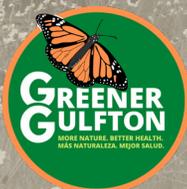


# A GREENER GULFTON

*Community Action Plan*

*For Improved Health,  
Climate Resilience, and  
Biodiversity*





## **Letter from the Community**

Our team is excited to unveil this report heavily informed by local leadership, the Greener Gulfton Ambassadors, and the Greener Gulfton Steering Committee. Throughout the planning process, our team reflected on and prioritized inclusion, connectivity, hopefulness, and vitality. Throughout this report you will see how our collective vision came to fruition with invaluable input from community members and leaders.

Drafting this plan meant coming together with a common vision, common guiding principles, and a common understanding. Working together with passionate supporters and consultants we have crafted a nature-based solutions plan for the Gulfton community that simultaneously addresses Environmental Health, Human Health and Wellbeing, and Biodiversity Health.

Overall, while the vision and guiding principles are shared in the report, our Green Ambassadors understand how bringing life, color, smells, creativity, unity, and togetherness for all in Gulfton, including people, wildlife and plants can truly make an impact to the overall health and quality of life for our community.

We hope that this report shines light on the unique neighborhood qualities in Gulfton, how nature can enhance this community, and the strong leadership that exists in this neighborhood to ensure the success of the recommendations outlined in this report.

After all, in the words of our community leaders, "A success for this plan would be when the neighborhood has the tools, resources and know-how to drive the change."

With gratitude,

**Green Ambassador Team for Greener Gulfton**

# Acknowledgements

The Greener Gulfton report represents the efforts dedicated by community members and leaders in Gulfton, and a consultant team aimed at reflecting and amplifying what we learned through the engagement process. We cannot express enough thanks to the Green Ambassadors, steering committee members, and to the neighborhood as whole for sharing and teaching us about your home. We were humbled by your openness and are grateful to have had this opportunity to meet each of you.



## Community Leadership

- Bahaa Abraham, Green Ambassador
- Julia De Leon, Green Ambassador
- Noellia Fadic, Green Ambassador
- Lenora Fields, Green Ambassador
- Maria Hernandez, Green Ambassador & Steering Committee Member
- Kristi Rangel, Steering Committee Member
- Parul Pillai, Steering Committee Member
- Sandra Rodriguez, Steering Committee Member
- Anne Whitlock, Steering Committee Member

## Consultant Team

- Jaime González, The Nature Conservancy
- Kathy Jack, Ph.D., The Nature Conservancy
- Keiji Asakura, Asakura Robinson
- Isabelle Asakura, Asakura Robinson
- Michelle Bright, Asakura Robinson
- Hugo Colón, Asakura Robinson
- Daví de la Cruz, Asakura Robinson
- Niharika Shekhawat, Asakura Robinson
- José Eduardo Sánchez, Tecolotl
- Carolina Ramos, Tecolotl
- Jade Flores, Tecolotl
- Yucca Westrup, Tecolotl
- Elia Quiles, UP Art Studio
- Jennifer Walker, Watearth

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# 01

# Preface & Community Summary



## Introduction

What does nature do for the Gulfton Neighborhood?

How did the team work together and make decisions?

Community Summary

## Introduction

The preface section of the report introduces the importance that nature has on human health and wellbeing, environmental health, and the health of other living organisms within our communities. This section also includes the high level overview and synthesis of the project results within the Community Summary. The Community Summary also is translated into Spanish to support access to the report more broadly for the Gulfton community.

# What does Nature Do for the Gulfton Community?

## Nature is Essential for a Healthier Gulfton

Nature is a key element in making our neighborhoods healthier and safer. In order to truly flourish, all communities need easy access to fresh fruits and vegetables, safe and well-maintained parks and greenspaces, lush tree canopies, green schoolyards, adequate sidewalks, and safe bike lanes to access these places. Nature should never be seen as a luxury but rather as critical community health infrastructure that uplifts the mental, physical, cultural, and spiritual health and well-being of its human and non-human residents.

### Nature, Human Health and Wellbeing

Abundant nature has been shown to have many positive impacts on human health and wellbeing. For instance, urban trees have been shown to reduce depressive symptoms. In one study, adults with major depressive disorder reported improvements in both mood and cognitive performance after taking weekly walks on streets with trees. Similarly, many people report feeling restored and delighted by the sound of birdsongs outside their window. Ready access to nature has also been shown to significantly reduce feelings of loneliness, which contributes to mental health challenges and can contribute to chronic conditions like heart disease. Nature can also help encourage social interactions and can connect Gulfton's residents to their cultural touchstones and ancestors – including through the planting

of gardens which produce healthy foods. Lastly, students who attend schools that are rich in nature have been shown to have higher levels of academic achievement and better focus.

Human health and wellbeing is also dependent on **environmental health** – the health of the soil, air, water, and climate of a place and nature plays a key role here too. Urban trees have been shown to reduce air pollution which can contribute to asthma and other respiratory ailments. Trees, shrubs, grasses, and other vegetation can also help cool hot urban environments. The 2020 Houston-Harris County Heat Watch Campaign identified Gulfton as Houston's physical hottest neighborhood – a full 17 degrees hotter than the coolest neighborhood in Harris County. It is clear that Gulfton needs a better tree canopy to become cooler as the impacts of climate change continues to worsen. Lastly, strategically emplaced **nature-based solutions**, like rain gardens and bioswales, can help soak up and clean stormwater.

### Nature and Biodiversity

Gulfton is one of our nation's most ethnically diverse neighborhoods – a real strength for this community. It is also home to a diversity of indigenous and exotic plants and wildlife, as well

