

Welcome to

Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail



Buffalo Bayou

Paddling Trail Length: The 26-mile paddling trail begins at Hwy 6 and follows Buffalo Bayou downstream to the takeout at Allen's Landing in downtown Houston.

Float Times: See map below

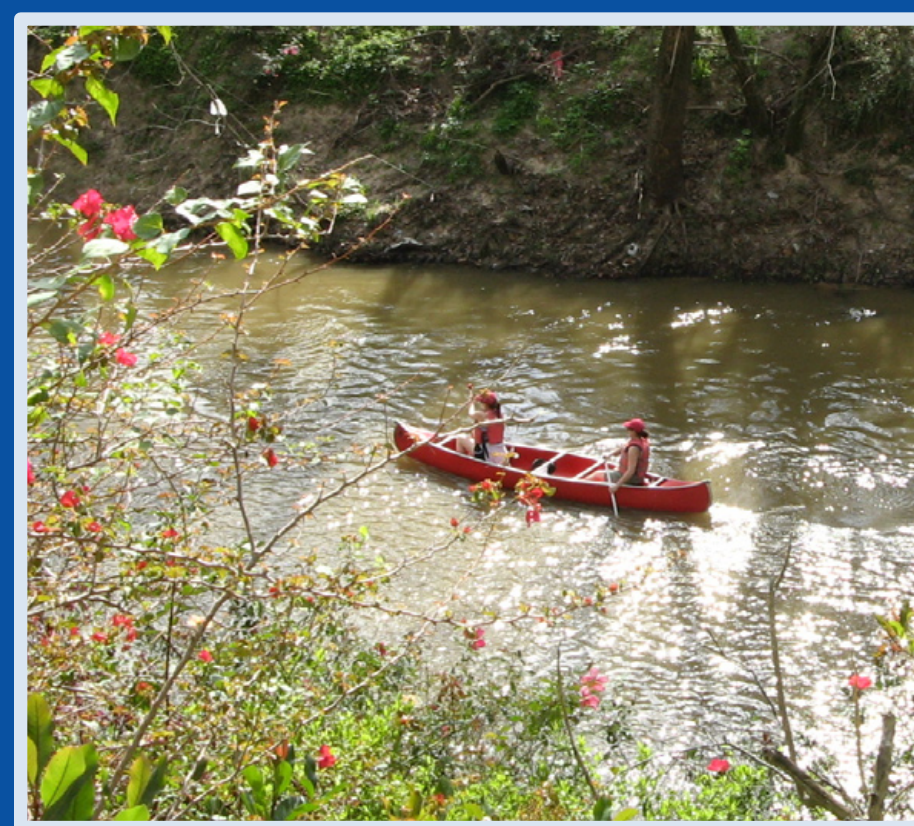


Photo courtesy Marina Rossow, Bayou Preservation Association.

