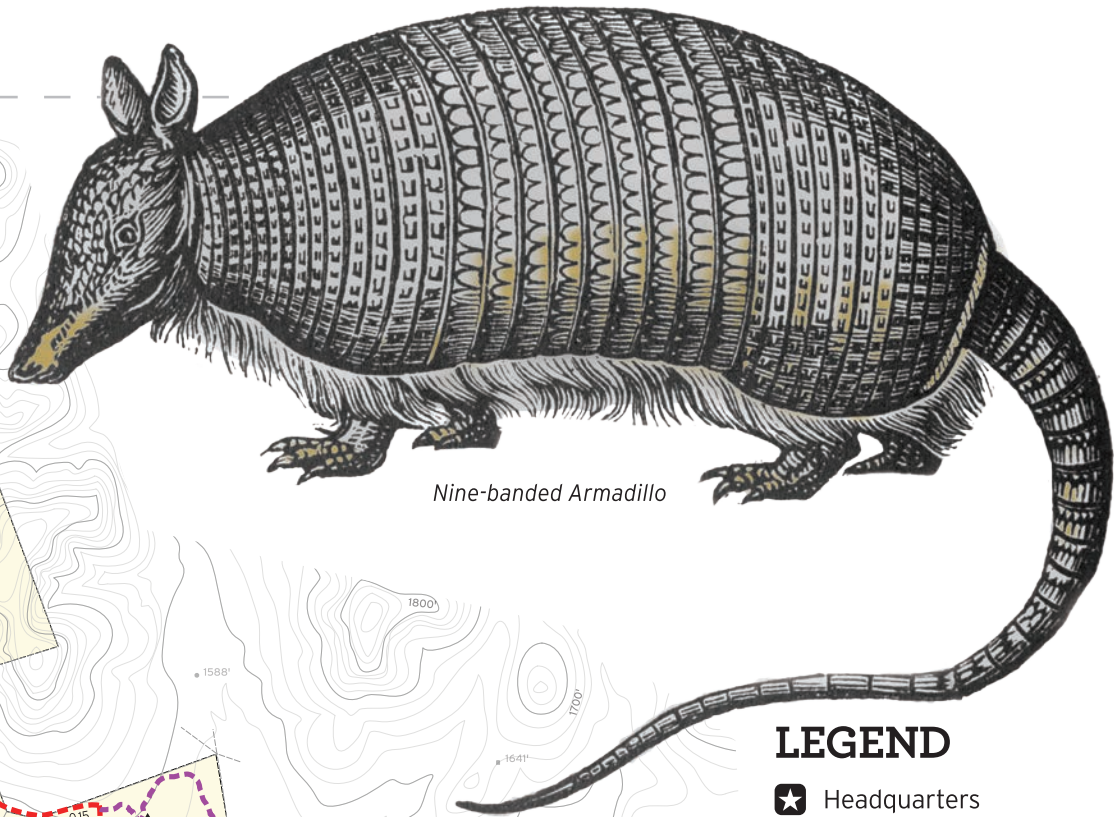




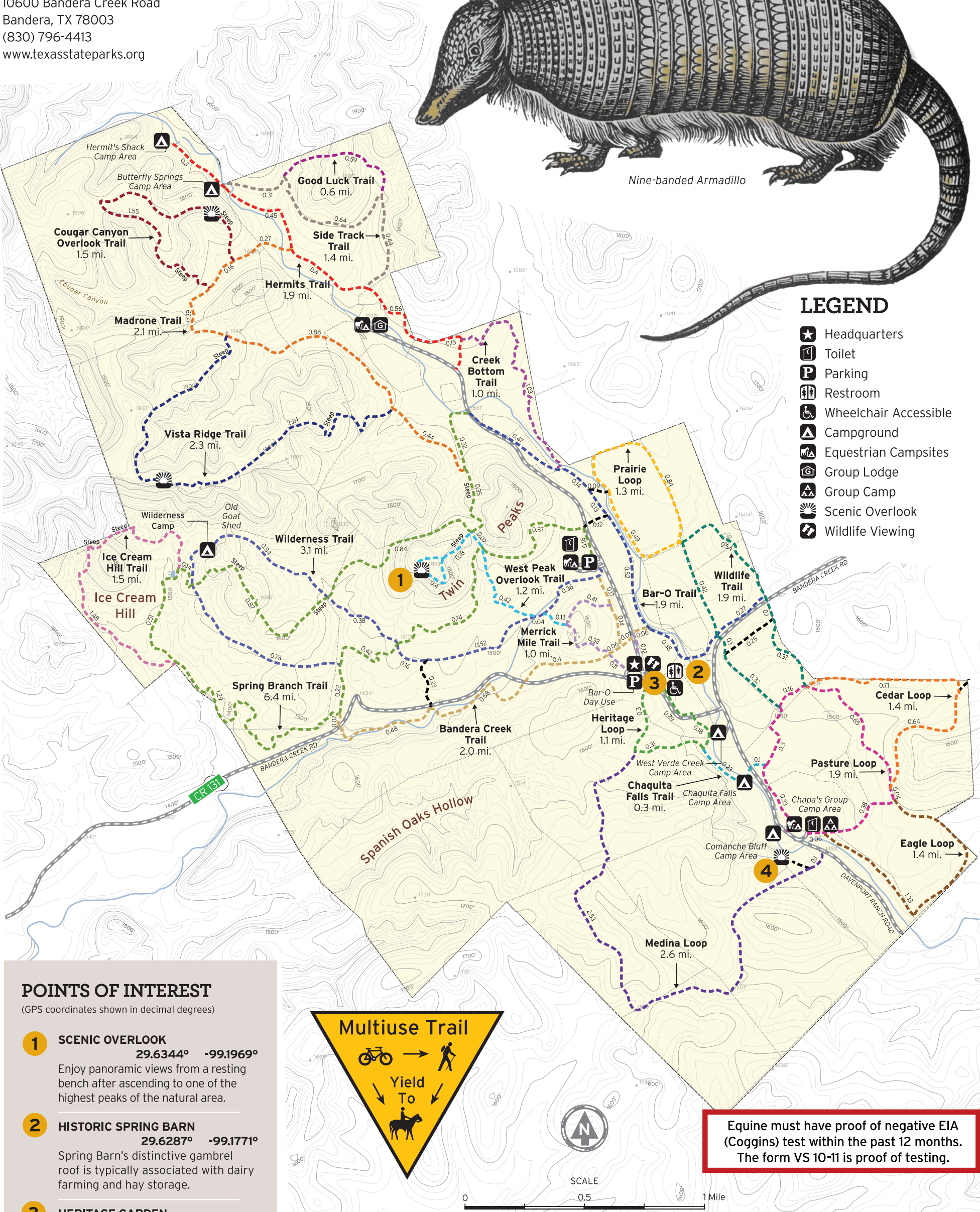
Hill Country State Natural Area

Trails Map

10600 Bandera Creek Road
Bandera, TX 78003
(830) 796-4413
www.texasstateparks.org



Nine-banded Armadillo



All trails are shared-use for hiking, biking and horseback riding.
Contour intervals are 20 feet. Trail lengths are in miles. Elevation levels are in feet.
No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to its suitability to a particular use.
Map compiled by Texas State Parks staff.

This publication can be found at tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/parkinfo/maps/park_maps
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Hill Country State Natural Area

Explore the natural wonders of this remote Hill Country wilderness.

Tranquil creek bottoms, rugged canyons and scenic plateaus invite you to the 40 miles of trails at Hill Country State Natural Area. You’re sure to be intrigued as you discover the diverse ecosystems and cultural history that await on the adventure ahead.

STAYING SAFE

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. Prepare for sun and heat. Wear sunscreen, insect repellent and appropriate clothing/hiking shoes.

DRINK PLENTY OF WATER. Bring a quart (32 oz.) of water per hour of activity for yourself, and remember, your pets need water, too.

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. Protect yourself when mountain biking or horseback riding. Check with headquarters to match the trail to your skill level.

CHECK FOR CLOSURES. Check prior to arrival. Trails and backcountry campsites may be closed due to wet conditions or poor weather.

YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONNECT. It’s a good idea to take along a cell phone and GPS unit, but don’t count on them.

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 harm people.

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

Keep pets on a leash. Keeping your pet under control protects other visitors, wildlife and your pets.

Tell us about your caches. Please check with park HQ before placing geocaches within the natural area.

