

## MIDTOWN PARK

Midtown District, Houston, Texas

**THIS THREE-ACRE GRASSY PARK** nestled in the vibrant Midtown District represents the capstone of a 10-year strategic plan to remake the neighborhood into a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use hub. The "Bayou"—a constructed water channel and detention system—is the backbone of the site and local ecology. Working in tandem with bioswales and rain gardens, the Bayou protects against flooding and improves water quality and wildlife habitat. Rainwater is also collected and stored within a 70,000-gallon subsurface cistern and reused on-site for irrigation. But it's more than a green space: it is the centerpiece of an area brimming with much-needed housing, commercial space, and new areas for people to gather.

Crossing a bridge over the Bayou, visitors learn about the natural wetlands and swamps of Houston. (Got a climate winwin that makes your Community Green? Tell us about it: Email mstromberg@ planning.org.)