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Reimagining The Energy Corridor

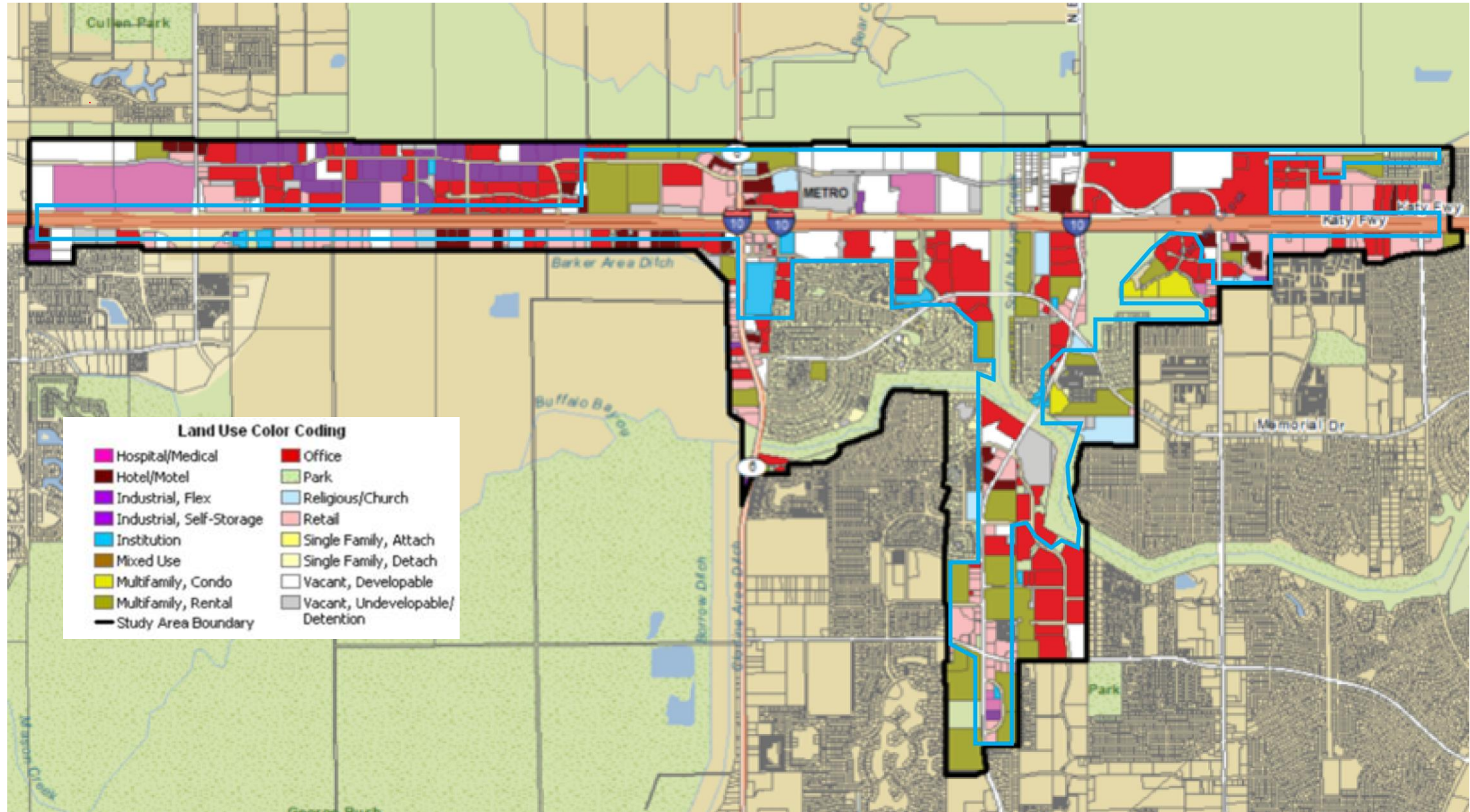
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
February 24, 2022

Who we are

- The Energy Corridor District® is an advocate for one of Houston's premier business centers and destinations.
- Established in 2001 by the Texas Legislature as Harris County Improvement District #4. DBA is The Energy Corridor District®.
- Created to promote, develop, encourage, maintain employment, commerce, transportation, housing, recreation, arts, entertainment, economic development, safety and public welfare within District boundaries.
- Balances a rich heritage of traditional energy companies and their transformation to include cleaner energy platforms, renewable energy models and clean-tech innovations in synergy with a diverse portfolio of various other corporations.



Energy Corridor District



Core services



Advocacy, Economic
Development,
Leadership and
Marketing



Beautification
and
Maintenance



Planning,
Infrastructure,
and Identity



Public Safety
and Security



Transportation and
Mobility

A Houston business and economic hub

Did You Know...

the Energy Corridor is the population center of Houston?

We are the center of the region's highly educated workforce and residential communities.



