

# Leave the Road, Take the Trails

BY NATALIE LERNER | PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREATER HOUSTON OFF ROAD BIKING ASSOCIATION

May is Bike Month, and there is much to celebrate if you are a bike enthusiast of any kind living in Houston. Our city's bike program, Houston Bikeways, is taking large strides toward Houston becoming a gold level bike-friendly city, as awarded by The League of American Bicyclists. A gold level city means that Houston will have improved safety, increased access and ridership, and developed and maintained facilities to a level that meets certain standards. Currently, Houston ranks as a bronze.

David Fields, The City of Houston's Chief Transportation Planner with the Planning and Development Department weighed in stating, "The vision of the Houston Bike Plan is that by 2027, the City of Houston will be a safer, more accessible, gold level bike-friendly city. Achieving that status will show all Houstonians and the world that Houston is changing our transportation paradigm and working hard to be a great place for all travelers."

A way to celebrate all the growth and development is to join in on Bike to Work Day on May 20th. This ride will take place at 7:15am from the Buffalo Bayou Park at Lost Lake to City Hall.

Much growth and development is still to be done though. Transforming and building 1,800 miles of a bike plan is not an overnight feat. Volunteers, organizations and entities are constantly working together to make it happen.

One group in particular, the Great Houston Off Road Biking Association (GHORBA), has been doing a lot of work to protect and grow the trails right in our own backyard. GHORBA recently held Trail Fest, along what we locals have called "The Anthills" for the past 30+ years. (The Anthills is the shared green space for walkers, hikers,



cross country riders, and mountain bikers south of Buffalo Bayou from Eldridge east to Beltway 8 with the famed "Dirt Jump" area). Trail Fest had skills clinics and contests, rides, and even food and drink. The goal was to deliver awareness. As many are not aware, The Anthills is on land owned by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), but is not officially sanctioned as part of the trail system. Thus, The Anthills do not receive any publicly funded maintenance and upkeep received by other areas such as Terry Hershey Park. This limits what can be done on the property, which is not good for anyone in the community who enjoys the trails. GHORBA is hoping that a formal agreement with Precinct 4 and HCFCD on how to maintain the trail will occur in the coming months. This is why Trail Fest was put on – so that that trail users like you and I would become aware of the need to protect our beloved Anthills.

"It's a place that I love to explore with my daughter and walk with my wife," shared Nottingham Forest resident Ben Drews. "The Anthills provide an escape from the concrete backdrop of Houston. At the end of 2021, I learned that the Anthill features were at risk due to a lack of agreement with HCFCD. The trail features could be torn down or leveled because of this fact." That's when Ben reached out to HCFCD and they pointed him towards GHORBA. He got involved very quickly to protect the land and is now Sergeant of Arms on the Board of Directors.

It's the hard work of the city, people like Ben, and organizations like GHORBA working together to create and protect bike trails that will get this city its gold level status soon enough.

***This Bike Month, hit the trails and celebrate! Progress is in motion. If you want to be a part of the action, visit [houstonbikeplan.org](http://houstonbikeplan.org) or [GHORBA.org](http://GHORBA.org) to learn more.***



The GHORBA Board of Directors



**DOES YOUR PLAYER  
NEED LESSONS AND  
BATTING REPS?  
MAKE A HOME RUN  
WITH HIT! THIS SEASON!**

**CALL  
TODAY TO  
SCHEDULE**

**HIT!**  
Houston Indoor Training

1544 Campbell Rd.  
Houston, TX 77055

**713-816-6048**

[www.hitindoor.com](http://www.hitindoor.com)

Email: [info@hitindoor.com](mailto:info@hitindoor.com)

Hours: Mon - Fri 11am to 9pm Sat - Sun 11am to 7pm

Louisville Slugger  
marucci

MIZUNO

Rawlings  
EASTON



**Find AND Share** more local sports articles just like this on [BVMsports.com](http://BVMsports.com)

**BVM  
SPORTS**