

Stephen F. Austin State Park

Find solitude and beauty in a river-bottom forest.

Just beyond the campgrounds, discover a guiet wilderness surprisingly close to the city. Hike or bike the wandering trails of Stephen F. Austin State Park. When you watch closely, nature reveals hidden treasures at every turn.

STAYING SAFE

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. Prepare for sun and heat. Wear sunscreen, insect repellent and appropriate clothing/hiking shoes.

DRINK PLENTY OF WATER. Your body quickly loses fluids when you're on the trail. Bring a quart of water per hour of activity.

TELL OTHERS WHERE YOU'LL BE. If possible, avoid exploring alone. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.

WEAR A HELMET WHEN BIKING. Check with park HQ to match the trail to your skill level. Wear a helmet to protect yourself in case of a crash.

POTENTIALLY HARMFUL PLANTS AND ANIMALS MAY LIVE HERE. You'll see them more easily if you stay on the trails. Do not approach wildlife!

CHECK FOR TRAIL CLOSURES. Certain trails may be closed during prescribed burns or for other resource management work.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Trash your trash. Pack out all of your trash and Leave No Trace.

Leave feeding to nature. Feeding wild animals will make them sick. Please do not feed them.

Take only memories and pictures. Please don't disturb or remove any of the park's plants, animals or artifacts.

Watch for grazing cattle. Give them plenty of space and do not approach these animals.





TRAIL	DISTANCE	TIME	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
BRAZOS BOTTOM TRAIL	0.5 mi.	30 min.	Easy	Hike or bike along the meandering path of the current and historical flows of the Brazos River to experience the nature of a pristine bottomland forest.
COPPERHEAD TRAIL	0.5 mi.	40 min.	Easy	Nestled into the primitive area of the park, old-growth forests along Copperhead Trail are home to bobcats and gray foxes.
COTTONWOOD	0.7 mi.	30 min.	Easy	A wide path leads you from the hardwood forest of the amphitheater to the bottomland forest of the Brazos River.
IRONWOOD TRAIL	1.0 mi	50 min.	Easy	Start near the Nature Center and Bullinger Creek to bike or hike along the park boundaries toward the lower floodplain forest.
BARRED OWL TRAIL	0.7 mi.	30 min.	Easy	From the roadside parking by the tent loop, follow Barred Owl Trail into the shaded cottonwood forest for several Brazos River vistas.
OPOSSUM LOOP	0.3 mi.	20 min.	Easy	Take an easy stroll down the path and up the stairs to experience the edge of our bottomland forests and the old Brazos River bank.
PILEATED TRAIL	0.7 mi.	30 min.	Easy	Over the creeks and through the hardwood forest, Pileated Trail leads you from the amphitheater to the Nature Center.
NATURE TRAIL	0.1 mi.	10 min.	Easy	Get information on plants of the park on this shortcut from the group hall to the shelter loop.
SYCAMORE TRAIL	0.5 mi.	30 min.	Easy	Majestic cottonwoods and sycamores cool the path from the RV restroom down toward one of the river access points.

FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1.

