



WEST HOUSTON
ASSOCIATION

Leadership In Quality Growth

2060 PLAN

2025
Update

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The Need for an Updated 2060 Plan

Given the significant changes in our region since 2018, the original 2060 Plan has been revisited and updated to reflect the current and future needs of Greater West Houston. The accelerated pace of growth, evolving infrastructure requirements, and the increasing importance of sustainability all point to the need for a more ambitious and forward-thinking strategy.

This updated 2060 Plan incorporates the latest data on population growth, economic trends, and environmental challenges. It leverages new technologies and innovative solutions to address the region's most pressing infrastructure needs, from mobility and transportation to water resources and flood mitigation. Projects like the proposed 36A route, which will enhance freight transportation and support economic growth, and changing preferences in how people live, work, and play post COVID, have been integrated into this broader vision. By taking these factors into account, the West Houston Association is helping to ensure that the region remains a vibrant, resilient, and sustainable community that is well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

By 2060, the Houston region will have undergone a remarkable transformation. The rapid acceleration of population growth and economic development, coupled with the evolving challenges of infrastructure and sustainability, demand an updated 2060 Plan that reflects the realities of today and anticipates the needs of tomorrow. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and strategic planning, Greater West Houston can continue to thrive as a dynamic, prosperous, and resilient community for generations to come.



Region On the Rise

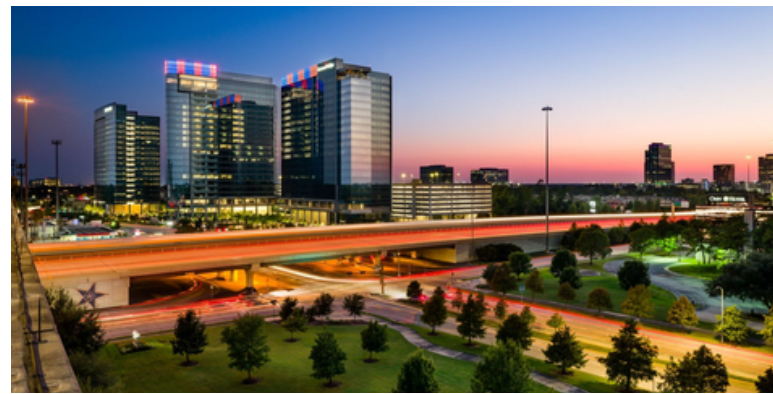
Growth and Future Transformation of Greater West Houston

The Greater West Houston region, encompassing some of the fastest-growing areas in Texas, stands at the threshold of significant transformation. This area, a crucial part of the Houston metropolitan landscape, is poised to undergo profound changes by 2060, driven by rapid population growth, economic development, infrastructure expansion, and evolving environmental considerations. The West Houston Association's 2060 Plan, crafted in 2018, provided a visionary roadmap for the region's future. However, the accelerated pace of growth and the changing global landscape necessitated a reassessment of this plan, ensuring it remains relevant and responsive to the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow leading to this 2060 Plan Update.

Rapid Population Growth and Urbanization

The population of Greater West Houston is expected to increase substantially by 2060, far outpacing earlier estimates. Currently, the Houston region is home to a diverse and rapidly expanding population, drawn by its strategic location, relatively affordable housing, and robust job market. More people are choosing to settle in the western suburbs and exurbs, due to quality development, transforming once-rural areas into bustling suburban communities. Fort Bend and Waller Counties are experiencing significant growth as new developments cater to this influx of residents seeking suburban lifestyles with proximity to urban amenities.

This population growth will continue to drive the development of new residential neighborhoods, commercial centers, and mixed-use developments. Master-planned communities like those found in Katy, Cypress, and Fulshear for the last decade are now expanding even further towards Waller, Brookshire, and Simonton, offering a blend of housing options, schools, parks, and retail spaces designed to cater to a growing and diverse population. The demand for higher-density housing, including apartment complexes and townhomes, is rising, particularly near major transportation corridors and employment hubs, such as Westchase, Memorial, and the Energy Corridor, as the region seeks to balance growth with livability.



Energy Corridor



Texas Medical Center West

Economic Development & Emerging Industries

Greater West Houston's economy will continue to evolve alongside rapid population growth and a changing global economy. The region will remain a hub for key industries such as energy, technology, healthcare, and distribution, with these sectors diversifying through innovation and sustainability efforts. Houston's legacy as the "Energy Capital of the World" is expanding into emerging technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture, and renewable energy, while creating new job opportunities in clean tech and environmental sciences. West Houston is becoming a key player in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and software development, driven by expansions at the University of Houston and Houston City College. The region is also seeing rapid healthcare growth, with new medical facilities and a growing nursing program at UH Katy. Additionally, the move of the UH College of Technology to Sugar Land is fostering partnerships between universities,

healthcare, and technology sectors, driving innovation. With its strategic location down I-10 from the Port of Houston and major highways in the region, the logistics and distribution sectors are set to expand, supported by e-commerce growth and advancements in automation. By 2060, Greater West Houston will have a diversified economy, leading in energy, healthcare, technology, and logistics, ensuring its continued global competitiveness and sustainable development.

Infrastructure & Transportation: Adapting to Rapid Growth

To accommodate this anticipated population and economic growth, substantial investments in infrastructure and transportation will be essential. The expansion of highways, public transit options, and the development of new transportation technologies will be crucial in managing traffic congestion and ensuring the region remains accessible and connected. The Grand Parkway (SH-99) will play an increasingly central role in

shaping the region. Initially planned to accommodate future growth, the rapid acceleration of development demands that the expansion of the Grand Parkway and other major roadways occur more quickly than originally anticipated. Traffic congestion has become a more pressing issue, necessitating innovative approaches to road design, public transportation, and emerging transportation technologies.

Meanwhile, the proposed 36A route will further impact the region's infrastructure by providing a direct corridor for commercial trucking from Port Freeport, through Fort Bend and Waller counties, to major highways such as I-10 and US 290. Public transportation systems, such as bus rapid transit (BRT) and commuter rail lines, must be considered to reduce reliance on personal vehicles and address the challenges of urban sprawl. As the region becomes more densely populated, these systems could alleviate traffic congestion and improve mobility. Furthermore, the adoption of emerging transportation technologies, such as autonomous vehicles and smart traffic management systems, will enhance the efficiency and safety of the transportation network.



US 290

Water Resources and Flood Mitigation: Addressing Environmental Challenges

The rapid expansion of Greater West Houston places significant pressure on water resources and flood mitigation systems. The original 2060 plan recognized the importance of water management, but the accelerated growth and evolving environmental challenges necessitate a more urgent and comprehensive approach. With climate change contributing to more frequent and severe weather events, including hurricanes and heavy rainfall, the region's vulnerability to flooding has increased.



Addicks Barker Reservoir & Dam

Flood mitigation strategies must be revisited and enhanced to protect both existing and new developments. This includes the construction of additional reservoirs, improved stormwater drainage systems, and the preservation of natural floodplains. The development of green stormwater infrastructure, such as bioswales and permeable pavements, can also play a critical role in managing runoff and reducing the risk of flooding. Moreover, sustainable water management practices, such as the implementation of water reuse systems and the promotion of water conservation measures, will be crucial in ensuring that the region's water resources can meet the needs of a growing population without compromising future sustainability.

Parks, Recreation, and the Impacts of COVID-19



Creekside Park

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about lasting changes in how people live, work, and recreate. One of the most notable shifts has been the increased demand for outdoor recreation spaces, such as parks and trails. As more people sought safe, outdoor activities during the pandemic, the importance of accessible green spaces became evident. In response, the development of parks, nature reserves, and interconnected trail systems will become even more critical as the region grows. These spaces not only enhance the quality of life for residents but also contribute to environmental sustainability by preserving natural habitats and providing stormwater management benefits.

Emphasizing Sustainable Infrastructure

Sustainable infrastructure has become an increasingly important consideration as Greater West Houston grows. The concept, which encompasses efficient building designs, the integration of renewable energy sources, and the development of green spaces, is essential in reducing the environmental impact of new developments and enhancing the quality of life for residents for years to come.

As the region expands, sustainable infrastructure practices must be incorporated into every aspect of development. This means designing and building infrastructure that not only meets current needs but also anticipates future challenges related to environmental sustainability, climate change, and resource efficiency. The push towards sustainable infrastructure will help ensure that Greater West Houston remains a vibrant, resilient community that is well-prepared to face the challenges of the future.



Polishing Pond at Cross Creek Ranch

West Houston in 2060

The West Houston Association (WHA) represents an area of 1,000+ square miles in the western portion of Harris County and parts of Fort Bend, Waller, and Austin Counties. Over the past five decades, the Greater West Houston region has transformed from quiet suburban and rural communities bisected by the Katy Freeway into an international, highly connected, and vibrant hub for live, work, and play. WHA is committed to unifying the region's vision, fostering collaboration, engaging citizens, and guiding strategies that ensure quality growth across Greater West Houston.