Employers Across the Energy Corridor

We put **Energy** in "The Energy Capital of the World."

Dow Chemical
Gulf States Toyota, Inc.
MD Anderson
Methodist West Houston Hospital
Skanska USA
Sysco Corporation
Utility Global



Class A Office Space

The Energy Corridor has **20 million sq. feet** of Class A office space available.*



3.5 million + sq. feet of dining and retail shopping in the Energy Corridor.



- Home to more than 56K jobs*
- More than 2,500 businesses varying over 20 different industries ranging from oil and gas to health care and retail.*
- Home to one of the largest, contiguous, developable land areas in Houston

*2020 Land Use and Demographic Report





REIMAGINING THE ENERGY CORRIDOR



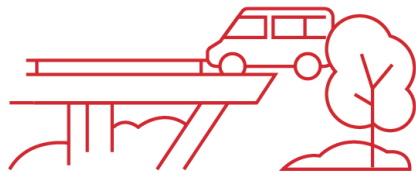
Guiding principles



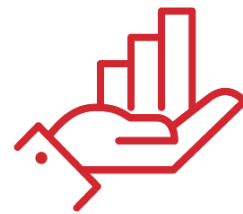
Destination



Centrality



Infrastructure



Capacity Building



***energy*corridor**



energy
corridor

Planning for the future

- Energy 2.0
- Stormwater and Drainage Management
- Strategic Action Plan
- Design Standards and Streetscape Guidelines
- Rebranding and Marketing
- Sense of Place/Placemaking Projects
- Districtwide Transportation Mobility Plan
- Memorial Drive Bike/Pedestrian Study

**THE ENERGY
CORRIDOR, THE
RESERVOIRS AND THE
BAYOU: AN 80-YEAR
RELATIONSHIP**

Looking back: Houston's Energy Corridor

- Prairie land home to quail, prairie chickens, wild turkeys, buffalo
- Land grants given by Mexico and by the Republic of Texas to European settlers, many German
- Settlers created towns near Bear Creek and later Addicks, named for the first postmaster, Henry Addicks
- Residents grew corn and cotton, later operated commercial dairy farms that supplied Houston
- 1893 railroad construction transformed it from a rural community to an economic center



FIGURE 4.5. Photo of the Bear Creek Schuetzen Verein, ca. 1897. The back of the photo reads "on Patterson Road". (Courtesy of Elva Weiman.)

