

Buffalo Bayou

Map and Guide

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

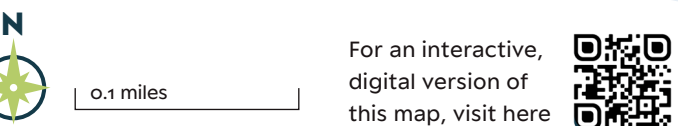
Buffalo Bayou Partnership creates and stewards welcoming parks, trails, and unique spaces, connecting Houstonians with our city's most significant natural waterway. From caring for bayou-front parks and keeping the waterway trash-free to offering engaging public art and programming, BBP is reinvigorating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

This map will guide you as you walk, run, cycle, paddle, and visit the many green spaces and historic sites along the bayou flowing from Shepherd Drive through the heart of downtown into 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 how to get involved at buffalobayou.org

Legend

- Information
- Restrooms
- Drinking Fountain
- Food
- Parking
- Boat Launch
- Overlook
- Dog Park
- Emergency Call Box
- Play Area
- Pavilion
- Hike and Bike Trail (bike accessible)
- Planned Hike and Bike Trail
- Kinder Footpath (no bikes, rollerblades)
- Bridge
- Stairs
- Green Tree Footpath (no bikes)
- On-street Trail
- Trail Segment Distances (approx. mileage)
- METRORail Station
- METRORail Lines
- Audio Tour (download at buffalobayou.org)



Park and Trail Hours

LIGHTED AREAS
6 AM–11 PM (except as posted)

OTHER AREAS
Dawn to Dusk

PUBLIC RESTROOMS
THE WATER WORKS
8 AM–8 PM
LOST LAKE
8 AM–10 PM

JOHNNY STEELE DOG PARK
7 AM–8 PM

BARBARA FISH DANIEL NATURE PLAY AREA
7 AM–8 PM

For visitor center hours and information, visit buffalobayou.org or call 713.752.0314 x301.

Buffalo Bayou Park

1 Lost Lake at 3422 Allen Parkway

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, gardens, a picnic area, parking, and restrooms.

2 Waugh Drive Bridge Bat Colony

More than 300,000 Mexican free-tailed bats call the Waugh Bridge home for much of the year. Every evening at sunset, the colony emerges from crevices beneath the bridge. Stop by and witness this amazing sight and learn more about the bats through signage and at buffalobayou.org.

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 with a cool mist, offering a respite from the heat of the day.

4 Green Tree Nature Area

Green Tree Nature Area is located just south of Memorial Drive at Waugh Drive. The quiet, 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 separate areas for large and small dogs, the Kinder Pond, washing area, and plenty of wide open space.

6 Houston Police Officers' Memorial

Jesus Bautista Morales, 1991
Created to pay respect to the hundreds of police officers whose lives were lost in the line of duty, this large-scale, pyramid-shaped 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 footbridge.

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, Nau Family Pavilion, and sand volleyball court, the area is one of Houston's most popular outdoor spaces for recreation and relaxation.

9 The Water Works at 105 Sabine Street

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 houses restrooms and a bike rental facility, while the entry court hosts food trucks. The Brown Foundation Lawn is popular for performances and events. With the Barbara Fish Daniel Nature Play Area nearby, The Water Works is one of the park's most active destinations.

Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern

funded by The Brown Foundation
The Cistern was constructed in 1926 as one of the City of Houston's early underground drinking-water reservoirs. The 87,500-square-foot expanse includes concrete columns set row upon row, rising from water on the reservoir's floor. In addition to tours highlighting the history and architecture of this unique site, the Cistern houses periodic art installations presented by Buffalo Bayou Partnership. For a tour schedule and tickets, visit buffalobayou.org.

Artwork

- Tolerance*, Jaume Plensa, 2011
 - Spindle*, Henry Moore, 1969
 - Shady Grove*, Tim Bailey, 2002
 - Open Channel Flow*, Matthew Geller, 2009
 - Down Periscope*, Donald Lipski, 2015
 - Portrait of Houston: It Wasn't a Dream, It was a Flood*, John Rannels, 2014
 - Passage Inachevé*, Linnea Glatt and Francis Thompson, 1990
- 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.

Rentals

Several locations along Buffalo Bayou are available to rent for large and small gatherings ranging from children's birthday parties to corporate events and weddings. Outdoor spaces in Buffalo Bayou Park include covered pavilions, lawns, and performance stages. Sunset Coffee Building in downtown and the Warehouse at Turkey Bend in the East End offer a mix of indoor and outdoor spaces with stunning waterway and skyline views. For information visit buffalobayou.org/venue-rentals.

