



Guide to The Texas Outdoors - Paddling

University of Houston - Outdoor Adventure

Welcome

Welcome to University of Houston Outdoor Adventure's Paddling guide on where to explore the outdoors in Texas!

Leave No Trace (LNT)

UH Outdoor Adventure actively practices Leave No Trace. Leave No Trace is a set of outdoor ethics that consists of seven principles. The seven principles are:

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Respect Wildlife
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Leave What You Find
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

We kindly ask that you learn about and then follow these simple principles while enjoying the outdoors.

Visit the [Leave No Trace website](#) for more information.

Questions? Call us at 713.743.9512 or email us at outdoors@uh.edu

Outdoor Adventure Trips

Don't feel comfortable exploring the outdoors by yourself? No worries! UH Outdoor Adventure offers various trips around the Greater Houston area and around Texas each semester for enrolled students, members and sponsored! We aim to teach you all that is needed to comfortably and safely explore the outdoors. Visit our [website](#) for the most up to date information on our trips.

What to Bring

In the outdoor industry there are ten items that are deemed to be “essential” to any outdoor outing. You may or may not use them, however, it is considered best practice to bring these items along on your adventures. Overall, use your best judgement to decide what is needed for your adventure.

The Ten Essentials

- Navigation
- Headlamp/light source
- Sun Protection
- First Aid
- Knife
- Fire
- Shelter
- Extra Food
- Extra Water
- Extra Clothes

For more information about the ten essentials, please visit [REI's website](#).

Outdoor Adventure recommends bringing the following items on adventures:

- Close-toed Shoes
- Food/water
- Bugspray
- Reservation Information
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Extra clothes
- Equipment

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Paddling

Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail

Location: Buffalo Bayou Kayak Launch at Memorial Park
Distance from University of Houston campus: 8 miles

Overview

The Buffalo Bayou paddling trail is the first trail of its kind in Houston. It runs through downtown Houston. The trail spans for 26 miles and is a great opportunity to enjoy the wildlife that inhabits this waterway. We recommend starting your paddle at the Memorial Park kayak launch and paddling along the shoreline of the park. Explore the bayou at your own pace and return to the parking area whenever you're ready. We do not recommend swimming in the bayou.

Facilities: Kayak/Canoe/ Standup Paddle Board Ramp and Restrooms (will have to go into the main park for these)

Price

- Entrance Fee - Free
- Parking - Free
- UH Outdoor Adventure rental options

Item	Daily	Weekend (Fri-Mon)
Canoe Package	\$20	\$40
Kayak Package	\$18	\$36
Stand-up Paddle Board Package	\$15	\$30

For more information about the Buffalo Bayou paddling trail click [HERE](#)

For a map of the Buffalo Bayou paddling trail click [HERE](#)

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Clear Creek Paddling Trail

Location: Lynn Gripon Park at Countryside - League City, TX
Distance from University of Houston campus: 22.9 miles

Overview

Clear Creek has been deemed by some as the crowning jewel of League City. The trail starts at Lynn Gripon Park at Countryside and ends at Heritage Park. The paddling trail is 6.5 miles of paddling and 12 miles round-trip. However, there are no rules about where one should start or end. Know where you are going beforehand, and you're bound to have a great time. Expect to see Great blue herons, snowy egrets, and moss-covered trees throughout your entire paddle.

Facilities: Kayak/Canoe/ Standup Paddleboard (SUP) Ramp and Restrooms (will have to go into the main park for these)

Price

- Entrance Fee - Free
- Parking - Free
- UH Outdoor Adventure rental options

Item	Daily	Weekend (Fri-Mon)
Canoe Package	\$20	\$40
Kayak Package	\$18	\$36
Standup Paddleboard (SUP) Package	\$15	\$30

For more information about the Clear Creek paddling trail click [HERE](#)

For a map of the Clear Creek paddling trail click [HERE](#)

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Armand Bayou - Bay Area Park

Location: 7500 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058
Distance from University of Houston campus: 28.5 miles

Overview

The Armand Bayou paddling trail follows Armand Bayou upstream to Horsepen Bayou. Armand Bayou is one out of four coastal preserves found along the Texas coast. If you choose to paddle at Armand Bayou you will get to experience two rare ecosystems! You will paddle through a riparian coastal flatwoods forest and a coastal tall grass prairie. The area is home to over 220 species of birds such as Osprey, spoonbills, egrets, herons, and pelicans.