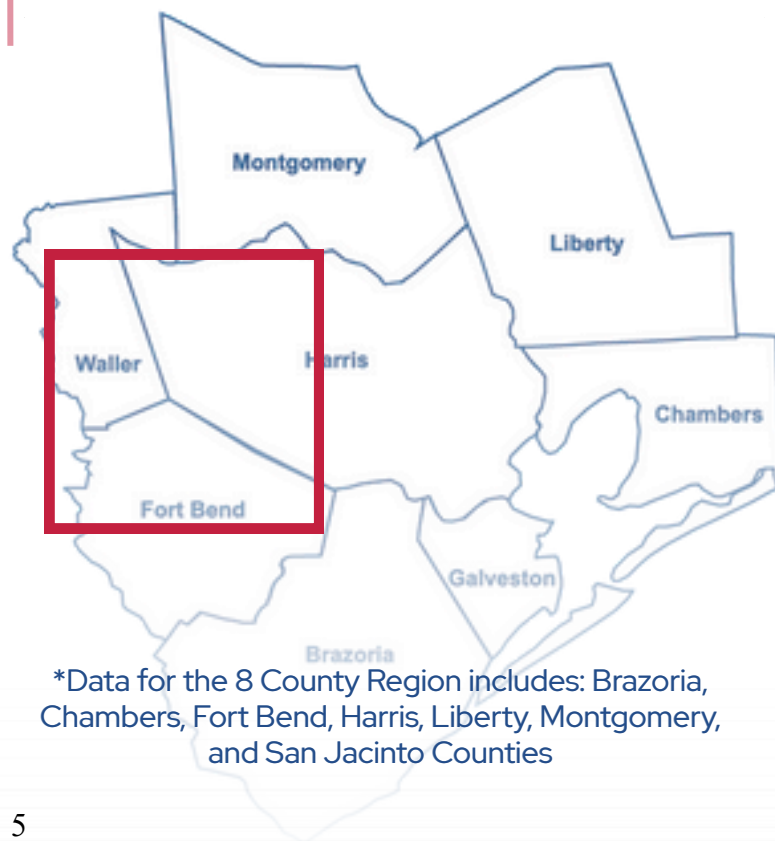
Greater West Houston

Year	Population	Households	Jobs
2020	1,887,133	649,299	669,229
2025	2,043,815	715,594	772,680
2030	2,200,672	771,544	847,447
2035	2,356,841	827,217	923,204
2040	2,474,612	890,880	996,697
2045	2,636,987	952,472	1,077,812
2050	2,792,140	1,008,917	1,162,398
2055	2,956,796	1,068,556	1,245,576
2060	3,110,618	1,124,442	1,331,130



8 County Region

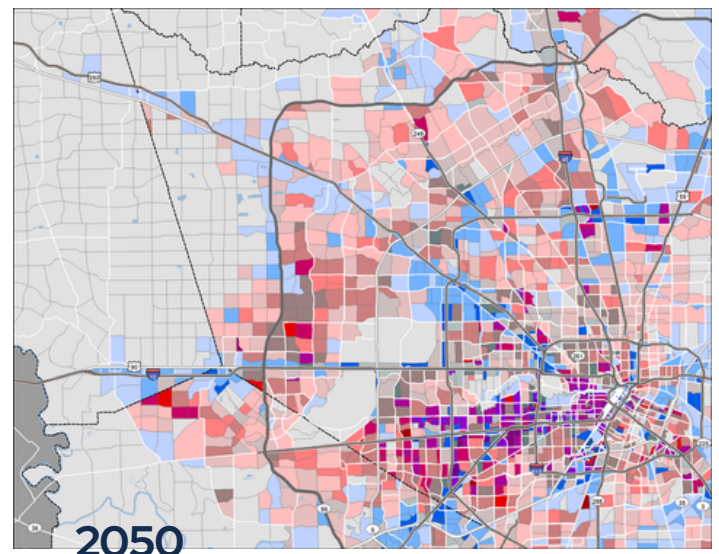
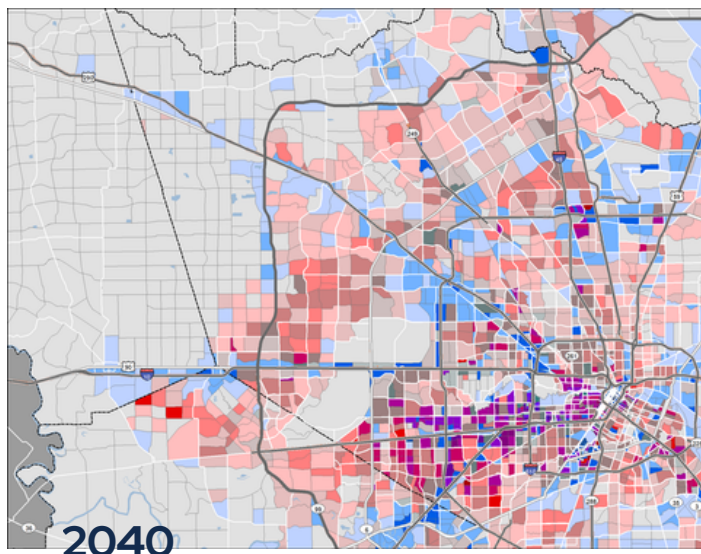
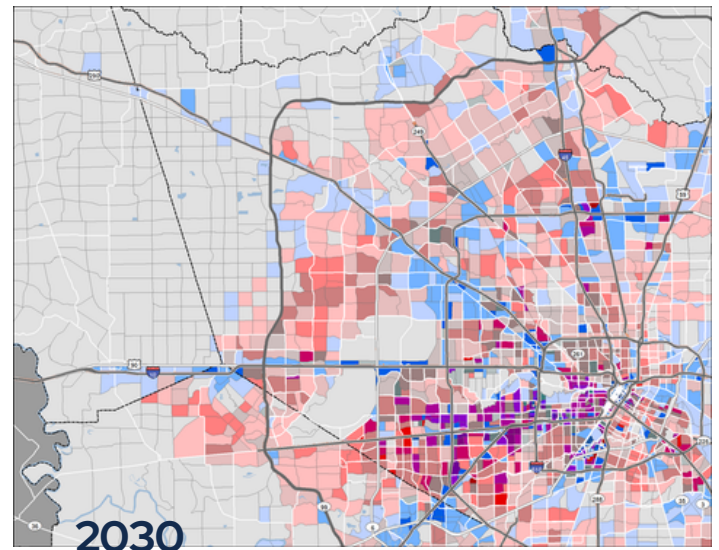
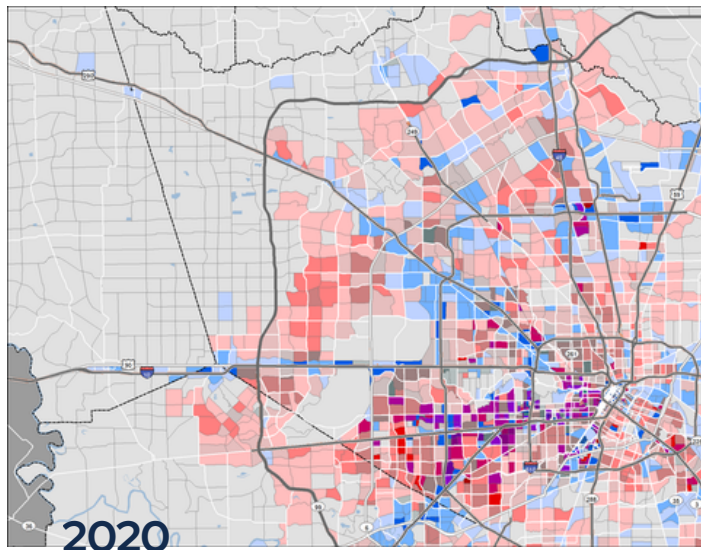
Year	Population	Households	Jobs
2020	7,008,601	2,498,356	2,805,986
2025	7,597,193	2,709,494	3,275,247
2030	8,129,350	2,896,494	3,615,247
2035	8,662,502	3,083,494	3,955,247
2040	9,108,809	3,293,494	4,305,247
2045	9,657,129	3,509,494	4,665,247
2050	10,260,708	3,725,494	5,025,247
2055	10,864,806	3,941,494	5,385,247
2060	11,469,390	4,157,494	5,745,247

