

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

SIXTH GRADE OUTDOOR LABORATORY
EXPERIENCE AT BIRCH CREEK STATE PARK

STUDENT JOURNAL

BREHAM
I.S.D.



Welcome

to the state parks of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

We are glad you are here and know you will experience, learn and appreciate all the aspects of Texas state parks and historic sites. Please note that these are YOUR parks and sites and are available to you and your families throughout the year.

The goal of this program is for you to become aware of the local state parks that surround your community of Brenham and for you to learn about the stewardship practices of these sites that you can take back into your home and community.

In order to enjoy this field trip, we would like you to follow the park rules.

- No running on the trails, because there are many rocks and sticks waiting to trip you.
- Keep to the trails. Straying off the trails causes more erosion and places you at risk of getting poison ivy.
- Obey the buddy system; you must have a buddy at all times.
- Respect the instructors, answer questions only when asked, and please hold your hands up to ask a question.
- Do not litter, put all trash in appropriate trash cans, and please pick up litter you may see on the trails.
- Take nothing but pictures, and please respect the wildlife of Lake Somerville State Park.
- The weather will be very hot, so please wear your cap at all times and make sure your water bottle is always full.

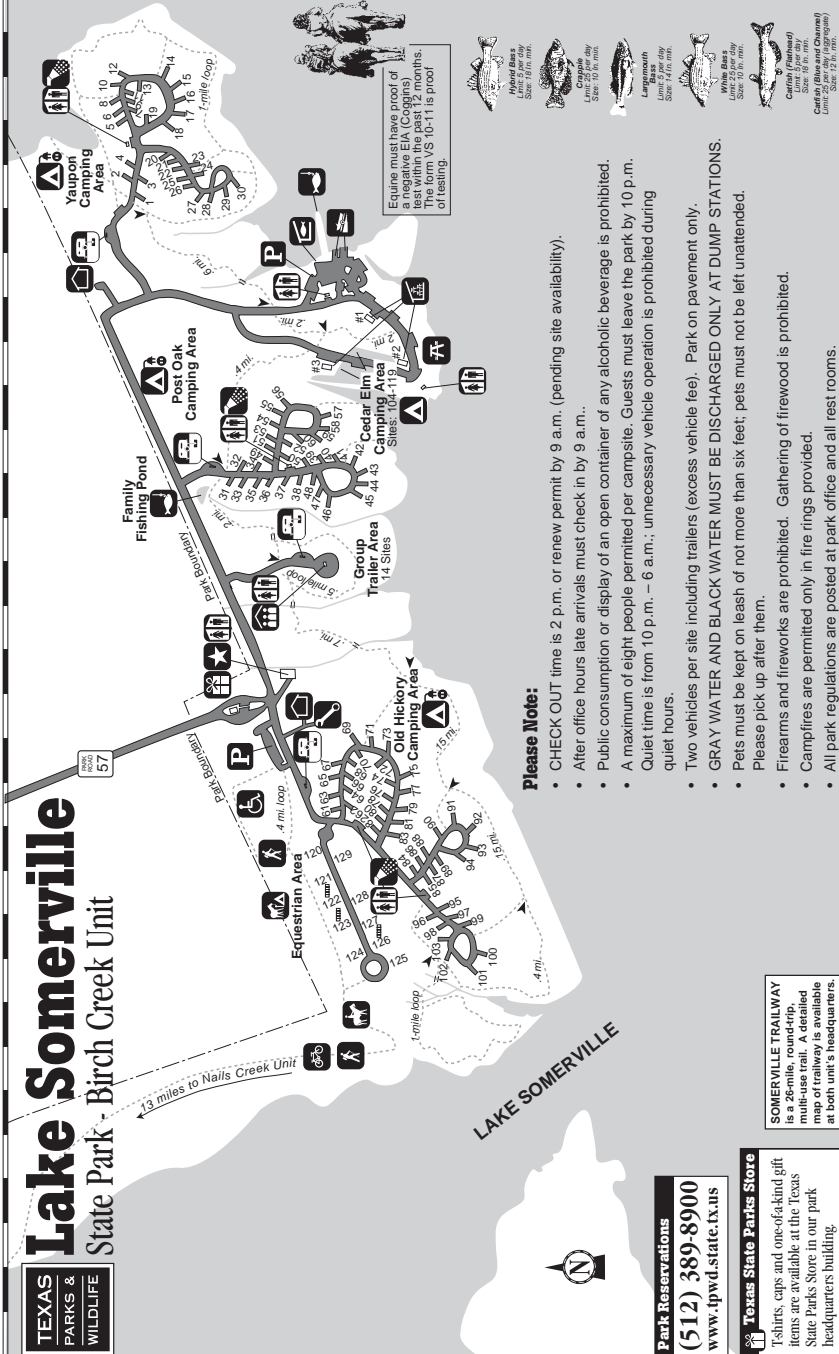
Thank you for your assistance, and we look forward to seeing you again at Texas state parks.

Staff of Texas state parks

Birch Creek State Park

Lake Somerville State Park - Birch Creek Unit

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE



Equine must have proof of a negative EIA (Coggins) test within the past 12 months. The form (IS-10-11) is proof of testing.

- Bluegill
Limit: 10 per day
Size: 8 in. min.
- Crappie
Limit: 5 per day
Size: 10 in. min.
- Largemouth Bass
Limit: 2 per day
Size: 10 in. min.
- White Bass
Limit: 10 per day
Size: 10 in. min.
- Cattfish (Flathead)
Limit: 2 per day (10 per week)
Size: 12 in. min.

