

Track Guide

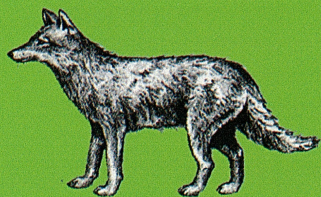
Here is a sample field guide that can be used to identify animal tracks.



Raccoon



Great Blue Heron



Coyote



Beaver



White Egret



Turtle



Nutria



SaveBuffaloBayou.org

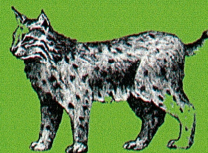
Save Buffalo Bayou is a non-profit organization that was founded upon the principle of conserving this natural sanctuary in the middle of Houston, Texas.



Squirrel



Wild Boar



Bobcat



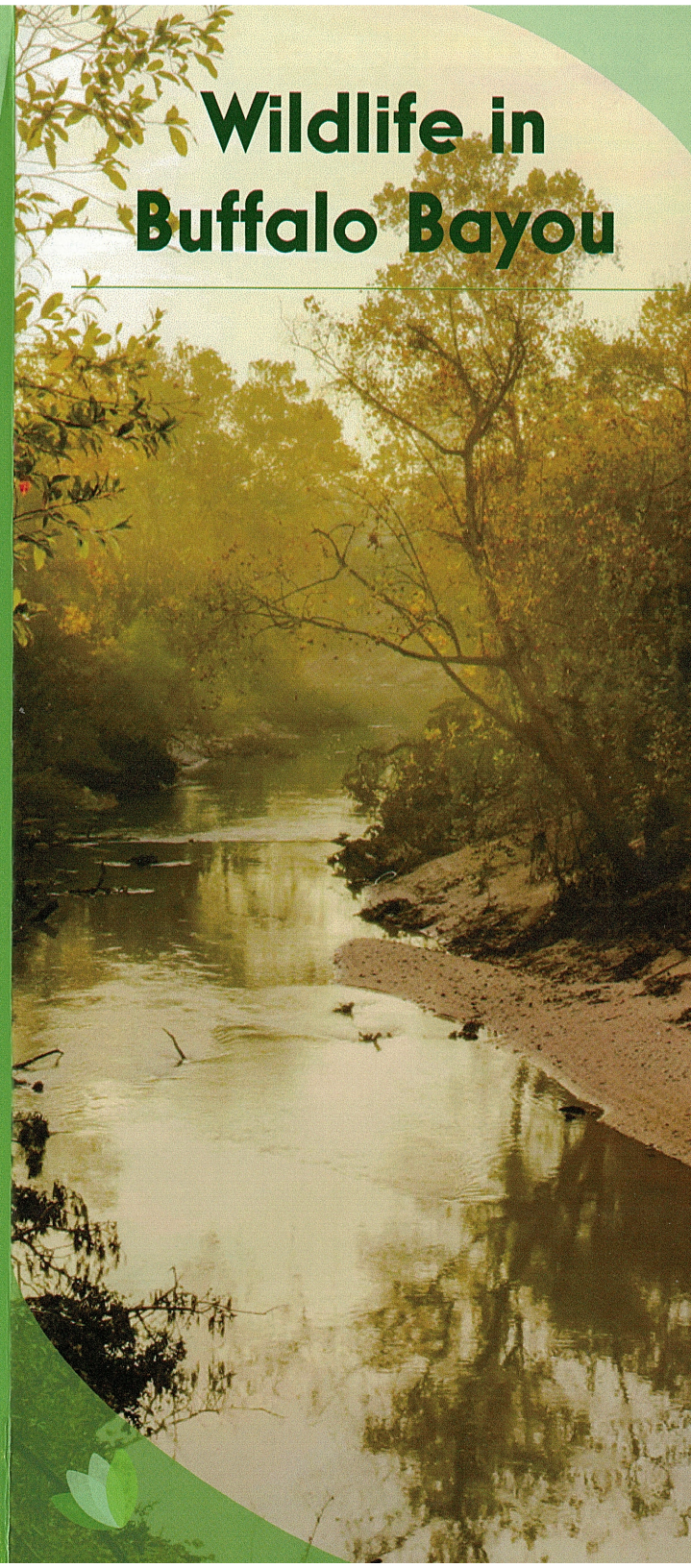
Paul W. Hung

Paul completed this Eagle Scout Project with Troop 55 in 2017.



Title photo by Jim Olive. Animal sketches from Scats and Tracks of North America by James C. Halfpenny, Ph.D.

Wildlife in Buffalo Bayou





History of Buffalo Bayou

The historic Buffalo Bayou is the last natural waterway that passes through the metropolitan City of Houston. For 18,000 years, the bayou has been home to a riparian forest teeming with wildlife. The wildlife on the Bayou continues to thrive over the years after many natural disasters, like the 2015 Memorial Day flood, Hurricane Ike, etc. This is proof of the strong ecosystem along Buffalo Bayou. The abundance of wildlife on the bayou has not been recorded previously. My project was to document the variety of animals living along the Bayou by studying the tracks they leave in the sand.