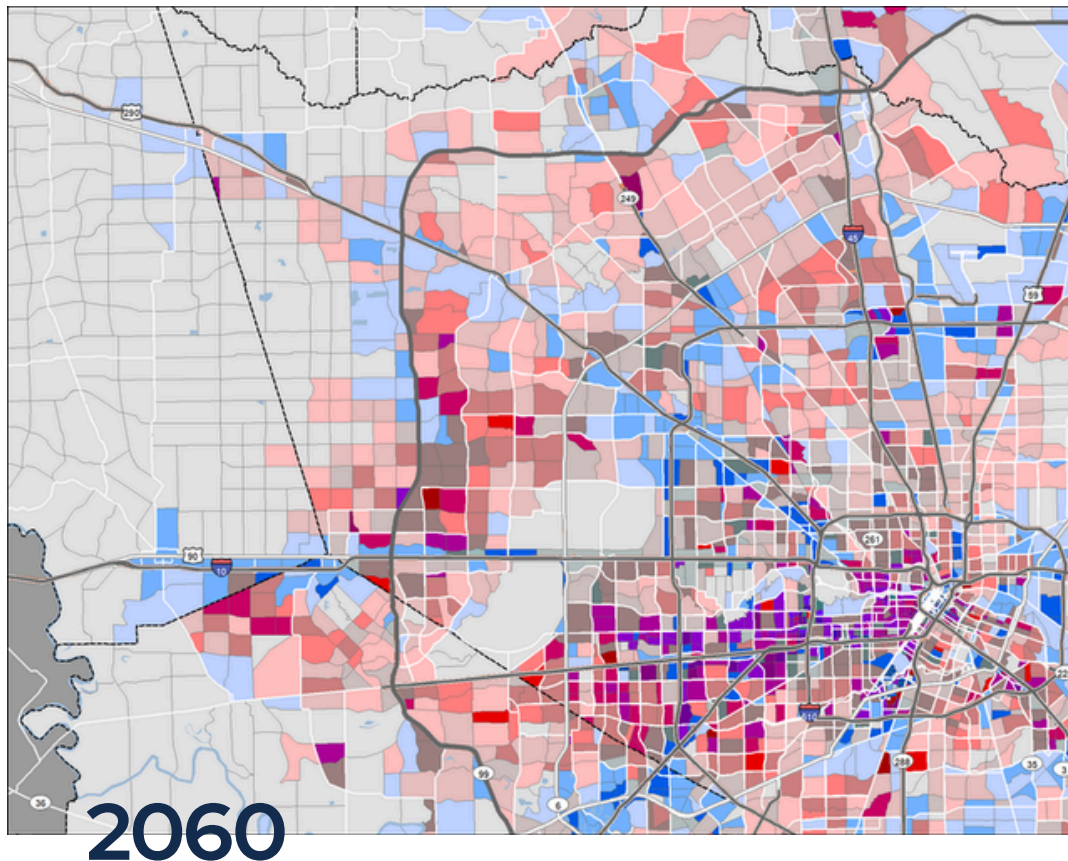


*Data for the 8 County Region includes: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and San Jacinto Counties

Population & Job Trends

Future growth is trending west and north, with densification and the highest growth rates occurring along major transportation corridors such as the Grand Parkway. Proximity to key intersections within these corridors is driving the growth of regional centers. New flood control and development standards will also result in denser development and more green space. Generational investment in infrastructure and new innovation are needed to restrain housing prices and reduce commute times. The maps below depict traffic analysis zones (TAZs), which are special areas designated by state and/or local transportation authorities for the tabulation and modeling of vehicular trip-related data, especially journey-to-work and place-of-work statistics. These zones provide the data needed for the planning of long-range transportation projects. A TAZ usually consists of one or more census blocks, block groups, or census tracts. The Projected Population and Jobs by Traffic Analysis Zones Maps depict past and future population and employment figures and estimates for each TAZ for 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, and 2060. The TAZs shown in the darkest color represent the areas of highest population and employment, and thus the greatest level of trip generation. Transportation planners analyze and model trip generation, thoroughfare capacities, and levels of service (LOS) to estimate the likelihood of needed roadway expansion in the future, based on these anticipated development trends. Planners input Base Year TAZ data, based on existing land uses, and compare it with Future Year TAZ estimates.





Growth is coming despite recent storms, including Hurricane Harvey in 2017, economic events, such as the 2008 Recession and 2020 Oil Crash, and the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Greater West Houston's continued growth is an indicator of its resiliency. The private and public sectors must continue working together to address challenges and embrace opportunities. WHA is working to offer solutions and support so that Greater West Houston provides enhanced safety, opportunity, and resiliency to all of its residents.

Greater West Houston's Energy Corridor, Westchase, Memorial District, and the Galleria-Uptown District employment centers contain in the aggregate more square footage of space and more employees than Downtown Houston. These regional employment centers are well planned, well maintained, and provide mixed use environments with first-rate infrastructure and amenities. They are served by major roads, buses, and bike-pedestrian corridors for enhanced mobility. As jobs continue to concentrate in these markets, employees are able to work closer to where they live and play, which enhances quality of life and productivity.

Downtown Houston

56.6 million sq ft
185,000 employees

Energy Corridor

30.6 million sq ft
96,000 employees

Memorial District

13.9 million sq ft
41,000 employees

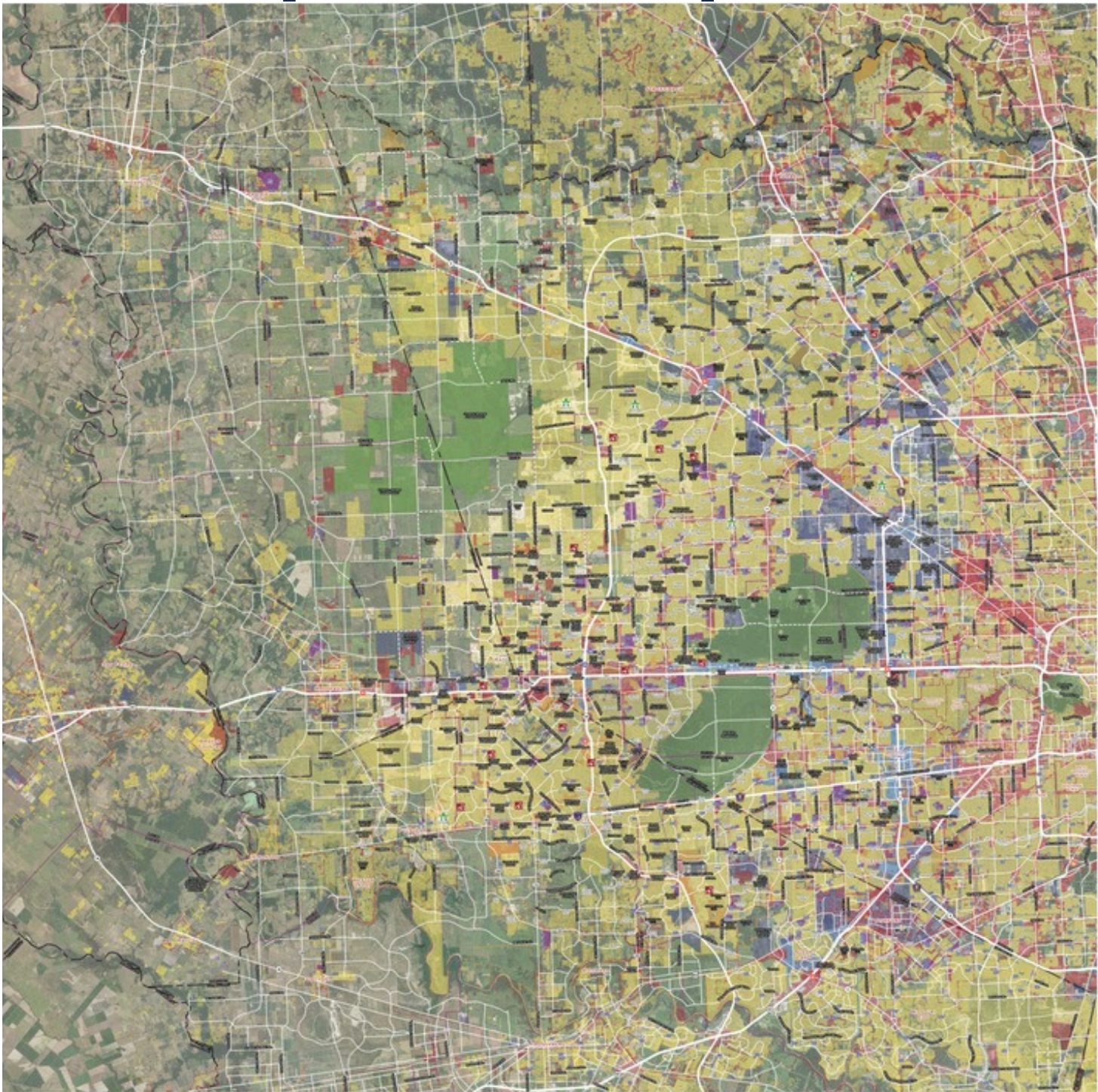
Westchase

21.8 million sq ft
68,000 employees

Galleria - Uptown

25.5 million sq ft
63,000 employees

Development Map



-  Parks / Open Space
-  Institutional
-  Retail / Commercial
-  Hospital / Office
-  Industrial / Warehouse
-  Multi-Family Residential
-  Single Family Residential
-  Existing Thoroughfare
-  Existing Thoroughfare - To be Widened
-  Proposed Thoroughfare

SCAN QR CODE
to dive into WHA's
Development Maps
and explore every
layer of our interactive
Map App!





Quality Planned DevelopmentTM

Growth is Certain.

Quality Growth Takes Collaborative Planning.

WHA's Quality Growth Initiative aims to promote public and private investments that improve Greater West Houston's standing as a global destination to live, raise a family, work, shop, play, and locate a business. As we said in 2007, "We believe each resident and employee should be offered the highest possible quality of life and work experience." Creating resilient communities requires connecting educational and employment opportunities in attractive, accessible, and resilient settings. These settings support stable families and businesses so they are likely to stay and grow in our region.

Advocating for standards to support the Quality Growth Initiative provides better outcomes for residents of Greater West Houston. Several factors make quality growth more challenging. Increasing land prices, a reduced supply of large tracts, increasingly expensive and uncertain entitlements, and increasing opposition to business-as-usual growth and development will shape how and where people live and work. The West Houston Association will continue to encourage higher-quality development standards and policies. We must continue to engage in public discourse with both our elected officials and the public to provide accurate and accessible information that best serves the community.



