

The Caddo

at Texas State Parks

You are currently standing in part of the traditional Caddo homeland. Many things have changed since the Caddo farmed this area, but many things have stayed the same. Walk in the footsteps of the Caddo by visiting the Texas State Parks and Historic Sites located in their homeland.



Atlanta State Park

Used by the Caddo and other native groups for at least 10,000 years, the land of and around Atlanta State Park was an ideal location for farming and fishing. The Caddo used the area now called Knights Bluff as a lookout to see who and what was coming up and down their trade route on the Sulphur River. The Sulphur River was later flooded to make the lake we see at the park today.



Cooper Lake State Park

Atlanta State Park

Lake Tawakoni State Park

Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

Caddo Lake State Park

Caddo Lake State Park

Caddo (Tso'to) Lake holds a special place in Caddo traditional history. The Caddo are said to have first emerged into this world near Caddo Lake through a cave in a hill. The first Caddo brought along some things they would need to live above ground. Fire, pipe and drum were carried by a man, while corn and pumpkin seeds were brought by his wife.



Purtis Creek State Park

Tyler State Park

Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site

A major regional trade center, Caddo groups lived here until about the year 1300. Visitors can see a burial mound and high and low temple mounds, and visit the museum which houses around 200 artifacts archaeologists have uncovered onsite. In this drawing, the Caddo are capping a temple mound with a final layer of clay just before leaving Caddoan Mounds for the last time.

Mission Tejas State Park

Called Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, the Spanish established a mission near here in 1690 to convert the area's 5,000 Hasinai Caddo. A part of one Caddo village can still be seen on guided tours. The Spanish considered this site ideal to spread the Catholic word, as Caddo villages were trade meccas for other tribes.

Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site

Mission Tejas State Park



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