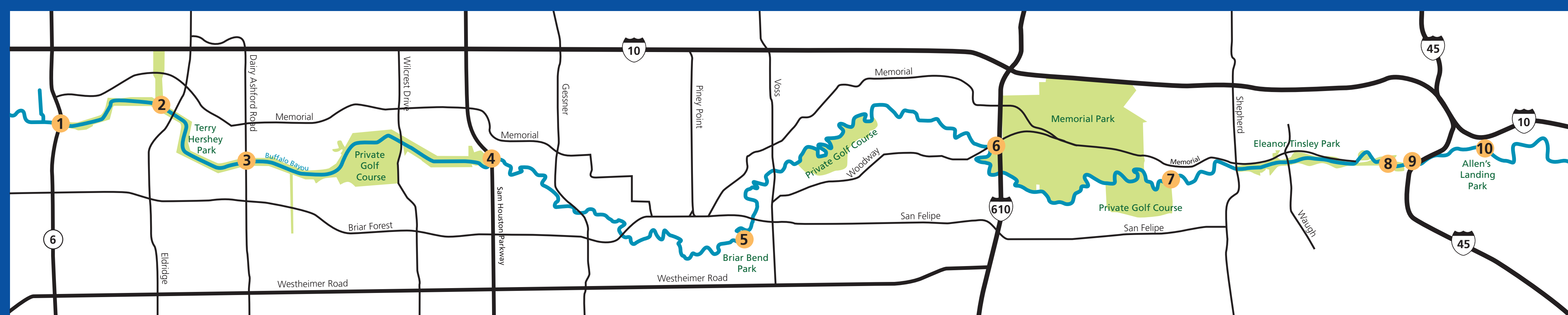


Photo courtesy Harris County Flood Control District.

Water Access Locations; GPS Coordinates

1. Hwy 6	95° 38' 36.106" W	29° 46' 9.750" N
2. Terry Hershey Park (Memorial Mews)	95° 37' 24.00" W	29° 46' 24.00" N
3. Dairy Ashford Road	95° 36' 23.00" W	29° 45' 42.00" N
4. West Sam Houston Parkway	95° 33' 30.00" W	29° 45' 44.00" N
5. Briar Bend Park	95° 30' 25.76" W	29° 44' 45.76" N
6. Woodway Memorial Park	95° 27' 25.00" W	29° 45' 53.00" N
7. Hogg Bird Sanctuary	95° 25' 18.00" W	29° 45' 30.00" N
8. Eleanor Tinsley Park (Buffalo Bayou Park)	95° 22' 42.00" W	29° 45' 42.00" N
9. Sabine Promenade (Buffalo Bayou Park)	95° 22' 25.00" W	29° 45' 44.00" N
10. Allen's Landing Park	95° 21' 33.00" W	29° 45' 53.00" N

Float Times

Depending upon water levels and flow rates the paddling time can vary. Due to the length of the trail, it is too long to paddle in one day. Estimated float times for each trail segments are:

- Hwy 6 to Terry Hershey Park ~1 hour
- Terry Hershey Park to Dairy Ashford ~1 hour
- Dairy Ashford Road to West Sam Houston Parkway ~2 to 3 hours
- West Sam Houston Parkway to Briar Bend Park ~3 to 4 hours
- Briar Bend Park to Woodway Memorial Park ~3.5 to 4.5 hours
- Woodway Memorial Park to Hogg Bird Sanctuary ~2.5 to 3.5 hours
- Hogg Bird Sanctuary to Eleanor Tinsley Park ~2 hours to 3 hours
- Eleanor Tinsley Park to Sabine Street ~15 minutes
- Sabine Promenade to Allen's Landing Park ~1 hour

Trail Description

The banks of Buffalo Bayou expose a beautiful geology of sand, sandstone and red Beaumont clay. Because the bayou offers little elevation change there are few riffles along the trail.

Wildlife and Ecology

Egrets, herons, hawks and other birdlife are commonly seen. Rabbits, turtles, fishes, snakes and even an occasional alligator might also be found along the bayou and the tributaries. The bayou has huge numbers of trees such as black willow, box elder, cottonwood, loblolly pine, sycamore, oaks, hickories and a surprising amount of understory. Like most urban streams, Buffalo Bayou has problems with invasive exotic plants and animals.

Fishing

The bayou supports numerous sunfish, bass and catfish. Small lures such as jigs, plastic worms, spinner baits and lite-line are recommended. A fish consumption advisory was established for Buffalo Bayou. To determine the most current status, contact the Department of State Health Services at (512) 834-6757 or www.dshs.state.tx.us/seafood/ before eating fish caught on the bayou.

Water Conditions

Buffalo Bayou is a semi-natural stream with flow and water quality conditions that are influenced by water releases from Addicks and Barker Reservoirs, storm water runoff, sewage treatment plants, and natural springs. Trips should not be attempted in high or turbulent water conditions. Log

jams can be very hazardous and should be avoided; portage around them. The water quality of the bayou is variable, but is unsuitable for swimming due to bacteria levels. Precautions such as washing hands and using hand sanitizer are recommended.