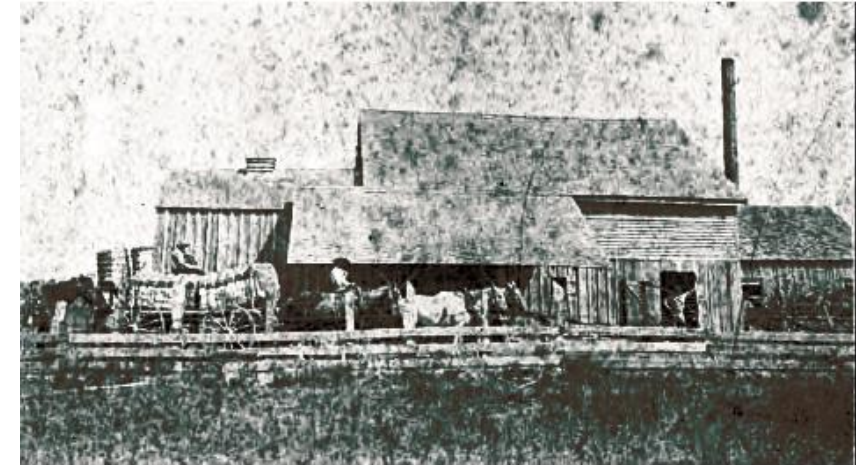
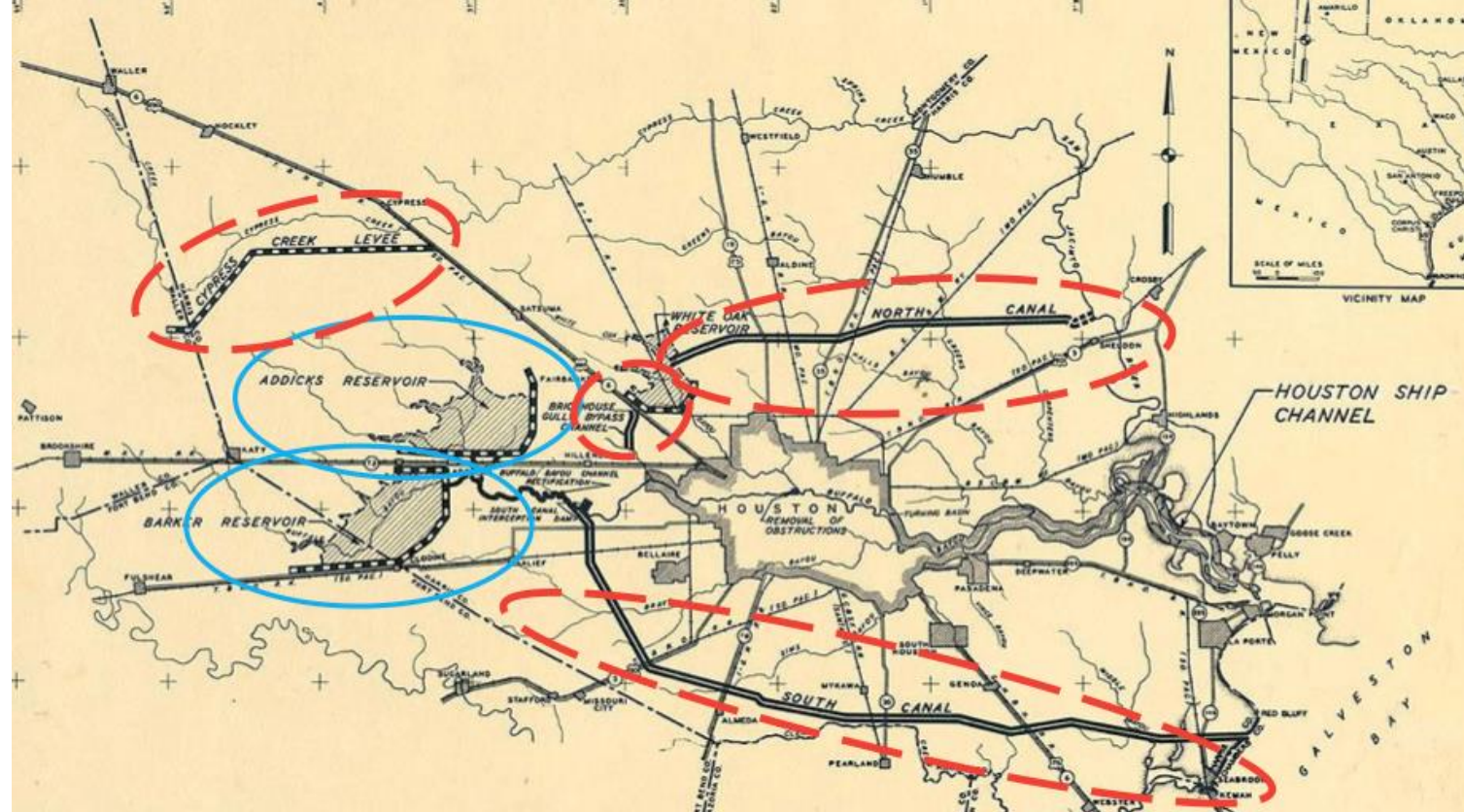


FIGURE 4.4. Photo of the Addicks Cotton Gin, ca. 1898. (Photo digitally enhanced by author; courtesy of Jerry Davis.)



Flood resiliency measures needed

- Three deadly hurricanes and two severe flood events - 1875, 1900, 1915, 1929 and 1935
- Led to construction of Addicks and Barker reservoirs in the 1940s
- Several other infrastructure projects identified, but were never built
- Houston grew, development continued, including the Energy Corridor



- **Addicks and Barker Reservoirs**
- Average person views the reservoirs as a place to recreate and maybe unaware of their real purpose
- Reservoirs create over 26,000 acres of recreational space benefitting residents and employees of the Energy Corridor and West Houston
- Protect Houston from flooding
 - In fiscal year 2020: dams prevented \$21 billion in damages
 - Since construction, the dams have prevented \$28.7 trillion
- Vital to Houston's commercial, economic interests

Impacts from Hurricane Harvey

- Created a perception that the Energy Corridor floods
 - **Perception is reality**
- At least 4,600 Energy Corridor homes flooded
- Retail space and at least 40 office buildings in Houston damaged, many in Energy Corridor, totaling 11.7 million square feet
- Examples:
 - Damages to bp's Westlake campus in Energy Corridor:
 - 4 million gallons of water pumped out of building
 - 382 tons of debris removed
 - Kendall Library and Community Center
 - Still closed



Improvements to watersheds impacting the Energy Corridor since Harvey

- Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Resiliency Study
- North canal project in the design phase
- The Energy Corridor District invested in efforts to analyze what flood resiliency projects have been planned and implemented post-Harvey:
 - Additional 10% storage to area watersheds that impact the Energy Corridor
 - \$693M invested in 21 completed projects.
 - Another 10% storage capacity planned
 - \$762M to be invested in 69 planned projects





Takeaways

- The Energy Corridor is a critical economic and business hub for the Houston region
- The Energy Corridor, like the rest of the region, depends on the reservoirs for protection and recreation
- The Energy Corridor is well-positioned for long-term economic vitality and growth and to lead the energy transition
- Success will require collaboration and cooperation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County Flood Control District and other stakeholders to implement critical flood resiliency infrastructure



Questions?



THANK YOU!

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www.energycorridor.org

