

QUADRANTS

NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT NEWS

ART

Recently completed turtle murals are turning heads and sparking conversation along the Greens Bayou Trail.

GRANTS

District leadership hopes to earn more than \$5 million in grant funds for three big mobility projects.

EXPANSION

District advocacy is transforming a barren floodwater detention basin into a nature preserve park amenity.

A photograph of three men standing on a blue-painted path that features murals of turtles and lily ponds. The man on the left is wearing a blue suit jacket and glasses. The man in the middle is wearing a white t-shirt and light-colored pants, holding a hat. The man on the right is wearing a blue plaid shirt and blue pants. The path is surrounded by green grass and trees.

*NHD is clean,
green, and
growing this
spring!*

SPRING 2023

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to *Quadrants*, North Houston District's quarterly newsletter. We hope you enjoy this edition and the spring season's warm promise of renewal after the chilly winter months. New projects are budding that will change local landscape and expand our parks and trails. Public safety outreach efforts focused on advocacy and community engagement are in full swing, and we do our fair share of spring cleaning around the District, too. Land maintenance and mulching programs at our parks and public spaces are well underway, as well as sprucing and tending to flower beds and landscape features.

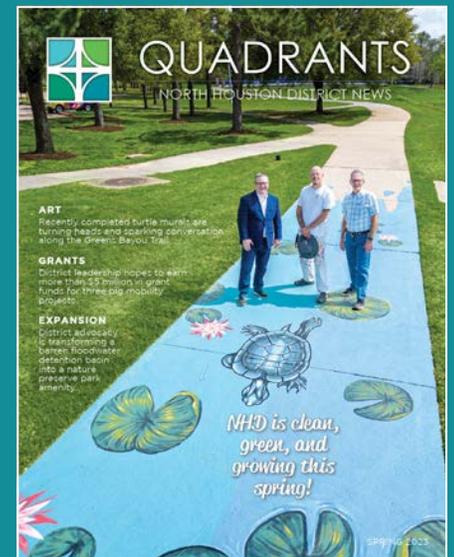


The warm sunny days lend themselves nicely to outdoor activities, and we invite everyone to enjoy the skate and bike facilities at Rockstar Energy Bike Park and North Houston Skate Park. Many features are free and open to the public, as you'll see in our story on Page 3. There are eight parks throughout the District, all featuring their own unique attributes – from shaded paths through a nature preserve at Jack Drake to senior mobility equipment at Ida Gaye Gardens and accessible play at Dylan Park. There truly is something for everyone.

Please reach out to us any time if you have questions about our work, or if you have ideas on how we can further our mission of advocating for projects that attract the best in commercial and residential life to our appealing, safe, accessible, and green activity center.

Greg Simpson
North Houston District President

ON THE COVER



Pictured from the left are NHD President Greg Simpson, UP Art Studio Muralist Robin Munro, and NHD Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure Robert Fiederlein. The trio met up to celebrate the completion of our recent turtle mural trail art project.

Read more on Page 9.

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Brenda Spratt
SUPPORT SERVICES

The District is governed by a board of directors who serve staggered terms of four years. Directors are appointed by Houston City Council from a list of persons recommended by the District to serve on its Board of Directors.

YOU'RE INVITED TO WALK, RELAX, GRIND, OR RIDE

Local Skate and Bike Parks Open to All



The District is home to eight beautiful parks - but two of them were built to pump and grind. North Houston Skate Park is a skater's dream, and Rockstar Energy Bike Park is a BMX rider's delight. Riders and skaters come from near and far to enjoy the facilities, and local residents are invited to enjoy the parks, too.

Both parks are beautifully landscaped, featuring walking trails, public art, and picnic tables. The parks are gated and have on-site security plus helpful park staff. Even if you don't bike or skate, enjoy a relaxing walk or plan a family picnic. N. Houston Development Corp built the parks. Through an ongoing partnership, the parks are managed by the North Houston District. Admission is free, and helmets are required if you decide to ride.



