

# SPRAWL

**Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**

## **Infrastructure of Expansion**

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## Infrastructure:

The development of cities required the construction of efficient roadway networks, water, and sewer systems. These networks brought people together, creating urban density, civic life, and culture. Infrastructure was celebrated for performing all of these services as well as for its efficiency. More recently, infrastructure has come to serve other purposes and express narrower values.

*“The term infrastructure refers to the roads, bridges, rail lines, and similar public works that are required for an industrial economy to function.” From the Free Dictionary.*

Since WWII, these public projects have largely been used to scatter people across the landscape as broadly as possible. In the development of America’s vast new infrastructural networks aesthetic, cultural, social, and ecological considerations have not been entertained.



**Infrastructure Enabled the Development of Cities**



**Infrastructure Lead To Civic Life**



**Infrastructure Lead To Shared Cultural and Aesthetic Values**

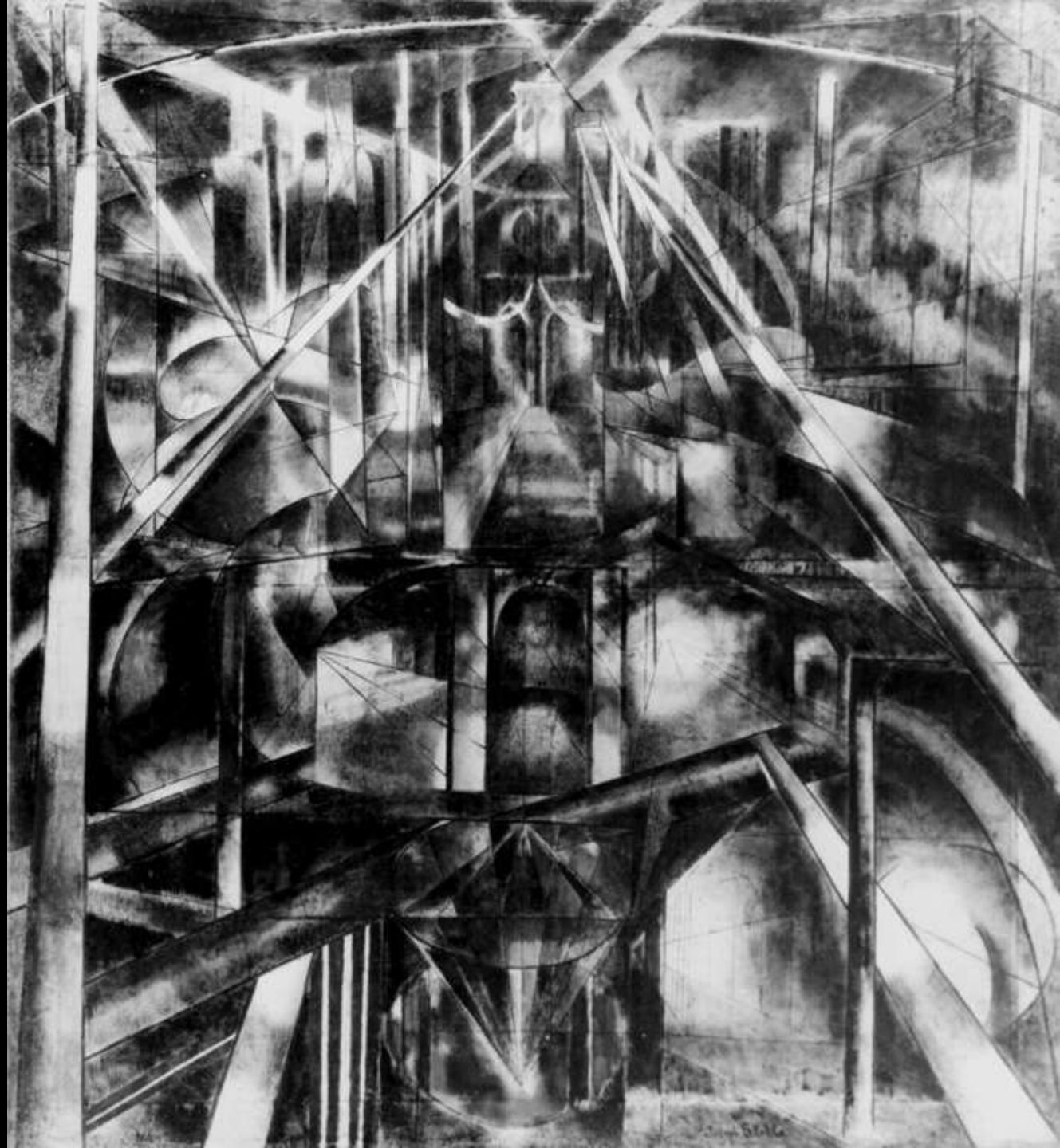


**It Was Built As An Expression of Civic Values**

**It Was Celebrated In Arts and Crafts**



**These Roles Of Infrastructure Endured Well Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**







**Today's Values Are different**

**Infrastructure Is Built To Express Uni-Functionality and Cheapness**



**But It Doesn't Have to Be this Way**



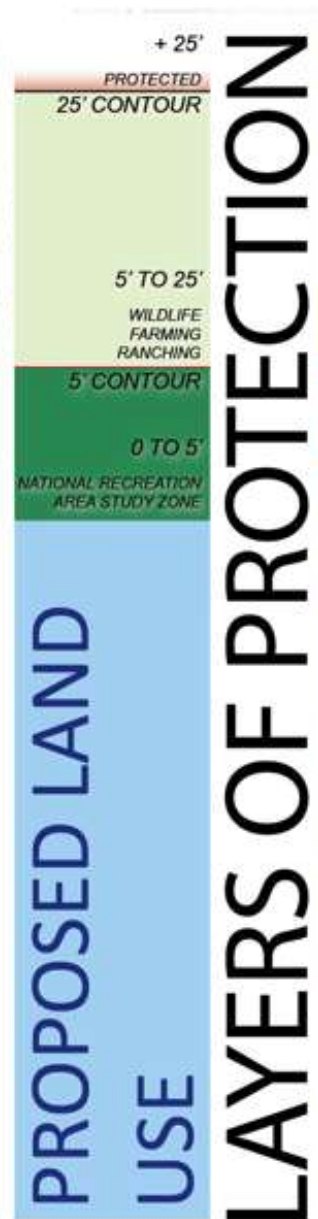
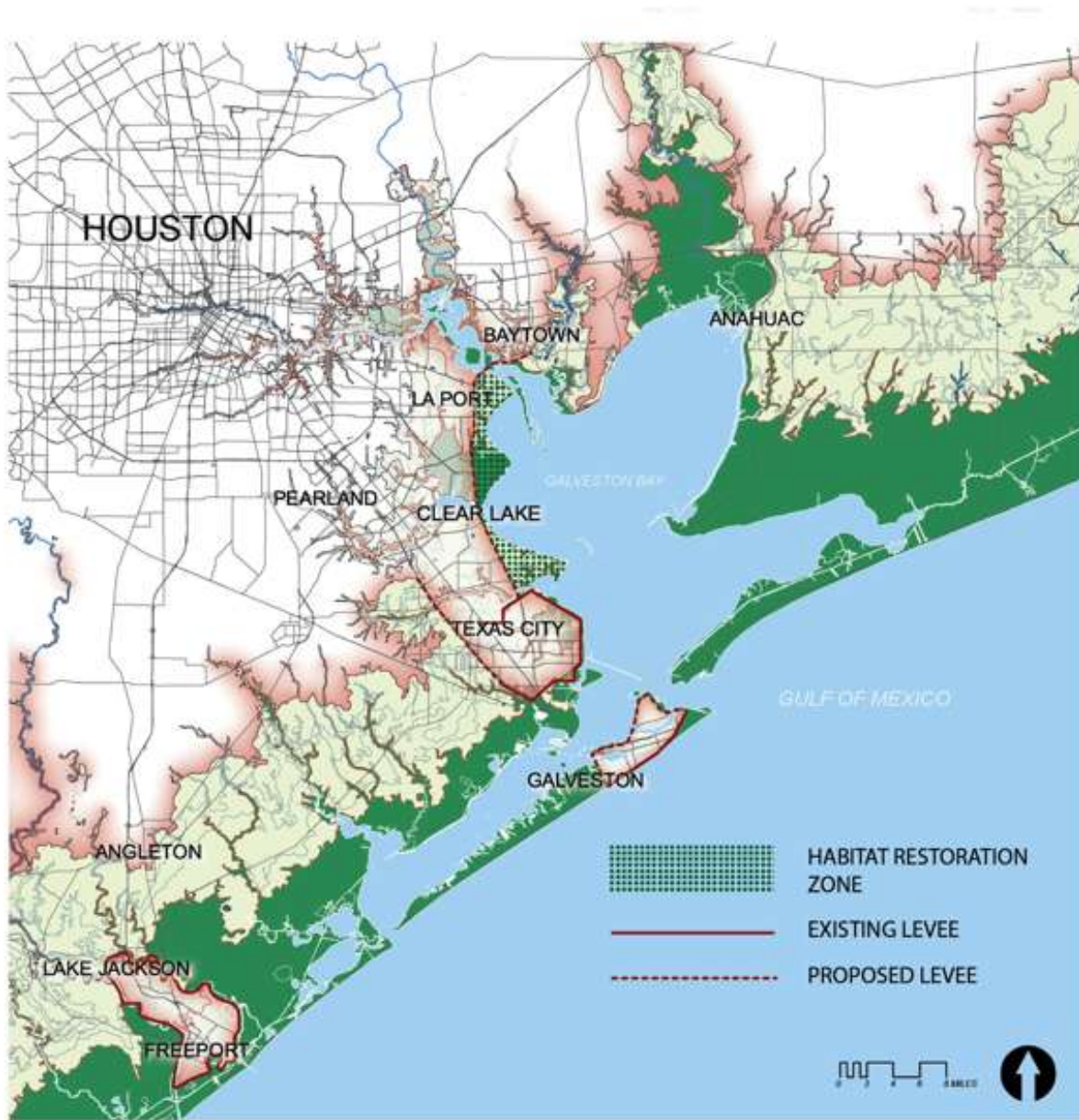
**Even Drainage Systems Can Elevate Civic Life**



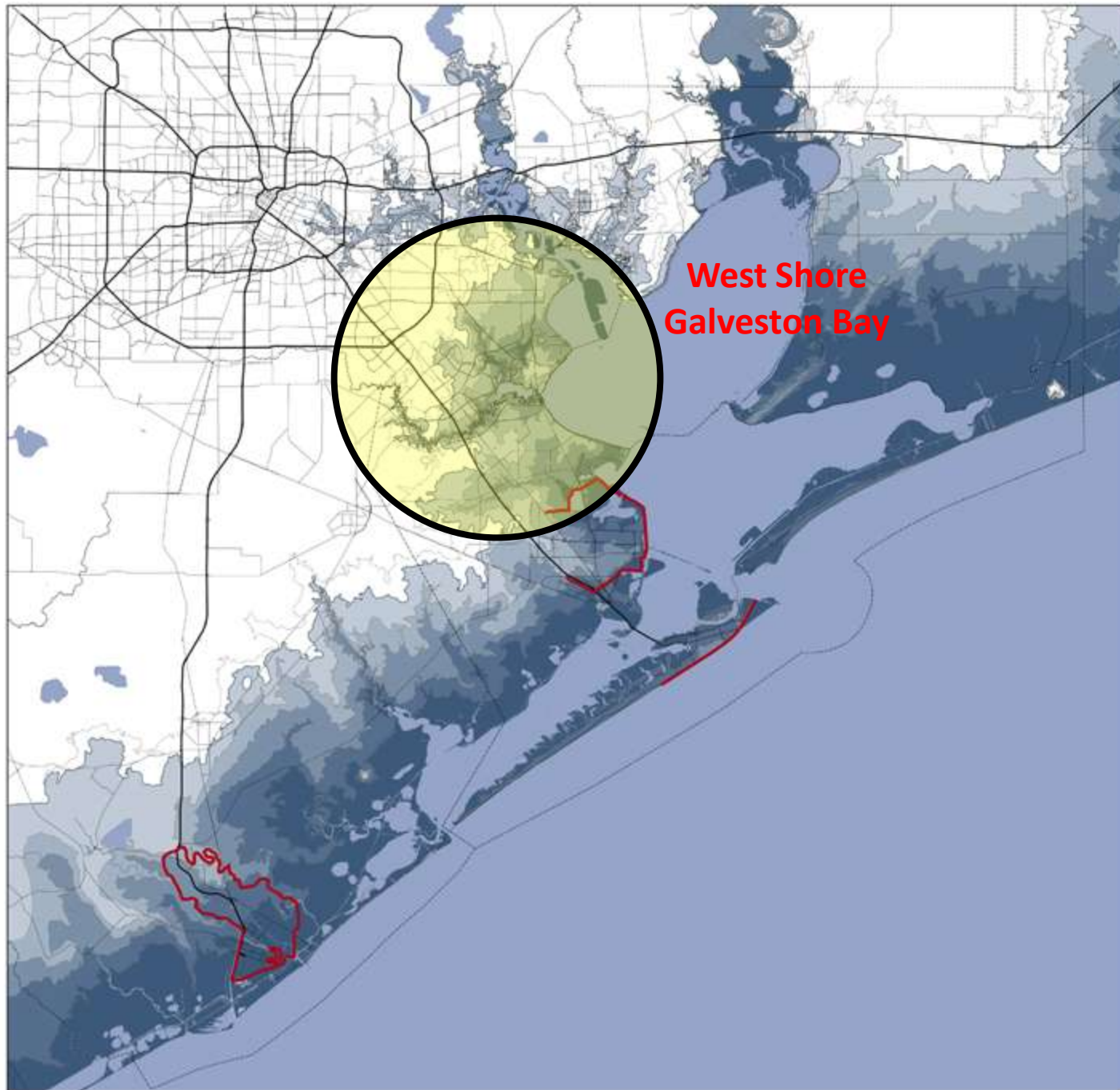
**Infrastructure Can Bring People Together And Serve Many Purposes**