Facilities: Kayak/Canoe Ramp and Restrooms

Price

- Entrance Fee - Free
- Parking - Free
- UH Outdoor Adventure rental options

Item	Daily	Weekend (Fri-Mon)
Canoe Package	\$20	\$40
Kayak Package	\$18	\$36

For more information about the Armand Bayou Paddling Trail click [HERE](#)

For a map of Bay Area Park click [HERE](#)

For a map of Armand Bayou Paddling Trail click [HERE](#)

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Village Creek Paddling Trail

Location: Baby Galvez Rd. Silsbee, TX 77656
Distance from University of Houston campus: 99 miles

Overview

About a hundred miles East by Northeast of Houston is the Village Creek Water Trail. This heavily forested paddling trail has numerous access points to accommodate a quick and easy paddle, a day-long adventure or an overnight trip. Throughout the trail, you'll find sandy beaches that make for a great spot to pull off to take a break and enjoy a snack. Village creek is also a great location for fishing with numerous species such as bass, sunfish, catfish and more!

If you are looking for a backcountry, overnight trip location, Village Creek is the perfect venue, camping permits can be obtained at Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center for free within 7 days of the start of the trip. Whether you're new to paddling or an old hat in the ring, you'll certainly enjoy this trail.

Facilities: Kayak/Canoe Ramp

Price

- Entrance Fee - Free
- Parking - Free
- UH Outdoor Adventure rental options

Item	Daily	Weekend (Fri-Mon)
Canoe Package	\$20	\$40
Kayak Package	\$18	\$36
Tent 3 person	\$5	\$10
Tent 4 person	\$8	\$16
Tent 5 person	\$10	\$20
Sleeping Bag 20	\$6	\$10
Sleeping Bag 45	\$4	\$8
Sleeping Pad	\$2	\$3
Stove	\$5	\$10
Pot Set	\$2	\$4

For more information about the Village Creek paddling trail click [HERE](#)

For information on Village Creek water levels, click [HERE](#)

For a more information on backcountry camping through Big Thicket National Preserve, click [HERE](#)

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Flora

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Flora

Poison Ivy



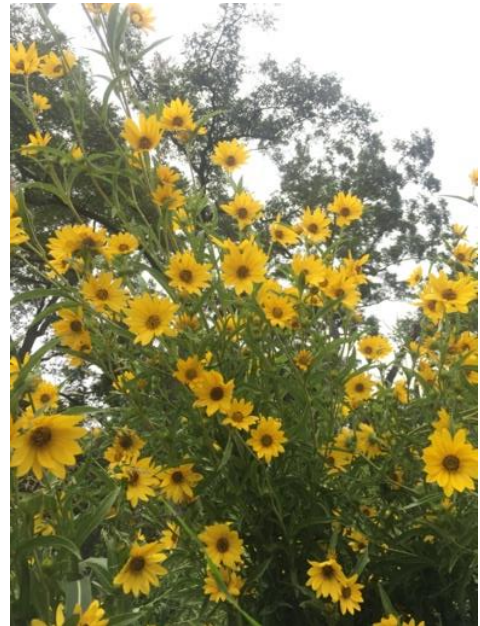
American Beauty Berry



Texas Bluebonnet



Cheerful Sunflower



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Texas Mountain Laurel



Apache Plumes



Purple Passionflower



Pitcher Plant (Carnivorous)



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