NORTH HOUSTON SKATE PARK

Skateboards, rollerblades, and roller skates are welcome to explore 77,000 square feet of surface - this is one of the largest skateparks in the world! The park features a competition-scale Texas-shaped bowl with a full pipe, backyard-style pools, and smaller bowls for beginner, intermediate, and advanced skaters. There's even a section designed to match the street-skating experience.



ROCKSTAR ENERGY BIKE PARK

Houston's largest bike park appeals to amateur and professional BMX riders. The 20-acre park includes concrete bowls, dirt jumps, pump tracks for all ages, a flatland freestyle area, shaded walking trails, and public art. One side of the park is reserved for USA BMX Members and hosts clinics, practice, and sanctioned racing. The other side is free and open to the public.



NATIONAL AND STATE BMX COMPETITIONS

Rockstar Energy Bike Park is a worldwide attraction. Each February, Lone Star Nationals, a USA BMX Nationals Pro Series race, is held here, attracting thousands of BMX enthusiasts. Earlier this year, the park was named the #1 BMX Track in Texas and has been honored with hosting the BMX State Race on April 30 and the State Championship on September 23 and 24, 2023.



Please follow the parks on social at [@rockstarenergybikepark](#), [@NHoustonSk8park](#), and [@northhoustonsk8park](#), email tdockery@northhouston.org or visit northhoustonsportcomplex.com for information on free community events like Saturday night jam bands, ice cream socials, and vendor markets.



Rockstar Energy Bike Park & North Houston Skate Park are located in the northwest quadrant of NHD.

COME to SKATE - COME to RIDE - COME to WALK - COME to RELAX. JUST COME HANG OUT WITH US.

NORTH HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

**SATURDAY
MAY 13**



Teacup Mini Gardens

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY
11331 Airline Drive

Bring the whole family and join the library staff for Crafty Corner, where they are recycling teacups and coffee mugs to make mini herb gardens. Garden supplies provided!

Info: @aldinebranchlibrary

**THIRD THURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

HPD North Belt Division PIP Meetings



Noon

HPD NORTH BELT DIVISION
100 Glenborough, 10th Floor

HPD Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meetings are held for members of the community to engage with law enforcement, hear from speakers and work together to build a safer community.

Email: hpdnorthbeltdivision@houstonpolice.org

**JUNE & JULY
SUMMER 2023**

Explorer Camp at the Y

Time: To Be Announced

ALDINE-GREENSPOINT YMCA
Tom Wussow Park, 500 Greens Road

YMCA Wussow Park Explorer Camp offers weekly sessions for children ages 5 - 12 to explore curiosity, discover new passions, and have fun in a safe, enrichment environment.



Info: Call 832-484-9622 or email Sabrina.Winn@ymcahouston.org

**SATURDAY
JUNE 24**

Splash Into Summer

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

DYLAN PARK
12351 Kuykendahl Road

Bring the kids out for family fun, games, prizes, music, and food! Dylan Park is adjacent to North Houston Skate Park.

Info: @NHoustonSk8park



Do you have an upcoming event, fair, festival or meeting?

Please share with us on social media @NHDistrict or email cmartin@northhouston.org.
When community partners come together, positive change is possible.



