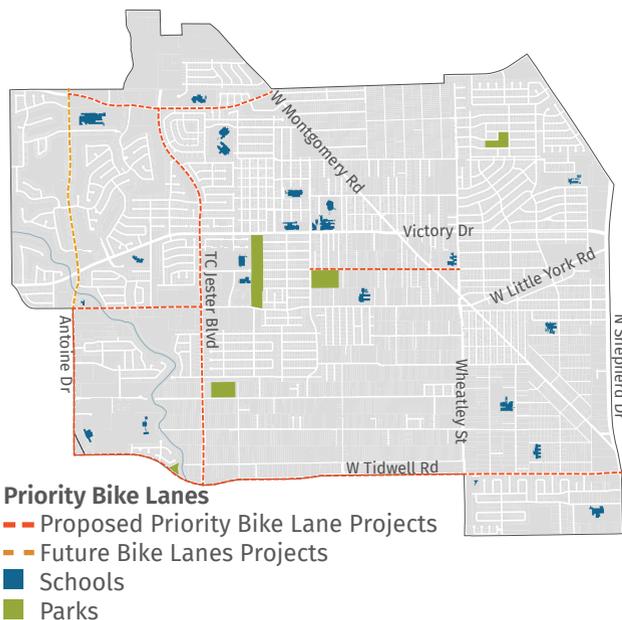
Flood Zone Map
 ■ Floodway
 ■ 100-Year Flood Plain
 ■ 500-Year Flood Plain



311 Calls for Flooding (Hurricane Harvey)
 Low High

Create a Network of Hike, Bike, and Bridle Trails

Acres Home is under-served in terms of bicycle amenities. Today, there are no on-street bike routes or B-Cycle Stations in the entire neighborhood. Expanding on-street bike lanes and other cycling amenities will encourage more people to engage in active living. Bayou Greenway trails line 2.5 miles of White Oak Bayou on the western edge of the study area, but expanded trail access is desired. Leaders will work in partnership with the Houston Parks Board's Beyond the Bayous program and other partners to identify easements and other potential trail network locations for new hike, bike, and bridle trails. Bridle trails, an idea that is founded in Acres Home's history and culture, should be planned to work in conjunction with new hike and bike trails. The objective is to have an additional five miles of trails by 2023.



Span the Digital Divide

A recent survey of broadband connectivity across Houston was conducted by January Advisors. The survey found substantial disparity in the services available in the city. Acres Home is served by two broadband providers, while most areas of the City can choose from three or more. Eliminating the disparity in access to affordable broadband services is an important goal. As a result, leaders will work with the City, HISD, AISD, and KISD to explore the potential for public Wi-Fi locations, including enhanced access at area schools, and additional towers and high-speed fiber services. The objective is to have one additional broadband provider serving the neighborhood by 2023.





GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
	<p>Identify and prioritize new sidewalk projects adjacent to area schools, transit and destinations <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Survey area sidewalk conditions, departing from the survey conducted by the NNMD; Identify priority projects; Evaluate projects identified by Houston Public Works, including Beall, from Mansfield to W. Tidwell; Green Falls, from Green Lawn to Zimmerman and from Pardue to Antoine Dr., 7600 Maple Tree Dr. from Bent Bough Ln to bridge over bayou; Evaluate need at Antoine Dr. south of W. Little York; Dolly Wright at W. Montgomery</p>	
Create Safe Streets	<p>Identify and prioritize pedestrian and school crosswalks projects <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Survey crosswalks adjacent to area schools; Advocate for high visibility crosswalk improvements at W. Gulf Bank Rd and Antoine Dr. and Antoine Dr. at Victory Dr.; Work with civic clubs and residents to submit 311 requests, if project is near an area school the City will conduct a 2-4 week study, and if improvements are necessary will take 2-4 months</p>	
	<p>Evaluate area schools zones for safety <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate need for a school zone adjacent to Eisenhower HS; Inventory remaining school zones for proper signage and crossings; Conduct speed study for potential speed bumps along Dolly Wright St, between Carver and W. Montgomery, Venus, between Ellington and Rigel; Ellington from W. Montgomery to Haynes St</p>	
Build Great streets	<p>Improve area streets <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate and prioritize proposed street projects, including: widening De Soto St., east of TC Jester; Extend TC Jester from Victory Drive to SH 249; Civic clubs and leaders to identify key focus areas for pothole repair, including Wilburforce, Wheatley, Carver Road, Sealy, and W. Little York; Report potholes with 311</p>	
	<p>Improve drainage <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Maintain area drainage ditches and bayous quarterly; Increase monitoring and enforcement to prevent illegal dumping in Little White Oak Bayou in the Green Meadow area</p>	
Improve Flood Resiliency	<p>Plan for resiliency and future flood protection <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Harris County Flood Control and Public Works to identify and address flood hazards across the Acres Home Complete Community; Explore the creation of a flood detention area in the south portion of Acres Home (between TC Jester and Cebra St); Evaluate flooding on Antoine Dr; Address flood prone areas in Inwood utilizing the former golf course area as detention; Evaluate flood hazards in the eastern portion of Acres Home near I-45 and develop mitigation strategies</p>	
	<p>Preserve natural areas as detention <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify vacant and undeveloped land in the community that can be preserved for detention, for example areas near Little White Oak Bayou and south area of Acres Home between TC Jester and Wheatley, Green Meadow Area, West Little York and North Shepherd</p>	

MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		LEAD: HPW, METRO SUPPORT: AISD, HISD, KISD, NNMD, Rebuild Houston, Harris County Precinct One, Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	Safe School Sidewalk Program, Major Thoroughfare Program, Privately Funded Sidewalk Program, Pedestrian Accessible Review (PAR) Program, Residential Sidewalk Panel Replacement Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	10 Miles of new sidewalks adjacent to area schools and transit routes by 2023 Source: HPW, CIP	LEAD: HPW SUPPORT: AISD, HISD, KISD, NNMD, Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	Safe School Sidewalk Program, Pedestrian Accessible Review (PAR) Program, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		LEAD: HISD, AISD, KISD, HPW SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, NNMD, HPD	Safe School Sidewalk Program, Privately Funded Sidewalk Program, Pedestrian Accessible Review (PAR) Program, Residential Sidewalk Panel Replacement Program
Long (5+ yrs)	10 Miles of area street improvements by 2023 Source: HPW, CIP	LEAD: HPW SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	Pothole Repair Program, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide
Long (5+ yrs)		LEAD: HPW, HCFCD SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, Harris County Precinct One	
Long (5+ yrs)	20% Reduction in 311 calls for flooding by 2023 Source: City of Houston 311 Data	LEAD: HCFCD, HPW SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, NNMD, Bayou City Initiative, HPB	
Long (5+ yrs)		LEAD: HPW, HPB, HCFCD	



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Expand Mobility	<p>Improve public transit frequency and extend Bus Route 79 Little York to the West Little York Transit Center <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with METRO on the current long range plan and advocate for more frequent transit service and the extension of bus route 79 Little York to the West Little York Transit Center</p>	
	<p>Create a METRO Community Connector, linking to Lone Star College <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with METRO, who has an existing Community Connector route that connects to Walmart and the Acres Home Transit Center, to explore a second route as part of the long range plan connecting to Lone Star College; Create a bilingual initiative to encourage use of the Community Connector, starting with grade school outreach</p>	
	<p>Maintain and expand area bus stops and shelters <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify bus stops without amenities such as benches and shelters; Advocate for benches shelters at these stops; Work with METRO's Universal Accessibility program to ensure all shelters are accessible; Work with Houston Public Works and Council District staff to provide needed infrastructure, such as sidewalks, in these areas to accommodate shelters; Explore possibility of lighting area bus shelters</p>	
	<p>Car share program <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with ARA/Park Houston to establish a location for the car share program; Evaluate the feasibility of the program</p>	
Create a Network of Hike, Bike, and Bridle Trails	<p>Develop a plan for horse riding trails <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop a community coalition to identify easements and other potential trail network locations for horse riding trails (also see Parks and Community Amenities); Develop a plan for trails; Identify funding and implementation strategies</p>	
	<p>Bring B-Cycle to the area <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify potential sites for new B-Cycle Stations or advocate for dockless bikes; Create partnerships to install stations</p>	
	<p>Bike Plan projects <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Public Works to construct top priority bike lanes and trails: De Soto St., from Antoine Dr. to Wheatley St and HPB's bike trail connecting De Soto St. over White Oak Bayou; Prioritize additional projects: Antoine Dr. from Victory Rd. to Gulf Bank and Carver Rd. from De Soto to Ferguson (also see Parks and Community Amenities)</p>	
Span the Digital Divide	<p>Improve the quality of internet services and providers <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with the City, HISD, AISD, and KISD to explore public wi-fi, including better access at area schools, additional towers and high-speed fiber</p>	

MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Bus route improvement projects, either new lines, more frequent service, or new bus shelters by 2023 Source: METRO</p>	LEAD: METRO, HPW SUPPORT: NNMD, Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	METRO Next
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		LEAD: METRO SUPPORT: Lone Star College, Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	METRO Next
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		LEAD: METRO, HPW SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	METRO Next, METRO Universal Accessibility Initiative
Short (0 -2 yrs)		LEAD: ARA/Park Houston SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	ARA/Park Houston Car Share Program
Long (5+ yrs)	<p style="text-align: center;">7.5</p> <p>Miles of new bike lanes by 2023 Currently there are no bike lanes in the neighborhood Source: Houston Bike Plan</p>	LEAD: Acres Home SNC SUPPORT: HPB, HPARD, HPW, HCFCD, CDRC	
Short (0 -2 yrs)		LEAD: HPW, BCycle SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, NNMD	Dockless Bike Alternative
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		LEAD: HPW, HPB, Harris County Precinct 1	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		LEAD: COH, HISD, AISD, KISD SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Future broadband internet providers by 2023, currently there are two providers Source: January Advisors</p>		

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Introduction

A complete community is clean and beautiful and has a strong sense of identity, culture, and community. It is a place that celebrates its history, while looking forward to the future.

Since its founding, the Acres Home neighborhood has grown and changed, yet many lots remain vacant and undeveloped. In total, 21% of land area in the neighborhood is currently vacant. As a result, illegal dumping has become one of the neighborhood's largest challenges.

Neighborhood Character Goals

The three goals established to strengthen the character of the neighborhood focus on beautification, preserving and celebrating history, and expanding arts and culture across the community. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The neighborhood character goals are:

Work Together to Create a Beautiful Community

Acres Home leaders are prepared to work together to ensure the neighborhood is clean and beautiful. In 2016, there were 382 calls to 311 to report illegal dumping in Acres Home, a number nearly twice the city average per capita. Illegal dumping is concentrated on the eastern edge of the neighborhood (see the map to the right), where vacant land is also concentrated. Vacant lots can also create nuisances if not properly maintained and mowed. Over the coming years, the goal is to bring area civic clubs and leaders together to address illegal dumping and overgrown lots, to organize neighborhood clean-ups, and work with the Houston Police Department to address nuisances. The objective is to reduce illegal dumping by at least 25% over the next five years.