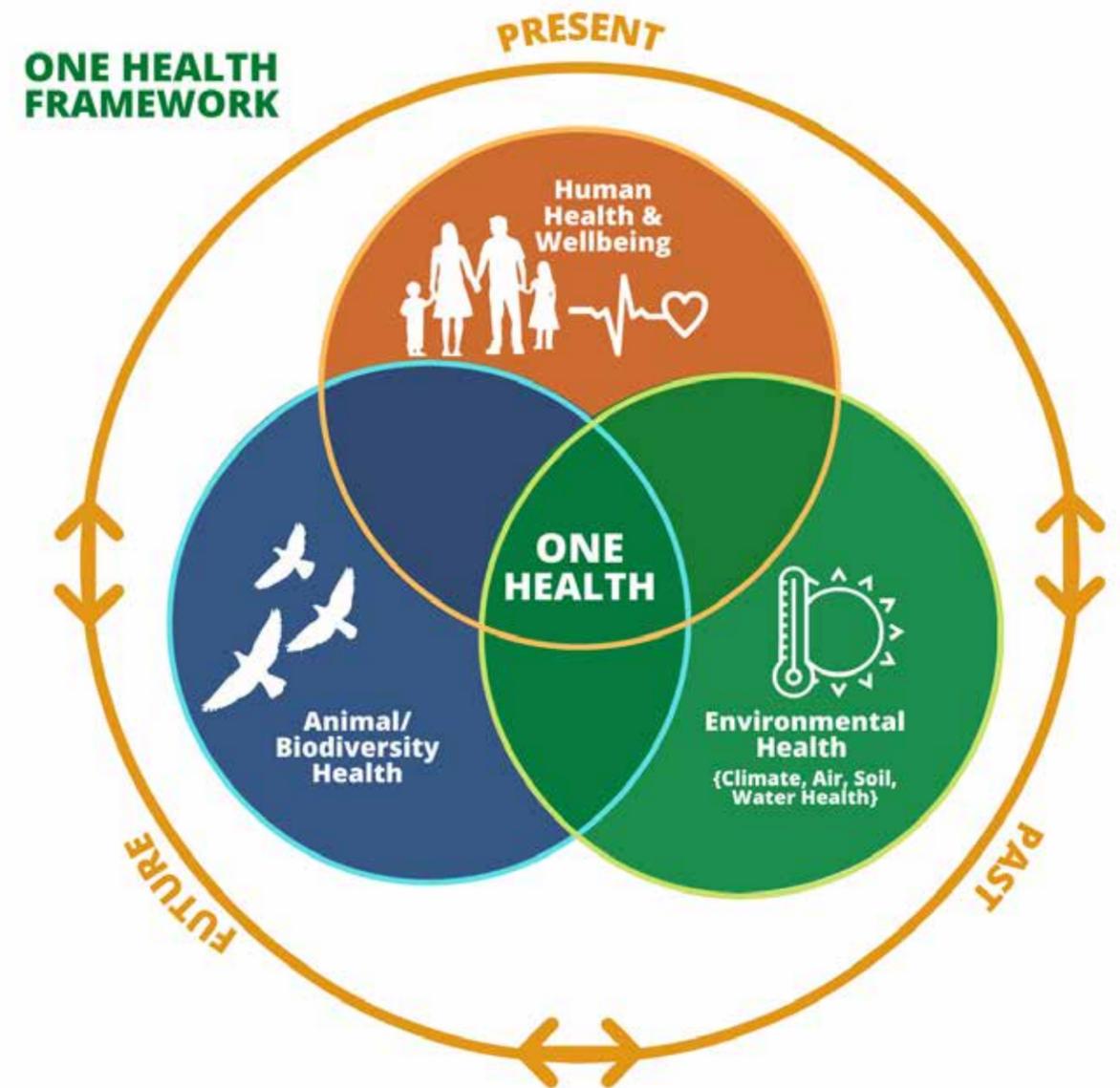


**BIODIVERSITY** is the variety and number of living things on Earth and includes all species, from the fungi living on the roots of a maple tree, to the owl that lives in its branches, to the tree itself. It includes diversity within species, between species, and among ecosystems.

as domesticated animals. This diversity of non-human life is called biodiversity. Human health and wellbeing is highly dependent on having nature-rich parks, greenspaces, schoolyards, patios, and civic spaces. Selecting resilient, indigenous species and culturally significant plants can greatly improve Gulfton's biodiversity, while providing its people more opportunities to experience the awe of nature such as seeing a migrating monarch butterfly or a colorful songbirds.

### One Health

In truth, human health and wellbeing, environmental health, and biodiversity health, are interdependent and tightly woven and is known as **One Health**. As we take actions to create a Greener Gulfton, strategies which use nature and nature-based solutions which uplift human, biodiversity, and environmental health simultaneously will maximize their positive impacts.



# Community Action Summary

## Introduction

A Greener Gulfton for Nature, Health, and Resilience was an interdisciplinary planning effort that relied on community leaders, passionate residents, and non-profits in collaboration with a consulting team that included planning, design, environmental, health, art, and multilingual engagement expertise. The work was undergone in three main phases that include **Understand**, **Envision**, and **Act**, below are more details on each of these phases.



The **Envision Phase** outlines a vision for Gulfton, informed by community engagement, the Guiding Principles that support our work, and the specific recommendations we are making for the neighborhood. The overall effort is to support and green the Gulfton Super neighborhood in a way that considers both people and non-human residents alike. The team hosted a walking tour with the Green Ambassadors and their family members to document what is working well in Gulfton and what aspects of the urban environment could use improvements.



The **Understand Phase** of the report starts with a brief history of the region and existing conditions within Gulfton, including zone comparisons across four main areas within the super neighborhood. We also outline the main planning documents within the neighborhood and in the region, and provide nature and art projects that inspire us. The team hosted a kick-off event with the community in collaboration with Madres del Parque and asked participants what nature means to them.



The **Act Phase** of the report gets into the more granule details of a proposed pilot project. With feedback from the community and inspirational ideas from UP Art Studio, a Placita pilot project idea was developed and cultivated. This phase includes the details that have gone along with that process and provides visual resources for fund-raising and the next steps. The team hosted an in-person event at Burnett Bayland Park to gather feedback on the neighborhood recommendations and narrowed down pilot project ideas.

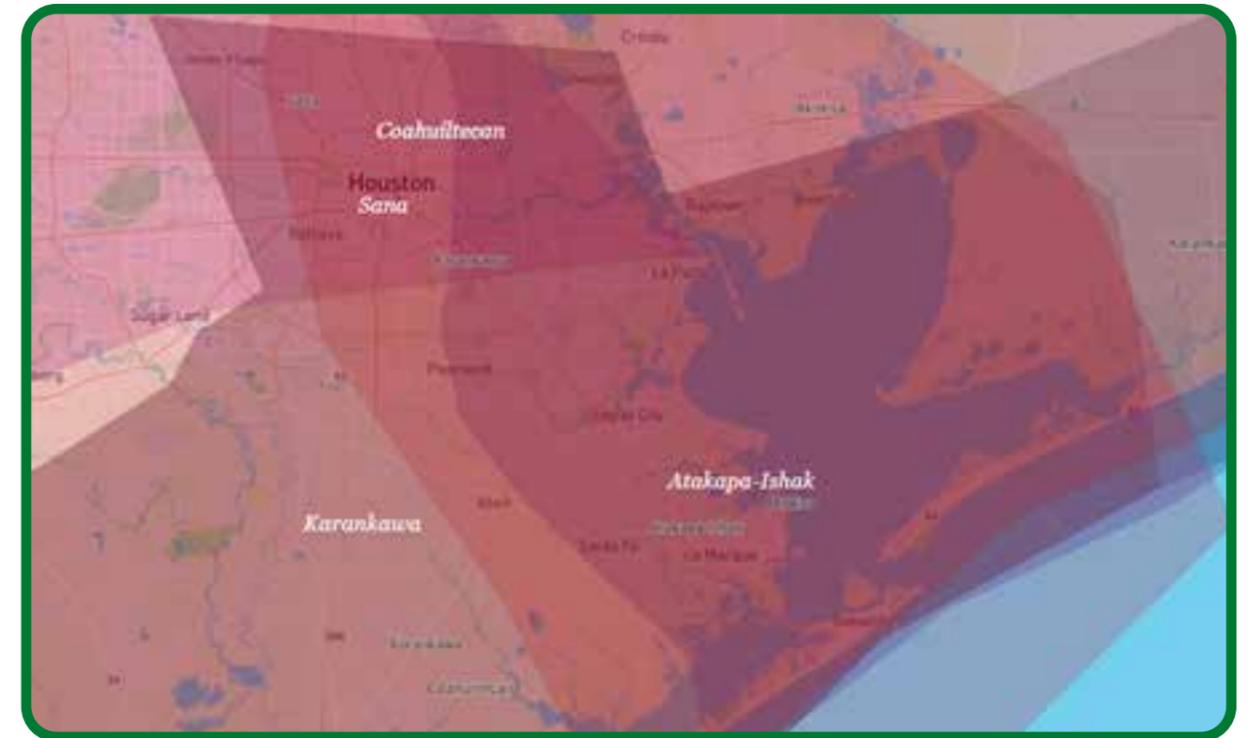


## VALUING INDIGENOUS PRESENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

As step toward honoring the truth and achieving healing and reconciliation, we commit to acknowledging that the native Karankawa, Akokisa, and other Indigenous Peoples were heavily impacted by the legacy of forced removal from these unceded lands.