FREE CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK

THURSDAY, MAY 25

3 PM - 6 PM

Green House
International Church
200 West Greens Road

REGISTER HERE



For information: 832-824-3483

JACK DRAKE PARK EXPANSION

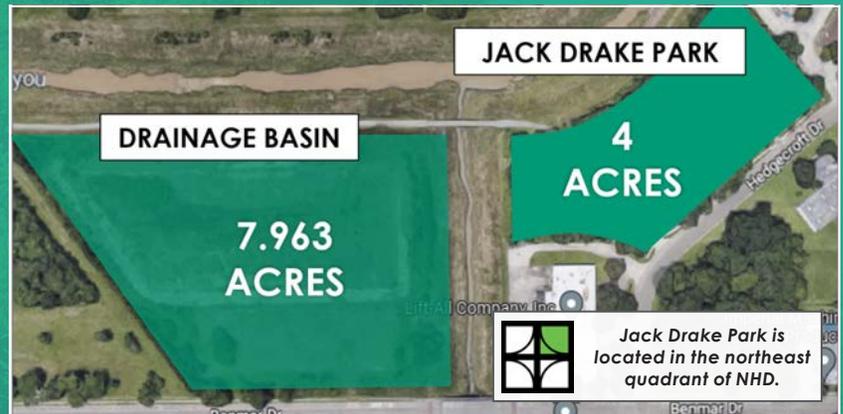
A recent no-cost land donation tripled the size of Jack Drake Park to a 12-acre nature preserve featuring native trees, grasslands, and wildlife habitat.

Here's the skinny:

A hotel development required construction of a stormwater detention basin, which is common practice for new commercial projects in Houston. The basin was built adjacent to Jack Drake Park and remained fenced and privately owned for many years.

The basin can never be developed by city ordinance, so District leadership reached out to property owners and offered to take over responsibility for the property. This opportunity serves as an excellent green space expansion and paves the way for new park amenities. It furthers the mission and vision of Jack Drake Park, which is to preserve the natural habitat for our local ecosystem.

It's a win-win, reducing cost and liability for the hotel owner and resulting in the expansion of green space for the District, which is a core part of our mission and values. Stay tuned for park updates. 🌱



STRETCHING DISTRICT DOLLARS

As the North Houston District continues its work of attracting the best in commercial and residential life to our region, new priority projects aim to improve mobility, expand parks and trails, and increase sidewalk safety. Transportation and mobility projects can get pricey, so District staff spearhead advocacy efforts where possible and, when financial backing is required, seek supplemental funding sources in the form of grants.

Mobility projects almost always require partnerships with local and state agencies, and District leadership has a positive track record of earning grants by leveraging assessments. Right now, there are several sizable applications in process. If awarded, the completed projects will profoundly impact the North Houston District.

THE GRANTS

Harris County Pct. 2		TxDOT Alternatives		Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreational Trails	
\$330k	50/50 Match	\$5M+	80/20 Match	\$375k	80/20 Match
Sidewalk and mobility improvements along Airline Drive		Major sidewalks expansion and new trails along Imperial Valley Drive, Greens Road and Wayforest Drive		New trail from Jack Drake Park to West Hardy Street	
Submitted February → Response April		Submitted January → Response September		Submitted January → Response June	

Grant Partners

Grants are one way federal, state, and local governments fund ideas and projects that provide public services. Typically, grants are distributed between governmental agencies for infrastructure improvement projects. Specifically, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Texas Department of Transportation, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department tend to offer grants that align with District goals and objectives.

Study Priorities

North Houston District partnered with Houston-Galveston Area Council in 2020 to develop a Livable Centers Study, which identified specific recommendations to improve connectivity and deepen the sense of place within the District. Substantial progress has been made, and this next series of projects is a continuation of work aimed at expanding green space, enhancing trails that boost mobility, and improving sidewalks that increase safety for pedestrians and bike riders.

According to Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure Robert Fiederlein, proof of the need for expanded parks,

sidewalks, and trails is shown, and we are working to find funding sources to meet the needs of the District.

Goal Diggers

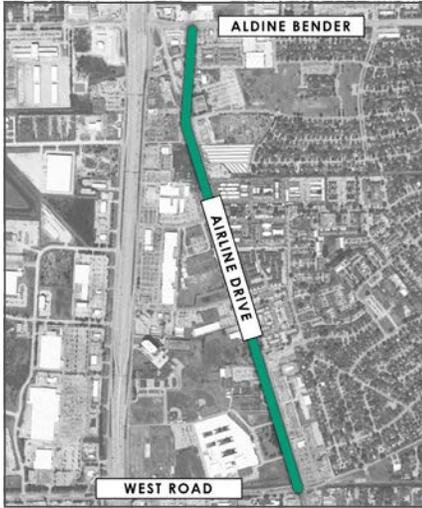
The North Houston District has been successful in attaining grants in the past and has a solid track record of completing projects, which is appreciated by granting agencies.

