Government Canyon State Natural Area Trails Map

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

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

LEGEND
Scenic Overlook
Restrooms
Primitive Toilet
Parkin
Visitor Center
Fee Station
Amphitheater
Picnic Area
Nature Trail
Tent Camping
Trailhead

FRONTCOUNTY 🟢
Hiking/Biking Trails:
Lytle's Loop
Savannah Loop

BACKCOUNTRY 🟣
Hiking Only Trails:
Discovery Trail
Bluff Spurs
Overlook Trail

Hiking/Biking Trails:
Caroline's Loop
Far Reaches Trail
Joe Johnston Route
Little Windmill Trail
Recharge Trail
Sendero Balcones
Twin Oaks Trail
Willican Canyon Trail

PROTECTED HABITAT AREA 🟦
(Open September - February ONLY)
Hiking Only (Seasonal) Trails:
Black Hill Loop
Cave Creek Trail
La Subida Trail
Sendero Traveroso

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

POINTS OF INTEREST
(GPS coordinates shown in decimal degrees)

1. SAVANNAH RESTORATION AREA 29.5466° -98.7533°
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 29.5953° -98.7629°
Imagine this land as a working ranch, as evidenced by a pole barn, corral, stock tank and windmill.

3. DINOSAUR TRACKS 29.5825° -98.7655°
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. ZIEGELMANN HOUSE 29.5848° -98.7620°
Historians believe that a family of German bakers named Ziegelmann built this house in 1882. The iconic building stands as testament to the remoteness of life in the 1880s.

Texas State Parks is a division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
© 2021 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. TMDB #74155-OWNERSHIP’S EXEMPTION. In accordance with Texas State Thieves Law, this publication is available at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and/or Texas Libraries Libraries.

TPACE (rev) 2022-1-2 (March 2022) by Texas Parks of Texas or email at PACE@tpwd.texas.gov. You may reproduce this material for personal or non-profit educational purposes, but any other reproduction in any form, in whole or in part, is prohibited except by prior written permission from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Map compiled by Texas State Parks staff.
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 need water, too.

**LET OTHERS KNOW YOUR PLANS.** If hiking 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.

**RESPECT FELLOW TRAIL USERS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIKE</th>
<th>DISTANCE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WILDCAT CANYON and SENDERO</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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALKONES LOOP</td>
<td>5.0 mi.</td>
<td>2.5 - 3 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>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMES JOHNSON LOOP</td>
<td>5.7 mi.</td>
<td>3 - 5 hrs.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>This historic 1850s route has lots to discover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOE JOHNSTON ROUTE (Zizelmann House and back)</td>
<td>5.7 mi.</td>
<td>3 - 5 hrs.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Begins at the Backcountry Trailhead; leads to Zizelmann House and back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAINT LAURENT'S LOOP</td>
<td>5.0 mi.</td>
<td>2.5 - 3 hrs.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Begins at the Frontcountry Trailhead; leads to Wildcat Canyon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE OUTER LOOP</td>
<td>11.8 mi.</td>
<td>5 - 7 hrs.</td>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>Begins at the Backcountry Trailhead. A short hike up the JJR Trail, take the Recharge Trail to Far Reaches Trail, to Sendero Balcones north, to Twin Oaks Trail; this route showcases many of the features that make the natural area so special: geology, diverse flora, history, and stunning vistas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The nature of Government Canyon State Natural Area. Join us in our mission of protecting highly sensitive ecosystems by observing proper trail etiquette as you explore.

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