

PRAIRIES AND LAKES REGION



Special thanks to Toyota, whose generous support made this guide possible.

Bastrop State Park

P.O. Box 518, Bastrop 78602 📞 (512) 321-2101

GPS Latitude N 30 06 36.61 | Longitude W 97 17 12.98



Located just east of Austin, Bastrop and Buescher state parks are adjoining parks connected by 12 miles of scenic road that wind through the pines. The park road is perfect for biking or for enjoying a leisurely drive. Set among the beautiful “Lost Pines,” Bastrop invites camping under tall trees near a small lake. The fully equipped cabins and group facility

were constructed by the CCC in the 1930s using local sandstone so that the structures seem to be a natural part of the landscape. In addition to the many nature trails and fishing along the banks of the small park lake, there is an 18-hole golf course and a large, oval-shaped swimming pool. Stay in one of the beautiful rustic cabins or pitch a tent on a soft floor of pine needles, under the shade of the lofty trees overhead.

Bonham State Park

1363 State Park 24, Bonham 75418 ☎ (903) 583-5022

GPS Latitude N 33 32 48.15 | Longitude W 96 08 40.27



Escape to the laid-back atmosphere of this quiet park surrounding a 65-acre lake, located just northeast of the Dallas metro area. Water activities include boating, canoeing, swimming and fishing. A fishing pier provides visitors with an added opportunity to fish. A gently rolling terrace is dominated by tall, mature trees that cover the area, making it perfect for hiking, walking, picnics or just relaxing.

Developed campsites and a group complex enhance overnight stays. Raccoons, squirrels, rabbits and numerous songbirds are among the wildlife in the park. A newly renovated indoor complex now sleeps 94 and includes a game room.

Buescher State Park

P.O. Box 75, Smithville 78957 ☎ (512) 237-2241

GPS Latitude N 30 02 20.90 | Longitude W 97 09 29.66



Buescher State Park is joined to Bastrop State Park by 12 miles of scenic road winding through the pines that is perfect for biking or a leisurely drive. Both parks are located in the “Lost Pines,” believed to have once been part of an extensive pine-oak forest covering much of Central Texas. Rent canoes or hike along the 7.7-mile loop trail through the forest. Fishing is excellent in the small woodland lake that is stocked for anglers. Camp in the peaceful quiet along the lake or at campsites set back in the forest. A CCC-built, group facility is also available for rent, as are three limited-service cabins.

Cedar Hill State Park

1570 West F.M. 1382, Cedar Hill 75104 ☎ (972) 291-3900

GPS Latitude N 32 37 18.19 | Longitude W 96 58 44.86



Minutes southwest of downtown Dallas, this park has 10 lanes of boat ramps giving access to the 7,500-acre Joe Pool Reservoir. Crowds are easily accommodated at the more than 300 developed and walk-in campsites. The Dallas Off Road Bicycle Association built 15 miles of biking trails that crisscross the varied terrain and suit novices and experts alike. Because the park was developed at the site of a 19th-century

farm, a number of buildings have been restored to recreate the old Penn Farm farmstead and provide insight into the land as it was before the DFW metroplex grew so large. Penn Farm is open daily for self-guided tours that take visitors through the old barns and outbuildings.

Cleburne State Park

5800 Park Road 21, Cleburne 76033 ☎ (817) 645-4215

GPS Latitude N 32 15 8.46 | Longitude W 97 32 58.63



Wildlife abounds at this park, which is ideal for camping or day use, located just outside the city of Cleburne, southwest of the Fort Worth area. Animals scurry through the woods, and in early spring, bluebonnets blanket the open fields, creating picture-perfect picnic settings. Hike-and-bike trails zigzag through limestone hills, canyons and ruggedly beautiful wooded terrain.

Enjoy the clear, spring-fed lake created by an earthen dam with a charming, three-level spillway or catch a glimpse of beavers as they build a dam.

