

Annexations in Houston

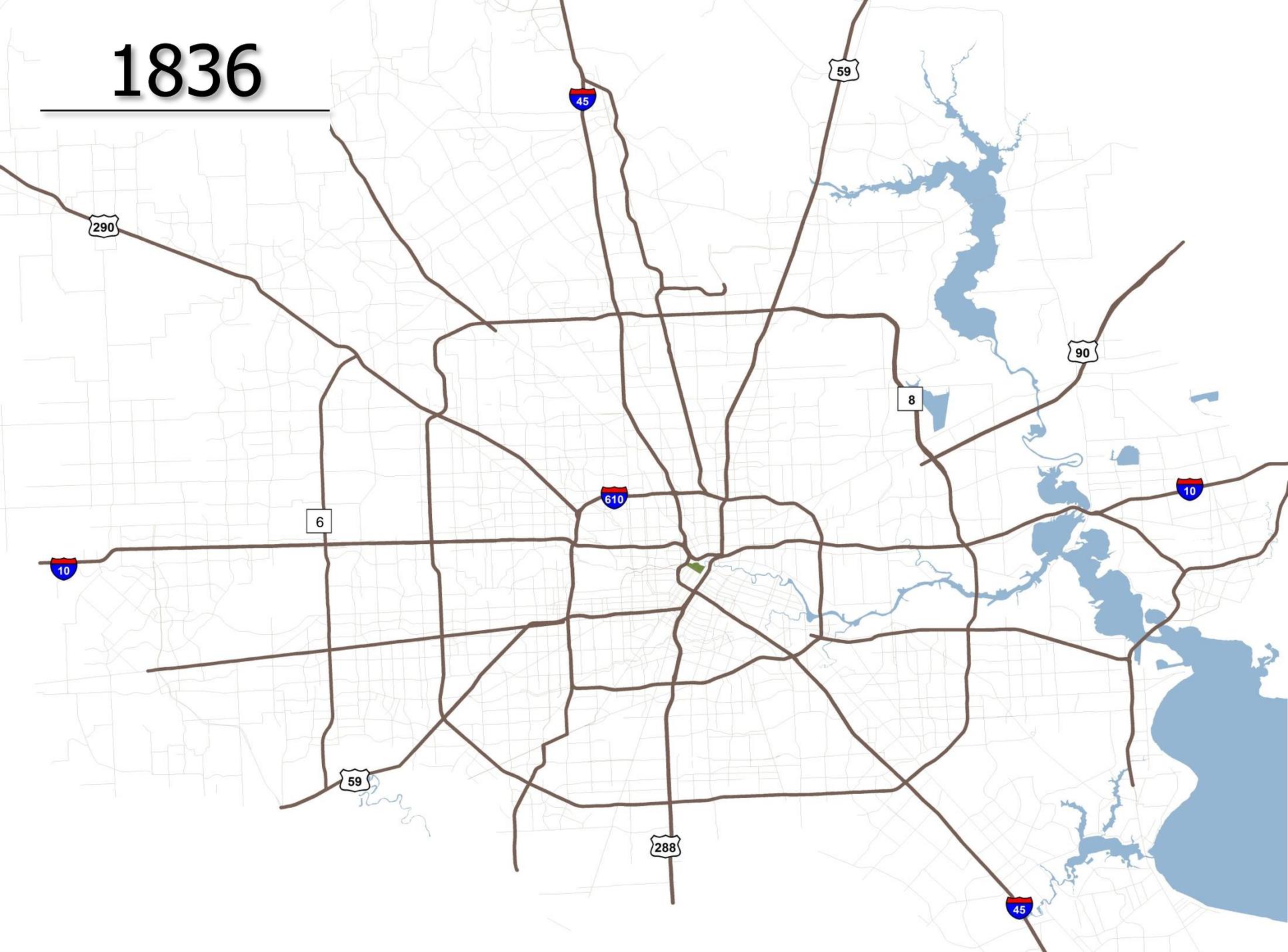
Or

How we grew to 667 square miles
in 175 years



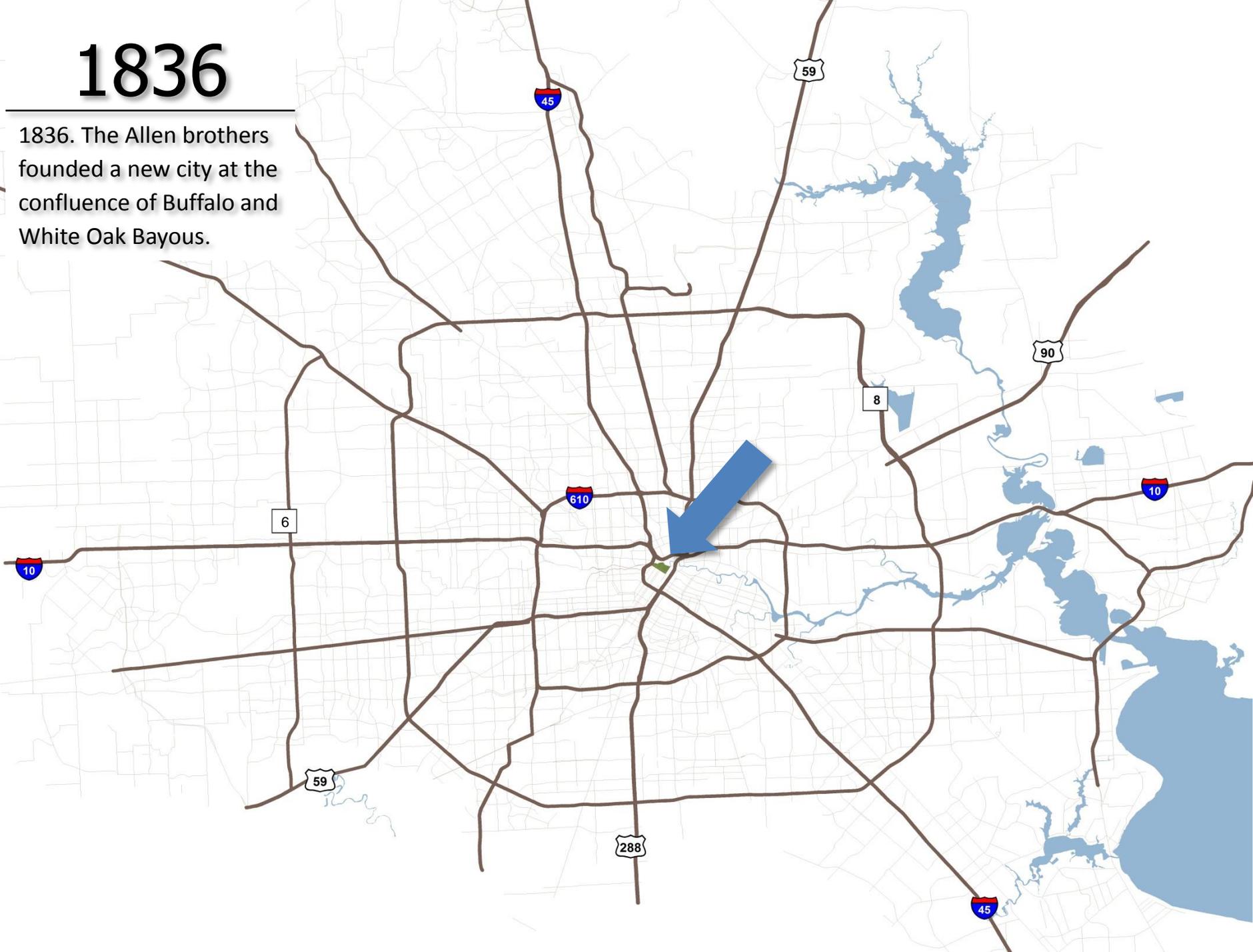
Presented by the City of Houston
Planning & Development Department

1836



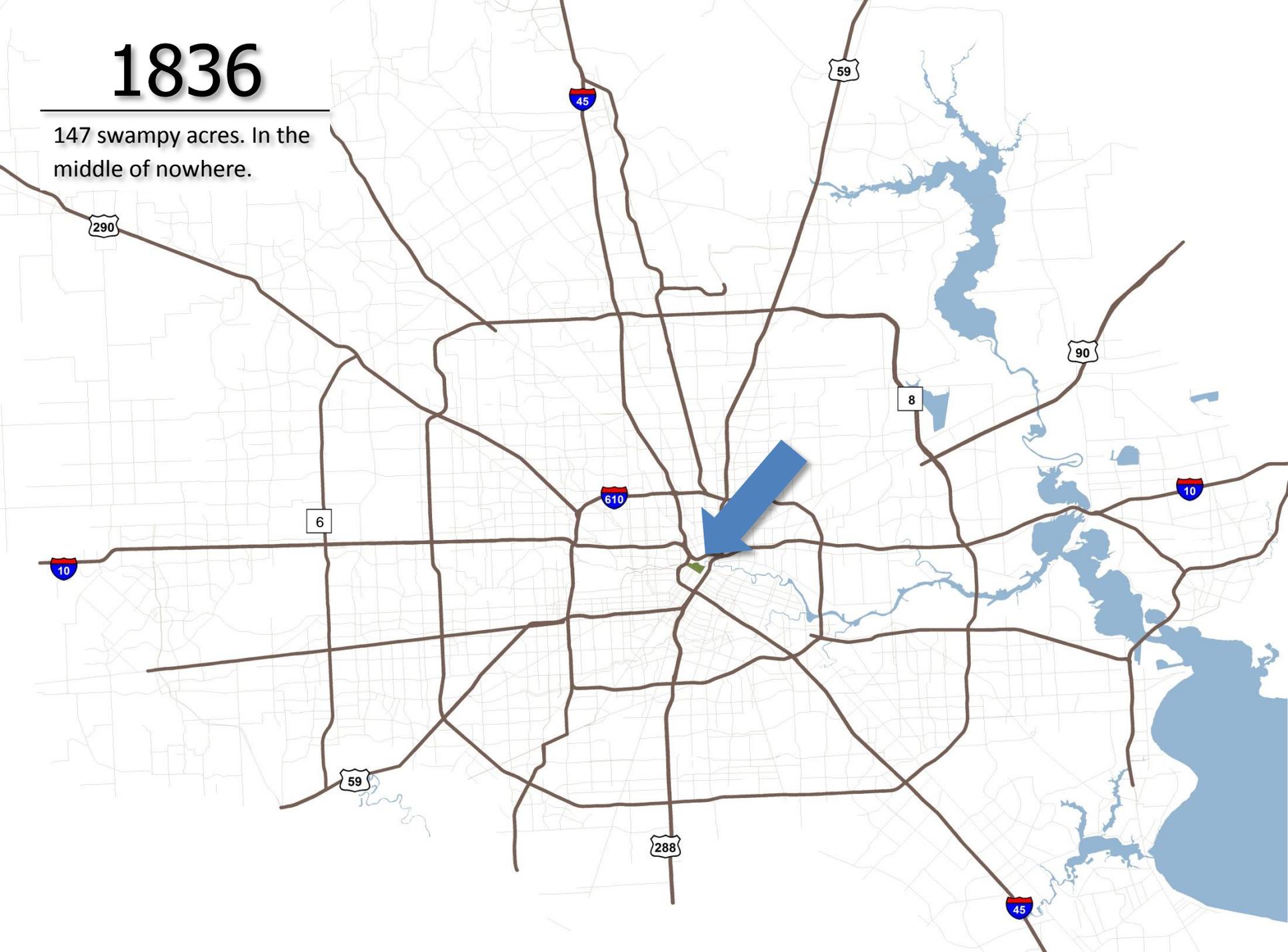
1836

1836. The Allen brothers founded a new city at the confluence of Buffalo and White Oak Bayous.



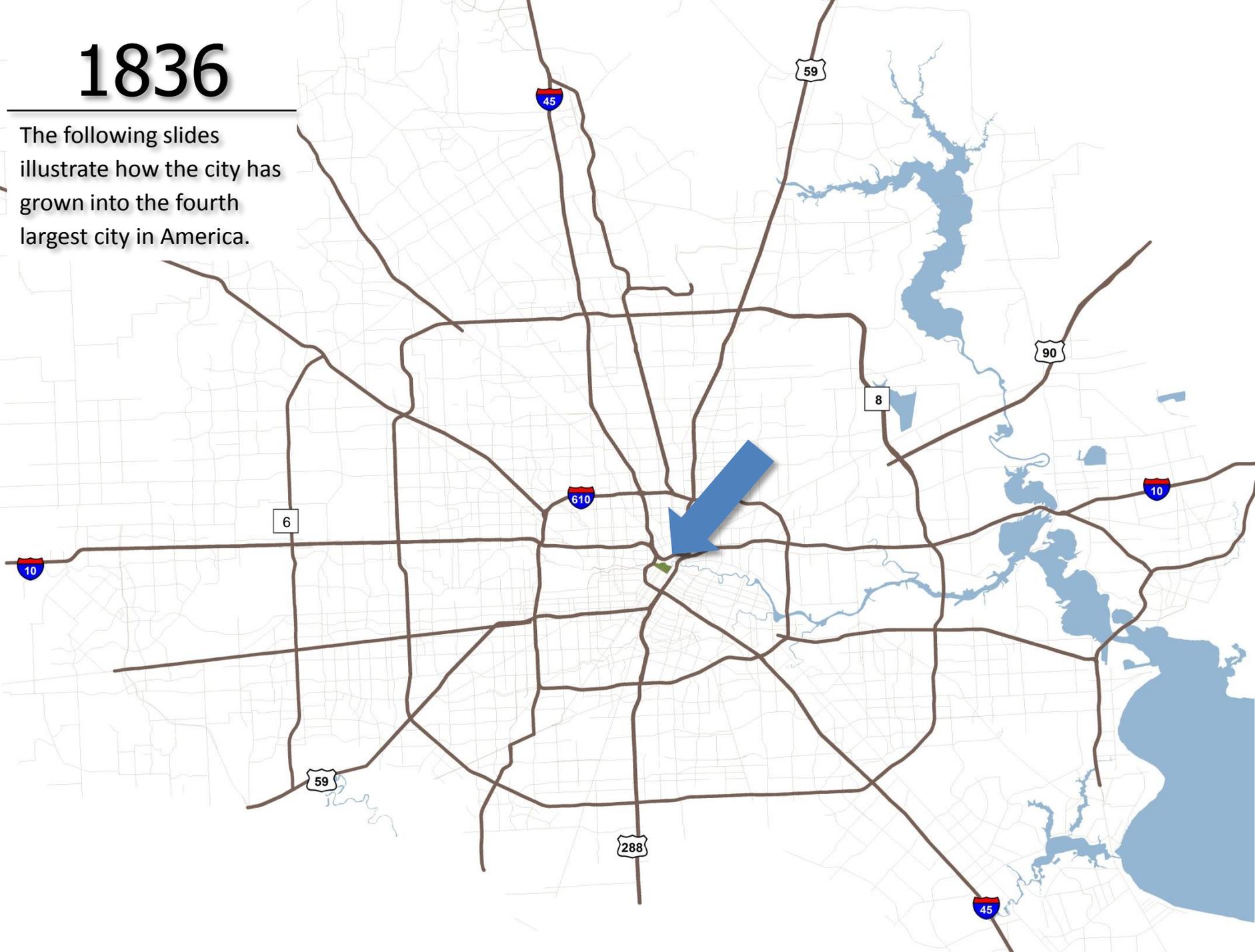
1836

147 swampy acres. In the middle of nowhere.



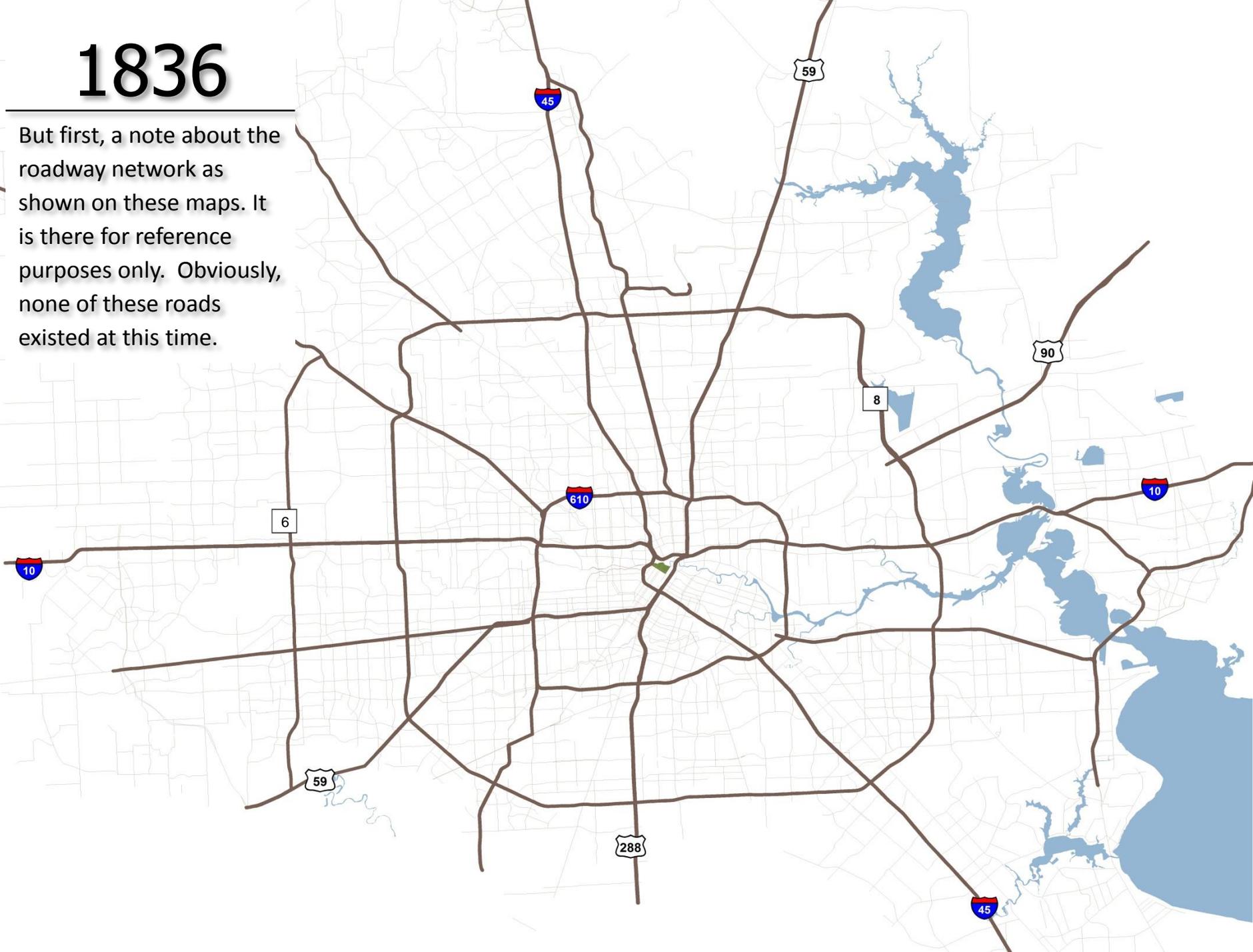
1836

The following slides illustrate how the city has grown into the fourth largest city in America.



1836

But first, a note about the roadway network as shown on these maps. It is there for reference purposes only. Obviously, none of these roads existed at this time.

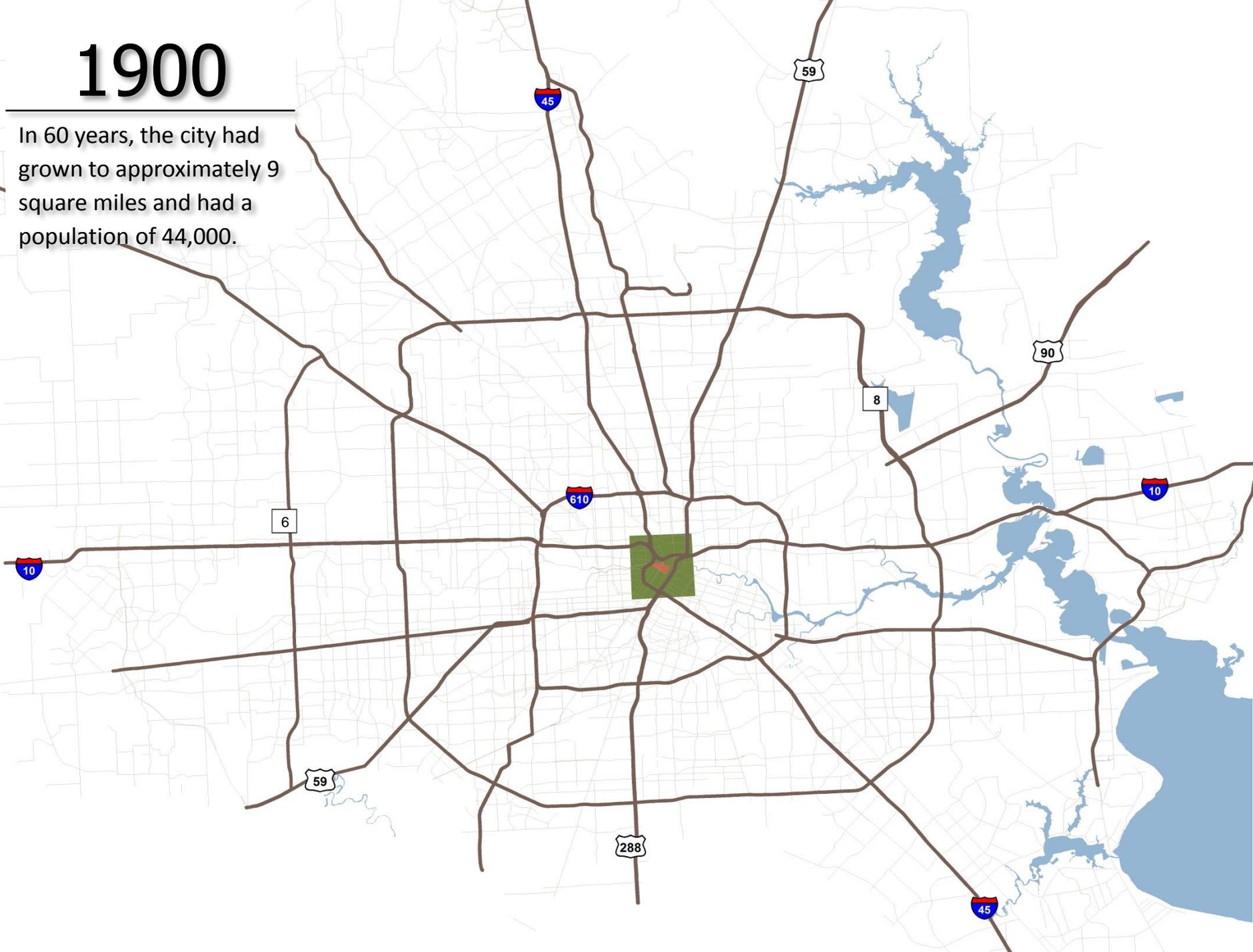


1900

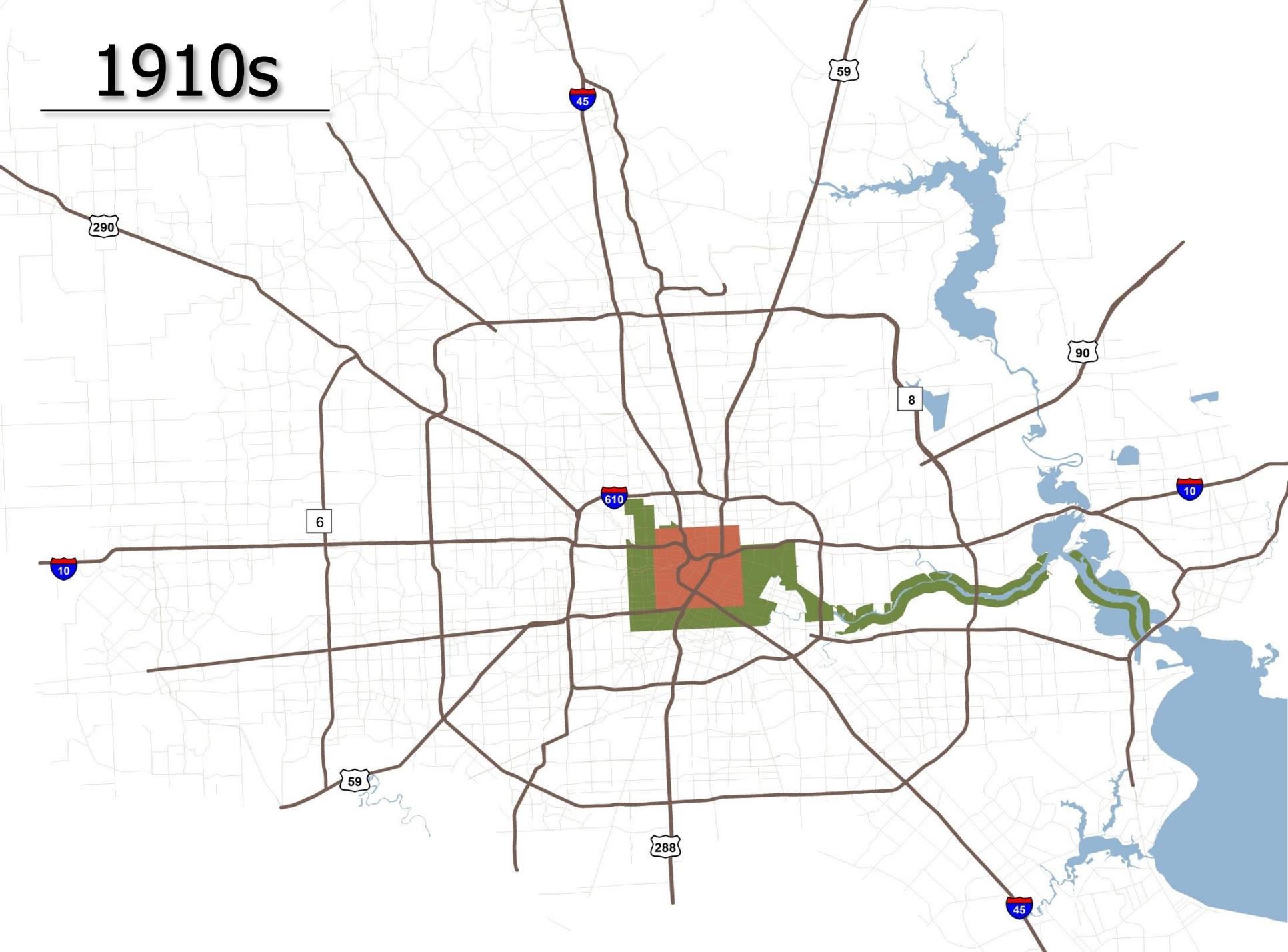


1900

In 60 years, the city had grown to approximately 9 square miles and had a population of 44,000.

