

Buffalo Bayou

HIKING / BIKING TRAIL GUIDE

LEGEND

- Drinking Water
- Exercise/Fitness
- Boat Launch
- Tennis Courts
- Handicap Access
- Stairs
- Parking
- B-cycle Station houston.bicycle.com
- METRORail Station

- Hiking & Biking Trail
- Future Trail
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Nature Trail
- Trail Segment
- Distances (approx mi)

0.1 miles

Buffalo Bayou has been a focal point in Houston's history since the Allen brothers founded the city in 1836. Today, the bayou is once again the centerpiece of its development. Since issuing the 20-year master plan, *Buffalo Bayou and Beyond* in 2002, Buffalo Bayou Partnership has been committed to creating a regional amenity that offers opportunities for recreation, entertainment and livability. New destinations and natural amenities are revitalizing the once neglected bayou into an active and vibrant waterfront.

Key to the bayou's restoration is the hike and bike trail that winds its way from Shepherd Drive through parts of the East End. Plans call for extending the trail east all the way to the Port of Houston Turning Basin. This map will guide you as you walk, run or cycle along the waterway. Key parks, historic sites, public artworks and amenities such as canoe launches, pedestrian bridges and parking are highlighted for your reference.

Enjoy exploring and discovering all the natural beauty Buffalo Bayou has to offer.

WEST SECTOR

1 WAUGH BRIDGE BAT COLONY



Every evening at sunset, more than 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from crevices found in the Waugh Drive Bridge. These creatures are non-migratory and the majority call the bayou home year-round. You can learn more about the bats through interpretive signage found at the site. Stop by any night and view this amazing sight!

2 GREEN TREE NATURE TRAIL



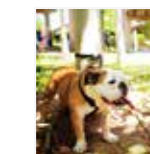
Unless you know it's there, Green Tree Nature Trail may be difficult to find. Located just south of Memorial Drive at Waugh Drive, the heavily forested trail is a nature-lover's delight. On any given day, you will find birds, squirrels and even a rabbit or two. Buffalo Bayou Partnership and volunteers have been restoring this wild natural area by removing invasive species and restoring the nature preserve with native trees and vegetation.

3 GUS S. WORTHAM MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN



William Cannady, 1978
The Wortham Fountain is a favorite meeting spot. Affectionately known as the *Dandelion*, the fountain's brass starburst of pipes sprays joggers, cyclists and dog walkers offering a cool respite from Houston's heat.

4 DOG PARK



One of Buffalo Bayou's most popular destinations is the dog park. On any given day, you will see dogs and their owners congregating in the large open meadow. Plans are underway to incorporate infrastructure (making this park "official") and amenities to be completed in 2015.

5 ROSEMONT BRIDGE



You can cross this unique pedestrian bridge at two levels. Be sure to pause and enjoy the dramatic view of the bayou and downtown skyline. The bridge provides a valuable pedestrian connection to trails and neighborhoods to the north of Memorial Drive, as well as to Spotts and Cleveland parks to the west.

6 TOLERANCE SCULPTURES



Jaume Plensa, 2011
At the base of the Rosemont Bridge are Spanish artist Jaume Plensa's *Tolerance* sculptures. The seven human figures representing the world's seven continents are composed of stainless steel alphabet letters from many languages. Resting on large boulders, the figures glow at night, creating a constellation of beacons. The sculptures encourage joggers and bicyclists to pause and consider our city's dynamic diversity.

7 GLENWOOD CEMETERY



No other site takes advantage of the bayou's natural beauty more than 18-acre Glenwood Cemetery. Designed as one of Houston's first public spaces, Glenwood continues to delight its visitors with its lush gardens and ornately decorated headstones. Perhaps the most famous person buried at this site is the late billionaire Howard Hughes. A walk through Glenwood definitely takes you back in time!

8 SPINDLE SCULPTURE



Henry Moore, 1979
Located on a prominent knoll is British sculptor Henry Moore's *Spindle* piece. The cast bronze abstract sculpture was originally part of Moore's *Spindle* series which was placed in London's Hyde Park.

