



# Palmetto State Park Trails Map

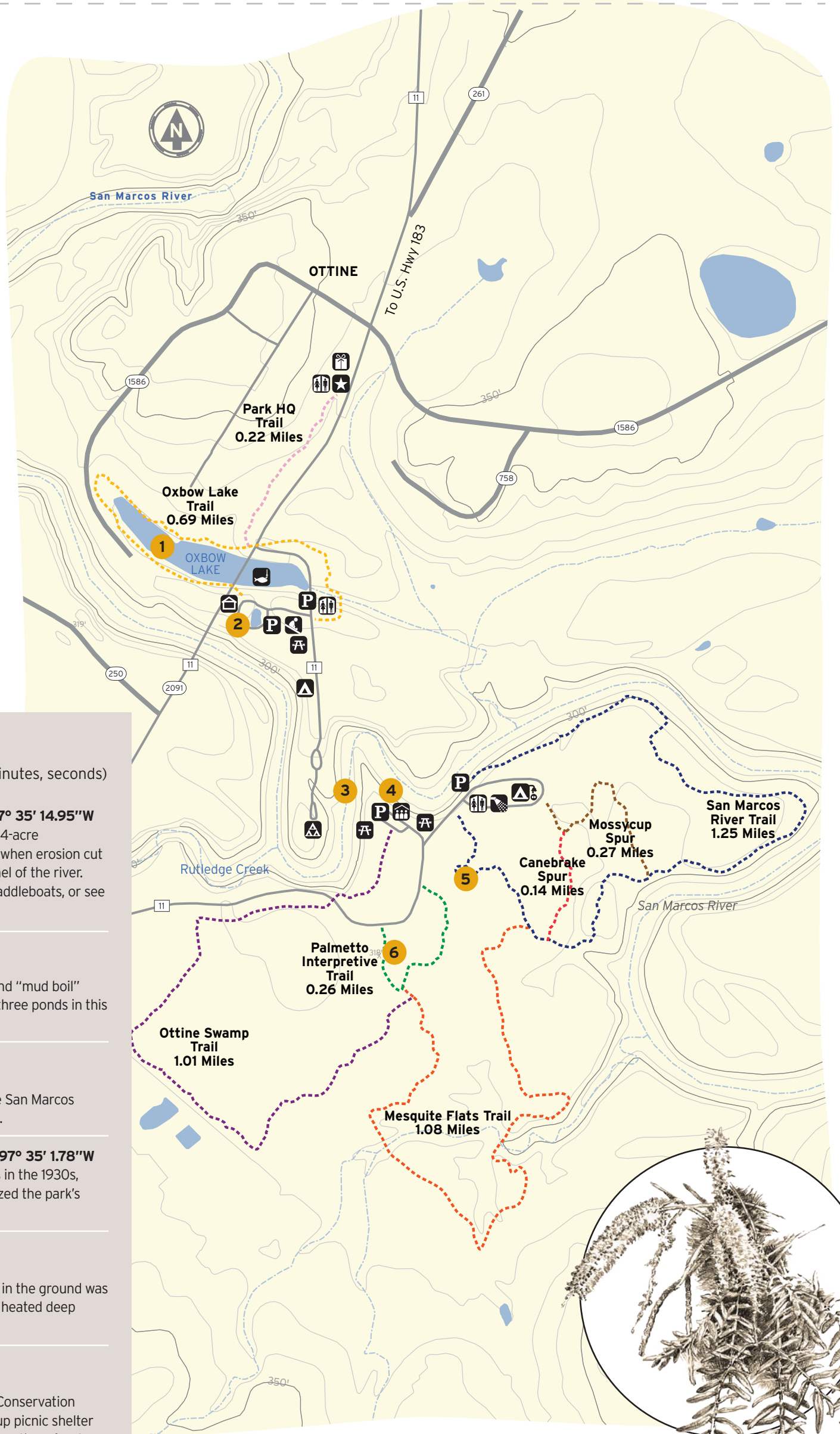
78 Park Road 11 South  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
(830) 672-3266  
www.texasstateparks.org

## LEGEND

- Headquarters
- State Park Store
- Restrooms
- Showers
- Tent Campgrounds
- Water/Electric Camping
- Group Camping
- Parking
- Picnic/Day Use Area
- Refectory
- Cabins
- Fishing Pier
- Playground

All trails allow hiking and biking unless otherwise indicated. Contour intervals are 10 feet. Trail lengths are in miles. Elevation levels are in feet.

