

Abilene State Park

Discover Texas history and natural beauty at Abilene State Park.

Explore a Civilian Conservation Corps treasure built in a wooded oasis where the Rolling Plains and the Edwards Plateau meet. Here oak and juniper woodlands mix with prairies, creating a rich natural diversity for wildlife watching. Explore the park's hiking trails, visit the red sandstone CCC structures, or relax at Lake Abilene.



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.

WEATHER CHANGES QUICKLY. Check forecasts before you leave and prepare for changes in the weather.





TRAIL	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
ABILENE DAM ROAD	3.5 mi.	Moderate	Bring plenty of water for this scenic loop trail overlooking Lake Abilene and Elm Creek Valley. Look for roadrunners and white-tailed deer in the hills, and waterfowl and beavers near the lake.
BIRD TRAIL	0.3 mi.	Easy	This Civilian Conservation Corps road turned hiking trail will take you to the bird blind.
LEGACY TRAIL	0.2 mi.	Easy	Learn about the CCC and the importance of not pocketing the past as you take a walk through history. This short trail was once the pathway to a camping area. You'll see remnants of CCC-built structures along the way.
BUFFALO WALLOW NATURE TRAIL	0.2 mi.	Easy	Make your way around the spring-fed pond. This is the ideal location to spot the resident amphibians and reptiles.
CONNECTING TRAIL	0.1 mi.	Easy	Use this Civilian Conservation Corps trail to bypass the road to get between Elm Creek Nature Trail and the Bird Trail.
CAMPING LOOP CONNECTING TRAIL	0.2 mi.	Easy ADA Accessible	Look up as you make your way past the park's water tower - vultures often roost on it at night. Benches along the trail are great places to rest and enjoy the surroundings.
ELM CREEK NATURE TRAIL	0.9 mi.	Easy	As you make your way around the park on this scenic trail, notice the elm, pecan, oak, and black willow trees that tower over the trail.
OAK GROVE TRAIL	0.2 mi.	Easy	This CCC trail follows Elm Creek. It is a great trail for spotting the tracks of wildlife that use the creek as a source of water.

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. Disturbing or removing any of the park's plants, animals or artifacts is a violation of state law.

Keep pets on leashes for their safety, and to protect wildlife.

Campfires are permitted only in designated rings. Ground fires are not permitted due to potential for ground scarring and wildfires.



