

FROST TOWN URBAN GARDEN NEWS

JAMES BUTE PARK / FROST TOWN HISTORIC SITE

Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc.

December 7, 2006

History, Happenings, News and Views... ...from the Banks of the Murky Brown Bayou



- The Houston Chapter of the American Corporate Counsel donated a huge clean up project for the banks of the bayou, providing many hard working lawyers and a dozer with operator. Much debris was removed along the bayou's banks and Raccoon Bend became connected by a primitive pathway stretching all the way to US 59.
- Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc. nominated the Houston Chapter of the American Corporate Counsel for a Proud Partners Award, and they and our program received an honorable mention at the Mayor's Houston Beautiful Proud Partners Lunch.
- AEA coordinated improvements to our area with the Downtown Management District which resulted in new sidewalks and curb and gutters for McKee Street. The Management District installed our Kelly Gale Amen designer bench donated by the KGA Compound.
- We asked Asakura/Robinson to help us with a shared-use pathway connection plan and we have a project with TxDot's approval to construct a previously engineered path from Runnels at Spruce to an existing trail. Compliments to Sylvia Garcia and Precinct Two for expanding maintenance on the 5.2 ground acres along the freeway right of way. The Frost Town historic area will be more pleasing and more inviting to visit as a result.
- Goldston Engineering has donated cost estimates and projections for our floating dock to be located on land we own along Buffalo Bayou. The boat dock can be seen on the master plan (reverse).



- AEA submitted the formal application to the official historic marker program for Frost/Moody Addition. We are presently planning to place the plaque on Spruce at Runnels to describe the history of this 8 square block community.
- AEA is working to bring the public a greater awareness and appreciation of Frost Town through the redesign and publication of Louis Aulbach's Frost Town History now in final draft form. We are working with Houston Arts and Media to help create a book worthy of any coffee table. Aulbach is active in our quest for a permanent historical marker on the site.

Bridge Preservation Expands

There is an almost unnoticed inventory of worthy civic structures owned by the City in the form of historic bridge architecture. Our history program is currently moving forward with applications for special protections on some of these local engineering marvels.

As a cultural arts organization experienced with bridges as artistic elements, we are uniquely poised to nominate other significant bridges and urban icons to the National Register of Historic Places. For the first time our group is extending activity beyond the 13 acres of land around the McKee Street Bridge.

Placement on the register brings awareness and respect from the community to the City's unknown treasures and may protect them from damage, alteration or destruction.

The Bridges



Jensen/Hill Street Bridge is an art deco design by JG McKenzie, the same person who designed the McKee Street Bridge.



Alameda Road Bridge was part of the City Beautiful Program of the 20's and 30's. It is also a JG McKenzie structure.



Sabine Street Bridge is a cantilever concrete span bridge. It replaced the old iron and wood Heiner Street Bridge.



Telephone Road Bridge was also part of the City Beautiful Program, and another JG McKenzie design. It is an intact elegant structure placed within a pleasant present day landscape.



James Bute Park Master Plan

Our master plan includes heritage gardens, a fruit orchard, a rose arbor, a palm collection, and restoration plantings. The boat and dock can be seen between the McKee Street Bridge and US59.



San Jacinto Street Bridge is an open spandrel concrete arch bridge, sister to the Montgomery Viaduct, or the Main Street Bridge. This

bridge replaced the iron and timber swing bridge which once carried the trolley connections from downtown to the developing north side.

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