Cooper Lake State Park

Doctors Creek Unit, 1664 F.M. 1529 South, Cooper 75432 ☎ (903) 395-3100

GPS Latitude N 33 20 57.08 | Longitude W 95 39 52.02

South Sulphur Unit, 1690 F.M. 3505, Sulphur Springs 75482 ☎ (903) 945-5256

GPS Latitude N 33 17.268 | Longitude W 95 39.469



Cooper Lake offers a variety of both land- and water-based recreational opportunities. Visitors can enjoy the breathtaking sunsets and spectacular scenery by boat, foot or horseback. Or, picnic under towering oak trees, swim at the

sandy beach, explore developed trails, or boat and fish on the 19,300-acre lake. Overnighters can choose from cabins, shelters and developed or primitive campsites, including equestrian sites for horses. Both the South Sulphur and Doctors Creek units offer limited-service cabins. Wildlife watchers are often rewarded with sightings of bald eagles, white pelicans, wild turkey, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, squirrels, raccoons and beavers. Together, both park units encompass 3,026 acres and some 31 miles of shoreline; canoe rentals have been added as well.

Dinosaur Valley State Park

1629 Park Road 59, Glen Rose 76043 ☎ (254) 897-4588

GPS Latitude N 32 14 46.50 | Longitude W 97 48 48.13



Take the kids to put their little feet in the world-renowned dinosaur footprints in the Paluxy riverbed. The trackway dates to the Cretaceous period 113 million years ago and was an important clue for paleontological theories about how and where dinosaurs walked. Since the riverbed tracks are only visible when the water is low, a replica in the park's exhibit is also available for viewing. Great hiking and biking trails meander through

the uplands with trailheads near the campgrounds. This park is popular with mountain bikers, campers and RVers year round.

Eisenhower State Park

50 Park Road 20, Denison 75020-4878 ☎ (903) 465-1956

GPS Latitude N 33 48 37.11 | Longitude W 96 35 59.92



The park's heavily forested shoreline of rolling hills and limestone bluffs has been called the Texas North Coast. It overlooks Lake Texoma, the 89,000-surface-acre watery playground for yachts, sailboats and every kind of splashing recreation. Park visitors have access to the lake via public boat ramps and a privately run, full-service marina with boat rentals. A seven-acre ATV area is popular with dirt bikers, four-wheelers and go-cart riders. Wooded campsites accommodate RVs and tents and offer screened shelters and group facilities. Eisenhower

welcomes travellers coming from the north, as it's located just across the Texas-Oklahoma state line but is also within an hour of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The huge lake is also legendary for fishing, especially for striped bass, smallmouth and catfish.

! Operations
or access has
changed at
this park.

texasstateparks.org/
access

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site

P.O. Box 296, Anderson 77830 ☎ (936) 873-2633

GPS Latitude N 30 28 58.62 | Longitude W 95 59 02.11



The carefully restored Fanthorp Inn offers visitors an opportunity to walk through a historic inn that served as a stagecoach stop. A communal dining table, frozen in time, is covered with mock food, conveying a real sense of the traveler's life in the 1850s. Once a month, visitors have an opportunity to ride in a replica of a Concord stagecoach pulled by horses. Picnic tables are set under the towering trees on the lawns surrounding the inn, ideal for an afternoon outing.

Operations or access has changed at this park.
texasstateparks.org/access

Fort Boggy State Park

4994 Hwy. 75 South, Centerville 75833 ☎ (903) 344-1116

GPS Latitude N 31 11 14.38 | Longitude W 95 58 28.77



Spend the day picnicking, fishing or just taking in the natural beauty of this quiet and serene day-use park. Set beside a picturesque lake well-suited to canoes, kayaks or small boats, the park has a beautiful beach and nature trails, as well as an ADA-compliant, open-air picnic pavilion. The park is conveniently

located just off IH-45 between Dallas and Houston.