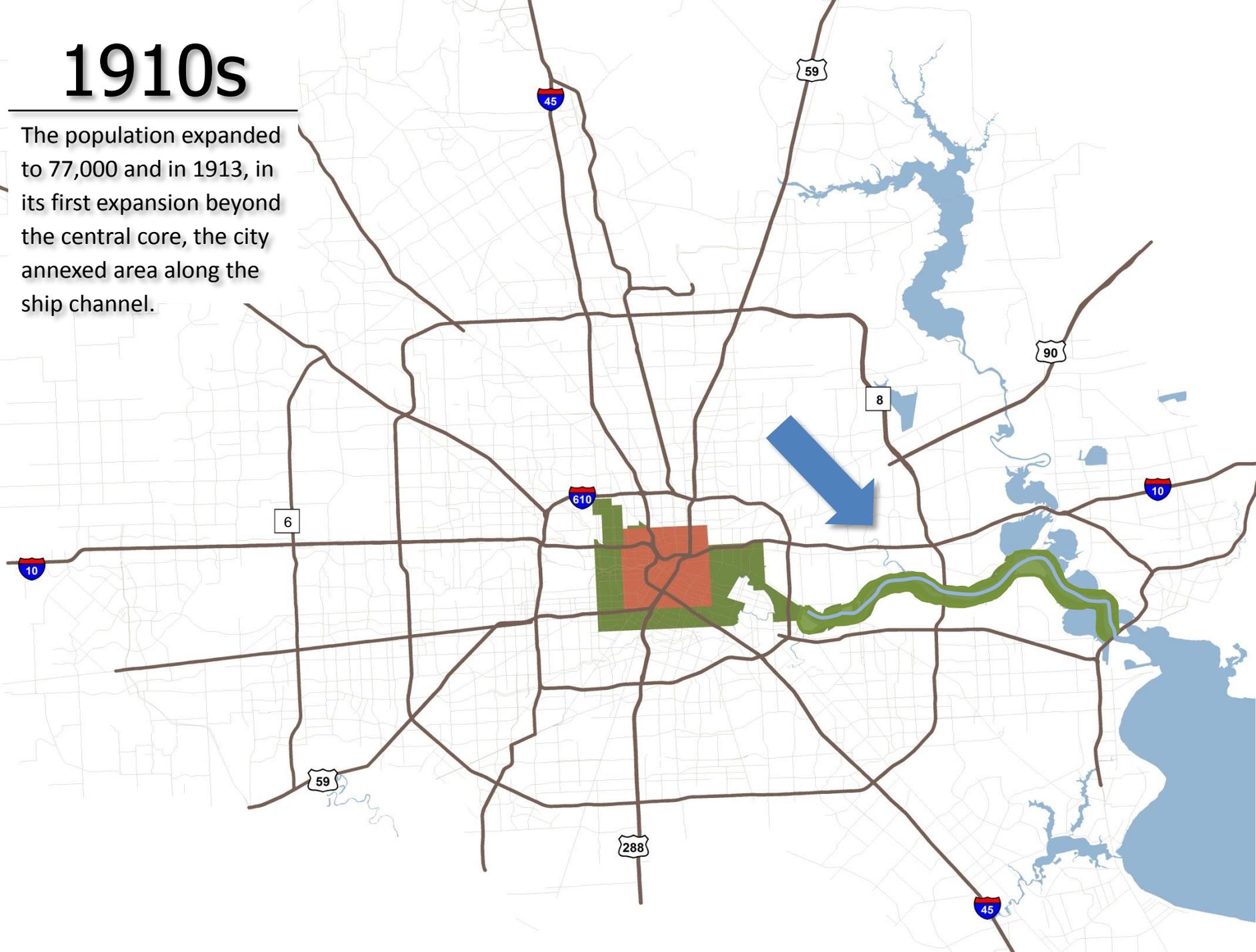


1910s



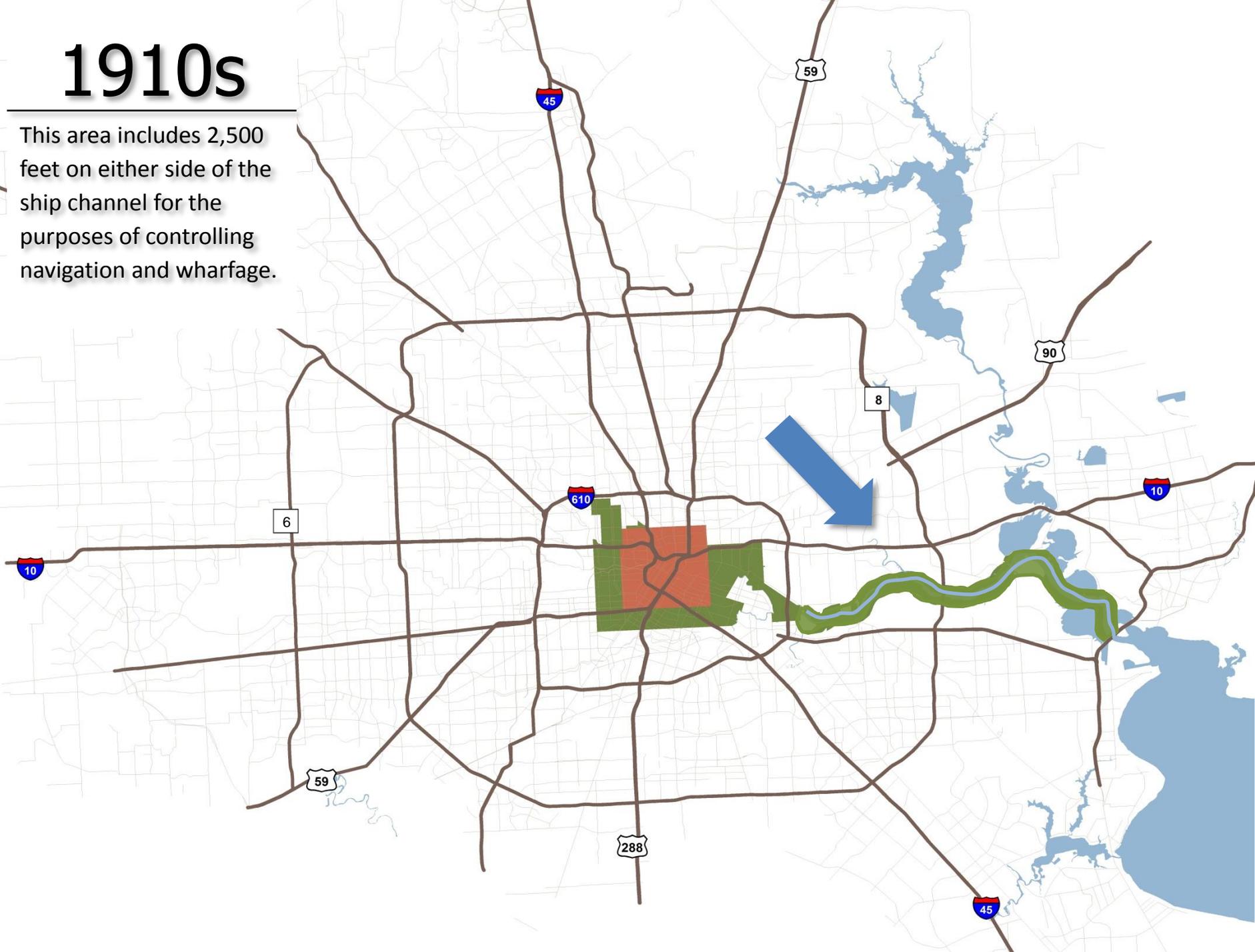
1910s

The population expanded to 77,000 and in 1913, in its first expansion beyond the central core, the city annexed area along the ship channel.



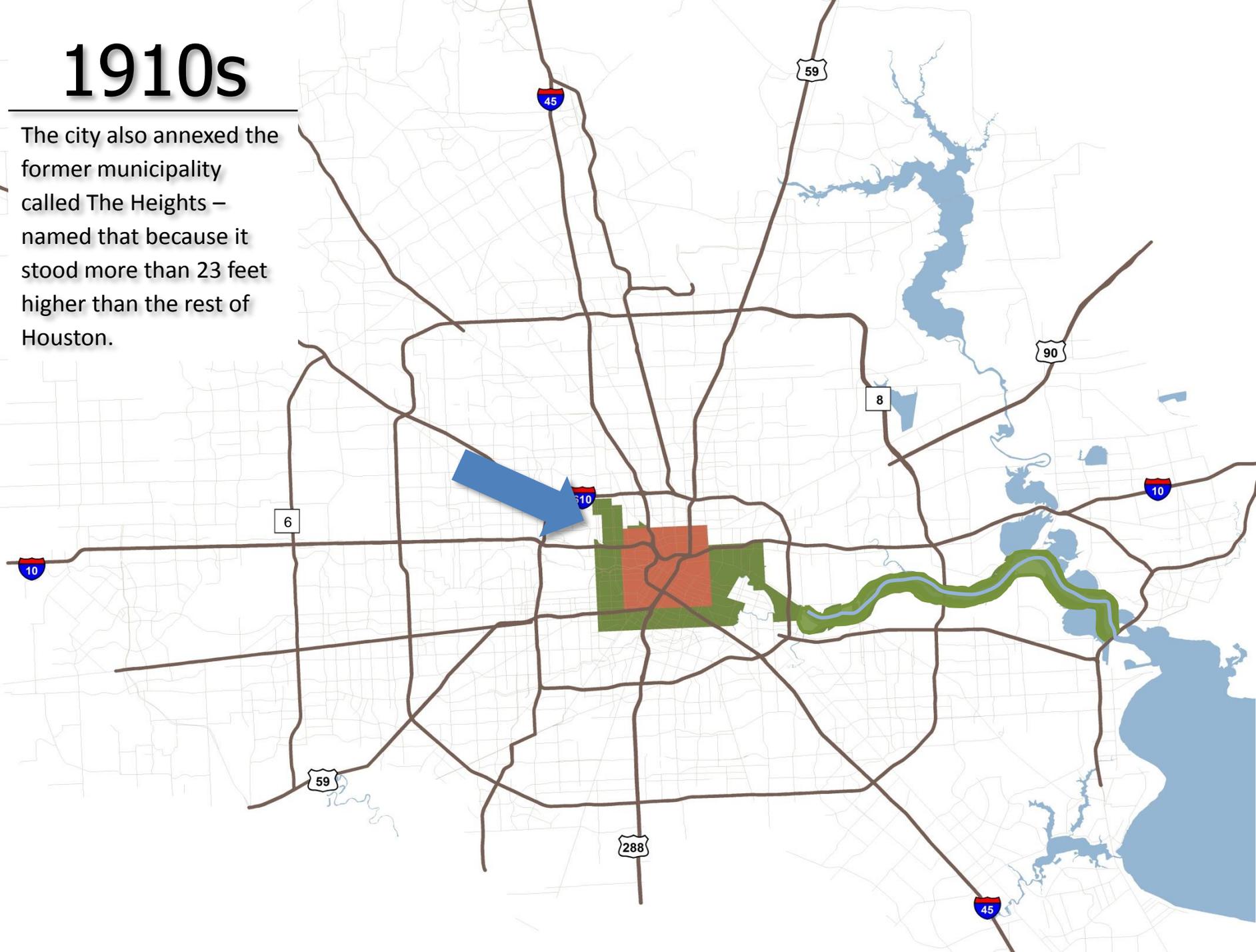
1910s

This area includes 2,500 feet on either side of the ship channel for the purposes of controlling navigation and wharfage.

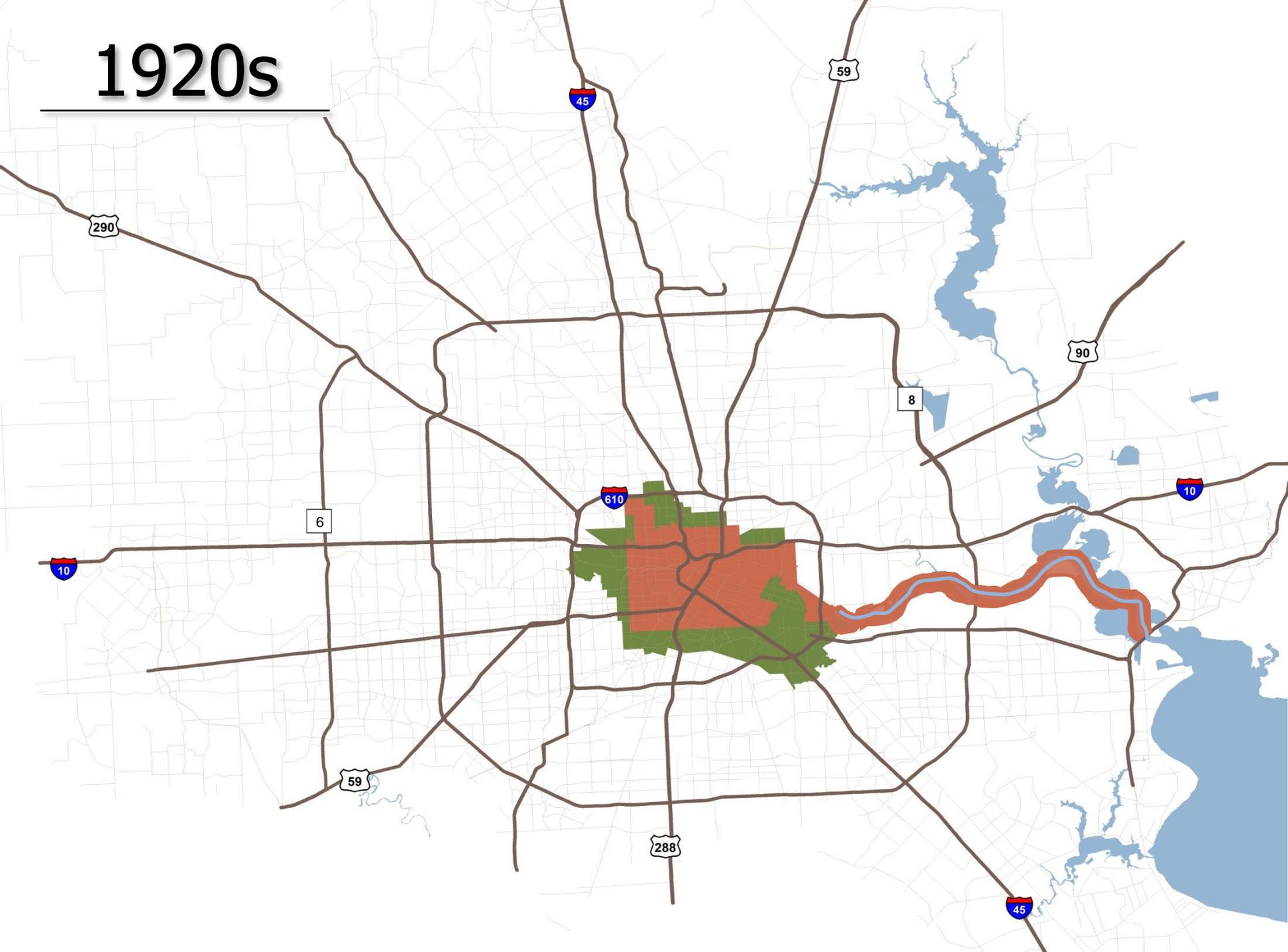


1910s

The city also annexed the former municipality called The Heights – named that because it stood more than 23 feet higher than the rest of Houston.

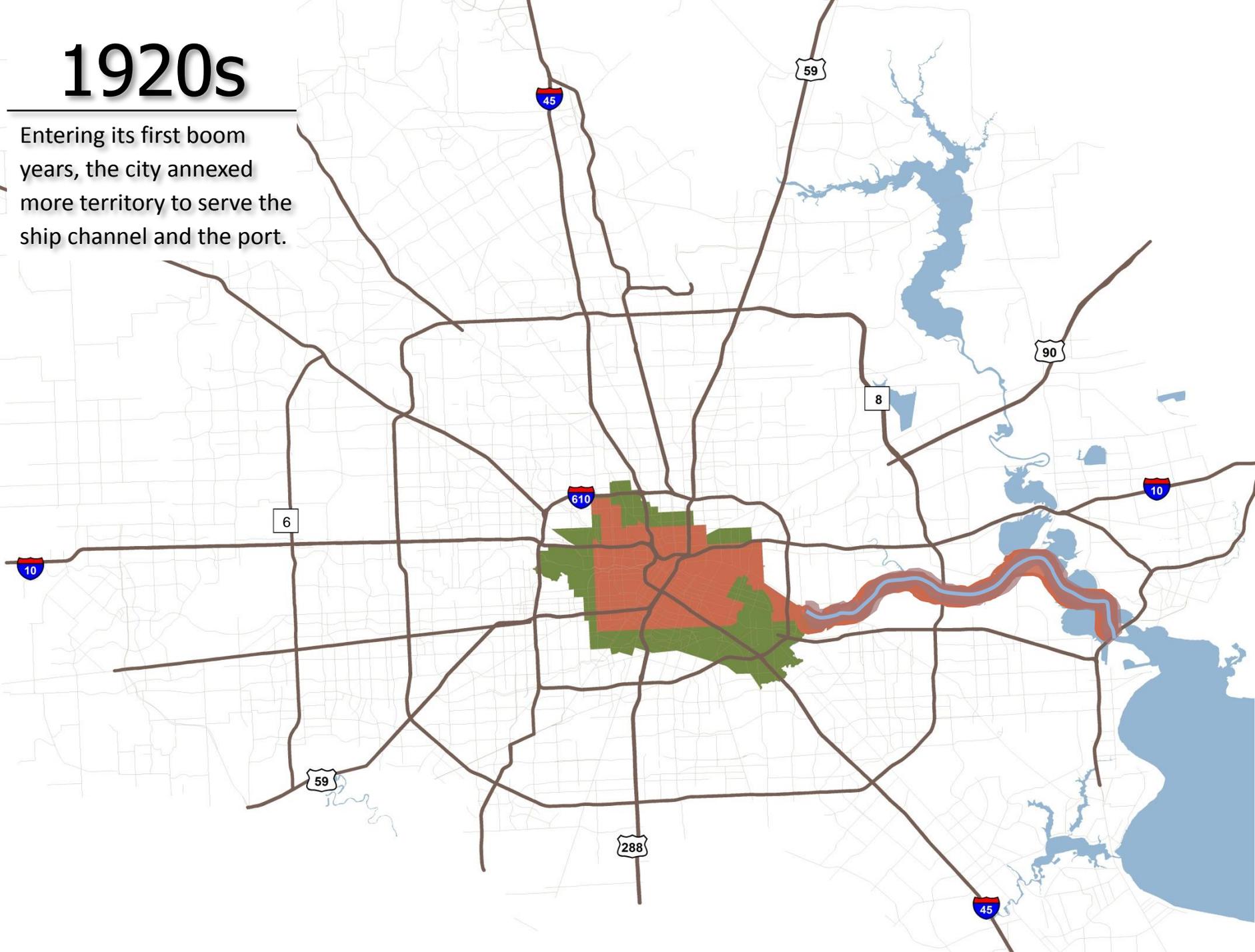


1920s



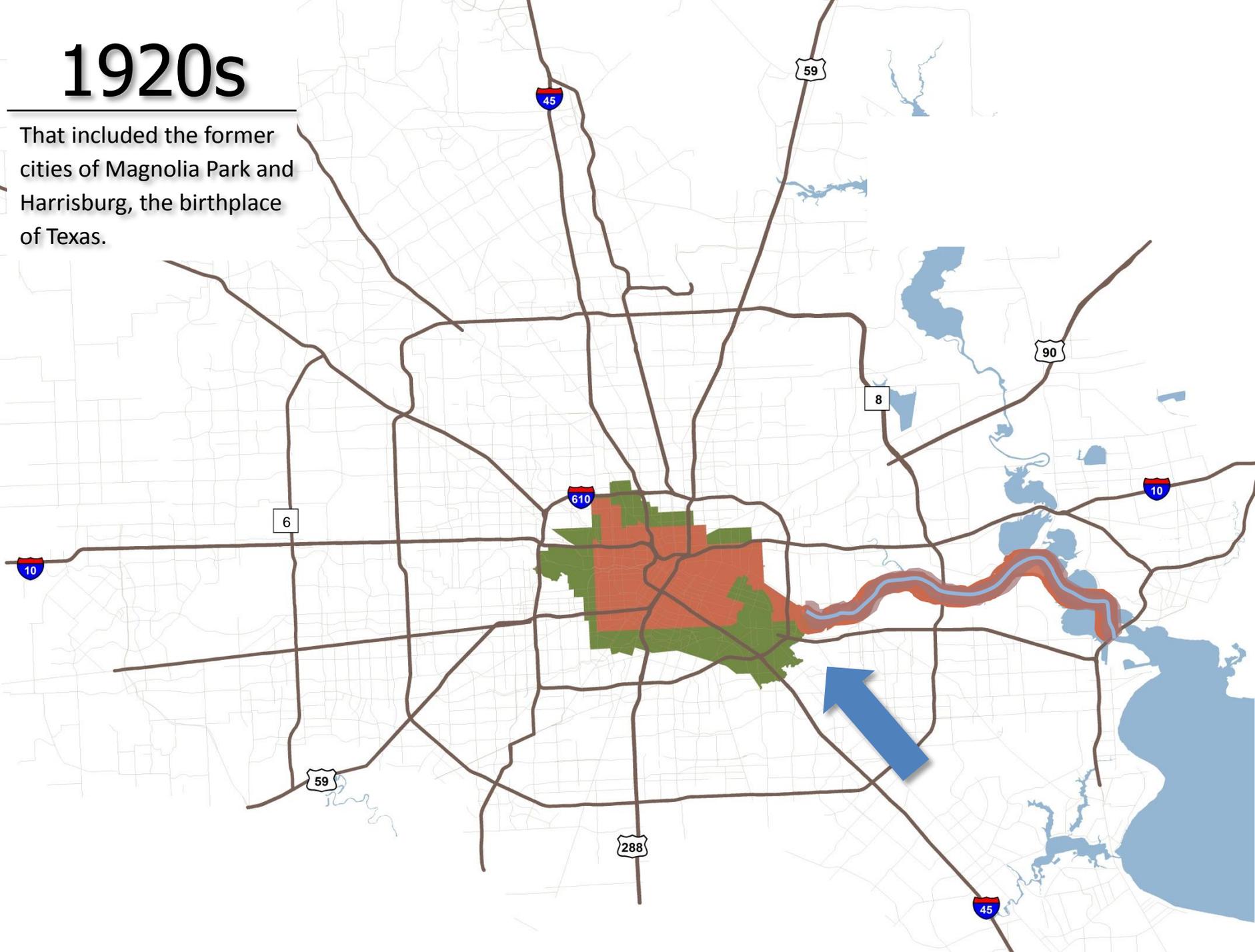
1920s

Entering its first boom years, the city annexed more territory to serve the ship channel and the port.



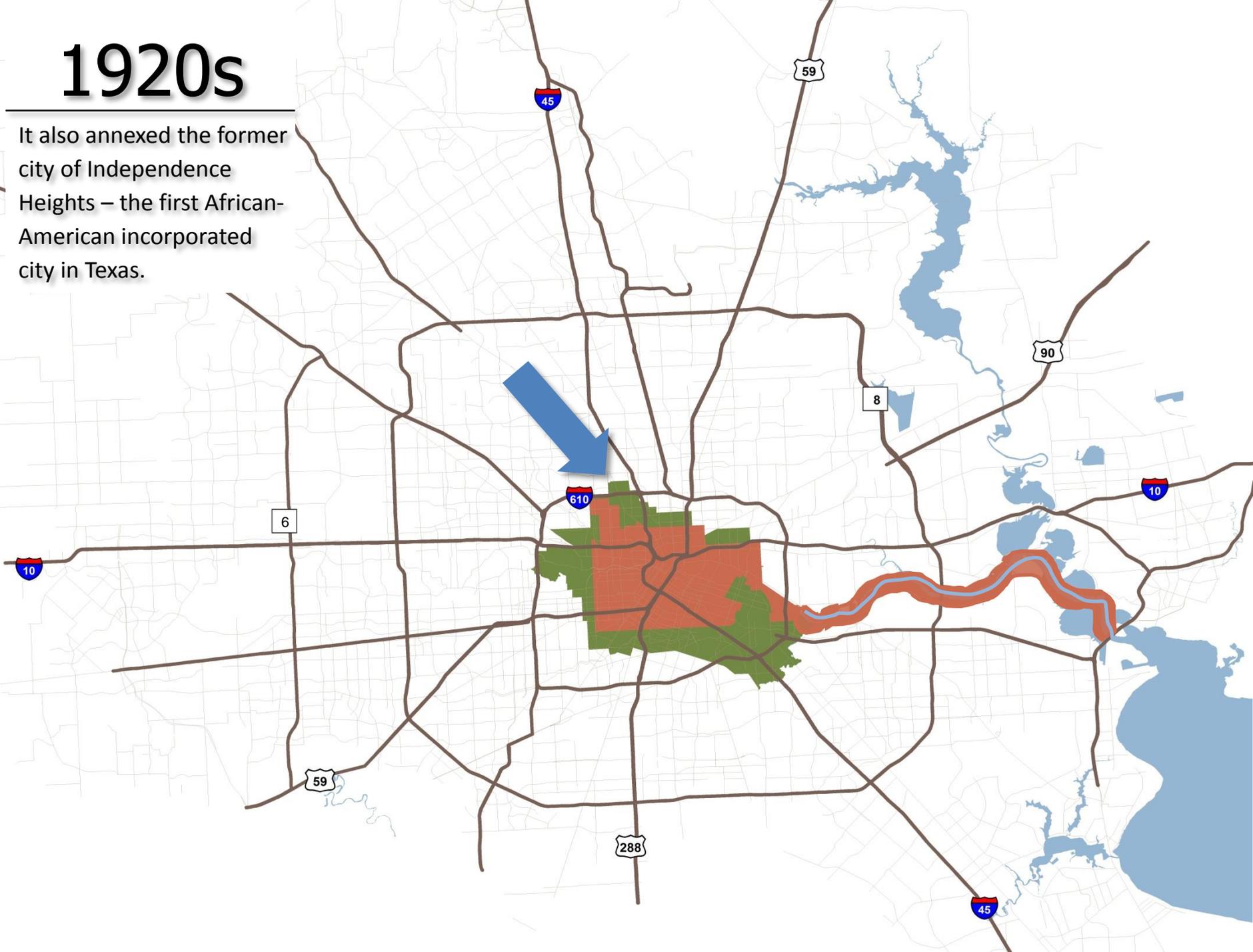
1920s

That included the former cities of Magnolia Park and Harrisburg, the birthplace of Texas.

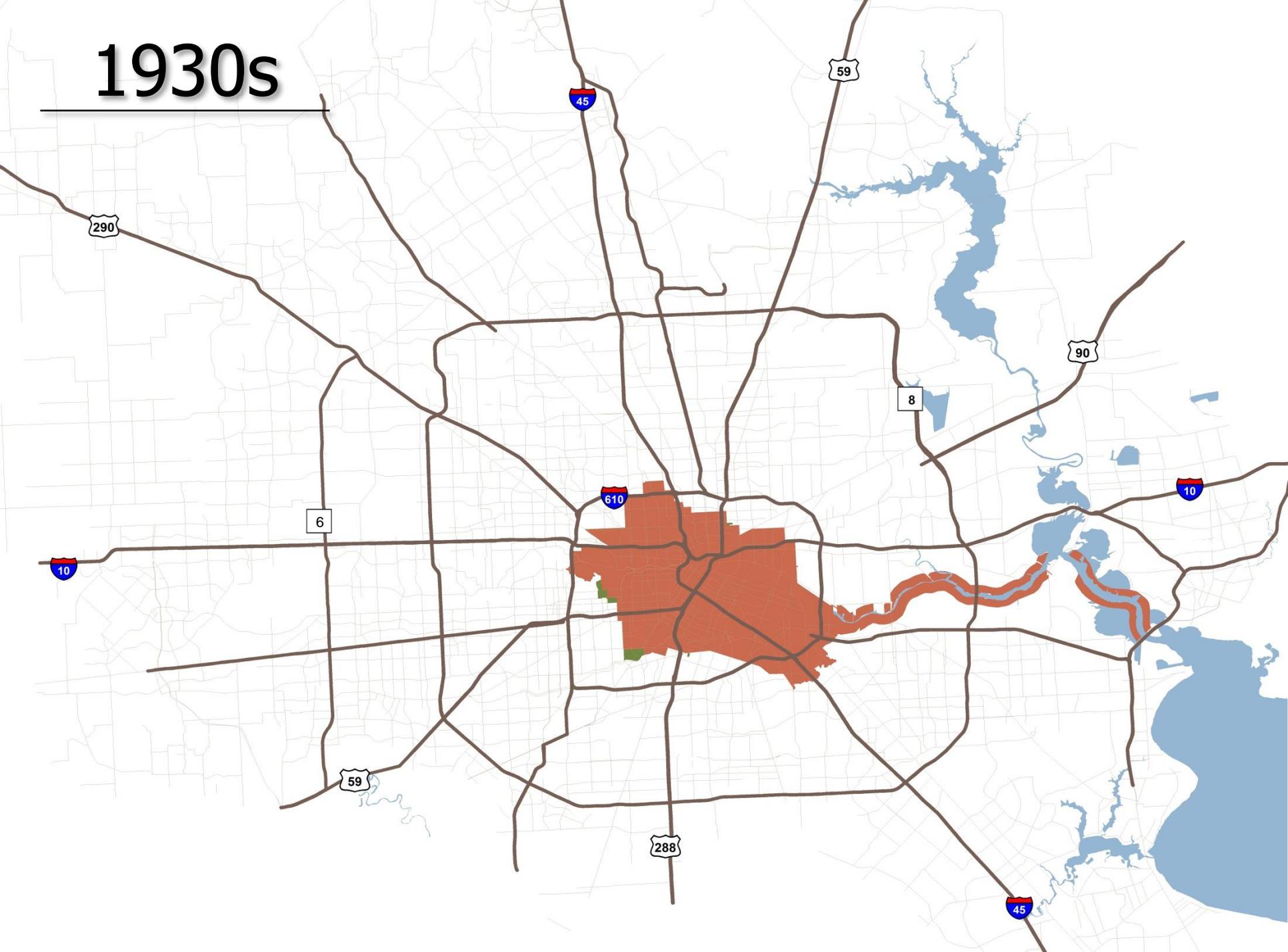


1920s

It also annexed the former city of Independence Heights – the first African-American incorporated city in Texas.

