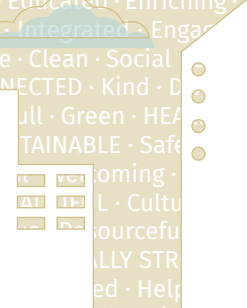


# THIRD WARD COMPLETE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN



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



## **Mayor**

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ellen Cohen  
Vice Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Davis

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Brenda Stardig, District A  
Jerry Davis, District B  
Ellen Cohen, District C  
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Dave Martin, District E  
Steve Le, District F  
Greg Travis, District G  
Karla Cisneros, District H  
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Mike Knox, At-Large 1  
David Robinson, At-Large 2  
Michael Kubosh, At-Large 3  
Amanda Edwards, At-Large 4  
Jack Christie, At-Large 5

Chris Brown, City Controller

## **Planning and Development Department**

Patrick Walsh, P.E., Director  
Margaret Wallace Brown, Deputy Director  
Jennifer Ostlind, Deputy Assistant Director and Program Director  
Nicole Smothers, Division Manager  
Lynn Henson, Program Manager and Third Ward Lead Planner  
Annette Mitchell, Third Ward Planner

## **Community Design Resource Center**

Susan Rogers, Director  
Adelle Main, Assistant Director  
Barbara Blanco, Design Strategist  
Angelica Lastra, Jose Mario Lopez, Pooja Shetty Assistants

## 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.

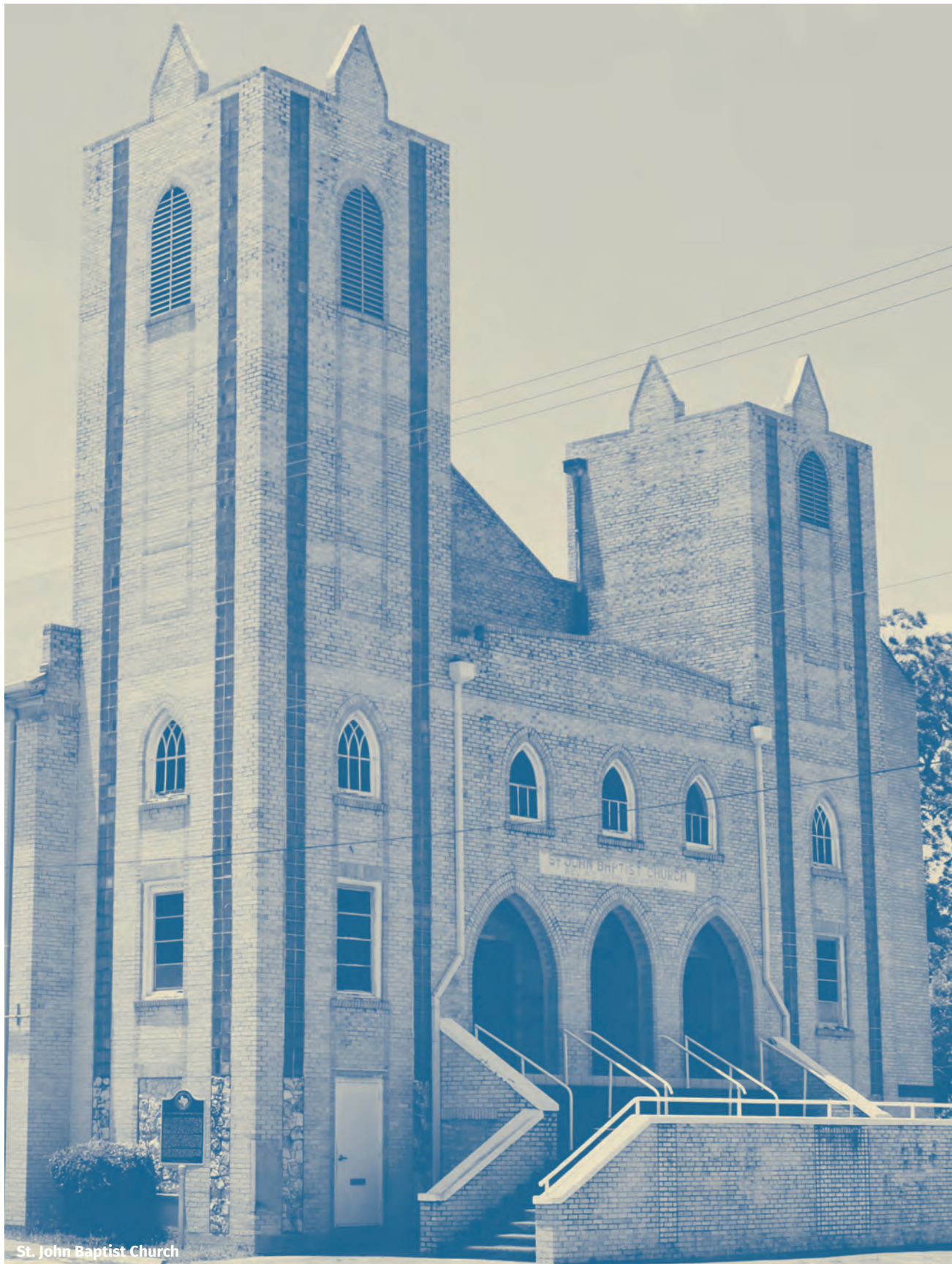
This is just the beginning. The five pilot communities have diverse demographic and physical characteristics, and a base level of community activism, making them ideal testing grounds for this new program. After we see real and sustainable change in these five areas, I am committed to turning to the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







St. John Baptist Church

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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 . . .***

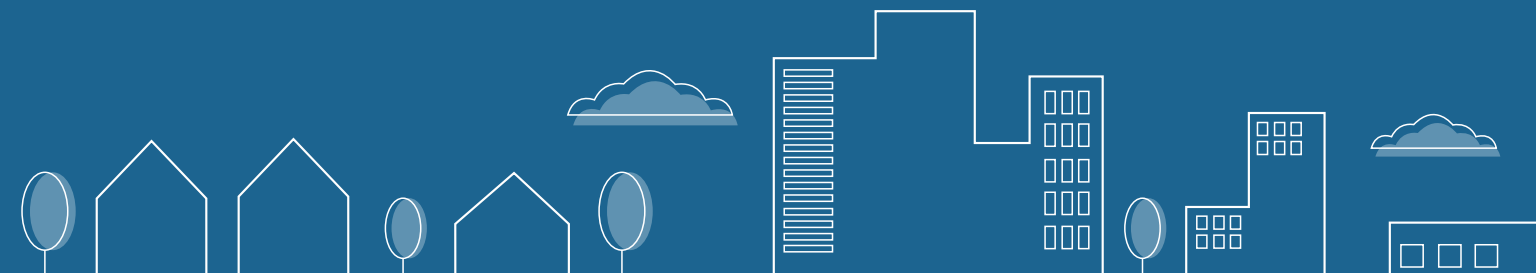
- Access to broadband internet connectivity
- Quality public transit or other affordable transportation options
- Good roads connecting to other major job centers and central business districts
- Strong community organizations that connect residents with each other and to others throughout the city

### ***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.

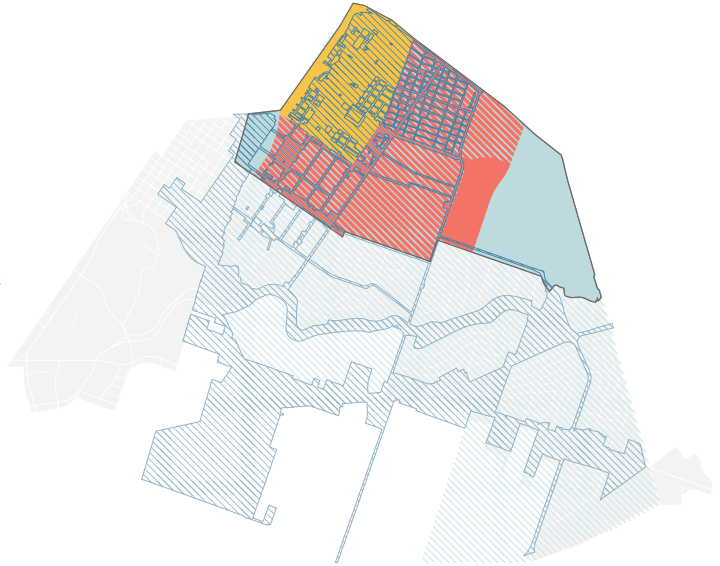
Commitment to the Complete Communities initiative is far reaching. Over the last year the City has provided support through a team of dedicated staff across City departments, this support will continue. One-on-one meetings were held with over two-dozen City departments to present community-identified 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 Third Ward Action Plan outlines the vision, policies, goals and projects to realize a healthier, more resilient, prosperous, equitable, and complete future. This is the Third Ward's Plan.



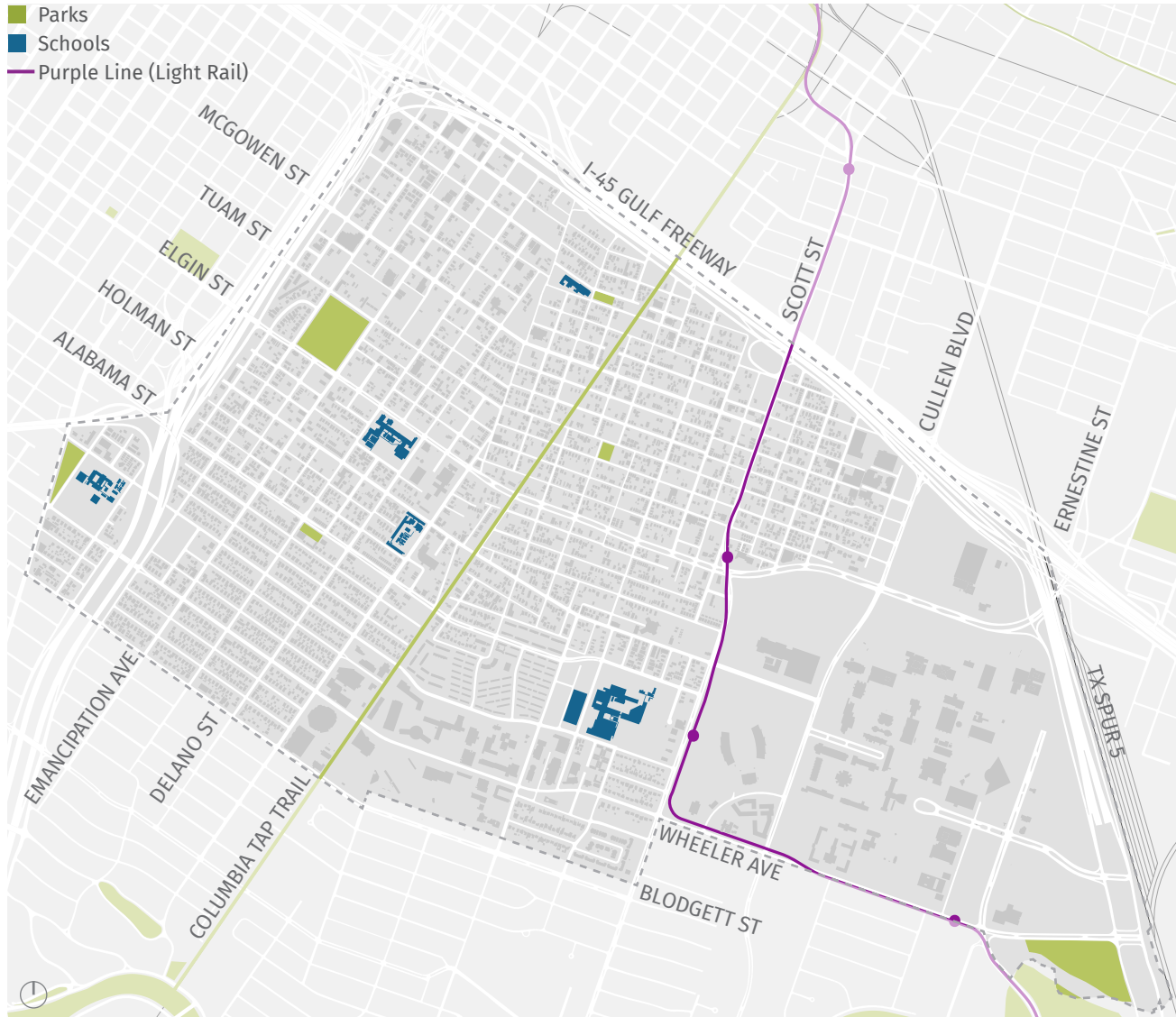
**Map of Existing Plans and Studies**

-  Third Ward Complete Community
-  Emancipation Economic Development Council
-  Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Planning Project
-  Houston Southeast Community Plan
-  TIRZ #7 OST/Alameda
-  Midtown Affordable Housing Plan



**Third Ward Complete Community Map**

-  Parks
-  Schools
-  Purple Line (Light Rail)





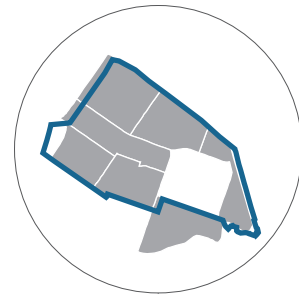
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

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

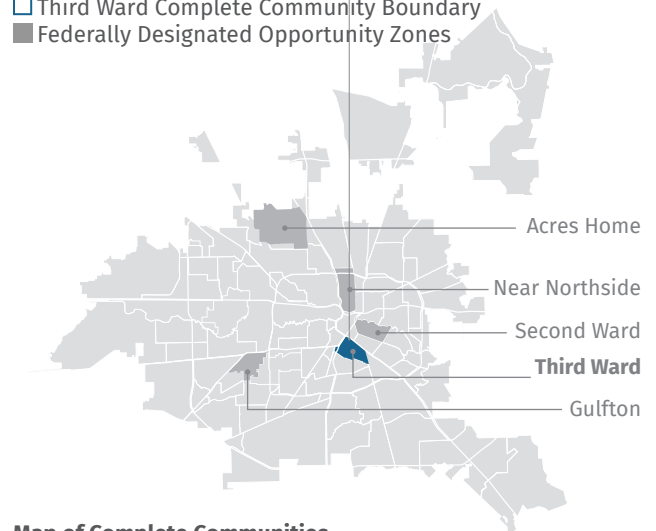
The Third Ward Action Plan is a compilation of the most recent plans and studies for the neighborhood (see map, opposite page top left), as well as newly identified projects, actions, priorities, and partners. Prior plans developed for the neighborhood include those led by the Emancipation Economic Development Council (EEDC), Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Planning Project (NTWNPP), Houston Southeast Management District, the Midtown TIRZ with the Center for Civic and Public Policy, and the OST | Almeda TIRZ. A policy paper developed by the EEDC and Emancipation Community Development Partnership has also informed the recommended projects, policies and metrics to measure success.

In addition, the City of Houston has recently completed a number of citywide planning efforts. The most important being Plan Houston, the city's first general plan completed in 2015. The plan outlines a vision for Houston's future and strategies to realize it. Out of the 32 citywide identified goals, Third Ward stakeholders developed the following priorities: sufficient quality, affordable housing options throughout the neighborhood; quality learning opportunities from early childhood onwards; job opportunities that support a good standard of living and financial stability; and, a safe and secure community. 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



## Map of Opportunity Zones

- Third Ward Complete Community Boundary
- Federally Designated Opportunity Zones

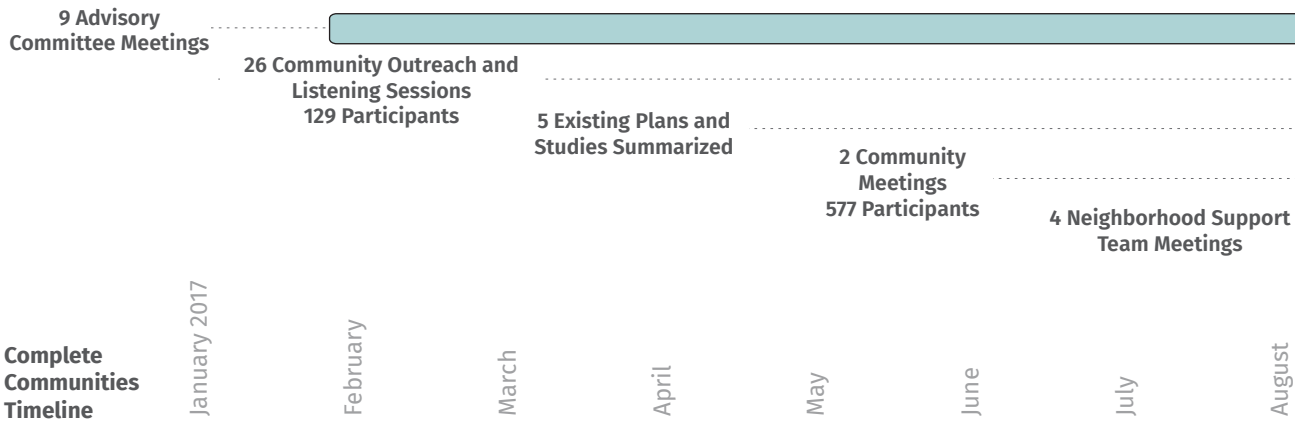


## Map of Complete Communities

Recreation Department's 2015 Parks Master Plan, and the Houston Bike Plan, adopted in 2017. Each of these plans have informed the Third Ward Action Plan.