We also acknowledge that Gulfton is currently home to Indigenous Peoples from Texas, Mexico, Central America, and other parts of the world and their presence should be recognized and honored.

Gulfton residents, Greener Gulfton Ambassadors, and others preparing this plan, have strongly advised that Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) be valued for its inherent worth and integrated with western science and community knowledge to help co-create a greener, healthier, and better connected Gulfton. It is important to note that residents specifically called out a desire for Gulfton's greening efforts to be a means of recognizing their ancestors, both their genetic ancestors and the original Indigenous Peoples of this land.



Historic Indigenous Communities of Gulfton and Houston, Source: NATIVE-LAND.CA

## Community Action Summary Continued

### Our Process

In the Greener Gulfton planning process, it was critical to include voices from local leadership and community members as thoroughly as possible. Gulfton has had momentum toward addressing community needs from the grass roots level to the institutional and local government level. Considering this, it was important to tap into leadership that continues to be involved in the future of Gulfton. This meant assembling a Greener Gulfton Steering Committee as well as Green Ambassadors to inform our work and recommendations as robustly as possible.

The **Steering Committee** provided an opportunity to guide research during the Understand Phase, draft a vision statement during the Envision Phase, and provide feedback on the Pilot Project for the Act Phase.

"Spending time in nature is an opportunity to relax and free my mind."  
-Lenora Fields, Green Ambassador

As part of our efforts, it was important to include local voices and leadership through an ambassador program. Tecolotl, our sub consultant team, recruited and lead a group of five **Green Gulfton Ambassadors** which provided a method of enriching input and feedback from the Gulfton Community. Through monthly meeting we discussed a vision statement, strategy card recommendations, and finally pilot project opportunities.

"Our group, Madres del Parque is a group of mothers dedicated to the health and wellbeing of our community. We know spending time in nature is good for not only us as parents, but for our children as well."  
- Maria Hernandez, Steering Committee Member and Green Ambassador

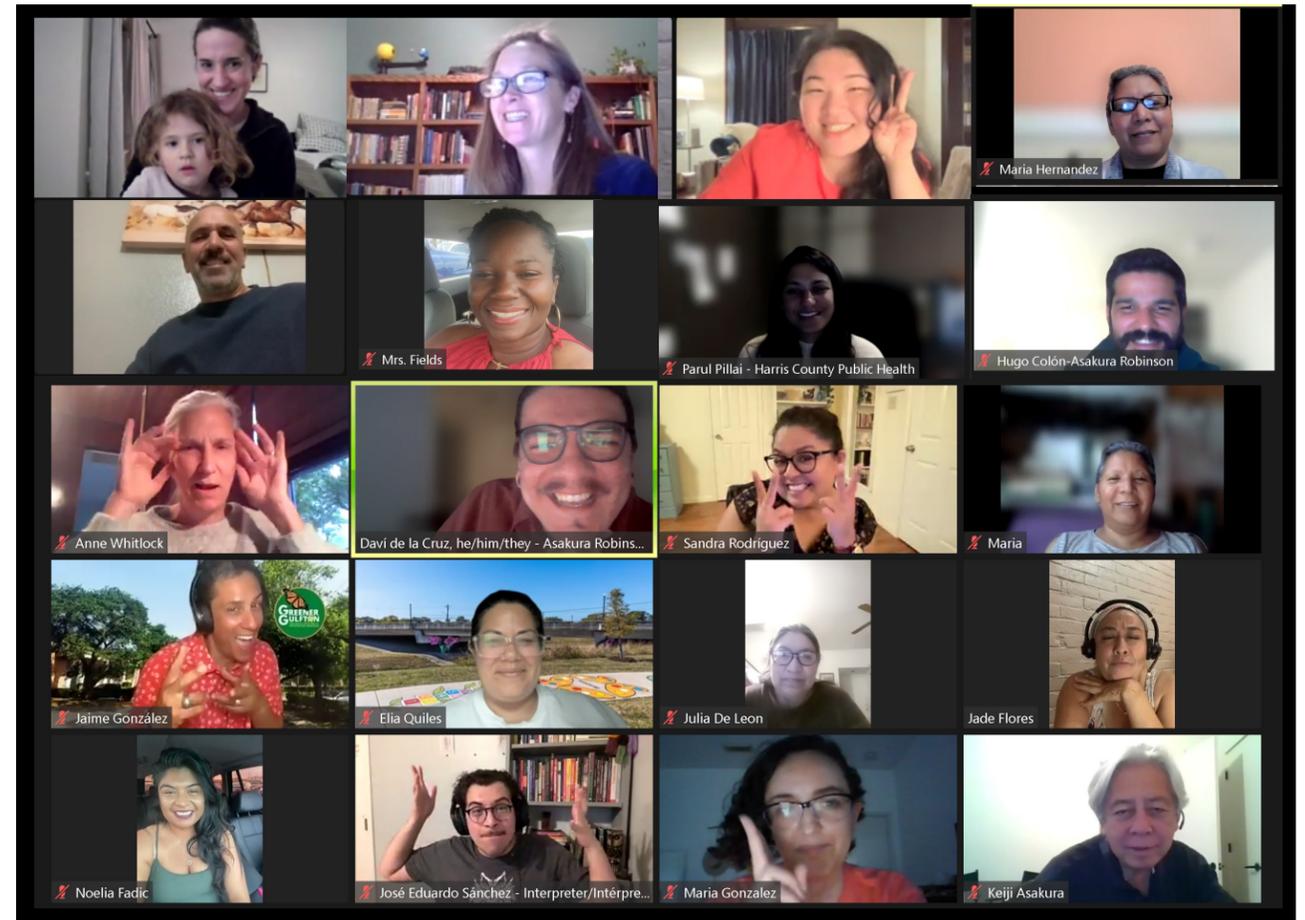
STEERING COMMITTEE	GREEN AMBASSADORS
<b>Maria Hernandez</b> Madres del Parque	<b>Brigitte Felix</b>
<b>Anne Whitlock</b> Connect Community	<b>Bahaa Abraham Felix</b>
<b>Kristi Rangel</b> City of Houston, Health Department	<b>Julia de Leon Fadic</b>
<b>Parul Pillai</b> Harris County Public Health (HCPH)	<b>Lenora Fields</b>
<b>Sandra Rodriguez</b> Gulfton Super Neighborhood Council	<b>Maria Hernandez</b>
	<b>Noelia Fadic</b>

### PROJECT SPONSOR



Jaime González, The Nature Conservancy  
Kathy Jack, Ph.D., The Nature Conservancy

### CONSULTANT TEAM



Captured during a virtual combined steering committee and Green Ambassadors meeting.