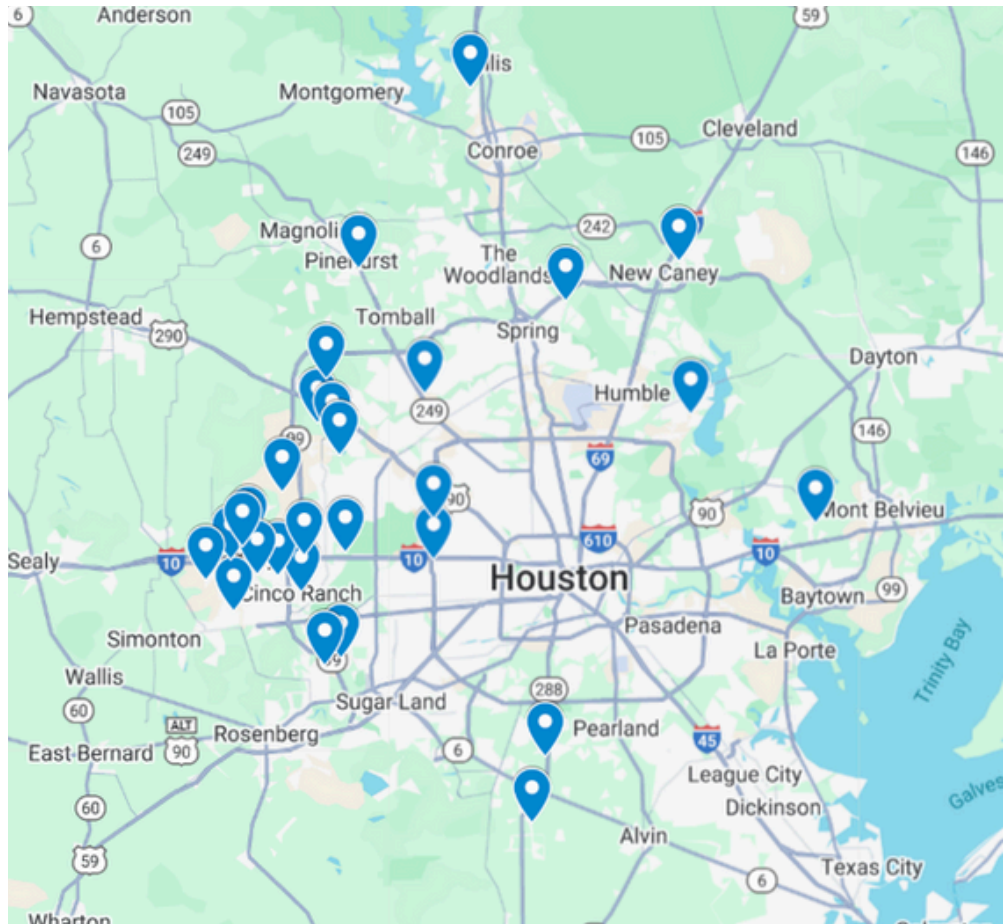
Bridgeland

We must advance bold ideas to address rapid growth, aging infrastructure, and changing needs. In light of numerous major flood events in the past decade, businesses and residents will prioritize resiliency in buying and building decisions. Long-term growth in Greater West Houston is not sustainable unless we address these issues over the next decade. A traditional "business as usual" approach cannot meet the region's future needs. This West Houston 2060 Plan Update addresses a number of elements that are critical to the quality of life, resiliency, and sustained viability of Greater West Houston: Water Resources, Flood Control & Drainage, Education & Workforce, Parks & Open Spaces, Regional Mobility, Quality Planned Development, and Sustainable Infrastructure.



Quality Planned DevelopmentTM

Aliana
Baytown Crossings
Bridgeland
Cane Island
Cinco Ranch
CityCentre
Cross Creek Ranch
Cypress Creek Lakes
Elyson
Falls at Green Meadows
Grayson Woods
Harvest Green
Hidden Arbor
Jordan Ranch
Mason Creek Corporate
Meridiana
Pomona
Tavola
Ten Oaks
The Groves
The Vintage
The Woodlands Hills
Towne Lakes
West Ten Business Park
Westway Park
Woodson's Reserve
Wyndehaven Lake Estates



The Quality Planned Development (QPD) recognition program directly supports the objectives of the 2060 Plan by elevating standards for growth and development across the Greater West Houston region. By recognizing communities and mixed-use projects that incorporate high-quality design, resilient infrastructure, and integrated parks and amenities, the QPD program establishes a framework that aligns with the 2060 Plan's goals of fostering resilient, livable, and economically competitive communities. Developments that carry the QPD designation demonstrate the value of coordinated planning, long-term investment, and public-private collaboration in shaping the region's future.

QPD-recognized communities illustrate how high standards in design and infrastructure can support regional priorities, including improved mobility, environmental sustainability, and enhanced quality of life. By promoting these benchmarks, the QPD program serves as a model for how new development can contribute to the broader vision of the 2060 Plan, ensuring that growth not only continues, but does so in a manner that is resilient, sustainable, and consistent with the long-term needs of the Greater Houston region.



Water Resources

Water resources refer to the supply and management of freshwater sources, including rivers, lakes, groundwater, and reservoirs, which are essential for drinking, agriculture, industry, and maintaining ecological balance. The West Houston Association advocates for clean, secure, reliable, and affordable public water and wastewater services, alongside the preservation of clean waterways for the community's benefit.

The Role of WHA's Water Resources Committee

The Water Resources Committee serves as a collaborative forum for professionals across multiple disciplines to address the region's most pressing water challenges. We advocate by elevating concerns to public officials and civic leaders while providing practical, well-informed solutions back to our members and partners. We communicate by sharing expertise within the committee and drawing on diverse perspectives to develop both proactive and responsive strategies. We educate by disseminating knowledge and resources to the broader community, empowering stakeholders to make informed decisions. We continuously evaluate our priorities and approaches to ensure that our work remains functional, relevant, and impactful in advancing resilient and sustainable water management for Greater West Houston.

The initial 2060 Plan, done in 2018, pointed out the following issues –

- The need for essential infrastructure projects to increase the use of surface water infrastructure over groundwater withdrawal.
- Funding for infrastructure being threatened by changes to regulatory frameworks.
- Aging infrastructure, neglected critical facilities repair, and the need for capital improvement plans
- Conflicting regulations and the need for uniform standards.

What Has Changed Since 2018?



Deteriorated water infrastructure due to aging

Aging Infrastructure

One of the most pressing challenges for water/wastewater utilities is the deterioration of pipes, pumps, valves, treatment plants, storage tanks, and meters. Water and wastewater infrastructure needs investment to maintain current service levels and meet future demand. Aging infrastructure not only poses a risk of water quality and quantity, but also increases the cost of operation and maintenance, as well as the potential for leaks, breaks, and failures. Infrastructure investment also helps to mitigate the excursions from environmental compliance issues.

Alternative Water Sources

An opportunity for water utilities is the exploration and development of alternative water sources, such as reclaimed water, stormwater, brackish water, and seawater. These sources can help diversify the water supply portfolio, enhance water security and resilience, and reduce the reliance on conventional sources, such as surface water and groundwater. These sources also pose challenges including requiring additional treatment, infrastructure, regulation, public acceptance, and education. Programs like the Texas Water Fund will help pay for some of these sources of water, but we also need local investment.



Water Resources

Texas Water Fund Legislation

The Texas Water Fund was created by Proposition 6 on November 7, 2023, which triggered a \$1 billion investment to provide financial assistance to communities for water infrastructure. In the 89th Legislature, HJR 7 dedicates certain revenue from sales and use tax (\$1 billion each fiscal year) to the Texas Water fund pending voter approval.

New & Existing Regulatory Compliance

New and emerging regulations, such as the Lead and Copper Rule revisions and the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) standards, aim to protect public health and the environment from the potential risks of contaminants in drinking water and wastewater. However, they also impose additional requirements and costs on water utilities, as well as technical and operational challenges. These new regulations can require the additional treatment process for wastewater putting more stress on an already decaying infrastructure.

Changing Consumer Behavior

Consumer behavior, such as the increased use of “flushable” wipes, low-flow fixtures, rain barrels, and smart irrigation systems has changed. These behaviors can have positive and negative effects on the water sector, such as reducing water demand and consumption, improving water efficiency and conservation, but also causing wastewater issues, such as clogs, backups, and overflows, and affecting the revenue and cost recovery of water utilities.

Environmental Compliance

Environmental compliance, such as the 2021 EPA consent decree with the City of Houston requires certain water utilities to reduce the frequency and volume of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that can pollute the waterways and harm the aquatic ecosystems. This requires water utilities to invest in infrastructure improvements, such as sewer separation, storage, and treatment, and to implement operational and management practices, such as monitoring, reporting, and maintenance.

Challenges & Opportunities

Aging Infrastructure

Some of the strategies that water utilities can adopt to address aging infrastructure include implementing asset management programs to prioritize and optimize investments based on the condition, performance, and criticality of the infrastructure; using smart technologies and sensors to monitor and control the infrastructure remotely and in real time, as well as to detect and prevent problems before they escalate; and seeking alternative funding sources and mechanisms—such as grants, loans, bonds, public-private partnerships, and rate adjustments—to finance needed infrastructure upgrades and replacements.

