

Our Great Region

Connection ★ Diligence ★ Reach ★ Opportunity ★ Excellence

F	X	F	E	X	C	E	L	L	E	N	C	E	S	G	Z	V	T
X	R	X	O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I	T	Y	R	W	J	T
A	X	X	J	G	J	F	E	P	G	E	T	P	W	T	N	D	S
W	G	L	M	O	Z	I	P	Y	Y	O	E	R	I	X	I	I	H
C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	O	N	T	M	H	U	H	Z	L	R
M	K	R	E	G	U	R	Y	L	P	E	G	B	W	I	Z	I	R
B	R	M	E	N	A	D	R	W	J	H	E	S	G	C	K	G	X
X	E	Y	M	A	Y	O	A	P	A	I	S	M	A	L	M	E	E
V	X	S	G	W	C	H	C	J	I	O	U	Z	C	I	A	N	U
Z	F	D	B	U	Y	H	Z	A	O	L	O	D	X	J	I	C	L
N	I	M	X	M	P	N	E	M	D	E	U	D	V	G	P	E	O
Y	Z	A	Y	P	F	X	U	T	D	M	W	A	O	S	L	O	W

2019 Awards Showcase

SOUTHEAST
HOUSTON
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING
INITIATIVE



Introduction

SIX BIG IDEAS FOR OUR GREAT REGION

The Our Great Region Awards recognize outstanding projects in the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 13-county region that advance the goals and strategies outlined in the Our Great Region 2040 plan (www.ourregion.org). This plan defines measurable goals for our region to continue to be a great place to live, work, and succeed by the year 2040.

Strategies in the Our Great Region 2040 plan are grouped into six Big Ideas that highlight areas of opportunity within our region.

★ **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

To be a great region in 2040, we should strengthen our economic competitiveness through an educated and skilled workforce.

★ **ENVIRONMENT**

To be a great region in 2040, we should secure a clean and ample water supply.

★ **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

To be a great region in 2040, we should cultivate places where people can lead active, healthy lives.

★ **HOUSING**

To be a great region in 2040, we should provide balanced housing choices near jobs, services, and transportation options.

★ **TRANSPORTATION**

To be a great region in 2040, we should achieve a world-class transportation network.

★ **RESILIENCY**

To be a great region in 2040, we should increase our resiliency to disaster and a changing environment.



AWARDS SHOWCASE

The projects featured in this showcase are the winners of the 2019 Our Great Region 2040 awards. These projects offer effective solutions and new opportunities for furthering the six Big Ideas. Additionally, the awards offer an opportunity to highlight the work of these project sponsors and recognize their accomplishments as examples for others in our region to follow.

Award Categories

2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The 2019 Our Great Region Award applicants are making progress across the six Big Ideas with projects addressing multiple objectives. As a result, the five award categories celebrate the interdisciplinary nature of this work and the qualities required for success.

The **CONNECTION AWARD** honors a project that advances two or more of the Our Great Region 2040 plan’s strategies through innovative partnerships and exemplifies the interdisciplinary and partnership-building work that is critical to making our region a more vibrant place to live, work, and succeed.

- ★ **2019 RECIPIENT**
CAREER4U ACADEMY, HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The **DILIGENCE AWARD** honors a project that executed a creative and persistent approach to overcome challenges to implementation and demonstrates the importance of innovation and follow-through in the pursuit of inspiring projects throughout our region.

- ★ **2019 RECIPIENT**
PEARLAND’S NATURAL RESOURCES EFFORTS, CITY OF PEARLAND

The **REACH AWARD** honors a project that demonstrates exemplary public participation and prioritizes community outreach and engagement as a core tenet of a successful project.

- ★ **2019 RECIPIENT**
GULFTON SKATE PARK AT BURNETT BAYLAND PARK, CLARK CONDON
- ★ **2019 RECIPIENT**
TAAF WINTER GAMES HOSTED BY THE CITY OF PEARLAND, CITY OF PEARLAND



The **OPPORTUNITY AWARD** honors a project that helps overcome disparities in access to opportunity, breaks down barriers of entry into the regional economy, and improves quality of life for all residents in our region.