## Community Action Summary

Continued

### Understand Phase

Houston's Gulfton neighborhood is a vibrant, diverse community, with strong leadership, shared aspirations, and origins from across the planet. Gulfton's wild community is also vibrant and includes both Indigenous wildlife and plant life living alongside exotic plants prized for their cultural significance and beauty. Together, the human and non-human residents of Gulfton form a vibrant living community who need and deserve more nature for their health and wellbeing. Here are the main things we found out during our Understand Phase of the project:

"I am a garden volunteer. My children support me so that they feel happy discovering / Soy voluntaria de jardinería. Mis hijos me apoyan para que se sientan felices descubriendo"

- Greener Gulfton Resident, Public Kick-off Boards



#### PEOPLE:

- **Gulfton is an Immigrant Hub:** 58% of residents are born outside the U.S. with 75% of that born in Latin America.
- **Gulfton Residents Speak Many Different Languages:** 14.9% of residents speak only English, 70% speak Spanish.
- **Gulfton Residents Primarily Rent and Live in Multi-Family Residential Units:** Only 4.3% of residents own a home. The main housing type in Gulfton is multi-family residential with approximately 18,846 occupied housing units.
- **Gulfton is Lacking Public Park Space:** The 2015 Houston Parks Master Plan recommends 8 acres of park space per 1,000 people, 86 additional acres would need to be added to the Gulfton neighborhood to meet these recommendations.
- **Gulfton is Culturally Rich and Reflected Through Urban Art:** The Gulfton Story Trail Mural Project brings the spirit of the people living in the neighborhood to the fore, and is a creative way to provide a more welcoming space.
- **Gulfton Residents Are Relatively Young and Include Children:** 34% of residents are younger than 20 years old, and 37% are less than 40 years old.

#### ECOLOGY:

- **Gulfton is in the Humid Gulf Coastal Prairie Ecoregion:** Approximately 1% of the Gulf Coastal Prairie Ecoregion remains in Texas; much of this ecosystem has been converted to other landscape and land use types.
- **Gulfton and the Houston Region is a Migration Route:** Over the course of a season, millions of birds species pass through Texas. This winged migration also includes bats and insects of important significance.
- **Gulfton is in the Brays Bayou Watershed and the Southeastern Portion of the Floodplain:** Brays Bayou is an urbanized watershed that covers 127 square miles and severe flooding occurs at least once every 10 years.
- **Gulfton Does Not Directly Connect to Bayou Trails:** Brays Bayou and the corresponding bayou trail is approximately 1.5 miles from the southern edge of the neighborhood.
- **Gulfton's Vegetative Cover and Tree Canopy is Not Evenly Distributed Throughout the Neighborhood:** The densest vegetative cover is located in the Shenandoah community and associated with Burnett Bayland Park in Gulfton.

#### ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE:

- **Gulfton is Highly Urbanized and Developed:** The majority of the neighborhood is highly developed, urbanized, and experiences high urban heat values. Gulfton is a climate vulnerable community.
- **Gulfton Residents Do Not All Have Vehicles:** Approximately 12.7% of households do not have access to vehicles, and families rely on other means of transportation.
- **Gulfton Lacks Connected Sidewalks:** The sidewalk conditions in the community are of poor quality, with 41% of existing sidewalks having some kind of obstruction.
- **Gulfton Needs to Improve Street Right of Way (ROW) Safety:** In most cases, streets are designed to carry large amounts of vehicles with a large amount of wide traffic lanes. This places a major challenge for pedestrians crossing wide segments of road or with limited sidewalk space.



**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Gulfton was the hottest Harris County neighborhood identified in the 2020 Houston Heat Watch Campaign - a full 17 degrees hotter than the coolest community in the county.

# Gulfton Super Neighborhood

# Community Action Summary Continued

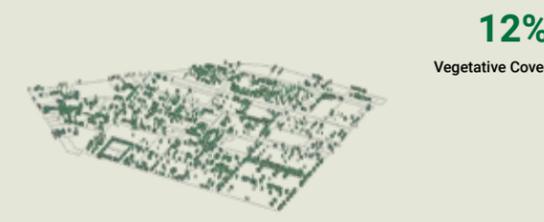
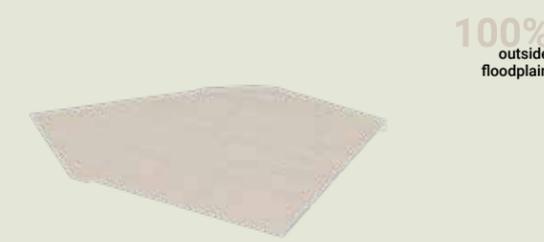
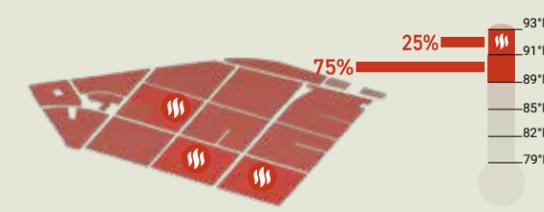
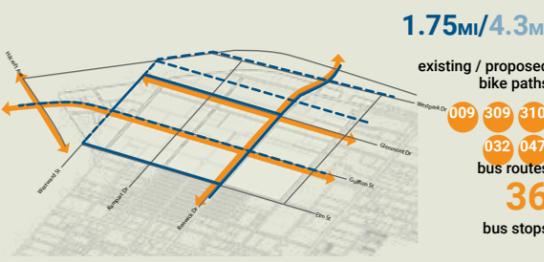
## People

## Environment / Climate

## Ecology



### Zone 1



DEMOGRAPHICS  
ACS Data 2015-2019

LAND USE  
Urban Footprint, 2021  
H-GAC, Landcover

- Multi-Family Residential
- Civic / Institutional
- Industrial / Commercial
- Religious / Spiritual

CONNECTIVITY

- METRO, Public Transit
- H-GAC, Pedestrian Infrastructure
- Houston Bike Plan/H-GAC, Bicycle Infrastructure
- existing bike paths
- proposed bike paths
- bus routes

SUMMER HEAT SNAPSHOT

Houston H3AT Team, Measured August 7, 2020 7:00-8:00pm

SURFACE AREA IN FLOODPLAIN

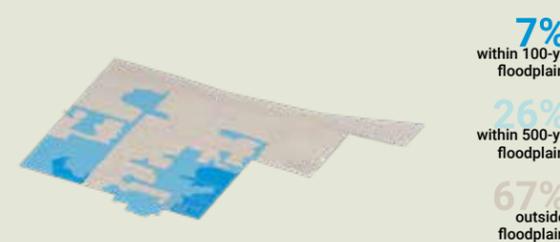
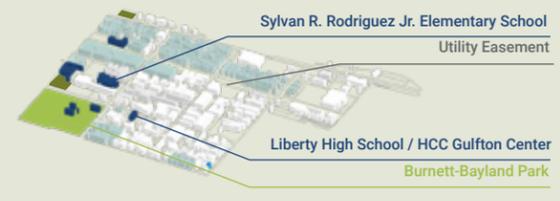
FEMA, Harris County Scale, all jurisdictions