Fort Parker State Park

194 Park Road 28, Mexia 76667 ☎ (254) 562-5751

GPS Latitude N 31 35 32.56 | Longitude W 96 31 35.79



This beautiful wooded park on the Navasota River is a relaxing getaway within a few hours' drive from major metro areas. It is conveniently located between Dallas-Fort Worth to the north and Houston or Austin to the south. The park has a fishing pier on a 700-acre lake, hike-and-bike trails, a nature center, and rental canoes and kayaks. Enchanting wildflowers, such as Texas bluebonnets, diamond petal primrose, wine cups and Indian blankets, abound from March to early June. The park is also quite popular with families and RVers, as there are screened shelters and a recreation hall that serves all kinds of groups. The group barracks sleep up to 96 people! Primitive campsites are also available.

Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway

100 Park Road 71, Mineral Wells 76067 📞 (940) 328-1171

GPS Latitude N 32 48 53.28 | Longitude W 98 02 18.96



In addition to the lake's fishing and swimming, adventurers can climb and rappel on cliffs. Swimmers can cool off at the swimming beach, while anglers and others rent paddleboats, canoes and rowboats to cruise the wonderfully tranquil lake. Located within an hour's drive of Fort Worth, the lake's south side also offers 100 picnic sites for day use, as well as access to the trailway. Cowboy poetry and stargazing are some of the programs offered at the new Lone Star Amphitheater. Head for Penitentiary Hollow, where stone steps laid more than 70 years ago wind through a lakeside labyrinth of giant boulders, rock walls and narrow canyons. An overlook on a nearby bluff affords stunning views of the 646-acre lake.



LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE TRAILWAY

A 20-mile-long, multi-use trail converted from an abandoned railroad right-of-way runs from just northwest of Weatherford to downtown Mineral Wells. Bring your bike, your horse or your own hooves!

Lake Somerville State Park and Trailway

Birch Creek Unit, 14222 Park Road 57, Somerville 77879 📞 (979) 535-7763

GPS Latitude N 30 18 35.82 | Longitude W 96 38 06.75

Nails Creek Unit, 6280 F.M. 180, Ledbetter 78946 📞 (979) 289-2392

GPS Latitude N 30 17 26.59 | Longitude W 96 40 01.27



Located between the cities of Austin and College Station, the two units of Lake Somerville State Park make for great family getaways. Roads and trails wind among meadows and woodland campsites. The shallow swimming area at Nails Creek unit is wonderful for small children, and canoes are also available to rent. The Birch Creek unit group trailer area offers a setting for families or friends traveling together. Birch Creek is known for its fishing and lake access, while Nails Creek is a favorite among equestrians.

THE LAKE SOMERVILLE TRAILWAY SYSTEM connects the two units with 13 miles of trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, backpacking, birding, outdoor photography and nature study. Campgrounds for equestrians and backpackers are located along the trailway. There are also wheelchair-accessible trails in both parks.

Lake Tawakoni State Park

10822 F.M. 2475, Wills Point 75169 ☎ (903) 560-7123

GPS Latitude N 32 50 31.12 | Longitude W 95 59 37.53



This park is one of the newer overnight camping parks added to the Texas state park system. The 351-acre park sits along the shores of the 36,700-acre Lake Tawakoni reservoir with five miles of shoreline and a four-lane boat ramp located in a picturesque, hardwood sylvan setting, just east of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The park features 78 campsites; two large picnic areas with tables and grills; and more than eight miles of hike-and-bike trails. It also has a youth group area

that can be reserved for groups of up to 35. The park's more than 40 acres of native prairie grassland is rare for East Texas and serves as habitat for some of the 227 bird species identified in the park.

Lake Whitney State Park

P.O. Box 1175, Whitney 76692 ☎ (254) 694-3793

GPS Latitude N 31 55 52.60 | Longitude W 97 21 24.73



Boating, water skiing, sailing, fishing, scuba diving and swimming take center stage at this 23,000 surface-acre reservoir with the park's boat ramps, lakefront beach, shoreline fishing and record-size catfish, large-mouth and smallmouth bass and striper. Camp at this lovely park and enjoy hiking or biking trails to catch sight of a variety of birds — some 194 species have been identified here.