The majority of the Third Ward 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.

The Third Ward Action Plan aspires to carry on the legacy of decades of work by neighborhood activists and champions, including numerous planning efforts that chartered the waters that this plan is based on, especially the 1995 Greater Third Ward Community Plan completed by Roberta F. Burroughs and Associates.



### COMPLETE COMMUNITIES PLANNING PROCESS

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

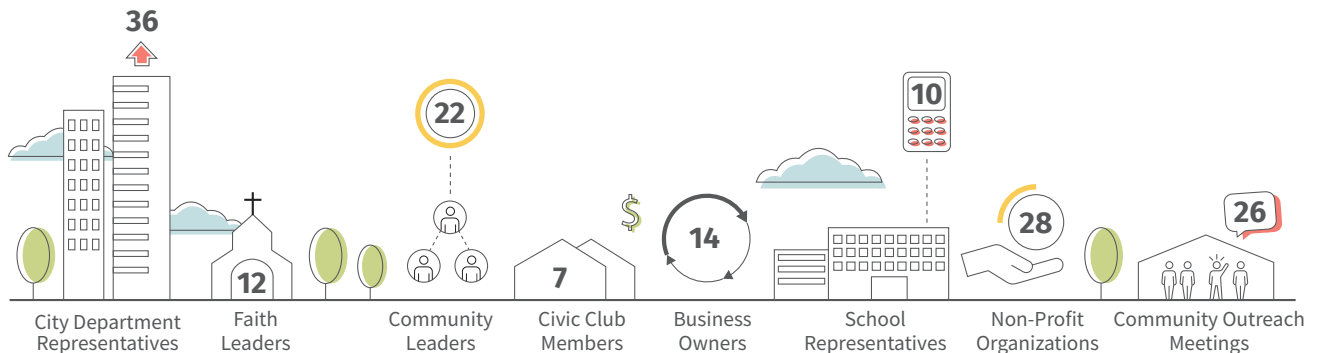
Every Complete Community effort began by conducting outreach and small group meetings with key leaders and stakeholders. Meetings in the Third Ward were held with faith leaders, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, business owners, and other civic, educational, and institutional leaders. Overall, 129 people were reached through this effort.

Following the outreach effort, a series of public meetings were held in each Complete Community to accomplish the following objectives: establish a vision; develop goals and projects; identify priorities and partners; and, review the final Action Plan. In communities, such as Third Ward, where substantial planning has already occurred, two public meetings were held. The first meeting focused on reviewing the existing goals and projects, filling any gaps, and identifying new opportunities and partners. The

second, and final meeting, was to review the final Action Plan. Overall, 577 people attended these meetings and provided valuable feedback. The result is that the Third Ward Action Plan builds on prior planning efforts and encompasses new goals and projects identified through these public meetings. In addition, the Action Plan aligns clear implementation strategies, priorities, policies, timeframes, partners, and metrics to measure success based on both the prior plans and new input.

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

Throughout the process, the Complete Communities initiative has been guided by the Neighborhood Support Team (NST) which met four times to provide their insight and suggestions. The Neighborhood Support Team, in collaboration with the Greater Third Ward Super Neighborhood #67, will oversee implementation and work directly with City staff to ensure progress is made and established benchmarks achieved.



### Complete Communities Outreach

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SUMMARY OF EXISTING PLANS

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT TEAM MEETINGS

IMPLEMENTATION

COUNCIL REVIEW

September

October

November

December

January 2018

February

March

April

May

### THIRD WARD COMMUNITY

Third Ward, located less than one mile southeast of downtown Houston, is one of Houston’s most historic African American neighborhoods. The boundaries of the Complete Community area are consistent with the Super Neighborhood boundaries and span I-45 on the north, State Highway 288/I-69 on the west, Wheeler and Blodgett to the South, and along Texas Spur 5 on the east.

The Third Ward is changing. New homes are being constructed, new investment is moving in, and the I-45 expansion project will begin in the near future. As new development has spread throughout the Third Ward, both new opportunities and challenges have emerged. The Third Ward Complete Communities Action Plan works to build on opportunities—such as active civic engagement, strong community-based organizations, historic landmarks, major universities, proximity to the Texas Medical Center and downtown, and quality transportation—while also working to address challenges that lead to displacement and a loss of history in one of Houston’s most important neighborhoods.

In the past decades, the low cost of property in the Third Ward and its proximity to downtown Houston

has made the neighborhood attractive to developers. While the construction of high end townhomes has rapidly increased, many longtime renters and property owners have been displaced from the neighborhood. As homes are demolished across the neighborhood, the historic character of the Third Ward is being diminished. At the same time, new homes being built in the community are too often not affordable to existing residents. At the same time, new investment, emerging entrepreneurs, and the diverse collection of organizations and institutions working in the neighborhood are sparking positive change and transformation.

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

A summary of the Action Plan, including the key focus areas and goals, is provided on the following pages. The highest priority in the community is affordable housing policies and projects, followed by education, and economic opportunities and jobs. Additional focus areas include civic engagement, health, safety, neighborhood character, parks and community amenities, and mobility and infrastructure.

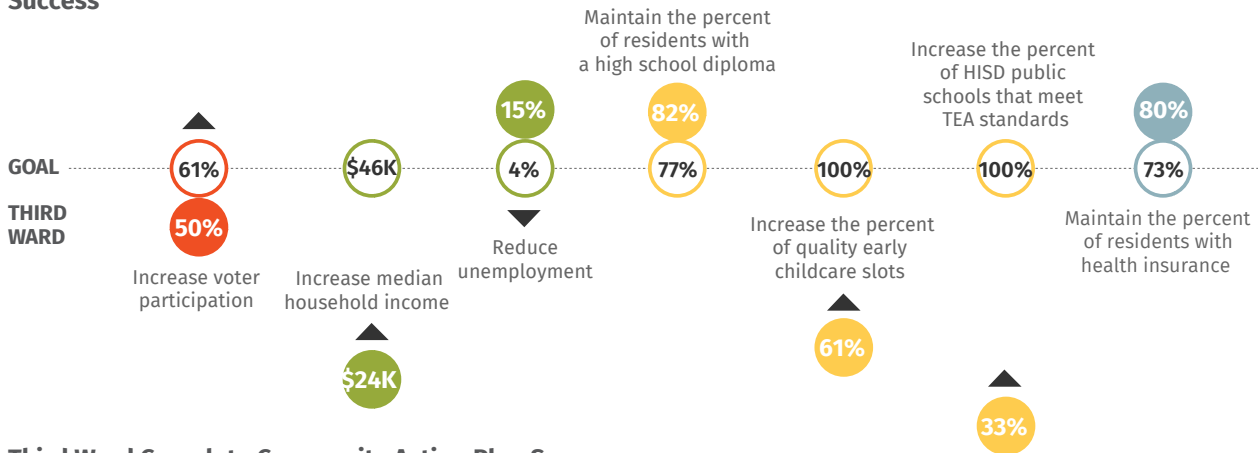


Complete Community Meeting



Complete Community Meeting

## Complete Community Metrics to Measure Success



### Third Ward Complete Community Action Plan Summary

*Underline Indicates High Priority Goal*

#### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A complete community is a sustainable community that is committed to civic engagement, collective work, and nurturing new leaders. The goals are:

- **Build Community Capacity** by developing strong partnerships, mobilizing the community, providing community building grants, and hosting an annual summit
- **Nurture New Leaders** by expanding leadership opportunities for youth
- **Expand Political and Civic Engagement** by developing an annual policy agenda and advocacy plan, and increasing voter registration and participation

#### ECONOMY and JOBS

A complete community is a thriving community with a strong local economy, jobs, and opportunities. The goals are:

- **Grow the Local Economy** by seeding new community-owned businesses, sparking entrepreneurship, and creating mixed-use development
- **Support Small Businesses** by creating a “Shop Third Ward” campaign, instituting a facade improvement program, and assisting small businesses
- **Expand Local Opportunities for Employment** by attracting a job training facility, increasing local hiring, and expanding employment opportunities

#### EDUCATION

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

- **Expand Enrichment Programs for Children and Youth** by promoting the directory of out of school programs and partnering with area organizations to expand capacity
- **Strengthen Local Schools** through hiring high quality teachers, funding, and supporting neighborhood schools
- **Expand High Quality Early Childcare** by working with partners to increase the quality and affordability of early childcare
- **Provide Mentorship Opportunities for Youth** by partnering with area organizations and universities

#### HEALTH

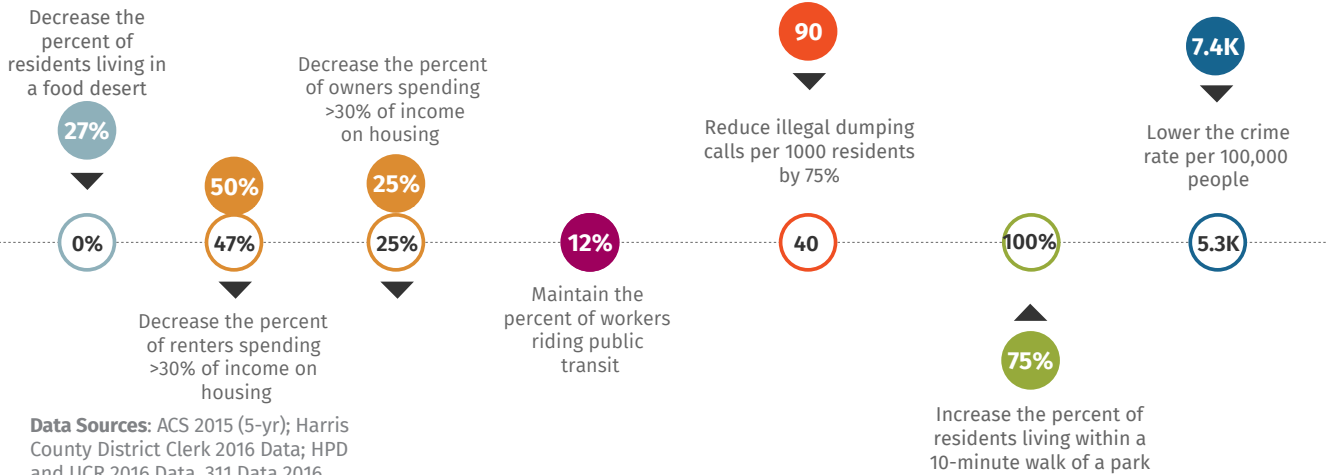
A complete community is a healthy community with access to high quality healthcare and fresh, nutritious food. The goals are:

- **Improve Access to Healthcare** by expanding supportive services, outreach, preventative care, and attracting a comprehensive health facility
- **Increase Access to Healthy Food** by developing new community gardens and supporting existing gardens

#### 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 a shared vision shapes future development. The goals are:

- **Build Housing for All** by supporting the creation of a community land trust, building affordable owner and rental housing, and incentivizing affordable units in market rate projects



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

- **Provide Protection from Displacement** by supporting existing homeowners and renters
- **Repair and Preserve Existing Housing** by saving historic housing from demolition and repairing existing homes
- **Plan for Future Housing** by creating a comprehensive plan for affordable housing and a housing advocacy team

### MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

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

- **Improve Neighborhood Mobility** by creating a ride share program and improving public transit
- **Build Great Streets** by expanding sidewalks and crossings, improving area streets, and developing a parking district
- **Expand Bike Lanes and Facilities** by building additional bike routes and installing new B-Cycle Stations
- **Protect from Flooding** by maintaining area ditches and creating green infrastructure

### NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

A complete community is a beautiful and interesting community with public art, historic neighborhoods, and strong identity and culture. The goals are:

- **Preserve the Neighborhood's History and Character** by regulating development, establishing a cultural trail, and re-using historic buildings
- **Beautify the Neighborhood** by ending illegal dumping, maintaining vacant lots, organizing clean-ups, and providing new amenities
- **Expand Public Art that Celebrates the Community** by installing new public art projects and engaging youth in the arts

### PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

A complete community is a sustainable community with access to beautiful parks and open spaces. The goals are:

- **Develop New Parks and Public Open Spaces** by building new parks, advocating for SPARK Parks, and re-purposing vacant land for small pocket parks and plazas
- **Improve Area Parks** by working with partners to identify needed improvements

### SAFETY

A complete community is a safe community where the community and law enforcement work together to reduce crime and increase the sense of security throughout the neighborhood. The goals are:

- **Create Safe Streets and Places** by improving street lighting, utilizing crime prevention through environmental design, and addressing crime hot spots
- **Advocate for Community-Based Policing** by creating a block captain program, participating in HPD's Positive Interaction Program, advocating for additional bike patrol, and improving relationships between the community and law enforcement agencies






### Key to Abbreviated Organizations

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

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

Administration and Regulatory Affairs, **ARA**  
Capital Improvement Plan, **CIP**  
Department of Neighborhoods, **DON**  
Differential Response Team (HPD), **DRT**  
Economic Development Department, **EDD**  
General Services Division, **GSD**  
Harris County Appraisal District, **HCAD**  
Harris County Department of Education, **HCDE**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office, **HCSO**  
Harris County Flood Control District, **HCFC**  
Housing and Community Development Department, **HCDD**  
Housing and Urban Development, **HUD**  
Houston Community College, **HCC**  
Houston Fire Department, **HFD**  
Houston Health Department, **HH**  
Houston Housing Authority, **HHA**  
Houston Independent School District, **HISD**  
Houston Parks and Recreation Department, **HPARD**  
Houston Police Department, **HPD**  
Houston Public Library, **HPL**  
Houston Public Works, **HPW**  
Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, **MOCA**  
Mayor's Office of Education, **MOE**  
Mayor's Office of Innovation, **MOI**  
National Endowment for the Arts, **NEA**  
Office of Business Opportunity, **OBO**  
Planning and Development Department, **PDD**  
Positive Interaction Program (HPD), **PIP**  
Solid Waste Department, **SWD**  
Small Business Administration, **SBA**

### Key to Priority Graphic

-  High Priority
-  Medium Priority
-  Low Priority

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

Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement, **CCPPI**  
Community Development Corporation, **CDC**  
Community Housing Development Organization, **CHDO**  
Communities in Schools, **CIS**  
Emancipation Community Development Partnership, **ECDP**  
Emancipation Economic Development Council, **EEDC**  
Greater Third Ward Super Neighborhood Council, **SN Council**  
Houston Arts Alliance, **HAA**  
Houston Parks Board, **HPB**  
Houston Southeast Management District, **HSE**  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation, **LISC**  
Midtown Redevelopment Authority, **MRA**  
My Brothers Keeper, **MBK**  
Neighborhood Support Team, **NST**  
Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Planning Project, **NTWNPP**  
Project Row Houses, **PRH**  
Texas Southern University, **TSU**  
Theater Under the Stars, **TUTS**  
University of Houston, **UH**  
Volunteers of America, **VOA**

#### Partners

In the Action Plan tables partners are identified for each project.

**LEAD** partners are City Departments or agencies that will play a key role in implementation of each project.

**SUPPORT** partners are organizations that have participated in, or expressed interest in participating in, implementation for the project.

#### \* Note:

*The lists above represent the organizations involved in the Third Ward planning at the time of this printing. We recognize that additional organizations, not listed here, are vital to Third Ward's vitality and we look forward to working together to implement the Action Plan.*

# THIRD WARD ACTION PLAN

The Third Ward Action Plan identifies 27 goals and 77 projects, organized into nine focus areas, to work towards a Complete Community. The highest priority focus areas identified by Third Ward stakeholders are housing, education, and expanded economic opportunities. Additional focus areas include health, safety, neighborhood character, civic engagement, and mobility and infrastructure. The Action Plan that follows was developed through public meetings and a summary of the existing community plans. The Action Plan includes goals, projects, priorities, timeframes, metrics to measure success over the next five years, and potential partners and programs.