New & Existing Regulatory Compliance

Staying updated and informed on the latest regulatory developments and trends, as well as their implications and impacts on the water sector, is essential. This includes implementing best practices and technologies to achieve and maintain compliance with existing and future regulations, and to prevent and mitigate potential violations and penalties. It also involves advocating and participating in the regulatory process—such as rulemaking, commenting, and reviewing—to ensure that the regulations are based on sound science, data, and analysis, and that they are feasible and reasonable for the water sector.

Changing Consumer Behavior

Some of the strategies that water and wastewater utilities can adopt to respond to changing consumer behavior include developing and implementing customer engagement and education programs to inform and



Water Resources

influence customers on the benefits and impacts of their water use behavior, as well as to encourage and incentivize them to adopt water-wise practices and technologies; working with equipment providers to aid in the elimination of the destructive nature of flushable wipes and the havoc they cause on equipment; advocating for policy changes that require or strongly suggest the behavior changes necessary to protect the community's assets; and providing alternatives to decision makers that promote water reuse and water conservation on a larger scale.

Specific Goals & Actions

Aging Infrastructure

- Reduce water loss by 100 percent.
- Implement asset management programs to prioritize and optimize investments based on the condition, performance, and criticality of the infrastructure by both Cities and Municipal Utility Districts.
- Find and understand funding alternatives for aging infrastructure and educate cities and municipalities about them.



*Northeast Water Purification Plant
Intake Pump Station on Lake Houston*

New & Existing Regulatory Compliance

- Staying updated and informed on the latest regulatory developments and trends, as well as their implications and impacts on the water sector and educating others on specific regulations such as the Lead and Copper Rule revisions and the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) standards.
- Advocate for new policy changes the committee deems important to its overall goals.

Changing Consumer Behavior

- Develop and implement customer engagement and education programs to inform and influence the customers on the benefits and impacts of their water use behavior.
- Create and promote incentive programs to encourage adoption of water-wise practices and technologies.

Environmental Compliance

- Strive to be involved at the decision level of regulatory requirements to provide important input on rule implementation and governance.
- Install non-potable reuse systems at the beginning of developments.
- Educate the public about ways they can reduce and reuse their water supply.

Flood Control & Drainage

Flood control and drainage involve systems and measures designed to manage and redirect excess water to reduce flooding and mitigate its impacts, protecting communities, infrastructure, and natural environments. The West Houston Association advocates for holistic drainage strategies, targeted drainage solutions, and partnerships to facilitate the planning, funding, and implementation of drainage improvements that reduce flood risk and improve community resilience.

The Role of WHA's Flood Control & Drainage Committee

The Flood Control & Drainage Committee advocates for smart, forward-looking drainage planning that informs policy and design standards aimed at reducing flood risk across the Houston region and beyond. We engage at both the project and policy levels through education, coordination, and collaboration with public and private partners. By advancing strategies that address current challenges while preparing for future growth, the committee helps strengthen long-term regional resilience and supports a high quality of life for the communities we serve.

The initial 2060 Plan, done in 2018, pointed out the following issues –

- The Houston region is flat, near the coast, and has clay soils, which create substantial yet manageable flood risks.
- Storms have inflicted billions in flood damages, including over \$230 billion between 2001 and 2017.
- Current infrastructure and funding for flood control will not adequately address intense rainfall events.

What Has Changed Since 2018?

Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) 2018 Bond Program

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, Harris County voters approved a \$2.5 billion bond to fund a portion of a portfolio of more than \$5 billion in flood risk reduction studies and projects with the goal of creating a more resilient region. To date \$2.7 billion in partnership funding has been secured and 43 projects have been completed, reducing the risk of flooding for thousands of homes and businesses.



John Paul Landing Park

MAAPNext Project

Harris County Modeling, Assessment, and Awareness Project (MAAPNext), a partnership between HCFCD and FEMA, was initiated in 2019 to provide a better understanding of existing flood risk. Updated hydrologic and hydraulic modeling were developed using the best available information and newer techniques to create the next generation of flood insurance rate maps and other risk products for all 23 watersheds within Harris County. Currently under review by FEMA, the revised mapping and new flood risk products will provide critical information that will facilitate the communication of flood risk, preparation for flood response, identification of high-risk areas, and planning of flood risk reduction projects.



Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Regional Flood Plans

The TWDB has compiled its first State Flood Plan by integrating 15 regional flood plans prepared by regional flood planning groups made up of participants from across multiple industries and stakeholder groups. The regional flood plans included an assessment of existing and future flood risk and evaluation of flood exposure to structures, populations, and critical facilities. Each regional flood plan also presented recommendations for flood mitigation evaluations (FME), strategies (FMS), and projects (FMP) that should be further considered, funded, and implemented.

The San Jacinto Regional Flood Plan covers Harris County and much of the surrounding region with a study area of approximately 5,100 square miles and included recommendations for 540 studies, projects and strategies towards a holistic, regional approach to long-term flood risk reduction. The far westernmost portion of Greater West Houston is covered by the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan, which spans 43 different counties and also includes important flood risk mitigation initiatives for the region.

HCFCD Stormwater Tunnel Studies

HCFCD is investigating the potential of large diameter stormwater conveyance tunnels as an innovative solution to reduce flood risk. The Phase 1 Study confirmed that tunnels were feasible given the area soil conditions, and the Phase 2 Study recommended a system of eight tunnels after a comprehensive watershed screening process and comparison between tunnels and traditional flood risk reduction solutions. HCFCD has since taken the next step to “federalize” these solutions through the Solutions for Advancing Floodplain Evaluation and Resilience (SAFER) Study. This effort is led by HCFCD with USACE participation to identify regional solutions, including but not limited to tunnels.

As SAFER starts up, the USACE is winding down the Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Resiliency Study (BBTRS) which is also expected to consider tunnels as a possible solution to lower peak Addicks and Barker Reservoir pool elevations, reduce the frequency and severity of flooding along Buffalo Bayou, and provide operational flexibility to reduce risk under different rainfall scenarios.

City of Houston Stormwater Master Plan

The City of Houston has developed its first citywide stormwater model that includes detailed modeling of the existing drainage network for all five watersheds within the city limits. The study will produce updated flood mapping that will inform the identification of high flood risk areas considering flooded structures, inundated roadways, and affected populations. The modeling results will provide valuable insight into both riverine and urban flooding risk and guide the planning and prioritization of future drainage projects.

Challenges & Opportunities

Drainage Planning

To strengthen regional resilience, it is essential to advocate for local governments to develop Master Drainage Plans that both prioritize drainage needs and optimize funding opportunities. Achieving this requires a holistic approach that emphasizes community engagement, focuses on effective project implementation, and delivers measurable, targeted benefits. A full project lifecycle perspective must guide this work—addressing permitting, funding, right-of-way acquisition, utility conflicts, and construction challenges from the outset. Leveraging lessons learned from current initiatives, such as the Frontier Program, while proactively planning for future drainage needs will ensure long-term effectiveness. Equally important is fostering strong partnerships with public agencies, including TxDOT and neighboring counties, to align drainage standards and coordinate infrastructure improvements in a cost-effective, regionally integrated manner.



Flood Control & Drainage

Funding

Securing sustainable funding for flood infrastructure requires a proactive, multi-pronged strategy. We must advocate for agencies such as HCFCF and the City of Houston to pursue diverse funding sources—including general revenue, bonds, partnerships, and grants—to both construct and maintain critical projects. Strengthening partnership funding opportunities and supporting county master drainage plan investments are equally vital to advancing regional resilience. In addition, ensuring that studies, projects, and strategies are included in the TWDB State Flood Plan will position them to qualify for Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) resources. Finally, we must continue to engage with the Texas Legislature to secure additional direct appropriations, ensuring long-term investment in flood mitigation and infrastructure.

Innovative Regional Solutions

Building true regional flood resilience requires bold, forward-looking strategies. This means exploring innovative solutions such as regional tunnels, advancing improvements to the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs, and strategically guiding projects to maximize the impact of limited resources. At the same time, we must champion comprehensive detention and conveyance improvements where feasible, ensuring that today's investments deliver lasting, transformative protection for the region.

Specific Goals & Actions

Drainage Planning

- Facilitate effective communication of flood risk and support the use of best available data in the development and adoption of appropriate and predictable drainage criteria and floodplain management policies.
- Encourage proactive planning approaches such as the HCFCF Frontier Program, to focus on efficient development infrastructure, and embrace green infrastructure solutions.

Regional Solutions and Partnerships

- Continue to evaluate and potentially implement large-scale, innovative solutions, such as a large diameter tunnel system for stormwater conveyance.
- Advocate for partnerships between local, state, and federal funding agencies and support drainage districts in raising additional funds to plan and implement more drainage projects.



Buffalo Bayou Park after Hurricane Harvey



Education & Workforce

Education and workforce refers to the interconnected systems of schools, training programs and higher education institutions that prepare individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to participate effectively in the job market and support regional economic growth. The West Houston Association endeavors to advocate for policies and partnerships that provide high-quality educational infrastructure and opportunities to achieve a prosperous and sustainable business community and workforce.

