

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



SIXTH GRADE OUTDOOR LABORATORY  
EXPERIENCE AT BIRCH CREEK STATE PARK

# STUDENT JOURNAL



Life's better outside.™

BRENHAM  
I.S.D.



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

# **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

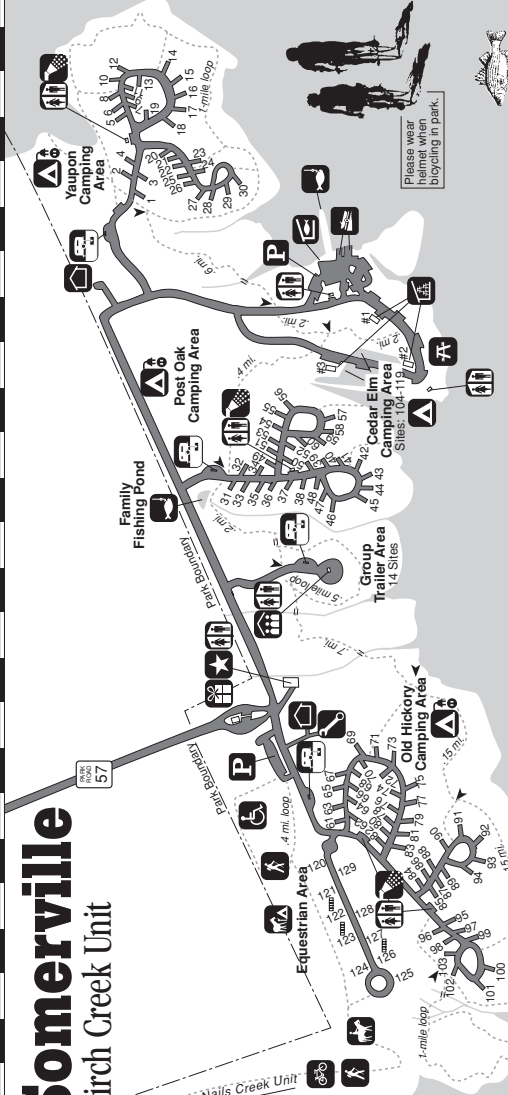
**TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE**

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



13 miles to Nail's Creek Unit

LAKE SOMERVILLE



### 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.



Please wear your seat belt while bicycling in park.



**White Bass**  
Limit: 15 per day  
Size: 18 in. min.



**Largemouth**  
Limit: 5 per day  
Size: 14 in. min.



**Crappie**  
Limit: 10 per day  
Size: 10 in. min.



**White Bass**  
Limit: 15 per day  
Size: 18 in. min.



**Catfish (Flathead)**  
Limit: 3 per day  
Size: 24 in. min.



**Catfish (Blue and Channel)**  
Limit: 2 per day (aggregate)  
Size: 24 in. min.

**SOMERVILLE TRAILWAY** is a 26-mile, round-trip, multi-use trail. A detailed map of trailway is available at Park Headquarters.

**Park Reservations**  
**(512) 389-8900**  
[texasstateparks.org](http://texasstateparks.org)

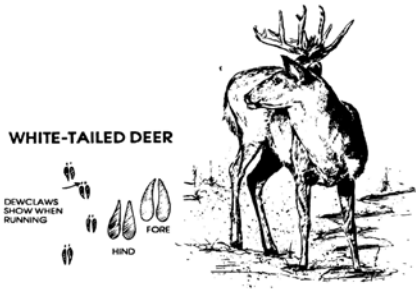
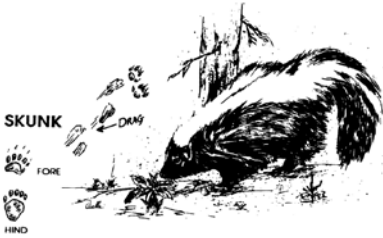
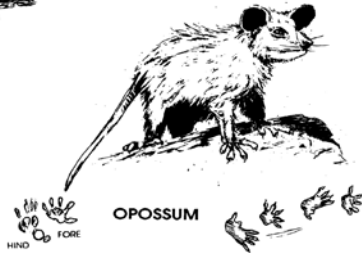
**Texas State Parks Store**  
T-shirts, caps, and one-of-a-kind gift items are available at the Texas State Parks Store in our park headquarters building.

# ACTIVITY 1

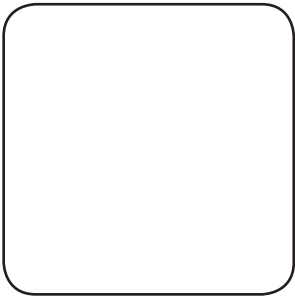
## CSI-Clever Student Investigators

# Texas Tracks

Do you know them?



# Animal Signs and Habitat Impacts

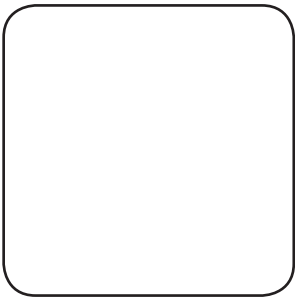


Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

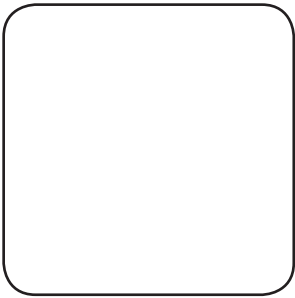


Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

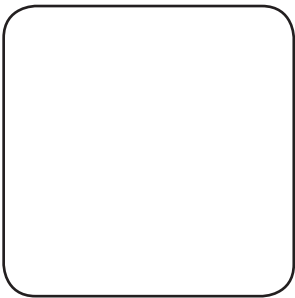


Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Observation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

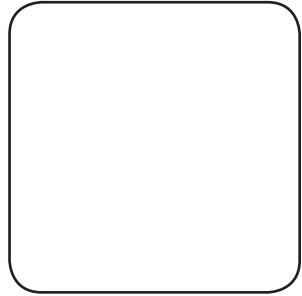
## ACTIVITY 2

Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

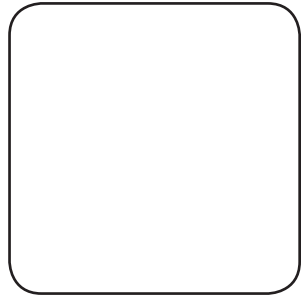


Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

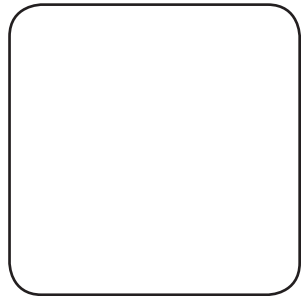


Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

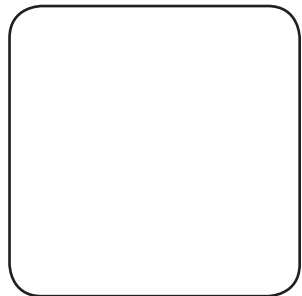


Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Field Notes, Comments & Observations

Observations	Conclusions

Describe what you did at this station.

### Field Questions

Imagine that you are a wildlife biologist. Why would it be important to properly identify what you find?

# ACTIVITY 3

## Plotting a Course



	<b>Animal Found</b>	<b>Clue</b>
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

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>

Describe what you did at this station.





# 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: \_\_\_\_\_







# BRENHAM I.S.D.



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION



Life's better outside.®

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744  
(800) 792-1112 • [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)

© 2013 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
In accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

PWD BK P4505-056F (10/13)