“Jack Drake Park and Ida Gaye Gardens were built with Recreational Trails Grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,” said Fiederlein. “Much of the trail along Greens Bayou was built with a TxDOT grant. We’ve been successful in the past, and we’re pursuing new grants now and in the future.”

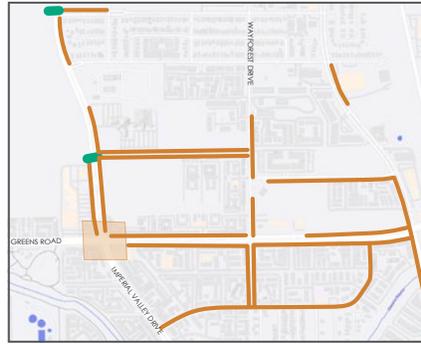
Robert explained that District leadership is working to accomplish goals from the Livable Centers Study as quickly as possible, and accessing grant dollars means achieving those goals much quicker.

“We’re always good stewards of the investments made by District assessment payers, but those resources are limited,” he said. “Grant funds allow us to multiply assessment contributions.

THE PROJECTS



Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia is seeking potential capital improvement and maintenance projects to be funded in partnership with other area agencies that serve the citizens of Harris County. The District submitted a sidewalk improvement project along Airline Drive.



The **Texas Department of Transportation** administers funds for locally sponsored bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects in communities across the state. The District applied for a significant grant that would greatly expand safe sidewalks along well-traveled roads in our northwest quadrant. The project is a recommendation from the 2020 Livable Centers Study.



Jack Drake Park recently tripled in size due to a no-cost land donation to the District. (Read more on Page 11.) In addition to that expansion, a recent grant application to **Texas Parks and Wildlife** would expand the trail system, effectively connecting Jack Drake Park to West Hardy Street, and increasing mobility across our region.



Most of the grants are an 80/20 match, which is four to one, so for every \$20 we put in, we can get \$80 in grant dollars."

Proactive Partnerships

According to Robert, identifying grants that match District goals takes a combination of organizations reaching out to us and our proactive approach to developing partnerships with granting agencies.

"While each organization offers grants for different projects, the process is essentially the same," he said. "We identified projects from the Livable Centers Study as priorities, and we look for grant opportunities that align with those goals. We work through the application process and will continue to apply for matching grant funds until we are successful."

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP HAS A POSITIVE TRACK RECORD OF EARNING GRANTS BY LEVERAGING ASSESSMENTS, AND RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE SEVERAL SIZABLE GRANT APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS.

Future Focused

Relationships and advocacy are still as good as gold, and sometimes all it takes is initiative.

"We reached out to Harris County Toll Road Authority regarding their Tollways to Trailways program hoping for a partnership connecting our trails system under I-45 and Beltway 8," he said. "Similarly, the Houston Dynamo approached us with an

opportunity at Wussow Park and we have a project in the queue that's a great fit."

Please follow the District on social media for project and grant updates.

To see the full 2020 H-GAC Livable Centers Study, please visit <https://www.h-gac.com/livable-centers/planning-studies/north-houston-greenspoint>.



Buckboard Park
70 Buckboard Drive
Houston, TX 77037

Where Public and Art intersect

Did you know that the North Houston District is home to more than 40 pieces of public art? Awe-inspiring murals and sculptures are located throughout the area. Expect something beautiful just around the corner



North Houston District

Opportunity and growth intersect in the North Houston District.