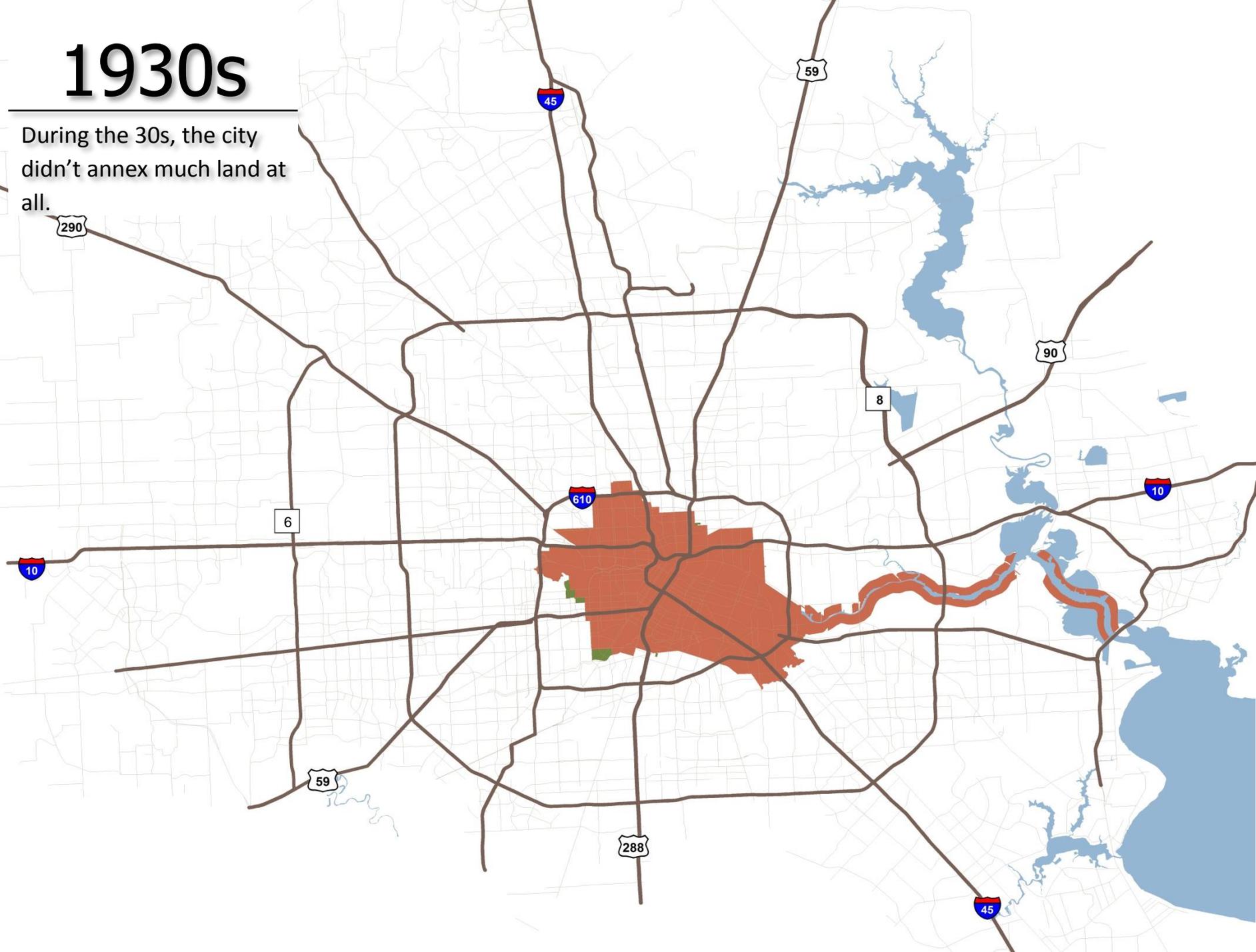


1930s



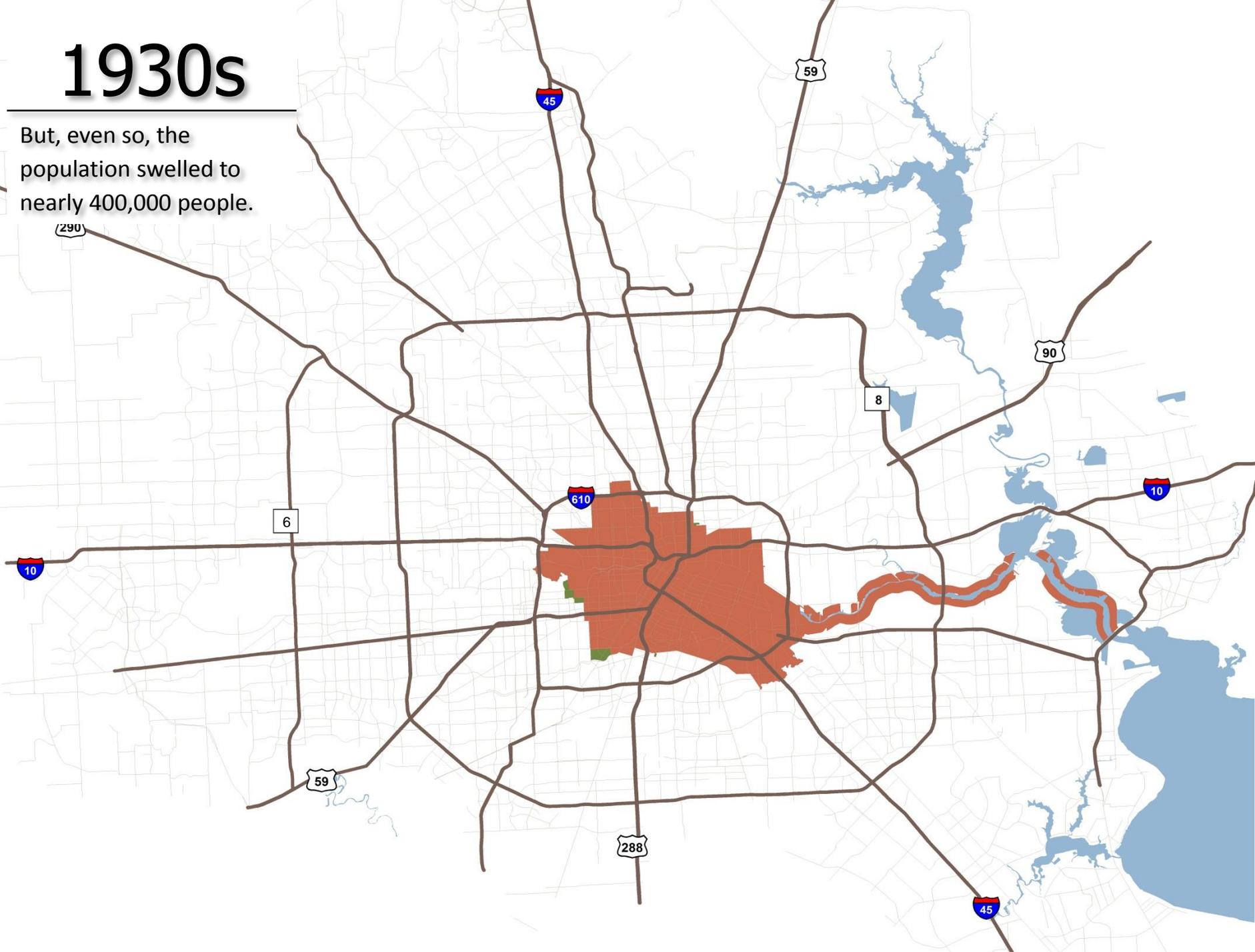
1930s

During the 30s, the city didn't annex much land at all.

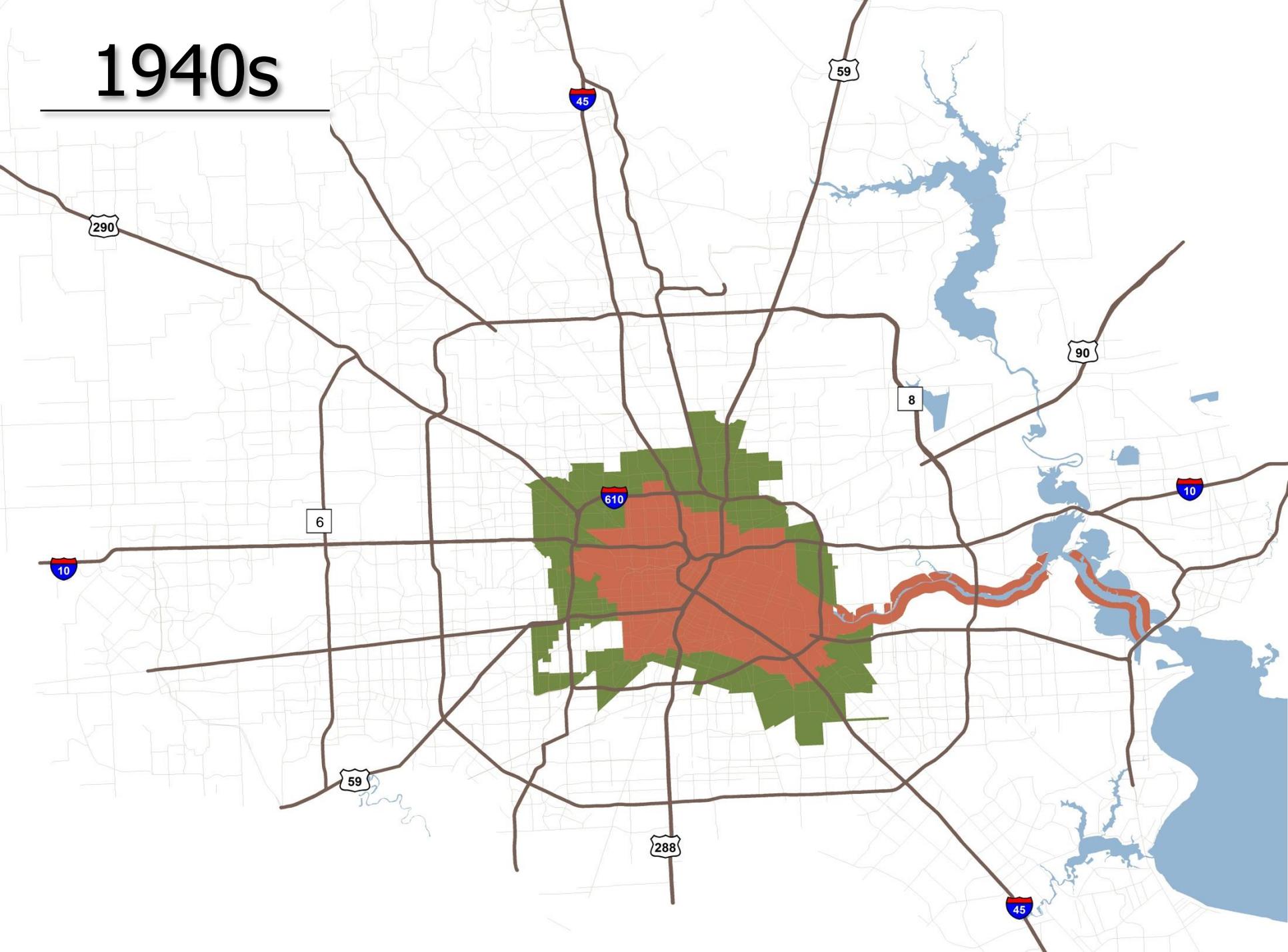


1930s

But, even so, the population swelled to nearly 400,000 people.

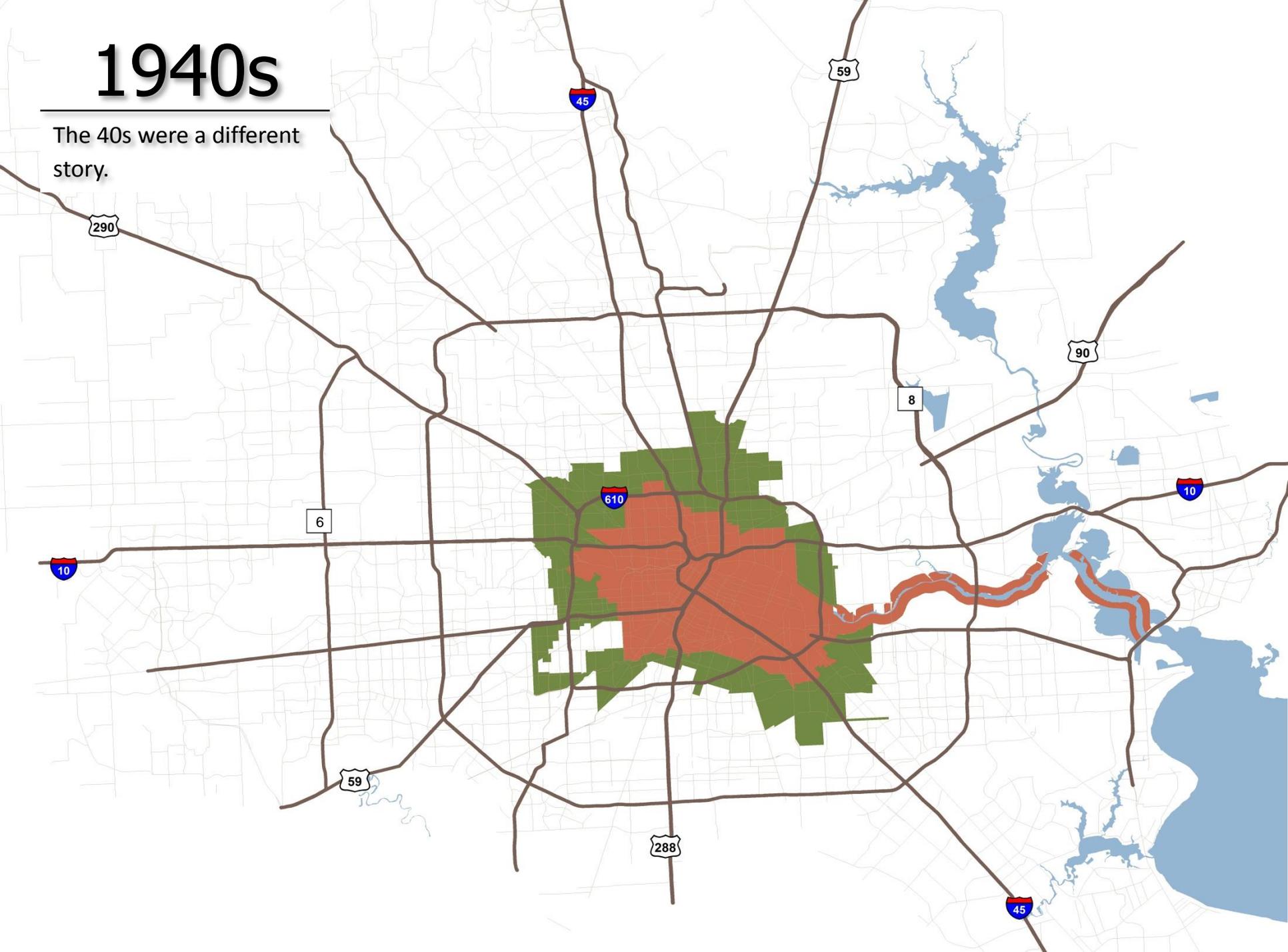


1940s



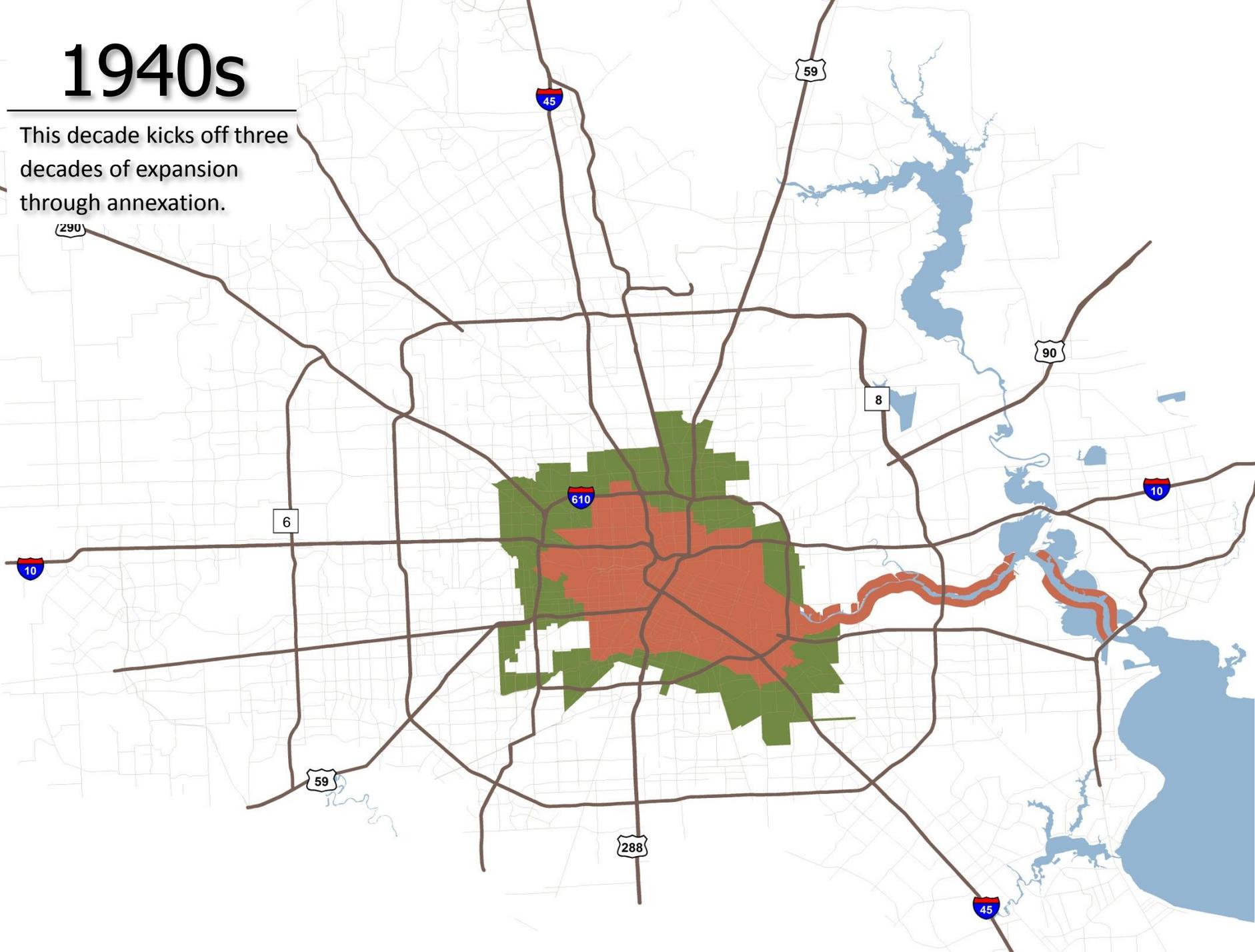
1940s

The 40s were a different story.



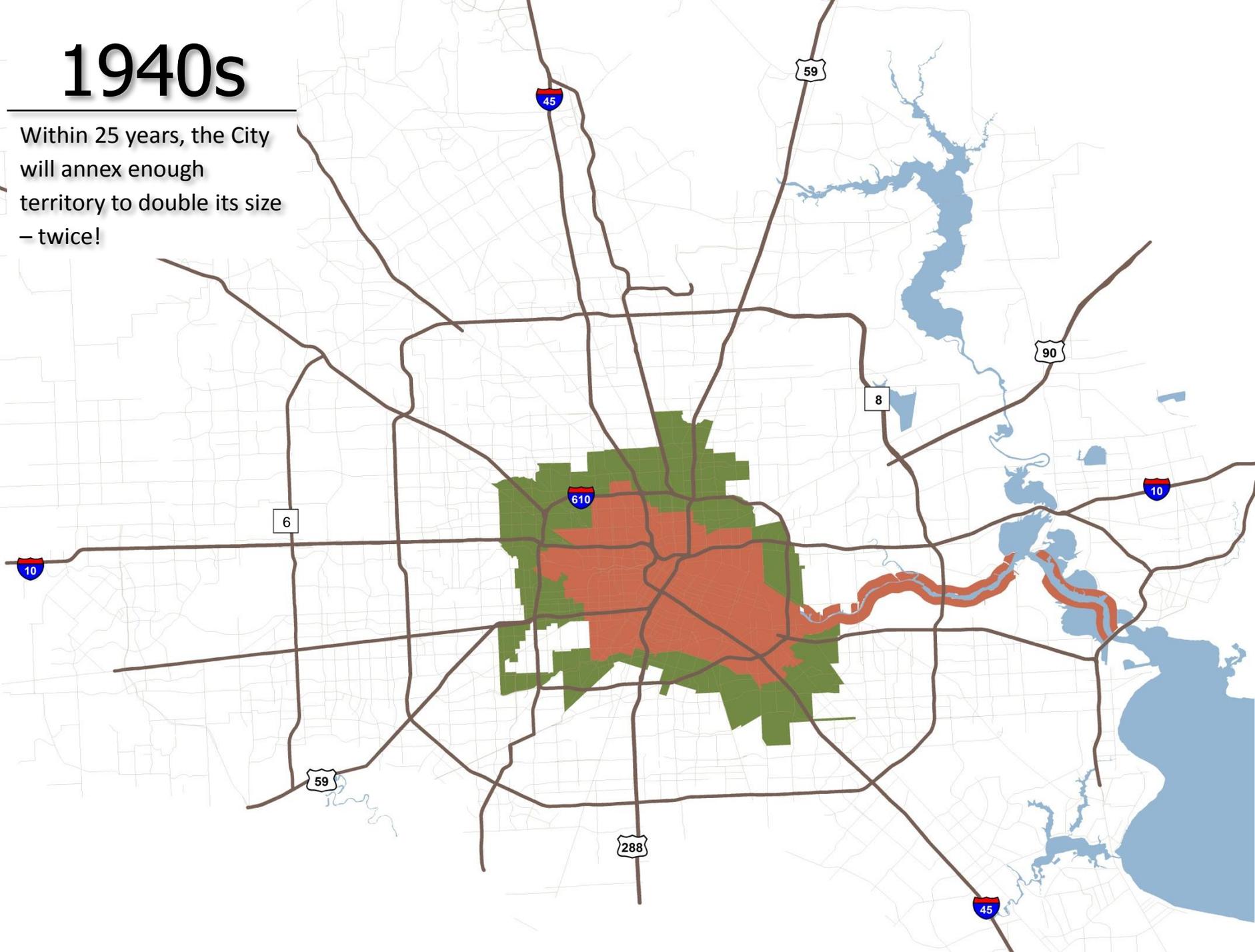
1940s

This decade kicks off three decades of expansion through annexation.



1940s

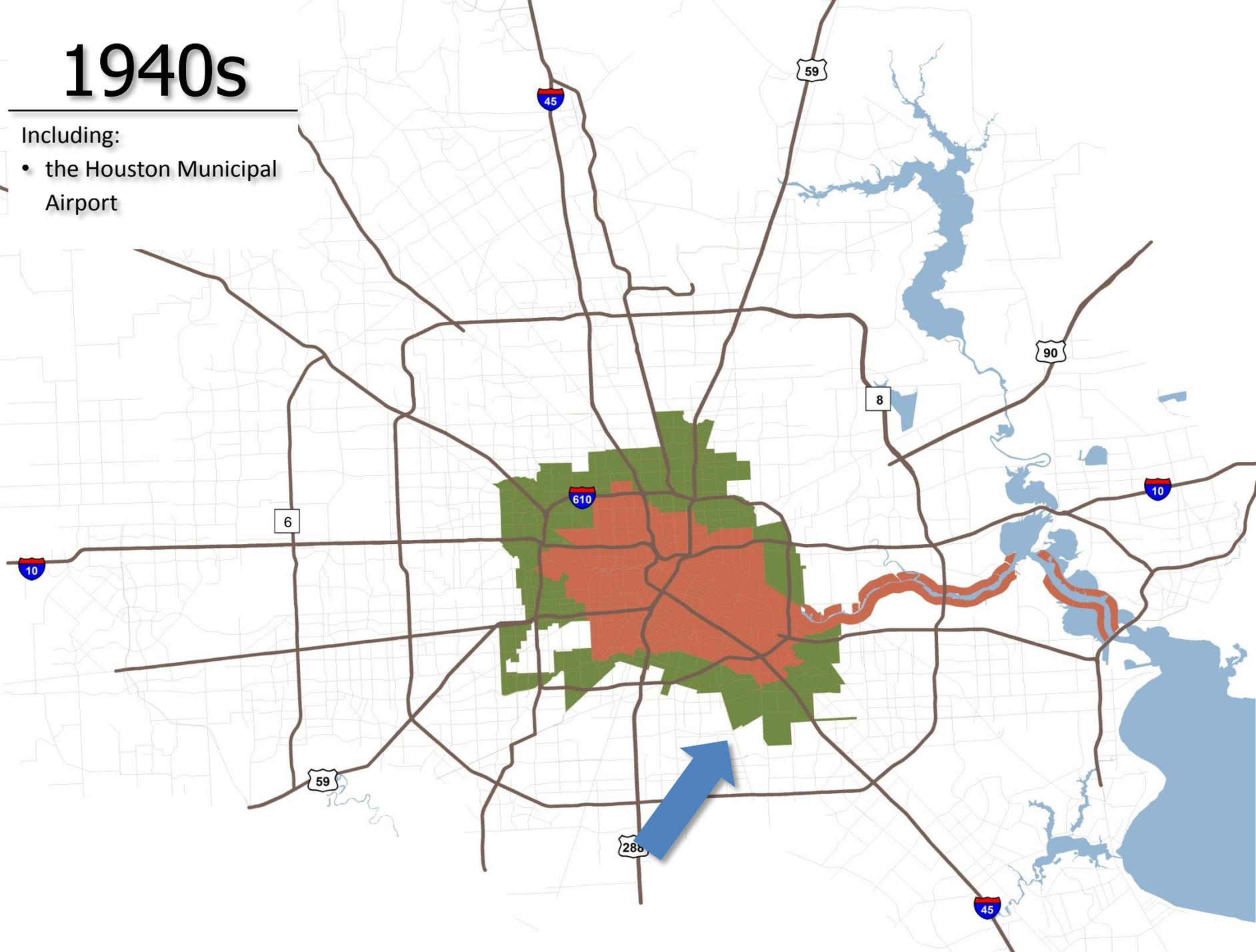
Within 25 years, the City
will annex enough
territory to double its size
– twice!