# **A Few Recent Multi-Functional Infrastructure Projects**

**Local Levee Systems To Protect The Houston-Galveston Region**



**SSPEED Center Proposals For The Upper Texas Coastline**





West Galveston Bay Levee - Option E Coastal Alignment





**Responding To Local Conditions And Local Ecologies**



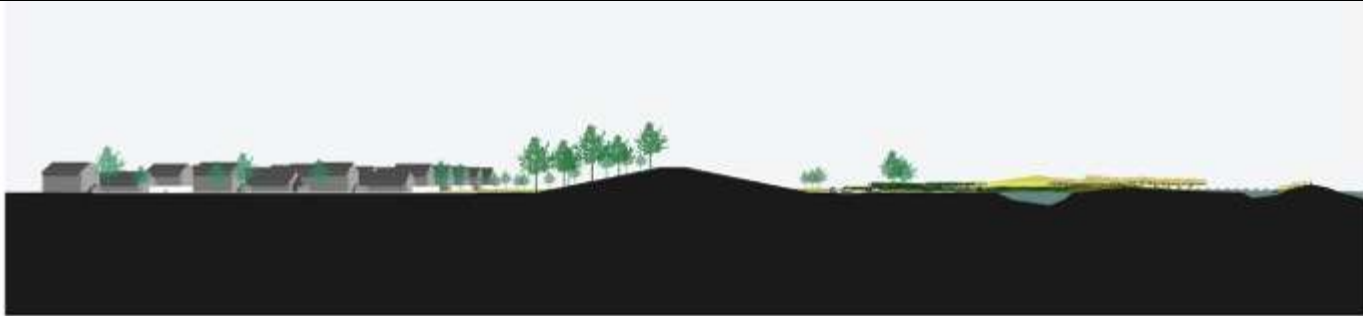
## 6 State Highway 146 | Restored Coastal Marsh / Parkland

This elevated highway levee lifts the road base 25 feet above sea level. This solution is most appropriate in urbanized areas where rights-of-way are constrained. On the protected side of the levee, existing development needs no modification. On the bay-side of the levee existing saltwater wetlands are preserved. New wetlands can be constructed to replace those already lost to development. The tall grasses found in wetlands reduce the scouring effect of storm surge while they provide essential habitats for hatchling fish and migratory birds. These marshes are essential to reduce coastal erosion and act as biological filters for Galveston Bay. They also provide an opportunity for bird watching, fishing, and hiking in a uniquely Texas landscape.