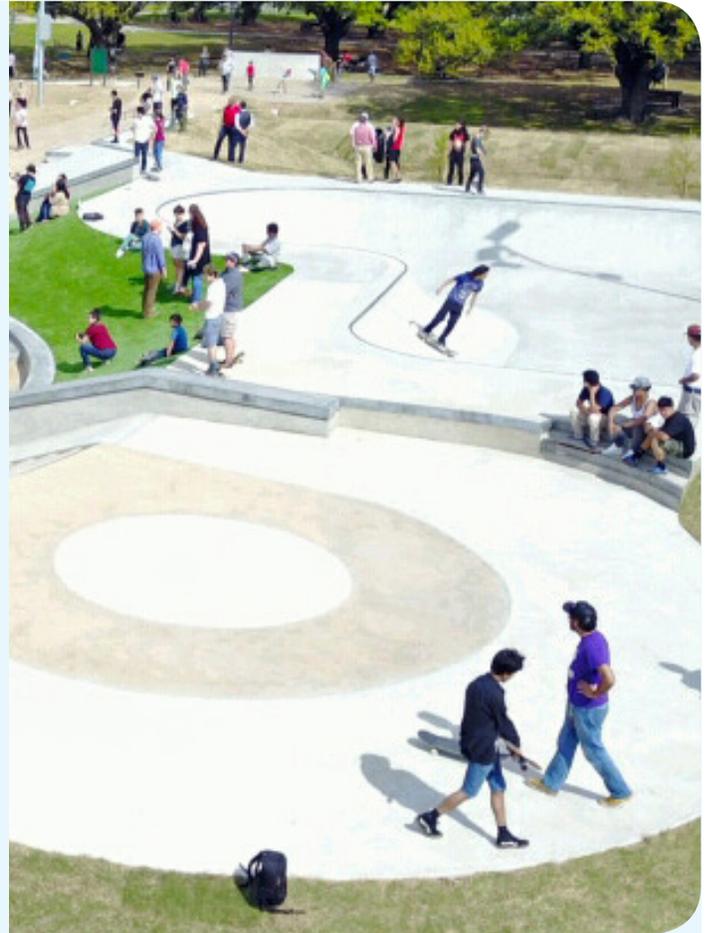
- ★ **2019 RECIPIENT**
SOUTHEAST HOUSTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE CENTER FOR CIVIC PUBLIC POLICY IMPROVEMENT

The **EXCELLENCE AWARD** honors a project addressing timely issues within our region, while helping to further the principles of the Our Great Region 2040 plan. The project demonstrates the ingenuity and strategic focus that is required for a brighter future for our region.

- ★ **2019 RECIPIENT**
EXPLORATION GREEN, EXPLORATION GREEN CONSERVANCY

A Great 2019 and Beyond

The Our Great Region Awards demonstrate the wealth of local work underway and completed in our region. At the Houston-Galveston Area Council, we applaud the work of the organizations who applied in 2019 and look forward to celebrating similar accomplishments in the years to come.



PANEL OF JUDGES

H-GAC would like to thank the expert panel of judges for evaluating the 2019 Our Great Region Awards. Their unique perspectives and meaningful insights contributed to the success of this awards program.

- ★ **MS. JILL BOULLION**
Executive Director
Bayou Land Conservancy
- ★ **MS. VERNON CHAMBERS**
Assistant Director
Harris County Transit - RIDES
- ★ **MR. JAIME GONZALEZ**
Houston Urban Conservation Programs
Manager, The Nature Conservancy
- ★ **MR. ANDREW VAN CHAU**
Residential Partner
Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber
of Commerce



The Connection Award

CAREER4U ACADEMY HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Houston Community College's (HCC) adult education program, in partnership with the Houston-Galveston Area Council and Workforce Solutions, designed Career4U Academy to remove barriers and provide access to adult students looking for workforce training opportunities in construction, information technology, healthcare, business, and transportation.



HCC uses Workforce Solutions funding to pay for students' attendance in the Career4U Academy, thus removing any financial barriers and further creating access to opportunities. Students must pay a \$20 processing fee and pass a pre-qualification test ahead of admission. Students who complete the program earn a Level 1 certificate, demonstrating they are ready to continue to employment or move forward toward an associate degree.



"HCC's Career 4U Academy is a Shining Star Program because we are making our region an even better place to live, work, and prosper for our students."