1940s

Including:

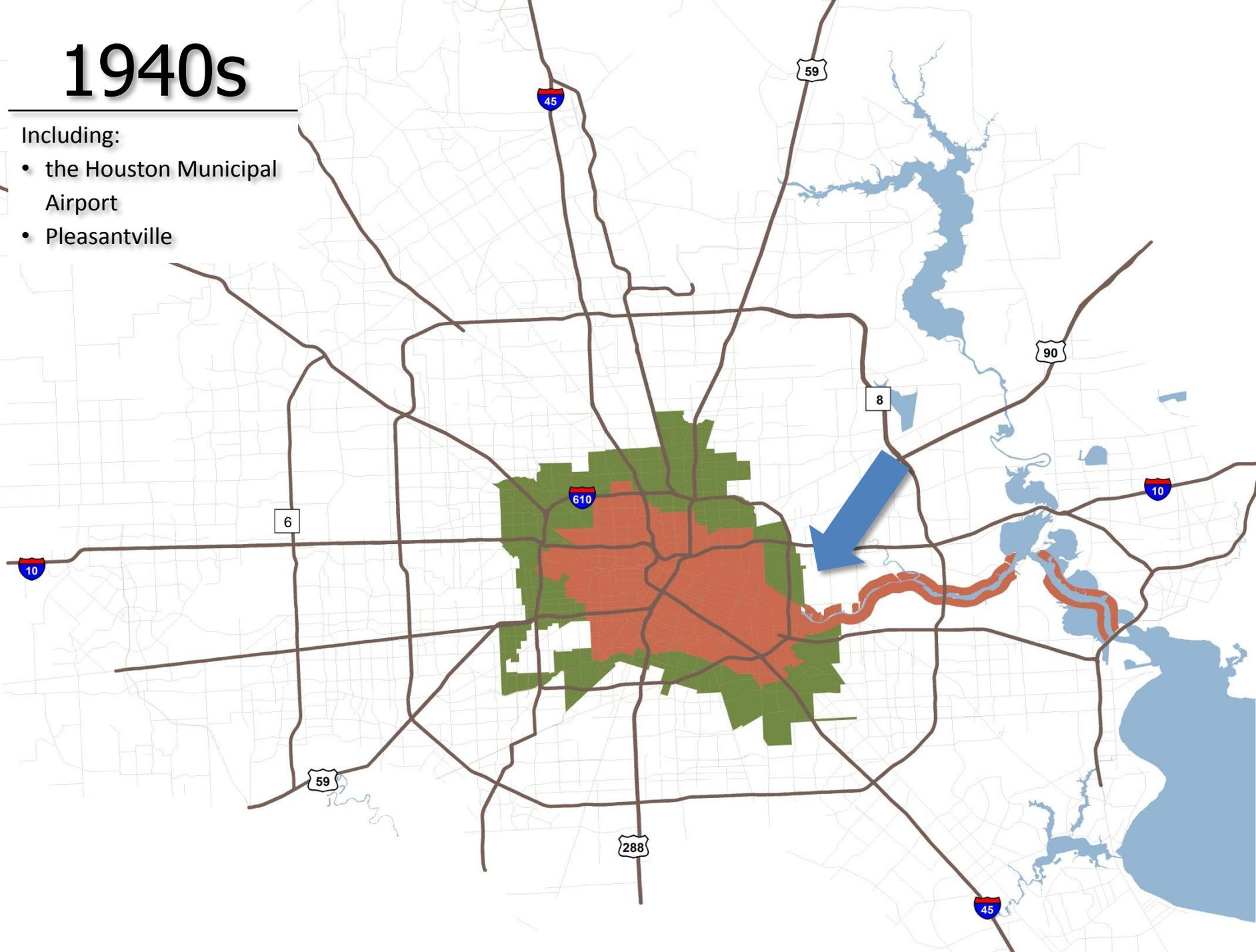
- the Houston Municipal Airport



1940s

Including:

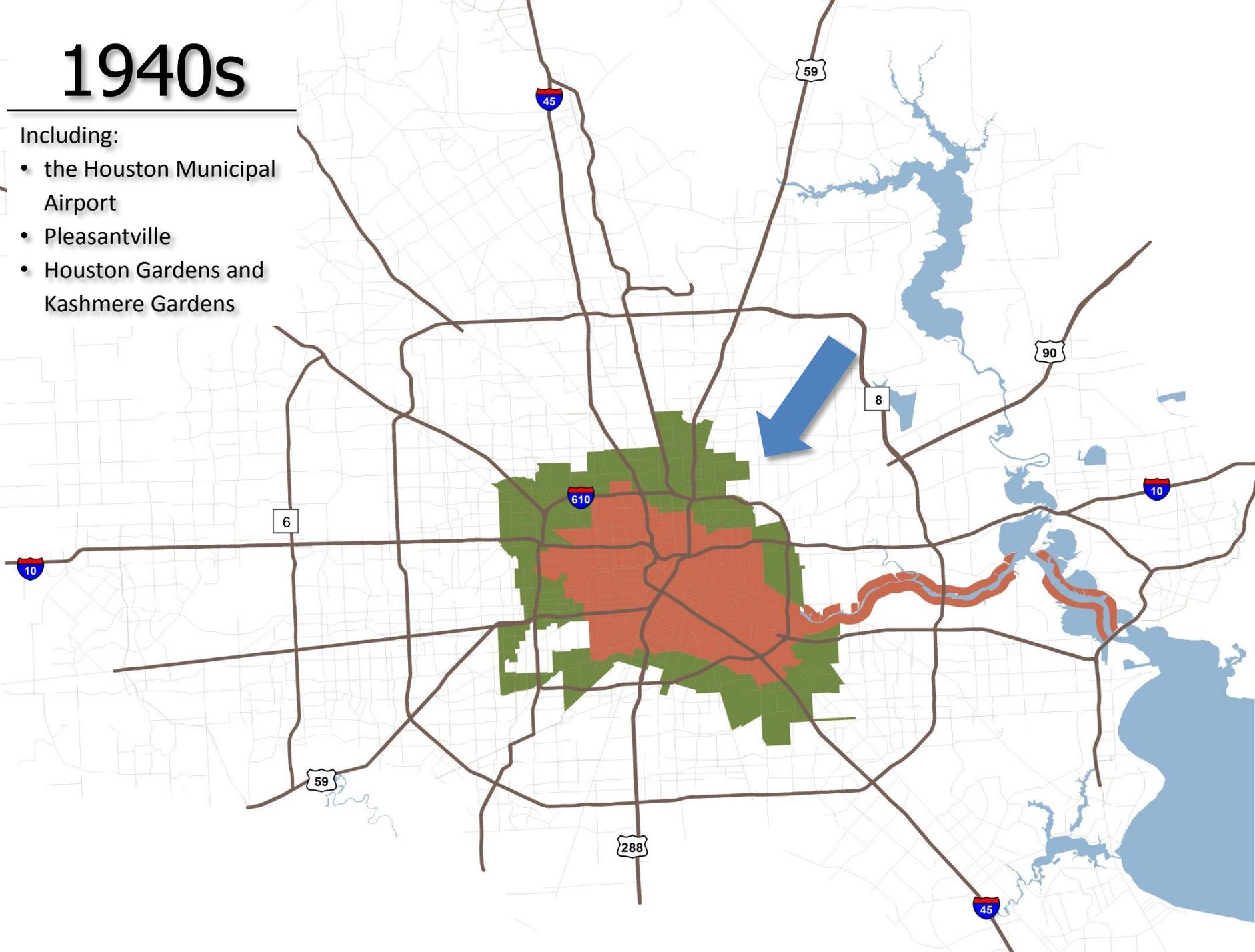
- the Houston Municipal Airport
- Pleasantville



1940s

Including:

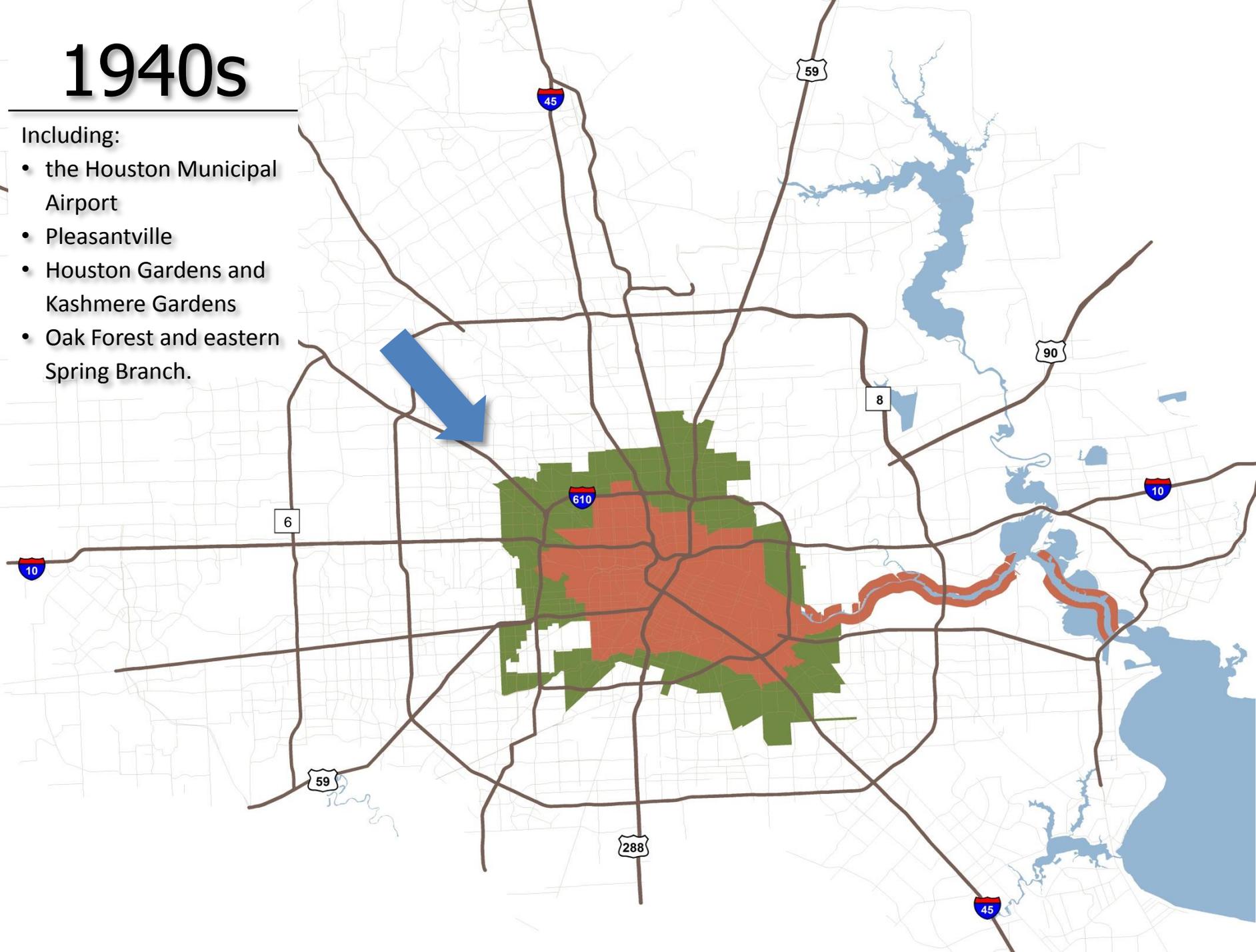
- the Houston Municipal Airport
- Pleasantville
- Houston Gardens and Kashmere Gardens



1940s

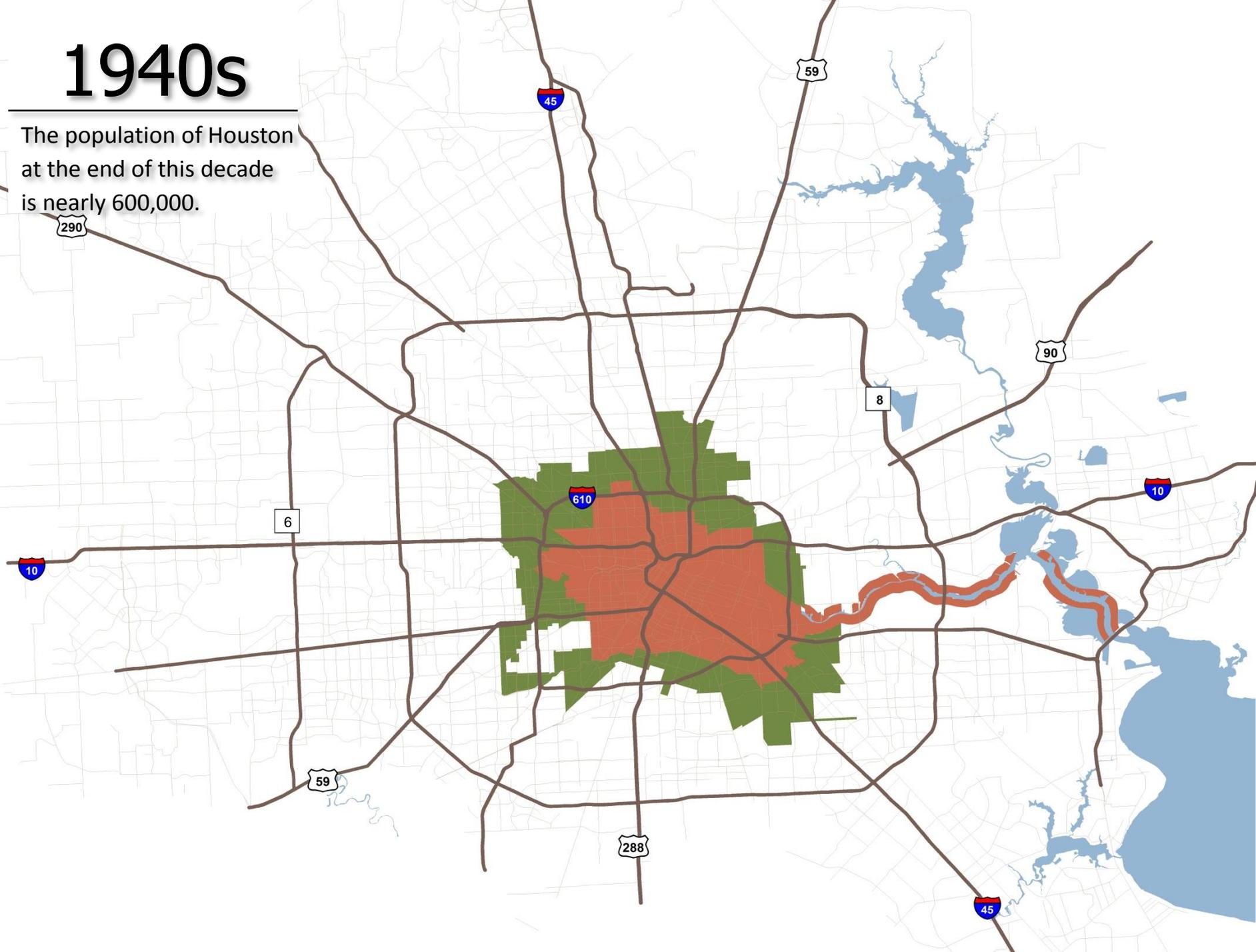
Including:

- the Houston Municipal Airport
- Pleasantville
- Houston Gardens and Kashmere Gardens
- Oak Forest and eastern Spring Branch.

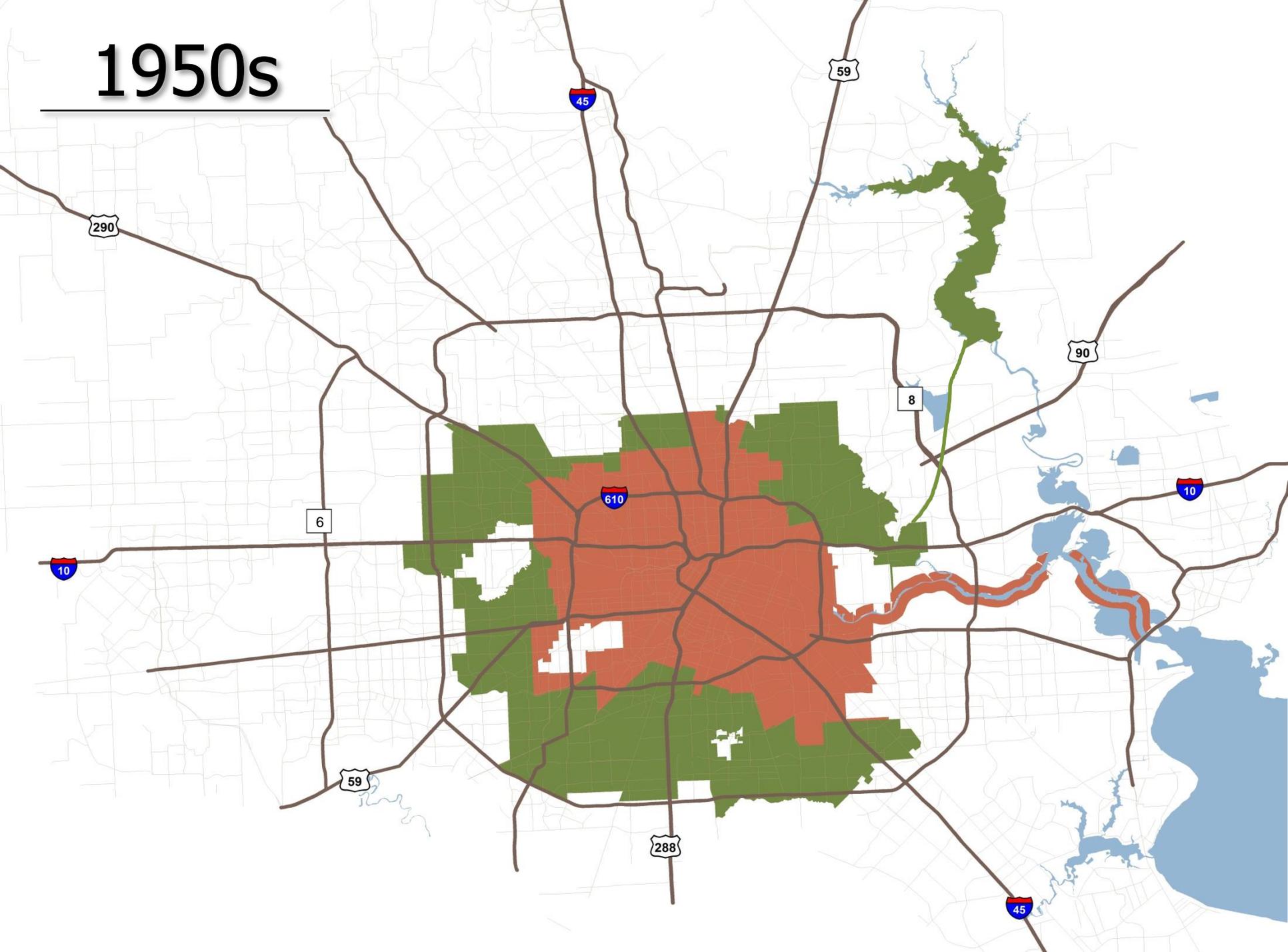


1940s

The population of Houston at the end of this decade is nearly 600,000.



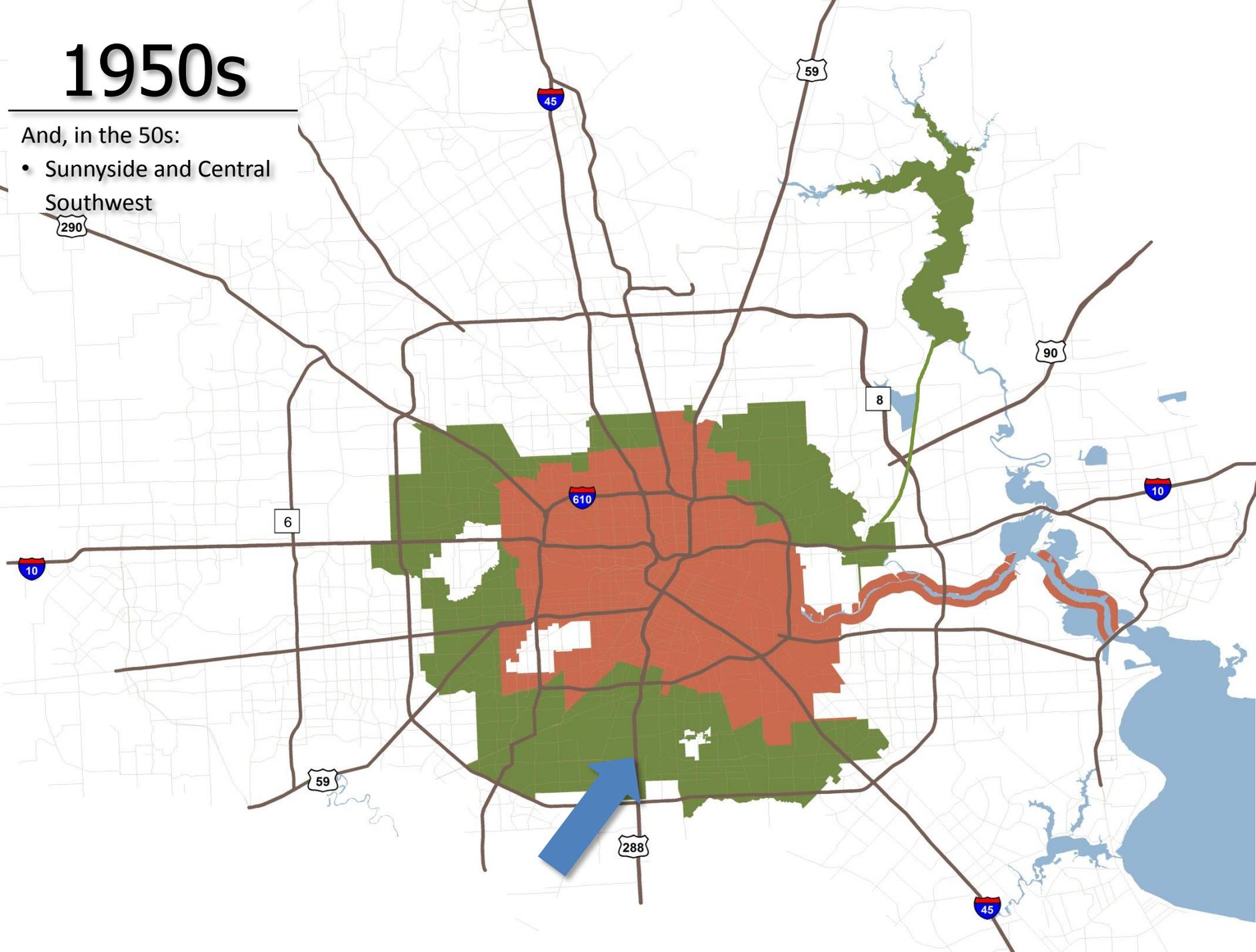
1950s



1950s

And, in the 50s:

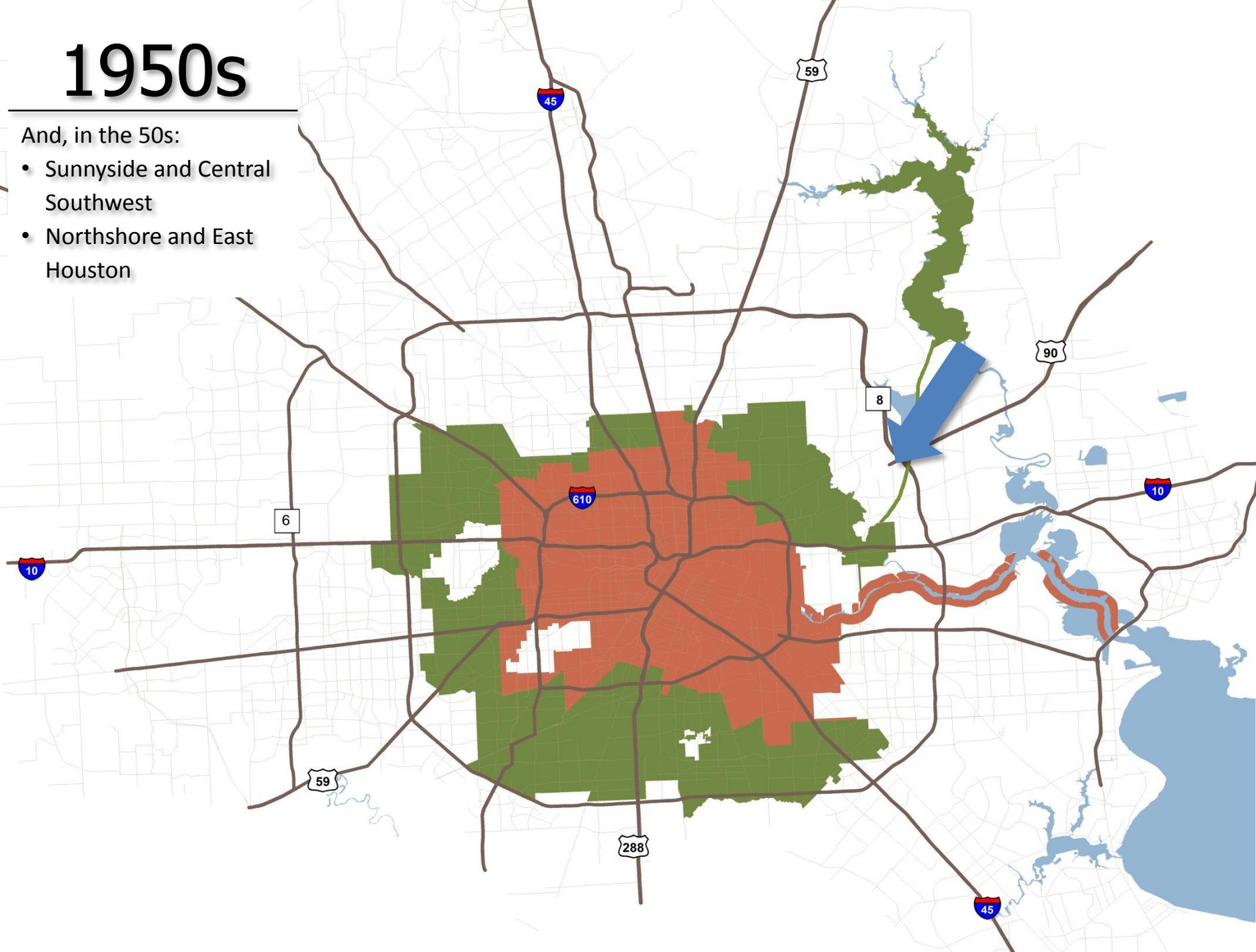
- Sunnyside and Central Southwest



1950s

And, in the 50s:

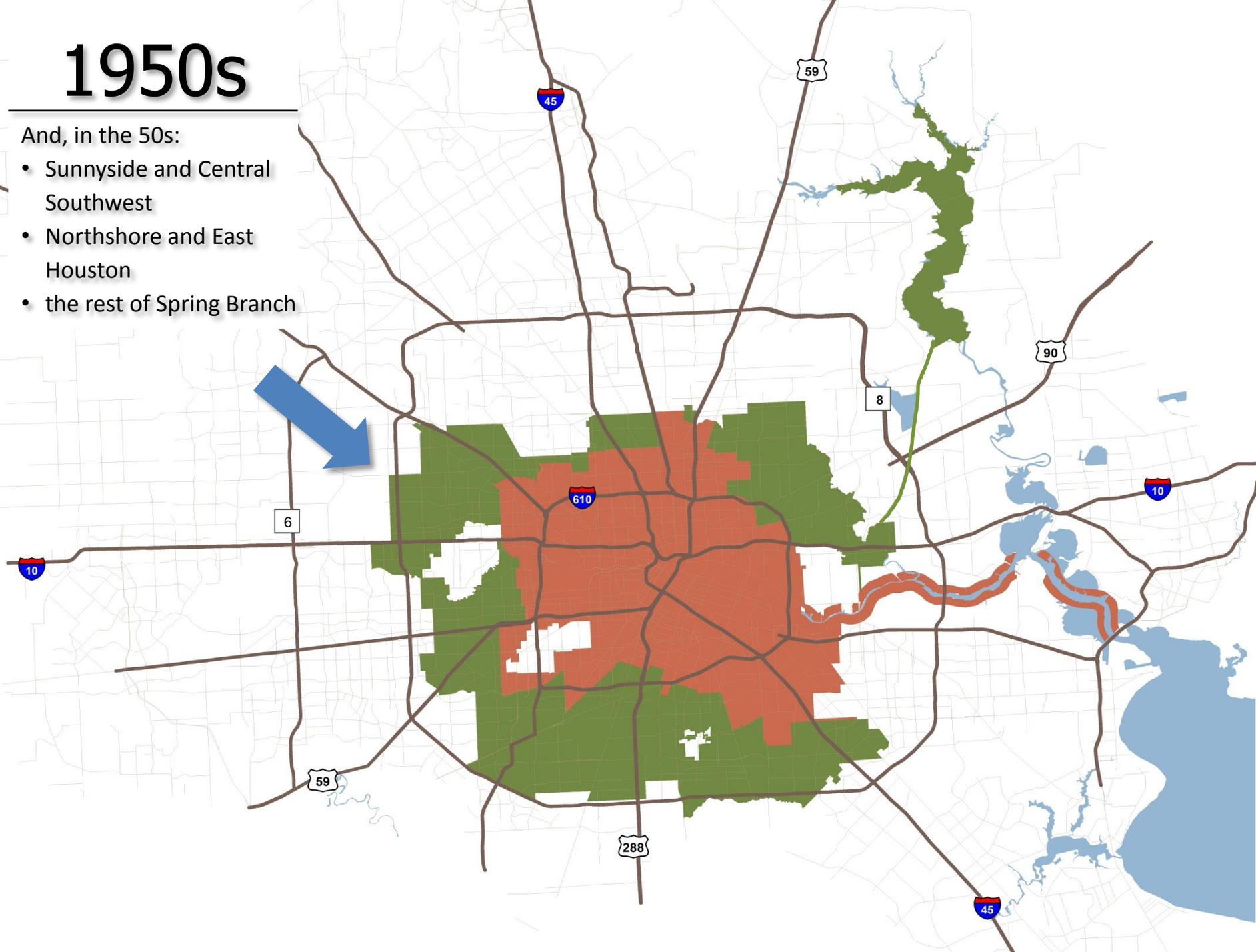
- Sunnyside and Central Southwest
- Northshore and East Houston