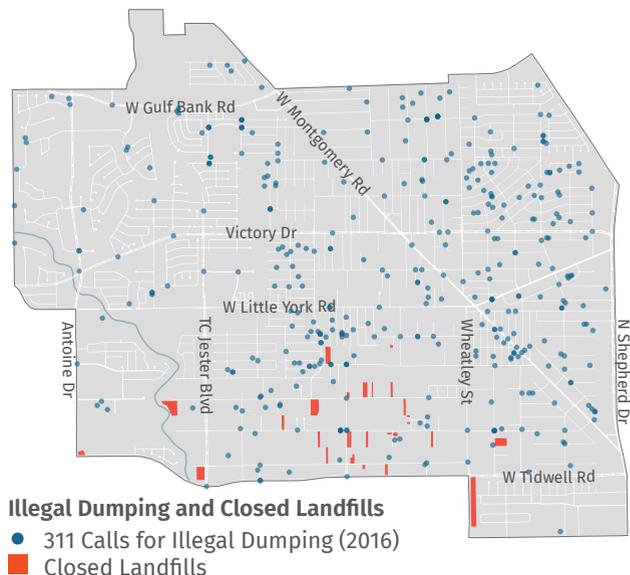
Preserve History and Plan for the Future

Acres Home has developed as a series of small subdivisions, each with its own character. Today, the neighborhood is still growing and changing. Leaders will work to protect the historic character of the neighborhood while planning for future development through the creation of a master plan. The plan will include identifying neighborhood protection strategies such as minimum lot sizes, deed restrictions, and other development controls. Leaders will also advocate for additional oversight by permitting and code enforcement to prevent future nuisances. The goal is to ensure the character of the neighborhood is honored and maintained.

7 311 calls to report illegal dumping per 1,000 Acres Home residents in 2016

4 311 calls to report illegal dumping per 1,000 Houston residents in 2016

Data Source: City of Houston 311 Data, 2016



A complete community is a beautiful community with historic neighborhoods and public art that celebrates the culture and identity of the community

Spread Arts and Culture Across the Community

The arts are an integral part of enhancing a neighborhood’s character and identity. A key priority of Houston’s recent Arts and Cultural Plan is to “develop strategies to deliver arts and culture programs, arts education and public art into neighborhoods.” By expanding on existing civic art, including the mural project at White Oak Bayou Village, the identity and culture of the community will be enhanced.

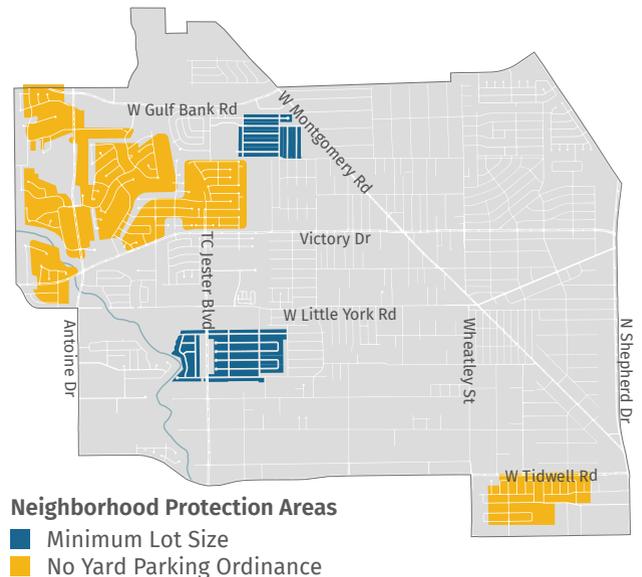
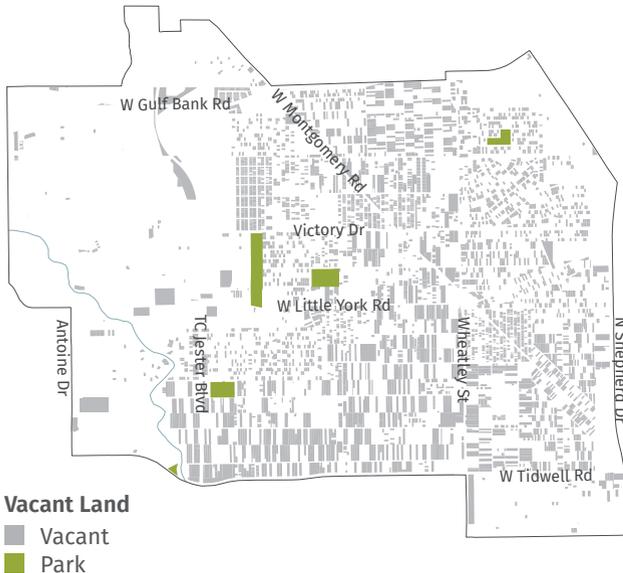
Acres Home leaders and stakeholders have identified five key projects to expand the arts across the community. The projects include attracting an arts and performance center, implementing public art projects across the neighborhood (including four mini-murals), organizing and growing events and festivals, and celebrating the area’s rich history by applying for designations for area landmarks. The objective is to bring at least six new public art projects or installations to the neighborhood in the next five years.



Shepard-Acres Homes Neighborhood Library Mural

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, and a Neighborhood Poetry Project by Houston Poet Laureate, Deborah ‘DEEP’ Mouton.





GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Work Together to Create a Beautiful Community	End Illegal Dumping <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create a 311 campaign to encourage residents, city staff, and others to report illegal dumping; Install illegal dumping cameras at area hot spots and construction sites; Recruit A-Team volunteers to review footage tapes and provide “public safety” reports to the police; Solid Waste to provide outreach and workshops	
	Maintain vacant lots <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work with area civic clubs and residents to report overgrown lots and to ensure lots are maintained; Identify a non-profit partner to develop a community-led “mowdown” program	
	Organize community clean-ups <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work with the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and Solid Waste to develop a comprehensive strategy and timeline for community clean-ups; Organize clean-ups; Report and address area graffiti; Work with DON to remove bandit signs from major thoroughfare right-of-ways	
Preserve History and Plan for the Future	Develop deed restrictions and other neighborhood protection strategies <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Inventory areas with existing deed restrictions; Develop a curriculum to provide training and information to the SN Council and civic clubs on neighborhood protection strategies, including minimum lot sizes or no yard parking ordinances; Enforce construction and permitting regulations, including identifying non-compliant construction and high fences around properties	
	Create a Master Plan <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Planning and Development to create a land use strategy to preserve the historic character of the community while planning for the future; The plan should include strategies for industrial land uses, flood mitigation, brownfield remediation, environmental issues, mixed-uses, and housing; Identify funding	
Spread Arts and Culture Across the Community	Attract a community arts and performance center <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Explore potential sites and buildings (including Bethune Academy) to develop a community arts center, with after school and summer programs; Develop partnerships and identify funding strategies	
	Design and implement beautification and public arts projects across the community, including community markers and signage <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify sites and public art and beautification projects across the community, including community markers and signage; Partner with MOCA, HAA, and other City departments on four new Mini Murals, a Civic Art project, the Visit My Neighborhood grants, creative writing workshops and a Neighborhood Poetry Project by the Houston Poet Laureate, Deborah ‘DEEP’ Mouton; Work with Planning and Development and the Department of Neighborhoods to develop Neighborhood Matching Grants or other funding opportunities	
	Organize and grow community events such as the Juneteenth Parade, arts, performances and other festivals <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create a community committee to organize events and festivals; Identify and apply for funding; Implement	
	Celebrate and recognize historic landmarks in the community <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Inventory historic landmarks, events, and pioneers; Apply for historical markers; Celebrate culture through art, events, and performances	

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p>25%</p> <p>Reduction in the number of calls to 311 to report illegal dumping by 2023 Source: City of Houston 311 Data</p>	<p>LEAD: SWD, 311, HPD, NNMD SUPPORT: SN Councils, Civic Clubs, MOI, A-Team</p>	Blast the Bandit, Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP)
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: DON, LARA SUPPORT: SN Councils, Civic Clubs, Non-profit Organizations</p>	DON: Mowdown Program, Pure Grace MBC (Maintain Vacant Lots)
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: DON, SWD, HPD SUPPORT: Keep Houston Beautiful, Tool Library, HPARD, SN Councils, Civic Clubs, The Toshia Hurd Foundation, Area Schools, A-Team</p>	Blast the Bandit, Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP), Spring Cleaning Program, School Service Projects
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>5</p> <p>Applications for neighborhood protection areas are submitted and approved by 2023 Source: Planning and Development Department</p>	<p>LEAD: PDD, DON SUPPORT: SN Councils, Civic Clubs, A-Team</p>	Prohibited Yard Parking Application, Minimum Lot Size Application, Minimum Block Application, Minimum Setback Restrictions
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: PDD SUPPORT: HHD, HCDD, HPW, Air Alliance Houston, HCFCD, design and engineering professionals, SN Councils, Civic Clubs</p>	Permitting, Building Inspections
Long (5+ yrs)	<p>1</p> <p>New Community Cultural Arts and Performance Center by 2023</p>	<p>LEAD: HCDD SUPPORT: AISD, HISD, KISD, Young Audiences of Houston, Arts for Learning, Musically Inclined, Houston Ballet, Houston Symphony</p>	Young Audiences of Houston (YAH) After School Programs, Open Grants Program, Carver Dance Company
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: MOCA, HAA SUPPORT: SN Councils, Civic Clubs, Area Schools, Area Churches, Council Office, NNMD, Scenic Houston</p>	DON Neighborhood Matching Grants, NEA Challenge America, Stronger Region, YAH: Dance, Puppetry, Music, Literary Arts, Theater, Visual Arts Workshops and Performances, Mini Murals w/ UP Art Studio, MOCA + HAA Grants
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>6</p> <p>New public art or neighborhood identity projects are completed by 2023</p>	<p>LEAD: A-Team, MOSE SUPPORT: DON, Arts for Learning, Texas Organizing Project (TOP), Common Unity CDC, Carver Dance Co., SN Council, Civic Clubs, Acres Home MSC Advisory Committee, MOCA, HAA</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p>LEAD: PDD SUPPORT: Common Unity CDC, Texas Historical Commission</p>	Texas Preservation Trust Fund, Joe's Barbershop, The Thomas Foundation

PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Introduction

Four parks are located in the Acres Home study area, with a cumulative area of 59 acres. The recommended area of parks for the neighborhood, based on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's 2015 Master Plan, is 137 acres. By this standard, Acres Home, and neighboring Inwood, are underserved by public parks. However, in Acres Home the large, almost rural, lots extend access to open spaces for residents.

Overall, only 37% of area residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The highest park needs are in the northwest portion of the neighborhood in the Inwood area. Parks provide environmental, health, aesthetic, and recreational benefits, and enhance property values and increase municipal revenue.

