



Houston **Bikeway** Program

# Bikeway News

Fall 2006

Volume 4, Issue 2

## Trails Update

As we continue to complete the design of more trails under our Houston Comprehensive Bikeway Plan, we bring you this update to let you know what is happening in the world of bikeways.

In adding more trails to our existing network of 300 miles of bikeways, we are preparing to break ground on the Halls Bayou Trail.

The Halls Bayou Trail is a 10' multi-use concrete path with a greenway that begins at Hirsch and ends at Bretshire Street. The 3-mile trail along the banks of Halls Bayou includes bicycle and pedestrian bridges and connects to Tidwell Park and Forest Brook High School.

We recently opened the Addicks Trail, a 2-mile trail at the foot of the Addicks dam. The trail begins at the Dairy Ashford bike lanes and Turkey Creek, continues along the levee to make a connection through the Westwick community to the Kirkwood bike routes. The trail includes two bicycle and pedestrian bridges before ending at the Chatterton bike route.

*“Trails Update”...Continued on page 2.*

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Photo by Bikeway Staff

*Winners selected to participate in the BikeTown bicycle give-away received their Giant bicycles and gear at Memorial Park, thanks to Bicycling Magazine and Lipton.*

## Houston is BikeTown USA

Rain or shine, Bicycling Magazine was at Memorial Park on August 23 to present 50 lucky Houstonians with a free bicycle and gear.

BikeTown USA chose Houston to award participants with a bicycle and to chronicle the effect cycling has in their life. Participants entered with an essay narrating how a bicycle could change their life. After

reviewing the highest number of entries they've ever had, BikeTown had the difficult time of selecting only 50 names.

*“BikeTown”...Continued on page 4.*

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**“Trails Update”...Continued on page 2.**

In addition, the following projects will begin construction over the next six months.

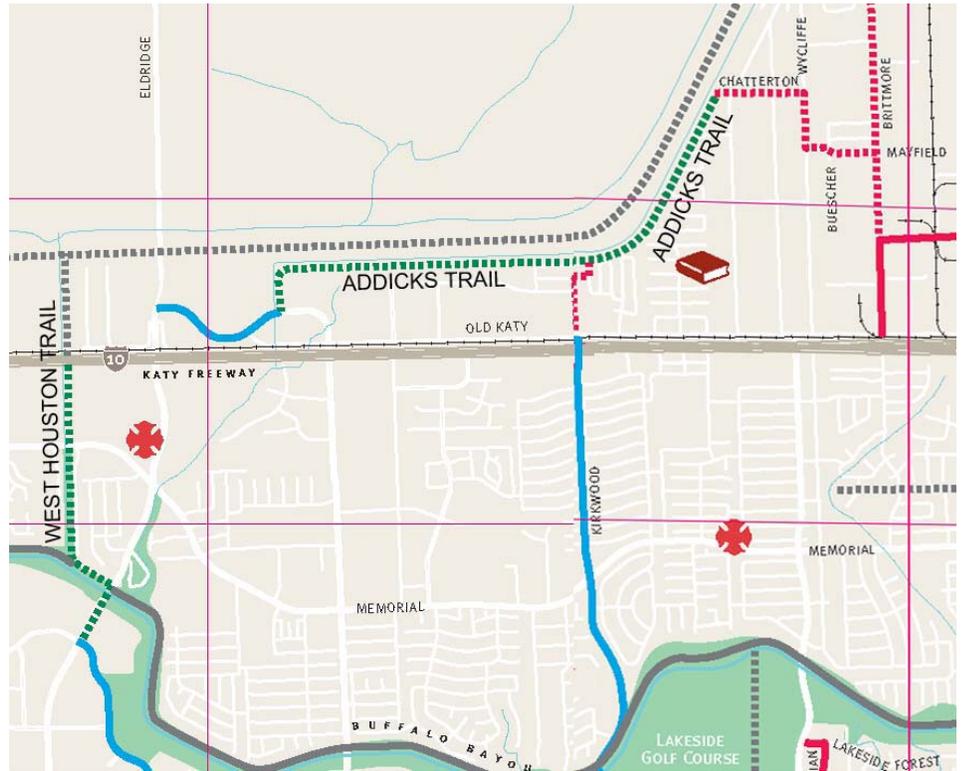
- ~Columbia Tap Rails to Trails
- ~MKT/SP Rails to Trails
- ~Columbia Union Station Trail
- ~Little White Oak Bayou Trail

The following trails are in design and will enter the construction phase over the next 12 months:

