Government Canyon State Natural Area Trails Map

12861 Galm Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78254
(210) 688-9055
www.texasstateparks.org

In case of emergency, call the GCSNA headquarters at (210) 688-9055; or dial 9-1-1.

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î 2016 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  PWD NP P4050-01005 (7/16)

Points of Interest

1. SAVANNAH RESTORATION AREA
29°32’48.00”N  98°45’12.03”W
Here we’re using proven land management techniques to give a native grass savannah a fighting chance to re-establish its “home turf.”

2. WILDCAT CANYON RANCH BUILDINGS
29°33’33.69”N  98°45’46.73”W
Imagine this land as a working ranch, as evidenced by a pole barn, corral, stock tank and windmill.

3. DINOSAUR TRACKS
29°34’57.34”N  98°45’55.96”W
Created when this area was the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico, see the footprints left by creatures that roamed here 110 million years ago.

4. ZIZELMANN HOUSE
29°35’05.51”N  98°45’43.46”W
Named for the family of German bakers who are believed to have built it in 1882, this iconic building stands as testimony to the remoteness of life in the 1880s.

Legend

Scenic Overlook
Restrooms
Primitive Toilet
Parking
Headquarters
Fee Station
Picnic Area
Nature Playscape
Tent Camping
Trailhead

Frontcountry (Hiking/Biking Trails):
Lytle’s Loop
Savannah Loop

Backcountry (Hiking Only Trails):
Interpretive Nature Trail
Bluff Spurs
Overlook Trail

Backcountry (Hiking/Biking Trails):
Caroline’s Loop
Far Reaches
Joe Johnston Route
Little Windmill
Recharge Trail
Sendero Balcones
Twin Oaks
Wildcat Canyon

Protected Habitat Area (Open Sept.–Feb. ONLY)
Hiking Only (Seasonal) Trails:
Black Hill Loop
Cave Creek
La Subida
Sendero Travesero

Notes:
All trails allow hiking and biking unless otherwise indicated. Biking is prohibited in the Protected Habitat Area, on Overlook Trail and on Bluff Spurs. Pets allowed in Frontcountry only.

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Government Canyon State Natural Area

Discover a quiet wilderness surprisingly close to San Antonio.

Nearly 40 miles of trails beckon you to explore the canyonlands and grasslands of Government Canyon State Natural Area. Join us in our mission of protecting highly sensitive ecosystems by observing proper trail etiquette as you explore.

STAYING SAFE

CHECK FOR TRAIL CLOSURES. As a State Natural Area, our principal mission is to protect natural and cultural resources. Environmental conditions may result in temporary trail closures.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. Prepare for sun and heat. Wear a hat and take plenty of water, snacks and sunscreen. People average two miles per hour while hiking.

DRINK PLENTY OF WATER. Bring a quart (32 oz.) of water per hour of activity, and don’t forget your pets – they need water too.

LET OTHERS KNOW YOUR PLANS. If alone, leave details visible from your vehicle.

HELMETS ARE RECOMMENDED. When mountain biking, check with staff to match the trail to your skill level. Wear a helmet to protect yourself.

GOT BARS? Take along a cell phone and GPS unit, but don’t count on them.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Preserve your trails. Staying off wet trails helps prevent rutting, erosion and destruction of trails.

Trash your trash. Put the “natural” in natural area. Pack out all of your trash and Leave No Trace.

Take only memories and pictures. Please don’t disturb or remove any of the natural area’s plants, animals or artifacts. Stay on designated trails.

Leave feeding to nature. Feeding wild animals can make them sick and harm their ability to survive on their own.

Leash your pets. Keeping them on a leash and under control protects your pets, other people and wildlife. Please note that NO pets are allowed in the Backcountry.

Respect fellow trail users. Be courteous to all trail users; bikers must yield to hikers.

FOR AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL</th>
<th>DISTANCE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAVANNAH LOOP</td>
<td>2.6 mi.</td>
<td>1 - 1.5 hrs.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Begins and ends at the Frontcountry Trailhead. This is a good choice for walking the dog or taking the kids for a leisurely stroll.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LYTEL’S LOOP</td>
<td>5 mi.</td>
<td>2.5 - 3.5 hrs.</td>
<td>Easy - Moderate</td>
<td>Begins and ends at the Frontcountry Trailhead. Keep a watchful eye for a chance sighting of the Rio Grande wild turkey, northern bobwhite quail and white-tailed deer that call this savannah home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH BLUFF SPURS OVERLOOK</td>
<td>3.4 mi.</td>
<td>1.5 - 2 hrs.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>This staff favorite begins at the Backcountry Trailhead. A short hike up the JJR Trail, take the Recharge Trail to Bluff Spurs Trail, to North Bluff Spurs Overlook, to Sendero Balcones Trail, to Recharge Trail, and back to the trailhead. After an easy start, the trail climbs up the Edwards Plateau, leading to a limestone bluff with a majestic view of Government Canyon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOE JOHNSTON ROUTE (Zizelmann House and back)</td>
<td>5.7 mi.</td>
<td>3 - 5 hrs.</td>
<td>Moderate - Challenging</td>
<td>Begins at the Backcountry Trailhead; this historic 1850s route has lots to discover. Notice the change in vegetation as you hike northward. Especially challenging in the summer months, take plenty of water, wear sun protection, and pace yourself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILDCAT CANYON and SENDERO BACONES LOOP</td>
<td>5.2 mi.</td>
<td>2.5 - 3 hrs.</td>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>Begins at the Backcountry Trailhead; leads to Wildcat Canyon Trail, to Sendero Balcones Trail, to Recharge Trail, to JRR Trail, and back. This rugged route takes you through forest canopy, over limestone outcroppings, and down the edge of the Balcones Escarpment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAR REACHES and TWIN OAKS LOOP</td>
<td>9 mi.</td>
<td>4 - 6 hrs.</td>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>Begins at the Backcountry Trailhead. A short hike up the JRR Trail, take the Recharge Trail to Far Reaches Trail, to Sendero Balcones Trail north, to Twin Oaks Trail, to JRR Trail, back. This route showcases many of the features that make the natural area so special: geology, diverse flora, history, and stunning vistas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE OUTER LOOP</td>
<td>11.81 mi.</td>
<td>5 - 7 hrs.</td>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>Begins at the Backcountry Trailhead. A short hike up the JRR Trail, take the Recharge Trail to Far Reaches Trail, to Sendero Balcones Trail north, to the upper end of JRR Trail, around Caroline’s Loop back to the JRR Trail, and back to the trailhead. This outer loop is rough, rugged and rewarding. Be prepared with plenty of water and snacks; this route can be especially difficult in summer. Keep track of your route with your trail map.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whole Earth Provision Co. 12861 Galm Road San Antonio, TX 78254 210-688-9055 For information on Texas State Parks, visit www.texasstateparks.org Sign up today for free email updates: texasstateparks.org/email Texasparksandwildlife TPWparks TXStateParks Supporter: Whole Earth Provision Co.