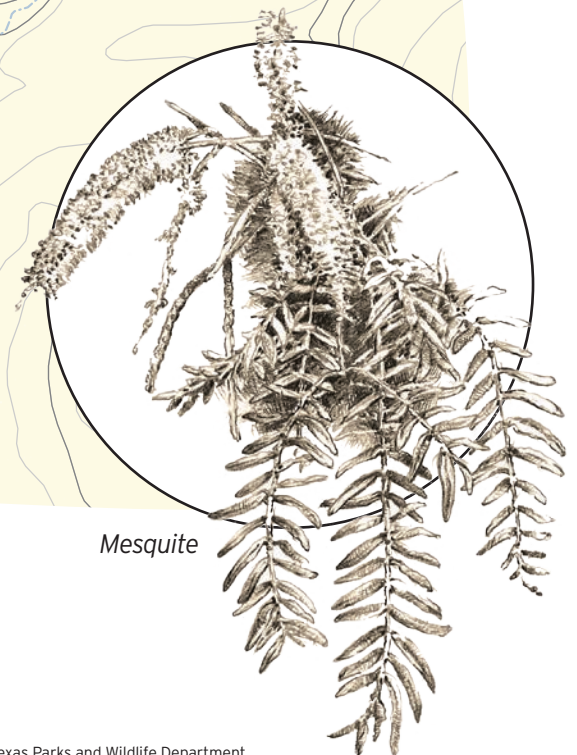
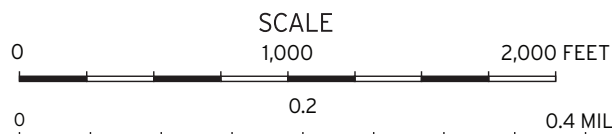
No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use. Map compiled by Texas State Parks staff.



## POINTS OF INTEREST

(GPS coordinates shown in degrees, minutes, seconds)

- 1 OXBOW LAKE** 29° 33' 37.41"N 97° 35' 14.95"W  
Once part of the San Marcos River, this 4-acre bow-shaped body of water was formed when erosion cut a wide meander from the former channel of the river. Enjoy this lake's serenity in kayaks or paddleboats, or see if you can catch a fish!
- 2 ARTESIAN WELL** 29° 35' 34.46"N 97° 35' 13.41"W  
Created by the CCC, the artesian well and "mud boil" re-creation keep water levels up in the three ponds in this area.
- 3 LOW-WATER CROSSING** 29° 35' 23.67"N 97° 35' 6.16"W  
This low-water footpath crossing on the San Marcos River is a great place to look for wildlife.
- 4 CCC REFECTORY** 29° 35' 22.51"N 97° 35' 1.78"W  
Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, architects provided plans that emphasized the park's natural features.
- 5 EXTINCT MUD BOILS** 29° 35' 17.82"N 97° 34' 57.19"W  
Extinct since the 1970s, this depression in the ground was once a "mud boil," a place where water heated deep within the earth bubbles to the surface.
- 6 CCC WATER TOWER** 29° 35' 13.47"N 97° 35' 3.35"W  
The pump was installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 to supply the nearby group picnic shelter with water. Today it demonstrates the function of water being pumped without electrical power into a 1930s-era cistern and water tower for release into the wetlands along the Palmetto Trail.



# Palmetto State Park

## An Ancient World To Explore.

Tranquility, exploration and adventure await you in this peaceful, tropical setting. The lush habitat provides for diverse plant life, such as the park's namesake, the dwarf palmetto. Bring a fishing pole or a tube to enjoy the river; or explore one of the well-maintained trails with a bike or on foot.

### 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 mountain 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.** Staying on the trail paths makes them easier to see. Do not approach wildlife!

### 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.

**Take only memories and pictures.** Please don't disturb or remove any of the park's plants, animals or artifacts.

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

	TRAIL	DISTANCE	TIME	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
	 <b>PALMETTO INTERPRETIVE TRAIL</b>	.26 mi.	30 min.	Easy	This short trail gives you a good idea of the variety of habitats in this crossroads of eco-regions. Learn about the plants, animals and cultural heritage of the area from the many interpretive panels.
	 <b>OXBOW LAKE TRAIL</b>	.68 mi.	45 min.	Easy	Take a leisurely stroll around the 4-acre Oxbow Lake. This is a great place to look for birds, such as herons and kingfishers.
	 <b>MESQUITE FLATS TRAIL</b>	1.01 mi.	1 hr.	Moderate	This trail is the best place in the park to see mesquite trees. While native to Texas, this hardy drought-tolerant plant is an invasive plant in some areas of Texas, such as ranches, where it out-competes grasses.
	 <b>OTTINE SWAMP TRAIL</b>	1.08 mi.	1 hrs.	Moderate	Named for the nearby town of Ottine, many of the ephemeral swamps can be seen off of this trail as it meanders its way through the area.
	 <b>SAN MARCOS RIVER TRAIL</b>	1.25 mi	1.5 hrs.	Moderate	Fed by the San Marcos Springs in San Marcos, Texas, this trail borders much of the river and is rich in wildlife, especially birds.
	 <b>MOSSYCUP SPUR</b>	.27 mi.	30 min.	Easy	Also called "Bur Oak," this trail is a good place to spot North America's largest native acorn, averaging 1 to 1-1/2 inches in length. It gets its "Mossy Cup" name from the fringe found around the edge of the acorn cup.
	 <b>CANEBRAKE SPUR</b>	.14 mi.	15 min.	Easy	This trail is named for the "canebrake" or "timber" rattlesnake. More commonly found in the eastern third of Texas, this threatened snake found at Palmetto State Park is indicative of the unique ecosystem found here.
	 <b>PARK HQ TRAIL</b>	.22 mi.	30 min.	Easy	A quick hike down this trail gets you to the day-use and tent camping areas of the park. Rent a canoe, cast a fishing line or stay in the cabin for the night.

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