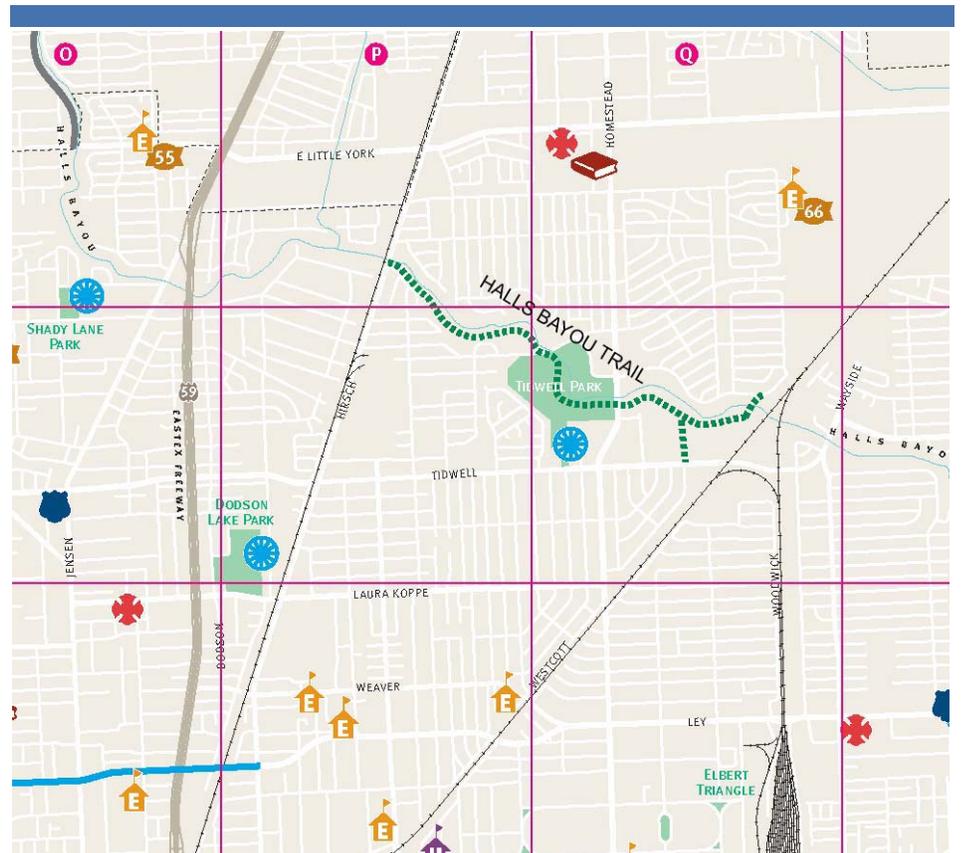
- ~Heman Brown Park Trail
- ~Houston Heritage Corridor Trail, Segment I
- ~West Houston Trail
- ~W. White Oak Bayou Trail Ext.
- ~Keegans Bayou Trail
- ~Houston Heritage Corridor Trail, West

Preparing for reconstruction is the Buffalo Bayou Trail from Shepherd to Sabine. This project replaces the existing path between Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive. The new trail will be a 10' concrete path and includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge at Shepherd. This reconstruction will begin in late 2008.

Look for future updates on these trail projects. Contact the Houston Bikeway Program at (713) 837-0003 or visit us online at [www.houstonbikeways.org](http://www.houstonbikeways.org).



*The new Addicks Trail reconnects the Houston Bikeway Network after the loss of bike lanes along Old Katy Road due to I-10 expansion. Besides on-street connections to bike routes and bike lanes, the Addicks Trail enhances connectivity to a growing bikeway network in west Houston.*



*The Halls Bayou Trail provides a greenway and multi-use bike path along the bank of the bayou with connections to Hirsch, Forest Brook High School, and Bretshire on the east. Future plans include County connections to Weiss Park and Brock Park.*

HOUSTON BIKEWAY NETWORK			
<b>EXISTING</b>		<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>
	MULTI-USE TRAIL		
	BIKE LANE		
	SIGNED ROUTE/SHARED LANE		
	SHARED LANE		
	OTHER TRAILS		
<b>PROPOSED</b>		<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>	<b>BIKE RACKS</b>
	MULTI-USE TRAIL		
	ON-STREET		
	SHARED LANE		
	OTHER TRAILS		
<b>MILES</b>		<b>LIBRARIES</b>	<b>COLLEGES/ UNIVERSITIES</b>
0	.25		
.5	.75		
1		<b>CIVIC ART</b>	<b>ARTS AND CULTURE</b>

Map based on most current information available as of March 2006. Visit the [www.houstonbikeways.org](http://www.houstonbikeways.org) website for the most current maps and reported route details.