The projects and action steps identified in this plan will be championed by the Third Ward Neighborhood Support Team (NST) and the Super Neighborhood Council, and coordinated with the City and the Planning and Development Department. The City departments and agencies listed as leads in this Plan will provide support and leadership to the Third Ward NST to move projects forward to implementation. Third Ward stakeholders have also formed working groups to lead the nine focus areas. These working groups will work closely with the NST, the Super Neighborhood Council and City departments to further implement the plan.



Project Row Houses

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## Introduction

Civic engagement is at the core of a Complete Community. People who live in the Third Ward have a strong sense of both community and history, and work together to shape the future of the neighborhood. There are six active civic clubs and organizations, and a number of new associations that are just forming. There is a concerted effort among many local organizations and institutions, faith-based entities, and residents to work together.

As a result, the voices of residents, local business owners, institutions, youth, community leaders, and political representatives are becoming unified. With that voice, a focus on people-centered and place-based change has been strengthened.

## Civic Engagement Goals

The three goals for civic engagement, compiled from existing Third Ward plans and studies and a series of community meetings, focus on further building the collective capacity in the neighborhood, nurturing young leaders, and expanding political and civic engagement. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The civic engagement goals are:

## Build Community Capacity

The Third Ward was the center of Houston's civil rights movement, and that spirit of activism and collective work lives on. Supporting the community-led change imagined as part of the Complete Communities initiative requires strong leadership, capacity, and organization at the neighborhood level. To accomplish this goal, mobilization teams will be formed for implementation; new bridges will be developed between the City, decision-makers and community leaders; and, new mechanisms to support leaders will be initiated, such as small community building grants.

## Nurture Young Leaders

Providing leadership opportunities for area youth is important for the future of the Third Ward. Youth are the leaders of tomorrow and an integral part of the community. The goal is to ensure that youth have opportunities to build their skills, become leaders, and be active participants in positive change in the neighborhood. To support the next generation, youth leadership opportunities will be expanded through partnerships with area churches, universities, community-based organizations, and others.



Complete Community Meeting



**A complete community is a sustainable community** that is committed to civic engagement, collective work, and nurturing new leaders

### Political and Civic Engagement

Engaging with local government and elected officials can assist with both understanding the political process and learning more about how neighborhood priorities can be realized. To this end, political and civic engagement will be enhanced by developing a public policy and advocacy agenda each year. The policy agenda will cover current issues such as gentrification, affordable housing, land-control, responsible development, public spending, and equity. An annual neighborhood summit will provide opportunities to measure the successes in the community and set new goals each year. In addition, increasing voter registration and turnout will ensure the community's voice is heard. In the 2016 election, the Harris County District Clerk reports that 50% of registered voters in the Third Ward community cast a ballot, compared to the 61% who voted in Harris County overall. Moving forward, the target is to ensure that the Third Ward votes in percentages equal to Harris County or higher. Encouraging more people to exercise the right to vote will build political power in the neighborhood.

### Early Successes

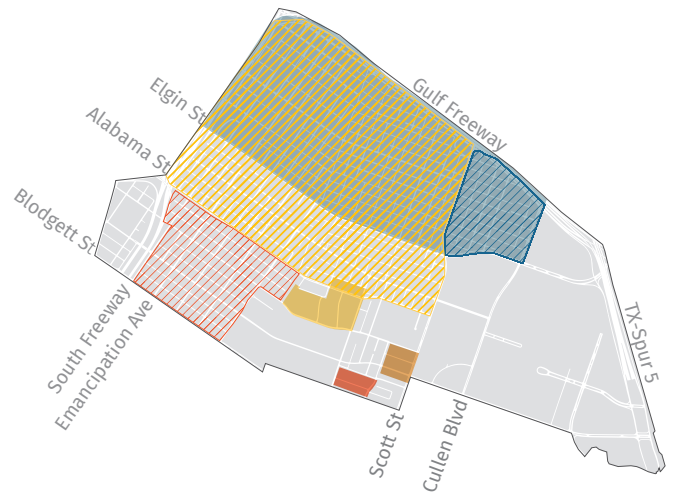
The Neighborhood Support Team (NST) has joined the Greater Third Ward Super Neighborhood #67, laying the foundation for capacity building.

The Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Planning Project (NTWNPP) recently received a 5-year, \$750,000 planning implementation grant from the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation.

**50%** Of Third Ward 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



**Map of Active Civic Clubs**

- Canfield Oaks
- College Oaks Civic Club
- Cuney Homes Resident Council
- Upper Third Ward Civic Club
- ▨ University Village Civic Club
- ▨ Washington Terrace Civic Association
- ▨ Third Ward Is Home



**Complete Community Meeting**



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Build Community Capacity</b>	<p><b>Create a bridge between the City, Super Neighborhood Council, and other community organizations and civic clubs</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create a structure to empower neighborhood governance and leadership, including supporting the Super Neighborhood Council and other area civic clubs in working in partnership with the City</p>	
	<p><b>Create a mobilization team to identify ways to share and improve resources across the neighborhood</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Third Ward Community Cloth Cooperative, NTWNPP, and other community and faith-based organizations to develop ways to share and improve resources, services, and collaboration across the neighborhood</p>	
	<p><b>Create a “Community Building Grant” program</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create a committee to develop and implement an early action grant program to support schools, students, youth, parent organizations, civic and business groups, and others; The grant program will fund community events and celebrations, block parties, clean-ups, fairs, etc.</p>	
	<p><b>Organize an annual “State of the Third Ward” summit</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Organize leaders and agencies to plan the summit; Use the summit to celebrate and share successes and redefine priorities for the coming year; Present the findings to the city</p>	
<p>PLAN: </p>		
<b>Nurture Young Leaders</b>	<p><b>Expand youth leadership opportunities</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with area churches, universities and organizations to create youth leadership opportunities and nurture young leaders</p>	
	<p>PLAN: </p>	
<b>Expand Political and Civic Engagement</b>	<p><b>Annual public policy agenda and advocacy plan</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Establish a team to develop and share an annual public policy agenda and advocacy plan for the Third Ward; Focus on issues of gentrification, land control, economic development, public spending, and equity; Present this agenda at the annual neighborhood summit</p>	
	<p><b>Increase voter registration and participation</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Support existing political engagement efforts such as voter registration drives</p>	
<p>PLAN: </p>		

**PLAN Legend:**

- Complete Communities Action Plan
- OST/Alameda TIRZ
- Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Plan
- City of Houston Plans and CIP
- EEDC Plans and Studies
- Houston Southeast Community Plan



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>Annual</b> Community Building Grant Program to fund area projects</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> PDD, SN Council, NST <b>SUPPORT:</b> Civic Clubs, NTWNPP, Third Ward Community Cloth, EEDC, DON, LISC</p>	<p>Complete Communities, LISC Training for Trainers, Stronger Region, Plan Houston</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, Third Ward Community Cloth, EEDC, Row House CDC, SN Council, NST, Change Happens, Churches, Schools, Universities, Civic Clubs, HAUS Project</p>	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> Council Member, DON, SN Council <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, Row House CDC, PRH, Change Happens, SHAPE, Emancipation Park Conservancy, HPARD, UH, Community Music Centers of Houston, Indigo Community of Care</p>	<p>Neighborhood Matching Grants, Solid Waste Neighborhood Clean-Ups, DON Spring Cleaning, LISC Small Grants, United Way Community Building Grants</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> PDD, SN Council, NST <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, Row House CDC, PRH, Change Happens, SHAPE, Emancipation Park Conservancy, HPARD, University of Houston</p>	<p>LISC Small Grants, United Way Community Building Grants, Neighborhood Matching Grants</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>5</b> Youth leaders participate in regular civic meetings annually</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> MOE <b>SUPPORT:</b> Change Happens, Yates High School, Universities, Churches, Children’s Defense Fund, Freedom Schools, Blue Triangle YMCA, Civic Clubs, NAACP, Elected Officials, Sankofa Research Institute, Phi Beta Sigma, 100 Black Men, US Dream Academy at Foster ES, Workshop Houston</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>61%</b> Of registered voters will vote in the 2020 election, equal to Harris County in 2016 Source: Harris County District Clerk</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> PDD, NTWNPP, SN Council, NST <b>SUPPORT:</b> EEDC, Council Member, NAACP, SHAPE, Southeast Management District, Midtown TIRZ, OST/Almeda TIRZ, Row House CDC, National Community Reinvestment, Houston Housing Working Group</p>	<p>LISC Small Grants, United Way Community Building Grants, Neighborhood Matching Grants</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> DON <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC</p>	<p>Deputy Voter Registrar Training Programs</p>

# ECONOMY and JOBS

## Introduction

The historic Third Ward was once the center of African American commerce in Houston. In 1950, there were 175 businesses on Emancipation Avenue (formerly Dowling Street) between Pierce Street and Alabama Street. Today, there are twenty businesses in this corridor. The once vibrant commercial streets and storefronts of Third Ward have experienced years of disinvestment. As a result, many residents travel outside of the neighborhood just to meet basic needs, such as groceries or housewares.

In 2015, there were 6,832 jobs in the Third Ward. In the same year, there were 8,746 workers over the age of 16 years in the community, of which 7,444 were in the labor force and 1,302 people were unemployed, or 15%. It is crucial to match the need for jobs in the Third Ward with the need for economic investment, services, and amenities.

## Economy and Jobs Goals

The three goals for jobs and economy, compiled from existing Third Ward plans and studies and a series of community meetings, focus on growing the local economy, nurturing strong and healthy local businesses, and expanding local employment opportunities. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The

jobs and economy goals are:

### Grow the Local Economy

Expanding economic opportunity includes supporting new businesses as well as testing community-owned co-operative models and temporary pop-up shops. Existing cooperatives in the Third Ward include the following: Renaissance Cooperative, created to stimulate economic growth, commercial development, and attract investment; NuWaters Co-op, a grocery store with produce provided by a volunteer-operated farm; and, The Third Ward Community Cloth Cooperative which is an “organization of organizations.” Co-operatives expand buying power and capacity to enable grassroots organizations to develop new businesses that grow the local economy. In addition, working towards mixed-use development in key business corridors will draw additional investment to the neighborhood. Over the next five years, the objective is to open ten new businesses, focused on meeting the highest needs in the neighborhood.

### Support Local Businesses

Local Third Ward businesses, such as Crumbville, The Library Coffee and Wine House, Doshi House, NuWaters Co-op Market, and Wolf’s Clothing and Pawn Shop, prove the viability and importance of locally owned businesses. Buying local strengthens the neighborhood’s economic base, creates jobs, and sparks investment in other small businesses.



Eldorado Ballroom

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**15%** Unemployment Rate in Third Ward, 2015

**4%** Unemployment Rate in Houston, 2018

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Data Sources: ACS 2015 (5-yr); Census Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD) 2015; Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018

A complete community is a thriving community with a strong local economy, jobs, and opportunities

Promoting and supporting the small businesses that call Third Ward home will be done through three projects, a “Shop Third Ward” campaign, a facade improvement program, and expanding access to small business loans and grants. In 2015, 145 small business loans were secured for a total of \$2.35 million. In the next five years, the metric to measure success is to more than double this investment to \$5 million.

### Expand Local Opportunities for Employment

The Third Ward is home to two major universities and is directly adjacent to the Texas Medical Center and Downtown, two of the largest employment centers in the city. Yet, unemployment in the Third Ward continues to impact residents. In 2015, the unemployment rate in the Third Ward was 15%. Agreements for local hiring will be pursued in partnership with area anchor institutions, including hosting joint job fairs, linked job training, and developing community benefit agreements. In addition, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board will bring a Texas Workforce Solutions site to the Third Ward. By expanding employment opportunities and entering into local hiring agreements unemployment in the neighborhood will be reduced.

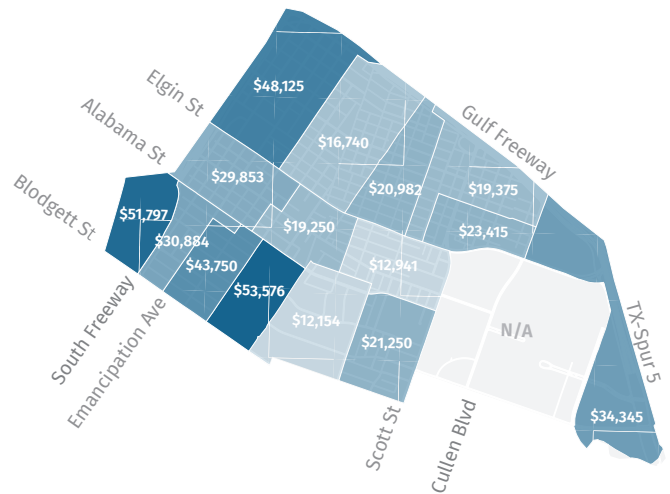
### Early Successes

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board will be bringing a Texas Workforce Solutions site to the Third Ward.

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Houston Endowment are planning a new Financial Opportunity Center in partnership with Project Row Houses.

Emancipation Avenue has been designated one of three pilot sites for the City of Houston’s Walkable Places program.

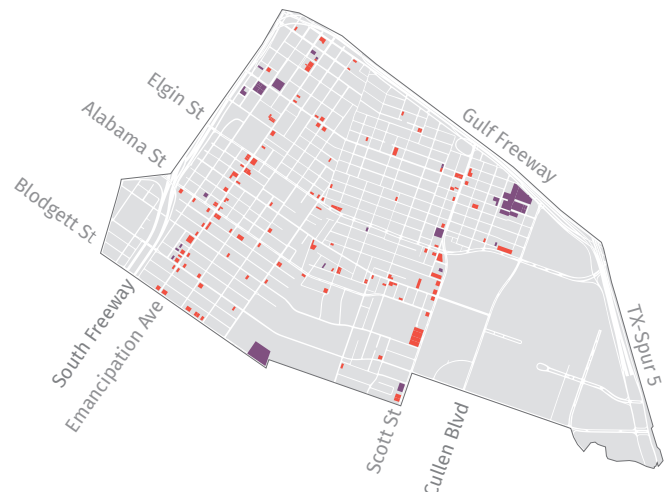
The Kinder Foundation has pledged support to the EEDC’s Emancipation Avenue Main Street Initiative and the Neighborhood Development Center’s Small Business Initiative.