TREE CANOPY COVERAGE\*

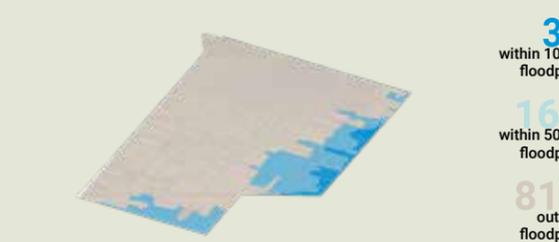
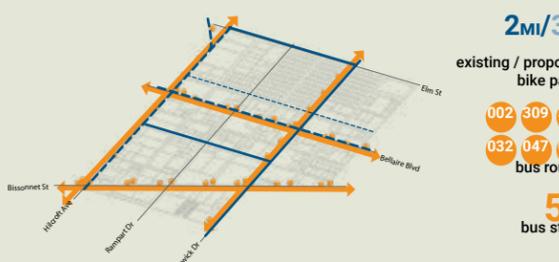
\* Vegetation over 9 feet tall  
iNaturalist Download, November 23, 2021 & HARC Research for Gulfton



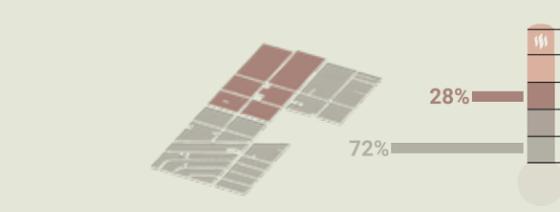
### Zone 2



### Zone 3



### Zone 4



## Community Action Summary Continued

### Envision Phase

As part of envisioning a Greener Gulfton, our team met with community members, steering committee members, and Gulfton Green Ambassadors to not only share the existing conditions data about the neighborhood that is available, but also to hear from them on the benefits that nature provides to their everyday lives, opportunities they imagine in their neighborhood, and ultimately the vision and guiding principles that should be reflected in a plan that hopes to make this neighborhood responsive to the needs of all residents, amidst the reality of the varied conditions. A vision statement and a series of guiding principles were developed and listed on this page.



#### VISION:

**Greener Gulfton is a DIVERSE and VIBRANT community that is HEALTHY, CLIMATE PREPARED, and CONNECTED to NATURE**

**Gulfton más verde es una comunidad DIVERSA y VIBRANTE que está SANA, CLIMÁTICAMENTE PREPARADA, y CONECTADA a la NATURALEZA**

#### GUILDING PRINCIPLES:

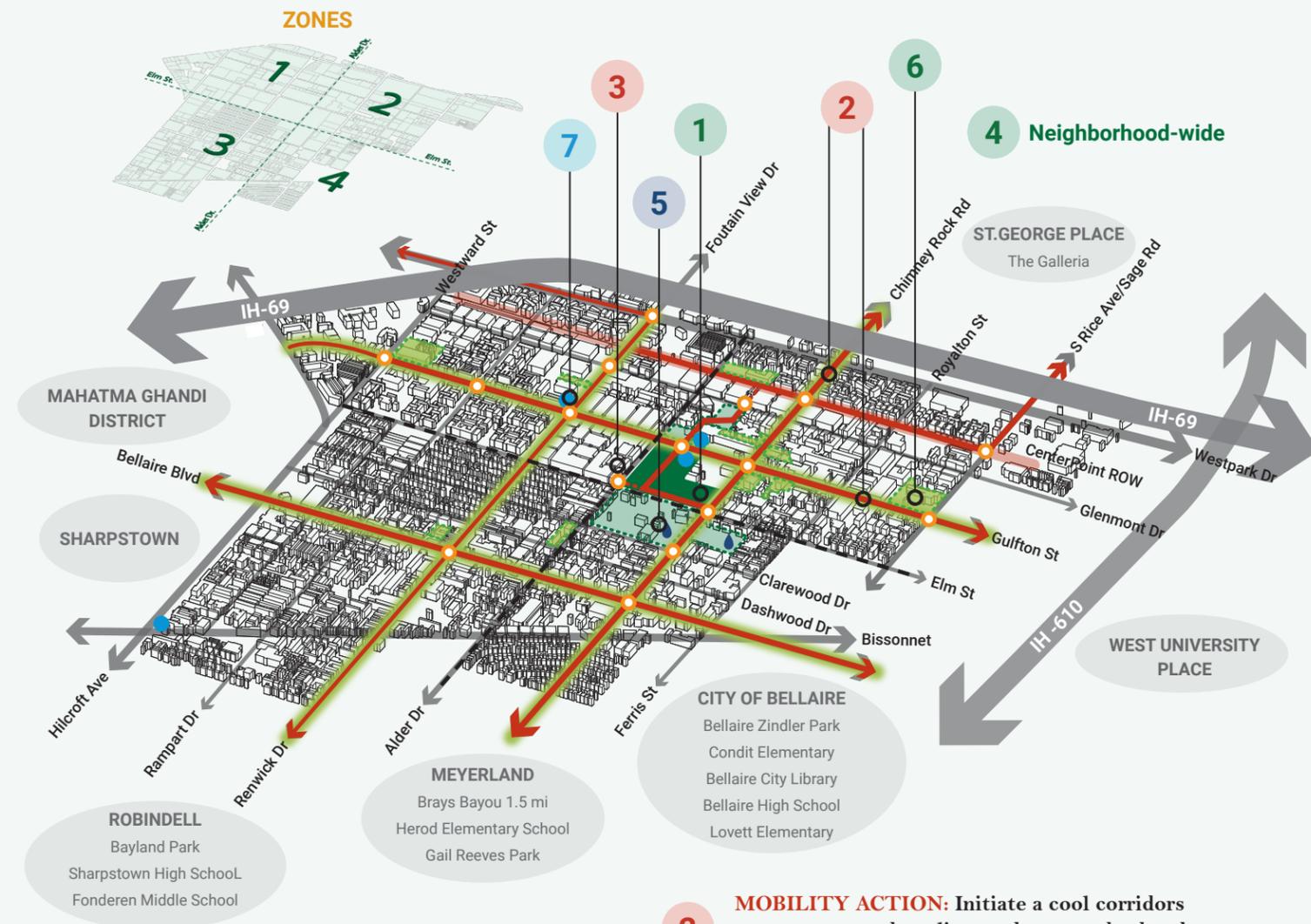
**HEALTH & WELLNESS.** Gulfton is a place where communities are supported in their goals toward improved health and wellness and where people and wildlife are supported to live long, happy, healthy lives

**HONORING ANCESTORS.** Gulfton is a place where our full selves, roots, and histories are part of solutions for healthier futures, and improved human health, ecological health, and environmental health.

**SAFETY.** Gulfton is a place where smart urban design can create safer, healthier, and more welcoming place for all residents and visitors.

**PERSEVERANCE.** Gulfton is a place where all residents regardless of income, race, gender, or abilities are fully supported to lead and implement solutions that benefit them, their families, their neighbors, and their community and in the vision that they hold for their communities that supports improved human, ecological, and environmental health.

**EQUITY.** Gulfton is a place where increasing nature and access involves addressing historical injustices and improving the physical and social conditions of all residents with a vision of justice and equity for all.



