

# Buffalo Bayou

## Map and Guide

Buffalo Bayou has been integral to Houston's history since the city's founding in 1836.

Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) creates and stewards welcoming parks, trails, and unique spaces, connecting Houstonians with our city's most significant natural waterway. From caring for Buffalo Bayou Park and keeping the bayou trash-free to offering engaging public art and programming, BBP is reinvigorating Houston's iconic waterfront.

This map will guide you as you walk, run, cycle, or paddle along Buffalo Bayou's many parks and historic sites from Shepherd Drive, through the heart of downtown and the East End, and on to the Port of Houston Turning Basin. Enjoy exploring and discovering all Buffalo Bayou has to offer.

Learn more about Buffalo Bayou Partnership and how you can support our work at [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org).

### Legend

- Information

Restrooms

Drinking Fountain

Food

Parking

Boat Launch

Overlook

Tennis Court

Visitor Center, Pavilion

Audio Tour (download at [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org))
- Hike and Bike Trail (bike accessible)

Planned Hike and Bike Trail

Kinder Footpath (no bikes, scooters, or rollerblades)

Bridge

Stairs

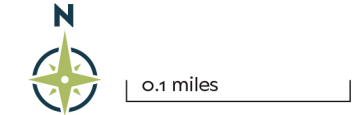
Green Tree Footpath (no bikes)

Trail Segment Distances (approx. mileage)

BCycle

METRORail Station

METRORail Lines



Buffalo Bayou Park Hours	
<b>LIGHTED AREAS</b> 6 am–11 pm (except as posted)	<b>JOHNNY STEELE DOG PARK</b> 7 am–8 pm
<b>OTHER AREAS</b> Dawn to Dusk	<b>BARBARA FISH DANIEL NATURE PLAY AREA</b> 7 am–8 pm
For visitor center hours and bike or kayak/canoe rental information, visit <a href="http://buffalobayou.org">buffalobayou.org</a> or call 713.752.0314.	

## Buffalo Bayou Park

**1 Lost Lake**

Lost Lake is on the site of a former pond that was lost in the 1970s when its dam across a natural ravine broke. The pond was restored and the site includes food service, a picnic area, and restrooms. Additional points of interest include: Lost Lake Gardens a gift from The Garden Club of Houston, H-E-B Cascade, and The Robert & Janice McNair Foundation Terrace.

**2 Waugh Bat Colony**

Every evening at sunset, more than 300,000 Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from crevices in the Waugh Drive Bridge. A large portion of the bat colony remains through the winter months, providing viewing opportunities on warm nights. Stop by and witness this amazing sight, and learn more through interpretive signage at the viewing platform.

**3 Wortham Foundation Grove**

Affectionately known as the “Dandelion,” the Gus S. Wortham Memorial Fountain’s brass starburst of pipes sprays joggers, cyclists, and walkers offering a cool respite from the heat. Points of interest at this favorite meeting spot include: Cullen Foundation Overlook; John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation Overlook; and the Fountain Gardens a gift from River Oaks Garden Club.

**4 Green Tree Nature Area**

Green Tree Nature Area is located just south of Memorial Drive at Waugh Drive. The heavily forested trail is a nature-lover’s delight. On any given day, you will find birds, squirrels, and even a rabbit or two.

**5 Johnny Steele Dog Park**

Named by a special group of donors in honor of Johnny Steele, a highly regarded Houston landscape architect, this two-acre dog paradise features the Kinder Pond and washing areas. Pet owners can watch their furry friends have fun from the Graham Family Overlook and Friends of Johnny Overlook.

**6 Houston Police Officers’ Memorial**

Jesus Bautista Morales, 1991  
Pay your respects to more than 100 policemen whose lives were lost in the line of duty. Shaped like a pyramid, the sculpture symbolizes a royal tomb. The Police Memorial and surrounding grounds, guarded 24 hours a day, are the site of an annual procession and wreath-laying ceremony.

**7 Tapley Tributary**

Houston landscape architect Charles Tapley designed this inspirational site in the late 1970s featuring a bayou tributary, riparian plantings, granite steps, and seating areas. BBP later added a wetland, native Texas prairie, footbridge, the Vale-Asche Foundation Spring, and the Charles Tapley, FAIA Overlook.

**8 Eleanor Tinsley Park**

This “park within a park” is named in honor of the late City Council Member and civic activist, Eleanor Tinsley. With its signature Bud Light Amphitheater lawn and Nau Family Pavilion, the area is one of Houston’s most popular outdoor spaces for recreation and relaxation. Other points of interest are: sand volleyball court, Eleanor Tinsley Garden, and the nearby Jane Gregory Garden.