Median Household Income by Census Block Group, 2015

### Commercial and Industrial Land Use Map

- Commercial
- Industrial





GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Grow the Local Economy</b>  PLAN: ○○○○●○○	<b>Seed new community-owned or worker-owned cooperatives and businesses</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify key needs, such as full service grocery stores, restaurants, basic services, washateria, hardware store, banks and financial services; Develop concepts and plans; identify sites and corridors for new economic development; Identify incentives, partners, and funding strategies	●
	<b>Develop temporary pop-up spaces</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Spark entrepreneurship by working in partnership with property owners to identify vacant storefronts or lots to activate new Pop-Up shops at low cost; Support the EEDC’s Free Market Square	●
	<b>Foster mixed-use development in the neighborhood</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Encourage mixed-use development along Emancipation Ave, Alabama St, Elgin St and Scott St; Collaborate with METRO to encourage mixed-use development on land the agency owns	●
<b>Support Small Businesses</b>  PLAN: ●●○○○○○	<b>Shop Third Ward</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create a “Shop Third Ward” campaign to encourage people to shop at locally owned and black owned businesses; Work in partnership with area publishers and organizations to create a business directory; Partner with Houston Southeast to establish a business association or improvement district	●
	<b>Create a façade improvement program</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create a storefront improvement program to assist local businesses and provide local jobs, or partner with neighborhood volunteer corps to improve building facades through a youth mentorship program	●
	<b>Expand funding and support opportunities for small businesses</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Invest in historically under-utilized businesses and expand access to small business support programs, including loans and grants; Implement a micro-lending program for area businesses; Partner with the Greater Houston Black Chamber and the UH SURE Program to create a mentorship program for locally owned and black owned businesses; Create an anchor institution strategy to expand locally sourced supplies and contracts to grow small businesses; Support the Third Ward Neighborhood Development Center	●
<b>Expand Local Opportunities for Employment</b>  PLAN: ●●○○○○○	<b>Attract a job training facility to the neighborhood (in progress)</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Gulf Coast Workforce board to open a Texas Workforce Solutions site in the Third Ward	●
	<b>Partner with anchor institutions and other agencies to hire locally</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Encourage hiring locally through job fairs, linked job training, and community benefit agreements	●
	<b>Increase job-training programs and job opportunities</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with large institutions, large scale businesses, and local organizations to provide job training; Support and expand the Houston Anchor Collaborative with the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Memorial Hermann and Houston First	○

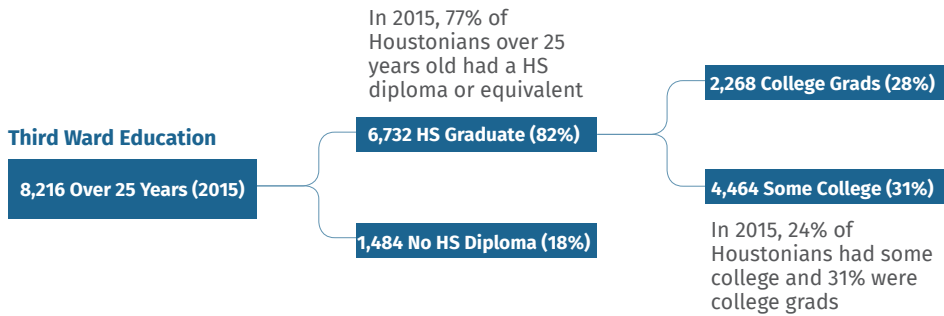
**PLAN Legend:**

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# ECONOMY and JOBS

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>New locally owned businesses open by 2023</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO  <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, National Cooperative Bank, Universities, SN Council, NST, HSE, Community Collectives United, Third Ward Cooperative Community Builders</p>	UH Bauer College of Business, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, TSU School of Business, HSE Micro-lending
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO  <b>SUPPORT:</b> , NTWNPP, EEDC, PRH, Midtown TIRZ, HSE, Houston Area Urban League, UH SURE</p>	EEDC Free Market Square, Urban Harvest Farmers Market, HCC Southeast Entrepreneur Initiative
Long (5+ yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HCDD, METRO, OBO  <b>SUPPORT:</b> EEDC, NTWNPP, HSE, Real Estate Developers</p>	Economic Development Funding, CDBG, Main Street Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p><b>300</b></p> <p>Small business loans annually by 2023</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO  <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, HSE, D-Mar Publishing, Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, Creative Group Economics</p>	Philanthropic Support, Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO  <b>SUPPORT:</b> UH Graphic Design, NTWNPP, EEDC, HSE</p>	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO, HCDD  <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, EEDC, SBDC, LIFT, LISC, SBA, UH SURE, PRH, Bank On Houston</p>	Economic Development Loans, Houston Black Leadership Institute, LISC FOC, Facebook Digital Skills Program, Build Up Houston, LiftOff Houston, Business Readiness Program, UH SURE HCC Southeast, HSE Micro-lending
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>\$5 mil</b></p> <p>In small business loans each year            In 2015, 145 small business loans totaled \$2.35 million            Source: CRA, 2015</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO  <b>SUPPORT:</b> PRH, FOC, Gulf Coast Workforce Board</p>	Workforce Solutions
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO  <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, NTWNPP, EEDC, Universities, Businesses, PRH, Houston Anchor Collaborative Texas Medical Center</p>	Houston Housing Authority Jobs Plus Initiative, AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> OBO, HPL  <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, PRH, FOC, HCC, VOA, Nation Sync, Up Skill Houston, SER Jobs for Progress, Universities, Workforce Solutions, Houston Area Urban League</p>	National Home Building Institute, AARP SCSEP Program





# EDUCATION

## Introduction

Quality educational opportunities can transform a neighborhood and drive personal success. In 2015, more people over the age of 25 living in the Third Ward had graduated from high school than in Houston overall, 82% compared to 77%. In addition, 28% had a college degree, compared to 31% in Houston.

The Third Ward is home to four public schools—Blackshear and Lockhart Elementary Schools, Yates High School, and the magnet program of Baylor College of Medicine at Ryan Middle School. The neighborhood is also home to a number of charter schools, including Yellowstone Academy, TSU Charter School, and UH Charter School. Over 3,000 students attend elementary, middle, and high school in the Third Ward. Cullen Middle School, outside of the neighborhood boundaries to the south, serves area middle schoolers.

The Third Ward is also home to Texas Southern University and the University of Houston. Houston Community College’s Central Campus is just to the west of the neighborhood.

Over the last ten years many neighborhood schools have either closed or have been re-purposed as the number of families with children have declined. According to Census data, there were 34% fewer residents under the age of 18 years in 2015 compared to 2000. For example, Douglass, J. Will Jones, Dodson and Turner Elementary Schools have all closed, along with Miller Junior High School. The Energy High School, currently at Dodson Elementary, will be moving south of the neighborhood in the summer of 2018, to a newly constructed campus. Cullen Middle School and Blackshear Elementary, both of which have been identified as “improvement required” campuses by the Texas Education Agency, are currently being evaluated by HISD to determine their future.

## Education Goals

The three education goals established for the Third Ward Complete Community were developed from existing plans and studies and a series of community meetings. The goals focus on enrichment programs for children and youth, strengthening local schools, and providing high quality and affordable early childcare. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The education goals are:

### Expand Enrichment Programs for Children and Youth

The Third Ward is rich with educational institutions and community-based organizations. Working to ensure that people are aware of these local resources, particularly out of school programs, will support the ongoing success of children and youth. In addition, expanding out of school programs will ensure all children can access these resources. Providing leadership and college bound experiences for youth is an important part of this project.

### Strengthen Local Schools and Improve Student Success

Two schools serving the Third Ward’s children, Blackshear Elementary and Cullen Middle School, have been designated “improvement required” by the Texas Education Agency over a number of years. HISD is currently proposing to close Blackshear Elementary and re-open it to serve limited grades, while strategies to improve Cullen Middle School are also being explored. Strengthening local schools through increasing parent engagement, hiring qualified teachers and administrators, and creating partnerships with area universities, alumni and other organizations is important to the future of the community. The aim is for all area schools to not only meet the Texas Education Agency’s standards, but to exceed them.

### Expand High Quality Early Childcare

According to data provided by Children at Risk, the Third Ward has over 3,000 early childcare seats.

A **complete community** is a **learning community** with high quality schools, early childcare, and out of school enrichment and support programs for children and youth

Of these, 197 are subsidized and 638 are defined as “quality”, with 30 of these early childcare seats being Texas Rising Star certified. Children at Risk notes that there are 1,047 children in homes where parents are working, and 255 of these children are in low-income households. As a result, expanding the number of subsidized and quality childcare seats to meet the needs of low-income families will require, at minimum, an additional 59 subsidized and certified seats.

**Provide Mentorship Opportunities for Youth**

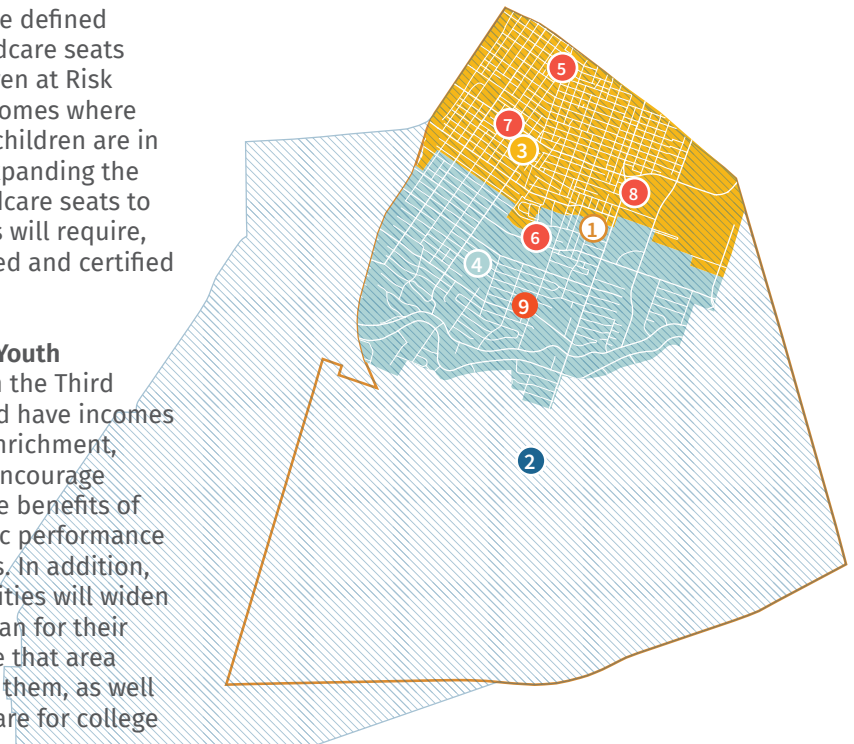
Nearly 500 households with children in the Third Ward are headed by single parents, and have incomes below the poverty level. Mentorship, enrichment, and leadership programs can help to encourage youth to succeed in school and life. The benefits of mentorship include improved academic performance and exposure to new ideas and careers. In addition, expanding experiences at area universities will widen the outlook of young people as they plan for their future careers. The goal is to guarantee that area youth have access to mentors to guide them, as well as the knowledge and support to prepare for college or other career paths.

**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 Smith Neighborhood Library to learn more, <http://houstonlibrary.org/location/smith-neighborhood-library>.

The Mayor’s Office of Education held community meetings where successes, barriers, solutions, and recommendations to improve area schools were identified.



- Third Ward Public Schools Boundary Map**
- ① Yates High School
  - ② Cullen Middle School
  - ③ Blackshear Elementary
  - ④ Lockhart Elementary
- Charter and Magnet Schools**
- ⑤ Yellowstone Academy
  - ⑥ TSU Charter School
  - ⑦ Baylor College of Medicine at Ryan Middle School
  - ⑧ UH Charter School
  - ⑨ Energy Institute High School

**82%** Of Third Ward residents over the age of 25 had a high school diploma in 2015

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

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



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Expand Enrichment Programs for Children and Youth</b>  PLAN: ●●○○○●○○	<b>Create a directory of out of school programs</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with the United Way’s “Out 2 Learn” website to promote area out of school programs; Conduct outreach to ensure parents are familiar with the site and the opportunities available	●
	<b>Partner with universities, community centers, the neighborhood library, parks, and non-profit organizations to expand out of school programs</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with organizations providing out of school programs to expand opportunities for youth, including programs available at the Smith Neighborhood Library; Partner with the Department of Neighborhoods to distribute promotional materials	●◐
<b>Strengthen Local Schools and Improve Student Success</b>  PLAN: ●●○○○●○○●○○	<b>Strengthen neighborhood schools and improve student success</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create partnerships between HISD schools, parents, students, alumni, teachers, area non-profits, and universities to strengthen area schools; Collaborate to identify key priorities; Re-evaluate school funding formulas that create inequity	●
	<b>Strengthen community and parent teacher engagement in local schools, including participation in PTA/PTOs</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Support parents’ voices in shaping the future of the schools; Create support groups to fundraise; Create opportunities to supervise field trips; Support tutoring and mentoring	●
	<b>Hire qualified teachers and principals for area schools</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with MOE and HISD to ensure the success of area schools through quality administration and teaching	○
	<b>Participate in efforts to regain a middle school or middle school grades at an area elementary school</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with HISD, parents, and others to explore the potential of a middle school in the community	○
<b>Expand High Quality Early Childcare</b>  PLAN: ●●○○○●○○	<b>Expand access to quality and affordable early childhood education</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate the existing early childcare programs for quality and affordability; Identify steps to expand subsidized centers, three existing centers are subsidized; Encourage centers to achieve Texas Rising Star or National certification, currently two centers are nationally certified	●
<b>Provide Mentorship Opportunities for Youth</b>  PLAN: ●●○○○●○○	<b>Expand youth mentorship programs</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop youth mentorship programs with local leaders and role models, including churches, universities, and the Hermann Park Rotary Club; Encourage youth to apply for Hire Houston Youth and other summer youth programs	●◐
	<b>Create a college-bound experience program with area universities</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Collaborate with area universities to provide college readiness courses and literacy, and other college-bound experience programs	●◐

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# EDUCATION

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>25%</b></p> <p>Increase in the number of students served by the Smith Neighborhood Library by 2023 Source: Smith Neighborhood Library Data</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> MOE <b>SUPPORT:</b> United Way, HISD, HPL, Area Universities, NTWNPP</p>	Out 2 Learn
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HPARD, MOE, HPL, DON, Area Universities <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, HISD, Change Happens, SHAPE, Area Schools, Emancipation Park</p>	YAH Art-Promise Programs, YAH Assistance Fund, HPARD After School Enrichment Program, HPL After School and Summer Programs, FACE, Urban Harvest, US Dream Academy at Foster ES, HCC Southeast
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p><b>All</b></p> <p>Area schools and feeder schools, including Blackshear, Lockhart, Cullen and Yates will meet or exceed TEA Standards by 2023 Source: TEA Report, 2016</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> HISD, MOE, UH <b>SUPPORT:</b> Area Universities, Alumni, Non-Profit Organizations and Churches, Area Schools, CIS</p>	University of Houston Third Ward Initiative
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HISD, MOE <b>SUPPORT:</b> Area Schools</p>	HISD FAME Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HISD, MOE <b>SUPPORT:</b> Harris County Department of Education, UH, TSU</p>	
Long (5+ yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HISD, MOE</p>	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Number of Texas Rising Star or Nationally Certified Childcare Centers by 2023 Source: Collaborative for Children</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> MOE, HISD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Collaborative for Children, NTWNPP, EEDC, UH, TSU</p>	Collaborative for Children, College Bound from Birth, Workforce Solutions Childcare Subsidies, Avance Early Head Start Program, Federal Head Start Program, Texas Rising Star Program
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> MOE, DON <b>SUPPORT:</b> Change Happens, UH, TSU, MBK, Hermann Park Rotary Club, HISD, Area Schools, Workshop Houston</p>	ACE Houston, Change Happens- Rescue Youth Program, Hire Houston Youth, DON Summer Youth Internship Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> UH, TSU, HCC <b>SUPPORT:</b> Change Happens, MOE, HPL, HISD, Area Schools</p>	ACE Houston, C-STEM, University of Houston Third Ward Initiative, HCC Southeast

# HEALTH

## Introduction

A healthy community is a complete community. In 2015, Third Ward residents had a higher rate of health insurance coverage than the city overall, 80% compared to 73% in Houston. Those without health insurance are less likely to get routine checkups.

The neighborhood was served by one federally qualified healthcare center at the Riverside Clinic, operated by Central Care, but this facility has recently closed. There are no other primary care physicians or family doctor offices in the neighborhood. 18% of residents were dependent on public transportation in 2015, which makes it difficult to access medical services outside of the neighborhood.

Preventative healthcare services in the neighborhood include the DAWN (Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network) program at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center. This program, managed by the Houston Health Department, offers free wellness programming to those diagnosed with, and at risk for, diabetes. The Multi-Service Center also has services from Gateway to Care, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to affordable and accessible healthcare.

According to the Complete Community Health Profile for Third Ward, completed by the Houston Health Department, one-third of Third Ward residents did not get regular physical exercise outside of their job

in 2013-2014, a slightly higher percent than Houston overall (29%). In addition, the same study reported that adult obesity rates in Third Ward were 40%, a number significantly higher than Houston's at 35%.

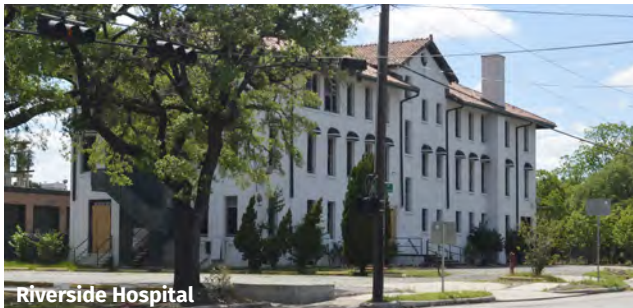
A challenge in the Third Ward community is that available health programs and the needs of residents are not always aligned. As a result, working to improve communication so people can connect to the needed resources and services will ensure a healthier community.

## Health Goals

The two goals developed to address health were compiled from existing Third Ward plans and studies as well as a series of community meetings. The focus of the goals is on improving access to quality health care and fresh and nutritious food. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The goals for health are:

### Improve Access to Healthcare

Third Ward residents have identified access to healthcare as a key concern. Yet, according to the profile completed by the Health Department more adults in the Third Ward received routine check-ups (72%) than in Houston overall (67%). Ensuring people know about healthcare programs available in the community and improving and expanding outreach and visibility of these programs will increase neighborhood health and well-being. This includes expanding preventative care, health fairs, and outreach to ensure that people can access services



**80%** Of Third Ward residents had health insurance in 2015

**73%** Of Houston residents had health insurance in 2015

Data Sources: ACS 2015 (5-yr); Complete Community Health Profile, Third Ward, Houston Health Department 2017



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

that enhance their well-being and have knowledge about the programs available in the community.