Aldine Branch Library
11331 Airline Drive, Houston, TX 77037

TURTLES ON THE TRAILS

North Houston District partnered with UP Art Studio on Trail Art Turtle Murals in early 2023 as part of the District's Public Art Program expansion.

On a sunny day in early March, NHD President Greg Simpson and Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure Robert Fiederlein met with UP Art Studio Muralist Robin Munro, who designed and installed the artwork, to dedicate the trails and talk about how they think the project will impact surrounding residents. Check out the video at youtube.com/@nhdistrict.

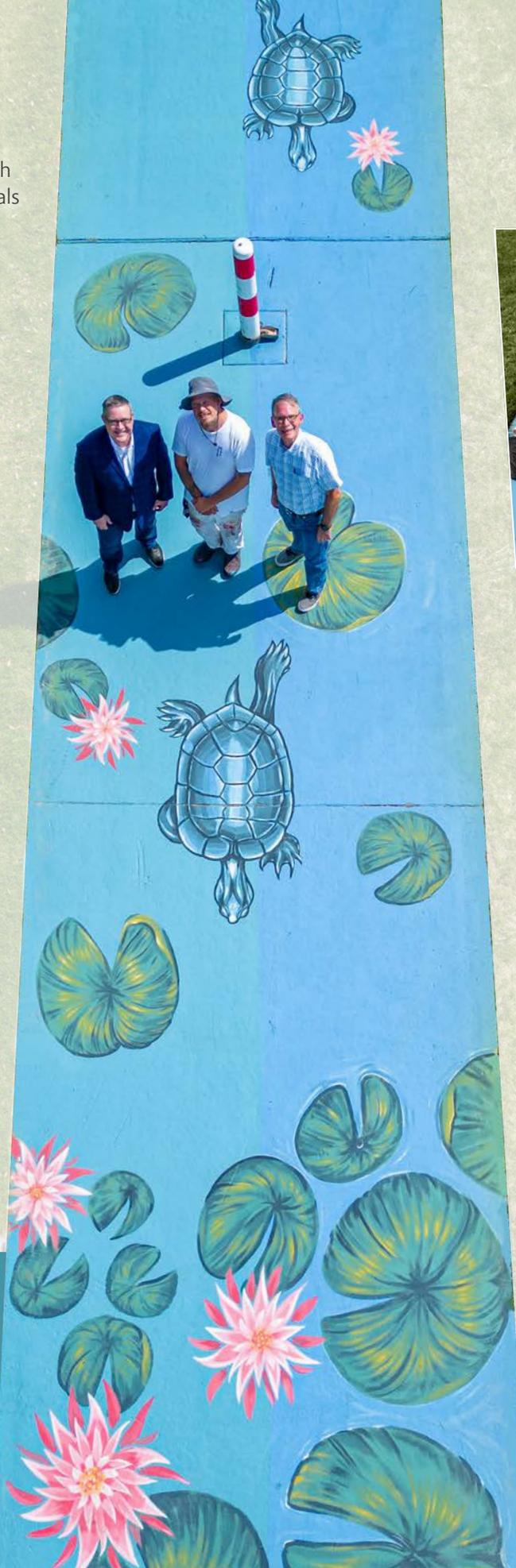
The trail segment featured in this video is at Greens Road, adjacent to Thomas R. Wussow Park. There's more to see where the trail meets Imperial Valley Drive. All segments pop with vibrant colors and engaging nature scenes featuring turtles, and aquatic bayou flora and fauna.

The North Houston District is home to more than 40 pieces of public art, most of which have been commissioned by our partners at the N. Houston Development Corp. The District adopted the Public Art and Placemaking Plan in 2021 to advance the public art initiative with strategic investments made equitably across all four quadrants of the District. 🌱

District leadership is scouting possible locations for our next masterpiece.

Have a suggestion?

Please email cmartin@northhouston.org or reach out on social media.