1950s

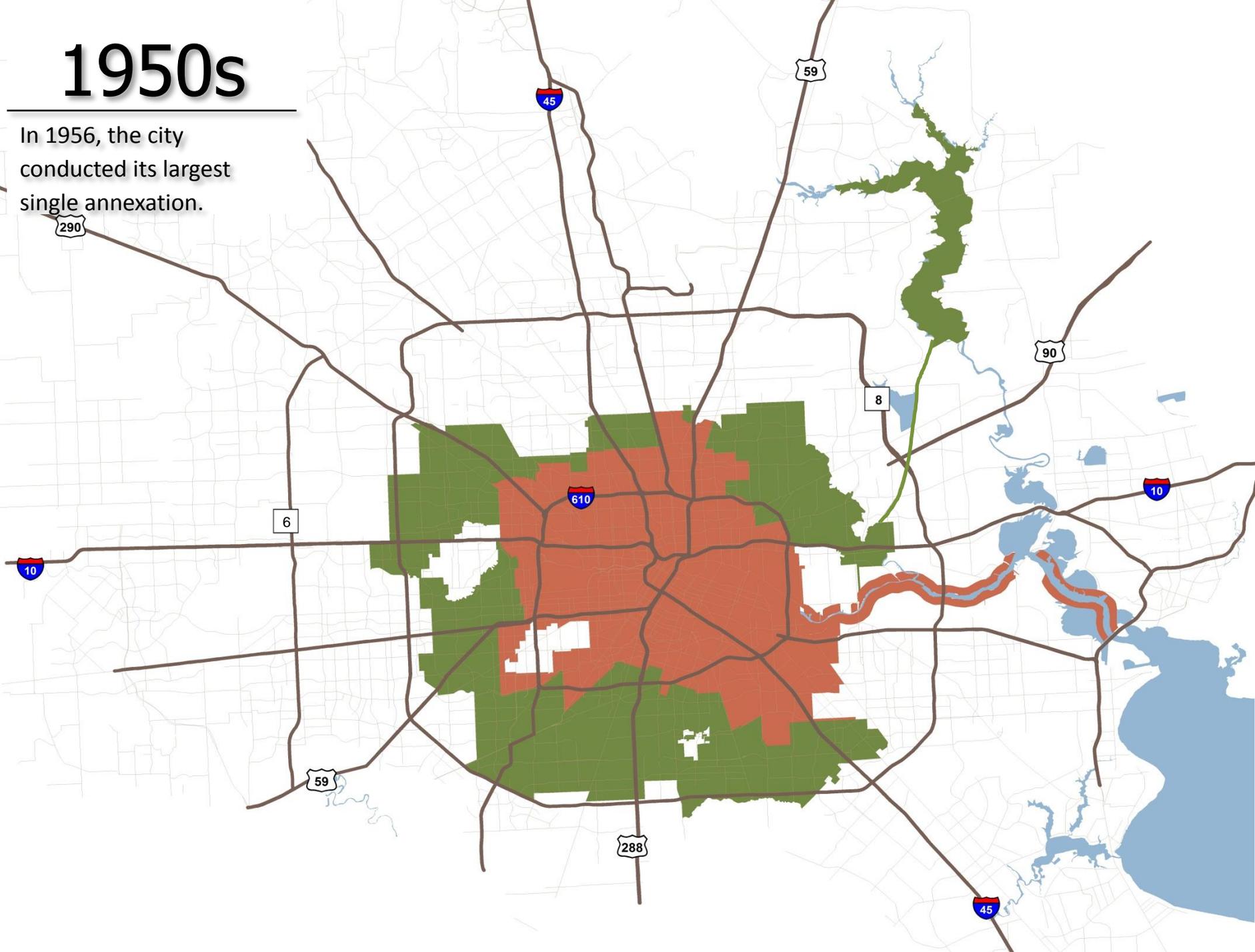
And, in the 50s:

- Sunnyside and Central Southwest
- Northshore and East Houston
- the rest of Spring Branch



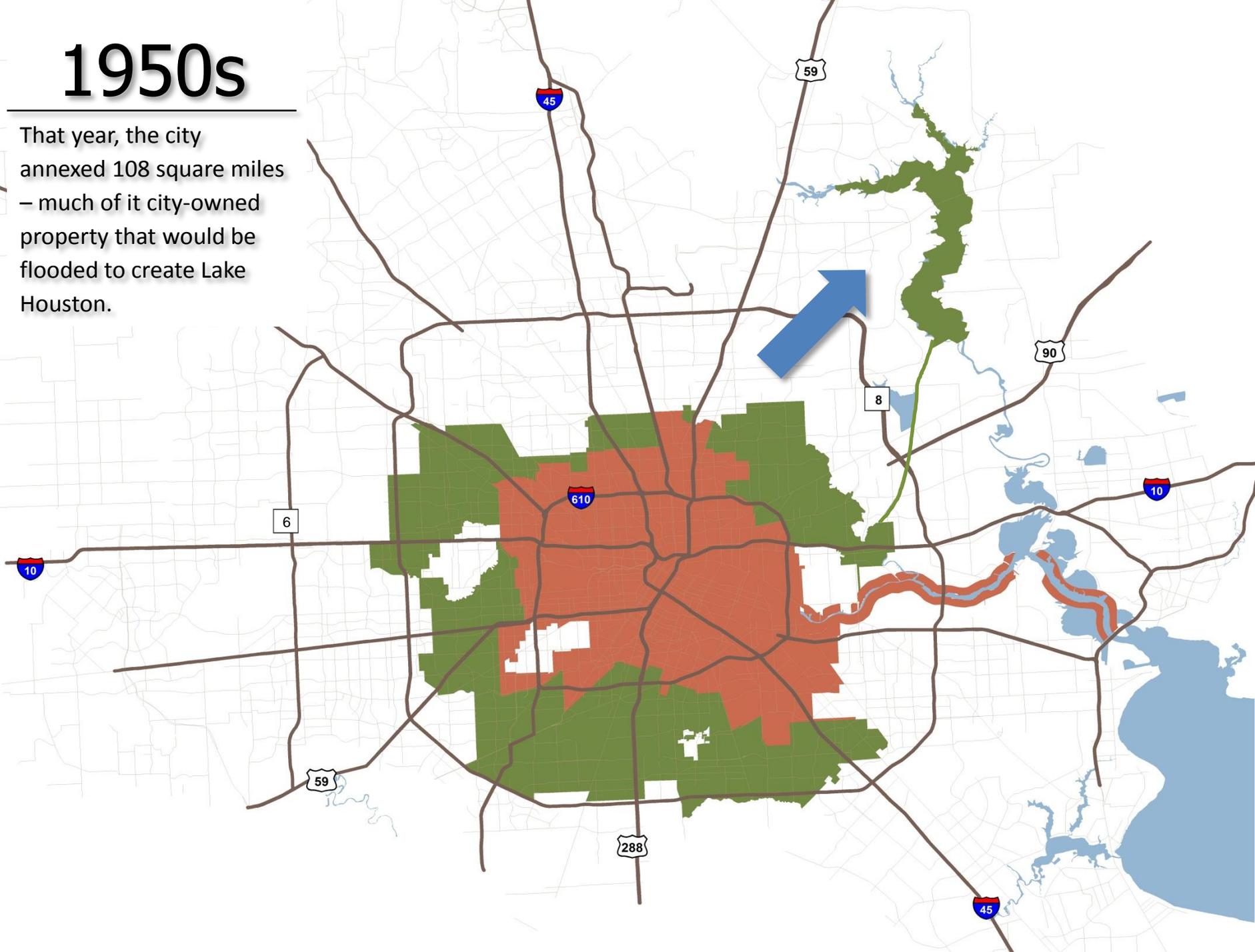
1950s

In 1956, the city
conducted its largest
single annexation.



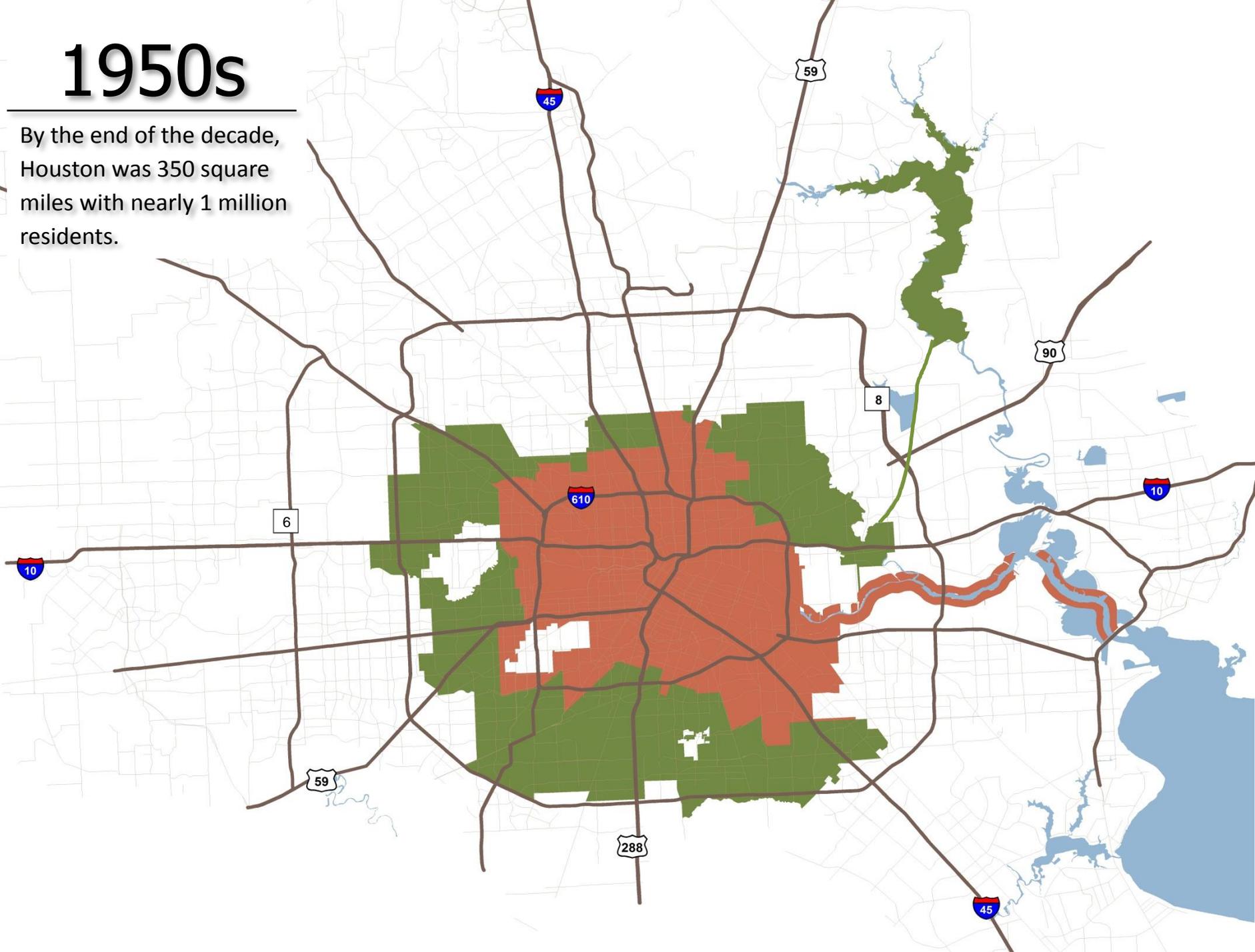
1950s

That year, the city annexed 108 square miles – much of it city-owned property that would be flooded to create Lake Houston.

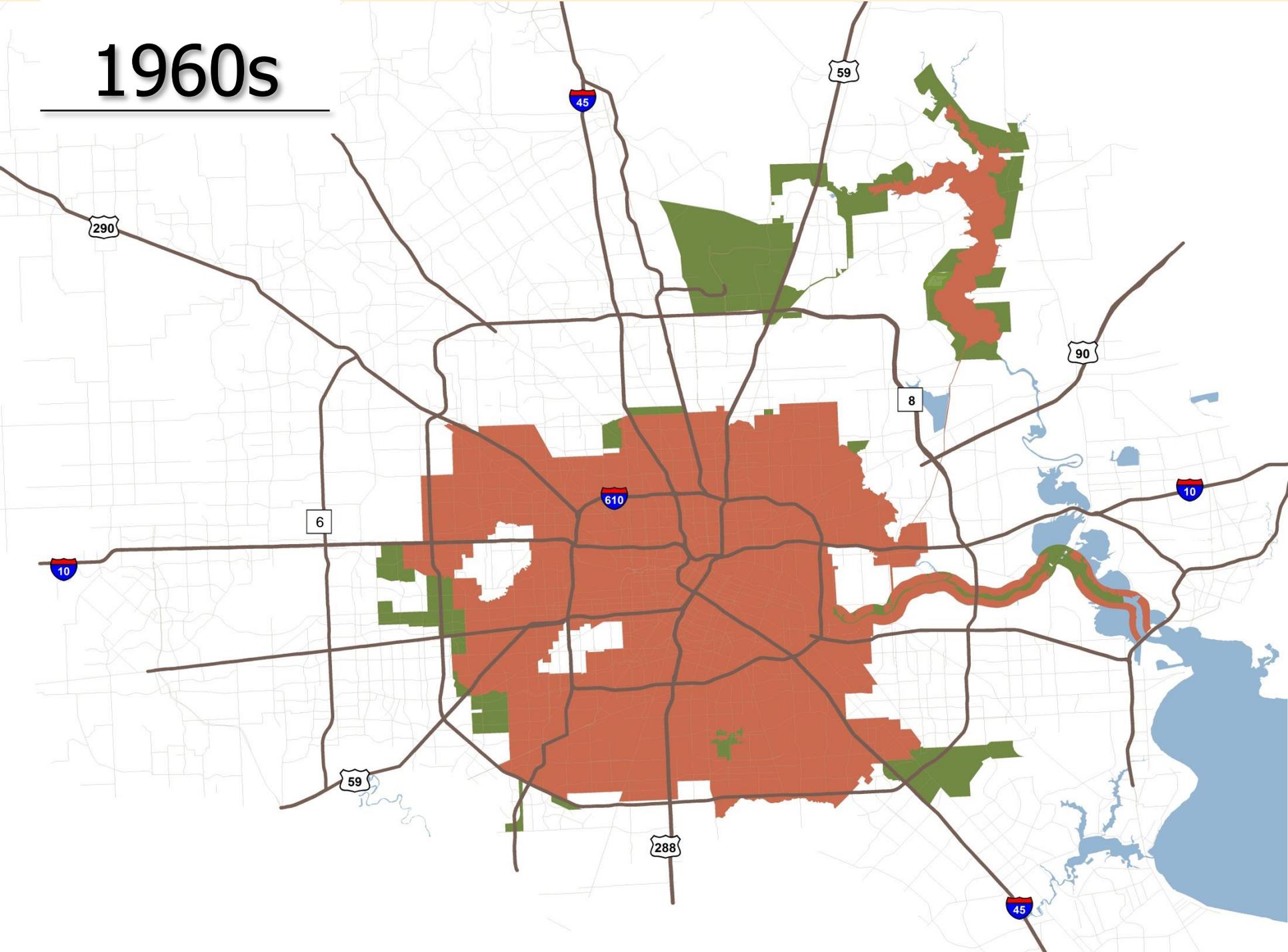


1950s

By the end of the decade, Houston was 350 square miles with nearly 1 million residents.

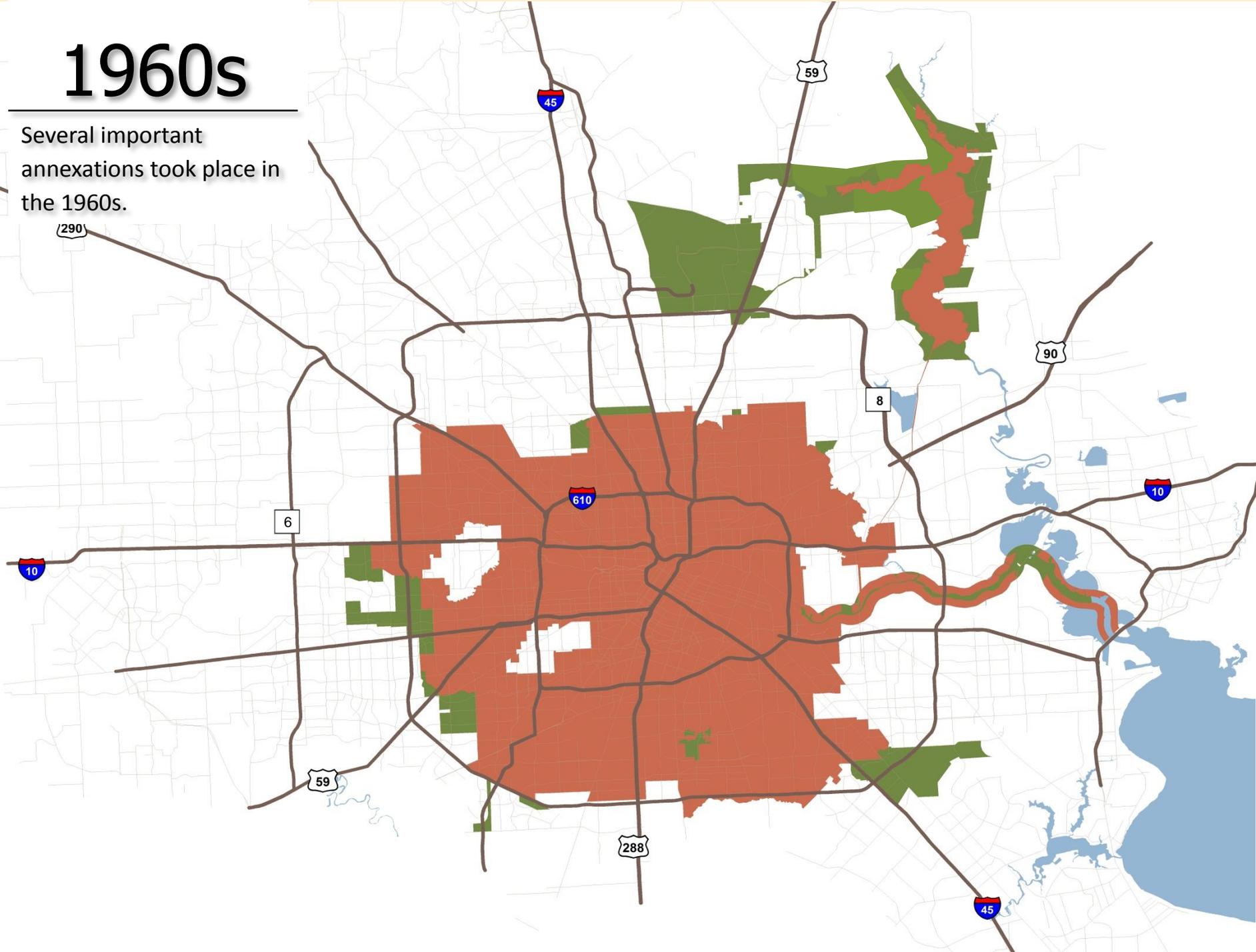


1960s



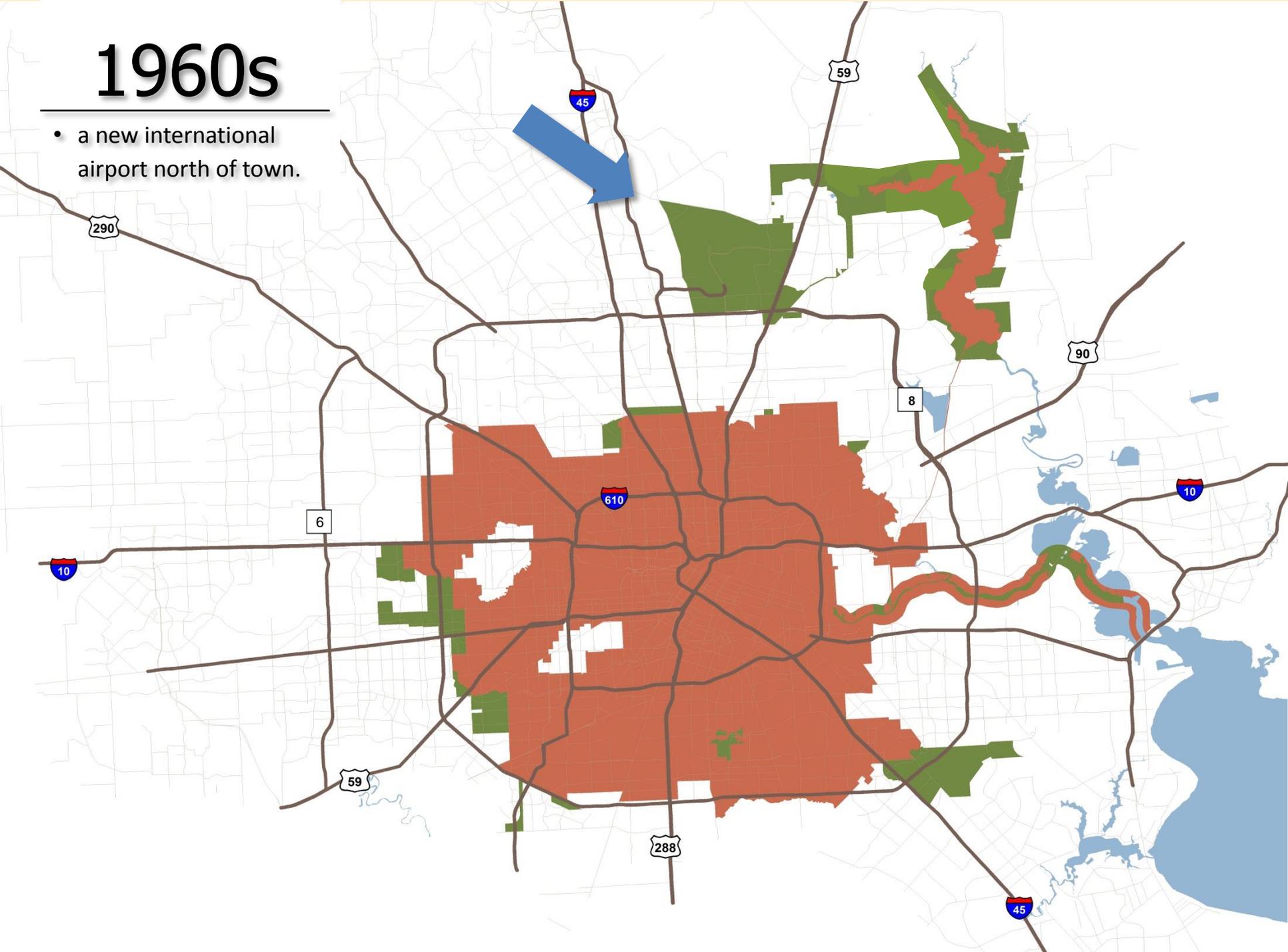
1960s

Several important annexations took place in the 1960s.



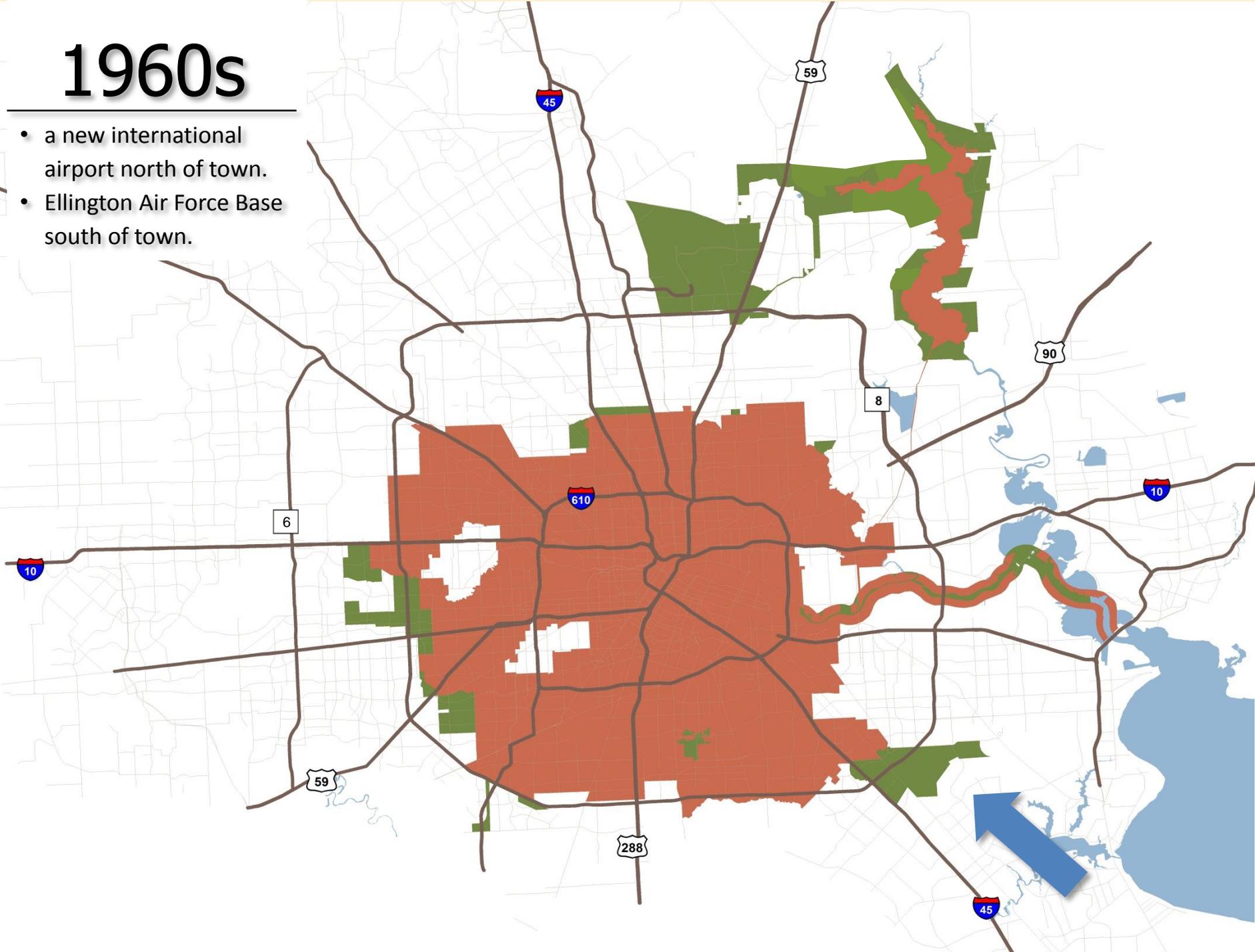
1960s

- a new international airport north of town.