Expanding access to mental health care is an important part of this goal. The Houston Health Department profile found that 14% of the adults in the Third Ward neighborhood struggled with mental health for 14 days or more during 2013-2014. This average is greater than the Houston average of 12%.

**Increase Access to Healthy Food**

Much of the Third Ward has been designated a “food desert,” where affordable and nutritious food is difficult to access. The neighborhood is without a major grocery store or supermarket. NuWaters Co-op provides access to fresh fruits and vegetables, but primarily serves the northwest portion of the neighborhood. Overall, 25% of households in the Third Ward live in low-income census tracts, do not have a car, and are more than a mile from a grocery store, according to data provided by the USDA Food Desert Map. These 1,347 households, or approximately 3,600 residents, struggle to access fresh and affordable food for their families.

Expanding access to healthy food is an important goal, and can in part be addressed by expanding urban farms and gardens and supporting the existing gardens in the community. In addition, attracting a more comprehensive grocery store is included in the Economy and Jobs section of this Action Plan. This goal will be achieved when everyone living in the Third Ward has access to healthy food.

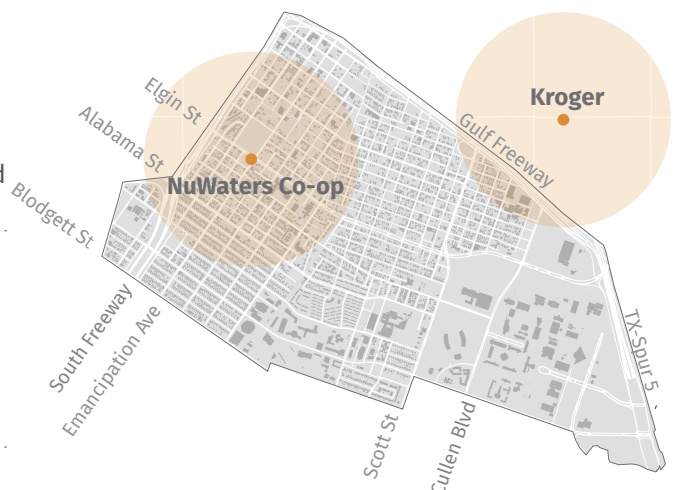


**Map of Health Clinics**

- + Riverside Clinic, Recently Closed

**Map of Grocery Stores**

- Grocery Store
- 1/2-mile radius



**72%** Of Third Ward adults (18+) received a routine check-up in 2013-2014

**67%** Of Houston adults (18+) received a routine check-up in 2013-2014



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
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**Expand counseling and other supportive services to families**  
*ACTION STEPS:* Identify mental health needs in the community; Work with partners to address these needs and expand supportive services



**Expand and improve access to care through health outreach programs**  
*ACTION STEPS:* Create a directory of existing health-related programs; Expand knowledge of healthcare and other health services in the community through additional outreach and visibility, including the Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Program; Partner with the University of Houston and Houston Health Department to provide Community Health Worker Training



**Improve Access to Healthcare**

**Expand access to preventative healthcare**  
*ACTION STEPS:* Partner with health providers and organizations to raise awareness regarding the importance of wellness and methods for attaining and maintaining wellness



**Support the development of a comprehensive health facility**  
*ACTION STEPS:* Partner with Harris County to re-open Riverside Hospital as a primary care-behavioral health facility to serve the community



PLAN: ●●○○●●○○

**Expand community gardens**  
*ACTION STEPS:* Identify sites and vacant lots for new gardens or urban farms; Identify policy barriers to urban farming; Create a campaign and educational support for backyard gardens; Develop partners for implementation; Connect local gardeners and growers with farmers markets or develop farm stands in the community; Connect community gardens to education to encourage and promote health, outdoor activity and nutrition through local food



**Increase Access to Healthy Food**  
 (Also see Jobs and Economy)

**Expand amenities at existing community gardens**  
*ACTION STEPS:* Identify needs at existing sites, like Ecotone, Blodgett Urban Gardens and Alabama Gardens; Improvements might include electricity, lighting, wash stations, outdoor kitchens, fencing, seating; identify partners for funding and implementation of improvements; Connect local gardeners and growers with farmers markets or develop farm stands in the community

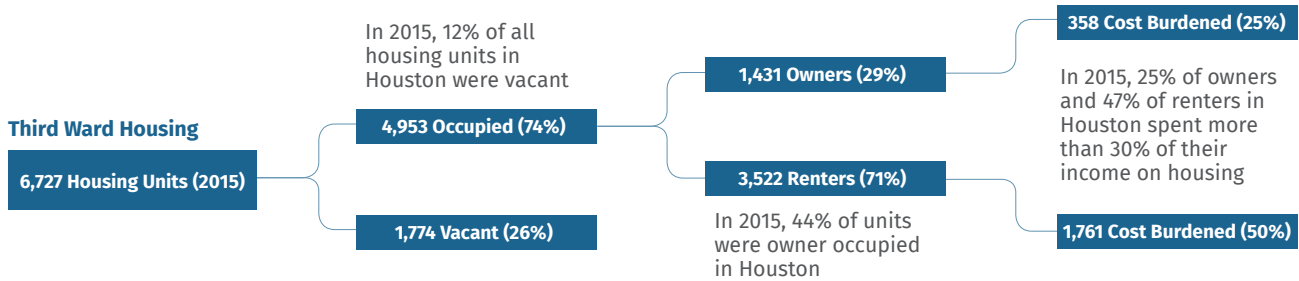


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**PLAN Legend:**

- Complete Communities Action Plan
- OST/Almeda TIRZ
- Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Plan
- City of Houston Plans and CIP
- EEDC Plans and Studies
- Houston Southeast Community Plan

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HHD, MBK <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, Third Ward MSC, Universities, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries Inc., HISD, Area Schools, Avenue 360	CIS-Mental Health Initiative, NAMI Greater Houston, UT Health
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HHD <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, TSU, Change Happens, Texas Medical Center, Third Ward MSC, Third Ward Community Cloth, SHAPE, Churches, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, Area Healthcare Providers, Avenue 360	UH Third Ward Initiative, Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network
	<h2>80%</h2> <p>Of residents will get annual check ups by 2023, an 8.5% increase from 2013-2014</p> <p>Source: Houston Health Department, Complete Communities Report</p>		
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HHD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, UH Third Ward Initiative, DAWN Center, NTWNPP, EEDC, TSU, Change Happens, Texas Medical Center, Third Ward MSC, Third Ward Community Cloth, SHAPE, Churches, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, Avenue 360	UH Third Ward Initiative, Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network, Baylor College of Medicine, UT Health, Memorial Hermann, US Dream Academy
Long (5+ yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HHD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Harris County, University of Houston, Texas Medical Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Avenue 360	Philanthropic Organizations
Long (5+ yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HHD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Plant It Forward, Harris County Master Gardeners, Houston Food Policy Work Group, Ecotone, EEDC	GRO1000, Health Department Gardening Classes
	<h2>100%</h2> <p>Of residents who live in low-income census tracts and do not have a vehicle will have access to healthy food by 2023</p> <p>Currently, 1347 of 5464 (25%) households are more than 1/2-mile from a grocery and do not have a vehicle</p> <p>Source: USDA, Food Desert Map</p>		
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> TSU, HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Urban Harvest, Blodgett Community Garden, Alabama Gardens, Harris County Master Gardeners	



# HOUSING

## Introduction

History is woven into the fabric of the Third Ward. Preserving historic housing is essential to preventing the displacement of residents and loss of history. In addition, providing high quality affordable housing is one of the most critical needs in the neighborhood.

Over the last decade, a widening gap has emerged between the number of available affordable units and the number of residents with moderate and low incomes. Development pressure is accelerating the loss of affordable housing as many older homes are demolished and replaced by new, high-end, single-family homes and townhomes. With new development property values are soaring, which could create property tax burdens for owners.

## Housing Goals

The four housing goals established for the Third Ward Complete Community, created from existing plans and studies and a series of community meetings, focus on building new affordable housing, protecting existing owners and renters from displacement, preserving existing housing, and developing a shared vision and advocacy team to ensure future housing goals are both agreed upon and realized. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The housing goals are:

### Build Housing for All

The number of housing units in the Third Ward declined between 2010 and 2015 by 6%. In 2010,

the median price of a home in the Third Ward was \$124,500; by 2015 this had risen to \$180,500, a 45% increase. Housing is becoming increasingly out of reach for Third Ward residents, who had a median household income of \$24,000 in 2015. Building new affordable renter and owner housing, incentivizing the inclusion of subsidized units in higher-density market rate projects, and establishing a Community Land Trust to preserve long-term affordability are all key to preventing displacement and ensuring that the area’s housing meets everyone’s needs. Three new housing projects are currently being developed by Row House CDC, Trinity East CDC, and PRH Preservation that would provide nearly 200 new affordable housing units in the neighborhood. Success will be measured by ensuring there is no net loss of affordable housing in the Third Ward and that affordability is maintained in the long-term.

### Provide Protection from Displacement

The Third Ward community is home to far more renters than owners. In 2015, 71% of neighborhood households were renters, compared to 56% in the City of Houston. In the same year, eviction cases were filed against more than 700 renters—20% of area renter households. The number of homeowners declined by 18% between 2000 and 2010, and then rose slightly by 2015, reflecting new development in the area. Developing tools to protect renters in the neighborhood, including tenant counseling, emergency rental assistance, utility and credit assistance, eviction protection, and financial training,



Third Ward Home

**50%** Of Third Ward renters paid more than 30% of their income on housing in 2015

**25%** Of Third Ward 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 a shared vision shapes future development

can work to minimize displacement. Community homeowners also need tools to protect them from displacement, which would include filing for appropriate exemptions and creating new policies to relieve tax burdens on low-income and long-term owners in the community.

### Repair and Preserve Existing Housing

Today, there are approximately 2,000 historic homes in the Third Ward that were built before 1940. These structures reflect the character of the community and are often affordable to both renters and owners. Despite this, too many of these units are in need of repair, while another 26% of community housing units sat vacant in 2015. To protect the character and history of the Third Ward, home repair programs will be promoted and expanded. Additionally, it is important to identify, purchase, move, and renovate historic housing to protect it from demolition. The intent is to secure the number of affordable housing units and to ensure that additional loss of historic housing is minimized.

### Plan For Future Housing

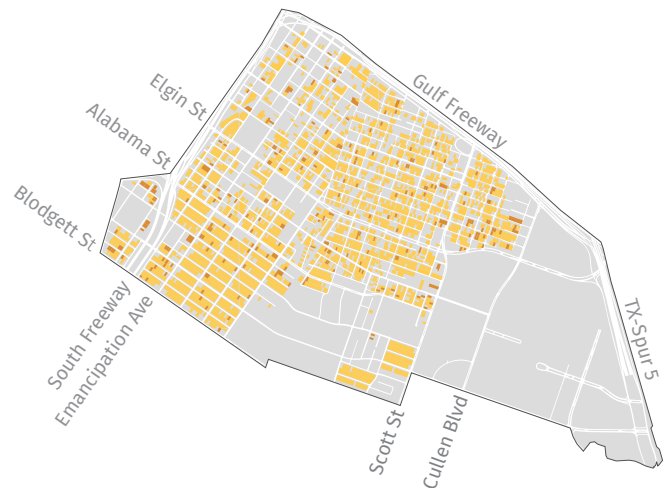
The final goal is to create an affordable housing plan that defines the future objectives for Third Ward housing needs. The housing plan would drive both public and private investment in housing. Finally, a housing advocacy team will be created to continue to advocate for policies that prevent displacement, support existing residents, and encourage the construction of housing as identified in the housing plan.

**1170**

Two-bedroom units affordable to rent for Third Ward families making 50% of the area median income (\$31,200) in 2015

**2019**

Total number of Third Ward renter households making 50% or less of area median income in 2015

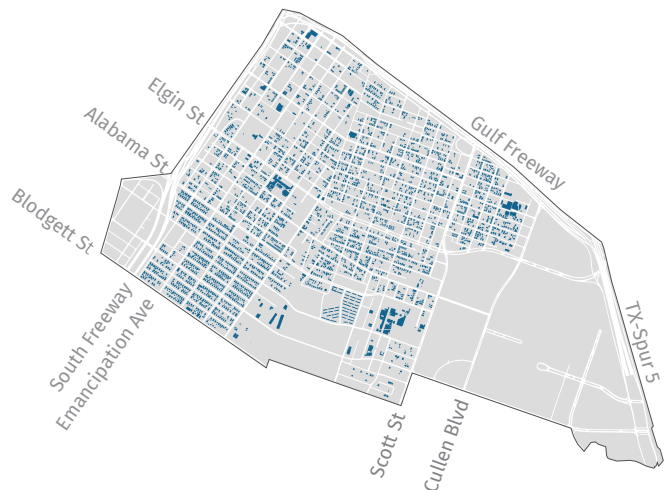


**Housing by Type Map**

- Single-family
- Multi-family







**Age of Structure**

- Pre-1940







GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Build Housing for All</b>	<b>Utilize tools to secure long-term housing affordability and prevent involuntary displacement</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Utilize tools such as restrictions in development agreements, right of first refusal, residential covenants, liens, deed restrictions, affordable housing set-asides and the Community Land Trust (CLT) when financing multi-family or single-family housing	
	<b>Build new affordable single-family housing</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop partnerships between local organizations and Housing and Community Development (HCDD) for the construction of affordable single-family infill housing; Seek HCDD funding and foundation grants for building new housing at 80% of AMI or below (average cost per unit of \$150,000); Explore the potential of this housing becoming part of the CLT; Ensure potential homeowners are informed of programs to assist first time homebuyers with down payment assistance and other grants	
	<b>Build new affordable rental housing</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify potential sites and concepts for quality multi-family/ mixed-use affordable rental housing in partnership with Housing and Community Development; Explore needs for senior housing; Identify funding and partners for implementation; Support the Affordable Housing Operations Center that will house organizations that provide quality, affordable, low- to moderate-income housing and transformational economic development	
	<b>Incentivize mixed-use developers to include set-asides for housing that is priced below market</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with Housing and Community Development to develop policies and incentives for affordable housing set asides in market rate projects; Work in partnership with Planning and Development to identify tools to further incentivize these projects, such as fast track permitting	
<b>Provide Protection from Displacement</b>	<b>Develop programs and policies to support and protect renters</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop renter assistance programs to ensure existing residents can remain in the neighborhood, including tenant counseling, emergency rental assistance, utility assistance, eviction protection, credit assistance, and financial training; Prioritize existing residents for new affordable housing; Explore “Just Cause” eviction controls and protection against rent increases	
	<b>Provide tools and resources to protect area homeowners</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with Harris County Appraisal District, local non-profits, and Housing and Community Development to conduct Homestead Exemption Workshops and develop additional workshops on property taxes, exemptions (e.g. senior exemptions or historic preservation exemptions for renovations), wills, predatory lending, appraisals, and other information to safeguard homeowners; Explore tax abatement for long-term, income eligible homeowners to prevent displacement	

PLAN: ●●●●●●●●







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**PLAN Legend:**  
 ● Complete Communities Action Plan    ● OST/Alameda TIRZ    ● Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Plan  
 ● City of Houston Plans and CIP    ● EEDC Plans and Studies    ● Houston Southeast Community Plan

# HOUSING

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> EEDC, NTWNPP	
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p><b>0</b></p> <p>Net loss of affordable housing units by 2023</p> <p>In 2015 <b>496</b> homes were affordable to families who owned their homes making 50% of Area Median Income (AMI)</p> <p>In 2000 there were 1006 homes affordable to families making 50% of AMI</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Land Owners, Neighborhood Recovery CDC, EEDC, ECDP, NTWNPP, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, Inc., CCPPI</p>	<p>Homebuyer Assistance Program, My First Texas Home, Mortgage Credit Certificate Program, Five-Star Texas Advantage Program, Urban League Homebuyer Education Programs, Black Realtors Association, LARA</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p>In 2015 there were <b>1,170</b> two-bedroom units affordable to rent for families making 50% of AMI</p> <p>Source: ACS 2015 (5-yr), Census 2000</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Land Owners, Neighborhood Recovery CDC, EEDC, ECDP, NTWNPP, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, Inc., OST/Almeda TIRZ, CCPPI, HHA</p>	
Long (5+ yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HCDD, PDD, HPW <b>SUPPORT:</b> Neighborhood Recovery CDC, MRA, NTWNPP, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, Inc.	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> MRA, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries Inc., LISC, Change Happens, NTWNPP, Texas Low Income Housing Coalition, EEDC, ECDP, Faith-Based Organizations and CDCs, Earl Carl Institute at TSU, PDD	Urban Houston Framework, Advocate Legal Center
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>70</b></p> <p>Renters will be protected from eviction each year, through financial or legal support, this is approximately 10% of the 722 eviction cases in 2015</p> <p>Source: Harris County Court Records, 2015</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> DON, HCAD, EEDC, NTWNPP, Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project, LISC, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries Inc., Houston Area Urban League, Gulf Coast Community Services, local and national banks, Third Ward Multi-Service Center, SHAPE, UH Law Center, Earl Carl Institute at TSU</p>	Homeowner Workshop Program, Advocate Legal Senior Center



