

Guide to The Texas Outdoors – Local Parks

University of Houston - Outdoor Adventure

Welcome

Welcome to University of Houston Outdoor Adventure's Local Parks guide on where to explore the outdoors in near Houston

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

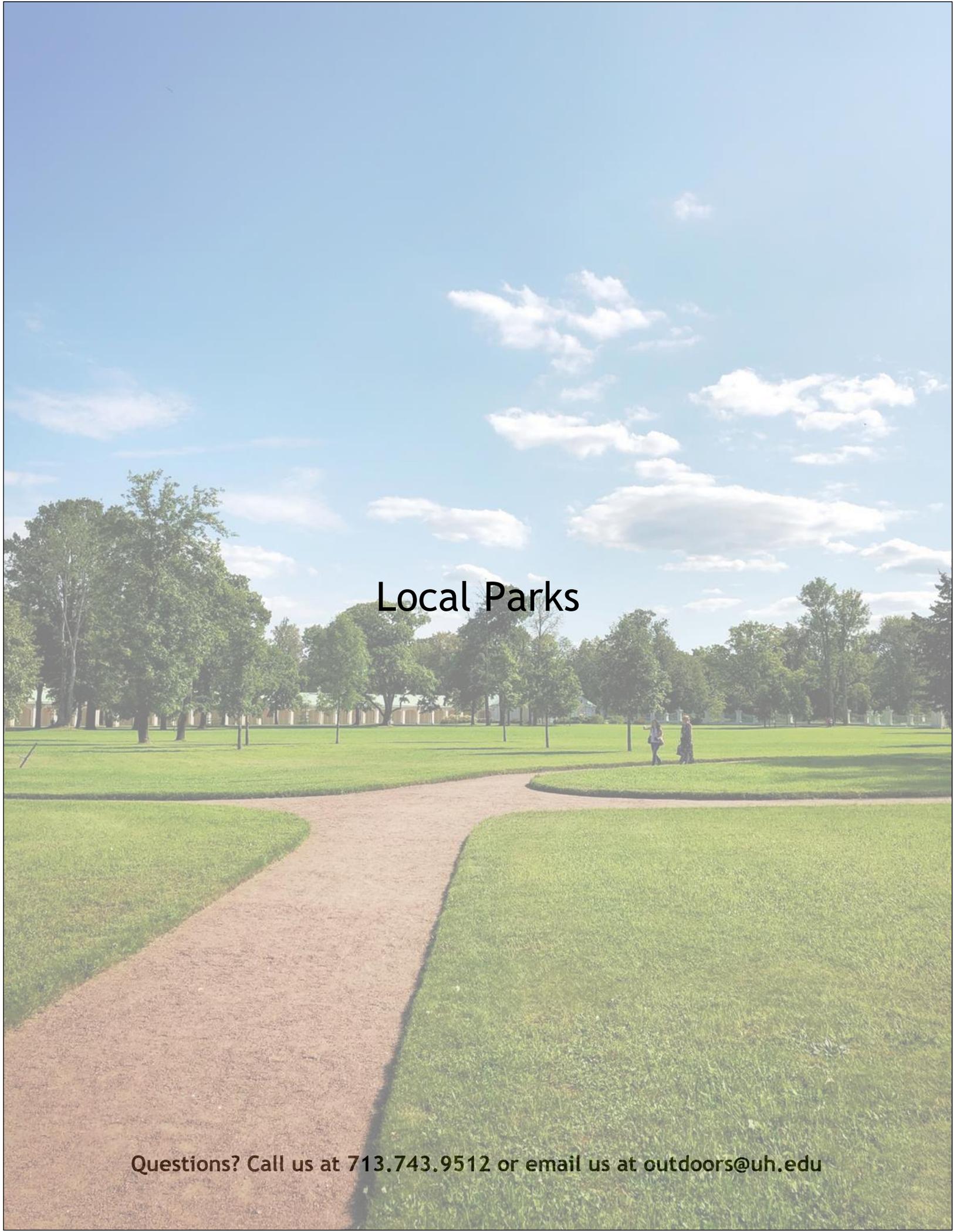
- Navigation
- Headlamp/light source
- Sun Protection
- First Aid
- Knife
- Fire
- Shelter
- Extra Food
- Extra Water
- Extra Clothes

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

Outdoor Adventure recommends bringing the following items on local adventures:

- Close-toed Shoes
- Food
- Water/ reusable bottles
- Whistle
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Extra clothes
- Bug spray

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A wide, green lawn with a dirt path leading towards a line of trees under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The path is in the foreground, curving to the right. In the middle ground, two people are walking on the path. The background is a dense line of green trees.

