



Urban Wildlife Office
12861 Galm Rd. (Govt. Canyon SNA)
San Antonio, Tx. 78254
(210) 688-6444, fax (210) 688-6446
Judit.Green@tpwd.texas.gov and
Jessica.Alderson@tpwd.texas.gov

For news on nature and local programs:
<https://www.facebook.com/saurbanwildlife>

Dear Educators,

Our office consists of 2 Biologists who are often in the field. We have set up the following system in an effort to allow educators to loan out our materials with minimum effort. The educational materials are becoming much more popular and in order for everyone to enjoy them, we rely on you to read all the information below and follow the guidelines we have established. Thank you for your assistance!

TO RESERVE TPWD MATERIALS: Call Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Urban Wildlife Office at 210-688-6444 to schedule a time to use our educational materials. We schedule on a first come, first served basis. Due to popularity, it's usually a good idea to reserve at least a month or more in advance. **(Note: Although we are located on a state park, the park has nothing to do with the materials we loan out.)**

LOAN OUT INFORMATION OF TPWD MATERIALS:

Our materials are loaned out to educators at no charge. However, it is expected that you pick up and return the materials at our office (front porch). You must sign a form stating that you will be held responsible for the materials offered in our trunks/tubs (the value of which can range up to \$700 for the contents of some of our trunks). **A cell phone number is required** in case items are returned late or not at all and we need to contact you. **Please provide advance warning if you are unable to return items on time so we can notify educators scheduled to pick up immediately after your scheduled time. Under no circumstances should you extend your days without confirming with us first—the items may be scheduled already and some of our educators come from as far away as Uvalde and/or Corpus Christi!**

Due to popularity of the trunks, only one at a time can be checked out--however special circumstances will be considered. They are usually loaned out for a week at a time, with pick-up occurring the Friday before the week you need the items. These are our standard practices; however, they can be changed to accommodate your needs if the items are not already scheduled out to other individuals. **(Note: Your loan out materials are available for pickup Friday evening AFTER 6 p.m., and you have the option to pick them up that evening, weekend, or even as late as Monday before 9:30pm when the park closes for the week.)** The materials are expected back to our office the following Friday **BEFORE 6 p.m.** **These times hold true unless other arrangements have been made AND CONFIRMED BY US.** If you make a change request via email or phone and you do not get a response—**ASSUME WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED IT.**

Since there are only two staff members at this office, and we are often in the field, it's always a good idea to call 2-3 days before your scheduled pick up date or return date if a change is needed. On the rare occasion that we may forget to place your items out or the previous educator hasn't returned the items in time for you to pick them up from our office--you can call the park office (210-688-9055 ext. 0) and they can attempt to reach us.

ADDRESS and HOURS:

Our office is located on the northwest part of San Antonio at Govt. Canyon State Natural Area at 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, Tx. 78254. You can Google the park to get a map or you can follow the driving directions listed at the end of this e-mail below. **The Park is ONLY OPEN to the public from Fridays through Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (CLOSED on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday's).** It is a good idea to arrive no later than 9:30pm so that you are not accidentally locked in the park. If for some reason this should happen, you will need to return to the Urban Office (Ranch House) and just to the right of the office there should be at least one park host at one of the camp sites that may be able to assist in getting you out of the park. **NOTE: If you are picking up your items after dark, pls bring a flashlight since our porch area offers no lighting nearby.**

DIRECTIONS TO OUR URBAN WILDLIFE OFFICE WHERE YOU'RE ITEMS WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU:

When you enter through the white limestone main entrance of Govt. Canyon SNA, take the first road to your right. It will have a closed but unlocked gate. Close the gate behind you, travel 1 mile to our Ranch House office. **Your Loan Out Materials will be placed on the front porch, along with the form you'll need to fill out.** Caution: The road is narrow—please follow the 20mph speed limit and be cautious in the turns looking for oncoming traffic and/or pedestrians. **IMPORTANT: Be aware that multiple items may be on the porch for other educators so be sure to check that you are picking up only the materials listed on the form with your name on it.** You will need to return the materials back to our office, and can leave them on the front porch where you picked them up.

MATERIALS WE LOAN OUT:

Resource Trunks (Best Suited for Classroom Study) -- There should be **one main person responsible for the trunk to assure all the materials (especially curriculum) are not lost if used at a large group activity** where only portions of the trunk may get used at the event.