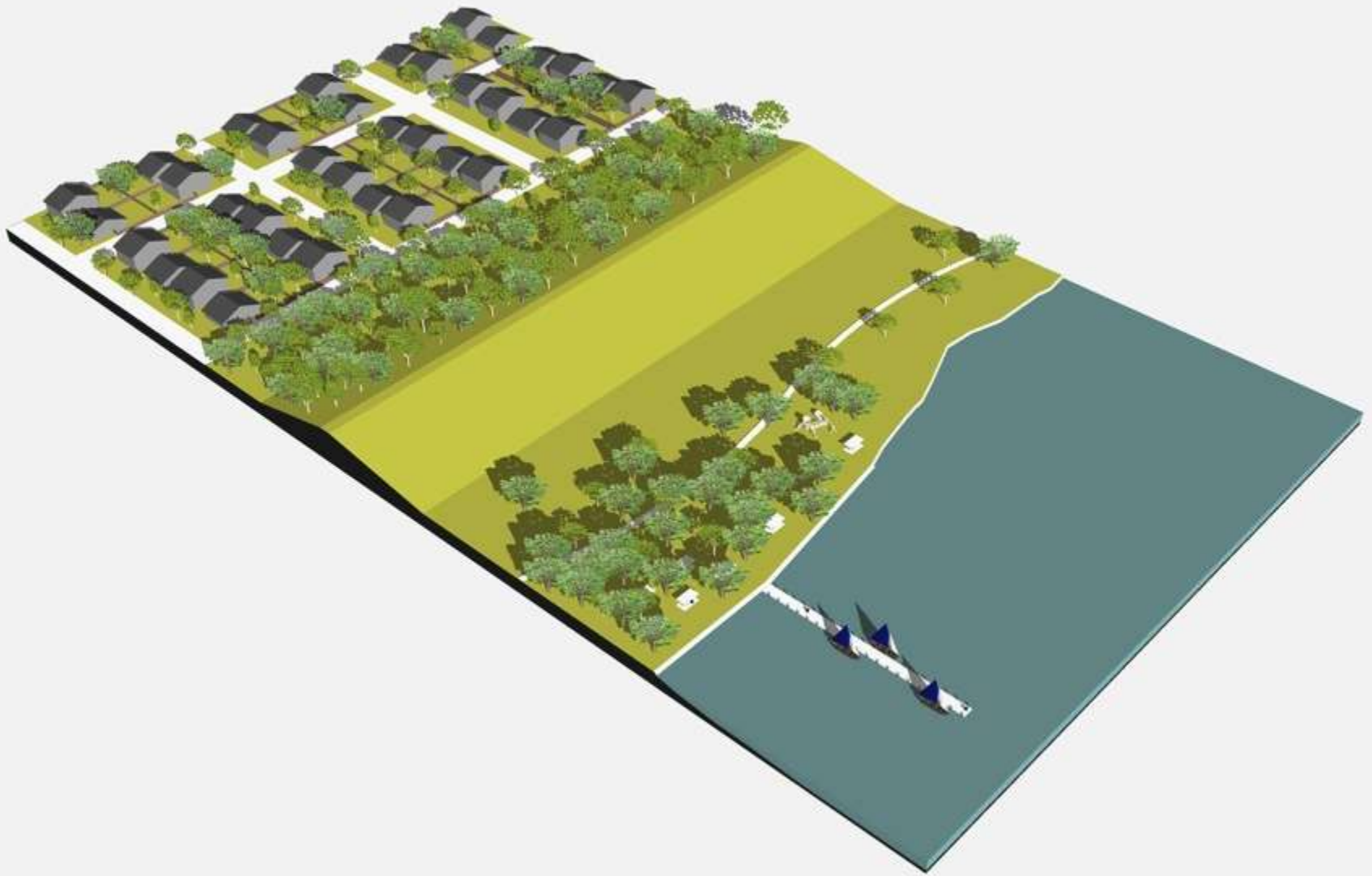
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#### Earthen Levee | Restored Coastal Marsh / Parkland

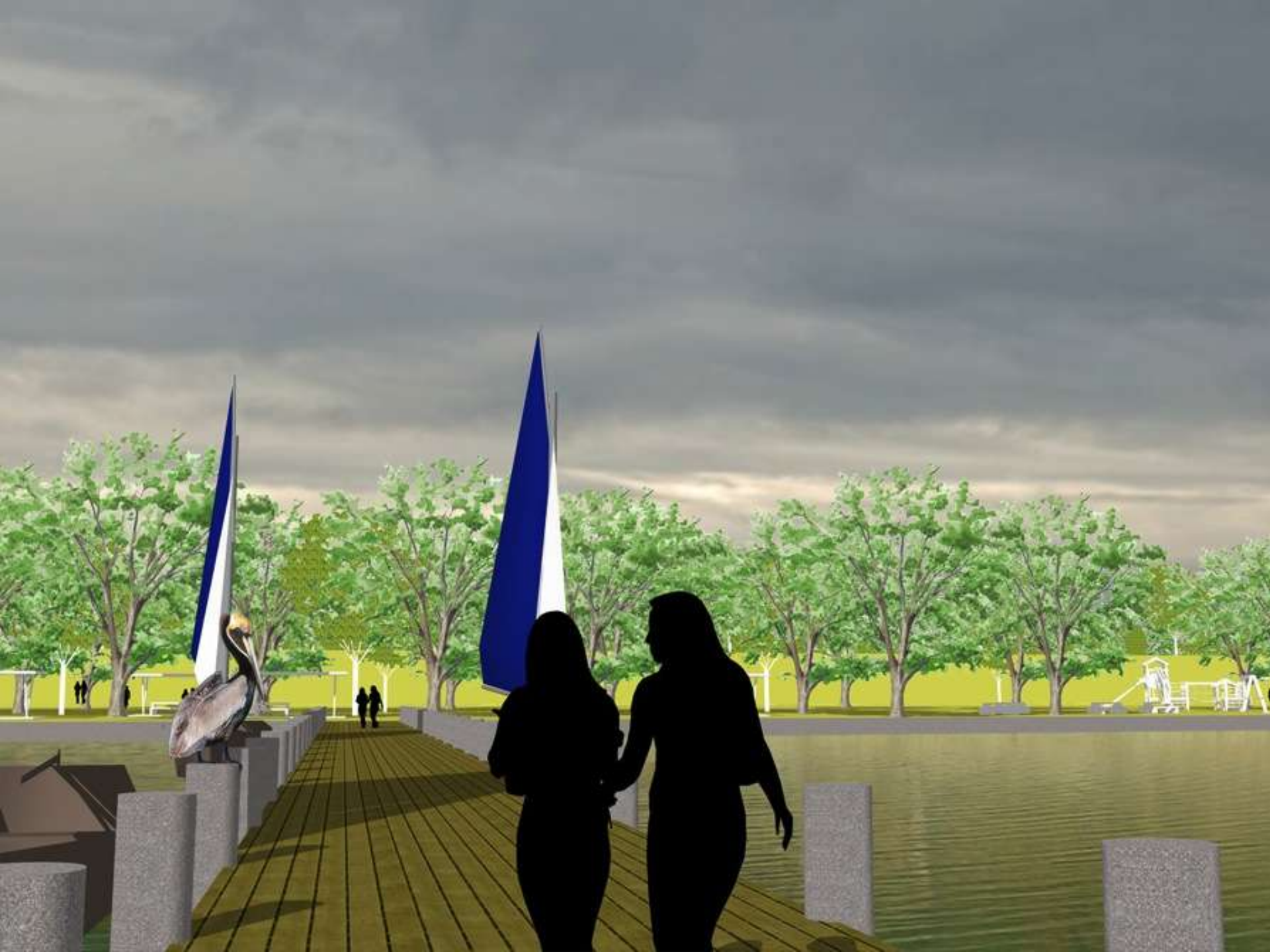
This earthen berm levee rises to 25 feet above sea level with a 1 to 5 slope. On the protected side of the berm, existing residences need no modification. As shown, the back slope has been planted with native trees to provide public green-space. On the bay-side of the levee existing saltwater wetlands are preserved. New wetlands can be constructed to replace those already lost to development. The tall grasses found in wetlands reduce the scouring effect of storm surge while providing essential habitats for hatchling fish and migratory birds. Marshes are essential to reduce coastal erosion and act as biological filters in Galveston Bay. These marshes also provide an opportunity for bird watching, fishing, and hiking in a uniquely Texas landscape.







