# *Implementation of 3 Key Goals*

### *A Regional Land-Use Strategy Enhanced Air, Water and Soil & Long-term Resilience*

**8-County Region:** Brazoria • Chambers • Fort Bend • Galveston • Harris • Liberty • Montgomery • Waller
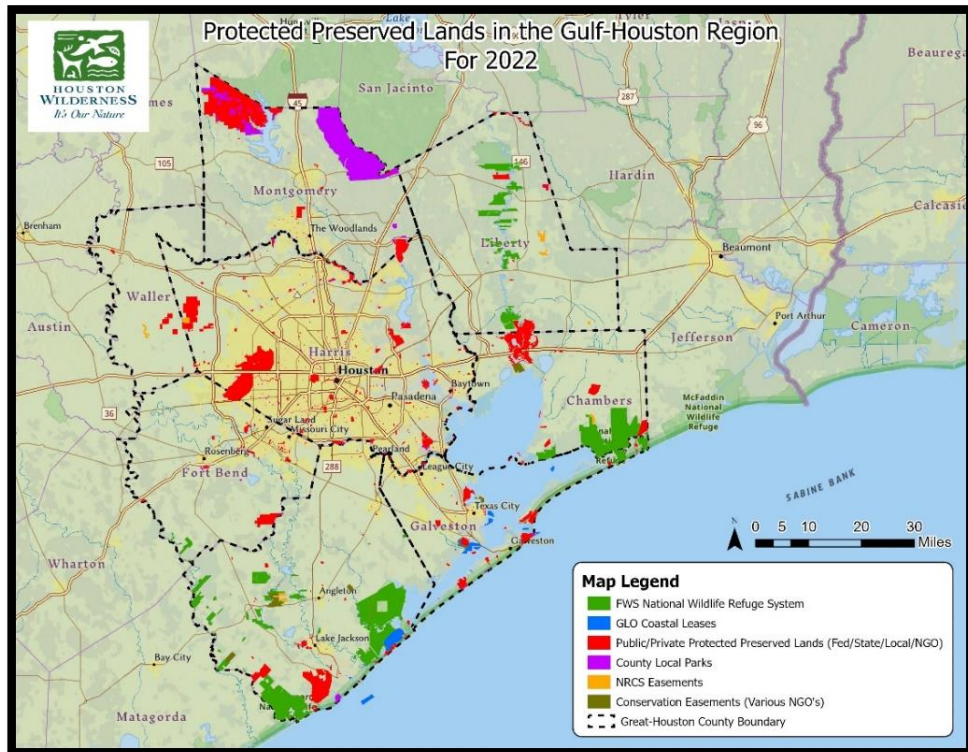
Facilitated by Houston Wilderness, the ***Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan*** is a long-term collaborative of 100+ environmental, business, and governmental entities working together to implement an ecosystem continuity and connectivity plan for the Gulf-Houston region through implementation of three (3) Key Goals for enhanced resilience throughout the 8-county region. Progress is tracked through regional projects and initiatives that increase protected lands provide more nature-based infrastructure and contribute to increased carbon sequestration throughout the 8-county region.
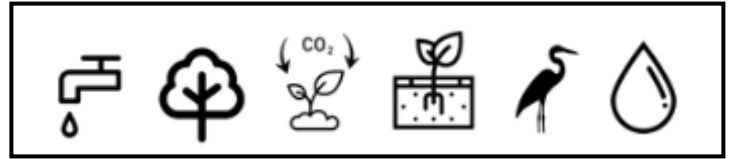
## THREE KEY GOALS

**(1) R**eaching **24% by 2040** in protected/preserved nature-based infrastructure in the 8-county region,
**(2) P**roviding **50% by 2040** in nature-based stabilization techniques on riparian, developed & undeveloped, agricultural and coastal lands in the region, and
**(3) W**orking toward a **.4% annual increase** in organic carbon offsets on regional lands through enhancements in native soils, plants and tree species throughout the region

### PROGRESS ON 1ST KEY GOAL
27% is currently developed land-use
15.6% is currently preserved nature-based infrastructure
40% is available undeveloped land



Protected Preserved Lands in the Gulf-Houston Region For 2022

**Map Legend**
- FWS National Wildlife Refuge System
- GLO Coastal Leases
- Public/Private Protected Preserved Lands (Fed/State/Local/NGO)
- County Local Parks
- NRCS Easements
- Conservation Easements (Various NGO's)
- Great-Houston County Boundary

## BENEFITS & CURRENT METRICS OF THREE KEY GOALS

- **Economic:** Investing in long-term undeveloped nature-based infrastructure (NBI) is a critical part of long-term protection of the region's residents, businesses and wildlife. Over $580 million in land acquisition projects have been funded in the 8-county Gulf-Houston Region since 2013, mainly from federal/state agency grants, NGO support and public bonds. Miles of marsh and living shorelines reduce inland storm surge. Nature-based stabilization techniques provide space for flood control, better air/water quality, green space, large-scale tree planting and carbon sequestration.

- **Ecological:** Increasing protected/preserved NBI enhances ecosystem services critical to our region's resilience like flood mitigation and carbon sequestration. Annual increases in carbon sequestration could provide offsets of as much as 27 million tons of carbon annually from the atmosphere in our region.

- **Social:** Large parts of our region's conserved lands serve multiple purposes as flood control and riparian buffer areas with parks, beaches, hike & bike trails, eco-tourism, fishing, kayaking and other outdoor activities. Protecting 24% in targeted nature-based infrastructure provides as much as 700,000 acres in additional green space in our region.

## Gulf-Houston RCP's OVERLAP WITH *RESILIENT HOUSTON PLAN*
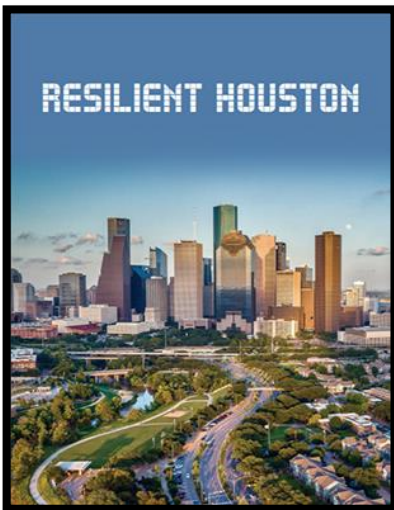
*In early 2020, the City of Houston initiated its Resilient Houston Plan -* a framework for collective action that links existing efforts with new ones to protect Houston against future disasters—from hurricanes and flooding to extreme heat waves—and chronic stresses such as aging infrastructure, poor air quality, and climate change. *Resilient Houston* was forged during an 18-month process in collaboration with local stakeholders and regional, national and global partners and the Gulf-Houston RCP's three key goals overlaps with three key goals of the Resilient Houston Plan:

**Chapter 2: Safe & Equitable Neighborhoods** – **Goal 6:** Plant 4.6 million new native trees by 2030. A Tree Strategy Implementation Group (TSIG) has come together to create a large-scale native tree planting strategy and related *Regional Native Tree Planting Policy Manual*. See information and upcoming TSIG Forums at https://houstonwilderness.org/tree-strategy-implementation-group
**Chapter 4: Accessible & Adaptive City** – **Goal 11:** 100 new green stormwater infrastructure projects by 2025
**Chapter 5: Innovative & Integrated Region** – **Goal 16:** Conserve 24% of undeveloped regional lands as natural spaces by 2040