# Mushroom Season?

What are those white peanut-shaped domes mushrooming up around town? Have you seen them? If you have, we are glad you noticed. If you haven't, take a look next time you're out about town. They are bike lids.

Bike lids are covered parking facilities for bicycles. They contain a bike rack for two bicycles inside. You can use them to keep your bike covered and under lock and key using your own lock. And the best thing is that they are FREE.

Thanks to a donation from StarLite Media, the City of Houston Bikeway Program has received a generous donation of bike lids. The bike lids are being installed at municipal facilities like City Hall, public parking areas like Lot H, and at Houston Public Libraries. The bike lids are for public use.

They are easy to use. You lift the latch and the lightweight lid opens to allow you to bring your bike inside and park it. You can lock the bike to the bicycle rack inside or you can place your lock on the outside latch.

Who uses covered bike parking? All day commuters like covered parking because they can park their bike and it will be protected from the elements and out of sight. Shoppers and students like covered parking because they can leave their bags on the bike to free up their hands or continue with their class schedule.

Current bike lids are located at:

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*After resolving a structural installation problem with a creative solution by the Building Services Department, bike lids are installed at the Bob Lanier Public Works Building at 611 Walker. Look for the bike lids on the Louisiana Street and the Smith Street courtyard. Check them out and plan to use them starting this fall.*

Bob Lanier Public Works Building  
611 Walker

Municipal Parking Lot H  
Allen Parkway and Houston Avenue

City Hall  
900 & 901 Bagby

Look for bike lids at various public libraries as well. If you want to learn more about bike lids, visit: [www.houstonbikewasy.org](http://www.houstonbikewasy.org) and click Bike Parking.



## Trail Events

### Ribbon Cutting

Addicks Trail  
Friday, October 13, 2006  
10:30 am  
Dairy Ashford & Turkey Creek

### Ground Breaking

Halls Bayou Trail  
Monday, October 30,  
2006  
3:30 pm  
Forest Brook High School



“BikeTown”...Continued from page 1.

So 25 lucky men and 25 lucky women grabbed their umbrellas and joined BikeTown, Lipton and Giant to receive coffee or crème bicycles and gear. The rain clouds parted just in time for the program which included experienced words from Senator Rodney Ellis; Michael S. Marcotte, P.E., D.E.E.; Director of Public Works and Engineering; Loren Mooney, Executive Editor of Bicycling Magazine; Russ Okawa, with Giant Bicycle; and Woody Speer, president of BikeHouston.

Chris Holmes and Bicycle World & Fitness were the local connection for the event and they helped fit and gear up all our winners. They will also host the BikeEd Road I course for each participant. The course provides technical and hands-on knowledge on urban cycling and bicycle handling taught by a League of American Bicyclists certified instructor.

To all the winners, we send our congratulations and wish them a fun and fit life with their new bicycle. We look forward to hearing about their experience. To learn more about BikeTown USA, visit: [www.bicycling.com/biketown](http://www.bicycling.com/biketown).



*A BikeTown winning dad rolls his new bike home with his little helper.*



*Xavier Herrera, Community Liaison for the Mayor's Office; Michael S. Marcotte, P.E., D.E.E., Director of the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department; Mark Patterson, P. E., Project Manager for the Texas Department of Transportation; and Libby Cheney, Vice President of Corporate Support with Shell, cut the ribbon to inaugurate the new Addicks Trail built to replace lost bike lanes due to I-10 expansion.*

## Other Rides

*-Moonlight Bicycle Ramble*

Sunday, October 29

[BikeHouston.org](http://BikeHouston.org)

*-Tour de Donut*

Sunday, November 5

[Tourdedonut.com](http://Tourdedonut.com)

There are numerous fitness centers now open downtown. Visit the Houston Downtown Management District: [www.houstondowntown.com](http://www.houstondowntown.com). Click the *Working Here* link. Find the one that works for you.

The City of Houston's Fonde Recreation Center is on Sabine and Memorial and it is free.

And don't forget to check with your building management. You may already have showers at work.

## Need A Shower?

You work downtown and want to ride your bike to work for that real world experience of urban cycling. After all, you've taken your BikeEd course and you want to roll.

You checked your bike, your gear is ready, you know where you're going to park your bike, and you're prepared to freshen up at the office. But you want to scout a shower just in case the Lance Armstrong in you decides to rev up your commute arriving with a dewy glow or the warrior shine.

### City of Houston Bikeway Program

Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator  
Neighborhood Programs Engineering Section  
Public Works and Engineering Department

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