**Including Recreational Amenities For Neighborhoods**

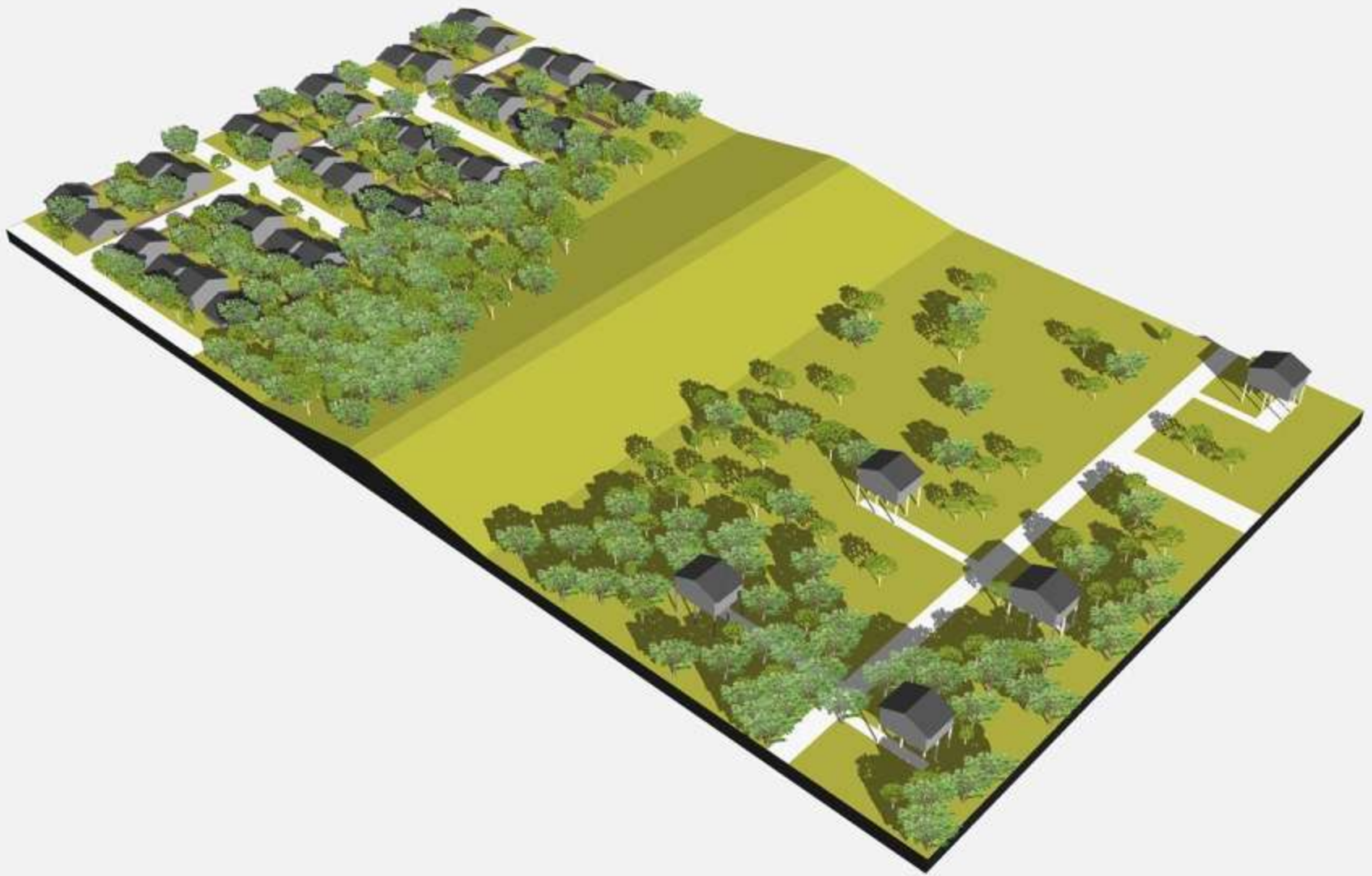




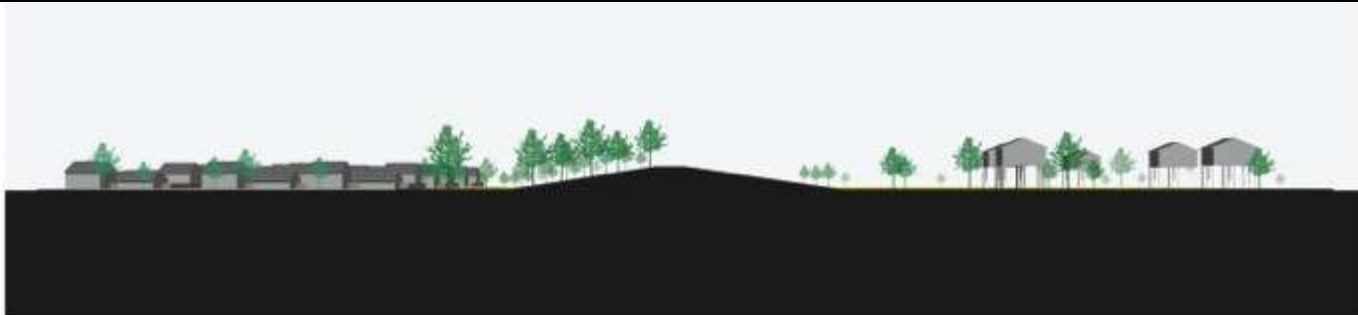








**Making Better And Safer Neighborhoods Of All Sorts**



## 2 Earthen Berm | Raised Houses

This earthen berm levee rises to 25 feet above sea level with a 1 to 5 slope. On the protected side of the berm, existing residences need no modification. As shown, the back slope has been planted with native trees to provide public green-space. On the bay-side of the levee all new construction must be elevated to twenty five feet above sea level. Infrastructure must be protected by hardening against damage by flooding. The prospect of elevated structures on the bay-side of the levee suggests new typologies of housing, neighborhoods, and commercial buildings.

