



# Sheldon Lake State Park Trails Map

14140 Garrett Rd.  
Houston, TX 77044  
(281) 456-2800  
www.texasstateparks.org



## LEGEND

- Headquarters
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Group Camping
- Picnic Areas
- Sheltered Picnic Areas
- Learning Center
- Hiking Trail Only
- Wildlife Viewing
- Freshwater Fishing
- Pond Loop Trail
- Prairie Trail
- Wetland Loop
- Swamp Rabbit Trail
- Bent Pine Trail
- Armadillo Trail
- Kinglet Trail

Park safety emergency number  
(281) 456-2800  
Sheriff's dispatch number  
(713) 221-6000

All trails allow hiking and biking unless otherwise indicated by icons. All boardwalks are for hiking only. Bicycles not permitted.  
No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use. Map compiled by TSP staff.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

(GPS coordinates shown in degrees, minutes, seconds)

- 1 POND CROSSING**  
29°51'25.08"N 95° 9'45.00"W  
A dramatic crossing of one of the park's naturalized ponds on the Pond Loop Trail. Look for alligators, frogs, turtles and aquatic birds.
- 2 JOHN JACOB OBSERVATION TOWER**  
29°51'30.96"N 95° 9'51.48"W  
Ascend over 60 feet to see the restored prairie and Sheldon Lake, as well as the downtown skyline.
- 3 WILDLIFE VIEWING PLATFORM**  
29°51'40.20"N 95° 9'33.42"W  
Watch the plants and animals of the prairie and wetlands change throughout the seasons from this 6-foot-tall covered platform.
- 4 AQUATIC LAB 1**  
29°51'30.96"N 95° 9'41.88"W  
See this shallow pond equipped for aquatic study as part of the park's interpretive/education programs.
- 5 FISHING DECK** 29°51'28.08"N 95° 9'40.20"W  
Ponds stocked with sunfish, catfish and largemouth bass provide a great, first-time, catch-and-release fishing experience.
- 6 POND CENTER** 29°51'30.36"N 95° 9'38.40"W  
Adjacent to the picnic area, this modern, open-air building showcases green design and provides shelter and park information.

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## Back to Nature

Former fish hatchery ponds go wild at Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center. You can hike, fish or view the results of sustainable resource management: land reclaimed by nature and filled with native birds, fish and grasses.

### STAYING SAFE

**ALLIGATORS LIVE IN THIS PARK.** Stay at least 30 feet away. Stay out of the water! Never annoy or attempt to feed!

**POTENTIALLY HARMFUL PLANTS AND ANIMALS LIVE HERE.** Staying on the trail paths makes them easier to see and avoid.

**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.

**FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1.**



Great Blue Heron

TRAIL	DISTANCE	TIME	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
 <b>POND LOOP TRAIL</b>	.55 mi.	30-60 min.	Easy	Walk this half-mile trail past 28 naturalized fish hatchery ponds, which provide habitat for wading birds, frogs, alligators and other aquatic animals.
 <b>PRAIRIE TRAIL &amp; WETLAND LOOP</b>	.76 mi.	30-60 min.	Easy	To see the restored coastal tall-grass prairie and seasonal wetlands, take these trails from the prairie parking lot or the Swamp Rabbit Trail.
 <b>SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL</b>	.36 mi.	15 min.	Easy	Stroll under the ever-changing tree canopy. Along the way, keep an ear out for woodpeckers, which prefer the trees along this trail.
 <b>BENT PINE TRAIL</b>	.21 mi.	10 min.	Easy	This pine-shaded trail loops through a former hatchery pond that demonstrates nature's ability to survive change.
 <b>ARMADILLO TRAIL</b>	.07 mi.	5 min.	Easy	This shady forested trail links the Pond Loop to the Swamp Rabbit Trail.
 <b>KINGLET TRAIL</b>	.08 mi.	5 min.	Easy	Cross from the Swamp Rabbit Trail to the Pond Loop Trail through this dry pond. Stop at the exhibits to learn about the animals that live here.

### TRAIL ETIQUETTE

**Trash your trash.** Keep the park natural. Pack out all of your trash and Leave No Trace.

**Leave feeding to nature.** Feeding wild animals will make them sick and more likely to cause harm to people.

**Keep pets on leashes** to keep them safe, while protecting wildlife.

**We need to know about your caches.** Please check with park HQ before placing geocaches within the park.

**Take only memories and pictures.** Help preserve nature. Leave all plants and animals in the park.