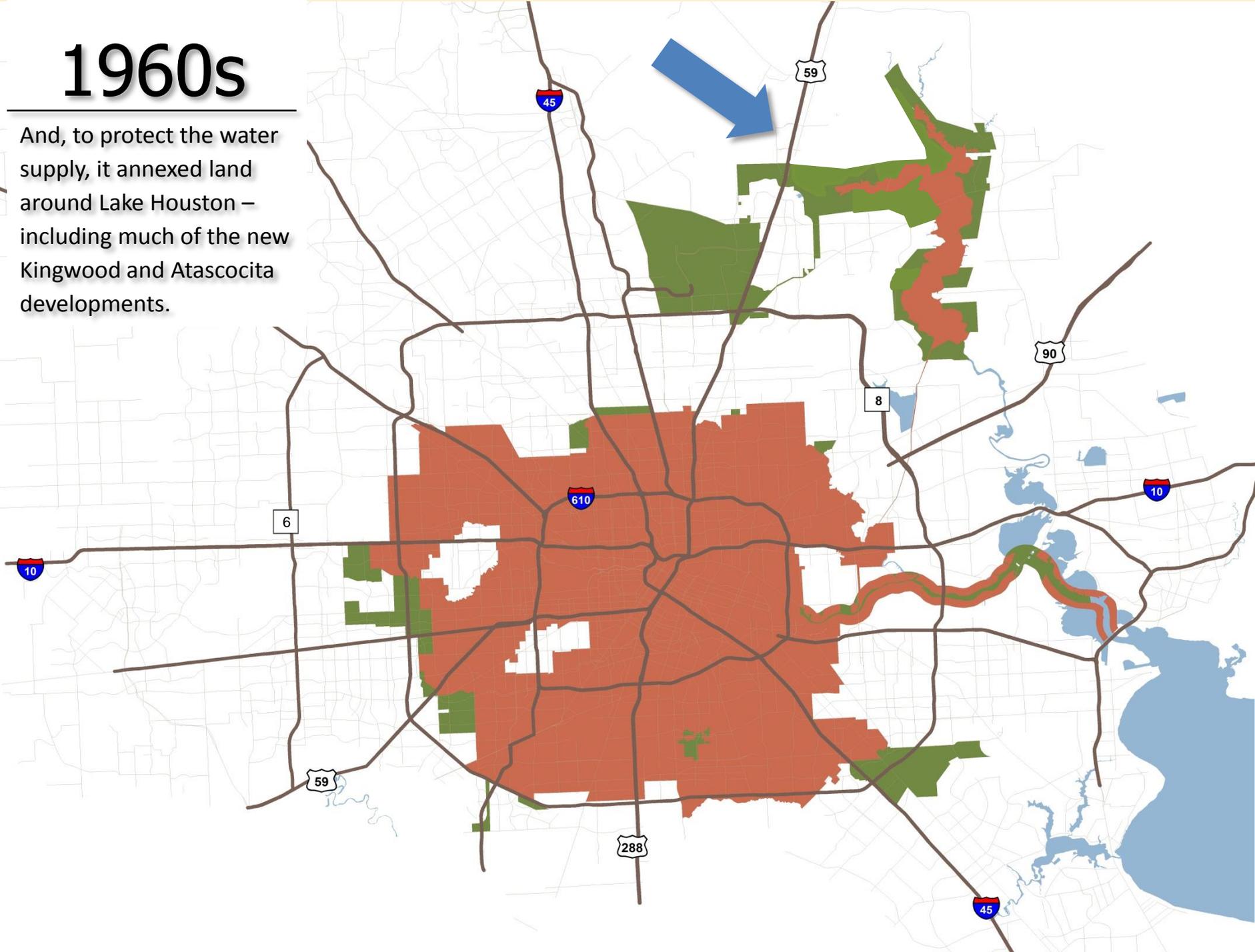
1960s

- a new international airport north of town.
- Ellington Air Force Base south of town.



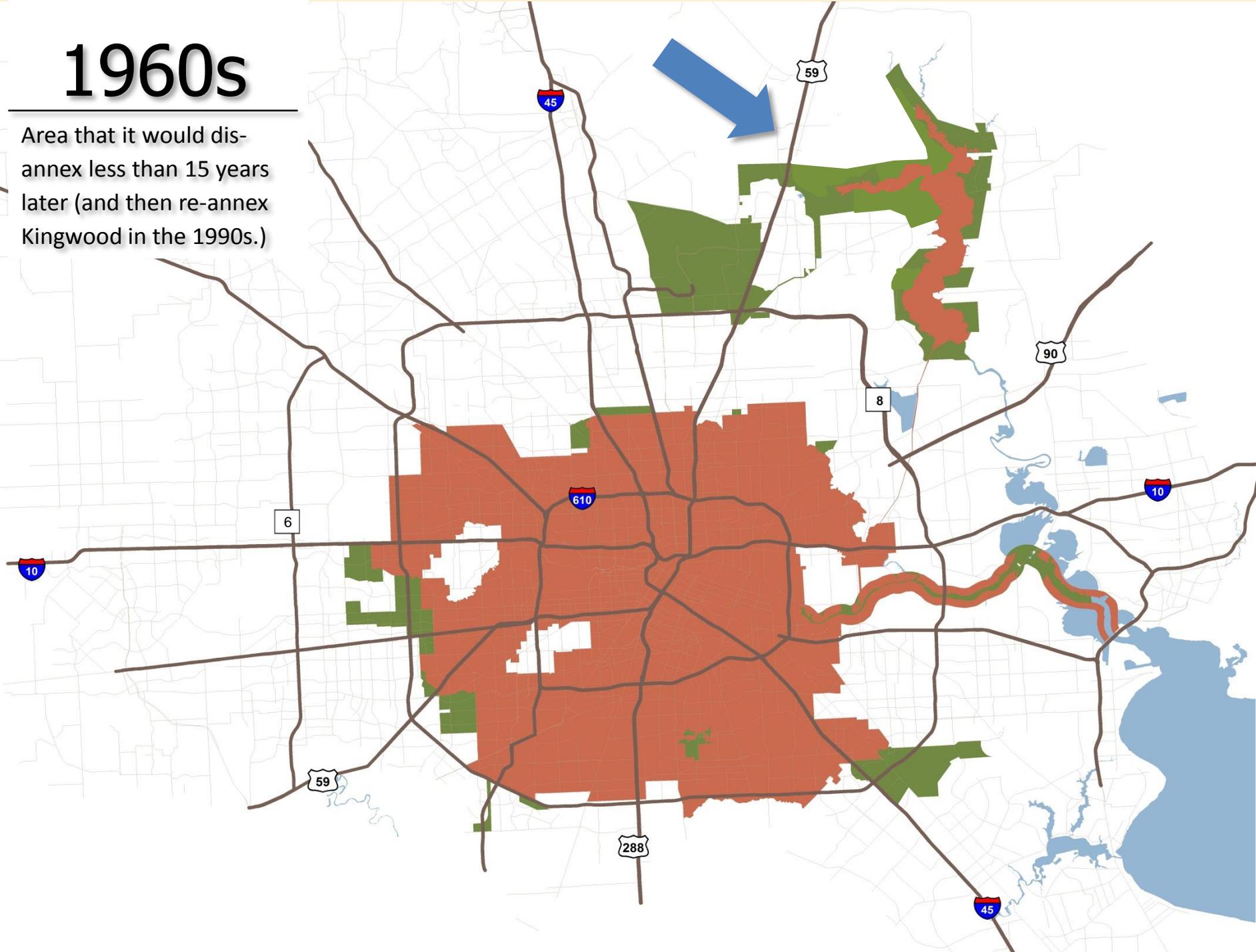
1960s

And, to protect the water supply, it annexed land around Lake Houston – including much of the new Kingwood and Atascocita developments.

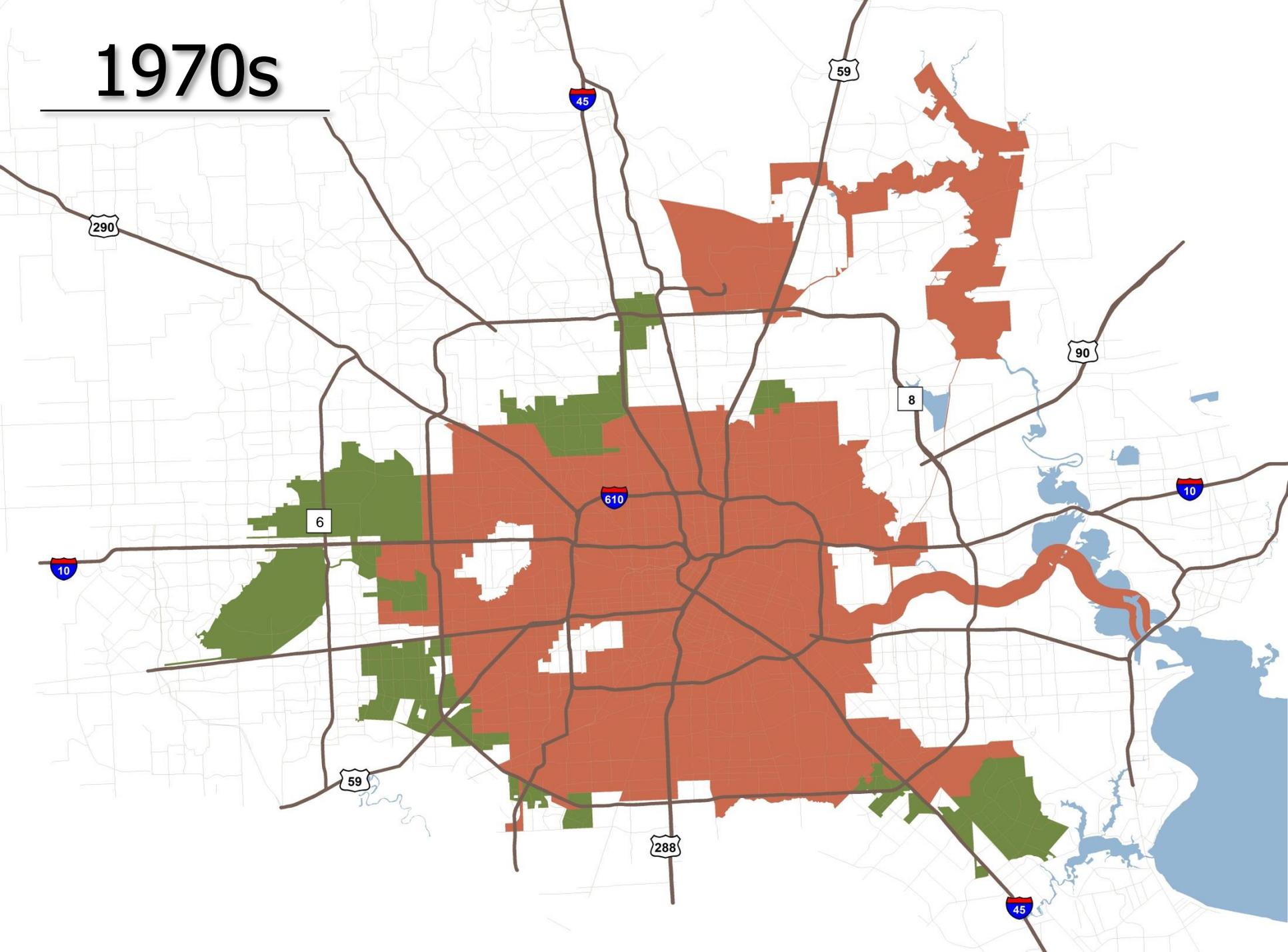


1960s

Area that it would dis-annex less than 15 years later (and then re-annex Kingwood in the 1990s.)



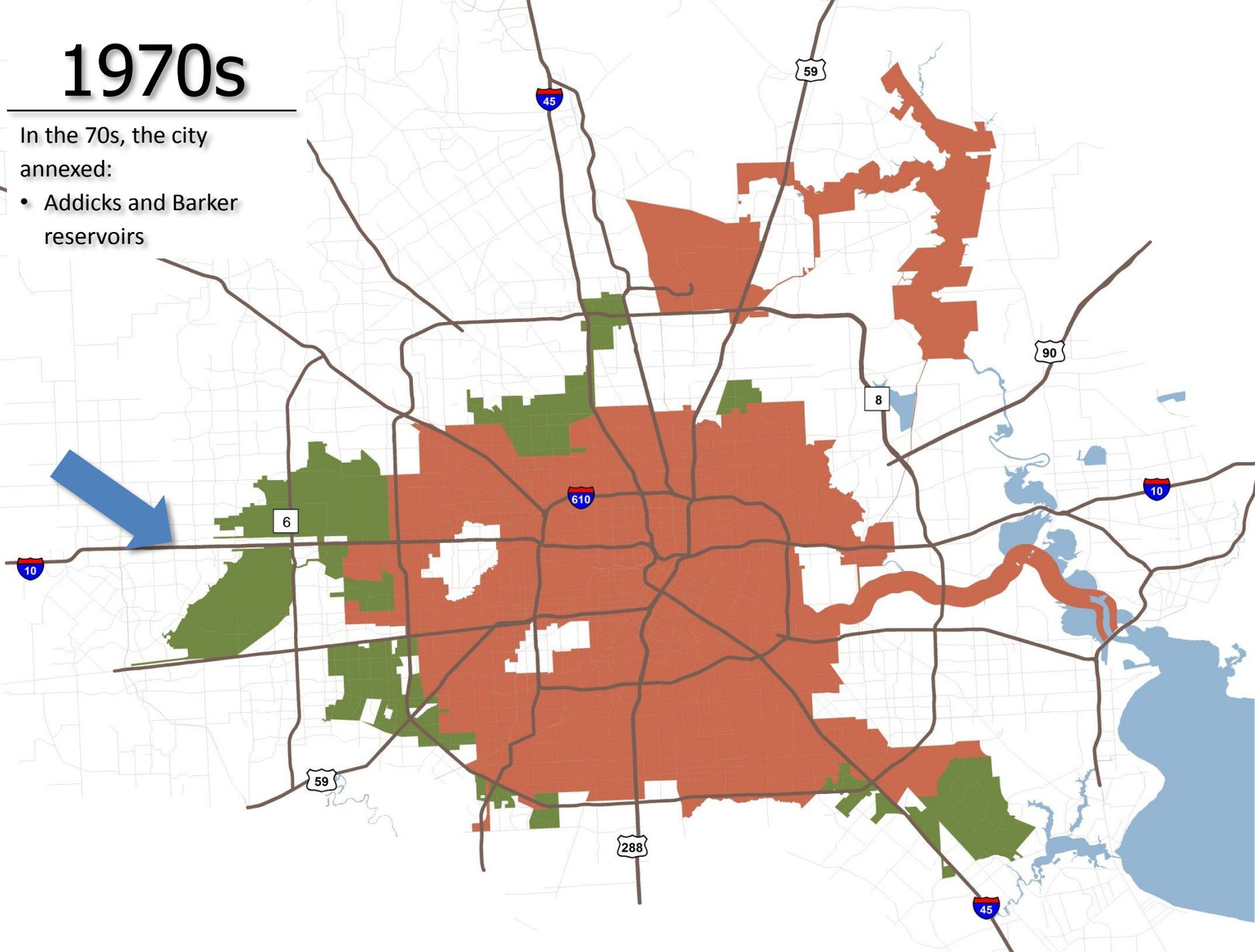
1970s



1970s

In the 70s, the city annexed:

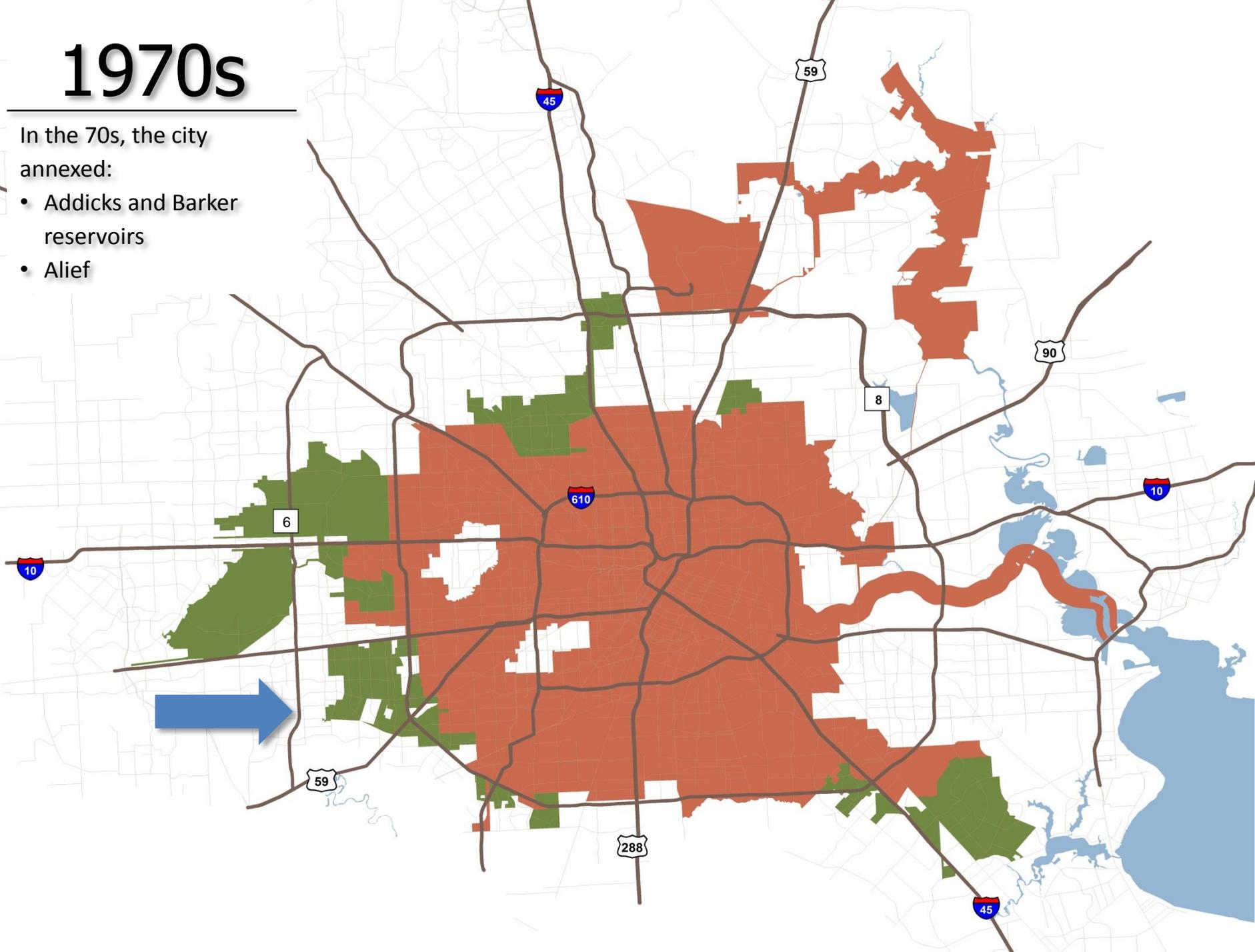
- Addicks and Barker reservoirs



1970s

In the 70s, the city annexed:

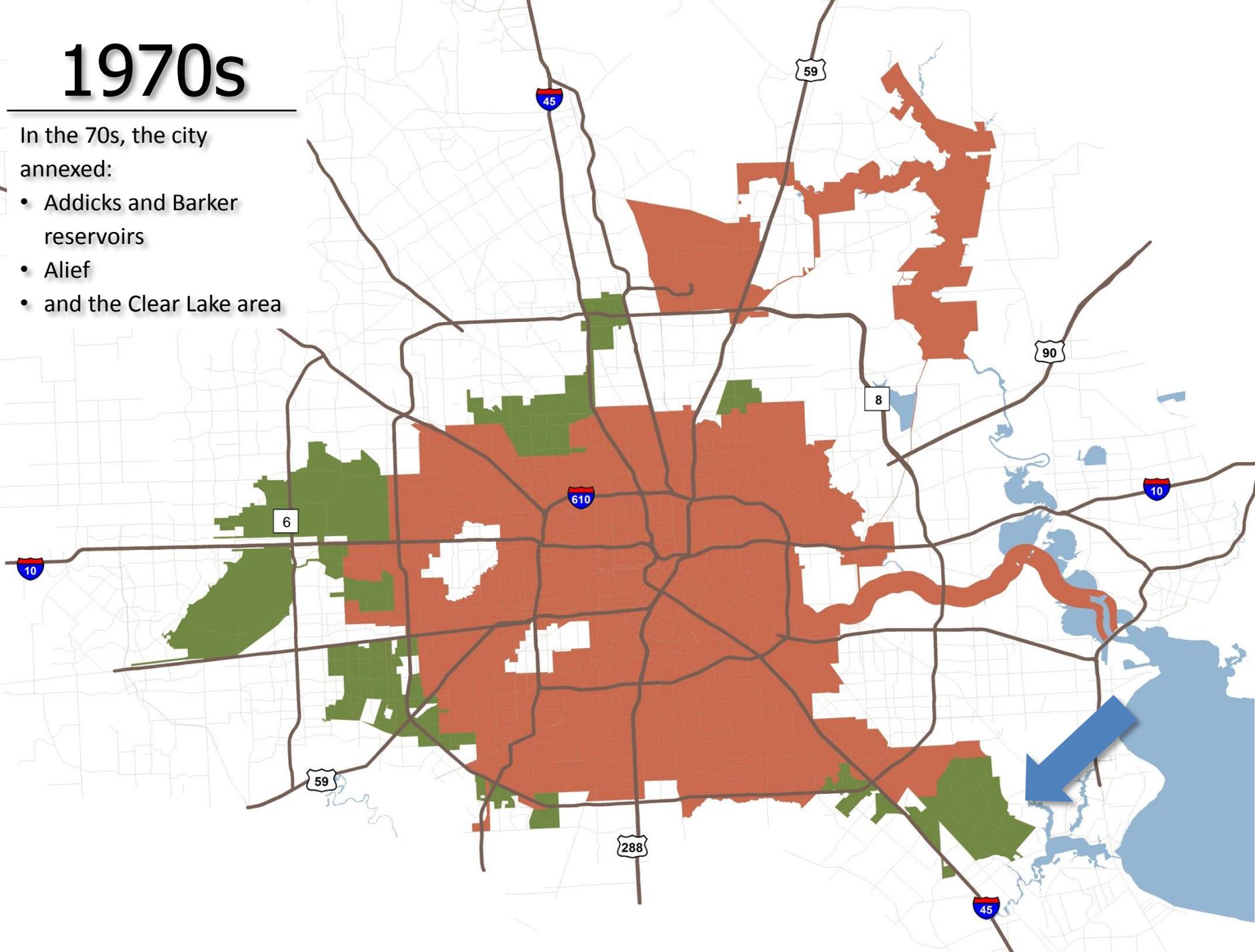
- Addicks and Barker reservoirs
- Alief



1970s

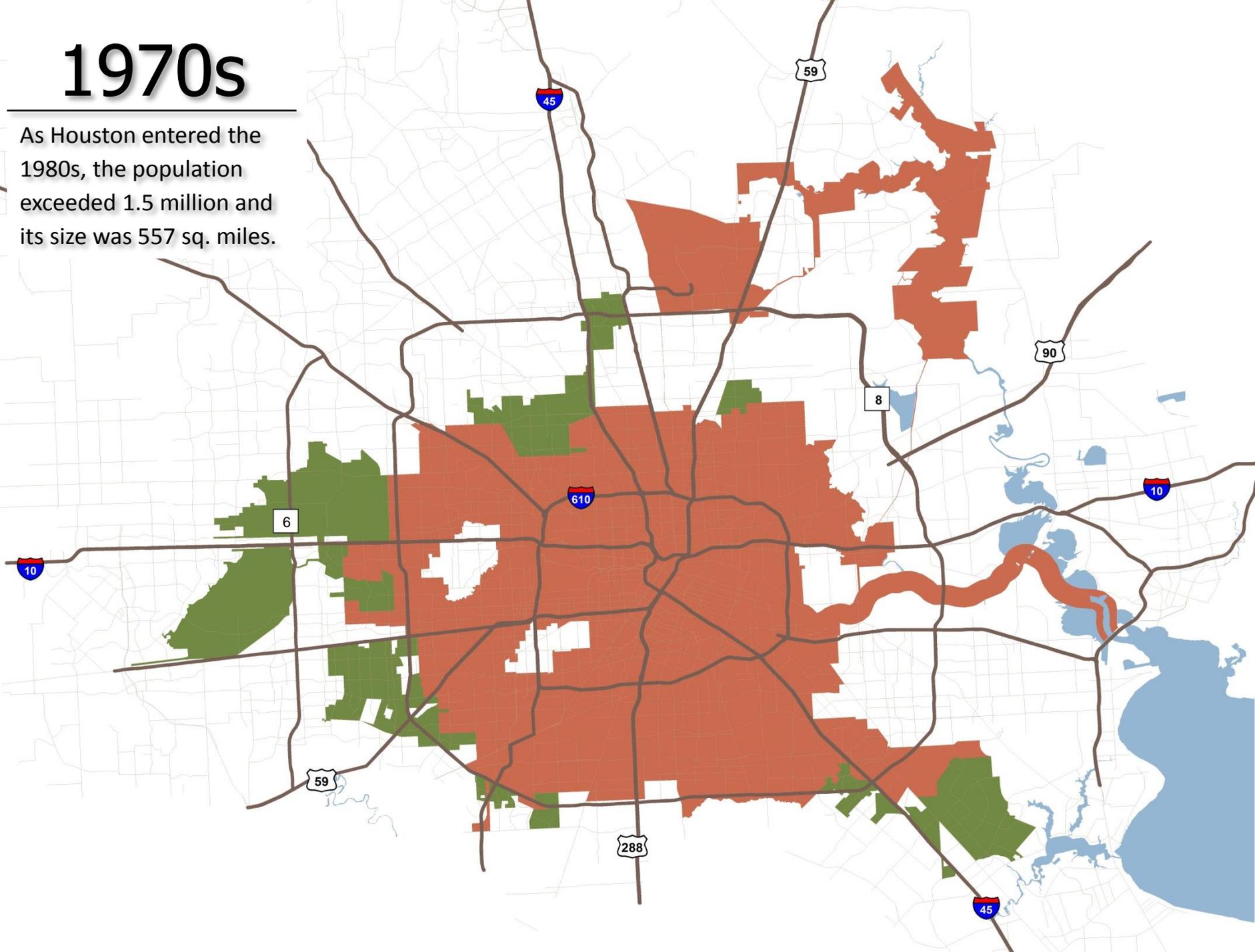
In the 70s, the city annexed:

- Addicks and Barker reservoirs
- Alief
- and the Clear Lake area

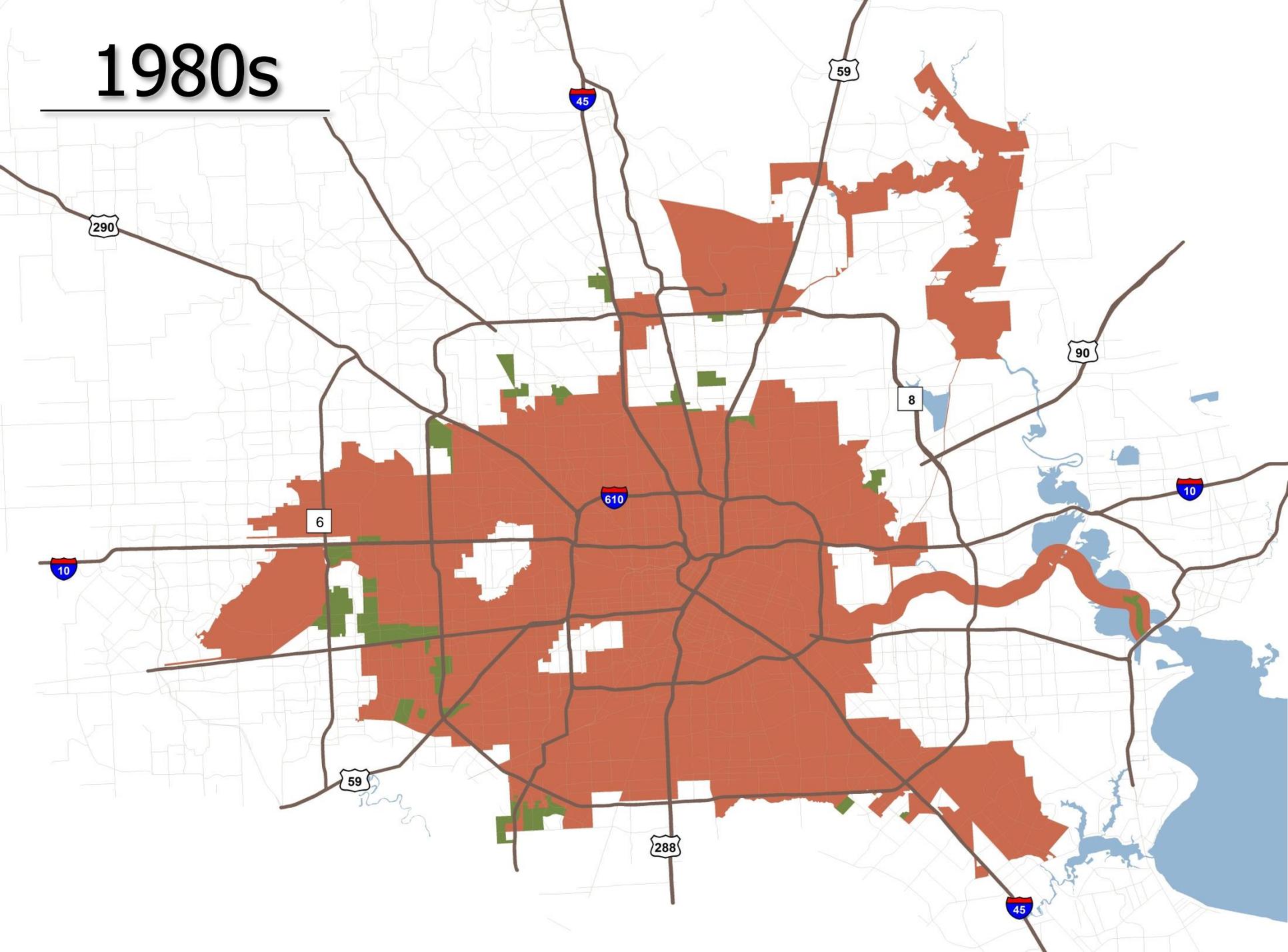


1970s

As Houston entered the 1980s, the population exceeded 1.5 million and its size was 557 sq. miles.