Parks and Community Amenities Goals

The three goals to enhance parks and community amenities focus on improving and expanding existing parks, creating a community trail network, and improving existing or building new community centers. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The parks and community amenities goals are:

Necklace of Beautiful Parks

Each of the four neighborhood parks in the Acres Home study area has different amenities and assets. Highland Park is the gateway to the community and

to White Oak Bayou to the west. The park is family-oriented and serves as a strong civic gathering place. Sylvester Turner and Carver Parks represent the “green heart” of the neighborhood, with programs for active seniors, sports fields, and trails. Sylvester Turner Park also hosts the Houston Astros MLB Urban Youth Academy which features a show field, auxiliary field, permanent seating for 500 fans, dugouts, and lights. Finally, Lincoln Park is one of the most active parks, with a covered basketball court, community center that hosts exercise classes, a pool, and tennis courts.

Each park is also in need of improvements. The aim is to identify community priorities for upgrading facilities and providing new amenities, such as exercise stations, event space, and community gardens, while also maximizing the potential of recently acquired parcels to expand both Highland Park and Sylvester Turner Park.

Finally, the former Inwood Golf Course, near Vogel Creek and White Oak Bayou, represents a great opportunity to expand park space, create detention, and reduce flooding in the western portion of the study area with the highest park needs. Design strategies proposed for the golf course and surrounding area include a lake with boats and a boardwalk, playground, splash pad, concert pavilion, dog park, and outdoor exercise stations.

Community Trail Network

The Houston Parks Board, in cooperation with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, has completed trails along White Oak Bayou in the western portion of the Acres Home study area. Expanding on this system to create a network of hike and bike trails across the community will create greater connectivity. This project is supported by the Houston Park Board's Beyond the Bayous initiative that identifies strategies to connect neighborhoods to the Bayou Greenways. In the coming years, civic leaders will work in partnership with the Houston Parks Board and



A complete community is a resilient community with a necklace of beautiful parks and open spaces, a network of trails, and centers for the community to gather

others to explore a series of trail projects, including developing an on-street connection at De Soto across White Oak Bayou and a connector trail along Vogel Creek. In addition, exploring a “bridle trail” for horse riding will support Acres Home’s rural heritage and enhance neighborhood connectivity. Opportunities for a bridle trail include an existing east-west easement near W. Gulf Bank Road, and north-south connections on smaller right-of-ways. New amenities along the trails, such as lighting, benches, shade, pocket parks and water fountains, are also being pursued. The objective is to have a total of five miles of trails weaving throughout the community in five years.

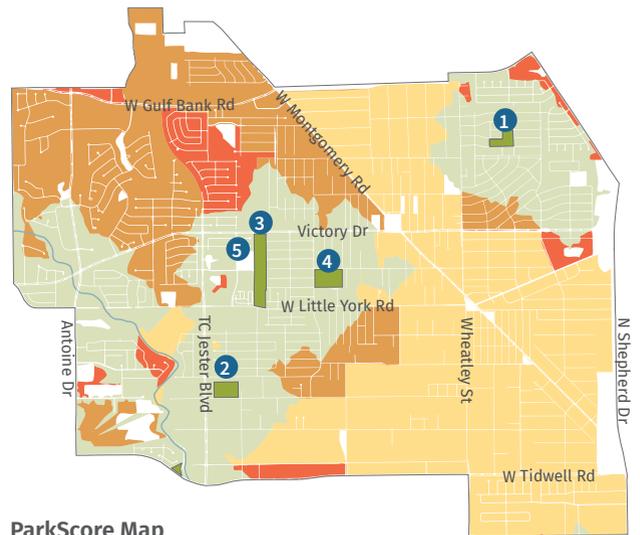
Great Community Centers

The Acres Home community is served by three community centers. Lincoln Park and Highland Park both have community centers that provide programs for children, youth, and seniors. In addition, the Acres Home Multi-Service Center provides many programs and services to area residents. Evaluating the existing community centers and working with leaders to determine future needs and programs, such as a computer lab, community meeting space, exercise space, and senior and youth resources, is an important goal.

59 Acres Existing Acres Home park acres

137 Acres Recommended park area based on 2015 Parks Master Plan standards

78 Acres Total Acres Home park deficit

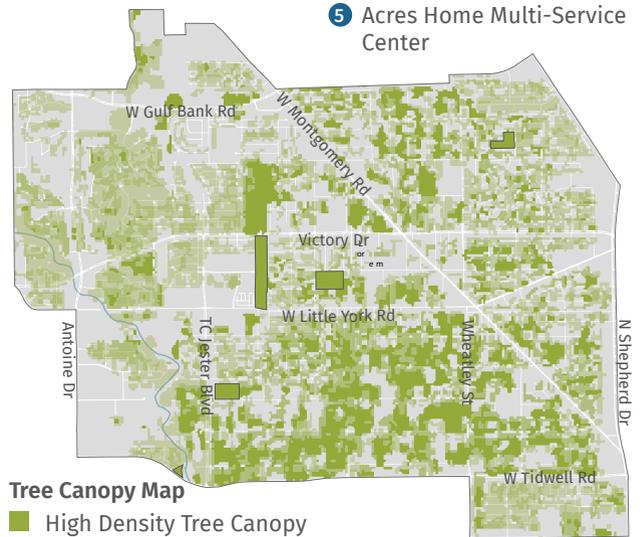


ParkScore Map

- Trust for Public Land*
- Existing Parks
 - Area Served by Parks
 - Moderate Need for Parks
 - High Need for Parks
 - Very High Need for Parks

Parks and Community Centers

- 1 Lincoln Park
 - 2 Highland Park
- Parks**
- 3 Sylvester Turner Park
 - 4 Carver (Winzer) Park
- Community Centers**
- 5 Acres Home Multi-Service Center