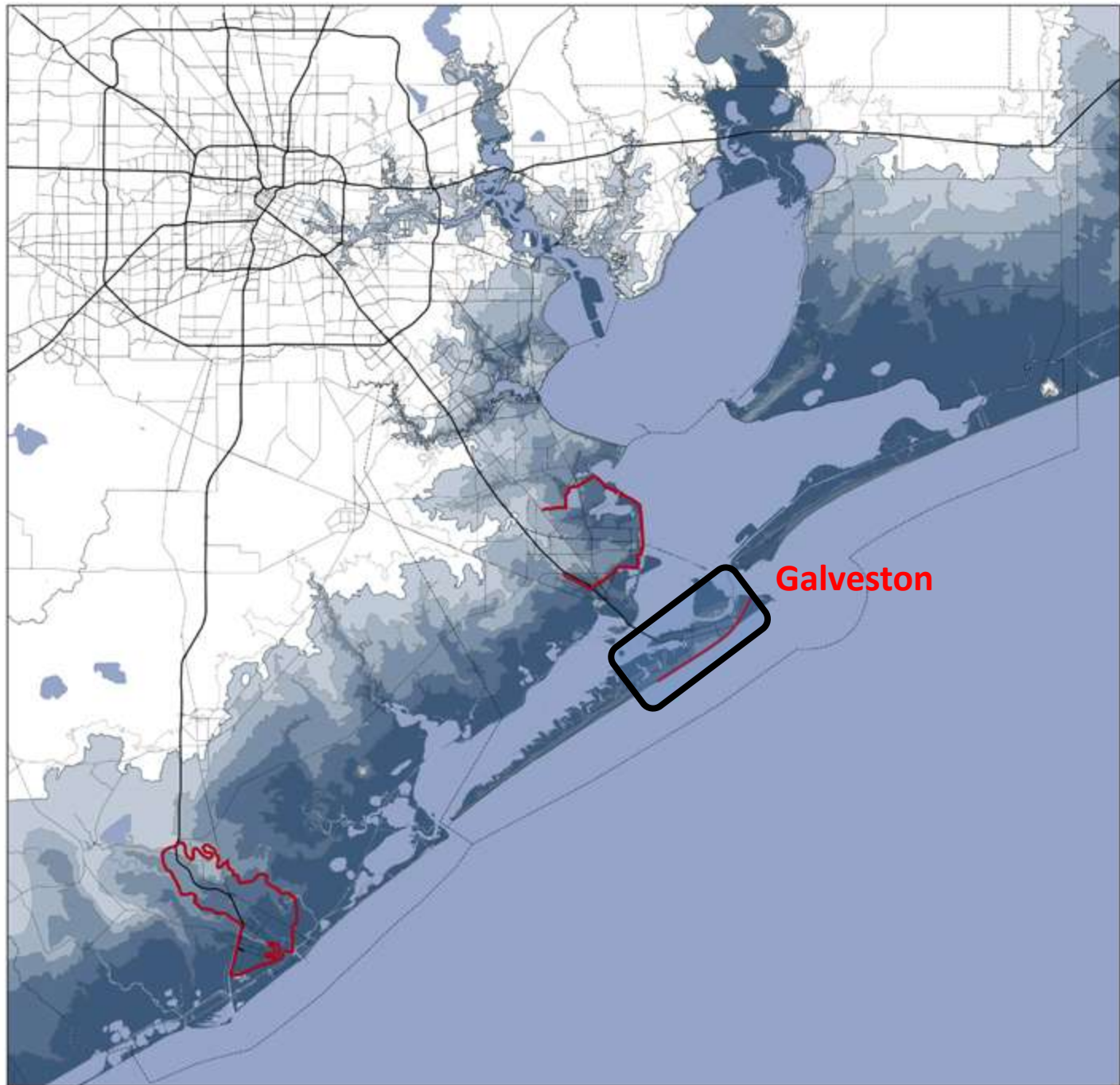


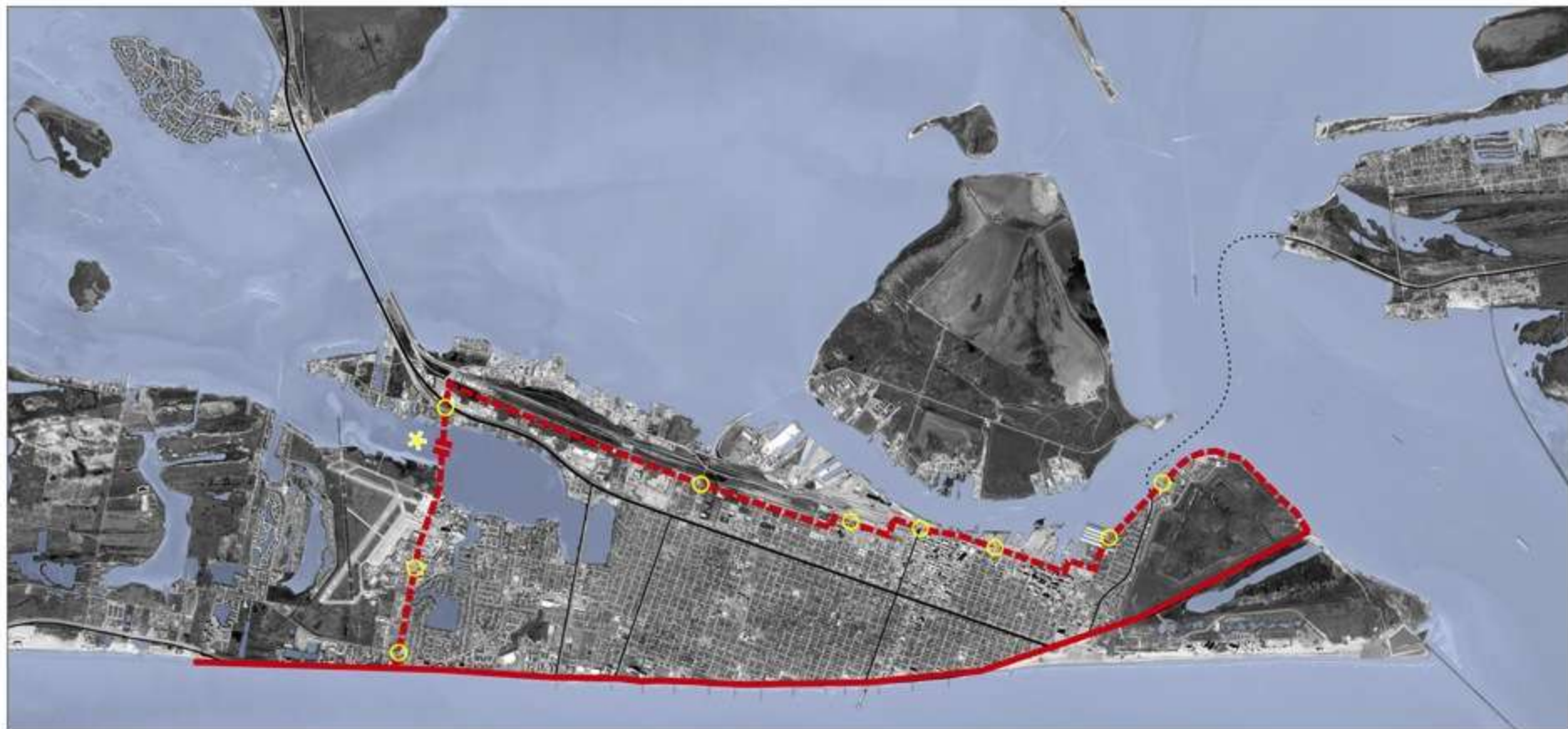






WELCOME • BEEN TOWN GARAGE  
**MOODY MANSION**  
BUILT 1895  
HOME TOURS • AVIARY CAR  
EXHIBITS • VISITOR INFORMATION





Galveston Island Levee - Option A, Population Alignment





GALVESTON BAY WALL

WATERFRONT BUSINESS ALIGNMENT

ALLEY ALIGNMENT

Harborside Drive