### Neighborhood-Wide Actions - Over the Next 5 years

The recommendations for the Gulfton super neighborhood are divided into two sections. The first section focuses on the neighborhood-wide recommendations supported by the Green Ambassadors, Steering Committee, and residents we met at community events. The second section outlines, in broad terms, different strategy actions that can be taken in the neighborhood. These categories include Mobility Actions, Stormwater Management Actions, Architectural/Structural Actions, Nature-Based Community Capacity Actions, and Community Capacity Actions.

**1 NATURE-BASED COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION:** Fund and implement a Burnett Bayland Park Master Plan for improved recreational and nature experiences

**2 MOBILITY ACTION:** Initiate a cool corridors program to combat climate change and urban heat island impacts

**3 MOBILITY ACTION:** Support and implement sidewalk improvements and safe crossings to address pedestrian safety and access issues

**4 NATURE-BASED COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION:** Activate a neighborhood urban forestry strategy to mitigate heat, improve air quality, and support wildlife

**5 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ACTION:** Facilitate a green stormwater feasibility study and action plan, in southeast Gulfton, to reduce street-level flooding and add greenspace

**6 NATURE-BASED COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION:** Increase gardens, parks, and natural habitats at schools for improved health and academic achievement

**7 COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION:** Create nature-rich civic spaces - including the 'Placita' Pilot Project - for cultural, physical, mental, and biodiversity health

# Community Action Summary

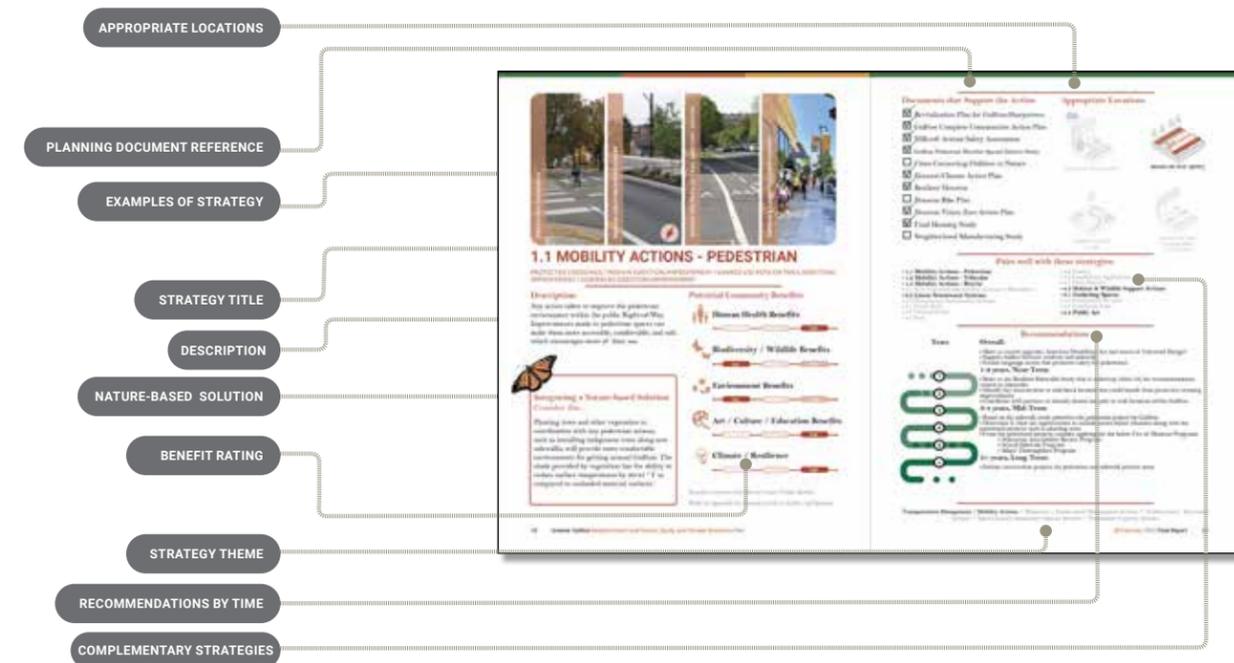
## Continued

### Envision Phase

#### Strategy Actions for a Greener Gulfton

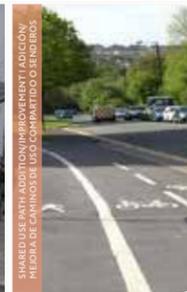
The strategy actions for a Greener Gulfton outlined different design improvements that can be taken in the Gulfton neighborhood. These strategy cards were used during meetings and in-person events to communicate with the steering committee, Green Ambassadors, neighborhood residents, and other planning participants about what they want to prioritize in Gulfton. The cards are provided in English, Spanish, and Arabic and a full copy of these can be found in the Appendix of this report. These categories for the strategies include:

- MOBILITY ACTIONS,
- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ACTIONS,
- ARCHITECTURAL/STRUCTURAL ACTIONS,
- NATURE-BASED COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTIONS and,
- COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTIONS.



1.0 MOBILITY ACTION





### MOBILITY ACTIONS - BICYCLE

BIKE LANES ADDITION/IMPROVEMENT | COVERED/LOCKED BIKE PARKING | BIKE RACKS | SHARED USE PATH OR TRAIL ADDITION/IMPROVEMENT

### ACCIONES DE MOVILIDAD - CICLISTA

ADICIÓN/MEJORA DE CICLOVÍAS | ESTACIONAMIENTO CUBIERTO/CON LLAVE PARA BICICLETAS | APARCABICICLETAS | ADICIÓN/MEJORA DE CAMINOS DE USO COMPARTIDO O SENDEROS

**A**ny action taken to improve the bicycle environment within the public Right-of-Way. Bike lanes are portions of roadways that have been designated by striping, signage, and pavement markings for the use of bicyclists. Adding or improving bike lanes, paths, and bicycling amenities can encourage more cycling by creating a safer and more comfortable environment.

**C**ualquier acción realizada para mejorar el entorno de la bicicleta dentro del derecho de paso público. Las ciclovías son porciones de las carreteras que han sido designadas por medio de franjas, señalización y marcas en el pavimento para el uso de los ciclistas. Añadir o mejorar ciclovías, los caminos y los servicios para ciclistas puede fomentar el uso de la bicicleta al crear un entorno más seguro y cómodo.

2.0 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ACTION





### NON VEGETATED STORMWATER ACTIONS & RAINWATER HARVESTING

CISTERN | RAIN TANK | POROUS PAVEMENT | STORMWATER DRAIN MARKERS | POROUS PAVEMENT

### ACCIONES PLUVIALES NO VEGETADAS Y RECOLECCIÓN DE AGUAS DE LLUVIA

CISTERNA | TANQUE DE LLUVIA | ALMACENAMIENTO SUBTERRÁNEO | MARCADORES DE DESAGÜE DE AGUAS PLUVIALES | PAVIMENTO POROSO

**T**hese actions include stormwater management improvements that do not include vegetation. Rainwater harvesting are passive methods of gathering rainwater either with a container (like a cistern or tank) for future use or using pavement that allows water to infiltrate into the soil below. Stormwater drain markers are warning signs placed at storm drains to deter deliberate dumping of pollutants.