Tree Canopy Map

- High Density Tree Canopy
- Low Density / No Tree Canopy



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Necklace of Beautiful Parks	<p>Improve Sylvester Turner Park <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) to identify priorities for upgrading facilities, new amenities and park expansion project, including exercise equipment and upgraded water fountains; Program activities at the park; Explore the potential to expand the park north to the wooded lot for equestrian activities, or a trail connection north to the drainage easement</p>	
	<p>Expand and Improve Highland Park <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify community priorities for upgrading facilities, new amenities, and the park expansion (two tracts recently purchased by HPARD); Explore potential for exercise stations and amenities for seniors, community garden, and an outdoor event space</p>	
	<p>Develop a comprehensive park strategy for the Inwood area and former golf course to include potential park expansion, amenities and detention <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Houston Public Works and the Harris County Flood Control District to plan, fund, and implement design strategies for the former golf course</p>	
	<p>Improve Carver Park (Winzer Park) <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) to identify priorities for upgrading amenities, including re-purposing baseball field for soccer, new trails and picnic areas in the wooded section, additional lighting</p>	
	<p>Improve Lincoln Park <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Precinct 1's Park Smart planning effort to identify needed improvements, including potential for upgrading the playground and pool, a new outdoor performance venue, or a splash pad</p>	
Community Trail Network	<p>Create new hike and bike trails along bayous, easements and other right-of-ways, to create greater connectivity across the neighborhood <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with HPB's Bayou Greenways and Beyond the Bayous programs to expand area hike and bike trails, including developing a connection at De Soto Street across White Oak Bayou, along Vogel Creek, along the easement running east-west near W. Gulf Bank Rd.; Explore the potential of a horse riding trail on the west side of the neighborhood and connecting to the historic neighborhoods to the east (Dolly Wright St. potentially) (also see Infrastructure); Optimize street to trail connections</p>	
	<p>Provide amenities along hike and bike trails <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with HPB and private funders to identify and install needed amenities along hike and bike trails, including drinking fountains, benches, lighting, shade, etc.; Explore amenities that would attract youth to the trails; Explore potential for including neighborhood history and identity markers</p>	
Great Community Centers	<p>Evaluate and improve existing community centers <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Inventory existing spaces and programs at area community centers; Work with stakeholders to determine needs and future programs, such as a computer lab, community meeting space, exercise space, and senior and youth resources</p>	

PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>75%</p> <p>Of residents will live within a 10-minute walking distance to a park by 2023</p> <p>Currently, 37% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park</p> <p>Source: City of Houston GIS</p>	<p>LEAD: HPARD, IFCIA, HPB</p> <p>SUPPORT: Civic Clubs, SN Councils, Area Schools, MLB, Astros Foundation</p>	Philanthropic Organizations, Local Park Grant Program: Urban Indoor/Outdoor Recreation, Kaboom! Grants Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HPARD, HPB</p>	Philanthropic Organizations, Local Park Grant Program: Urban Indoor/Outdoor Recreation, Kaboom! Grants Program
Long (5+ yrs)		<p>LEAD: HPW, HCFCD</p> <p>SUPPORT: IFCIA, NNMD, HPB, NWF, Audubon Society</p>	Philanthropic Organizations, Kaboom! Grants Program, Local Park Grant Program: Urban Indoor/Outdoor Recreation, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: HPARD, HPB</p>	Philanthropic Organizations, Local Park Grant Program: Urban Indoor/Outdoor Recreation, Kaboom! Grants Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p>LEAD: Harris County Precinct One</p> <p>SUPPORT: HPB</p>	Precinct 1 Park Smart, Kaboom! Grants Program, Lowe's Community Partners Grants, Shade Structure Grant Program, Philanthropic Organizations
Long (5+ yrs)	<p>5</p> <p>Total miles of hike and bike trails by 2023</p> <p>Currently, there are 2.5 miles of hike and bike trails</p> <p>Sources: Google Earth, Bayou Greenways</p>	<p>LEAD: HPB, NNMD</p> <p>SUPPORT: Kings Bike and Hike Community, Houston Rodeo</p>	Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), Recreational Trails Fund, HPB Beyond the Bayous Initiative
Long (5+ yrs)		<p>LEAD: HPB</p> <p>SUPPORT: NNMD</p>	Park Recycling Infrastructure Grant, Philanthropic Organizations, HPB Beyond the Bayous Initiative, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide
Long (5+ yrs)		<p>LEAD: HPARD, HHD, GSD, HPL, Harris County Precinct 1</p> <p>SUPPORT: Non-profit Organizations</p>	Highland Community Center: Youth tennis, volleyball, soccer, Lowe's Community Partners Grants

SAFETY

Introduction

A complete community has well lit and safe streets, and is a place where the community and law enforcement agencies work in partnership to reduce crime. The Acres Home study area, which includes all of the Acres Home Super Neighborhood and the eastern portion of Greater Inwood, is served by HPD's North Division and is comprised of police beats 6B20, 6B30, and 6B40. The overall area's property crime rate was 4% above the Houston average in 2016, and the violent crime rate was 53% higher. The overall crime rate in the Acres Home Complete Community was 13% above the Houston average in 2016. The area with the highest concentration of crime is near the intersection of De Soto Street and Bolivia Boulevard.

Safety Goals

The three goals to enhance safety in the Acres Home Complete Community focus on nurturing partnerships between the community and law enforcement agencies to reduce crime, ensuring pets are safe and healthy, and improving street lighting. The goals, developed through a series of public meetings, are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The safety goals are:

Create Partnerships to Reduce Crime

The property crime and violent crime rates in the Acres Home study area are higher than in the City overall. To improve safety in the community, stronger partnerships will be developed between law enforcement agencies and community leaders and stakeholders, including property owners. This will be achieved by encouraging stakeholders, civic club, and Super Neighborhood leaders to attend regular meetings of HPD's Positive Interaction Program. These meetings provide an opportunity for community leaders to share their top safety concerns with police and to work in partnership to solve these issues.