**9 The Water Works at 105 Sabine St**

The Water Works is a major park entry point made possible by reclaiming a four-acre abandoned City of Houston water system site. The Wortham Insurance Visitor Center and Terrace house restrooms and a bike rental facility, while an entry court hosts food trucks. The Brown Foundation Lawn and Hobby Family Pavilion are popular for performances and events. With the Barbara Fish Daniel Nature Play Area nearby, The Water Works is one of the park’s most popular destinations.

**Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern**

funded by The Brown Foundation  
Built in 1926, the Cistern was one of the City of Houston’s early underground drinking-water reservoirs until it was decommissioned. The 87,500-square-foot expanse includes 25-foot tall concrete columns set row upon row, hovering over a reflective surface of water on the reservoir’s floor. Tours and art installations are offered in the Cistern. For tickets visit [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org).

### Groves, Meadows, And Woodlands

- 1 Hildebrand Foundation Meadow

2 Morris Family Meadow  
*a gift from Ellen S., William D., Edward and Henry Morris*

3 Meredith and Cornelia Long Meadow

4 Susan Vaughan Foundation Meadow

5 Hawkins Meadow

6 Tolerance Meadow  
*a gift from Linda and Barry Hunsaker*

7 Wolff Family Grove

8 Apache Corporation Native Woodland

9 Johnson Family Meadow

10 Caven Family Grove
- 11 Fondren Foundation Meadow

12 Ed Wolfe Grove

13 Sandy Reed Grove

14 Terry Hershey Grove

15 Hines Meadow

16 Mithoff Family Grove

17 Houston Chronicle Meadow

### Artwork

- 1 *Tolerance*, Jaume Plensa, 2011

2 *Spindle*, Henry Moore, 1969

3 *Shady Grove*, Tim Bailey, 2002

4 *Open Channel Flow*, Matthew Geller, 2009

5 *Down Periscope*, Donald Lipski, 2015

6 *Portrait of Houston: It Wasn't a Dream, It was a Flood*, John Runnels, 2014
- Monumental Moments*, Anthony Thompson Shumate, 2015, located at six unexpected locations in park

### Lunar Cycle Lighting

Designed by L'Observatoire and Stephen Korn, Buffalo Bayou's signature lighting transitions from white to blue as the moon waxes and wanes.

### Support

As a non-profit organization, BBP relies on support from individuals like you. Donations allow for the continued care of inclusive green spaces such as Buffalo Bayou Park; clean up of the waterway; expansion of the hike and bike trail system; creating new parks and destinations east of downtown; and the presentation of tours, wellness activities, public art, volunteer events, and recreational opportunities that enrich Houston's quality of life.

To make a donation, scan the QR code or visit [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org) to become a Member.

### Volunteer

BBP also depends on dedicated volunteers to keep Buffalo Bayou's parks and trails clean, healthy, and beautiful. Lend a hand and help with weeding, removing litter and debris, and other maintenance activities. To volunteer as an individual (ages 9 and up) or if you are interested in bringing a group, please visit [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org).





### 13 Allen's Landing

As Houston's founding place and original port, Allen's Landing has unique historical significance. BBP revitalized the park, adding an entry plaza, wharf and text art designed by local artist team ttweak. John Runnels' stainless steel boats also grace the entrances and the Lunar Cycle Lighting system adds to the splendor of this historic area.

### 14 Sunset Coffee Building

In cooperation with its partner Houston First, BBP renovated the historic Sunset Coffee Building at Allen's Landing. The building houses BBP's offices, as well as an event space, rooftop terrace, and plaza that are available for private events. The Sunset Coffee Building was built in 1910 by merchant William D. Cleveland to house his coffee roasting operations and as an annex to the 1880s William Cleveland and Son's building that housed his successful wholesale grocery and cotton trading business.

## Buffalo Bayou East

Traveling east along Buffalo Bayou's hike and bike trails, visitors enter one of our city's most historic areas. In 1914, the Houston Ship Channel opened to deep water navigation. The channel, in combination with the railroads, transformed the area into the industrial heart of Houston. BBP is working to deliver significant components of its Buffalo Bayou East Master Plan by 2032 including parks and trails, dynamic cultural destinations, affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, and connections into the Greater East End and Fifth Ward communities.