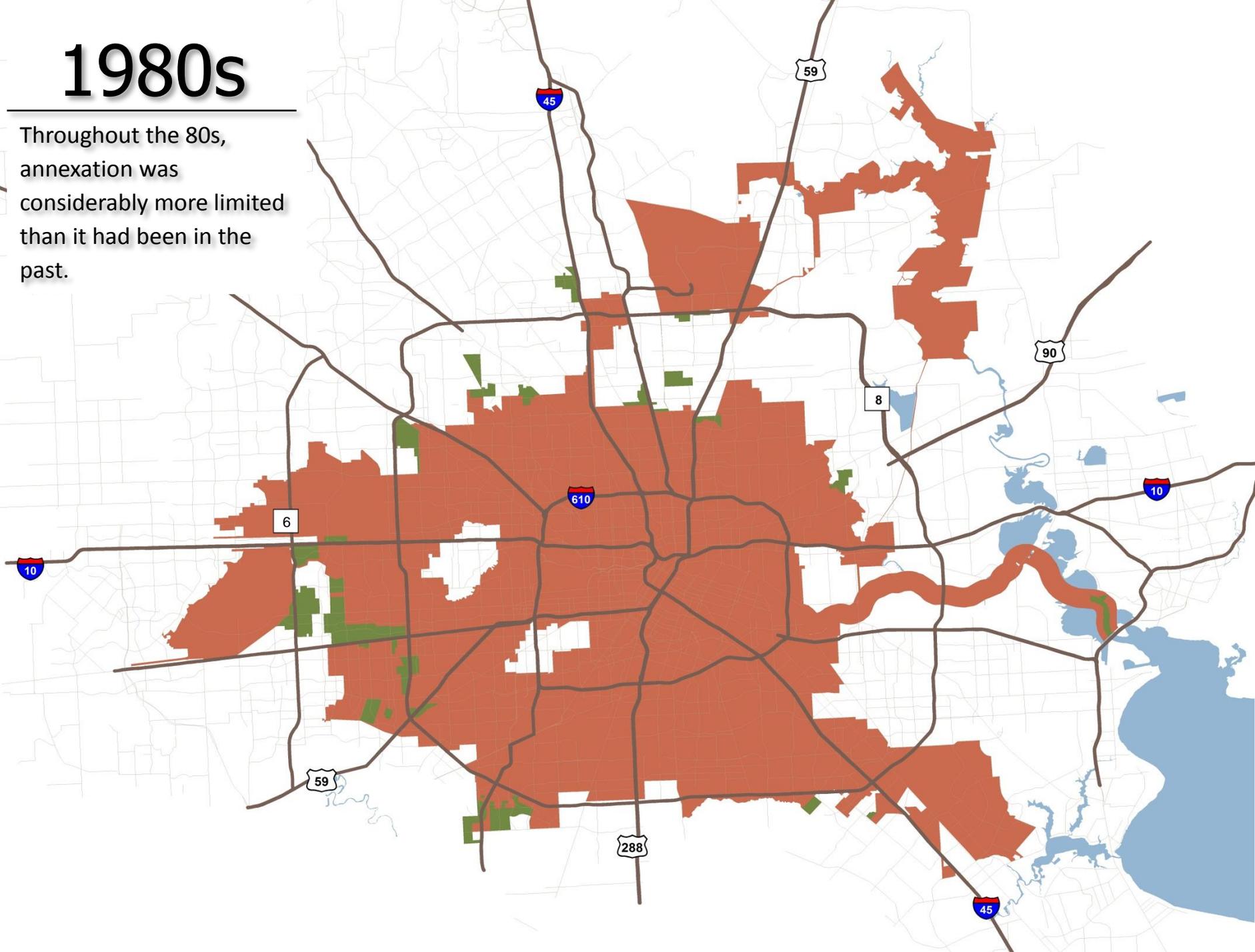


1980s



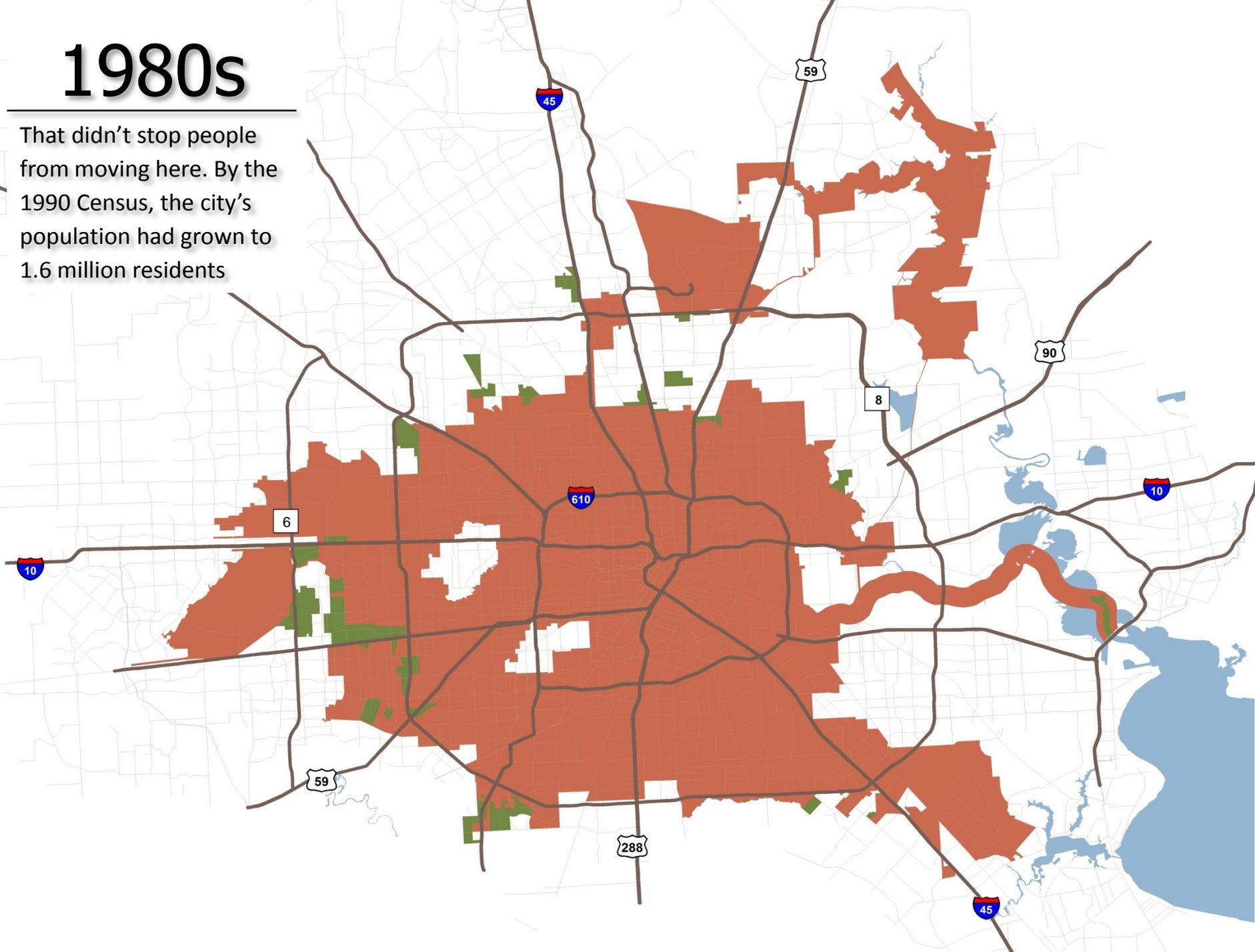
1980s

Throughout the 80s, annexation was considerably more limited than it had been in the past.

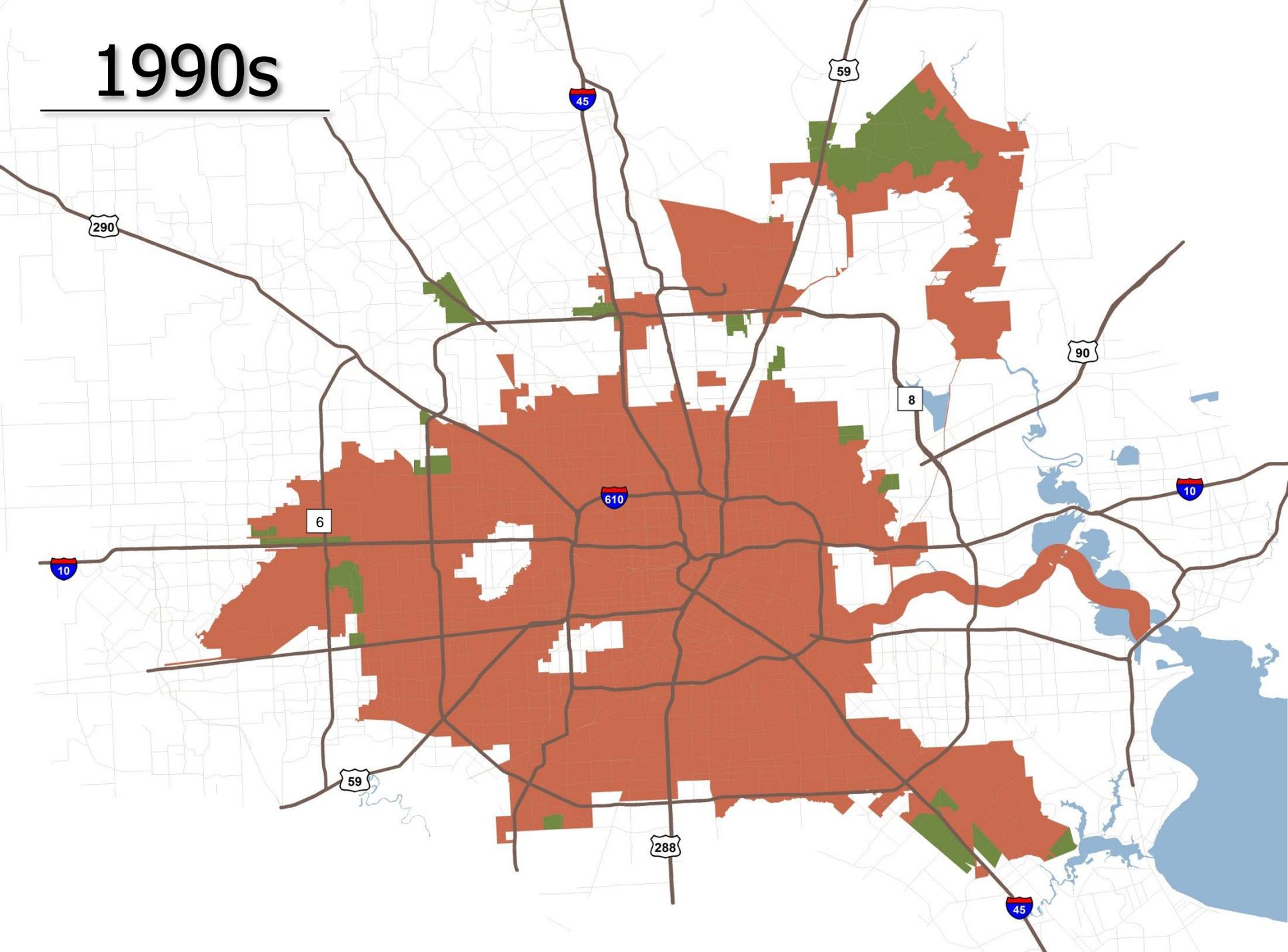


1980s

That didn't stop people from moving here. By the 1990 Census, the city's population had grown to 1.6 million residents

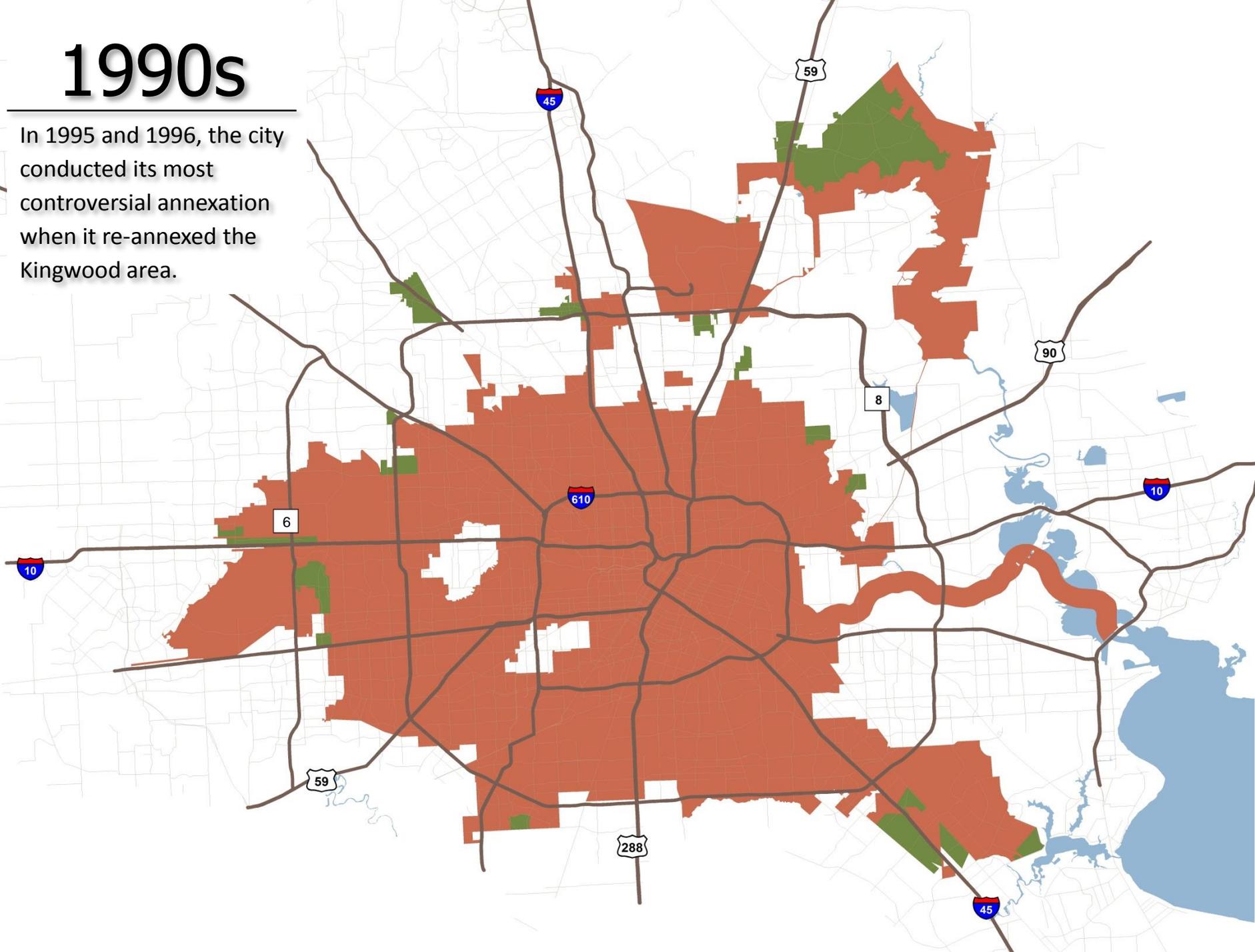


1990s



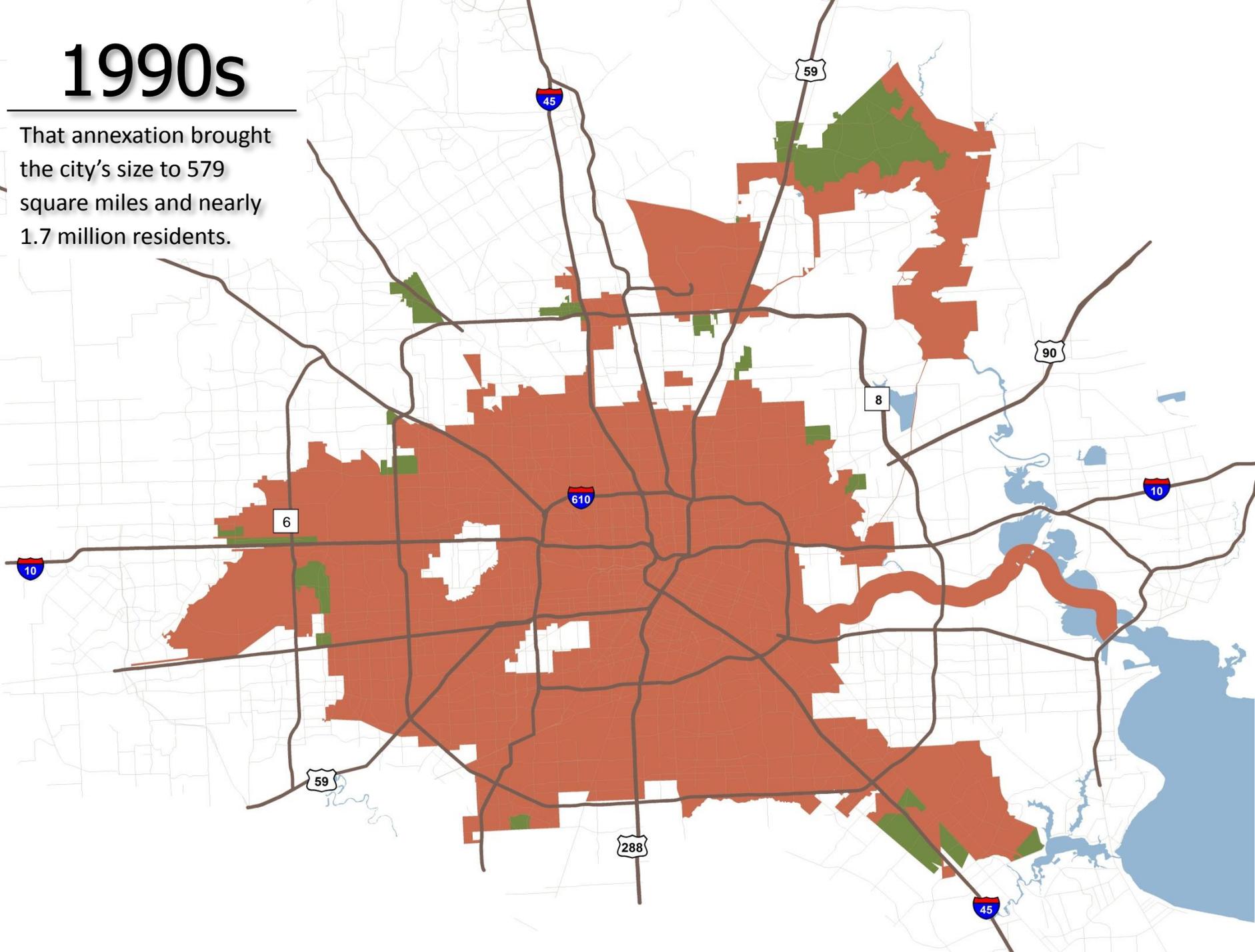
1990s

In 1995 and 1996, the city conducted its most controversial annexation when it re-annexed the Kingwood area.

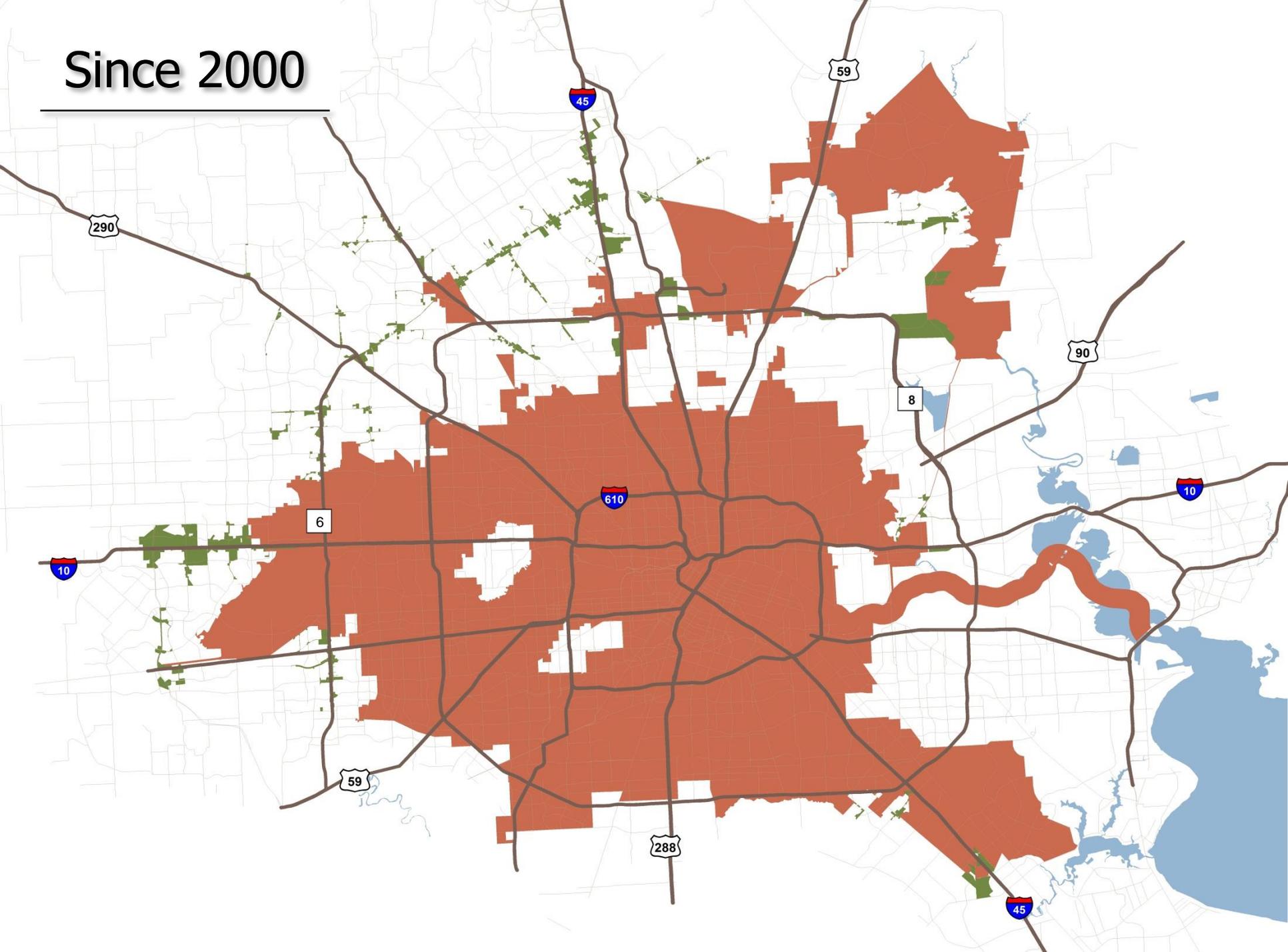


1990s

That annexation brought the city's size to 579 square miles and nearly 1.7 million residents.