In addition, communication tools will be created to promote the many ways local residents, business owners, and others can contact the police to report concerns. Finally, encouraging participation in HPD programs, such as the Citizen's Police Academy and Police Athletic League, will help to build bridges between the community and law enforcement.

Ensure Healthy Pets and Safe Streets

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.

4499 Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in Acres Home, 2016

4321 Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in Houston, 2016

1567 Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in Acres Home, 2016

1026 Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in Houston, 2016

Data Sources: Beat 6B20, 6B30 and 6B40 Crime Statistics 2016, HPD; UCR Crime Statistics for Houston, 2016; City of Houston 311 Data, 2016

A complete community is a safe community with well-lit streets, healthy pets, and strong partnerships to reduce crime

The agency took in 27,638 animals, of which 52% were strays. In the same year, 639 calls were made to 311 to report stray animals in Acres Home, approximately half the rate per capita of the City overall. Yet, stray animals, particularly dogs, impact safety in a neighborhood and discourage walking or other active recreation.

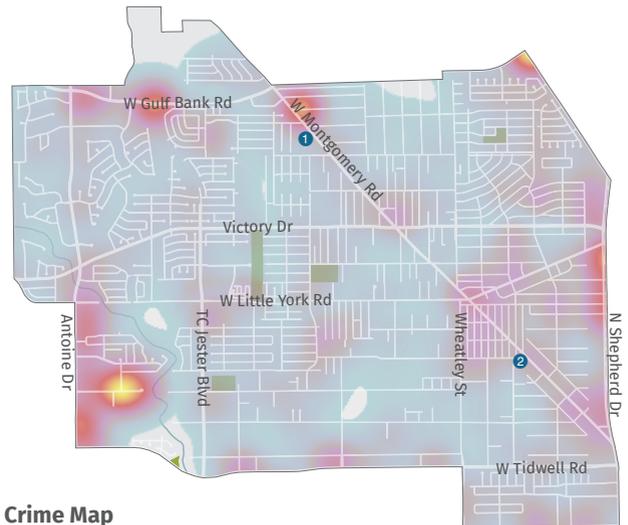
To address stray animals in Acres Home, partnerships will be developed with BARC and other animal welfare organizations to provide education and services to encourage responsible pet ownership, including spay and neuter programs. The goal is to reduce the number of calls to 311 for stray animals by 25% over the next five years.

Well-Lit Streets

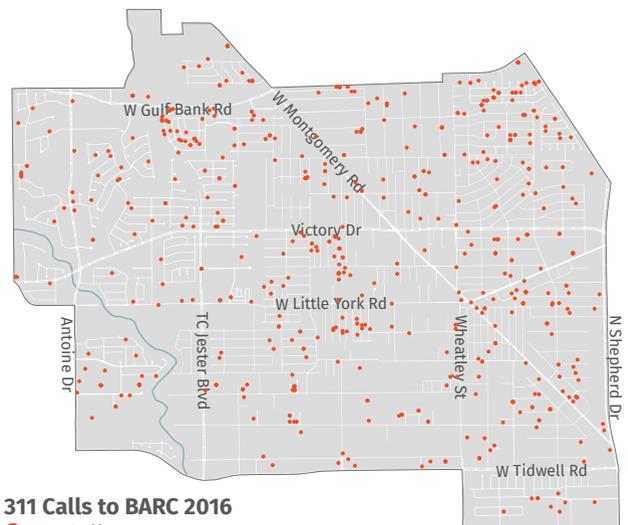
Street lights enhance safety in a community. Over the coming years, the Safety A-Team will work in partnership with the Code Enforcement Division of Houston Public Works and CenterPoint Energy to ensure all existing lights are working properly. In addition, community leaders will identify areas where additional lights are needed and work with Houston Public Works and CenterPoint Energy to advocate for new streetlights. The objective is to repair at minimum 10 lights each year.

Early Successes

The Code Enforcement Division has surveyed streetlights in each Complete Community every four months to identify broken lights and report to CenterPoint Energy for repair. Since August of 2017, 157 streetlights have been reported.



Crime Map Legend
 Crime
 Low High
 HPD Storefront



311 Calls to BARC 2016
 311 Call



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Create Partnerships to Reduce Crime	Expand participation in HPD’s Positive Interaction Program (PIP) <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Encourage participation in HPD’s PIP program, particularly by civic club leaders, through outreach and information; 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 North Division	
	Enhance communication between the community and police <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with HPD and other law enforcement agencies to provide information to residents about how to reach the police: Facebook, Nextdoor, phone, email, patrol alert slip, etc.; Provide information on the Citizens Patrol Program; Promote community National Night Out events	
	Work with area rental property owners to ensure properties are safe <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with HPD’s Apartment Enforcement Unit and the Department of Neighborhoods to canvas blighted apartment buildings; Identify apartment crime hotspots in the community and work with HPD to hold owners and managers accountable; Partner with HPD to encourage apartment managers and owners to join the Blue Star and CPTED programs (Crime Preventions Through Environmental Design)	
	Build relationships between youth and police <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Encourage the re-launch of HPD’s Police Athletic League (PAL), a youth crime prevention program that utilizes educational, athletic, and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth	
	Encourage participation in the Citizens’ Police Academy <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Advertise the Citizens’ Police Academy to encourage area leaders to participate	
	Partner with HPD’s Differential Response Team (DRT) to address nuisances <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with HPD’s Differential Response Team to address nuisances, such as overgrown lots, dumping, abandoned buildings, code compliance, game rooms, massage parlors, etc.	
Ensure Healthy Pets and Safe Streets	Address stray pets <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with BARC and others to address stray animals through education and responsible pet ownership; Bring Healthy Pets Healthy Streets to Acres Home; Provide enforcement of leash laws and aggressive animal laws	
	Address animal welfare <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create partnerships to address the welfare of horses and other livestock and pets	
Well-lit Streets	Improve streetlighting <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Code Enforcement, who are surveying area street lights every four months and working with CenterPoint Energy to repair broken lights; Identify additional areas where new streetlights are needed	

