

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1776

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## AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas.

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To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Buffalo Bayou Na-  
3 tional Heritage Area Study Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING BUF-  
5 FALO BAYOU, TEXAS.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The area beginning at Shepherd Drive in  
8 west Houston, Texas, and extending to the Turning  
9 Basin, commonly referred to as the “Buffalo  
10 Bayou”, made a unique contribution to the cultural,  
11 political, and industrial development of the United  
12 States.

13 (2) The Buffalo Bayou is distinctive as the first  
14 spine of modern industrial development in Texas and  
15 one of the first along the Gulf of Mexico coast.

16 (3) The Buffalo Bayou played a significant role  
17 in the struggle for Texas independence.

18 (4) The Buffalo Bayou developed a prosperous  
19 and productive shipping industry that survives  
20 today.

21 (5) The Buffalo Bayou led in the development  
22 of Texas’ petrochemical industry that made Houston  
23 the center of the early oil boom in America.

24 (6) The Buffalo Bayou developed a sophisti-  
25 cated shipping system, leading to the formation of  
26 the modern day Houston Ship Channel.

1           (7) The Buffalo Bayou developed a significant  
2 industrial base, and served as the focal point for the  
3 new city of Houston.

4           (8) There is a longstanding commitment by the  
5 Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc., to complete the  
6 Buffalo Bayou Trail along the 12-mile segment of  
7 the Buffalo Bayou.

8           (9) There is a need for assistance for the pres-  
9 ervation and promotion of the significance of the  
10 Buffalo Bayou as a system for transportation, in-  
11 dustry, commerce, and immigration.

12           (10) The Department of the Interior is respon-  
13 sible for protecting the Nation's cultural and histor-  
14 ical resources. There are significant examples of  
15 such resources within the Buffalo Bayou region to  
16 merit the involvement of the Federal Government in  
17 the development of programs and projects, in co-  
18 operation with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc.,  
19 the State of Texas, and other local and govern-  
20 mental entities, to adequately conserve, protect, and  
21 interpret this heritage for future generations, while  
22 providing opportunities for education and revitaliza-  
23 tion.

24           (b) STUDY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in con-  
2           sultation with the State of Texas, the City of Hous-  
3           ton, and other appropriate organizations, carry out  
4           a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of  
5           establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage  
6           Area in Houston, Texas.

7           (2) CONTENTS.—The study shall include anal-  
8           ysis and documentation regarding whether the Study  
9           Area—

10                   (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic,  
11                   and cultural resources that together represent  
12                   distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy  
13                   of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and  
14                   continuing use, and are best managed through  
15                   partnerships among public and private entities  
16                   and by combining diverse and sometimes non-  
17                   contiguous resources and active communities;

18                   (B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs,  
19                   and folklife that are a valuable part of the na-  
20                   tional story;

21                   (C) provides outstanding opportunities to  
22                   conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic  
23                   features;

24                   (D) provides outstanding recreational and  
25                   educational opportunities;

1           (E) contains resources important to the  
2 identified theme or themes of the Study Area  
3 that retain a degree of integrity capable of sup-  
4 porting interpretation;

5           (F) includes residents, business interests,  
6 nonprofit organizations, and local and State  
7 governments that are involved in the planning,  
8 have developed a conceptual financial plan that  
9 outlines the roles for all participants, including  
10 the Federal Government, and have dem-  
11 onstrated support for the concept of a national  
12 heritage area;

13           (G) has a potential management entity to  
14 work in partnership with residents, business in-  
15 terests, nonprofit organizations, and local and  
16 State governments to develop a national herit-  
17 age area consistent with continued local and  
18 State economic activity; and

19           (H) has a conceptual boundary map that is  
20 supported by the public.

21       (c) BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.—The Study  
22 Area shall be comprised of sites in Houston, Texas, in an  
23 area roughly bounded by Shepherd Drive and extending  
24 to the Turning Basin, commonly referred to as the “Buf-  
25 falo Bayou”.

1 (d) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later  
2 than 3 years after funds are first made available for this  
3 section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on  
4 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
5 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate  
6 a report describing the results of the study.

Passed the House of Representatives October 30,  
2001.

Attest:

*Clerk.*