



Buffalo Bayou
Partnership



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACKET



Houston's most
important natural
resource: each other.

BUFFALOBAYOU.ORG
[@BUFFALOBAYOU](https://twitter.com/BUFFALOBAYOU)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About BBP and the Volunteer Program	3
Volunteer Opportunities	4
How to Sign Up	5
Policies and Safety Tips	6
Frequently Asked Questions	8
Contact Information	10



LETTER FROM BBP'S VOLUNTEER MANAGER

2026 marks my tenth anniversary at Buffalo Bayou Partnership! I started with Cistern and boat tours and have dedicated the last six years to our volunteer program.

I am exceedingly proud of all the hard work and long-term impact our volunteers make. Over the last six years, we have had about 14,000 volunteers commit more than 40,000 hours to beautifying and maintaining our green spaces. This work could not be done without your help.



The removal of invasive species has allowed beneficial native plants to thrive, providing important habitat and food sources for our vital native insects and wildlife. Our mulching projects have protected Buffalo Bayou's trees and plants from harsh Houston winters and summers, as well as inhibited weeds from taking over. It is amazing to see the difference each of these projects make within just a few months.

I'm also thankful for your donations. Large and medium sized gifts help with major projects we couldn't accomplish otherwise. In-kind and smaller donations make the daily tasks so much easier for our team and volunteers.

BBP's parks and green spaces were built for the benefit of all Houstonians and our many visitors. These areas have received international attention and continue to thrive due to the dedication of volunteers like you.

Thank you for your significant and ongoing support!

Steve Parker, CVA
BBP Volunteer Manager

ABOUT BUFFALO BAYOU PARTNERSHIP

Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) creates and stewards welcoming parks, trails, and unique spaces connecting Houstonians with our city's most significant natural waterway.

The organization focuses on a 10-mile stretch of Buffalo Bayou from Shepherd Drive through downtown and on to the Port of Houston Turning Basin.

ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

BBP's volunteers contribute thousands of hours each year and are essential in keeping the trail and green space network vibrant, clean, and accessible to visitors year-round.

Volunteers assist in a variety of projects based on current needs and priorities of BBP's green space and waterway maintenance programs, including:

- Removing invasive species to protect native plants
- Adding mulch to garden and tree beds to preserve root moisture
- Planting trees, shrubs, and other plantings in gardens, prairies, and groves
- Cleaning trail lights and amenities
- Removing sediment and silt from paths after storms
- Clearing trash and debris from public spaces
- General park maintenance and conservation
- Providing administrative support through office tasks
- Assisting with public program registration and check-in, event setup, and tear-down

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BBP offers a variety of ways in which volunteers can contribute based on the number of participants, types of tasks, and date.

Most volunteer events are scheduled from 8:30–11:30 AM, Wednesday through Friday, with some Saturday morning availability. Projects and tasks are identified the week of the volunteer event and based on current needs.

MONTHLY VOLUNTEER DAYS

Third Saturday of most months | 8:30–11:30 AM

Open to individuals and small groups of up to 5 participants

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday through Friday | 8:30–11:30 AM

Generally groups of 10–25

HOUSEHOLD GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

Wednesday through Friday | 8:30–11:30 AM, as available

Groups of 5–10, or individuals

May be paired with another group

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS AND PROJECTS

School, Scout, or other community service hours (non-court ordered) | Can provide documentation of your service

EVENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Based on program schedule and administrative need

Small groups and individuals

WATERWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Based on staff capacity and availability | Small groups

COURT-ORDERED COMMUNITY SERVICE

Based on staff capacity and availability

Please contact rrobinson@buffalobayou.org for opportunities

HOW TO SIGN UP

All BBP volunteers must create a profile in [GetConnected](#) and complete the required fields. They must also read and sign the volunteer waiver. Those under 18 will be prompted to send a "Minor Waiver" to a consenting adult or parent for approval.

Once the profile is setup and waiver is complete, volunteers may choose from available opportunities or reach out to BBP's team for schedule options.

Volunteer notifications are emailed through GetConnected and we encourage you to stay subscribed for updates on your upcoming shifts.

GETCONNECTED - GETTING STARTED

The screenshot displays the Buffalo Bayou Partnership's GetConnected website. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for 'RETURN TO OUR WEBSITE', 'SIGN UP', 'LOGIN', 'HELP', and 'CALENDAR'. Below this is a hero image of two people walking on a bridge over a river, with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership logo on the left. A central map area features the text 'Get Involved, Make a Difference.' and a 'VOLUNTEER NOW' button. Below the map, an orange banner promotes '2026 Summer Group Events' available for groups of 5 to 50 or more. The page is divided into two main columns. The left column has a dark grey button labeled 'Check Available Dates' with an apple icon. The right column contains a blue box with the heading 'After you complete your Profile, be sure to sign your Volunteer Waiver!' and a paragraph explaining that public opportunities are visible to all, while private ones require an email request to volunteer@buffalobayou.org. At the bottom, there are two sections: 'Recent Programs' and 'Recent Opportunities'. 'Recent Programs' includes icons and links for 'Waterway Maintenance Program', 'BBP Special Events', 'Group Volunteering', 'Flexible', 'Monthly Volunteer Day', and 'Household Groups & Individuals'. 'Recent Opportunities' lists two specific events: 'Household Groups & Individuals (7/29/2026) Group Volunteering' and 'Household Groups & Individuals (7/24/2026) Group Volunteering'.

