BROWNFIELDS

Tour in Austin, Texas

Explore Austin's transformed and vibrant redevelopments of former Brownfields properties.

ROUTE

Follow this route for the 4-mile tour:

1 Plaza Saltillo

Rent transportation at the Plaza Saltillo station, or walk along the route. Take the Lance Armstrong Bikeway west to Waller Street, than go south until you see the Festival Beach Food Forest on the left.

2 Festival Beach Food Forest

Continue south to the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail. Then turn west and continue to the mouth of Waller Creek, where you can sit on the patio overlooking the next stop.

3 South Central Waterfront

Across from Lady Bird Lake: keep going west on the trail and turn north under Cesar Chavez Street at Shoal Creek to arrive at the Austin Central Library.

4 Seaholm District

Return rented transportation at the library or go east on Second Street to the Austin Convention Center and catch the Metro Rail back to the Plaza Saltillo station to see more of the Plaza Saltillo area.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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1 Plaza Saltillo

- 12 acres between East 4th and East 5th Streets from Interstate 35 to Comal Street.
- Operated as a rail station in the late 1800s to transport coal, lumber, and cattle.
- The site entered the Brownfields Program and later the Voluntary Cleanup Program. Cleanup activities included excavation of 55,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil.
- A grocery store, affordable- and market-rate housing, and mixed-use office and retail space will occupy this formerly vacant area in the heart of the city. The development will also include a public park and bike path connecting East Austin to downtown.

2 Festival Beach Food Forest

- 4.6 acres at 35 Waller Street.
- Operated as a fish hatchery from 1950-1970. Property vacant until the trails were added in 2004.
- Applicant requested assistance to verify site conditions for the proposed use of the site. Sampling conducted by the Brownfields Program indicated the site was acceptable for residential use.
- The local community came together to design a non-traditional garden using perma-culture design principles (sustainable and self-sufficient agricultural ecosystem). Fruit trees that require little management were planted to make a food forest and allow residents access to fresh foods.

3 South Central Waterfront

- 97 acres south of Lady Bird Lake between South First Street and Bouldin Creek.
- 30 different private owners, various uses.
- Applicant requested assistance to identify any potential environmental impacts within the area. Property records research conducted by the Brownfields Program determined no environmental conditions of concern exist.
- Area is planned to have a bat observation amphitheater which will be a highlight of this waterfront area. The planned development will also feature two public plazas and a canopy walkway along Bouldin Creek.

4 Seaholm District

- 85 acres along Cesar Chavez Street between North Lamar Boulevard and Shoal Creek.
- Operations dating back to the 1800s included railways, electric power plant, and electric substation.
- Sites in the district went through both the Brownfields and Voluntary Cleanup Programs. Approximately 22,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed.
- The iconic Seaholm Power Plant building was repurposed into office space and restaurants. Retail development, housing, and a grocery store surround the public greenspace. Adjacent to Shoal Creek, Austin's Central Library replaced the abandoned substation.