Practice trail courtesy. Remain on designated trails and be respectful of other trail users. Bikers yield to hikers; everyone yields to horses.



FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1.



TRAIL	DISTANCE	TIME	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
 MERRICK MILE TRAIL	1.0 mi.	30 min.	Easy-Moderate	For a quick glimpse of the natural area, take this short scenic loop near HQ. Enjoy the mild climb that then descends into a prairie of native grasses and wildflowers.
 HERITAGE LOOP	1.1 mi.	30 min.	Easy	Imagine a working ranch as you pass by the mill remnants, views of the Bar-O Ranch House and historic Kitselman fencing. All before ending the loop at the Heritage Garden!
 WILDERNESS TRAIL	3.1 mi.	2 hr	Moderate	Cutting through the heart of the natural area, this easy-going trail meanders along valleys, surrounded by the impressive peaks and escarpments above.
 MADRONE TRAIL	2.1 mi.	1.5 hr	Moderate	Named for the native trees found along this route, the trail takes you to remote regions of the natural area.
 HERMITS TRAIL	1.9 mi.	1.5 hr	Moderate	A favorite for heading to the backcountry campsites, this trail reveals both abundant sunlight and shady groves as you navigate through the canyon.
 BANDERA CREEK TRAIL	2.0 mi.	1 hr	Moderate	Explore this route winding along a seasonal creek, where you're sure to appreciate the interesting variety of plants. Watch for animal tracks along the way.
 PASTURE LOOP	1.9 mi.	1.5 hr	Moderate	Surrounding a former agricultural field, this loop traverses wide open grassland and mature stands of live oak trees.
 MEDINA LOOP	2.6 mi.	2 hr	Moderate-Challenging	This rugged route takes you over limestone outcroppings, past an old goat shed, and leads to the Comanche Bluff Overlook. Keep an eye out for claret cup cactus.
 WEST PEAK OVERLOOK TRAIL	1.2 mi.	1 hr	Challenging	The steep climb up this trail is not without reward. A staff favorite, the breathtaking views are abundant in every direction.
 ICE CREAM HILL TRAIL	1.5 mi.	1 hr	Challenging	Extreme adventure awaits on this backcountry trail. You will be wishing for cool refreshment after tackling the steep and rocky grades.