Partnership

This trail has been made possible through a partnership between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Bayou Preservation Association, Harris County Precinct 3, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County Flood Control District, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston Canoe Club.

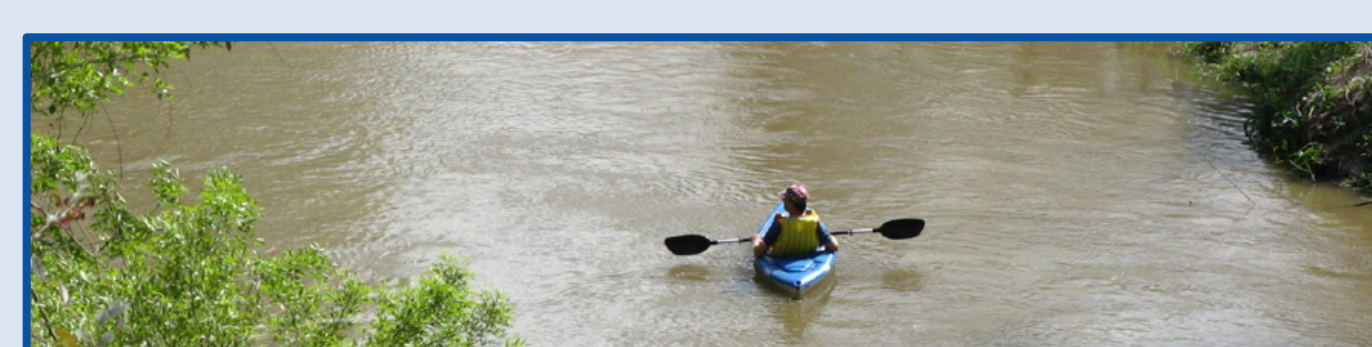


Photo courtesy Marina Rossow, Bayou Preservation Association.

Always remember...

Be Safe

Coastal waters are ever-changing dynamic systems with inherent dangers. Follow basic safety rules:

- Never paddle alone.
- Always file a "float plan" - tell someone where you are going and when you are expected to return.
- Check weather forecasts.
- Carry a map of the area so you can find your location at any time.
- Wear a Coast Guard approved Type I, II or III lifejacket and protective footwear.
- Carry drinking water, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Plan your trip so that your paddling skills are equal to the water conditions.

Conserve

Buffalo Bayou and other coastal waters are mixing zones for fresh and saltwater. These areas not only enhance water quality by assimilating domestic waste and controlling erosion but they also provide invaluable habitat for juvenile shell and game fish (or finfish) during their early life stages. These areas also support various municipal and industrial facilities and support diverse fish and wildlife, fishing, hunting, and other recreational activities which positively affect Texas' economy. Freshwater inflows must be maintained to produce balanced salinity levels. Conservation of our bays and estuaries can be furthered through efforts to preserve and restore wetlands and seagrasses to reduce erosion, filter pollutants and improve water quality. Conservation of these areas ensures that the natural heritage of Texas is protected for future generations.

Respect Private Property

While many coastal trails are adjacent to public lands, some are adjacent to private property. Respect private property by not trespassing or littering and keeping noise levels down. Use of land adjacent to the water without permission of the landowner can be considered trespassing. Under Texas Penal Code (§30.05), criminal trespass occurs when one enters property after receiving notice not to enter. Notice includes verbal notice, a fence, sign(s), purple paint on posts or trees, or the visible presence of crops grown for human consumption.

To look for other day trips on the water

For information on inland and coastal Texas Paddling Trails, please visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails.

Emergency Numbers

Harris County EMS	911
Harris County Sheriff	(713) 221-6000
Sign Maintenance	(713) 529-6443
Report fish kills to TPWD	(281) 842-8100

...have fun!

