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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Historic Bethel Park Temporarily Closed

Historic Bethel Park is temporarily closed and locked for landscape renovations. A perimeter fence was recently installed to enclose the site following severe damage to the landscape sustained by excessive dog waste and foot traffic.

The gate is currently locked as staff work to repair the landscape and restore the integrity of the site many in this city hold sacred. For years, individuals with strong ties to the rich history of Bethel Baptist Church struggled to preserve the deteriorating building. The success of their efforts is this beautiful monument that pays homage to the resiliency of former slaves that founded the original Bethel Baptist Church.

After the grounds restorations are complete, the site will be open during specified hours. An attendant will monitor the site so individuals may come in and enjoy the park according to its intended use. More specific information regarding opening times and hours will follow once renovations are completed.

### ***About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department***

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*