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Provide Protection from Displacement (Continued)</b>	<b>Inform and educate residents and civic clubs on existing preservation tools</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Hold educational sessions on Lot Size/Building Line Ordinance, Yard Parking Ordinance, permitting notifications, land use controls and the platting process	
	<b>Preserve historic housing</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify historic housing that is at risk of demolition; Move and renovate identified housing to vacant infill lots; Prioritize developing restored housing as affordable	
<b>Repair and Preserve Existing Housing</b>	<b>Provide home repair assistance</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify income eligible seniors and enroll them in Housing and Community Development’s Home Repair Program; Explore partnerships with area non-profit organizations to develop an additional home repair program that provides job training and employment to area residents, while also maintaining area homes	
	<b>Plan For Future Housing</b>	<b>Combine community planning efforts that support affordable housing to create efficiencies where possible</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Support development at the point of each including pre-development funding, gap financing, and constructions loans; Partner with the Housing and Community Development Department to provide input on the proposed citywide housing plan
<b>Create an affordable housing advocacy team to work with residents, city agencies, property owners, and developers on housing policy and programs</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify a lead agency to organize the team and recruit area leaders and housing advocates		
<b>Demolish abandoned structures to promote safety and make the land available for the construction of new affordable housing units</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Remove dilapidated and abandoned houses; Accelerate the removal of dangerous buildings in coordination with the Department of Neighborhoods		
<b>Hire dedicated staff to facilitate project implementation</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Seek foundation support to engage a Project Manager in the Complete Communities area to oversee and manage project activities		

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# HOUSING

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Civic Clubs and Non-Profit Organizations	Lot Size/Building Line Ordinance, No Yard Parking Ordinance, Permitting Notifications
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Change Happens, NTWNPP, EEDC, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, SHAPE, Generation One, Rebuilding Together Houston, Third Ward Multi-Service Center, Preservation Houston	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>80%</b></p> <p>Of the homes constructed before 1940 that stand today will be standing in 2023</p> <p>In 2016 there were <b>2,041</b> homes built before 1940</p> <p>Source: ACS 2016 (5-yr)</p>	<b>LEAD:</b> HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Row House CDC, Change Happens, SHAPE, Generation One, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together Houston, NTWNPP, EEDC	HCDD Home Repair Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, Texas Ramp Project, Rebuilding Together Houston (including Roofs Over Houston, Interior Repair Program, Safe and Sound Program, Ramp Angels)
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> PDD, HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> NST Housing Workgroup, LISC, EEDC, NTWNPP, ECDP, local churches, local and national banks	Texas Pace Authority, Urban Houston Framework
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Affordable Housing Advocacy Team will be formed and meet regularly by 2023</p>	<b>LEAD:</b> PDD, HCDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> NST Housing Working Group, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries Inc., HAUS Project, EEDC, NTWNPP, ECDP, SN Council, NST	Advocate Senior Legal Center
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> DON	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Local and National Banks; Foundations	

# MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

## Introduction

A resilient community with quality infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, and reliable public transit, makes a complete community. The Third Ward is well-served by public transit, including the Southeast Corridor Light Rail Line (Purple Line) which travels along Scott Street in the eastern portion of the neighborhood, and connects directly to Palm Center to the south and downtown to the north. The Purple Line provides further access to the North Corridor Light Rail Line and the East End Line. Many residents are dependent on public transit. In 2015, 18% of area households did not own a vehicle, compared to 6% in the City overall. As a result, 12% of workers used public transit to get to work, compared to 4% in Houston; an additional 17% walked or biked.

While the Third Ward is well-connected to the City by transit, the neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and crossings need improvement. Because so many residents depend on transit, the condition of sidewalks and the larger issue of walkability is key to creating a complete community, and connecting residents to opportunities across the city.

## Mobility and Infrastructure Goals

There are four goals for mobility and infrastructure, developed from existing Third Ward plans and studies and a series of community meetings. The focus is on improving neighborhood mobility, building great streets, expanding bike lanes and facilities, and ensuring drainage systems are properly maintained and improved. The goals are summarized here and

provided in more detail on the following pages. The goals for mobility and infrastructure are:

### Improve Neighborhood Mobility

Third Ward is home to a high number of seniors and others who are transit dependent. As the Complete Communities initiative moves forward, working with neighborhood and City partners to ensure seniors and others have good mobility, through either accessible public transit or a neighborhood ride share program, will ensure families have options for visits to the doctor, bank, to buy groceries, or other essential trips. The goal includes exploring a community connector bus to serve seniors and exploring the potential extension of the Westheimer Bus Route east to the University of Houston. The long term goal is to ensure that public transit continues to be a viable option for mobility in the Third Ward.

### Build Great Streets

The desire to improve the quality of life in the Third Ward is supported by the goal to build complete streets that accommodate all residents' needs including access to public transit, sidewalks, and streetscaping. Priorities include improved and expanded sidewalks adjacent to community facilities, schools, and other essential services and a series of street improvements, including the northern portion of Emancipation Avenue. Streetscaping amenities include crosswalks, ramps, landscaping, and tree planting. Finally, establishing a special parking district would spark economic development and discourage nuisance parking on residential streets. By 2023, the

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**12%** Of Third Ward workers ages 16 years and older rode public transit to work in 2015

**4%** Of Houston workers ages 16 years and older rode public transit to work in 2015

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**18%** Of Third Ward households were without a vehicle in 2015

**6%** Of Houston households were without a vehicle in 2015

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

goal is to have ten miles of neighborhood sidewalk improvements complete.

### Expand Bike Lanes and Facilities

In 2015, 17% of Third Ward workers over the age of 16 years walked or biked to work. The current neighborhood bike network includes the Columbia Tap Trail, the Brays Bayou Greenway Trail, and five miles of on-street bike lanes. Expanding this network of bike lanes and amenities will increase the comfort and opportunity of this alternative transportation method. This includes building new priority bike lanes in the community and expanding B-Cycle stations. Priority bike lanes include Tierwester, Emancipation, Tuam, and Scott Street. The goal is to construct a minimum of five miles of new bike routes throughout the neighborhood by 2023.

### Improve Drainage

Severe flooding has impacted many Houston neighborhoods in recent years. However, the Third Ward is strategically located between Buffalo Bayou to the north and Brays Bayou to the south, in an area with minimum flood risk. Properly maintaining area ditches and right-of-ways will ensure that the flood risk in the community remains minimal. A properly maintained ditch not only reduces flooding concerns, but also enhances the health and quality of life of the neighborhood. Exploring the use of green infrastructure and other innovative storm water projects could help to support new resilient design strategies in the future.

### Early Successes

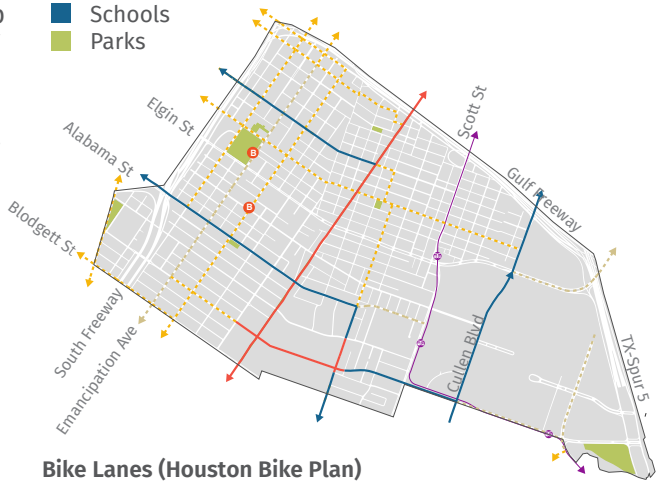
The Emancipation Avenue corridor has been designated one of three pilot sites for the City of Houston's Walkable Places program.

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and other local leaders will implement the Bike Plan to improve bike and pedestrian safety through a new city-county partnership. Precinct One pledged \$10M and the City of Houston \$5.5M city-wide.



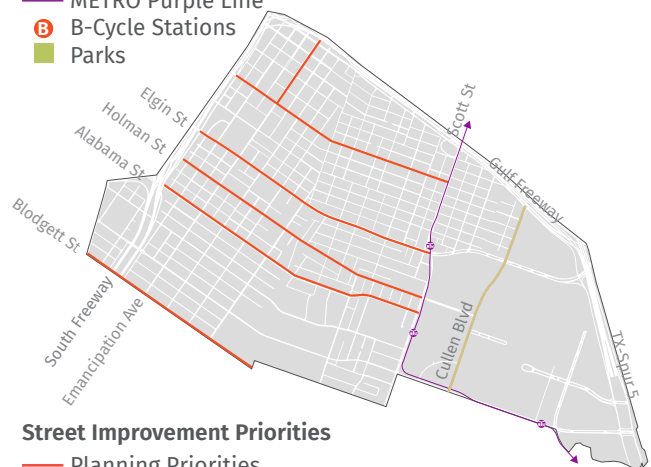
#### Sidewalk and Crossing Priorities

- CIP Sidewalks
- Sidewalk Priorities
- METRO Purple Line
- Pedestrian Crossings
- Schools
- Parks



#### Bike Lanes (Houston Bike Plan)

- Existing High Comfort
- Existing Low Comfort
- - - Short-Term Projects
- - - Long-Term Projects
- METRO Purple Line
- B-Cycle Stations
- Parks



#### Street Improvement Priorities

- Planning Priorities
- CIP Projects



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Improve Neighborhood Mobility</b>  PLAN: ●●●○○○	<b>Neighborhood Ride Share Program</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop a neighborhood ride share program or community connector bus focused on serving seniors; Explore a partnership with ARA/ Park Houston to provide a Car Share Program	●
	<b>Improve public transit</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work with METRO to explore transit improvements for the current long range plan, including the potential to extend the Westheimer bus route east to Emancipation Park and UH and a north-south bus route on Emancipation Avenue between the Texas Medical Center and downtown	●
<b>Build Great Streets</b>  PLAN: ●●●○○○	<b>Improve sidewalks and crossings</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Public Works is currently prioritizing the following sidewalk projects: Ennis, from Wheeler to Eagle; Nagle from Elgin to Rosalie; Elgin/ Lockwood from Cullen to Eastwood; Ruth from Tierwester to Canfield; Identify additional sidewalk improvements adjacent to community facilities and essential services; Partner with the EEDC to advocate for sidewalk and high visibility crossing improvements adjacent to area schools	●
	<b>Improve area streets</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with Public Works and the OST/Almeda TIRZ to improve streets, priorities include the northern section of Emancipation Avenue from McGowen to Pierce; Holman Street from Emanuel to Scott Street, Live Oak from Pierce to Truxillo Street, Hutchins from Pierce to Truxillo Street, Cullen from I-45 to Wheeler Ave; Include residential streets curb and gutter, cross walk striping, public utilities, street lights, wheelchair ramps, landscaping and tree planting	○
	<b>Parking District</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with area businesses and organizations to develop strategies for a parking district to incentivize and maximize the potential for new development; Work with neighborhood associations to address nuisance parking on residential streets	○
<b>Expand Bike Lanes and Facilities</b>  PLAN: ●●○○○○○	<b>Expand area bike lanes and facilities</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Public Works has identified the following bike lane priorities: Tierwester St from Alabama to Brays Bayou; Emancipation Ave from Gray St to Blodgett St; Tuam St from Crawford St to Cullen Blvd; Scott St from Gulf Fwy to Tuam St; Explore on street bicycle lanes along Blodgett St; Identify additional key corridors and projects; Identify locations for additional bike racks and bike repair stations	●
	<b>Expand B-Cycle</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Planning Department to identify additional locations for B-Cycle Stations, including at light rail stops	●
<b>Improve Drainage</b>  PLAN: ○●○○○○○	<b>Right of way and drainage improvements</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Evaluate existing drainage and develop a plan for necessary improvements (focus on Columbia Tap Trail, Sampson, and Drew); Work with property owners to keep ditches and right-of-ways clean and well-maintained	●
	<b>Create green infrastructure at neighborhood sites prone to flooding</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the City of Houston Resilience Office to identify potential sites for green infrastructure and other innovative storm water projects; Focus along I-69, Chartres St near Alabama St and Elgin; Co-sponsor workshops that share natural infrastructure techniques for storm water management	○

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# MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>12%</b></p> <p>Of Third Ward workers 16 years and older continue to ride public transit to work by 2023, equal to the 2015 rate Source: ACS 2015</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> ARA/Park Houston <b>SUPPORT:</b> METRO, NTWNPP, SN Council, NST, EEDC</p>	<p>ARA/Park Houston Car Share Program, METRO Next and Community Connectors</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> METRO <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, EEDC, NTWNPP</p>	<p>METRO Next</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Miles of new or repaired sidewalks are constructed by 2023 Source: City of Houston HPW</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> HPW <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, EEDC, SN Council, NST, NTWNPP, Area Schools, OST/Alameda TIRZ</p>	<p>Capital Improvement Plan, Community Development Block Grants, Safe Routes to Schools</p>
Long (5+ yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HPW <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, OST/Alameda TIRZ</p>	<p>Capital Improvement Plan, Community Development Block Grants</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<p><b>4.5</b></p> <p>Miles of new bike lanes are constructed by 2023 Source: City of Houston HPW</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> EEDC, HSE</p>	<p>Walkable Places Program</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HPW <b>SUPPORT:</b> HPB, Civic Clubs, NTWNPP, EEDC, HSE, HGAC</p>	<p>Houston Bike Racks Donation Program Houston Bike Plan</p>
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Green infrastructure project is constructed in the Third Ward by 2023</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> HPW, PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Houston Bike Plan, NTWNPP, EEDC</p>	<p>Houston B-Cycle Program</p>
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> HPW <b>SUPPORT:</b> Civic Clubs, OST/Alameda TIRZ, Rebuild Houston, NTWNPP, HSE</p>	
Long (5+ yrs)		<p><b>LEAD:</b> City of Houston Resilience Office <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE</p>	

# NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

## Introduction

The historic Third Ward is one of the original political wards in the City of Houston, and one of Houston’s oldest African American neighborhoods. Dating to the mid-19th century, there is a strong sense of community, history, culture, and identity—neighbors help neighbors, look out for one another, and for the neighborhood. The strong sense of community is anchored, and continues to be supported by, the organizations, institutions, churches, and non-profits working in the community.

The Third Ward is home to five historic landmark buildings and two dozen churches. In addition, there are many historic buildings that sit vacant or under-utilized, including the former Riverside Hospital and Nursing School. These buildings represent a significant opportunity for re-imagining and re-use. In addition, the vernacular shotgun houses preserved and re-used as an integral part of Project Row Houses, illustrates the impact of historic preservation. This combination of history, place, art, culture, and social practice is the foundation of a complete community.

Over the last several decades the Third Ward has experienced significant change. Vernacular housing has been demolished and replaced by high-end townhomes or new apartment buildings. As the Third Ward continues to develop, displacement

is endangering families who have lived in the neighborhood for generations.

## Neighborhood Character Goals

The three goals for neighborhood character, compiled from existing Third Ward plans and studies and a series of community meetings, focus on preserving and enhancing the neighborhood’s history and character, beautifying the neighborhood, and expanding arts initiatives. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The goals for neighborhood character are:

### Preserve the Neighborhood’s History and Character

The Third Ward plays an important role in Houston’s history. With new development, the historic fabric of the neighborhood is at risk. Between 2010 and 2016 over 500 homes were demolished. Moving forward, tools will be identified and implemented to protect the history and character of the neighborhood, including regulating the physical form of new development. New uses will be explored for vacant historic buildings and partnerships established to see the projects through to completion. Finally, a cultural trail project to connect businesses, historic landmarks, art organizations, parks and trails will be explored. The goals are to strengthen the historic cultural legacy of the neighborhood and bring new opportunities, amenities, and employment to the neighborhood.