The Role of WHA's Education & Workforce Committee

The Education and Workforce Committee advocates for quality education systems and workforce development strategies that directly support the region's long-term economic health. We work to align educational priorities with industry needs, emphasizing both foundational education and advanced workforce training. Through collaboration with school districts, higher education institutions and employers, we seek to ensure that the region remains a competitive, attractive place to live and work. A core part of the committee's role is to support infrastructure investments, foster innovative education models, and promote strategic partnerships that improve educational access and quality. This includes advocating for new facilities, supporting adaptive learning environments, and encouraging educational programs that reflect the realities of today's job market.

The initial 2060 Plan, done in 2018, pointed out the following issues –

- The pressure that continued growth would place on the region's educational infrastructure, including primary, secondary, and higher education.
- Challenges associated with community support for funding new educational facilities.
- Difficulty aligning the programs being offered with the skills demanded by area industries.

What Has Changed Since 2018?

Impact of the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically reshaped the education landscape. With the rise of online and hybrid learning, institutions at all levels were forced to rethink how instruction is delivered. These changes highlighted the importance of flexibility, technology integration, and access to digital tools.

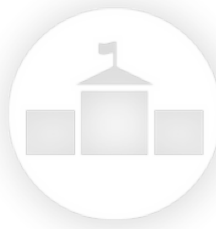
Rapid Growth and Regional Expansion

Accelerated residential development across the region has increased demand for new educational facilities. This growth has placed additional pressure on both primary and higher education systems to scale quickly, modernize infrastructure, and maintain consistent quality across a broader geographic area.

Challenges & Opportunities

Technology in Education

The future of education is continually evolving, driven by technological advancements, shifting societal needs, and changes in the global economy. In recent years, several key technology-related trends have significantly impacted the classroom. Technology has enhanced educational experiences by enabling interactive, multimedia-rich learning environments that engage students more deeply. Technology has also improved access to information, making it easier for students to conduct research and utilize a wide range of



educational resources. Meanwhile, personalized learning has become more attainable, allowing students to progress at their own pace based on individual strengths and needs. Advances in technology has facilitated greater collaboration between students and teachers, fostering more dynamic and connected learning communities.



West Houston Institute at HCC's Alief-Hayes Campus

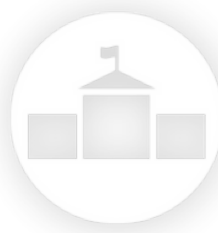
The classrooms of today and the future have fewer fixed items: chairs, desks and furniture are on wheels for increased adaptability, moveable walls can expand or contract classrooms, and fewer large auditoriums are required as many courses have less use of in-person lectures.

Safety is driving a lot of physical changes, including security features that allow teachers to cover windows with writable surfaces, glass that will not shatter in the case of gunfire, and classrooms that do not allow students to be visible from the hallway.

In higher education, technological advances have led to the flipped classroom model whereby students watch lectures at home and use class time for hands-on activities. As a result, fewer traditional classrooms are required, but more collaborative and flexible learning spaces are necessary. The skills that employers are seeking are rapidly changing and education must evolve to meet those needs. Educators and employers are often cautious in adopting new technologies and methodologies that will be critical to ensure that students are ready to work and workers are ready for the future.

Infrastructure and Capacity

Amid fiscal challenges, educational institutions at all levels struggle to adapt to shifting budgets, curriculum demands, regulatory requirements, and facilities needs. The quality of primary, secondary, and higher education available in the regions varies widely. School districts that are struggling are often those that have inadequate or unsupportive tax bases. Historically, some districts have failed to plan for upcoming growth while other districts have faced rejection of school bonds when presented on a ballot. These districts lack financial resources to build new schools, to maintain existing schools and programs, and to compete for teachers and new technology. WHA must encourage and promote growth within these school districts to improve their competitiveness while maintaining the other districts' generally high standards. Education of district leaders and community members is key to planning ahead, and WHA has the know-how and resources to foment discussion on how districts can envision and execute a plan for the future. Few public investments provide greater returns for the community as high-quality educational infrastructure. New educational infrastructure must be built to serve the region's future growth.



Gaps in Skilled Labor

Part of the mission of the Education and Workforce Committee is to ensure that the educational programs offered are producing a skilled workforce with the knowledge, training, and expertise to work in Greater West Houston. Healthcare, one of Houston's most integral industries, has been identified as an area where there is a gap in skilled labor and positions available. Additionally, technology jobs, advanced manufacturing and logistics have been identified as essential skillsets.

The best education providers think like the best healthcare providers and are planning for Greater West Houston's growing population. They are also looking for ways to collaborate, including sharing facilities. HCC's West Houston Institute, which is collaborating with Apple on a coding academy and a maker space, will help develop a future IT and manufacturing workforce. Lone Star College's Westway Park Technology Center supports programs for visual communications, cybersecurity, a CISCO Networking Academy, and other programming and information technology offerings.

Specific Goals & Actions

Educational Infrastructure

- Promote long-term capital planning efforts among school districts to prepare for growth and prevent facility strain.
- Advocate for improved funding mechanisms, including community-supported bond elections, to support the construction and renovation of educational facilities.
- Encourage the design and development of flexible, future-ready campuses that serve both students and the broader community.

Workforce Development

- Expand access to workforce training in high-demand sectors such as healthcare, skilled trades, and cybersecurity through partnerships with local colleges and training centers.
- Support the creation of shared-use facilities that integrate academic instruction with hands-on training in real-world environments.
- Address entry barriers for students by promoting affordable and accessible training pathways, including certificate programs and employer-supported initiatives.

Integrated Community Development

- Support mixed-use developments that incorporate housing, education, healthcare, and employment centers in a single footprint to reduce commute times and improve quality of life.
- Encourage the co-location of services such as hospitals with training centers and schools with workforce hubs.
- Promote zoning and development policies that prioritize accessibility, inclusivity, and long-term sustainability.



Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces

Parks, recreation, and open spaces refer to public areas, such as parks, trails, and natural reserves that provide communities with opportunities for outdoor activities, leisure, recreation, and environmental conservation, thus enhancing overall quality of life and well-being. The West Houston Association promotes the inclusion and effective use of parks and open spaces within developments in the Greater West Houston Region.

The Role of WHA's Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Committee

The Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee advocates for the inclusion of parks, recreational and open spaces within quality planned developments and connections between existing developments. Research shows that parks and open spaces improve the quality of life for citizens and increase surrounding land values. These parks bring a community together and become the foundation of the underlying development.

The initial 2060 Plan, done in 2018, pointed out the following issues –

- The pressures of population growth.
- Undervalued parks and green space facilities.

What Has Changed Since 2018?

COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic was transformative for the entire United States, including Greater West Houston. Lockdowns and restrictions on access to numerous public facilities and gathering places, such as restaurants, malls, movie theaters, and amusement parks, enhanced the need for parks and open spaces in our communities, and the economic and health benefits became more noticeable and measurable.

Increased Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities expanded with the passage of House Bill No. 1410 in 2021, which allows qualifying water districts to utilize parks bonds to finance additional recreational facilities to serve their communities. Additionally, in 2023, El Paso County successfully sought and obtained the Legislature's and Texas voters' approval of a Constitutional amendment to add it to the list of Texas counties where water districts are authorized to issue bonds to finance parks and recreational facilities. That was a significant achievement, representing the first time a new county was added to the list of authorized counties since 2007.

Enhanced Attention to Multi-Modal Transportation

Connectivity issues associated with rapid population growth in the region have led to alternative methods of transportation, including more biking and hiking trails. Public-private partnerships have allowed for the creation of additional trails along previously unused spaces, such as bayous and power transmission line corridors.



Challenges & Opportunities

Private and Public Partnerships

As the Greater West Houston Region continues to grow, it will be essential for the private and public sectors to partner together to promote the inclusion of parks and open spaces in the region. Coordination between overlapping entities will be necessary to identify areas that could be utilized for parks and open spaces and provide a more cohesive park and open space system throughout the region.

Connectivity

Providing a relevant network of parks and trails throughout Greater West Houston will promote quality sustainable growth and significantly benefit the people, environment and economics of the region. The system of creeks and bayous throughout the region provides the best opportunity to connect many of the existing facilities. Efforts like Harris County Flood Control District's Frontier Program and the Energy Corridor and National Parks Service's West Houston Trails Master Plan will greatly improve connectivity to Greater West Houston's signature spaces. Additional corridors along drainageways should be identified and programmed accordingly to create a regional greenway system. Because our drainageways typically run west to east, pipeline and utility easements also should be considered to provide north/south connectivity.



Terry Hershey Park

Funding

Continued growth will place strains on the funding of underlying infrastructure. By using thoughtful coordination with a variety of sponsors, funding can become more readily available and focus attention on connectivity to provide a more unified and cohesive system.

Ensuring the Continued Vitality of Parks and Recreational Facilities

Numerous flood events over the past decade across Greater West Houston have led to a renewed effort to enhance flood resiliency, including by siting additional detention and drainage facilities in existing parks and open spaces to avoid displacement of homes, businesses, and other development. Careful attention must be taken to ensure that these projects do not diminish resident access to critical parks and recreational facilities, particularly in underserved areas with limited park access. Parks and recreational facilities often also are a common target for reductions in maintenance and operation funding when a city's, county's, or water district's budget is under stress. This can undermine the long-term functionality and vitality of the facilities, and have follow on effects for the health and property values of the surrounding community.

Specific Goals & Actions

Funding

- Educate Legislators, Elected Officials, and residents by highlighting examples of the benefits of park bonds in specific communities, in particular the availability of additional funding due to H.B. 1410.
- Advocate to expand park bonds to additional Counties in the West Houston Association Region and, if possible, statewide.