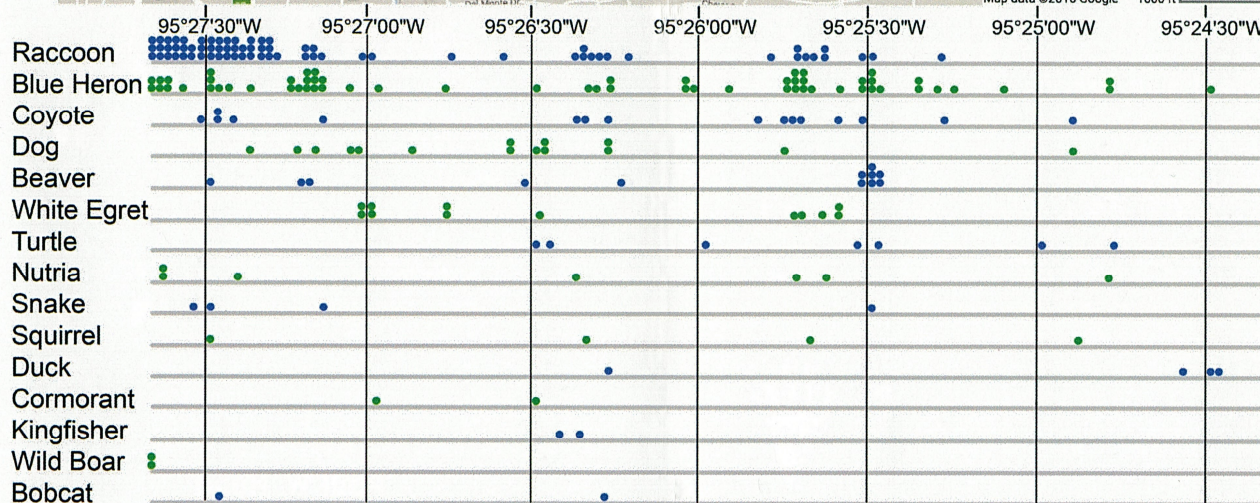
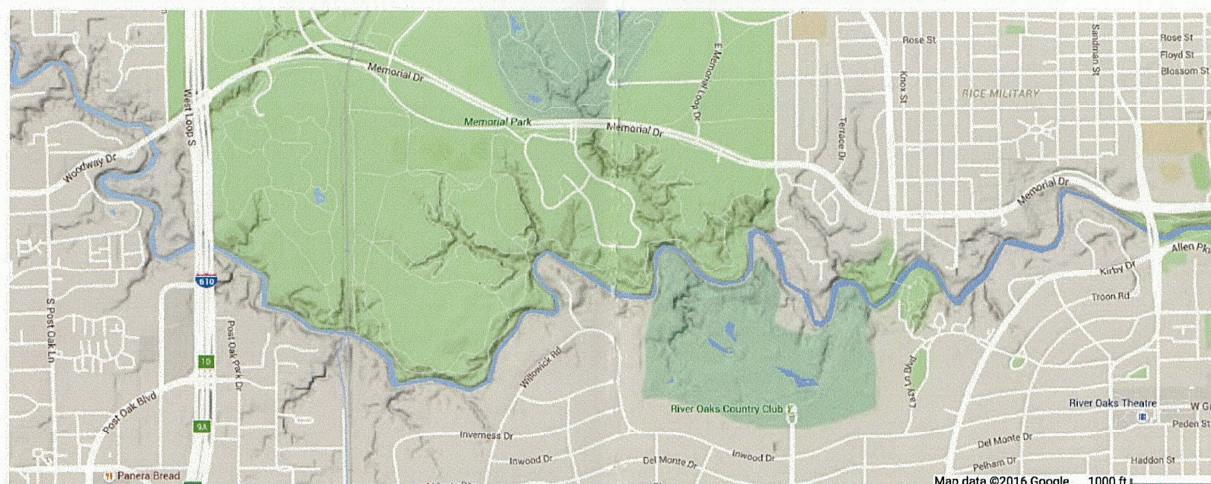


Buffalo Bayou Wildlife Inventory

Conservation has always been an important part of being a Boy Scout. I wanted my Eagle Scout project to focus on conservation. Houston is one of the largest cities in the country, filled with streets, highways, and skyscrapers. In the middle of this metropolitan city, there is a natural waterway called Buffalo Bayou. I have canoed down Buffalo Bayou in the past with my troop. I was impressed with how natural the scenery was in the middle of Houston. This motivated me to lead a conservation project on Buffalo Bayou.

The purpose of my project is to document the wildlife on the Bayou to show everyone the impressive diversity of wildlife living on the Bayou, right in the middle of Houston. This project is important because the animals living along this area of Buffalo

Buffalo Bayou Wildlife Inventory



Bayou have never been documented before. If the public becomes more aware of this area, people can truly appreciate this natural wonder we have in the middle of our city. In 2016, I led separate expeditions down Buffalo Bayou in four different seasons so that I could collect a wide range of animal tracks. Animal tracks were photographed and their locations documented using GPS coordinates. There are 225 tracks and sightings that are plotted in the diagram.

We found a wide variety of animals, including small animals, birds, and marine life.

There were abundant tracks from raccoon, coyote, dog, nutria and wild boar. Beaver activity was evident by their tracks, dens, cut down trees, and branches. The calls from the great blue heron were prominent, paired with the sounds of white egrets, cormorant and kingfisher. Turtles, alligator gar and river mussels indicated good water quality.

This project shows that Buffalo Bayou is a natural wildlife sanctuary. It is a gem that lies right in the middle of Houston. The abundant wildlife is a natural treasure that we should all appreciate and conserve.