These educational trunks have been designed to assist educators in developing lesson plans that will spark student interest in our Texas wildlife. The trunks allow for an interactive learning approach. Educators may use some or all of the activities and/or presentations in the trunks to enhance their classroom lessons. The following trunks are available on a first come, first served basis and the loan period is not to exceed two weeks without prior permission. Due to popularity of the trunks, only one at a time can be checked out--however special circumstances will be considered. These trunks are best suited for classroom study since they offer curriculum.

- ◆ **Wild in the City Mammal Trunk**

This trunk offers an array of manipulatives, such as mammal furs, mammal skulls and bones, rubber track and scat replicas, and deer and squirrel calls. In addition, there is a mammal slide show along with various resource books, lessons, and activities.

- ◆ **Bat Trunk**

This trunk offers one taxidermy Mexican free-tailed bat, Microbat detector, Bat Chat tape, bat posters, bat slide show, three different videos, and various resource books and activities.

- ◆ **Rare and WILD Trunk**
This trunk offers an array of videos and games to teach students about our Texas threatened and endangered species. In addition, there are resource books, lessons, and activities.
- ◆ **Wetlands Trunk or Texas Waters Trunk**
These trunks provide equipment to survey natural water sources to learn about the invertebrates and wildlife that inhabit them. It offers resource books, DVDs, and activities.
- ◆ **Insect Trunk**
This trunk provides insect trays with some local specimens and offers a variety of activities, resource books, DVDs, and equipment to survey your campus/property for local insects that inhabit the area.

Mammal Tubs (*Best Suited for Events with Large Groups and/or Classroom Study*)

The two tubs (green & white) offer a hands-on opportunity to study 10 common local mammals (coyote, fox, bobcat, raccoon, opossum, skunk, ringtail cat, rabbit, deer, and beaver). The tubs offer the skins, skulls, scat, and tracks of these ten species of wildlife. There is also an "Animal Adaptation" questionnaire for students (intended for 4th graders and older) to use during their observations. However these hands-on materials are well suited for all ages and are best suited for events with large numbers of people, but also works well for classroom study.

Mammal Tracks Stamping Activity Tub

This activity offers 10 stamps of local urban mammal life-size tracks that students can stamp onto a hand-out that highlights these mammals.

Mammal Track Molds Tub

This activity offers 18 track molds (front and hind) of local urban mammals. We provide the molds, you need to provide the plaster of paris.

Other Activity Tubs

There are a few other activity tubs available too. If you have a need, give us a call, we may be able to accommodate your class with the various materials we have available to loan out.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO GOVT. CANYON SNA*: Government Canyon State Natural Area is located outside Loop 1604 in NW San Antonio. (READ "Address & Hours" before traveling to the area.)

From Austin:

- Travel on I-35 South to San Antonio.
- Take Loop 1604 (outermost loop around San Antonio) west to Braun Rd (the first stop light that you will come to).
- Turn right and proceed (west) outside the loop on Braun about 1-1/2 miles until it ends at FM 1560.
- Go left on 1560 for another 1-1/2 miles to Galm Rd.
- Go right on Galm and travel 1.5 miles to where the road curves sharply to the left and our entrance will be on the right.
- Enter the Natural Area through our main white limestone front entrance.
- You will take your first paved road to the right. There is an unlocked metal ranch gate there. Please open and close this gate and continue down the single lane road cautiously at 20mph.
- The road will lead to the Urban Wildlife office (Ranch house). Your materials should be on the porch on or near the white table.

From South Texas:

- Travel north to Hwy 90/IH-10.
- Take Hwy90/IH-10 West to Hwy 151 (Sea World) exit. Exit Hwy 151.
- Take Hwy 151 to Loop 1604, exit to the north (right) and stay on the access road.
- Take a left at the first light on Culebra Road / Hwy 471 and travel 4 to 5 miles to Galm Road.
- Take a right on Galm Road and proceed 1.5 miles to where the road curves sharply to the right and our entrance will be on the left.
- Enter the Natural Area through our main white limestone front entrance.
- You will take your first paved road to the right. There is an unlocked metal ranch gate there. Please open and close this gate and continue down the single lane road cautiously at 20mph.
- The road will lead to the Urban Wildlife office (Ranch house). Your materials should be on the porch on or near the white table.

***If you have any difficulty getting into the natural area or if the directions are unclear please call 210-688-6444 (Urban Wildlife office) or 210-688-9055 (Park office).**