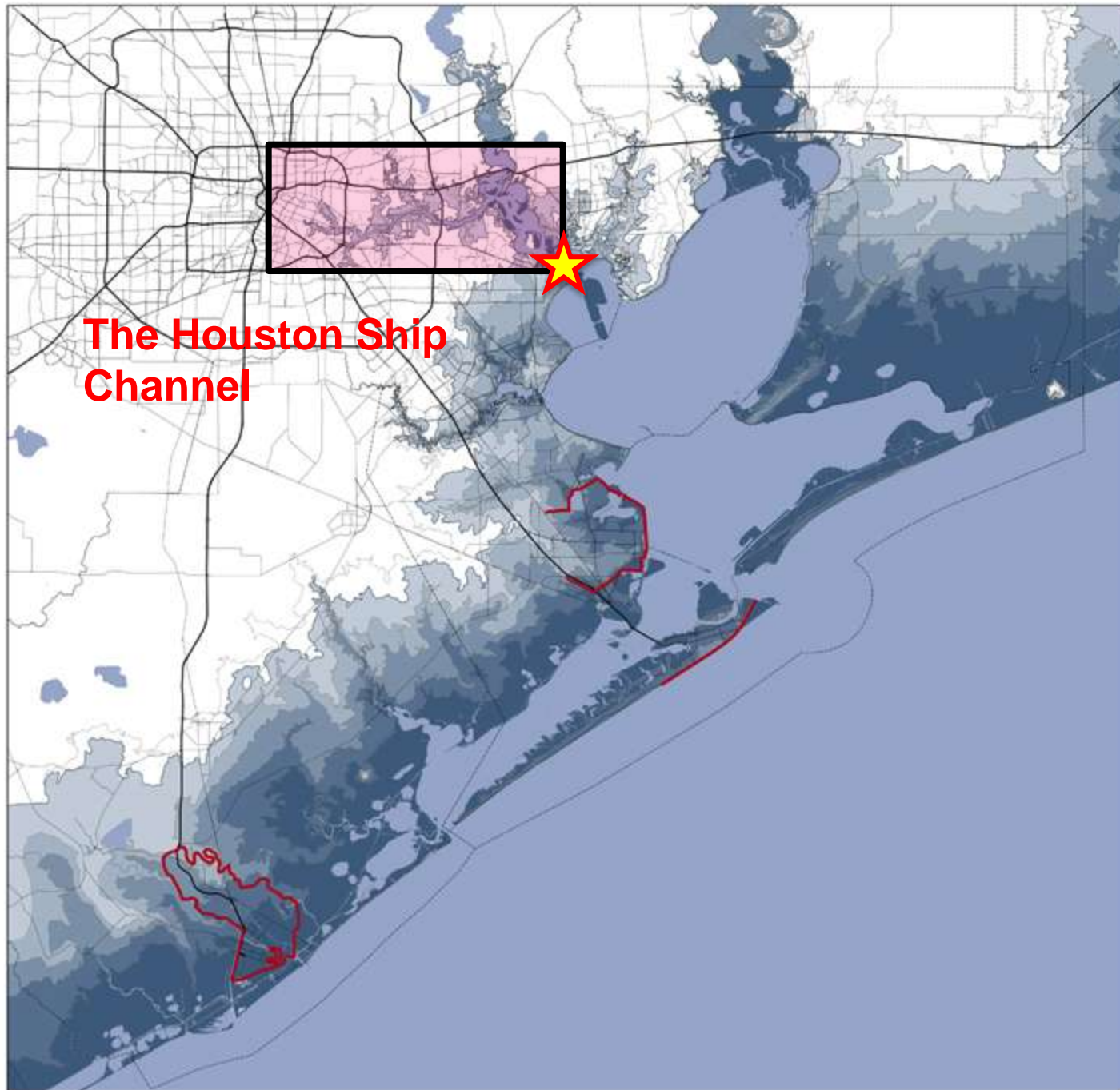




PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT

**A GATE AT THE HARTMAN BRIDGE  
TO BE DEVELOPED AS A TOURIST DESTINATION  
AND INTEGRATED INTO ADJACENT PARK SYSTEMS**



PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT



PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT



PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT



30'