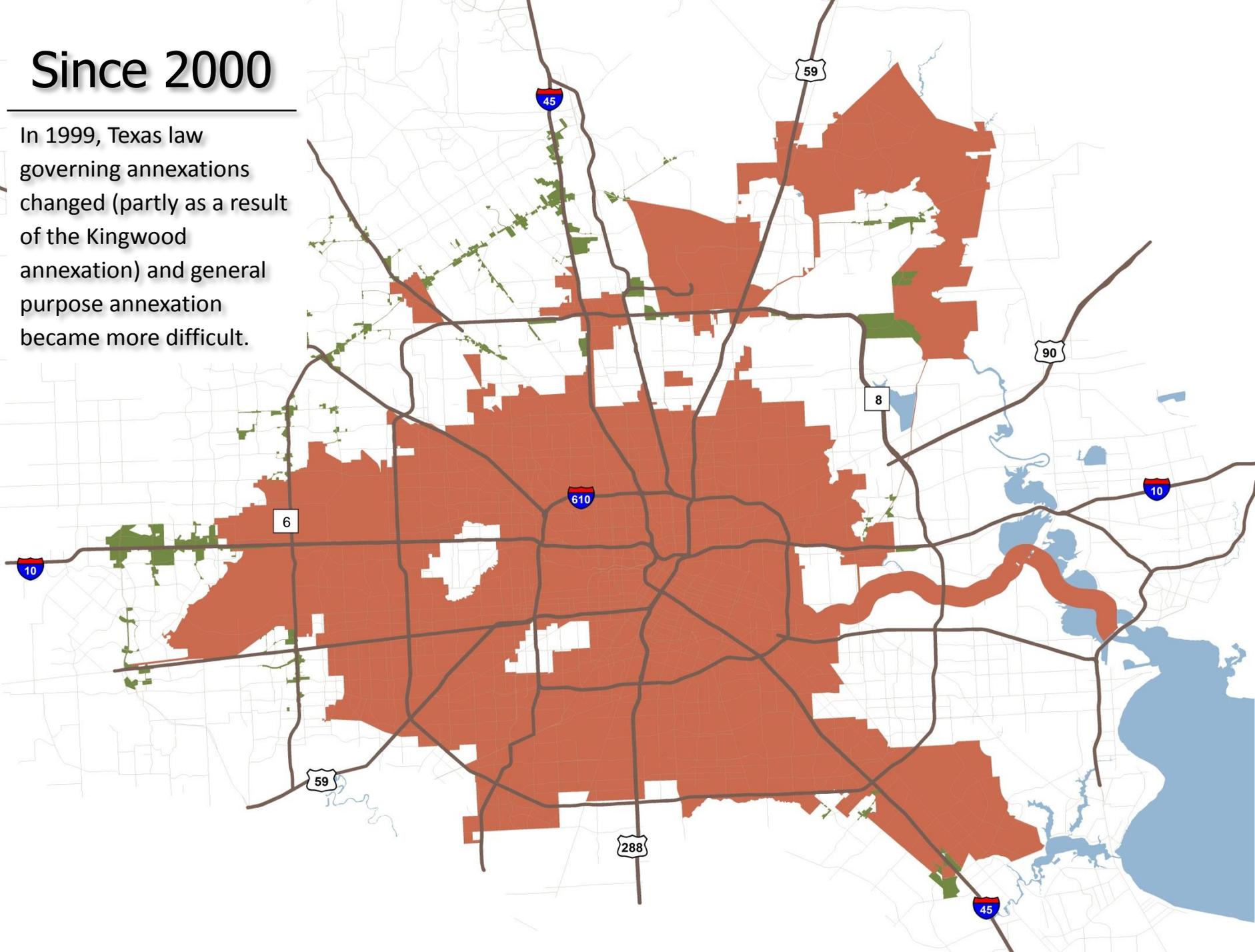


Since 2000



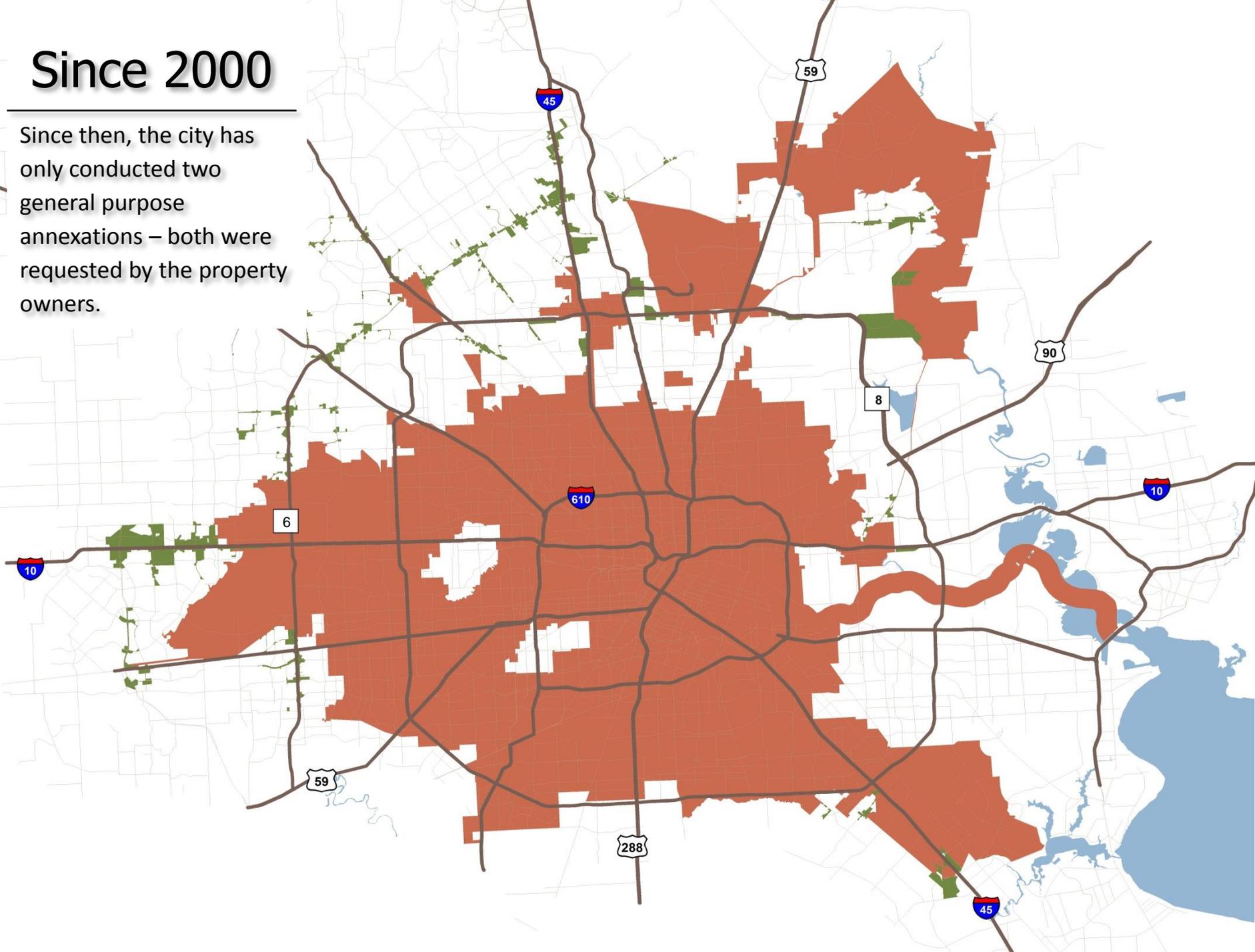
Since 2000

In 1999, Texas law governing annexations changed (partly as a result of the Kingwood annexation) and general purpose annexation became more difficult.



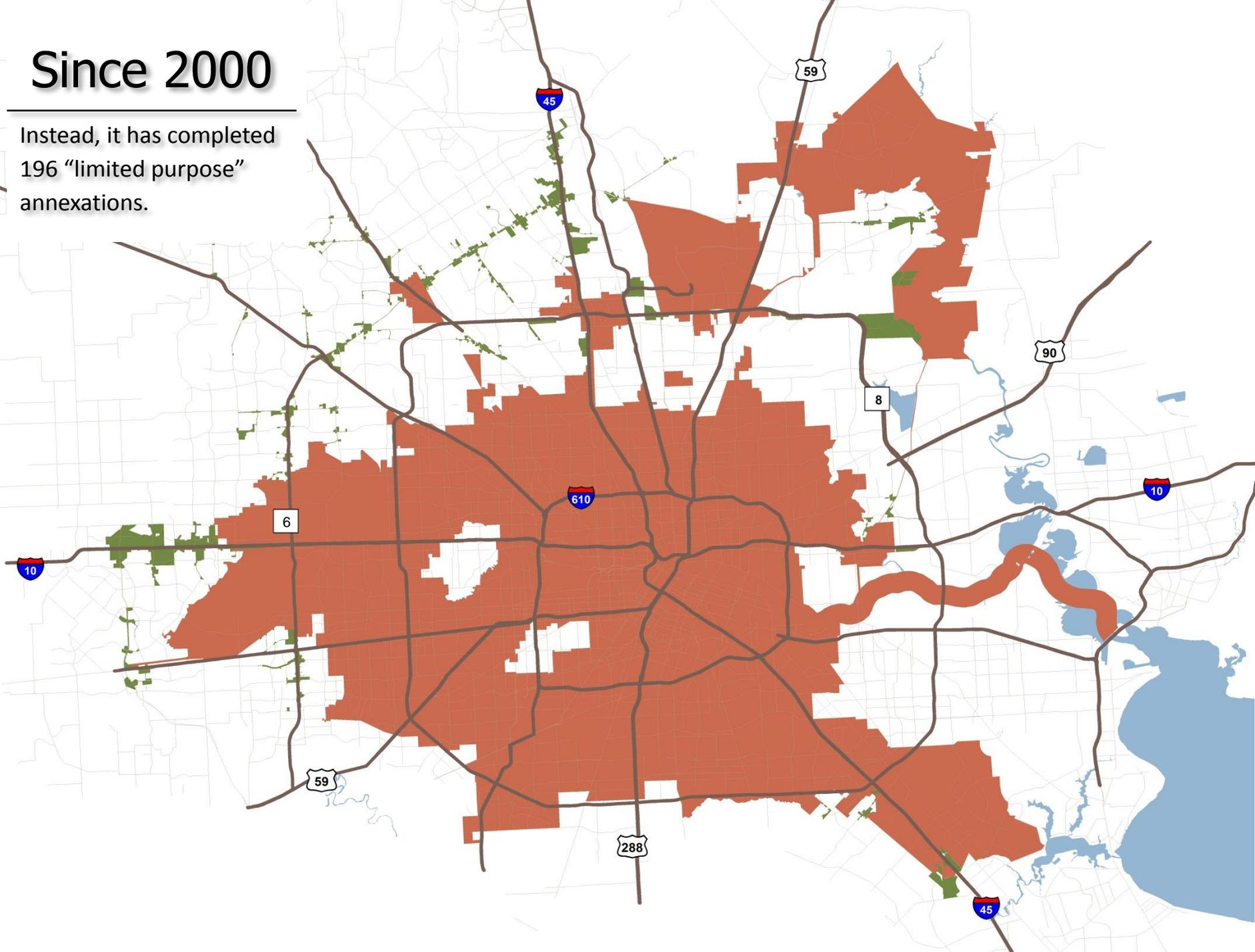
Since 2000

Since then, the city has only conducted two general purpose annexations – both were requested by the property owners.



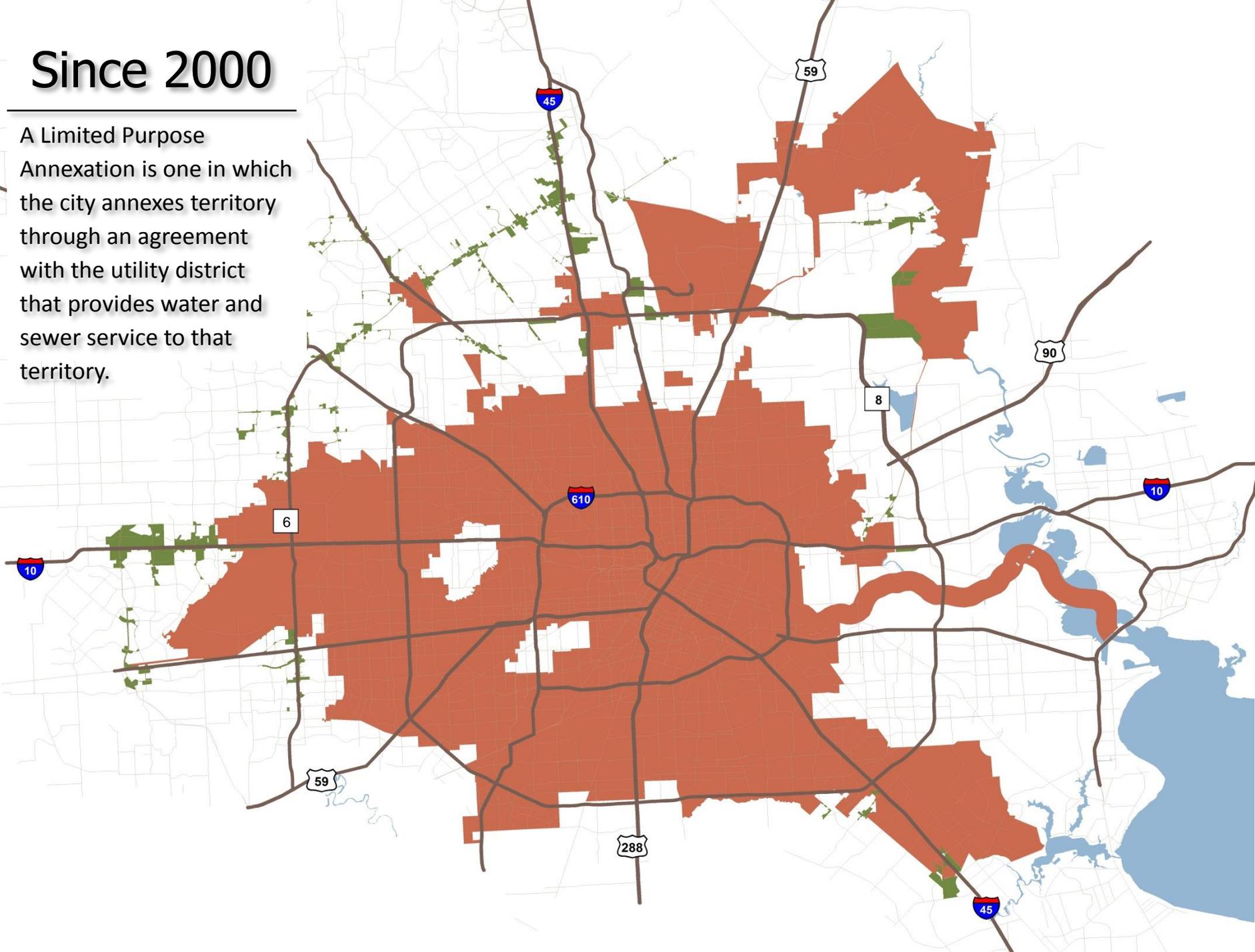
Since 2000

Instead, it has completed 196 "limited purpose" annexations.



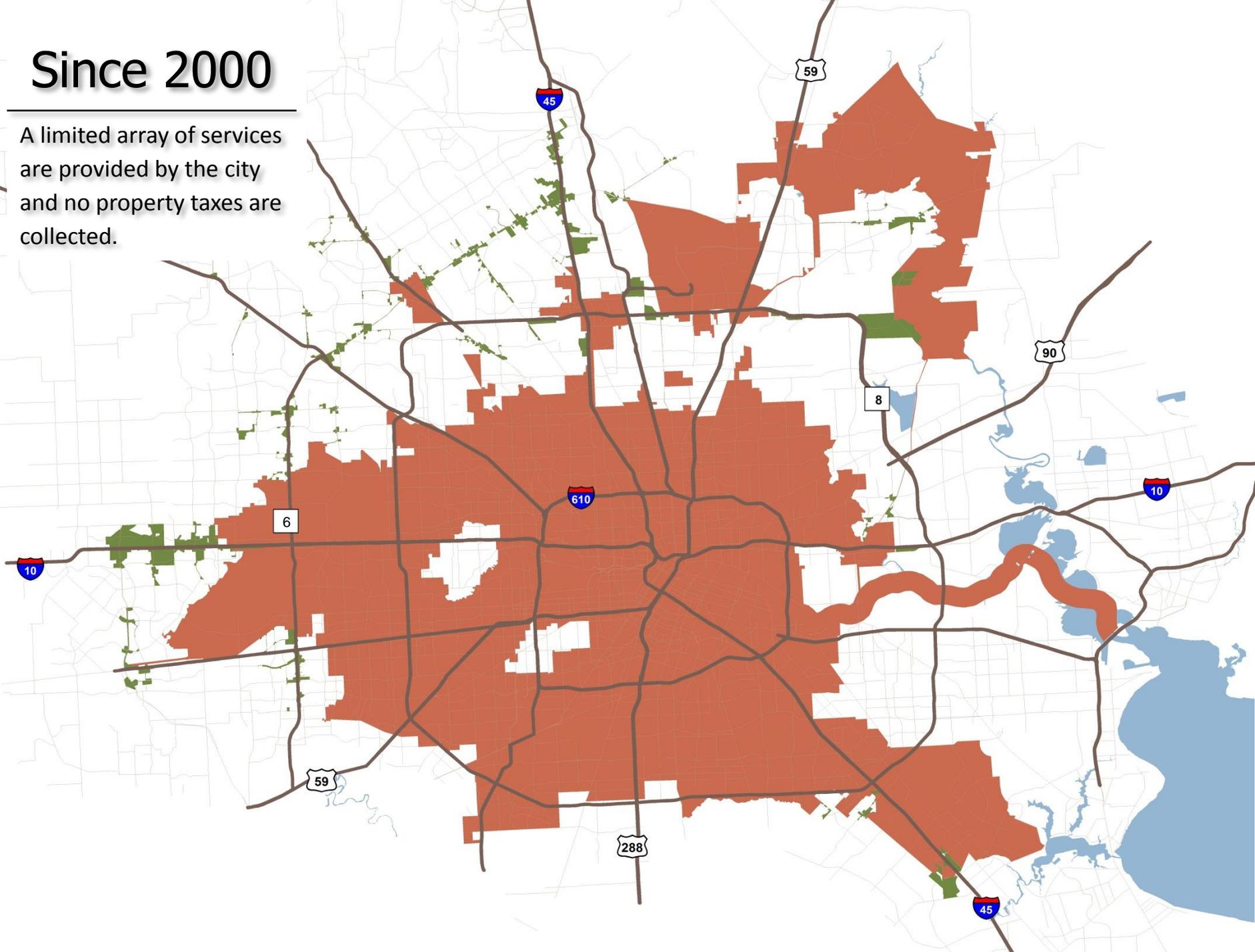
Since 2000

A Limited Purpose Annexation is one in which the city annexes territory through an agreement with the utility district that provides water and sewer service to that territory.



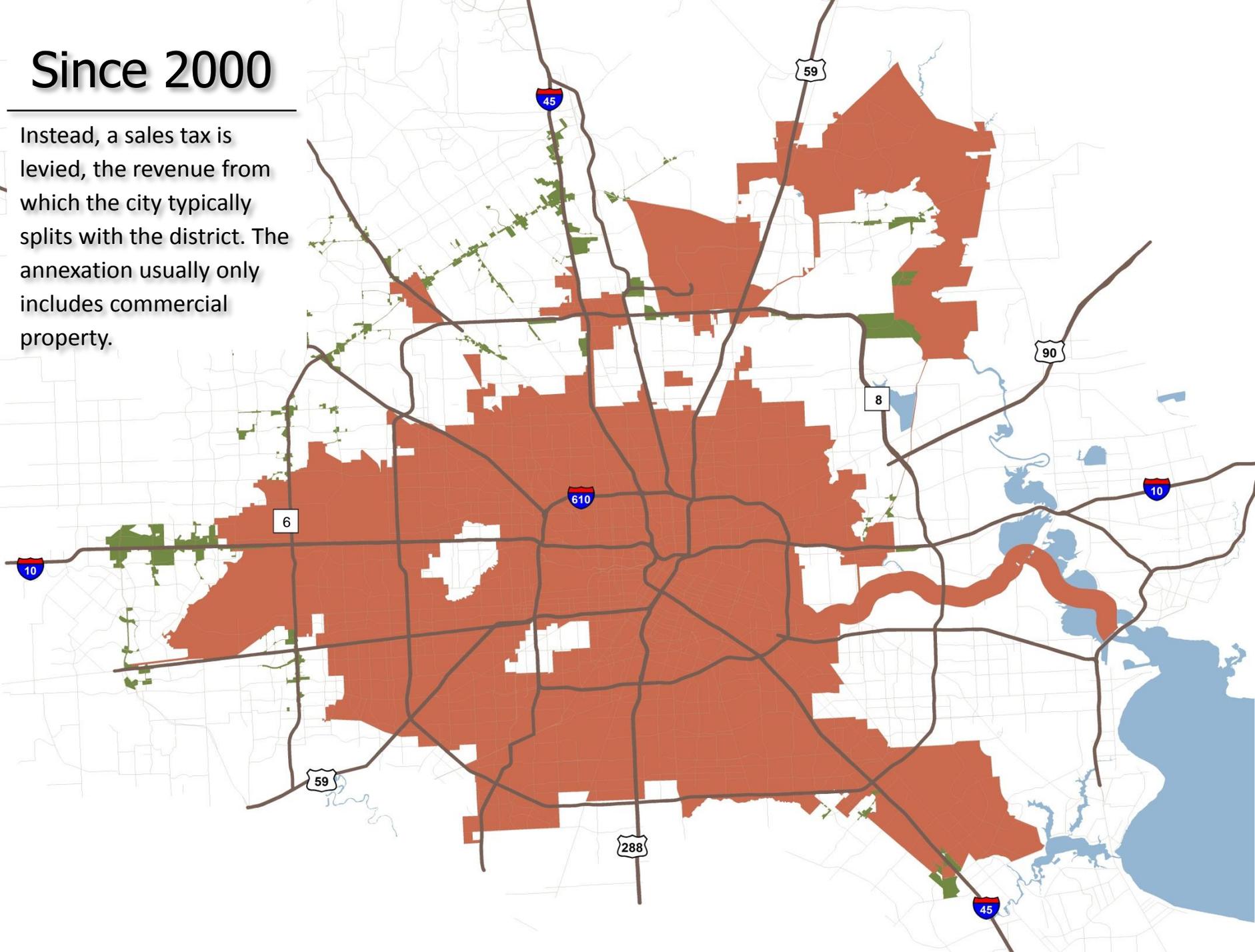
Since 2000

A limited array of services are provided by the city and no property taxes are collected.



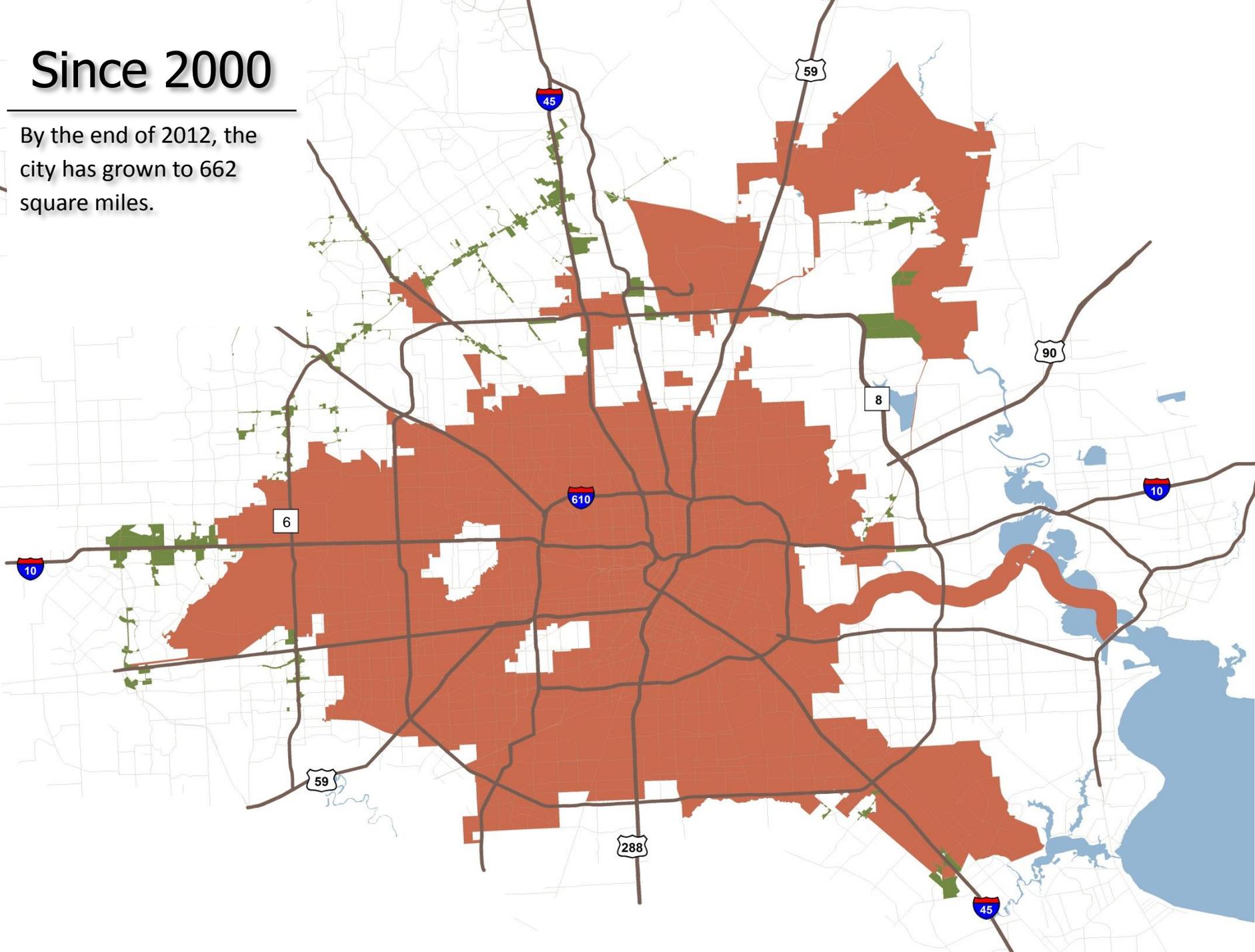
Since 2000

Instead, a sales tax is levied, the revenue from which the city typically splits with the district. The annexation usually only includes commercial property.



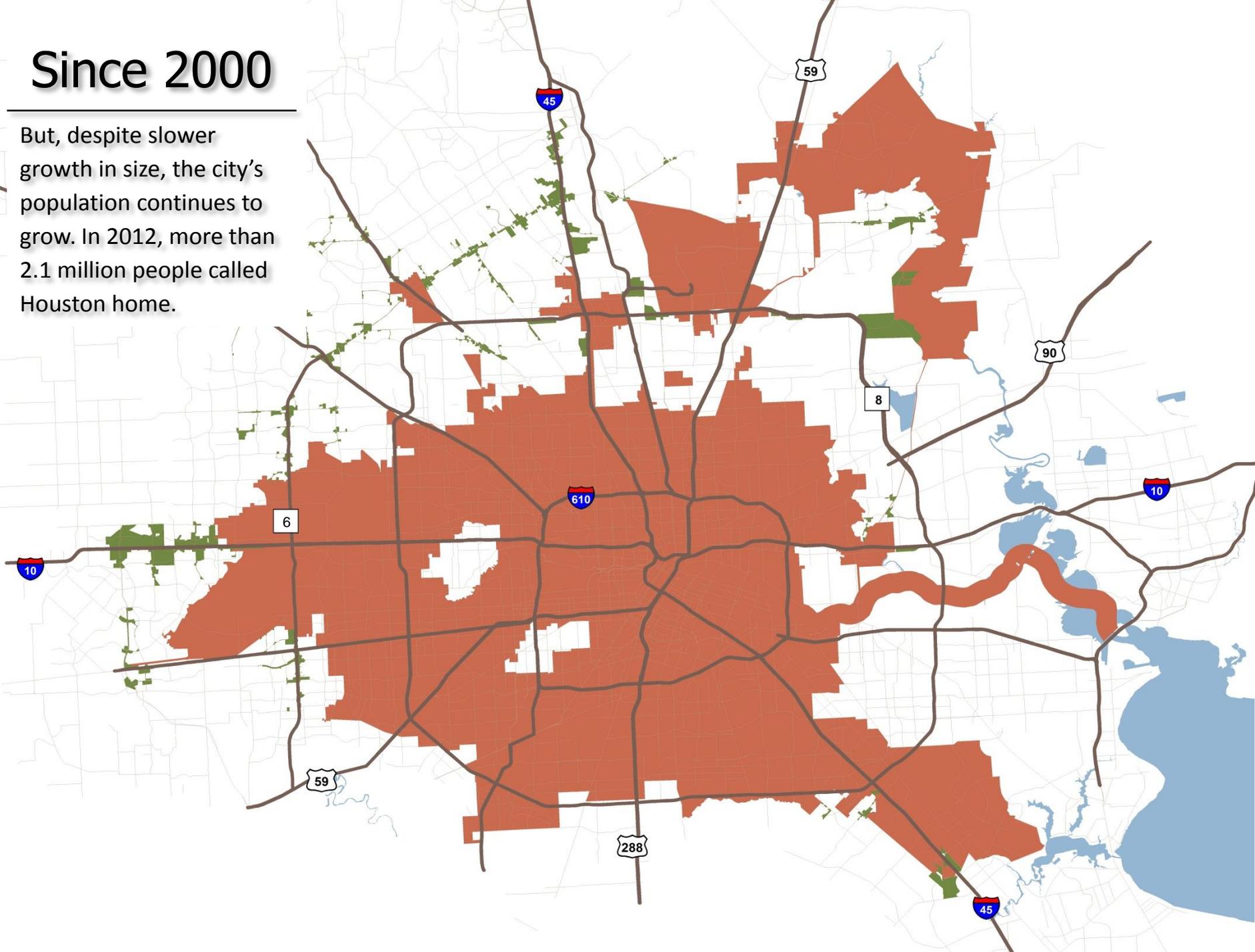
Since 2000

By the end of 2012, the city has grown to 662 square miles.



Since 2000

But, despite slower growth in size, the city's population continues to grow. In 2012, more than 2.1 million people called Houston home.



For further information on annexation
Visit our website at www.houstonplanning.com



Presented by the City of Houston
Planning & Development Department