Lockhart State Park

4179 State Park Road, Lockhart 78644-9716 ☎ (512) 398-3479

GPS Latitude N 29 51 19.58 | Longitude W 97 41 51.93



This small rustic park is set in a rolling forested terrain. The large, secluded hilltop refectory — built by the CCC in the 1930s era — is a perfect setting for reunions, parties and weddings. For the golf enthusiast, there is a quaint nine-hole golf course (club and cart rental available), a small campground popular with RVers, a swimming pool, a State Park store and a creek for avid anglers.

Meridian State Park

173 Park Road 7, Meridian 76665 ☎ (254) 435-2536

GPS Latitude N 31 53 26.73 | Longitude W 97 41 50.92



This wooded 505-acre park prides itself on its relaxing atmosphere and outstanding fishing. The park surrounds a 72-acre lake that is excellent for catching largemouth bass, catfish, crappie and bream. Trails for hiking take birders out to search for additions to their lifetime lists, including the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. Complete group facilities with shelters host family reunions and special group outings throughout the year.

Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites

414 State Loop 92, La Grange 78945-5733 📞 (979) 968-5658

GPS Latitude N 29 53 16.58 | Longitude W 96 52 34.50



Visit the monument dedicated to the 1842 Dawson and Mier Expeditions, famous for the legendary “black bean” incident in Texas history; Mexican President Santa Anna decreed that captives draw one of the 17 black beans from a pot that also contained 159 white beans. Those drawing black beans were executed. The monument is a tomb for Republic of Texas patriots, a place recognizing fallen heroes. A beautiful view from the bluff overlooking the winding Colorado River is one of the many stops on a nature trail that connects the monument and brewery historic sites. Heinrich Kreische, a master stonemason, immigrated to Texas in 1846 and purchased this property overlooking the Colorado River near La Grange. During the 1860s, Kreische changed his occupation to that of a brewer and started one of the first commercial breweries in Texas. Picnic on the beautiful park lawn and tour the Kreische House and the ruins of the brewery. Travel one mile south of La Grange on U.S. Hwy. 77, then 1/2 mile west on Spur 92.

Mother Neff State Park

1680 Texas 236 Hwy., Moody 76557-3317 📞 (254) 853-2389

GPS Latitude N 31 18 57.63 | Longitude W 97 28 17.18



Still recovering from 2007 flood damage, Mother Neff State Park currently has camping available on a limited basis. Sites with water and water/electric are available with portable toilets. Full-service restrooms and showers are available, and a trailer dump station is available nearby. Park headquarters is located 1/3 mile north of the main park entrance, and a self pay station is available at the main entrance to the park. For updates, contact the park directly or check the website.

Palmetto State Park

78 Park Road 11 South, Gonzales 78629 ☎ (830) 672-3266

GPS Latitude N 29 35 48.91 | Longitude W 97 35 06.14



Named for the dwarf palmetto plants found throughout the park, this 289-acre riparian refuge resembles the tropics more than the surrounding brush country. This botanical wonderland attracts more than 200 bird species. A historic pump forces artesian water into a 1930s-era cistern and water tower for release into a swampy woodlands along a nature trail. The San Marcos River flows through the park, making it a perfect take-out point for canoe trips that start in Luling 14 miles upriver. The park also boasts a great network of trails and boardwalks.

Purtis Creek State Park

14225 F.M. 316, Eustace 75124 ☎ (903) 425-2332

GPS Latitude N 32 21 13.93 | Longitude W 95 59 36.88



This large 1,582-acre park is known for its heavily-wooded, well-shaded campsites and its exceptional bass fishing. The clear-water impoundment was actually designed for trophy largemouth, with catch-and-release regulations for this species. The 355-surface-acre lake is limited to 50 boats at a time. Canoe and paddleboat rentals are also available at the park store.

Ray Roberts Lake State Park



Set amid a mixed forest and prairie environment, this state park has numerous subunits with access to the 30,000-surface-acre reservoir. In addition to typical state park campsites, the sections include everything from boat ramps to a full-service marina, group pavilions, a lodge with hotel-type rooms, numerous mountain-bike trails, primitive and equestrian camping, and great fishing opportunities.