9 HOUSTON POLICE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL



Jesus Bautista Morales, 1991
Visit Texas artist Jesus Morales' Police Memorial and pay your respects to more than 80 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.

10 PASSAGE INACHEVÉ—HOUSE SCULPTURE



Linnea Glatt and Francis Thompson, 1990
This sculpture is a 28' x 28' piece constructed of galvanized steel set in a concrete slab. The seating and visual images reflect issues of human rights, freedom of expression and historic and contemporary concerns. It has the form of a house but is completely open to the elements and viewing from all sides.

11 TAPLEY TRIBUTARY



Houston landscape architect Charles Tapley designed this inspirational site in the late 1970s to feature a bayou tributary, riparian plantings, granite steps and seating areas. Recent improvements by Buffalo Bayou Partnership, include a wetland, native Texas prairie and small pedestrian bridge. Besides being a place to picnic and to view the downtown skyline, Tapley and other nearby tributaries have become wonderful outdoor learning centers.

12 ELEANOR TINSLEY PARK



Named in honor of the late City Councilmember and civic activist Eleanor Tinsley, the park is home to our city's annual Fourth of July celebration and other large-scale festivals and events. The Jane Gregory Garden (just west of the Henry Moore sculpture) offers a welcome urban getaway while a boat dock provides easy access for canoeists and kayakers. With its sloping hills and deep ravines, Eleanor Tinsley Park is one of Houston's most popular outdoor spaces for recreation and relaxation. A major hike and bike trail winds its way through the park's 20 acres.

13 OPEN CHANNEL FLOW



Matthew Geller, 2009
Open Channel Flow features a public outdoor shower activated by a hand pump. A nearby skatepark ensures that a steady flow of skaters and passersby will indulge in a refreshing spritz on Houston's infamously humid afternoons.

14 LEE & JOE JAMAIL SKATEPARK



Riding bowls, grinding rails and cutting through the largest "cradle" in the world are just some of the fancy footwork you will see at the Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark. The 30,000 square foot facility is designed for beginners and seasoned professionals.

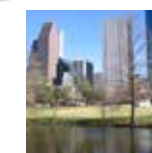
DOWNTOWN SECTOR

15 SABINE PROMENADE



The 23-acre waterfront park features hike and bike trails, lush landscaping, and a pedestrian bridge. Unique blue and white lighting corresponding with the phases of the moon was designed by New York artists Hervé Descottes (L'Observatoire International) and Stephen Korn. Stainless steel boat sculptures by Houston artist John Runnels greet visitors at major park entrances. A boat landing serves as the launch site for pontoon boat tours led by Buffalo Bayou Partnership. Sabine Promenade has been recognized with 12 international and local awards since it opened in 2006.

16 SAM HOUSTON PARK



In 1899, Mayor Sam Brashear purchased 20 acres of property on the edge of downtown to create Sam Houston Park. Landscaped into a Victorian village, the park included an old mill, rustic bridge, stream, and even a zoo. Today, the park is home to The Heritage Society, an organization devoted to preserving and interpreting the park's historic structures.

17 SESQUICENTENNIAL PARK



Twenty-two-acre Sesquicentennial Park is the centerpiece of downtown's Theater District. Among the outstanding features located in the park, which commemorates Houston's 150th birthday in 1986, are: 24-foot promenade, amphitheater, 250-foot boat dock and gardens. Public art in the park includes artist Mel Chin's stainless steel pillars *Seven Wonders* and Dean Ruck's ceramic history photos, sound installation and *Big Bubble*. Travel up on the Preston Avenue Bridge, press the red button, and see the bubble emerge in the bayou's waters. The 8-foot-tall bronze statue of Secretary of State James Baker gazes across Buffalo Bayou at a similar artwork of former President George H.W. Bush. Both statues were created by North Carolina sculptor Chas Fagan.

18 UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON—DOWNTOWN



Since 1974, University of Houston—Downtown (UHD) has enjoyed a prime location at the confluence of Buffalo and White Oak bayous. UHD's main campus is housed in the historic Merchants and Manufacturers Building (commonly referred to as the M&M Building) built in 1930. Students and faculty alike take advantage of all the bayou waterfront has to offer.