Houston Community College

- ★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- ★ HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

F X F E X C E L L E N C E S G Z V T
X R X O P P O R T U N I T Y R W J T
A X X J G J F E P G E T P W T N D S
W G L M O Z I P Y Y O E R I X I I H
C O N N E C T I O N T M H U H Z L R
M K R E G U R Y L P E G B W I Z I R
B R M E N A D R W J H E S G C K G X
X E Y M A Y O A P A I S M A L M E E
V X S G W C H C J I O U Z C I A N U
Z F D B U Y H Z A O L O D X J I C L
N I M X M P N E M D E U D V G P E O
Y Z A Y P F X U T D M W A O S L O W

The Diligence Award

PEARLAND'S NATURAL RESOURCES EFFORTS

CITY OF PEARLAND

The City of Pearland recognized the importance of preserving and managing its valuable natural resources as a rapidly developing city by creating a Natural Resources Division in October 2016. Since its creation, the Division has provided an abundance of environmental education, awareness, and stewardship choices.

Conservation efforts provide access to nature, provide passive recreation opportunities, create a "greener" city, preserve ecosystem services, and provide habitat for wildlife. Educational programming helps build a more environmentally conscious community that will make smarter choices in terms of recycling, water conservation, wildlife needs, and ecosystem health. Outdoor recreation programs are getting people out in nature and providing unique experiences that connect people to the natural environment.

"The work put into the nature center has made, and will continue to make, a lasting impact in the Pearland community."

City of Pearland



F X F E X C E L L E N C E S G Z V T
 X R X O P P O R T U N I T Y R W J T
 A X X J G J F E P G E T P W T N D S
 W G L M O Z I P Y Y O E R I X I I H
 C O N N E C T I O N T M H U H Z L R
 M K R E G U R Y L P E G B W I Z I R
 B R M E N A D R W J H E S G C K G X
 X E Y M A Y O A P A I S M A L M E E
 V X S G W C H C J I O U Z C I A N U
 Z F D B U Y H Z A O L O D X J I C L
 N I M X M P N E M D E U D V G P E O
 Y Z A Y P F X U T D M W A O S L O W

- ★ ENVIRONMENT
- ★ HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
- ★ RESILIENCY

The Reach Award

GULFTON SKATE PARK AT BURNETT BAYLAND PARK

CLARK CONDON

In 2012, a group of teens in the Gulfton community, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the country, wanted to build a skatepark in their community so everyone could have a safe place to skate locally. The group, aided by the local Baker Ripley organization, reached out to their city councilmember and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) with an idea to build a skatepark at Burnett Bayland Park.



Thanks to the efforts of the teens, along with partners at Clark Condon, the City of Houston, HPARD, Baker Ripley, and the Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grant program, the \$1.1 million, 17,500-square-foot, in-ground skatepark opened in 2017. The teens, some now adults, help maintain the park by picking up trash and providing skate lessons to community members.

“The park draws people from all over Houston, as well as different countries from around the world, but the biggest impact was in giving this teen population a voice and watching what they accomplished.”

Clark Condon

- ★ HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
- ★ RESILIENCY

F	X	F	E	X	C	E	L	L	E	N	C	E	S	G	Z	V	T
X	R	X	O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I	T	Y	R	W	J	T
A	X	X	J	G	J	F	E	P	G	E	T	P	W	T	N	D	S
W	G	L	M	O	Z	I	P	Y	Y	O	E	R	I	X	I	I	H
C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	O	N	T	M	H	U	H	Z	L	R
M	K	R	E	G	U	R	Y	L	P	E	G	B	W	I	Z	I	R
B	R	M	E	N	A	D	R	W	J	H	E	S	G	C	K	G	X
X	E	Y	M	A	Y	O	A	P	A	I	S	M	A	L	M	E	E
V	X	S	G	W	C	H	C	J	I	O	U	Z	C	I	A	N	U
Z	F	D	B	U	Y	H	Z	A	O	L	O	D	X	J	I	C	L
N	I	M	X	M	P	N	E	M	D	E	U	D	V	G	P	E	O
Y	Z	A	Y	P	F	X	U	T	D	M	W	A	O	S	L	O	W

The Reach Award

TAAF WINTER GAMES HOSTED BY THE CITY OF PEARLAND CITY OF PEARLAND

In 2018, Winter Games of Texas started a four-way partnership between Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) and Pearland’s Convention and Visitors Bureau, Parks & Recreation, and school district. Each agency contributed substantially to create a successful event. In 2019, the Olympic-style, multi-sport event attracted more than 2,000 athletes of all ages and abilities from across the state.