**A**cciones de aguas pluviales o de lluvia que no incluyen la vegetación. La recolección de aguas de lluvia son métodos pasivos para recolectar el agua de lluvia, ya sea con un recipiente (como una cisterna o un tanque) para su uso futuro o utilizando un pavimento que permita que el agua se infiltre en el suelo de abajo. Los marcadores de desague de aguas pluviales son señales de advertencia colocadas en los desagües pluviales para disuadir del vertido deliberado de contaminantes.

3.0 STRUCTURAL ACTION







### VERTICAL GREEN

GREEN COLUMNS (FREEWAYS) | GREEN FACADES (BUILDINGS) | GREEN TRELLIS | GREEN WALLS | GREEN FENCES | PASSIVE COOLING FENCE

### JARDINES VERTICALES

COLUMNAS VERDES (AUTOPISTAS) | FACHADAS VERDES (EDIFICIOS) | ENREJADO VERDE | MUROS VERDES | CERCAS VERDES | CERCA DE REFRIGERACIÓN PASIVA

**V**ertical green systems incorporate plants on vertical surfaces such as freeway columns, walls, and fences. These systems can include both vegetation and soils, such as green walls, or structures that hold vegetation such as green facades or green trellises.

**L**os sistemas verdes verticales incorporan plantas en superficies verticales como columnas de autopistas, muros y cercas. Estos sistemas pueden incluir tanto la vegetación como los suelos, como los muros verdes, o las estructuras que sostienen la vegetación, como las fachadas verdes o los enrejados verdes.

4.0 NATURE-BASED COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION




### HABITAT & WILDLIFE SUPPORT ACTIONS

TREE PLANTS (STREET TREES, PARKING LOT TREES, PARK TREES) | NATIVE VEGETATION PLANTING

### ACCIONES DE APOYO AL HÁBITAT Y LA VIDA SILVESTRE

PLANTACIÓN DE ÁRBOLES (ÁRBOLES PARA LA CALLE, ÁRBOLES PARA EL ESTACIONAMIENTO, ÁRBOLES PARA PARQUES) | PLANTACIÓN DE VEGETACIÓN NATIVA

**H**abitat and wildlife support actions include planting trees and native vegetation to restore habitat and make more habitable spaces. This may include planting trees or installing vegetation along streets, in parking lots, around apartments and living areas, and in parks.

**L**as acciones de apoyo al hábitat y a la vida silvestre incluyen la plantación de árboles y vegetación nativa para restaurar el hábitat y hacer más habitables los espacios. Esto puede incluir la plantación de árboles o la instalación de vegetación a lo largo de las calles, en los estacionamientos, alrededor de los apartamentos y las áreas habitables, y en los parques.

5.0 COMMUNITY CAPACITY ACTION





### PUBLIC ART

SCULPTURE | MURAL | SPACES

### ARTE PÚBLICO

ESCULTURA | MURAL | ESPACIOS

**P**ublic art is works made through the use of imagination and creative skills by artists in any form that is visually and physically accessible to the general public.

**E**l arte público son obras realizadas mediante el uso de la imaginación y las habilidades creativas de los artistas en cualquier forma que sea visual y físicamente accesible para el público en general.

## Community Action Summary Continued

### Act Phase

#### 'La Placita' Pilot Project

Gulfton's need to increase biodiversity and open space opportunities for its residents will require developing strategies at multiple scales. As stated in previous sections, these range from large street reconstruction projects to smaller interventions.

Since many of these strategies will take a number of years to implement, it is important to develop smaller, more tactical interventions in the short term. These interventions can provide opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoor space while increasing social and nature access opportunities. As part of the public engagement process multiple strategies were presented from which providing social interaction opportunities was selected as one of the top priorities for a pilot project.

The pilot project developed brings the idea of a "Placita" (small plaza) that can be used by residents to socialize, enjoy nature and in some cases, promote economic development by supporting businesses such as food trucks or street vendors. The pilot project's conceptual design intends to create a semi-temporary installation that can be located at any location with a large pavement area such as a parking lot and can be moved to different locations as needed.

#### 'La Placita' Pilot Project Details

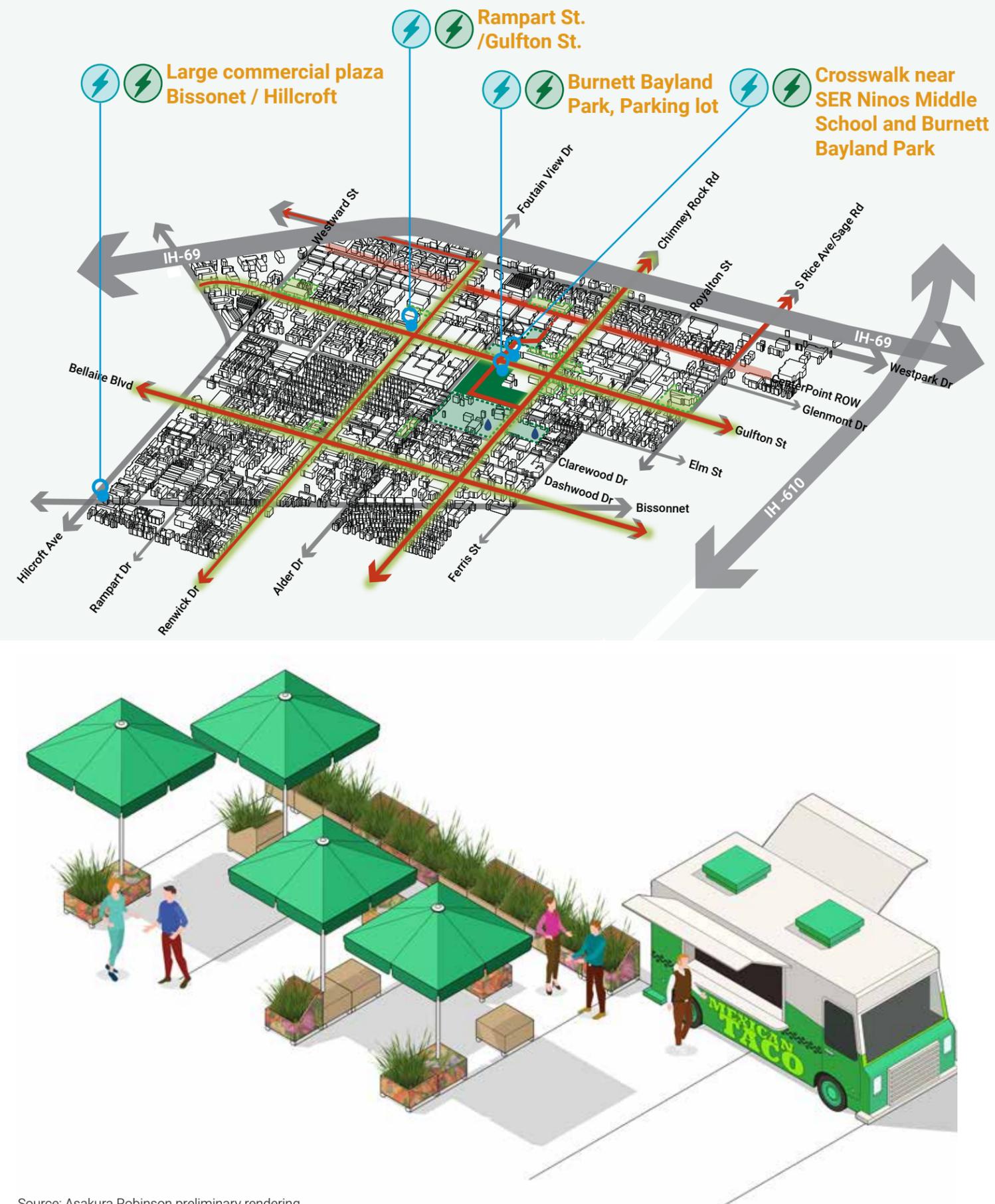
The pilot project consists of a simple modular system of planters and seating elements that can be arranged as needed to promote social gathering, planting, or even art interventions. The modular system selected is derived from the dimensions of a parking space so that it can be arranged within the limits of any surface parking area in Gulfton. The modules can be made out of wood and be movable with casters. Although location can be in any surface parking or large pavement area it is recommended to be located where there is already an established use such as a food truck or a street vendor, or even a school parking lot.