Park Units of Ray Roberts Lake SP

Isle du Bois

100 PW 4137, Pilot Point 76258-8944 📞 (940) 686-2148

GPS Latitude N 33 21 54.43 | Longitude W 97 00 50.68

A full-service park with a six-lane boat ramp. It also has equestrian and walk-in campsites, a swimming beach and a lighted fishing pier. The park store is open from spring break through November.

Johnson Branch

100 PW 4153, Valley View 76272-7411 📞 (940) 637-2294

GPS Latitude N 33 25 46.88 | Longitude W 97 03 23.29

A full-service park with a four-lane boat ramp, campsites and accessible trails that are ADA compliant. The park store is open from spring break through November.

Jordan Park

F.M. 1192, Pilot Point 76258 📞 (940) 686-0261

GPS Latitude N 33.41 | Longitude W 97

Home to Lantana Lodge, a luxurious lodge overlooking the lake. The modern hotel has 30 rooms, a restaurant as well as a conference center that can accommodate up to 100 people. There's also a four-lane boat ramp for lake access.

Ray Roberts Greenbelt Corridor

100 PW 4137, Pilot Point 76258-8944 📞 (940) 686-2148

GPS Latitude N 33 21 3.90 | Longitude W 97 2 6.51

A 20-mile trail system meanders along the heavily wooded banks of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. It is suited to hiking, equestrian trail riding and paddling. Canoe and kayak rentals are available at Greenbelt Canoe Rentals, (817) 228-9496.

Sanger Marina Unit

1399 Marina Circle, Sanger 76226 📞 (940) 458-7343

GPS Latitude N 33.22 | Longitude W 97.06

A full-service marina, Lake Ray Roberts Marina, is located here and features four boat lanes, boat rentals, a fishing barge and courtesy dock.

Stephen F. Austin State Park

P.O. Box 125, San Felipe 77473-0125 📞 (979) 885-3613

GPS Latitude N 29 48 43.09 | Longitude W 96 06 28.90



This beautiful recreation park occupies the moss-draped pecan bottoms along the Brazos River and the Mexican land granted to Stephen F. Austin, the “Father of Texas,” for the first Anglo colony in Texas. The park contains a hiking and biking trail, in addition to full-hookup RV sites, tent camping and group facilities. Nearby San Felipe SHS is now operated under the management of the Texas Historical Commission.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

P.O. Box 305, Washington 77880-0305 📞 (936) 878-2214

GPS Latitude N 30 19 32.77 | Longitude W 96 09 15.94



While Santa Anna’s army besieged the Alamo in March 1836, Texians met in an unfinished building at Washington-on-the-Brazos to declare independence from Mexico. Two weeks later, the delegates adopted a constitution for the Republic of Texas in the middle of the night. Today visitors can enjoy the many exhibits at the Visitor Center and at the Star of the

Republic Museum, which houses a collection of more than 20,000 artifacts, and tour a replica building of where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. Groups can also reserve the Conference Center, group meeting facility and two picnic pavilions. The picturesque park is also a favorite spot for picnics.



BARRINGTON LIVING HISTORY FARM is a working 1850s cotton farm in the Brazos Valley. Using the home and journals of Dr. Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, period costume interpreters work the farm as it was done long ago so folks can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the 19th century.

Confederate Reunion Grounds **State Historic Site**

194 Park Road 28, Mexia 76667 ☎ (254) 562-5751

This park is under the operation of the Texas Historical Commission.

Eisenhower Birthplace **State Historic Site**

609 South Lamar, Denison 75021 ☎ (903) 465-8908

This park is under the operation of the Texas Historical Commission.

Sam Bell Maxey House **State Historic Site**

812 South Church Street, Paris 75460 ☎ (903) 785-5716

This park is under the operation of the Texas Historical Commission.

Sebastopol House **State Historic Site**

P.O. Box 900, Seguin 78156 ☎ (830) 379-4833

A unique, concrete-like constructed home from the late 1840s, which is now operated by the city of Seguin, Texas.



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