

# FROST TOWN URBAN GARDEN NEWS

## JAMES BUTE PARK / FROST TOWN HISTORIC SITE

Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc.

July 1, 2005

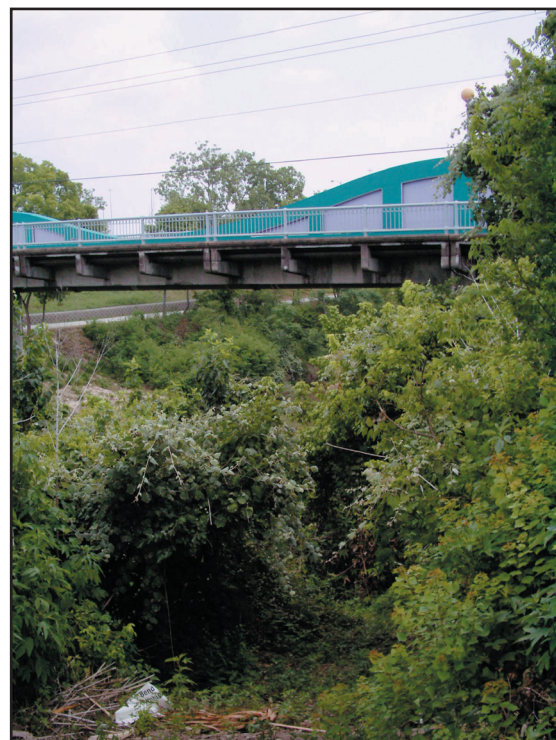


### *The Raccoon Bend Sign Welcomes*

Raccoon Bend, a bend in the bayou with a natural sandbar just upstream of McKee Street Bridge, has been opened up for use as a canoe landing. It's a long walk, but a great take out point. Raccoon Bend is a recorded archaeological site. Mrs. Coy Vara, a one time resident of El Barrio Del Alacran (Mexican Frost Town), helped the state record the location of the bottle dump established from 1873-1880.

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

- Land Acquisitions are still on the front burner of our operational agenda. We acquired an additional 6,000 square feet Monday the 13th of June. We are now targeting 30,000 square feet of land all made of odd tracts, and 28,600 square feet at the edge of old Frost Town. Costs are projected to be significant. Frost Town is well located and we must compete in the market place to conserve the value of the site.
- Bayou bank clean ups are a priority-- we seek out donated engineering support for the continuation of plans for a floating boat dock between McKee Street Bridge and the Elevated Elysian Street Viaduct. This facility would be ideal for a tour boat departure point and the bayou improvements will contribute to the public ease of access to the lower waterway. Army Corps permit has been granted!
- We have outlined our local sources for trees and various plants and we already identified our consultants to make the garden program come alive. We know that we will start with the simple expansion of existing bed works as we seek funding to execute the most expensive aspect of the final goal.
- Our current fund drive is on and The MacDonald-Peterson Foundation has made a wonderful contribution. We are in a grant cycle again. Our goal is the multimillion dollar transformation of this area into a botanical sanctuary....a place all citizens would visit and embrace.



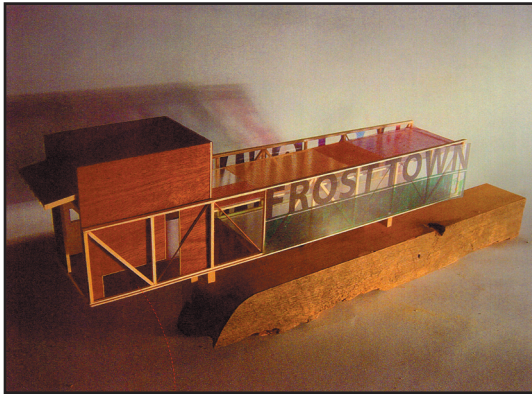
McKee Street Bridge  
as seen from the path to Raccoon Bend.



## James Bute Park Master Plan

Our master plan (shown at right) includes heritage gardens, a fruit orchard, a rose arbor, a palm collection, and restoration plantings. The old abandoned streets will be identified and remarked.