Permits

Buffalo Bayou is the ideal location for a photoshoot, exercise group, picnic event, or special occasion. Please check BBP's website for activities that may require a permit at buffalobayou.org/permits.

Support

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

To make a donation or become a Member, scan the QR code or visit buffalobayou.org



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 conservation activities. To volunteer as an individual (ages 9 and up) or if you are interested in bringing a group, please visit buffalobayou.org/volunteer.



13 Allen's Landing Park

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 tweek. 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 Sunset Coffee Building was built in 1910 by merchant William D. Cleveland to house his coffee roasting operation and as an annex to the 1880s William Cleveland and Son's building that housed his wholesale grocery and cotton trading business. The building houses BBP's offices, as well as an event space, rooftop terrace, and plaza that are available for private events.

15 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.

16 McKee Street Bridge

Painted aquamarine, purple, and lavender, 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 piece of public art.

Buffalo Bayou Downtown

10 Sabine Promenade

The 23-acre waterfront park spearheaded by BBP features hike and bike trails, lush landscaping, boat landing, and a pedestrian bridge. Stainless steel boat sculptures by Houston artist John Runnels greet visitors at major park entrances. Sabine Promenade has been recognized with 13 international and local awards since it opened in 2006.

11 Sam Houston Park

This historic park, created in 1899 by Mayor Sam Brashear, was meant to be an ideal Victorian garden. Today it is home to The Heritage Society, an organization devoted to preserving a collection of Houston's historic structures.

12 Sesquicentennial Park

The centerpiece of downtown's Theater District, this 22-acre park commemorates Houston's 150th birthday in 1986. Public art in the park includes Mel Chin's stainless steel pillars Seven Wonders and Dean Ruck's ceramic history photos. The 8-foot-tall bronze statue of former Secretary of State James Baker gazes across Buffalo Bayou at a similar statue of former President George H.W. Bush. Both statues were created by North Carolina sculptor Chas Fagan.



Buffalo Bayou East

Traveling east along Buffalo Bayou, 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. Buffalo Bayou Partnership is now working to deliver significant components of its Buffalo Bayou East Master Plan by 2032, including new and enhanced parks, hike and bike trail connections along the Kinder Trail, dynamic cultural destinations, affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, and connections into the Greater East End and Fifth Ward communities. **Please check buffalobayou.org for the latest news on construction and closures throughout this area.**

17 Guadalupe Plaza Park

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

18 Silos and Stormwater Crossing

Not publicly accessible
Just east of Jensen Drive, BBP is giving new life to iconic concrete gravel silos. This remnant of the East End's industrial legacy will become a pocket park and important stormwater infrastructure for the surrounding neighborhood.

19 Tony Marron Park

Not publicly accessible
BBP is currently expanding the City of Houston's Tony Marron Park from 19 to 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 pavilion, and venues for special events and festivals.

20 Japhet Creek Park

Japhet Creek is a bayou tributary stretching north, deep into the Fifth Ward neighborhood. A 4-acre park with accessible walking paths, open lawn, and wildflower meadows sits along the historic tributary. Future developments include a hike and bike trail following along the creek to the Kinder Bridge connecting to Tony Marron Park.

21 Garver Park

This 10-acre public park located adjacent to BBP's Lockwood on Buffalo Bayou mixed-income housing community features a dog park, children's play area, hike and bike trails, and lush native trees and plantings.

22 Northside Sewage Treatment Facility

Not publicly accessible
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 Turkey Bend on Buffalo Bayou

Not publicly accessible
This dramatic former industrial site along Navigation Boulevard is becoming a unique recreational and cultural destination. The recently renovated Warehouse, available for event rentals, will be the future home of community-based retail and the Houston Public Library's Hispanic History Research Center. In the coming years, visitors will be able to gather and relax along the waterfront wharf with boating and other activities.

24 Yolanda Black Navarro

Buffalo Bend Nature Park

This 10-acre park 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.

25 Hidalgo Park

Best known for its historic gazebo and statue of Father Miguel Hidalgo, this East End site near the Port of Houston Turning Basin is popular for its playground and water play station. The landmark gazebo was completed in 1934 by designer and builder Vidal Lozano and features textured concrete artistry made to resemble tree timbers, a roof to represent shingles, and a ceiling thatch.

26 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

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