St. John Baptist Church



Project Row Houses

**A complete community is a beautiful and interesting community** with public art, historic neighborhoods, and strong identity and culture

### Beautify Neighborhood

The cleanliness and beauty of a neighborhood can build civic pride and encourage stewardship. The Third Ward, because of the many vacant lots, is plagued by both illegal dumping and overgrown lots. Community stakeholders have organized a number of neighborhood clean-ups over the last year. Through partnerships with the City, including Solid Waste and the Department of Neighborhoods, additional clean-ups will be organized and a concerted effort to maintain vacant lots established. The goal is to reduce 311 calls for illegal dumping by at least 25% in the next five years. Finally, working to enhance amenities along area streets, including new street lighting, planters, art and benches will support the civic pride, history, and culture of the community.

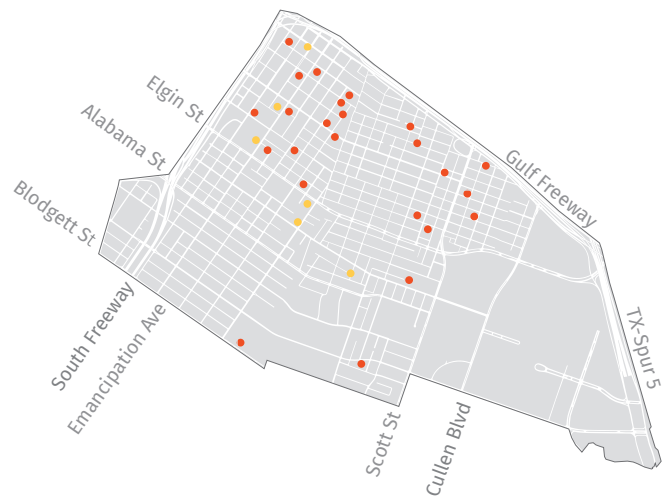
### Expand Public Art

Public art has been an integral part of the Third Ward community for generations. Project Row Houses, an internationally recognized and awarded community and public art site, presently anchors the arts in the Third Ward and illustrates the power of the arts to create change. The goal is to build on the cultural and artistic legacy of Project Row Houses and other important arts sites throughout the neighborhood, by expanding public art in collaboration with the community, including youth. This includes both permanent and temporary art installations.

### Early Successes

Houston Endowment granted funds to Project Row Houses to create a Public Art Plan.

The Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs is leading an inclusive cultural strategy to bring new programs and expand existing ones in each Complete Community. This includes four new Mini Murals, a Civic Art project, the Visit My Neighborhood grants, creative writing workshops, a Resident Artists Program (R.A.P), and a Neighborhood Poetry Project by Houston Poet Laureate, Deborah 'DEEP' Mouton.



#### Landmarks

- Historic Landmarks
- Churches

#### 311 Calls to Report Illegal Dumping, 2016

- 311 Calls







GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Preserve the Neighborhood's History and Character</b>	<b>Preserve the character of the neighborhood</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with the city to explore the tools available to protect neighborhood character, including minimum lot size, setback, Walkable Places pilot, and other ordinances; Explore the potential of establishing a conservation district or other tools to regulate physical characteristics of new developments (e.g., building height, scale, and interface with public streets and sidewalks); Partner with the ECDP to create a Community Development Overlay District (CD-OD) to provide incentive-based guidelines for revitalization	●
	<b>Cultural Trail</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Join with other organizations to create a cultural trail through the Houston Southeast District and the Third Ward that connects businesses, historic landmarks, art institutions, and parks and open spaces; Explore the potential to extend this strategy to the Columbia Tap trail, including signage and public art; Develop B-Cycle tours on the trail	●
	<b>Re-use and adapt historic buildings for new uses</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify historic buildings that are underutilized or vacant; Partner with organizations, businesses, or others to create plans for re-using these resources; Focus efforts on Riverside Hospital and Blue Triangle Community Center; Initiate an effort to create a loan fund for the renovation of historic properties; Restore Emancipation as a commercial corridor	◐
<b>PLAN:</b> ● ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○	<b>End illegal dumping</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create a 311 campaign to encourage residents to report illegal dumping; Install enforcement cameras at area hot spots; Establish neighborhood teams/block captains or engage the HSE District to review footage and provide reports to the police; Establish a promotion and outreach campaign	●
<b>Beautify the Neighborhood</b>	<b>Ensure property owners and renters keep lots clean and mowed</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work with the SN Council, area civic clubs and residents to report overgrown lots and to ensure lots are maintained; Advertise and identify a potential program to develop a community-led "mowdown" program (the City will partner with a non-profit organization to pay \$50 - \$100 for mowing, including providing equipment); Partner with DON to identify sites for the vacant lot emergency cuts of overgrown lots	●
	<b>Organize neighborhood clean ups</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop a comprehensive strategy for community clean-ups; Organize clean-ups; Use Houston Southeast communications channels to address illegal dumping and litter control and co-sponsor workshops with civic organizations and the city on these topics	●
	<b>Place attractive benches, ornamental planters, decorative lighting, and trash bins on designated economic corridors</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify design strategies and key locations for amenities; Identify funding and implementation strategies	●
<b>PLAN:</b> ● ● ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○		

**PLAN Legend:**

- Complete Communities Action Plan
- City of Houston Plans and CIP
- OST/Alameda TIRZ
- EEDC Plans and Studies
- Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Plan
- Houston Southeast Community Plan

# NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> EEDC, ECDP, PRH, Historic Preservation Department, Texas Preservation Trust Fund, Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST, Philanthropic Organizations	Texas Preservation Trust Fund, Minimum Lot Size Ordinance, Prevailing Setback Ordinance, Walkable Places Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<b>2</b> Historic buildings are preserved and re-used by 2023	<b>LEAD:</b> DON, PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, Project Row Houses, NTWNPP, EEDC, HPB, HPARD, MOCA, HAA	DON Neighborhood Matching Grants, NEA Challenge America, MOCA + HAA Grants
Long (5+ yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, NTWNPP, EEDC, PRH, Area CDCs, Universities, Preservation Houston, HCDD	Texas Preservation Trust Fund
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> SWD, 311, HPD, DON <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, NTWNPP, Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST, Churches, EEDC, Keep Houston Beautiful	Blast the Bandit, Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP), DON Spring Cleaning Program, Philanthropic Support
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> DON <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, Civic Clubs, Churches, SN Council, NST	DON Mowdown Program, Vacant Lot Emergency Cuts
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<b>25%</b> Decline in the reports to 311 for Illegal Dumping from 2016 to 2023 Source: City of Houston 311 Data	<b>LEAD:</b> DON <b>SUPPORT:</b> Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST, Churches, Schools, Universities, Keep Houston Beautiful, NTWNPP, EEDC, Team Up 2 Clean Up	Walk the Block Cleanups, Blast the Bandit, Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP)
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> DON, PDD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE	DON Neighborhood Matching Grants, NEA Challenge America, Stronger Region, NEA Art Works, Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
<b>Expand Public Art that Celebrates the Community</b>	<b>Expand public art in collaboration with the community</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Integrate public space, history, and culture by creating community art installations; Partner with various arts programs to explore permanent/temporary art installation opportunities; Work with Houston Arts Alliance and MOCA to ensure that the community has input into selected art works; Partner with MOCA, HAA, Houston Public Library and others on four new Mini Murals, a Civic Art project, the Visit My Neighborhood grants, a Resident Artist Program (R.A.P.), creative writing workshops and a Neighborhood Poetry Project by the Houston Poet Laureate, Deborah ‘DEEP’ Mouton	●
	<b>Engage youth in public art</b> <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Develop a youth public art program to design, build and Install public art; Explore a program to design trashcans or “art cans”; Identify and implement additional youth art programs	●

PLAN: ●●○○○○

**PLAN Legend:**

- Complete Communities Action Plan
- OST/Almeda TIRZ
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- City of Houston Plans and CIP
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- Houston Southeast Community Plan

# NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
<p><b>Medium</b> (2 - 5 yrs)</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> MOCA <b>SUPPORT:</b> HAA, HPL, HSE, EEDC, NTWNPP, Project Row Houses, SN Council, NST, Civic Clubs, SHAPE, local organizations, area businesses, philanthropic organizations, TSU</p>	<p>NEA Art Works, NEA Challenge America, MOCA + HAA Grants</p>
<p><b>Short</b> (0 - 2 yrs)</p>	<p>New public art projects in the community by 2023</p>	<p><b>LEAD:</b> MOCA <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, Project Row Houses, SN Council, NST, Civic Clubs, HSE, local organizations, area businesses, philanthropic organizations, TSU, METRO, TUTS</p>	<p>NEA Art Works, NEA Challenge America, Houston Arts Alliance, Neighborhood Matching Grants, YAH: Dance, Puppetry, Music, Literary Arts, Theater, Visual Arts Workshops and Performances, Community Music Center of Houston</p>

# PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

## Introduction

Access to quality parks and open spaces has long been an important element of the Third Ward neighborhood. In 1872, a group of African American ministers and businessmen purchased the land that became Emancipation Park. The historic park is the focus of community celebrations, culminating in the annual Juneteenth Celebration.

Today, the Third Ward has four parks: Emancipation, Leroy Moses, Malone, and Our Park. A corner of the spacious, 83-acre MacGregor Park falls in the far southeastern corner of the neighborhood. The four parks encompass just under 14 acres. The 2015 City of Houston Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents as a standard for the combined area of neighborhood, community, and pocket parks. Based on this recommendation, the Third Ward has a 21-acre park deficit. The highest need for park access, according to the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore Map, is in the southeast sector of the Third Ward and in the University Village neighborhood on the northeast side.

Outside of formal park spaces, many informal gatherings and spontaneous social activities occur in open spaces across the neighborhood. There are many opportunities to build on these informal gatherings and develop small open spaces into usable public

green spaces or plazas. This includes vacant lots, property owned by local non-profits, and campus green spaces at area schools.

## Parks and Community Amenities Goals

The two goals established for parks and community amenities, compiled from existing Third Ward plans and studies and a series of community meetings, focus on expanding access to public open spaces and improving area parks. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The goals for parks and community amenities are:

### Expand Access to Public Open Spaces

To ensure that all Third Ward residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park additional park space must be developed, particularly in the eastern portion of the neighborhood. Identifying vacant land, or other opportunities to acquire land for new parks, is a priority in this area. In addition, partnerships with area schools provide opportunities to bring SPARK Parks to the neighborhood. Currently, a SPARK Park is being developed at Lawson Academy through generous contributions from the Kinder Foundation and Houston Endowment.

Finally, identifying vacant sites along Emancipation Avenue, adjacent to area schools, churches, and



Emancipation Park



**A complete community is a sustainable community**  
with access to beautiful parks and open spaces

community centers, to develop pocket parks or plazas can provide expanded access to parks and green spaces in the neighborhood. The goal is to ensure that 100% of area families have access to a park within a 10-minute walk.

### Improve Area Parks

Many programs and events occur in the signature Emancipation Park, which recently received a \$33 million renovation. Promoting these events and programs through banners or other environmental graphics will increase engagement with the resources available at the park. The smaller parks in the neighborhood require an assessment of needed improvements, including maintenance, upgrading playground equipment, and other amenities. Establishing strong partnerships between community stakeholders and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will ensure that these parks receive improvements that meet the needs of the community.



### ParkScore Map

*Trust for Public Land*

- Area Served by Parks
- High Need for Parks
- Very High Need for Parks
- ① Emancipation Park
- ② Malone Park
- ③ Leroy Moses Park
- ④ Our Park
- ⑤ Columbia Tap Trail



**Emancipation Park**

**14 Acres**

Total Third Ward Park Acres

**34 Acres**

Recommended park area based on standards in the Houston Parks Master Plan 2015

**20 Acres**

Total Third Ward Park Deficit

Data Sources: City of Houston GIS, Trust for Public Land ParkScore Map and Index, 2017; City of Houston Parks Master Plan 2015



GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Expand Access to Parks and Public Open Spaces	<p><b>Build a new park in the University Village neighborhood</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with the University Village Civic Club to identify potential properties for a new park that would meet the identified park needs (see HPARD Master Plan) in this section of the neighborhood; Work in partnership with the Parks Department and other local organizations to design and fund the new park</p>	
	<p><b>Advocate for additional SPARK Parks in the community, particularly at Blackshear Elementary and Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with area schools to develop Spark Park design concepts; Form partnerships for funding, implementation and long term maintenance</p>	
	<p><b>Create pocket parks along Emancipation Avenue</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify vacant properties and ownership along Emancipation Avenue; Develop design concepts for vacant lots; Create partnerships for funding and implementation</p>	
	<p><b>Re-purpose vacant lots as mini-parks, plazas or urban gardens, particularly adjacent to schools and churches</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify vacant sites adjacent to schools, churches and community centers, or in areas in need of park access; develop design concepts and funding strategies</p>	
Improve Area Parks	<p><b>Develop environmental graphics or interactive signage for Emancipation Park to advertise park programs and special events</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with the Parks Department and area organizations to develop and fund new signage and graphics for Emancipation Park</p>	
	<p><b>Improve existing parks, Leroy, Malone and Our Park</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with HPARD and community stakeholders to assess needed improvements at area parks, including maintenance, playground equipment and other amenities</p>	

PLAN:

PLAN:

**PLAN Legend:**

- Complete Communities Action Plan
- OST/Alameda TIRZ
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# PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPARD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HPB, Philanthropic Organizations, HSE, Harris County Precinct 1, University Village Civic Club	Kaboom! Grants Program Harris County Precinct 1 Park Smart Project
Long (5+ yrs)	<p><b>100%</b> Of residents will live within a 10-minute walk of a park by 2023 Currently 75% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park Source: HPARD 2015 Master Plan Recommendations; ParkScore Map</p>	<b>LEAD:</b> SN Council, NST <b>SUPPORT:</b> HISD, SPARK Parks, NTWNPP, EEDC, Philanthropic Organizations	SPARK Park Program
Long (5+ yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPARD <b>SUPPORT:</b> EEDC, ECDP, NTWNPP, HPB, Philanthropic Organizations, Harris County Precinct 1	Kaboom! Grants Program, Harris County Precinct 1 Park Smart Project, Main Street Program
Long (5+ yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPARD <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, EEDC, Project Row Houses, Change Happens, SHAPE, Civic Clubs, HSE, Philanthropic Organizations, Harris County Precinct 1 Park Smart Project, PDD, Area Churches, Schools and Community Centers	Kaboom! Grants Program, Harris County Precinct 1 Park Smart Project
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<p><b>2</b> Existing parks will receive improvements by 2023</p>	<b>LEAD:</b> HPARD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, OST/Almeda TIRZ, Philanthropic Organizations	National Endowment for the Arts Grants, Philanthropic Grants
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPARD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Philanthropic Organizations, HSE	Kaboom! Grants Program

# SAFETY

## Introduction

Safety is an important key to building a healthy and thriving community. The Third Ward is served by the Houston Police Department's South Central Division. Crime statistics for the area, compiled for police beat 10H50, indicate elevated crime levels compared to Houston overall. In 2016, the neighborhood's property crime rate was 8% higher than the City and the violent crime rate was nearly three times higher than the Houston average. The areas with the highest concentration of crime were along Scott and Alabama Street, two major corridors.

By focusing on neighborhood-based crime prevention programs, community policing, crime prevention through environmental design, and strong neighborhood partnerships with law enforcement agencies, crime can be reduced in the Third Ward.

## Safety Goals

The two goals for safety were compiled from existing Third Ward plans and studies as well as a series of community meetings. The focus of the goals is on implementing safety measures throughout the neighborhood, including improving street lighting, addressing crime hotspots, and developing stronger relationships between the community and law

enforcement agencies. The goals are summarized here and provided in more detail on the following pages. The goals for safety are:

### Create Safe Streets and Places

Creating safe streets and places across the neighborhood includes addressing crime hot spots through improved street lighting and focused crime prevention efforts. This includes using crime prevention through environmental design principles, such as natural surveillance and maintenance, to enhance the sense of safety. Adequate street lighting creates a sense of security, particularly in the evening. Through the planning process and crime mapping analysis, a number of corridors have been identified to focus streetlight improvement efforts including: Emancipation Avenue, Scott Street, Elgin Street, Alabama Street and McGowen Street. In areas that are crime hot spots, it is critical to have partnerships across law enforcement agencies, including the Houston Police Department, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Harris County Sheriff's Office, and METRO Police. Creating partnerships across these law enforcement agencies and increasing police presence in the neighborhood will also work to prevent crime, and assist with reducing the property and violent crime rates in the long term.