Parks & Open Spaces

- Encourage the utilization of multiple sources of funding to enhance the parks and open spaces within the region.

Connectivity

- Identify specific locations for trail projects and pedestrian crossings to help enhance multi-modal mobility and provide additional access to existing parks and recreational facilities.

Ensuring Continued Vitality of Parks and Recreational Facilities

- Educate Elected Officials and their staff on the importance of ensuring continued resident access to parks and recreational facilities when designing and implementing new flood control and drainage projects.
- Coordinate with cities, counties, water districts, and private entities to help identify sufficient maintenance and repair funding for existing parks and recreational facilities to ensure continued functionality for today's and tomorrow's communities.



Kinder Land Bridge at Memorial Park



Regional Mobility

Regional mobility is the capacity for people and goods to travel safely, efficiently, and effectively throughout a region. It relies on transportation systems such as roads, public transit, and multimodal infrastructure that link communities and drive economic vitality. The West Houston Association endeavors and advocates for a safe, coordinated, resilient, sustainable, and forward-looking multimodal transportation system that facilitates the movement of people and goods.

The Role of WHA's Regional Mobility Committee

The Regional Mobility Committee works to advocate and shape transportation related priorities which impact the region. This work comes in the form of project and policy level education and coordination, internal and external to the West Houston Association. Transportation has a key historical context within WHA – the organization initially organized its membership surrounding the expansion of the Katy Freeway and its utilization of managed lanes, which at the time was the nation's first-ever construction of toll lanes on an existing interstate highway. Since this time, WHA has been involved in a number of major mobility projects.

The initial 2060 Plan, done in 2018, pointed out the following issues –

- The pressure on mobility infrastructure.
- Challenges associated with funding new and existing infrastructure.

What Has Changed Since 2018?

Policy

The federal passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) injected unprecedented amounts of discretionary federal funding into regional and local transportation projects. These investments coincide with major shifts in transportation planning policy at many levels of government, where priorities have moved from congestion reduction to a focus on multimodal connectivity, access, and safety. At the same time, the sector is experiencing major advancements in transportation technology, including developments in autonomous vehicles, urban air mobility systems, alternative energy sources such as electric and hydrogen, and the integration of artificial intelligence.

Economy

The labor market has tightened for the planning, development, and delivery of transportation projects across both the public and private sectors. At the same time, uncertainty in project delivery pricing has increased due to inflation-related unknowns, fluctuating availability of building materials, and the evolving application of new Buy America, Build America requirements.

Challenges & Opportunities

Return to Office, Continued Growth, and Major Construction

The confluence of these activities have resulted in a wave of congestion for the Houston Region. While all of these activities are resulting in immense economic output and the construction aspects will ultimately improve conditions for travelers utilizing IH-10, IH-45, and other new and improved facilities, there is a need to identify ways to ease congestion through emerging technologies, high-capacity transit, and additional tolled facilities.



Managing Austerity

Federal, state, and local budgets are experiencing fiscal uncertainty and are re-evaluating priorities and budgets. It is important that WHA play a key role in educating policy makers on the economic benefits that transportation infrastructure provides, as well as in understanding the life-cycle costs of transportation facilities within urban, suburban, and commuter contexts. A balanced system, utilizing transportation rights-of-way effectively, and allocating underutilized space to higher and better uses, can improve fiscal outcomes.

Specific Goals & Actions

Regional Projects

- As the metropolitan region continues to expand, continually evaluate the scope of regional projects which impact the service area.
- Identify projects of transformative and/or regional significance and integrate the WHA with the project development process to ensure optimal project outcomes.
- Work to align and coordinate public and private projects and initiatives for the sake of efficiency, expediency, and the overall public interest.
- Evaluate and coordinate initiatives to pilot and utilize emerging transportation technologies to increase societal and economic benefits within the region.
- Advocate and encourage the utilization of a variety of tools and approaches towards funding and maintaining mobility infrastructure.

Resilience

- Plan and develop a resilient transportation system that can withstand flooding and natural disasters, remain functional during systems breakdowns and blockages, account for both direct and indirect impacts on the region's long-term sustainability, protect the environment and respect property rights, and carefully consider long-term financial costs and benefits.
- Work to identify standards and approaches for long-term infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation, especially in aging unincorporated areas.

Infrastructure

- Continually recognize the connection between major roadways, roadway alignments, and land use.
- Across the multi-county region, provide a regional minimum right-of-way width for planned major thoroughfares to enable regional multi-modal planning.
- Define multi-modality to include vehicular, pedestrian, bicycling, and public transit options, while recognizing that not every road must accommodate all modes of transportation. For vehicles, determine the maximum number of lanes that will be needed. For pedestrians, take into account sidewalk widths, appropriate buffers, and the design of pedestrian-friendly intersections. For bicycling, evaluate whether the bikeway should be an on-street bike lane or an off-street shared-use path, in alignment with a regional bikeway system. For public transit, identify the recommended roadways that should support public transit services as part of a regional mass-transit system.



Regional Mobility

- Within the existing urban fabric, customize transportation cross-sections attendant to the affected area or community.
- Minimize or avoid thoroughfare alignments within flood plains and floodways, recognized prairie conservancy lands, regional detention facilities, historic and cultural resource areas, and other areas of environmental significance.
- Maximize thoroughfare alignments which are perpendicular to major drainageways and pipeline corridors. For areas with heavy truck traffic, designate “industrial thoroughfares” with wider lanes, larger corner radii, and thicker pavement to improve resiliency.
- Prioritize and develop the existing network of high-capacity roadways, including the Grand Parkway Segment C from Interstate Highway 69 (U.S. Highway 59) to State Highway 288, the Westpark extension in Fort Bend County, and State Highway 36A.



West Ten Business Park

Freight

- Identify and designate grade-separated intersections within the network.
- Identify areas where additional rail capacity is needed and work with freight rail partners towards agreeable solutions.

Public Transportation

- As a high priority, expand the METRO service area into unserved areas within Harris County and/or establish a separate multi-county regional transit agency to serve new areas.
- Provide convenient and efficient higher-speed connectivity between Greater West Houston region and George Bush Intercontinental and Hobby airports.
- Provide convenient, accessible pedestrian access to and shelter at any designated public transit stop established by any public transit agency.
- Investigate the feasibility and/or possible alignments of high-speed rail between Houston and other major Texas metropolitan areas, namely Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, and San Antonio.



Regional Mobility

Aviation

- Plan or provide convenient major thoroughfare/arterial proximity and access to West Houston area airports.
- Examine the physical and fiscal feasibility of a third commercial airport in the West Houston area to complement Intercontinental and Hobby airports.

Mobility Funding

- Encourage investment decisions based on a variety of considerations, including societal and economic benefits.
- Advocate for West Houston's 'fair share' of infrastructure funding.

Nexus with Development

- Leverage the unique role of the West Houston Association to best link private development and public infrastructure in a manner which provides maximum benefit with minimal externality.



Buffalo Bayou Promenade

Quality Planned Development

Quality Planned Development (QPD) is a strategic, forward-thinking approach to community growth that emphasizes design, sustainability, function, and long-term value. The West Houston Association guides this vision by evaluating trends, technologies, and regional needs to ensure developments across the Houston region contribute to the future vitality, livability, and resilience.

The Role of WHA's Quality Planned Development Committee

The QPD Committee is often tasked with ensuring community development projects meet high standards of quality, sustainability, and community benefit. Planning for the year 2060 involves considering long-term trends, technological advancements, and evolving community needs.

The initial 2060 Plan, done in 2018, pointed out the following issues –

- Heavy reliance on regional centers, master-planned communities, and expanding highway networks to drive growth.
- Emerging challenges from rising density, outward urban expansion, and dependence on special districts for infrastructure.
- Growing need for sustainable, coordinated strategies to maintain quality growth long-term.

What Has Changed Since 2018?

Resilience & Technological Advancements

The demand for environmentally conscious building practices has led to greener construction methods, while innovations in smart city technologies and construction have improved efficiency.

Changing Housing Preferences

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted a shift in urban planning priorities, emphasizing health, safety, and flexibility, which fueled the demand for mixed-use developments and suburban growth. Increasing housing costs have highlighted the need for diverse and affordable options, driving zoning reforms and public-private collaborations. There is also a stronger focus on social equity, inclusive development, and health-oriented design, fostering communities that are more resilient and people-centered.



Texas Children's Hospital West Campus



Community Engagement

Community engagement is enhanced by using virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) for immersive planning input, offering transparent project updates through smart platforms, and ensuring continuous public dialogue through meetings and other tools.

Design Excellence

Design excellence emphasizes adaptable, timeless architecture and landscapes, prioritizes complete, safe, and tech-enabled public spaces, and aligns plans with the aesthetic and functional needs of each place.



Elyson

Economic Vitality

Sustainable development encourages the use of LEED, Envision, and net-zero strategies while adopting renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal. It also supports energy-positive and low-carbon construction.

Smart Infrastructure

Smart infrastructure involves investing in roads, utilities, and transit systems to meet future needs preparing for autonomous vehicles, rapid-transit, and smart grids, and improving resilience through modernized infrastructure systems.

