

# BUFFALO BAYOU

## GUIDE

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.

Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) is the non-profit organization revitalizing and transforming Buffalo Bayou from Shepherd Drive to the Port of Houston Turning Basin. From spearheading capital projects such as the 160-acre Buffalo Bayou Park to constructing hike and bike trails, operating comprehensive clean-up and maintenance programs and offering thoughtful programming, Buffalo Bayou Partnership is reclaiming Houston's unique waterfront.

This map will guide you as you walk, run, cycle or paddle along the waterway and visit the many parks and historic sites. Enjoy exploring and discovering all Buffalo Bayou has to offer.

To learn more about Buffalo Bayou Partnership and how you can support our work, visit [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))
- Sandy Reed Memorial Trail (bike accessible)
- Kinder Footpath (no bikes, rollerblades)
- Bridge
- Stairs
- Green Tree Footpath (no bikes)
- Trail Segment Distances (approx. mileage)
- B-cycle Station
- METRORail Station
- METRORail Lines



### BUFFALO BAYOU PARK HOURS

LIGHTED AREAS	JOHNNY STEELE DOG PARK
6 am–11 pm (except as posted)	7 am–8 pm
OTHER AREAS	BARBARA FISH DANIEL NATURE PLAY AREA
Dawn to Dusk	7 am–8 pm

For visitor center hours and bike or kayak/canoe rental information, visit [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org) or call 713.752.0314.



## BUFFALO BAYOU PARK

### SHEPHERD DRIVE TO SABINE STREET

**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 is situated near a visitor center housing restrooms, kayak/canoe rentals; The Dunlavy, a private event space; and The Kitchen at The Dunlavy, offering breakfast and lunch daily. Additional points of interest include: Lost Lake Gardens a gift from *The Garden Club of Houston*, H-E-B Cascade, The Robert & Janice McNair Foundation Terrace, Emma's Embankment, BBVA Compass Boardwalk and the Ann Lents and David Heaney Stairway leading to a boat launch. East of Lost Lake, the 345-foot long Jackson Hill Bridge soars 40 feet above the bayou. Park users can rest at the bridge's Powell Foundation Landing or Sterling-Turner Foundation Landing.

**2 WAUGH BAT COLONY**  
 Every evening at sunset, more than 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from crevices in the Waugh Drive Bridge. These creatures are non-migratory and call the bayou home year-round. Learn more about the bats through interpretive signage found at the site. Stop by any night and view this amazing sight from the Jerry and Nanette Finger Family Seating Circle or the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation Alcove.

**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; Fountain Gardens a gift from *River Oaks Garden Club*; and Locke Lord LLP and The Kayser Foundation Garden Seating Area.

**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 ponds; washing areas; KHOU-TV Portal; Allen Family Entry Court; and Lulu, Sophie and Friends' Meadow. 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 113 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 and a footbridge. Nearby improvements include the Vale-Asche Foundation Spring and the Charles Tapley, FAIA Overlook.

**8 ELEANOR TINSLEY PARK**  
 Named in honor of the late City Councilmember and civic activist, Eleanor Tinsley, this park is one of Houston's most popular outdoor spaces for recreation and relaxation. Recent improvements include the signature Bud Light Amphitheater lawn and Nau Family Pavilion. 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*  
 The Cistern was one of the City of Houston's early underground drinking-water reservoirs. Built in 1926, it provided decades of service until it was decommissioned. The 87,500-square-foot expanse includes 25-foot tall concrete columns set row upon row, hovering over water on the reservoir's floor. In addition to tours highlighting the history and architecture of this unique industrial site, the Cistern also houses periodic art installations presented by Buffalo Bayou Partnership. For a tour schedule and 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 Wulfe 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 Kornis, Buffalo Bayou's signature lighting transitions from white to blue as the moon waxes and wanes.



## 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 Rannels 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

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.

### 12 SESQUICENTENNIAL PARK

This 22-acre park is the centerpiece of downtown's Theater District and commemorates Houston's 150th birthday in 1986. 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 Mosbacher Bridge, press the red button and see the bubble emerge in the bayou's waters. 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.

### 13 ALLEN'S LANDING

As Houston's founding place and original port, Allen's Landing has unique historical significance. Buffalo Bayou Partnership revitalized the park, adding an entry plaza, wharf and public text art designed by local artist team ttweak. John Rannels' 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, a rooftop terrace and a bike and kayak/canoe rental facility. 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.

## EAST SECTOR

Traveling east along Buffalo Bayou's hike and bike trails, visitors 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 recently launched a major planning effort along Buffalo Bayou's east sector that will continue the organization's legacy of transformative parks and trails.

### 15 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.

### 16 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.

### 17 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, splash pad and a boat dock. Located nearby is Talento Bilingue de Houston, a performing arts organization.

### 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

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

### 21 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 clean up the creek and plant wildflowers and native trees. Eventually paths on both sides of the tributary will be created.

### 22 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.

### 23 YOLANDA BLACK NAVARRO BUFFALO BEND NATURE PARK

Buffalo Bend Nature Park is a 10-acre site that offers educational opportunities about wetland ecosystems. The park features ponds, native plantings, interpretive displays and trails.

### 24 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.

### 25 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.

### 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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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. App developed by Pariveda Solutions.

Printed September 2017 Design by CORE Design Studio  
Cover photos by Tom Fox/SWA, Katya Horner, Jonnu Singleton/SWA

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