In addition to planting and seating, art is considered an important element to express the diversity of cultures in Gulfton, serve as an educational opportunity, or bring nature to the community in a more artistic way.

Other iterations of the module were done with local artists to bring dynamism to the space and additional artistic opportunities, see following pages.

#### Implementation Steps

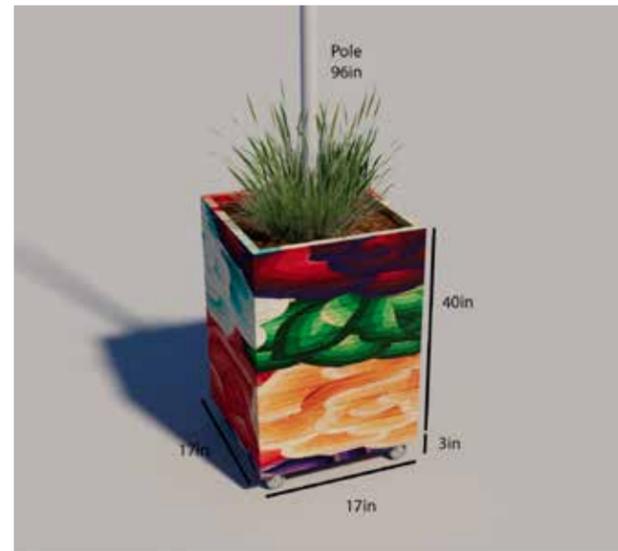
- Build modules in collaboration with UP Art Studio and local artists
- Select location in Gulfton and storage partner (school as a potential)
- Identify planting with assistance of TNC, the community or Ambassadors
- Plant modules at an event with the community



Source: Asakura Robinson preliminary rendering

## 'La Placita' Pilot Project Process

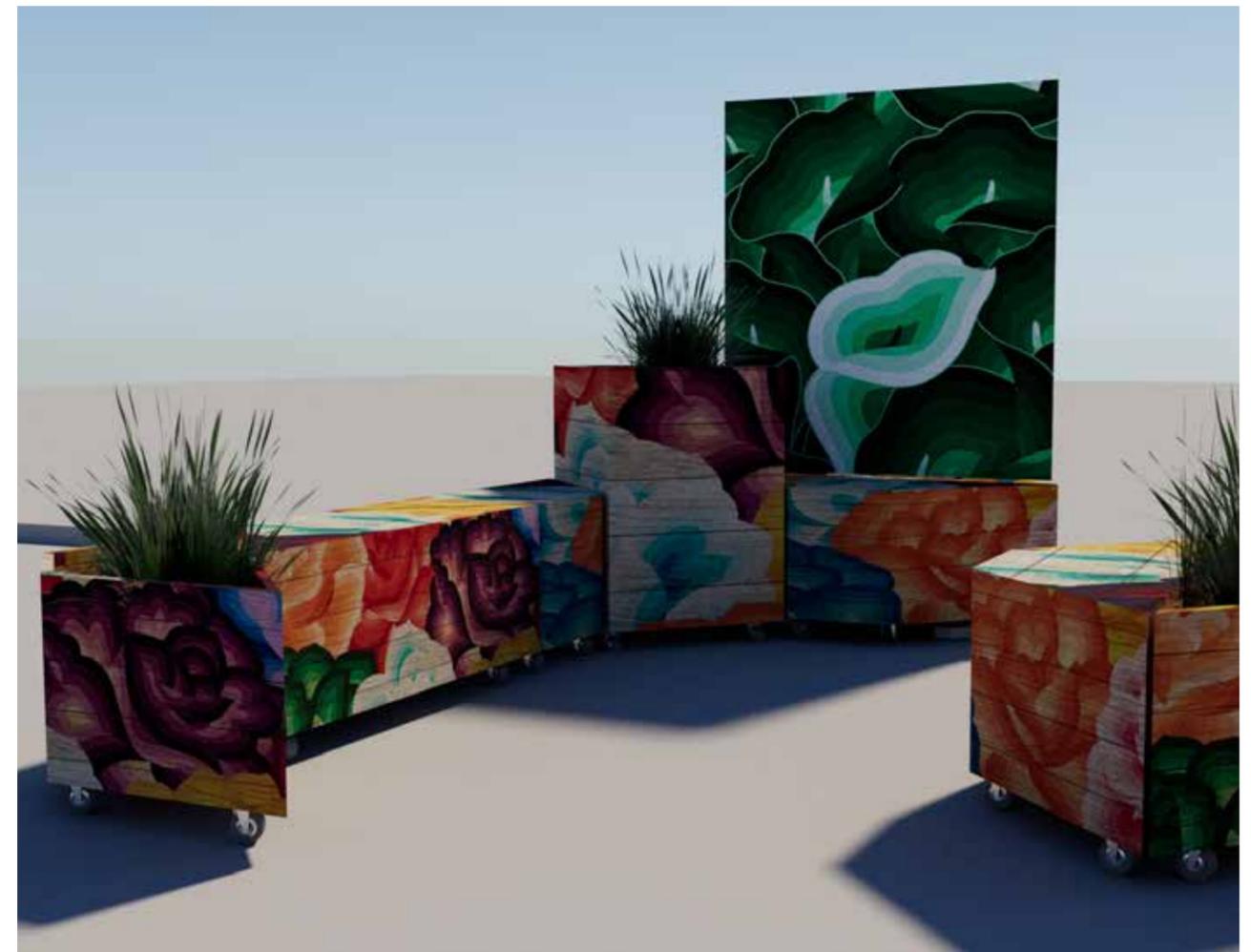
These preliminary pilot project renderings (shown on the previous two pages) were shared with UP Art Studio and developed further. These renderings are shown here. The art in the current renderings is a placeholder for the final artwork, which will be finalized with community stakeholder input. As part of the implementation process, UP Art Studio will present two or more artwork concepts to be considered. Each of these concepts will be tailored around different themes that arose from the Greener Gulfton plan such as plants native to Houston and Gulfton, the diverse cultures of the residents of Gulfton, honoring the indigenous ancestors before us, climate impact, urban heat, etc.



Source: UP Art Studio's process rendering



Source: UP Art Studio's process rendering



Source: UP Art Studio's process renderings

