

Buffalo Bayou Park an 'ambitious public space' for 2015

By Fauzeya Rahman | January 6, 2016 | Updated: January 6, 2016 4:34pm

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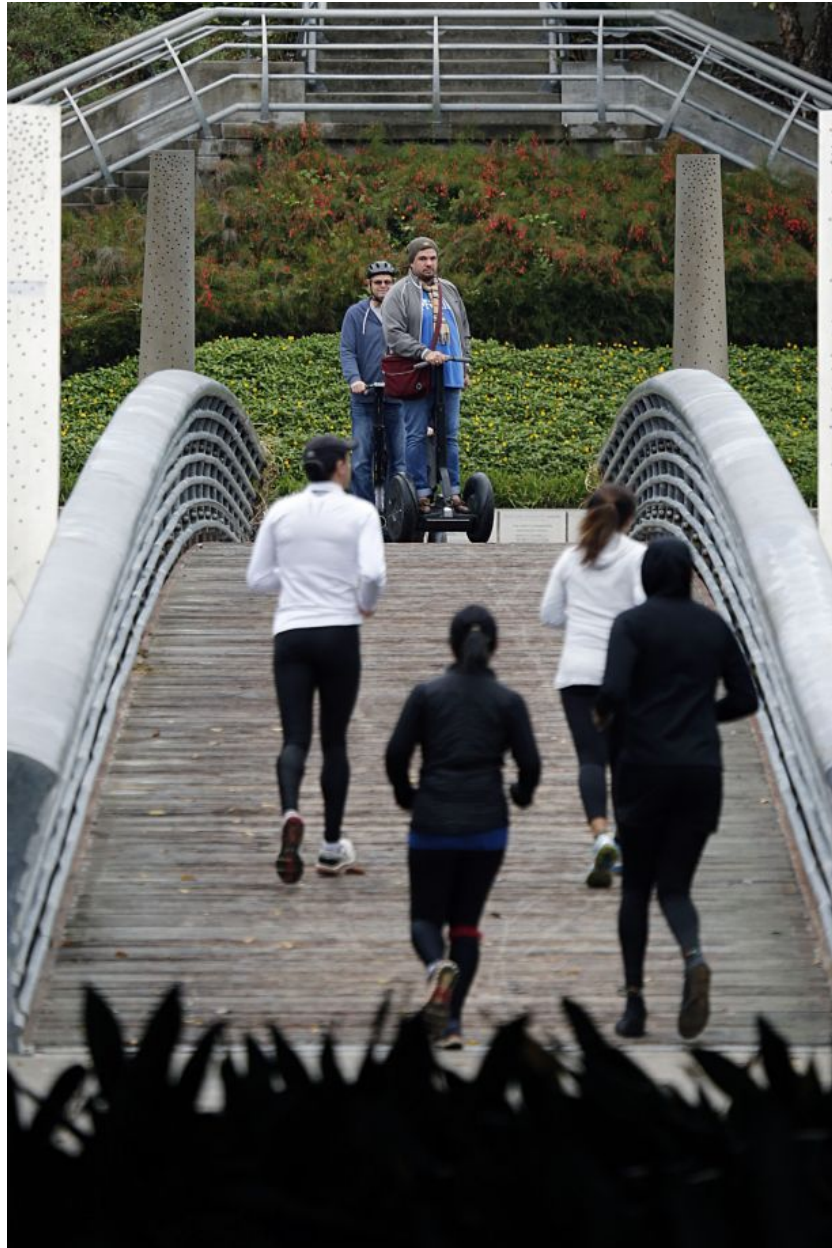


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A Segway tour group and joggers cross the Hobby Center Pedestrian Bridge at Buffalo Bayou Park Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015, in Houston.

Houston's [Buffalo Bayou Park](#), the 160-acre stretch between Sabine and Shepherd Drive of green space, trails, art installations and a dog park, was listed as one of the most ambitious public spaces of 2015, according to the [nonprofit organization Next City](#).

[Buffalo Bayou](#), and the larger Bayou Greenways initiative, were among seven international spots Next City commended for thinking big. These parks got recognition for "marking a political step forward in Beirut, bringing some much-needed play space to underserved Los Angeles neighborhoods, and signaling a shift toward walkability in two car-centric Texas cities."

The other Texas locale, Yanaguana Park in San Antonio, is housed within [Hemisfair Park](#), home of the 1968 World's Fair. The larger park renovation should create a walkable urban space within downtown San Antonio.



Charlotte swapped parking lots for parks with several walking paths, event lawns and a fountain, a little something for everyone. A 75-acre park in Beirut that's been closed to the public since Lebanon's civil war in the 1980s damaged a historic pine forest recently reopened in September of 2015. The park, which is three-fourths of the city's green space, will be open Saturdays.

Other park ideas include an inclusive playground in Silicon Valley, designed for children with autism, those that are vision- and hearing-impaired, as well as adults and people in wheelchairs.

As for Houston, Buffalo Bayou Park's 160 acres are open for business. When the Bayou Greenways project completes in 2020, the city's massive sprawl will feel more interconnected, with more than 300 miles of hike and bike paths.



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