

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 Buffalo Bayou Park and keeping the bayou 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 parks 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 Buffalo Bayou Partnership and how you can support our work at buffalobayou.org.

Legend

- Information
- Restrooms
- Drinking Fountain
- Food
- Parking
- Boat Launch
- Overlook
- Tennis Court
- Pavilion
- Audio Tour (download at buffalobayou.org)
- 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)
- METRORail Station
- METRORail Lines



0.1 miles

For an interactive, digital version of this map, visit here



Buffalo Bayou Park Hours

LIGHTED AREAS

6 am–11 pm (except as posted)

OTHER AREAS

Dawn to Dusk

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

JOHNNY STEELE DOG PARK

7 am–8 pm

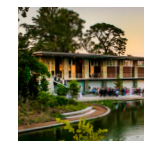
BARBARA FISH DANIEL NATURE PLAY AREA

7 am–8 pm

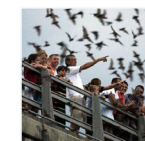
Buffalo Bayou Park

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, and restrooms.



2 Waugh Bat Colony



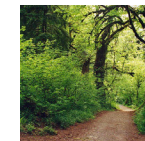
Every evening at sunset, more than 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from crevices in the Waugh Drive Bridge. A large portion of the bat colony remains through the winter months, providing viewing opportunities on warm nights. Stop by and witness this amazing sight, and learn more about the bats through interpretive signage.

3 Wortham Foundation Grove



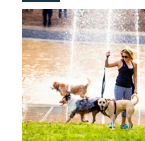
Affectionately known as the “Dandelion,” the Gus S. Wortham Memorial Fountain’s brass starburst of pipes sprays joggers, cyclists, and walkers offering a cool respite from the heat.

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, washing area, and plenty of wide open space.

6 Houston Police Officers’ Memorial



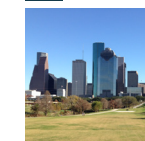
Jesus Bautista Morales, 1991
Created to pay respect to the hundreds of police officers whose lives were lost in the line of duty, this large-scale, pyramid-shaped sculpture symbolizes a royal tomb. The Police Memorial and surrounding grounds, guarded 24 hours a day, are the site of an annual procession 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 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 houses periodic art installations presented by Buffalo Bayou Partnership. **For a tour schedule and tickets, visit buffalobayou.org.**

Artwork

- Tolerance*, Jaime 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 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.

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 include expansive lawns, covered pavilions, and performance stages, while the downtown Sunset Coffee Building includes an indoor venue, terraces, plaza, and a roof deck. **For information visit buffalobayou.org/venue-rentals.**

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; clean up 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.