The City of Pearland was the first host to introduce adaptive sporting events as part of the games such as wheelchair rugby, adaptive archery, and adaptive powerlifting. City departments, volunteers, and sponsors contributed to the success of the event. The economic impact was \$1,000,000 in hotel, shopping and dining, with an event weekend increase in hotel occupancy by 61.75%. The success of the event led to Pearland being awarded hosting opportunities in 2020 and 2021.

“This event showcases our great city and region to all visitors from all over the state of Texas.”

City of Pearland

F	X	F	E	X	C	E	L	L	E	N	C	E	S	G	Z	V	T
X	R	X	O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I	T	Y	R	W	J	T
A	X	X	J	G	J	F	E	P	G	E	T	P	W	T	N	D	S
W	G	L	M	O	Z	I	P	Y	Y	O	E	R	I	X	I	I	H
C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	O	N	T	M	H	U	H	Z	L	R
M	K	R	E	G	U	R	Y	L	P	E	G	B	W	I	Z	I	R
B	R	M	E	N	A	D	R	W	J	H	E	S	G	C	K	G	X
X	E	Y	M	A	Y	O	A	P	A	I	S	M	A	L	M	E	E
V	X	S	G	W	C	H	C	J	I	O	U	Z	C	I	A	N	U
Z	F	D	B	U	Y	H	Z	A	O	L	O	D	X	J	I	C	L
N	I	M	X	M	P	N	E	M	D	E	U	D	V	G	P	E	O
Y	Z	A	Y	P	F	X	U	T	D	M	W	A	O	S	L	O	W



- ★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- ★ HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Opportunity Award

SOUTHEAST HOUSTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE CENTER FOR CIVIC AND PUBLIC POLICY IMPROVEMENT

The Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement and Midtown Redevelopment Authority partnered to implement the Southeast Houston Affordable Housing Initiative. Approximately 450 land tracts were acquired and sold to affordable housing developers, at nominal cost. This helps developers produce housing that is affordable to households with incomes at or below 120% of area median income. (The proceeds from land sales underwrite the cost of infrastructure improvements.)



Partners leveraged the construction of 104 affordable single family for-sale housing units in the revitalizing Third Ward and OST/South Union neighborhoods of Houston and 294 affordable rental units. An additional 136 single-family detached homes and 302 multi-family rental units will be constructed in the area.

“The Southeast Houston Affordable Housing Initiative has helped to overcome disparities in access to opportunity by diversifying housing stock, increasing availability of affordable housing, increasing the mix of incomes within an area, and to a lesser extent, reducing poverty rates.”

Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement

- ★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- ★ HOUSING
- ★ TRANSPORTATION



The Excellence Award

EXPLORATION GREEN

EXPLORATION GREEN CONSERVANCY

Exploration Green is a partnership project of the Clear Lake City Water Authority and Exploration Green Conservancy. The project transformed a defunct golf course into a 200-acre multi-purpose stormwater detention, nature habitat, and community recreation area. Surrounding apartments and homes, previously in decline, have started to revive economically as area residents enjoy the trails and nature habitat.

The project has five phases with five permanent lakes totaling 39 acres surrounded by wetlands and 12 miles of hike and bike trails. The lakes will hold about 100,000,000 gallons of stormwater runoff with a goal of protecting 2,000 homes from potential flooding. Trees for Houston is donating 5,000 native trees for the project, scheduled for completion in 2022, and the Texas A&M Community Watershed Partners developed an on-site wetland plant nursery.

“Exploration Green is a community partnership project that improves resiliency through flood prevention while offering natural, healthy lifestyle potentials.”

Exploration Green Conservancy



F X F **E X C E L L E N C E** S G Z V T
 X R X **O P P O R T U N I T Y** R W J T
 A X X J G J F E P G E T P W T N D S
 W G L M O Z I P Y Y O E R I X I I H
C O N N E C T I O N T M H U H Z L R
 M K R E G U R Y L P E G B W I Z I R
 B R M E N A D R W J H E S G C K G X
 X E Y M A Y O A P A I S M A L M E E
 V X S G W C H C J I O U Z C I A N U
 Z F D B U Y H Z A O L O D X J I C L
 N I M X M P N E M D E U D V G P E O
 Y Z A Y P F X U T D M W A O S L O W

- ★ ENVIRONMENT
- ★ HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
- ★ RESILIENCY



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