BUFFALO BAYOU REBORN

By Molly Glentzer

Buffalo Bayou has been abused almost from the moment the Alamo brothers came ashes in 1836. Cypherists that helped secure the tracks were legalized early on, and for most of the 20th century, the poll-laden waterway raveled. That has changed rather dramatically, especially at Buffalo Bayou Park, where architects, landscapers, construction crews and donors have completed a $10 million metamorphosis of great ambition: giving Houston a signature, verdant downtown greenspace. Bikers, runners, lovers, dog walkers and young families with strollers have all taken note, filling its newly paved sidewalks and running trails in ever-increasing numbers.

Texas Monthly has already prowess Houston "Theastally given." When Buffalo Bayou Park, officially opens Saturday, its six acres of green space will appeal to almost everyone, with two newDallas visitors' centers, a new nature play area with rock climbing, plus roll- ing lawns and manicured gardens that merge into restored woodlands and meadows.

"New York has Central Park and the High Line. Other big cities have their parks, and I feel like this is really for Houston," said Khoa Tran one recent afternoon.

He had just finished running up and down an embankment near Sabine Street with his friends Ben Cockrill and Quoc Tran after their workout at a nearby gym. Kay Dugger and Arther Martinez picnicked on a promontory near the Houston Police Officers' Memorial, for the moment.

$10M for seat belts on school buses gone

Without funding, safety measure is pushed aside

By Ericka Mellon

Parents and others fighting to protect children on school buses celebrate in 2015, when Texas lawmakers earmarked into million to equip the vehicles with seat belts.

Yet six years later, the money is gone — with less than half a million dollars ever awarded to school districts for the device.

With no state funding designated for seat belts, districts were no longer required to install them, thanks to a loophole in the law. While there’s no official tally, most standard-size school buses in Texas lack seat belts. Roughly 45,000 school buses trans- port some 7 million Texas schoolchildren daily.

Brad Brown and Steve Forman want people to remember the lost opportunity, especially after the Safety continues on A12

Arthur Dusky paints the city skylilne from Eleanor Tinsley Park in the renewed Buffalo Bayou area.

The deaths of two Beaumont students in a boat crash led to a state law mandating seat belts on buses, but a funding loophole no longer requires they be installed.

Panel: DuPont knew of danger

Safety board cites threat to community

By Mark Collette and Lauren Caruba

DuPont knew for years that hazards at its pol- tide plant in La Porte were capable of killing not only workers, but people in the surround- ing community, and yet the problems went unc- onfirmed by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

The CBS’s preliminary report released the revelation of toxic gas last Novem- ber, which proved fatal to four employees, was released last November. The report contains new details about safety practices and faulty equipment at the site.

Just one of the plant’s many chemical storage tanks could have re- leased the gas, but DuPont neighbors remained a protective insulator.

Gas alarms in the four-story building that housed the particle manufact- uring equipment were found to be unreliable as high that workers could be in- formed before they entered, and while breathing the gas, the DuPont continues on A12

Hospital misused Ike funds, audit says

By Cindy George

Riverside General Hospital mismanaged $5 million, sending it through a $52 million Houston Hurricane Ike grant by using taxpayer money for payroll hikes, general operations and other expenses not asso- ciated with storm repairs, a federal audit has determined.

The 27-page report re- leased Wednesday by the Department of Hu- man Security’s Office of the Inspector General is the latest finding of fed- eral and state agencies that the Houston health care institution and others involved in the Ike funds were convicted in late March of a $1.4 million Medicare billing scheme.

The audit revealed that the mismanaged moneys continued after the July Ike restrictions, which delays and removes of longtime Hospital continues on A8

Houston Chronicle
Park provides a new perspective on the bayou

Park from page A

meridian, sharing a blanket with Dunlop’s dog, Indy. They came to the park for a canal day on a slab of ice.

Duque likes the prom-

But he says the two- acre cis-

trement that will eventually be built will coincide with a piece of land because some future administration says, “We’ve got other things to think about money.”

Kinder said. No matter how much money the city throws at it, “The last thing we wanted was for this to turn out the way it is right now.

Grand opening

Park at a glance

160

14,000

50%

53

60,000

3

3,000

Buffalo Bayou Park

20% OFF All Bath Remodeling

PLUS, payments as low as $125/ mo.

Call for A FREE ESTIMATE

713-454-7498

Is your bathroom a before or after?

If your bathroom is an after, you probably had some pretty good reasons for renovating. Maybe you wanted to make it safer and more efficient. Maybe you wanted to add value to your home. Whatever the reason, you’ve probably made a significant investment in your new space. And you should feel good about it.

If your bathroom is a before, there are some things you should consider before making any changes. First, think about what you want to achieve with your renovation. Are you looking to increase the value of your home? Or are you just looking to make it more functional? Knowing your goals will help you determine the best course of action.

Another thing to consider is your budget. Are you willing to spend a lot of money on your renovation, or are you trying to keep costs low? This will affect the types of materials and fixtures you can use, as well as the overall scope of the project.

Finally, think about the return on investment. Will your renovation add value to your home? Or will it just be a cost that you’ll have to pay every time you sell the property? This is an important factor to consider when deciding whether or not to renovate.

Ultimately, the most important thing is to make sure that you’re happy with the final result. If you’re not satisfied, then the renovation wasn’t a success. So take your time, do your research, and make sure you’re making the right decisions for you and your home.

Carter Lavalle and Danielle Zigon watch the sunset in the Jane Gregory Garden in Buffalo Bayou Park.

Transformations of the park were set in motion by a $30 million gift from the Kinder Foundation.

The Kinder Foundation has been a major supporter of the park, and its gifts have helped to transform the bayou from a neglected urban stream into a vibrant urban oasis.

The park now has four pedestrian bridges that divide the park into quadrants.

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