19 ALLEN'S LANDING



As Houston's founding place and original port, Allen's Landing has unique historical significance. Buffalo Bayou Partnership has revitalized the park with an entry plaza, wharf, and public text art designed by local artist team tweek. John Runnels' stainless steel boats also grace the entrances and a lunar trail lighting system, like that at Sabine Promenade, adds to the splendor of this historic area. The Sunset Coffee Building, built in 1910, is under renovation. A boating and bicycle rental facility, event space, BBP's office and a rooftop terrace are among the amenities that will be included in this historic building.



EAST SECTOR

Traveling east along Buffalo Bayou's hike and bike trails, visitors will enter the East End, 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 East End into the industrial heart of our city.

Buffalo Bayou Partnership has purchased property and developed hike and bike trails that eventually will extend all the way to the Port of Houston. Also underway are the development of parks, boating activities and other open space amenities.

20 MCKEE STREET BRIDGE

Painted aquamarine, purple and lavender, McKee Street Bridge adds a splash of color to the bayou landscape. Built in 1932, the structure is the longest unreinforced concrete bridge in the world. Local artist Kirk Farris is responsible for transforming the bridge into a piece of public art.

21 JAMES BUTE PARK

Steeped in Houston history, 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. A Texas Historical Marker displayed in the park officially designates Frost Town as an historic site. The park is named for the late James Bute, a Houston entrepreneur and nearby park resident.

22 GUADALUPE PLAZA PARK

Mariachi and salsa music, ballet folklorico, and seasonal festivals are among the sights and sounds that fill Guadalupe Plaza Park. Besides a performance area, the park includes hike and bike trails and a boating dock. Located nearby is Talento Bilingue de Houston, a performing arts organization.

23 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. These tall structures not only are important interpretive landscape elements, but the canvas for imaginative public art events.

24 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.

25 TONY MARRON PARK

Named after East End activist Tony Marron, this 19-acre site is comprised of soccer fields, children's playground, fountain plaza, picnic area and hike and bike trails.

26 JAPHET CREEK

This tributary is being restored to provide Fifth Ward neighborhood residents access to Buffalo Bayou. Volunteers from Japhet Creek Civic Association have worked tirelessly to remove trash and debris from the creek while planting wildflowers and native trees. Eventually paths on both sides of the tributary will be created.

27 NORTHSIDE SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY

Decommissioned over 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. Buffalo Bayou Partnership plans to redevelop the site into a unique ecological park.

28 BUFFALO BEND NATURE PARK

Buffalo Bend Nature Park is a 10-acre site that will ultimately offer an area to educate visitors about wetland ecosystems. Learning stations, exhibits and interpretive displays will be strategically located throughout the park.

29 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.

30 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.

31 TURNING BASIN

Looking north from Hidalgo Park you will see a beautiful section of Buffalo Bayou. 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.



CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY TO TRANSFORM THE SHEPHERD TO SABINE STRETCH OF BUFFALO BAYOU INTO ONE OF HOUSTON'S PREMIER PARK SPACES. To learn more about the 160-acre Buffalo Bayou Park that will be complete in 2015, visit buffalobayoupark.org.

Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the non-profit organization revitalizing and transforming Buffalo Bayou, Houston's most significant natural resource.

The *Buffalo Bayou Guide* app is available on the App Store™ for iPhone® and iPod touch® and for Android™ devices using the Google Play™ Store app.



Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, and iPod touch are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Android and Google Play are trademarks of Google Inc.



1113 Vine Street, Suite 215
Houston, TX 77002
t: 713.752.0314 f: 713.223.3500
buffalobayou.org

STAY CONNECTED
info@buffalobayou.org
fb.com/buffalobayou
[@buffalobayou](https://twitter.com/buffalobayou)



Design by CORE Design Studio
Cover photo by Jim Olive/stockyard.com
Printing courtesy of METRO

Printed November 2013

Buffalo Bayou

TRAIL GUIDE



HIKING / BIKING