Local Parks

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Memorial Park

Location: 6501 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77007

Distance from Houston: 0 miles

Overview

Memorial Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. The park covers around 1,500 acres which is nearly twice the size of Central Park in New York and settled right along the Buffalo Bayou. The park has something for everyone. The park contains: fields for open recreation, a playground, golf course, fitness center, tennis center, canoe launch, running trails, and biking trails. Our favorite spot in Memorial Park is the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. Visit the Arboretum on a Thursday to avoid paying for parking!

Price

- Parking - Free - \$5 (free on Thursdays and some scattered parking lots)
- Entrance - Free
- Outdoor Adventure rental options

Item	Daily	Weekend (Fri-Mon)
Bicycle & Helmet	\$8	\$16
Canoe Package	\$20	\$40
Kayak Package	\$18	\$36

For more information about Memorial Park click [HERE](#)

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

For a map of the Arboretum & Nature Center Trails click [HERE](#)

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Keith-Weiss Park

Location: 12300 Aldine-Westfield Rd. Houston, TX 770093

Distance from Houston: 12 miles

Overview

Keith- Weiss Park is located in north Houston that offers nearly 500-acres located within beautiful pine forests. This park is the perfect location for a quick hike on the Keith Weiss Park Loop, a popular 2.2 mile paved trail for all skill levels. This trail meanders through the forest and wraps around the central pond providing a great place to spot some wildlife such as the Great Blue Heron and Egrets.

Facilities: Picnic areas, BBQ pits, sport fields, playground

Price

- Entrance Fee - Free
- Parking - Free

For more information about Keith-Weiss Park click [HERE](#)

For a trail map of Keith-Weiss Park Loop click [HERE](#)

Terry Hershey Park

Location: 15200 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77079

Distance from Houston: 15 miles

Overview

Terry Hershey Park is named after Terry Hershey who helped saved the banks of the Buffalo Bayou from being paved over. The park provides more than 10 miles of trails that run along Buffalo Bayou. The park has restrooms, exercise stations, a playground, and plenty of green space to have a picnic.

For more information about Terry Hershey Park click [HERE](#)

For a map of Terry Hershey Park click [HERE](#)

Bears Creek Pioneers Park

Location: 16756 Westheimer Pkwy, Houston, TX 77082

Distance from Houston: 21 miles

Overview

Bears Creek Pioneers Park was created in the 1940's in an effort to prevent flooding in Houston. The land was once occupied by what was believed to be German immigrant farmers. The park now consists of 2,154 acres. The park has a mini zoo, hiking trails, equestrian trails, playgrounds, soccer fields, and horseshoe courts. The park has restrooms all over as well.

For more information about Bears Creek Pioneers Park click [HERE](#)

For a map of Bears Creek Pioneers Park click [HERE](#)

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Alexander Deussen Park

Location: 12303 Sonnier Street Houston, TX 77044

Distance from Houston: 24 miles

Overview

Have you ever wanted to see a buffalo in its natural setting? Alexander Deussen Park can offer just that. Located in northeast Houston, this parks gives its visitors the opportunity to see a herd of buffalo living on the beautiful 309-acre park. Alexander Deussen Park is a great place for a short hike on its 2.5 mile asphalt trail, biking, canoeing, kayaking and stand up paddling, jogging and fishing from the piers. Enjoy this amazing park for free as there are no entrance or parking fees.

Facilities: Picnic areas, Boat/Canoe launch, duck pond, jogging trails, multipurpose fields,

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

For more information about Alexander Deussen Park click [HERE](#)

Cypress Creek Trail

Location: 14234 W. Cypress Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77070

Distance from Houston: 24 miles

Overview

Cypress Creek Trail is a popular mountain biking trail in north Houston. This trail offers a fun 9.4-mile single-track trail for technical riding with fast and flowy tracks. Whether you are a casual cyclist or experienced mountain biker, this trail is a fun one! Enjoy free parking and no entrance fees!

Item	Daily	Weekend (Fri-Mon)
Bicycle & Helmet	\$8	\$16

For more information about Cypress Creek Trail click [HERE](#)

You can also join the Facebook group, click [HERE](#) for more information

George Bush Park

Location: 16756 Westheimer Pkwy, Houston, TX 77082

Distance from Houston: 24.5 miles

Overview

George Bush Park is named after George H.W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States. It is conveniently located on Westheimer Blvd and is easily accessible to residents that live on the far west of Houston. The park has over 7,000 acres which is more than enough to keep you busy for a busy for a day. The park has playgrounds, a large soccer field, jogging trails, ponds, etc. The jogging fields are primarily surrounded by swamps, creeks, forests, and the bayou. Biking is very popular on these trails as well.

For more information about George Bush Park click [HERE](#)

For a map of George Bush Park click [HERE](#)

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

A photograph of a field of yellow flowers, likely Black-eyed Susans, with green foliage and trees in the background. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text.

Flora

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

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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