VOLUNTEER POLICIES

AGE REQUIREMENTS

- Individuals 18+ are welcome to volunteer
- Youth ages 9–17 may volunteer with a chaperone aged 21 or older. One chaperone is required for each 10 youth present.

CLOTHING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Comfortable closed-toed shoes or boots are required.
- Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended.
- All attire should be comfortable, weather-appropriate, and able to get dirty.
- Work gloves are recommended but BBP may have gloves available.
- Additional instructions regarding attire will be provided as needed in advance of the event date.

SUPPLIES

- Volunteers may bring their drinks, snacks, sunscreen, and personal medical items. These are not provided by BBP.
- Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottles, BBP will provide a water cooler for refills.

GROUP REQUIREMENTS

A group leader must be identified for each volunteer group. The group leader is responsible for ensuring all participants follow volunteer policies and instructions provided by BBP's team.

PHOTO AND VIDEO

BBP reserves the right to capture photo and video of volunteers during events to utilize in marketing and public relations materials.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE POLICY

If you have a contagious disease or transmittable medical condition or have not cleared it by the time of your shift, or have had significant recent exposure, for the safety of other volunteers, park guests, and staff, we ask that you reschedule to volunteer another time.

SAFETY TIPS

STAY HYDRATED

Ensure you are hydrated prior to arriving at the volunteer event and take regular hydration breaks during work, every 15–30 minutes on hot days. Water, juices, and beverages with electrolytes are encouraged.

TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS

Weather conditions, types of tasks, and physical ability impact the number of breaks needed for safety. Listen to your body while working and take breaks whenever you need to.

WORK WITH NATURE

Working outdoors in natural areas presents its own set of challenges. Exposure to allergens, irritants, biting insects, and other wildlife is possible, though our team works to minimize it as much as possible.

Wearing proper clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and protective gloves helps mitigate exposure.

SHARE SPACE

The parks and trails where volunteers work remain open to the public. Please keep paths clear and be aware of your surroundings when using tools or equipment, in case visitors are nearby.

STAY ALERT

BBP's team actively monitors weather conditions, including lightning, and will make judgment calls as needed for group safety. Participants are encouraged to monitor themselves and others for signs of dehydration, fatigue, heat stress, or other dangers. Symptoms can include headaches, dizziness, confusion, or nausea.

Should anyone exhibit these symptoms, report it to a BBP team member or your group leader.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING DURING OUR VOLUNTEER SHIFT?

BBP's team determines the project or focus area the week of your volunteer event.

The tasks are based on maintenance priorities at the time, which can change quickly due to weather conditions or regular use and wear of our spaces. Information on your specific activity will be provided a couple of days in advance.

WHAT DOES THE SCHEDULE OF A VOLUNTEER SHIFT LOOK LIKE?

Schedules can vary based on group size and conditions but generally follow this format:

- 8:30 AM: Check-in with BBP's volunteer staff, gather materials, and move to work site
- 9:00 AM: Work at designated location
- 11:15 AM: Gather materials, clean up, and depart

WHERE DO WE MEET / WHERE DO I PARK?

Volunteer locations will be determined the week of the event. BBP's team will provide detailed instructions via email to volunteers, including meeting location, parking options, and project information.

WHAT TOOLS OR EQUIPMENT ARE REQUIRED?

BBP provides all necessary tools and equipment for each volunteer event. Groups are asked to provide an accurate head count a week prior to the event for our team to provide sufficient materials.

DONATIONS

BBP appreciates donations of any amount to support the ongoing maintenance of Buffalo Bayou's parks and trails. Should you or your group be interested in making a tax-deductible contribution, please contact giving@buffalobayou.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THERE A PLACE TO STORE MY BELONGINGS?

BBP does not provide storage space for personal belongings.

Make sure you have a secure space for them prior to working your shift. If you leave belongings in your car, keep them out of sight.

ARE RESTROOMS AVAILABLE?

Since volunteer locations are variable, restrooms may or may not be easily accessible during a shift. We recommend using facilities prior to arrival for your shift.

WHAT SKILLS OR PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS ARE NEEDED TO VOLUNTEER?

BBP's volunteers bring many different abilities and skills. If you or someone in your group has needs or abilities that require accommodation, please inform our team when reserving your volunteer event. Once a project is assigned, individual tasks can be divided up based on the skills and physical capacity of the group members on-site. Breaks are encouraged and tasks can be swapped as needed during a shift to avoid over-working.

CAN I EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS OR FULFILL COURT-ORDERED COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH BBP?

Yes, volunteer hours with BBP can count as community service hours for school, work, or other organizations. Provide your community service form to BBP's team in advance of your event or afterwards.

Court-ordered community service is managed through BBP's waterway maintenance program. Please reach out to Robby Robinson at rrobinson@buffalobayou.org or call 281.914.1088 for available opportunities.

CONTACT

Steve Parker | Volunteer Manager
volunteer@buffalobayou.org

Lola Herndon | Volunteer Coordinator
volunteercoordinator@buffalobayou.org

713.752.0314 EXT. 206

105-B SABINE ST, HOUSTON, TX 77007

Emergency
9-1-1

Houston Helpline
3-1-1

HPD Non-Emergency
713.884.3131

Houston's most
important natural
resource: each other.

[BUFFALOBAYOU.ORG](https://buffalobayou.org)
[@BUFFALOBAYOU](https://twitter.com/BUFFALOBAYOU)

