

# BUFFALO BAYOU

## Picnic 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.

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

### LEGEND

- Information
- Restrooms
- Drinking Fountain
- Food
- Parking
- Boat Launch
- Overlook
- Tennis Court
- Visitor Center, Pavilion
- Picnic Spot
- Hike and Bike Trail (bike accessible)
- Planned Hike and Bike Trail
- 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

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

**BARBARA FISH DANIEL NATURE PLAY AREA**  
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, and the Dunlavy restaurant. 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 250,000 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 about the bats through interpretive signage found 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 Moroles, 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, 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*
- 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 Korns, Buffalo Bayou's signature lighting transitions from white to blue as the moon waxes and wanes.

### SUPPORT

As a non-profit organization, Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) relies on support from individuals like you for the ongoing enhancement and enjoyment of Buffalo Bayou. Donations allow for the continued care of green spaces including Buffalo Bayou Park; development of hike and bike trails; clean-up of the waterway; and the presentation of tours, events, volunteer activities and recreational opportunities that attract tens of thousands of visitors each year. To make a donation, text [BUFFALOBAYOU](http://buffalobayou.org) to 41444.

### VOLUNTEER

BBP 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).