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		LEAD: HPD SUPPORT: Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, IFCIA, Civic Clubs, Area Property Owners	HPD's PIP Program
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		LEAD: HPD SUPPORT: Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, Civic Clubs, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Constable Precinct 1, NNMD	Citizens' Patrol Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>25%</p> <p>Reduction in the violent crime rate by 2023</p> <p>In 2016 the violent crime rate was 40% higher than Houston</p> <p>Source: HPD Police Beat Data, 6B20, 6B30 and 6B40</p>	LEAD: HPD, DON, Apartment Owners and Managers SUPPORT: HFD, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, Civic Clubs, Houston Apartment Association	Blue Star Multi-Housing Program, HPD Apartment Enforcement Unit, HPD Remedial Action Program (for apartments with high crime rates), Multifamily Tax-Exempt Housing Bonds
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		LEAD: HPD SUPPORT: Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, Civic Clubs, Area Schools	HPD's PAL Program, CASE for Kids
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		LEAD: HPD SUPPORT: Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, Civic Clubs	Citizens' Police Academy
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		LEAD: HPD North Division SUPPORT: HFD, Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, Civic Clubs	HPD's Differential Response Team (DRT)
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		LEAD: BARC, COH Legal Department SUPPORT: Animal Justice, Community Animal Support Team, Emancipet Clinic	Healthy Pets Healthy Street, Big Fix Houston, Empty Shelter Project, Spay/Neuter Programs
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>25%</p> <p>Reduction in the number of calls to 311 to report stray animals or loose livestock by 2023</p> <p>Source: City of Houston 311 Data</p>	LEAD: BARC SUPPORT: Animal Justice, Monty's Task Force, Houston Humane Society	Animeals on Wheels
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>10</p> <p>Streetlights repaired each year</p> <p>Source: Code Enforcement Data</p>	LEAD: HPW, Code Enforcement, CenterPoint Energy SUPPORT: Acres Home SNC, Greater Inwood SNC, Civic Clubs	DON Streetlight Campaign, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide

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 Acres Home NST guided the planning process and shaped the initiative at the local level. Finally, the newly formed Acres Home A-Teams will oversee implementation for each of the nine focus areas. We thank everyone for their time and commitment to the Complete Communities initiative.

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Juan Antonio Sorto
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Acres Home A-Teams

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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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Sergeant Eric V. Flores
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ACRES HOMES COMMUNITY

IN 1910, LAND DEVELOPER ALFRED A. WRIGHT PLATTED THE FIRST OF SEVERAL SUBDIVISIONS THAT EVENTUALLY BECAME THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF ACRES HOMES. WRIGHT SOLD PARCELS OF VARYING SIZES TO RESIDENTS WHO WERE ATTRACTED TO THE RURAL AREA BY THE INEXPENSIVE LAND, LOW TAXES, AND THE ABSENCE OF BUILDING RESTRICTIONS, AS WELL AS THE SLOW-PACED LIFE AND WIDE-OPEN SPACES OF RURAL LIVING. DESPITE THE LACK OF COMMON MUNICIPAL SERVICES SUCH AS ELECTRICITY, STREET LIGHTS, GARBAGE DISPOSAL, SEWER AND WATER, ACRES HOMES FLOURISHED AS A SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY. IN 1957, *NEGRO LIFE* MAGAZINE DESCRIBED ACRES HOMES AS THE "LARGEST ALL-NEGRO COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES." BY 1974, THE COMMUNITY EXTENDED ROUGHLY FROM WEST TIDWELL TO GULFBANK AND FROM NORTH SHEPHERD TO WHITE OAK BAYOU AND DUBOISE. THE RESIDENTS INCLUDED FARMERS, LABORERS, FACTORY WORKERS, "WATERFRONT" WORKERS AND DOMESTICS WHO COMMUTED TO WORK IN OTHER PARTS OF TOWN.

THE FIRST CHURCH, GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST, WAS ORGANIZED IN 1913, AND THE FIRST SCHOOL, WHITE OAK COLORED, OPENED IN 1915. FROM THE 1930s THROUGH THE 1950s, A LARGE MIGRATION OF SETTLERS MOVED INTO THE AREA, ORGANIZING CIVIC CLUBS AND BUILDING HOMES, CHURCHES, MASONIC HALLS AND BUSINESSES. THE FIRST DRY GOODS STORE, DRUG STORE AND POST OFFICE OPENED IN 1945. THE FIRST BLACK-OWNED BUS COMPANY IN THE SOUTH, THE ACRES HOMES TRANSIT COMPANY, OPERATED FROM 1959 UNTIL 1968.

INTEGRATION AND THE GRADUAL ANNEXATION OF ACRES HOMES BY THE CITY OF HOUSTON FROM 1967 TO 1974 BROUGHT POPULATION DIVERSITY AND TRANSFORMATION TO ACRES HOMES. HOWEVER, ACRES HOMES CONTINUES TO RETAIN ITS STRONG COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND CIVIC PRIDE.

(2008)

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