25'

**BARBOURS CUT LOCATION**  
**MULTIPLE ALIGNMENTS POSSIBLE**



PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT

**VIEW OF GATE AT BARBOURS CUT**



PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT

**VIEW OF GATE AT BARBOURS CUT**

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- An aerial photograph of the San Antonio area, showing the city, surrounding roads, and the San Antonio River. Eight specific green spaces are highlighted with a bright green outline and labeled with numbers 1 through 8. The locations are: 1. San Jacinto State Park (large area in the northwest), 2. Baytown Nature Center (small area north of the center), 3. Goat Island (small island in the river), 4. Alexander Island (large island in the center), 5. W C Britton & Bayland Parks (small area east of the center), 6. Hogg Island (small island south of the center), 7. Atkinson Island Wildlife Management Area (small area south of the center), and 8. Atkinson Island (large island in the south).
- 1 San Jacinto State Park
  - 2 Baytown Nature Center
  - 3 Goat Island
  - 4 Alexander Island
  - 5 W C Britton & Bayland Parks
  - 6 Hogg Island
  - 7 Atkinson Island Wildlife Management Area
  - 8 Atkinson Island

## CHANNEL ISLANDS GREENWAY





VEHICLE ACCESS

0 1 2  
Miles





**VEHICULAR ACCESS**

PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT



**HOGG ISLAND**

**ATKINSON ISLAND**

PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT



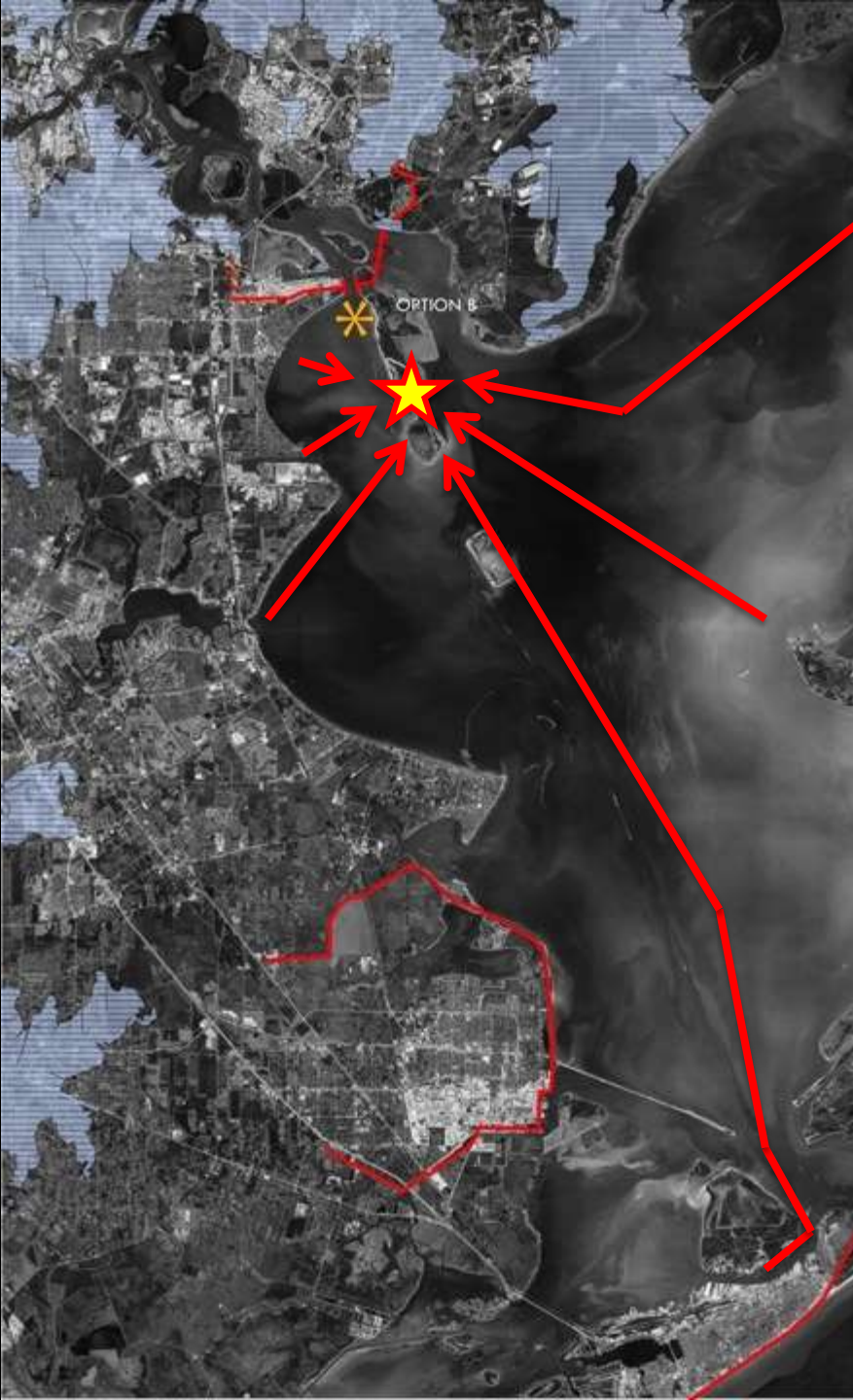
PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT



PHOTO BY THOMAS COLBERT



**A WILDERNESS PARK IN HOUSTON**



## A DESTINATION

AT THE INTERSECTION OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT  
MIGRATORY BIRD ROUTES AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S  
GREAT SHIPPING LANES.



BIRDWATCHING TOWER BY NILDA PEREIRA



BIRDWATCHING TOWER BY NILDA PEREIRA



BIRDWATCHING TOWER BY NILDA PEREIRA



**Like The First Romans, Romulus and Remus, We Need  
Infrastructure That Nurtures Community And Health**