## Rice Small Building Workshop



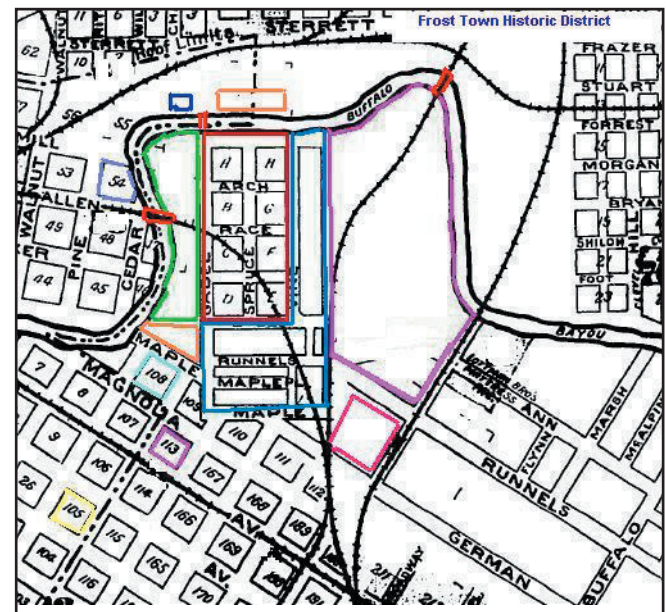
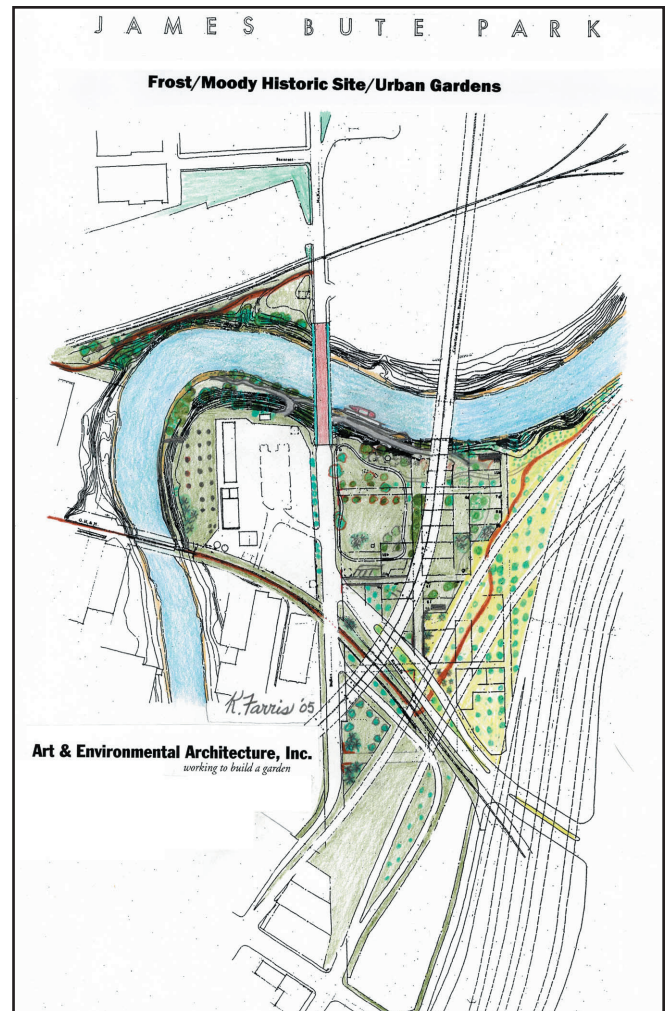
Rice University School of Architecture Small Building Workshop and AEA are working to build a guest artist and

gardeners house along the banks of the bayou. This 'bridge as house' concept is one of six architectural proposals produced by the students of the Rice School of Architecture Small Building Workshop.

## Historic Studies

Historic studies are winding up and need the final push toward completion. We have researched for two years and have reviewed the history of the Arsenal Block, Hebrew Congregation of Houston, Rusk School, Peter and Michael Floeck Brewery, Citizens Electric, Gabel Street Power Station, Raccoon Bend, Crystal Ice Works, the GH&J short line, Dickson Car Wheel Factory, the El Barrio Del Al Cran (Mexican Frost Town), the Frost, Moody, Schrimpf and Hodge early acquisitions. An application for official State Recognition is in process for Frost/Moody Addition. Multiple applications are being submitted for markers to the Texas Historical Commission.

We are looking for evidence of the Allen Brothers' lease at the bend in the bayou and for a single newspaper article on the mini submarine found behind the Gabel Street Power Station late in WWII.



Frost/Moody/Schrimpf/Hodge/Gabel/Floek properties marked out on an early map. Visit [www.frosttownhistoricsite.org](http://www.frosttownhistoricsite.org) and click on Historic Frost Town to read Louis Aulbach's expanded history of the area.