

Parks and Play Spaces

Houston offers a wide variety of recreation and exercise options.

HOUSTON AREA RECREATION AND FITNESS FACILITIES	
Facilities	Number
City of Houston Parks	550+
Other Municipalities' Parks	126+
Harris County Parks	181
City of Houston Dog Parks	6
Harris County Dog Parks	4
Other Municipalities Dog Parks	12+
Houston Area State Parks	5
Total Parks	872+
City of Houston Hike and Bike Trails (in park)	95
City of Houston Hike and Bike Trails (linear trail)	26
Total Hike & Bike Trails	121 (miles)
Total Golf Courses	174
City of Houston Public Tennis Courts	205
City of Houston Public Basketball Courts	142
City of Houston Public Playgrounds	243
City of Houston Community Centers	57
Source: <i>Houston Facts 2012, Golf.com, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department</i>	

- The Houston MSA contains two of the ten largest urban public parks in the U.S. — Cullen Park (6th) and George Bush Park (9th).
- Discovery Green, a WiFi-connected, LEED Gold certified, 12-acre park adjoining the George R. Brown Convention Center, opened in 2008 providing a downtown oasis of green space.
- The largest state park in the Houston area, Brazos Bend, is located 28 miles southwest of Houston and is made up of nearly 5,000 acres of lakes, prairies and bottomland hardwood forests. The park features miles of multiple-use and equestrian trails as well as a wide variety of wildlife, including white deer, alligators and more than 290 bird species.