

# 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. Since issuing the 20-year master plan, *Buffalo Bayou and Beyond* in 2002, Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) has been committed to creating a regional amenity that offers opportunities for recreation, entertainment and livability.

New destinations and hike and bike trails are revitalizing the once neglected bayou into an active and vibrant waterfront. The recently completed Buffalo Bayou Park offers 160 acres of beautiful scenery and skyline views, artwork, a nature play area, the "go-to" dog park in the city and gathering places for visitors to enjoy outdoor activities as well as artistic performances. Stretching from Shepherd Drive to Sabine Street between Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive, it is fulfilling its potential as one of the country's great urban parks.

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

### LEGEND

- Information
- Restrooms
- Drinking Fountain
- Food
- Parking
- Boat Launch
- Overlook
- Jim Mozola Memorial Disc Golf Course First Tee
- Tennis Court
- Visitor Center, Pavilion
- Audio Tour (info on back)
- 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**  
6 am–11 pm (except as posted)

**OTHER AREAS**  
Dawn to Dusk

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

## BUFFALO BAYOU PARK

### SHEPHERD DRIVE TO SABINE STREET

#### 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 is situated near a visitor center housing restrooms; paddle craft rentals; The Dunlavy, a private event space; and The Kitchen at The Dunlavy, a grab-and-go food counter 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.

**JOHNNY STEELE DOG PARK**  
7 am–8 pm

**BARBARA FISH DANIEL NATURE PLAY AREA**  
7 am–8 pm

#### 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 Houston 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. Buffalo Bayou Partnership and volunteers have been revitalizing this area by removing invasive species and restoring the nature preserve with native trees and vegetation.

#### 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, the Nau Family Pavilion and a trail providing a direct connection to Sabine Promenade. Other points of interest are: sand volleyball court, Eleanor Tinsley Garden and Jane Gregory Garden.

#### 9 THE WATER WORKS

The Water Works is a major park entry point made possible by reclaiming a four-acre abandoned City of Houston water system site. Atop a partially buried water reservoir is The Brown Foundation Lawn, a grassy plateau framed by trees with a stunning view of the downtown skyline. With the Hobby Family Pavilion, this elevated site is popular for performances and events. The Wortham Insurance Visitor Center and Terrace houses restrooms and a bike rental facility, while an entry court with the Edith Morrow Hickerson Gardens functions as a gathering spot for park users.

#### BUFFALO BAYOU PARK CISTERN

funded by The Brown Foundation  
The Cistern was the City of Houston's first underground drinking-water reservoir. Built in 1927, 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 two inches of water on the reservoir's floor. BBP is making improvements to the Cistern to allow public access to this industrial relic and is also working to develop the site into an art space for temporary environmental art, including lighting and sound installations.

### GROVES, MEADOWS, 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 Johnson Family Meadow
- 9 Fondren Foundation Meadow
- 10 Ed Wolfe Grove
- 11 Sandy Reed Grove
- 12 Hines Meadow
- 13 Mithoff Family Grove
- 14 Houston Chronicle Meadow
- 15 Apache Corporation Native Woodland

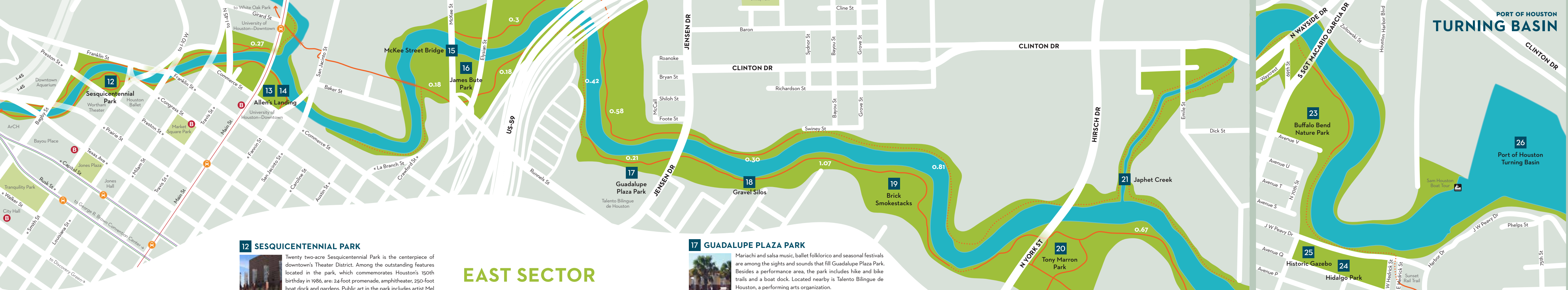
### ARTWORK

- 1 Tolerance, Jaume Plensa, 2011
  - 2 Spindle, Henry Moore, 1979
  - 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.





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## GUIDE

Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the non-profit organization revitalizing and transforming Buffalo Bayou, Houston's most significant natural resource, from Shepherd Drive to the Port of Houston Turning Basin.

Buffalo Bayou Revealed audio tour is presented by Houston Public Media. This audio experience provides you with interesting facts about areas along Buffalo Bayou Park. To download, visit [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org).



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.



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Special thanks to these generous donors  
**HEB** **KINDER FOUNDATION**  
**KHOU11** **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

Printed October 2015

Design by CORE Design Studio  
Cover photo by Jonnu Singleton/SWA



### 12 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 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 has revitalized the park with an entry plaza, wharf and public 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 is renovating the historic Sunset Coffee Building at Allen's Landing. Once complete during the first quarter of 2016, the building will house BBP's offices, a rooftop terrace, a paddle craft/bike rental facility and a café operated by Houston First. 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.

0.1 miles

## DOWNTOWN

### 10 SABINE PROMENADE

The 23-acre waterfront park features hike and bike trails, lush landscaping and a pedestrian bridge. The unique blue and white Lunar Cycle Lighting corresponds with the phases of the moon and 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.

### 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.

## 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 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.

### 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 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. 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 site is comprised of soccer 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 remove trash and debris from the creek while planting 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 BUFFALO BEND NATURE PARK

Buffalo Bend Nature Park is a 10-acre site that offers educational opportunities about wetland ecosystems. Learning stations, exhibits and interpretive displays are strategically located throughout the park.

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### 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.

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