



PARKS AND RECREATION
From top: The 2-acre Johnny Steele Dog Park; Carruth Bridge, one of Buffalo Bayou Park's four pedestrian bridges.



HOUSTON

GREEN ACRES

A guide to Houston's new and improved Buffalo Bayou Park.

By Becca Hensley

Houston just got greener. After a four-year, \$58 million renovation, Buffalo Bayou Park will be completed this fall. Dotted with public art, bike paths, pedestrian bridges, concert venues, picnic spots and perennial gardens, this waterway turned green space undulates for 160 nature-happy acres, creating an urban oasis just a 30-minute biking distance from 500,000 Houston residents. Herewith, a few new highlights from the amenity-packed park.

BACK TO NATURE The Buffalo Bayou Partnership and the Harris County Flood Control District planted more than 14,000 trees throughout the park to reintroduce native landscapes to the park's riparian edge, wetlands and woodlands. Beneath their shade, find gardens at Wortham Fountain, Lost Lake, Eleanor Tinsley Park and Jane Gregory Garden.

ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS At Crosby Outfall, a major entry, John Runnels' 20-foot, stainless steel canoe sculpture, "It Wasn't a Dream, It Was a Flood," is a nod to the waterway's maritime history. Don't miss Anthony Thompson Shumate's six-piece *Monumental Moments*, a series of 4-foot-tall word sculptures in unexpected spots along the bayou paths.

ALL IN FUN The Water Works at Sabine Street reclaims a 4-acre abandoned City of Houston water site. Opening this summer, the site includes an elevated grassy expanse called The Brown Foundation Lawn. With the Hobby Family Pavilion (part of Eleanor Tinsley Park), this area serves as an ideal venue for concerts and events. Nearby, Fish Family Play Area and Picnic Pavilion draws children with its rolling lawn, irresistible waterfall, climbing logs and 33-foot slide. A three-level tree house and boat deck, complete with climbing net, hovers above. Another newly added bonus: the 2-acre Johnny Steele Dog Park, one of the largest dog parks in the city. buffalobayou.org

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