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**2705** Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in Third Ward, 2016

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

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Data Sources: Beat 10H50 2016 Crime Statistics, HPD; UCR Crime Statistics for Houston, 2016

A **complete community** is a **safe community** where the community and law enforcement work together to reduce crime and increase the sense of security throughout the neighborhood

### Advocate for Community-Based Policing

The perception of safety is important to social cohesion and the quality of life in a community. One of the best strategies to reduce crime is for the community and law enforcement to develop partnerships and share responsibility. This can be achieved by encouraging civic clubs and residents to establish block captains and participate in HPD's Positive Interaction Program. In addition, developing an outreach program to provide materials on the different ways to contact the police and to report nuisances and other non-emergencies will help build bridges between the community and law enforcement.

Finally, expanding police presence in the neighborhood through bike patrols and partnerships with the Houston Southeast Management District will support shared efforts to reduce crime. The five-year aim is to increase participation in the Positive Interaction Program and ensure that area civic clubs submit annual "action requests" to focus police efforts on key safety challenges in the community.



**Third Ward Crime Map**

**Legend:**

- Crime
- Low High
- ① HPD Substation
- ② UHPD Station
- Security Cameras Needed
- Purple Line, Light Rail Stop
- METRO Purple Line

**4702** Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in Third Ward, 2016

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

Data Sources: Beat 10H50 2016 Crime Statistics, HPD; UCR Crime Statistics for Houston, 2016

### Early Successes

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

Houston Police Department's South Central Division recently received 18 new bikes and will begin expanding their bike patrol in the area in the coming months.





GOAL	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
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<b>Create Safe Streets and Places</b>	<p><b>Improve street lighting</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with Code Enforcement, who is surveying area streetlights, reporting broken lights and working with CenterPoint for repair; Civic leaders should also report streetlight outages to Code Enforcement or CenterPoint; Install new lighting in areas that are not well-lit</p>	
	<p><b>Use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to enhance the sense of safety</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Work in partnership with HPD’s Differential Response Team to provide CPTED training to area businesses, apartments and other property owners; Work with area property owners to make needed improvements to enhance safety</p>	
	<p><b>Install security cameras in crime hot spots</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Partner with the Houston Southeast District or others to identify crime hotspots and deploy mobile security cameras</p>	
	<p><b>Address crime hot spots throughout the community</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Create partnerships across law enforcement agencies to provide more police presence and patrols at crime hot spots, including convenience stores, apartments and along the Purple Line (light rail)</p>	

PLAN:

<b>Advocate for Community-Based Policing</b>	<p><b>Create a block captain program</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Organize civic clubs, residents and leaders to create block captains; Work with block captains to identify key safety priorities and challenges; organize National Night Out and other informal events to bring law enforcement together with residents to build trust</p>	
	<p><b>Participate in South Central Division Positive Interaction Program (PIP) Meetings</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Encourage civic leaders to attend PIP meetings; Develop quarterly or semi-annual priorities for the neighborhood to present at PIP meetings, or submit “action requests” which identify key issues and can be emailed, faxed, mailed, or delivered to HPD South Central Division</p>	
	<p><b>Advocate for additional bike patrol</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Identify key areas that would benefit from bike patrol; Work in partnership with the South Central Division that recently received 18 bikes to expand bike patrol</p>	
	<p><b>Create a safety campaign to encourage residents to use the police non-emergency number to report suspicious activity</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Provide outreach materials to inform residents on the ways to reach the police, including Facebook, NextDoor, calling dispatch or email</p>	
	<p><b>Work in partnership with HPD to identify other programs to improve community relationships</b>  <i>ACTION STEPS:</i> Provide information to area leaders and residents on HPD programs, such as the Citizens Police Academy and the re-launch of the Police Athletic League (PALS), a youth crime prevention program that utilizes educational, athletic and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth.</p>	

PLAN:

**PLAN Legend:**  
 Complete Communities Action Plan   
 OST/Alameda TIRZ   
 Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Plan  
 City of Houston Plans and CIP   
 EEDC Plans and Studies   
 Houston Southeast Community Plan

# SAFETY

TIMEFRAME	METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS	PARTNERS	POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)	<h2>25%</h2> <p>Reduction in the violent crime rate by 2023            In 2016 Third Ward had a violent crime rate 163% above the City average            Source: HPD Monthly Crime Reports, UCR 2016</p>	<b>LEAD:</b> HPW, Code Enforcement <b>SUPPORT:</b> NTWNPP, Project Row Houses, Change Happens, SHAPE, EEDC, Churches, Civic Clubs, CenterPoint	HPW Streetlight Survey Program; Code Enforcement Street Light Repair Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPD, DRT <b>SUPPORT:</b> Area Businesses, Apartment Owners, Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST, HSE, NTWNPP, EEDC	HPD CPTED Training
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HSE, Philanthropic Organizations	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPD, METRO Police, UH Police, TSU Police <b>SUPPORT:</b> Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST, HCSO, HSE	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)	<h2>Annual</h2> <p>Action Request submitted to HPD through a PIP meeting identifying key safety issues            Source: HPD</p>	<b>LEAD:</b> DON <b>SUPPORT:</b> HFD, HPD, Third Ward Community Cloth, Row House CDC, Change Happens, Churches, Schools, Universities, Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST, NTWNPP, EEDC	National Night Out; Keep Houston SAFE Initiative
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPD <b>SUPPORT:</b> Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST, NTWNPP, EEDC	HPD's Positive Interaction Program
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPD	
Short (0 - 2 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPD <b>SUPPORT:</b> HFD, NTWNPP, EEDC, Row House CDC, NAACP, SHAPE, HSE, Council Member, Tour de Hood	DON Outreach Program
Medium (2 - 5 yrs)		<b>LEAD:</b> HPD <b>SUPPORT:</b> EEDC, NTWNPP, Civic Clubs, SN Council, NST	HPD's Police Athletic League Program, Citizens Patrol Program, Citizens Police Academy

# 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 Third Ward 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 Third Ward NST guided the planning process and shaped the initiative at the local level. This team has joined with the Greater Third Ward Super Neighborhood Council to oversee implementation of this Plan. We thank everyone for their time and commitment to the Complete Communities initiative.

### Complete Communities Advisory Committee

Claudia Aguirre, BakerRipley  
Hazem A. Ahmed, Integrity Bank  
Lauren Anderson, Houston Ballet  
Tomaro Bell, Super Neighborhood Alliance  
Angela Blanchard, BakerRipley  
Roberta Burroughs, Roberta F. Burroughs & Associates  
Rogee Gee Calvert, Outreach Strategists  
Veronica Chapa Gorczynski, Greater East End Management District  
Paul Charles, Neighborhood Recovery CDC  
Etta Crockett, Acres Home Super Neighborhood  
Kathy Bluford Daniels, Super Neighborhood Alliance  
Tanya Debose, Independence Heights Redevelopment Council  
Frances Dyess, Houston East End Chamber of Commerce  
Amanda Edwards, City of Houston Council Member  
Bo Fraga, BakerRipley  
Tory Gunsolley, Houston Housing Authority  
Ramiro Guzman, Harris County TRIAD  
Daniel Hinojosa, Harris County General Store  
Tiffany Hogue, Texas Organizing Project  
Michael Huffmaster, Super Neighborhood Alliance  
Lester King, PhD., Rice University  
Mary Lawler, Avenue CDC  
Rick Lowe, Project Row Houses  
Roy Malonson, Acres Home Chamber of Commerce  
Robert S. Muhammad, Ph.D.  
Melissa Noriega, BakerRipley  
Kathy Flanagan Payton, Fifth Ward Community Reinvestment Council  
Theola Petteway, OST/Alameda TIRZ  
Jeff Reichman, January Advisors  
David Robinson, City of Houston Council Member  
Sandra Rodriguez, Gulfton Super Neighborhood Council  
Diane Schenke, Greater East End Management District  
Juliet Stipeche, Mayor's Office, Director of Education  
Amanda Timm, Houston LISC  
Anne Whitlock, CONNECT Communities  
Shondra Wygal, AARP

### Third Ward Neighborhood Support Team

Reverend Preston Allen  
Wilbert Allums  
Pastor L. Atkins  
Gregory Benjamin  
Council Member Dwight Boykins  
Norma Bradley  
Sylvia Bridy  
Charlotte Bryant  
Dr. Grace Butler  
Paul D. Charles  
Representative Garnet Coleman  
Debra Collins  
George Courtney  
Michael R. Crow  
Algenita Scott Davis  
Curtis Davis  
Kenneth Davis  
Linda Davis  
Pastor Lucious Davis  
Erica Dean  
Deepak Doshi  
Reverend Keith Edwards  
Reverend John Eigege  
Commissioner Rodney Ellis  
Gwen Fedrick  
Eureka Gilkey  
Robert Gilmore  
Dr. Terrance D. Grant-Malone  
Reverend Leo Griffin  
James Hammonds  
Edwin Harrison  
Jaime Herrero  
Jason Hyman  
Reverend Dr. Leon D. Jackson  
Reverend Manson B. Johnson  
Nancy Kinder  
Cheryl Lawson  
Dr. Elwyn Lee  
Jennifer M. Leighton-Guzman  
Alicia Lewis  
Elizabeth Love  
Bianca Mahmood  
Joyti Malhan  
Ramon Manning  
Reverend Ray Martin  
Chelby Mims  
Pastor Mitchell  
Quianta Moore  
Delesa O' Dell Thomas  
Rev. Dr. Ruth Allen Ollison  
Deloyd Parker

Ruth Pater  
Theola Petteway  
Dr. Assata Richards  
Reverend Milton Russau  
Reverend Leslie Smith  
Helen Stagg  
Ann B. Stern  
Linda Walker  
Reverend Marilyn White  
Pastor Leroy J. Woodard

### **Participants**

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

Emily Abelm  
Lasondra Adigun  
Angel Akins  
Taghreed Alma  
Tashreed Almarzane  
Marron Anderson  
Chris Andrews  
Alan Apurim  
Marie Arcos  
Tommy Artz  
Amelia Averyt  
Zeinab Balchiet  
Nikki Banneyer  
Kenneth Baugh  
Shakti Baum  
Randall Baxley  
Dwight Baxter  
Ashura Bayyon  
Chrystal Beasley  
Tomaro Bell  
Louis Bernardy  
Dipen Bhakta  
Debora Birnbaum  
Lorette Blagg  
Michael Bloom  
Derek Boateng  
Mayra Bontemps  
Darla Booker  
Louis Bossitto  
Ashton Bowie  
Trisha Bradley  
Mike Brombacher

LaTasha Brown  
Joel Bruerd  
Marilyn Burgess  
Marchelle Cain  
David Calij  
Geoff Carletto  
Naomi Carrier  
Diego Castillija  
Abel Chacku  
Jenn Char  
Jonas Chin  
Lizette Cobb  
Blake Coleman  
Michael Cotroneo  
Rachel Craig  
Jeremy Darby  
Ryan Dennis  
Amy Dinn  
John Dixon  
Caroline Docura  
Ryan Dolibois  
Nathaniel Donnett  
Jay Doyle  
Mikala Durham  
Lindsey Earl  
Redick Edwards  
Sherri Edwards  
Chimyere Eigege  
Suratha Elango  
Byron Eugene  
Tamika Evans  
Sarah Fard  
Randy Farmer  
Jason Fary  
Michelle Fernandez  
Cynovia Fitspatrick  
Rylan Fiugence  
Neomi Fletcher  
Marty Fontenet  
Sears Fontenet  
Lloyd Ford  
Maya Ford  
Robert Ford  
Aldwin Foster  
Emily Foxman  
Bo Frazer  
Tia Fuentes  
Regina Fuller-Radford  
Richmond W. Galvan  
Darnell Gardner  
Lloyd Gite  
Tariq Gladney

Vernishia Glenn  
Carla Goffney  
Abby Gonzalez  
Kenneth Goodman  
Brendan Gordon  
Kendrick Goss  
Richard Graber  
Willie Green  
Larry Guillory  
Damon Gunn  
Gloria Guzman  
Carol Hadder  
Nick Hadsigeorhe  
Guy Hagstette  
Justina Hall  
Linda Hassan  
Jometra Hawkins, Sr.  
Maria Elisa Heg  
Pat Henry  
Mary Herrera  
Joel Herrera  
Nikita Hodge  
Marnita Holligan  
Akua Holt  
Heather Houston  
Aku A. Hoyt  
Tranessa Hunt  
Steven Huynh  
Alex Irrera  
Kirk Jackson  
Lavonda James  
Jennifer James  
Kathlie Jeng-Bullock  
G. Ashley Johnson  
Willie M. Johnson  
Chena Karega  
Tyler Kay  
Gareand Kerr  
Denae' King  
Clifford Lee  
Dean Lisoern  
Jesse Lott  
Rick Lowe  
Wayne Lockett  
Dawn J. Malone  
Howard Maple  
Michele Mays  
Camille McCall  
Jermale McCall  
Anne McClellan  
Carol McClung  
Katie McCormick

Bertrina McDaniel  
Michael McFadden  
Marvin McNeese, Jr.  
Tim Mellan  
Jason Merono  
Jennifer Mohawk  
Roger Moore  
Alejandro Morena  
Henry Morris  
Doris Muinde  
Vishnu Nepal  
Maria Nguyen  
Melissa Noriega  
Dannyabel Norris  
Leo Norris  
Sarah O'Connell  
Alvin Odom  
Adam Oganowski  
Teri Ogg  
Lydia Oliphant  
Arkie Onayemi  
Yoshanda Orange  
Rafael Ortega  
Doug Overman  
Jasmine Paylen  
Lawrence Payne  
Edy Penn  
Beatriz Perez  
Jabbar Perkins  
Ed Pettitt  
Eboni Pierce  
Marvin Pierre  
Chip Place  
Farouk Plummer  
Itay Porat  
Jhana Porter  
Herby Poulard  
Carol S. Pouncy  
Michael Powell  
Paratistina Pradhan  
Shannette Prince  
Georgia Provost  
Phillip Pyle  
Jasmine C. Quinerly  
Fazle Rabbi  
Sanjay Ram  
Alexis Randle  
J. Rideaux  
DeAnna Roberts  
Michael Robertson  
Dorris Ellis Robinson  
Dolores Rodgers

Ken Rodgers  
Tara Rogers  
Jennifer Ronk  
Christopher Rosales  
Roland Ruffin  
Dr. Jo Ann Vallie Rush  
Bishop Frank Rush  
Veronica Sanchez  
Ron Scales  
Blynthad Scott  
Janelle Scott  
Ronnie Self  
Edith Selgary  
Nathan Seshadri  
Lauren Sevilla  
Preetal Shah  
Doma Shank  
Geri Shelton  
Elle Shifay  
S. Simars  
Constance Smith  
Jacqueline Smith  
Sunshine Smith  
Angela Solis  
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Cheryl Solomon  
Misty Staunton  
Imarogbe Stokes  
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William Stults  
Sylvana Tang  
Earnest Taylor  
Jan Taylor  
Tiara Taylor  
Matt Thibodeaux  
Dana Thomas  
Deidre Thomas  
Principina Thomas  
Stephanie Thomas  
Johannah Thompkins  
Kendall Thompson  
Renita Thornton  
Amanda Timm  
Jesus N. Torries  
Emily Treece  
Ana Trejo  
Christina Triantaphyllis  
Ola Tucker  
Shalonda Tucker

Nattiya Turner  
LaQuisha Umember  
Brian Van Tubergen  
Monica Vasquez  
Gayle Waden  
Sixto Wagan  
Wahida Wakil  
Kelsey Walker  
Thomas Wang  
Rashad Washington  
Henry Washinton  
Alan C. Watkins  
McKenzie Watson  
Dawn Weleski  
Deb White  
Marva White  
April Williams  
Connie B. Williams  
Elijah Williams  
Marguerite Williams  
Shan Williams  
Dustin Windham  
Brandon Wolff  
Shondra E. Wygal  
Ethan Yake  
Ohemaa Zaid

## City of Houston Department Representatives and Partners

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Maria Irshad

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Yvonne Green

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Vishnu Nepal  
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Arva Howard  
Louis Rossito

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Pedro Fonseca  
Djuina Hammett  
Mary Hammond  
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Kelly Patton  
Rosa Ruiz

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Eriq Glenn, Intern

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Patrick Henry  
Joel Herrera  
Paula Ikpatz  
Joel Salinas  
Wahida Wakil  
Darrin Willer

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Drew Hind

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Amanda Burden  
Lauren Racusin  
Robin Ried

**For More Information**  
City of Houston  
Planning and Development  
Department  
Complete Communities  
[http://houstontx.gov/  
completecommunities/](http://houstontx.gov/completecommunities/)  
Phone: 832-393-6600