### 15 McKee Street Bridge

Painted aquamarine, purple and lavender, the McKee Street Bridge adds a splash of color to the bayou landscape. Local artist Kirk Farris is responsible for transforming the bridge that was built in 1932 into a recognizable landmark.

### 16 James Bute Park

James Bute Park is the original site of Germantown and Frost Town, two early immigrant neighborhoods. In the 1970s, Houston artist Kirk Farris transformed the once abandoned site into a park named after an entrepreneur who lived nearby. A Texas Historical Marker displayed in the park officially designates Frost Town as a historic site.

### 17 Guadalupe Plaza Park

This City of Houston park features green space, trails, and a boat dock alongside historic elements including the Azios' family fountain and Ely Escobar memorial tree along with historic columns reminiscent of Mexico City's colonial Zocalo architecture.

### 18 Gravel Silos

Several remnants of the East End's industrial past can be found along the hike and bike trails. Just east of Jensen Drive you will discover massive concrete gravel silos owned by BBP. These tall structures not only are important interpretive landscape elements, but the canvas for imaginative public art events.

### 19 Brick Smokestacks

Located halfway between Jensen Drive and North York Street, you will come across two brick chimneys. These are the remnants of a City of Houston incinerator built in 1925.

### 20 Tony Marron Park

As part of the Buffalo Bayou East Master Plan, BBP will expand the City of Houston's Tony Marron Park from 19 to nearly 40 acres. The enhanced park will become the open space anchor for the area, providing a wide range of amenities for residents including improved soccer fields, a play area, barbecue plaza, and venues for special events and festivals.

### 21 Japhet Creek

Japhet Creek is a bayou tributary stretching north, deep into the Fifth Ward neighborhood. BBP has begun implementation of the enhancements envisioned in the Buffalo Bayou East Master Plan to revitalize this historic tributary with a native prairie, creekside nature trail, landscaping, lighting, a parking area, and eventually a trail connection to the bayou for all to enjoy.

### 22 Northside Sewage Treatment Facility

Decommissioned more than 20 years ago, much of the Northside Sewage Treatment Facility's infrastructure remains. Aeration and settling tanks, compressor rooms, as well as original pipes and valves are intact. BBP envisions redeveloping the site into a major, regional destination.

### 23 Lockwood on Buffalo Bayou

On this site adjacent to Tony Marron Park, BBP is working with partners to create mixed income and affordable housing that will be surrounded by more than six acres of new parks and trails. Eighty multi-family units are currently under construction.

### 24 Turkey Bend

This dramatic former industrial site along Navigation Boulevard at a stretch of the bayou called Turkey Bend will be transformed by BBP in the coming years into a unique recreational and cultural destination. Future visitors to the site will be able to congregate and relax along the waterfront, attend events and programs of a variety of scales, and participate in boating activities.

### 25 Yolanda Black Navarro Buffalo Bend Nature Park

Buffalo Bend Nature Park is a 10-acre site and features ponds, native plantings, interpretive displays, and trails. BBP is working on connecting Yolanda Black Navarro Buffalo Bend Nature Park to the City of Houston's Hidalgo Park to the east.

### 26 Hidalgo Park

Built in 1932, Hidalgo Park is a popular East End site for Sunday picnics, birthday parties, and baseball games. Neighborhood children also enjoy the park's creative wooden playground and water play station. Among the park's treasures is a statue of Father Miguel Hidalgo, a gift from the government of Jalisco, Mexico.

### 27 Historic Gazebo

Perhaps the finest example of textured concrete artistry in Houston, Hidalgo Park's gazebo was completed in 1934. Vidal Lozano, its designer and builder, fashioned concrete columns and railings to look like tree timbers, the roof to represent shingles, and the ceiling thatch. The gazebo is a landmark in the Buffalo Bayou landscape.

### 28 Turning Basin

In 1837, the Allen brothers arranged for the Constitution, a 150-foot steamboat, to visit Houston to dispel doubts about the bayou's navigability. Not being able to turn around once it reached its destination, the boat backed down the bayou until it reached a wide enough bend. Dubbed Constitution Bend, the site is now the Port of Houston Turning Basin.

## Buffalo Bayou Partnership

1019 Commerce Street, Suite 200  
Houston, TX 77002

t 713-752-0314 f 713-223-3500  
buffalobayou.org

#### STAY CONNECTED

info@buffalobayou.org  
fb.com/buffalobayou  
@buffalobayou

Printed May 2023

Cover photo by Geoff Lyon