Attainable Housing

Attainable housing promotes housing diversity, including modular, 3D-printed, and tiny homes, while creating zoning flexibility for innovative housing types. Collaboration with both public and private sectors helps lower costs and speed delivery.

Cultural & Historic Preservation

Cultural and historic preservation focuses on protecting and highlighting historic and cultural assets, encouraging contextual and thoughtful design integration, and celebrating local heritage through storytelling and placemaking.

Innovation & Best Practices

Innovation and best practices include piloting and evaluating emerging urban planning solutions, sharing insights with regional and national peers, and regularly updating ordinances and development tools.

Health & Safety

Health and safety are prioritized through a design that encourages walkability, recreation, and mental well-being while staying connected to international best practices, and addressing health, safety, and resilience in all phases of development.



Specific Goals & Actions

Attainable Housing

- Attainable housing efforts aim to diversify options by encouraging modular, higher-density, and mixed-use housing through streamlined approvals and incentives. Public-private partnerships are supported through funding tools, task forces, and tax incentives. Additionally, lowering costs is prioritized by promoting efficient materials, reducing red tape, and supporting innovative building methods.

Complete Streets & Walkable Communities

- Complete streets and walkable communities focus on creating safer, more inclusive streets by retrofitting roads with bike lanes, crosswalks, and sidewalks. Better transit connectivity is achieved by expanding rail and bus networks in alignment with transit-oriented development (TOD) principles. Vibrant mixed-use spaces are incentivized to provide areas where people can live, work, and play—all within walking distance.

Public-Private Partnerships

- Public-private partnerships foster innovation hubs where centers for collaboration and start up projects can thrive. Creative funding is leveraged through federal, state, and private sources, and regulatory agility is enhanced by creating fast-tracks and clear guidance for aligned developments.

Revitalizing Legacy Developments

- Revitalizing legacy developments involves supporting green redevelopment through sustainable upgrades and adaptive reuse. Cultural preservation efforts ensure the integration of historic elements, while inclusive planning empowers communities to shape redevelopment efforts.



CityCentre

Sustainable Infrastructure

Sustainable infrastructure includes roadways, water systems, flood mitigation, parks, and similar facilities that provide enhanced economic, social, and environmental outcomes to the people and businesses in the greater West Houston region. Sustainability is achieved for an infrastructure project when its economic, social, and environmental benefits outweigh the associated economic, social, and environmental costs providing a benefit to today's society without impacting future generations.

The Role of WHA's Sustainable Infrastructure Committee

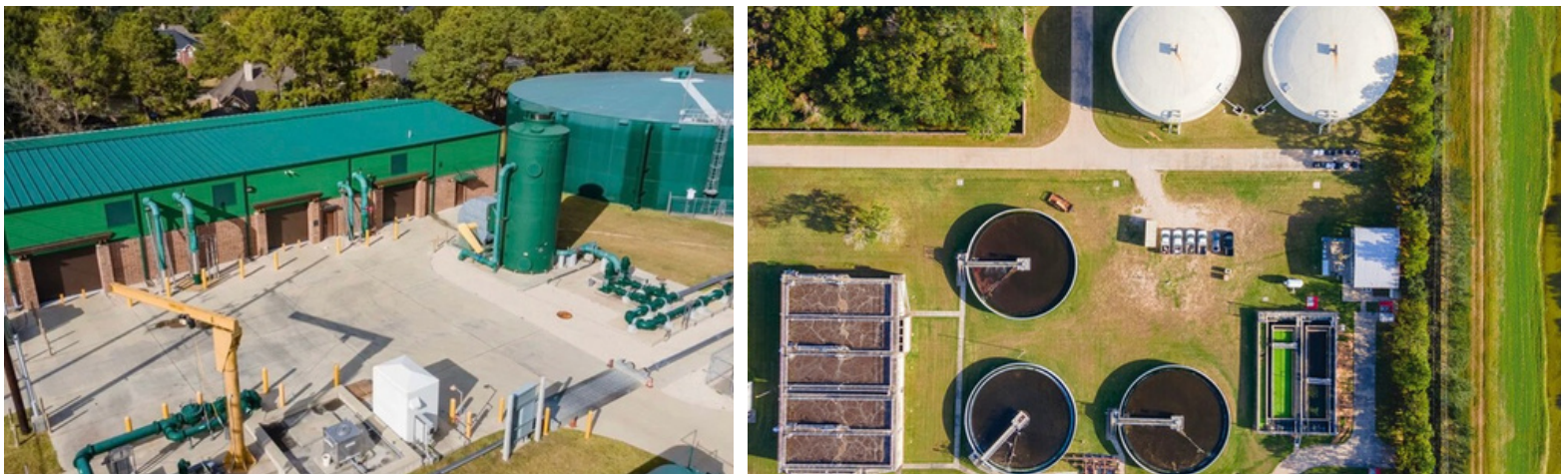
The WHA Sustainable Infrastructure Committee advocates for our community by informing decision-makers and infrastructure owners about the value of sustainable infrastructure, encouraging the adoption of sustainable elements into projects and advocates for the expanded use of sustainability in the region.

The initial 2060 Plan, done in 2018, pointed out the following issues –

- Sustainability focused on moving development from traditional approaches, to design and implement infrastructure which focused on ensuring development was functional and relevant towards a broader goal that does not lose the current requirements but includes better economic, social, and environmental outcomes.
- Reward projects that encourage developers and decision makers to see the benefits of sustainable infrastructure and strive to go further.

What Has Changed Since 2018?

Developers and decision makers understand there is a market for sustainable development and there is value in adopting practices that demonstrate commitment to sustainability, seeking to develop more livable communities. Storms have caused major flooding (Harvey 2017) and loss of power (Derecho and Beryl 2024) events in Houston have shifted the conversation towards a keener focus on recovery and resilience. Internationally recognized certifications such as the US Green Building Council's LEED and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's ENVISION are more widely acceptable with project awards being celebrated and professional certifications becoming increasingly common. WHA's Sustainability Stars program has been successful in both recognizing efforts in Greater West Houston and communicating best practices to the development community.



G. Tim Lawrence Desalination Plant — Cinco Ranch MUD 1

Challenges & Opportunities

Low Risk Tolerance

There is a much greater understanding of the risks associated with sustainable development as more projects such as water reuse through initiatives such as purple pipe wastewater treatment plant water reuse are becoming more common. Similarly, energy efficient buildings seeking LEED certification has continued to grow. As these projects become more common, understanding of the associated risks increases, allowing the understanding of these risks to be priced into future developments.

Public Education & Outreach

It is as important to ensure the community understands how sustainable development can, and is, improving communities as it is to celebrate the successes that are achieved. WHA should continue—and expand—its celebration of regional successes, while sharing these achievements with the broader community to inspire stronger commitment to economic, social, and environmental development.

Redevelopment

As Greater West Houston continues to expand out, a renewed emphasis has been placed on redeveloping existing areas within the region. Though redevelopment presents many challenges, the opportunities to implement sustainable infrastructure in these projects can provide long term cost savings and enhance our area.

Specific Goals & Actions

Encourage Sustainable Development

- Continue to promote sustainable projects through WHA's Sustainability Stars program.
- Recognize and communicate best practices in sustainable development through public forums, social media, and other avenues.
- Promote innovative development models, such as public-private partnerships, to drive sustainable development.

Establish Minimum Standards

- Identify a benchmark and advocate for a minimum percentage of capital budgets to be dedicated to upgrading or improving existing infrastructure.
- Encourage a minimum of 50% wastewater reuse across the region.
- Integrate sustainability best practices into QPD recognition program, such that any Quality Planned Development meets a defined sustainability threshold.

Innovative Policy for Sustainability

- Enact policy such that Park and Utility Bonds specifically and preferentially incorporate sustainability practices.
- Enact regulations such that all new developments will be required to use bioswales for rainwater filtration and implement water re-use systems for their common areas and medians through conservation, rainwater harvesting, and the reuse of treated wastewater.



- Create incentives for commercial and industrial development that include sustainable elements, such as rainwater harvesting, energy efficient building practices, and solar power.
- Create incentives for redevelopment projects that incorporate sustainable infrastructure.

Develop a Culture of Sustainability

- Promote redevelopment in the Greater West Houston region that integrates sustainable infrastructure as a standard practice.
- Foster a culture of sustainability that encourages continuous community education, engagement programs and partnerships leading to residents being informed, involved and committed to sustainable practices.



Mandolin Gardens Park

Top Left: Before; Top Right: During Construction; Bottom: After

PLANNING FOR 2060

As Greater West Houston anticipates significant population growth in the near- and long-term, the 2060 Plan will serve as a living document that prepares the regional community for future development, redevelopment, and enhancement within an area of 1,000+ square miles.

The objectives of the planning process and prepared 2060 Plan include:

- Unifying the region's vision and associated goals regarding the character of future growth
- Strengthening partnerships, communication channels, and a sense of unified direction across public, non- profit, and private community stakeholders
- Enabling widespread citizen involvement in identifying and prioritizing leading community issues, challenges, and opportunities
- Guiding regulatory strategies to ensure community values and desired outcomes are managed and promoted
- Providing grater predictability for residents, land owners, developers, and potential investors



WEST HOUSTON ASSOCIATION

Leadership In Quality Growth



"We envision a West Houston where everyone
has opportunity for great experience to
live, work, and play."

