

# Re-energize Buildings & Open Space Bringing the Inside Out

Activating Bethel Church Preservation and  
Open-Air Park

A light blue map of the Houston-Galveston Area Council region, showing county boundaries. The map is the background of the slide.

# Placemaking

“The process of creating quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in.”

- Robert Steuteville
- Better Cities & Towns



# Key elements to placemaking

- Effective public spaces
- Preservation of historic structures
- Respect community heritage
- Arts, culture and creativity
- Recreation
- Green space

- Robert Steuteville
- Better Cities & Towns

# Bethel Church Park











# Community Opinions

## Before the release of the design

- I agree that it should have been torn down after the fire. Spending anything after that time was just pouring money down the rathole.
  - Swamplot
  - August 3, 2012
- I hope they preserve the remnants of the church, I ride my bike past it almost everyday. I know all the fuppies who live in those terrible sheet metal clad pieces of junk want it torn down
  - Swamplot
  - August 3, 2012

# Community Thoughts

## AFTER the Ground Breaking Ceremony



- Just when you think the City has lost its vision for taking advantage of an opportunity like this, they go and pleasantly surprise you! What an incredible addition to the area and another great photo op for visitors.
  - Swamplot
  - August 23, 2012
- Dare I say visionary and Houston development in the same breath? Sometimes H-town can surprise. City could use about 100X this going forth.
  - Swamplot
  - August 23, 2012











BETHEL  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH















Sprint Waste  
281-491-7775  
www.sprintwaste.com













REPORT





F A I T H





LOVE

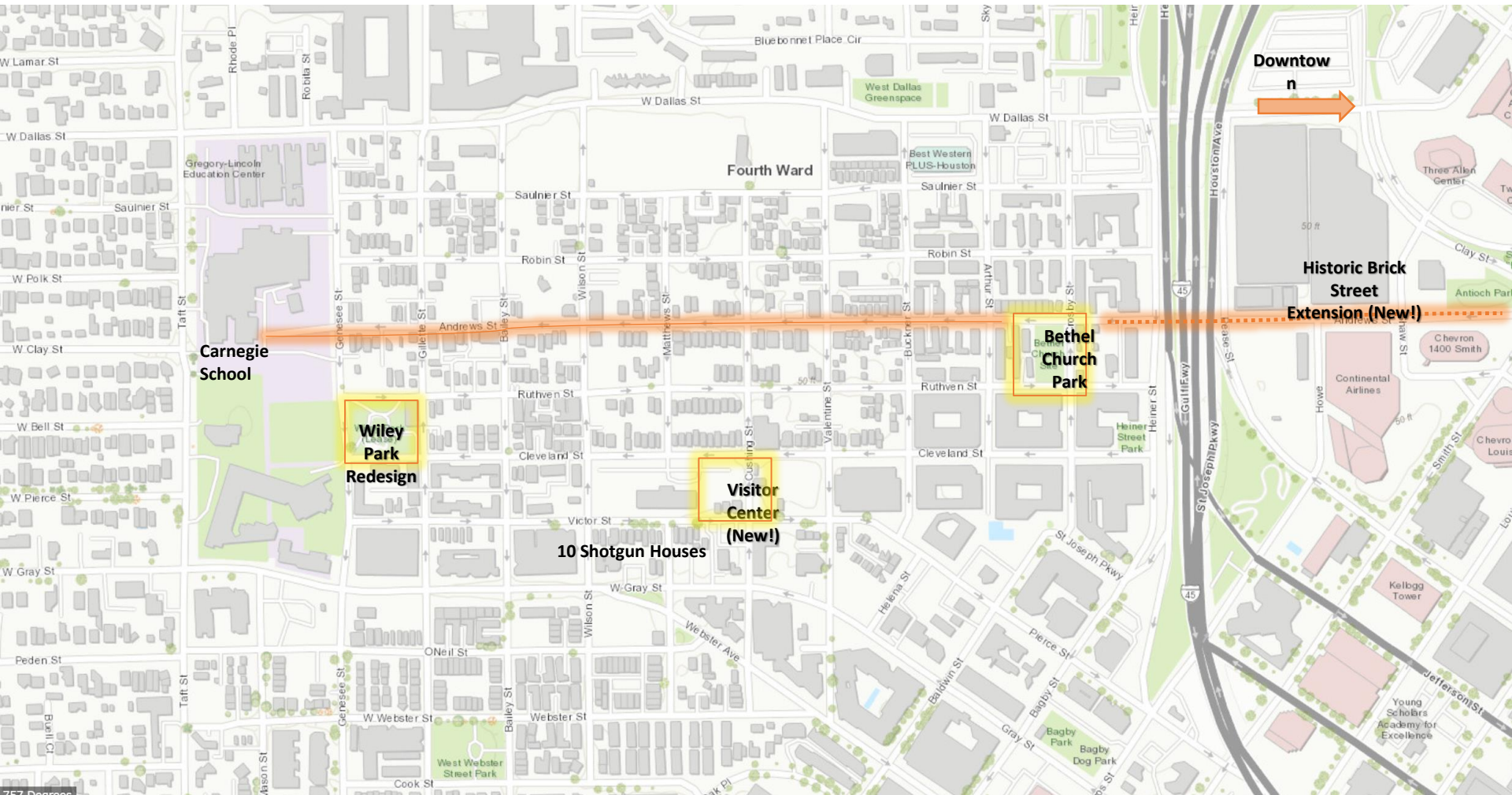




# Next Steps

TIRZ #14 continues to strive enhance placemaking in the Fourth Ward area to encourage other's to visit Freedmen's Town and learn the history of Houston's freed men.





**Carnegie School**

**Wiley Park Redesign**

**10 Shotgun Houses**

**Visitor Center (New!)**

**Bethel Church Park**

**Downtown**  
→

**Historic Brick Street Extension (New!)**





# Historic Brick Streets











# TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER FOURTEEN CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

---

Vanessa J. Sampson, Executive Director

[vanessas@4thwardhouston.com](mailto:vanessas@4thwardhouston.com)

713.526.7577