Please Note:

- CHECK OUT time is 2 p.m. or renew permit by 9 a.m. (pending site availability).
- After office hours late arrivals must check in by 9 a.m..
- Public consumption or display of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
- A maximum of eight people permitted per campsite. Guests must leave the park by 10 p.m. Quiet time is from 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.; unnecessary vehicle operation is prohibited during quiet hours.
- Two vehicles per site including trailers (excess vehicle fee). Park on pavement only.
- GRAY WATER AND BLACK WATER MUST BE DISCHARGED ONLY AT DUMP STATIONS.
- Pets must be kept on leash of not more than six feet; pets must not be left unattended. Please pick up after them.
- Firearms and fireworks are prohibited. Gathering of firewood is prohibited.
- Campfires are permitted only in fire rings provided.
- All park regulations are posted at park office and all rest rooms.

SOMERVILLE TRAILWAY
is a 26-mile, round-trip, multi-use trail. A detailed map of trailway is available at both unit's headquarters.

Park Reservations
(512) 389-8900
www.ipwd.state.tx.us

Texas State Parks Store
T-shirts, caps and one-of-a-kind gift items are available at the Texas State Parks Store in our park headquarters building.

ACTIVITY 1

CIS-Clever Student Investigators

Texas Tracks

Do you know them?



RACCOON



OPOSSUM



SKUNK



COYOTE



BOBCAT



WHITE-TAILED DEER



Animal Signs and Habitat Impacts

1. Name one animal sign that you saw. Describe what that tells you about that animal or what happened to it.

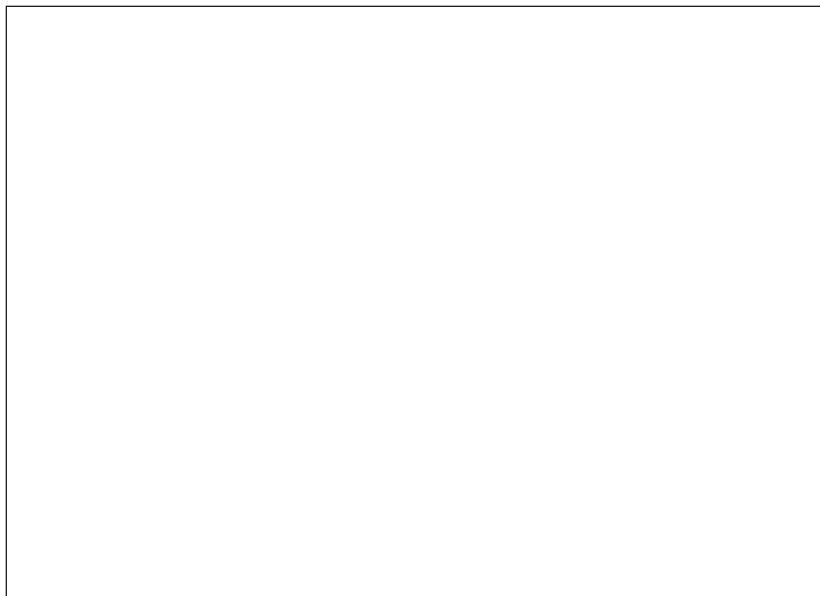
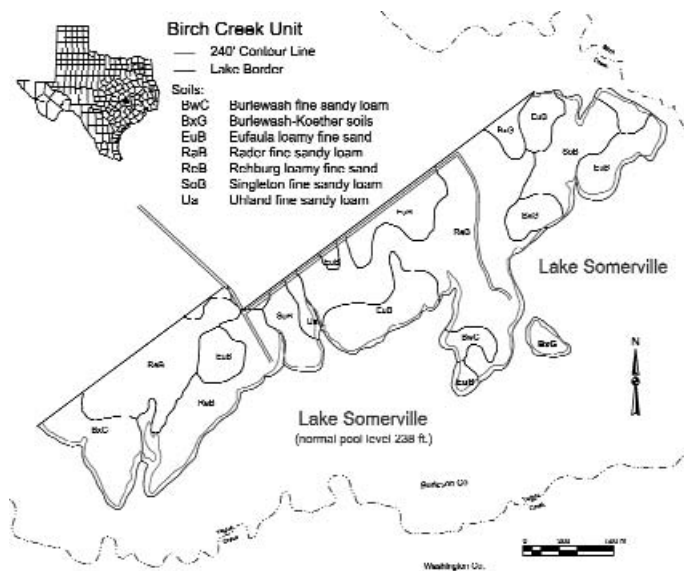
2. Name one animal sign that you saw. Describe what that tells you about that animal or what happened to it.

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ACTIVITY 2

Soils, Water Retention and the Watershed



ACTIVITY 3

Plotting a Course



	Animal Found	Clue
Marker #1		Not a native animal
Marker #2		Born with little scent
Marker #3		Was one vote from U.S. national bird
Marker #4		Present in winter
Marker #5		Has excellent night vision
Marker #6		4.5 million found in Texas

Field Notes, Comments & Observations

What did you do at this activity station? (Include all observations and what you have learned from this activity.)

ACTIVITY 4

Green Buildings and Sustainability



Sustainable Features of Lake Somerville Visitor Center:

- Rainfall harvester
- 85% sustainable lumbar
- 75% fly ash concrete
- Natural day lighting design reduces need for electric lighting
- Salvaged oil pipe framing
- Environmentally friendly paint used
- Recycled blue jean denim insulation
- Native wildscape

Sustainable/green characteristics:	Benefit to environment:

Why is recycling beneficial and who benefits from recycling?

Weighing In on Lunch

List the items recycled and items taken home.

Weight of trash: _____



FIELD OBSERVATIONS

"It's In Your Hands" Student Journal

BRENHAM I.S.D.



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PWD BK P4505-056F (4/07)