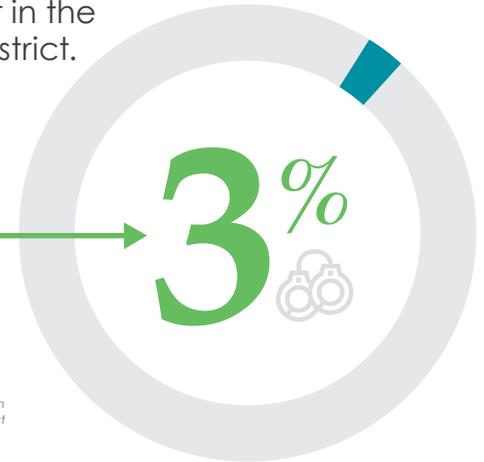
The Turtle Trail Murals are located in the northeast quadrant of NHD.

PRIORITIZING SAFETY 2023

Public Safety is an important pillar of the work we do at the North Houston District. In February, the 2023 Prioritizing Safety brochure was published, offering a snapshot of our region’s most current crime statistics and a glance at the District’s crime prevention and community outreach tactics. Crime prevention is a team effort; it takes all of us.

Crime has been on a downward trend in the North Houston District since 2015.

Only three percent of total crimes across the City of Houston occur in the North Houston District.



Source: Houston Police Department
 Scope: 2021 City Data City of Houston
 HPD City Limits North Houston District
 Data: Beats 6B50 and 6B60



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, BUSINESS OWNERS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, AND CITIZENS IS CRITICAL TO REDUCING AND PREVENTING CRIME.



KNOW THE FACTS

The following sites let you explore activity in a specific location by simply entering an address.

- **City of Houston Stats –LexisNexis Community Crime Map**
communitycrimemap.com
- **Harris County Crime Reports**
crimereports.com
- **City of Houston Crime Reports**
houston.tx.gov/police/cs/beatpages/beat_stats.htm
- **ABC13 Houston Safety Tracker**
 Houstonians can research crime statistics in detail by neighborhood and HPD patrol beats. To find it, search for the ABC13 Houston app.



To read and download the 2023 Prioritizing Safety brochure, please visit northhouston.org/facts.



Residents joyfully welcome visits from our team and appreciate the valuable information and opportunity to ask questions.



Thank you to Tracy, our local officers, North Houston Skate Park staff, Pastor EA Deckard and all who participated in the 2023 Knock and Talk program!

MARCH ON CRIME

Since 1984, the Houston Police Department has organized a public outreach and crime prevention outreach week in March. In support of the annual March on Crime campaign, Tracy Harrison, NHD Vice President of Public Safety, rallies members of the HPD North Belt Division, Harris County Sheriff's Office Task Force and the District's Public Safety Committee for a local program called Knock and Talks.

Harrison believes this type of one-on-one engagement allows law enforcement to share meaningful crime prevention tips with local residents, and helps the community build relationships with officers who patrol our neighborhoods. 🌱



STREET SAFETY PROJECT PROGRESS

North Houston District Director of Field Services Asdrubal "Dru" Gutierrez is helping the District shine bright!

Updating the lighting on the Beltway 8 underpass at Greenspoint Drive took several months of coordination with TxDOT, and ultimately improved safety for pedestrians and drivers.

The Field Services Department manages an annual curb painting program that rotates around the District. Recently, a stretch of Airline Drive in the southeast quadrant was improved, increasing safety and drawing attention to the beautiful landscaping along the corridor. 🌱





QUADRANTS

NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT NEWS

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Houston, TX 77060
281-874-2131
northhouston.org



The North Houston District is a management district that advocates for projects and services that attract the best in commercial and residential life to the area.

It's a special purpose district created by the Texas Legislature and provides enhanced services in public safety, planning and development, beautification and maintenance of public rights of way, and development of parks and trails.

The District's service area includes four quadrants that span across the intersection of I-45 North and Beltway 8.



¿Habla español?



¡Lea nuestra
última edición de
Quadrants en línea!

northhouston.org

