



# Cooper Lake State Park Trails Map

## Doctors Creek Unit

95 Park Road 8154  
Cooper, Texas 75432  
(903) 395-3100  
www.texasstateparks.org

### POINTS OF INTEREST

(GPS coordinates shown in decimal degrees)

#### 1 WETLAND WONDERS

33.3415° -95.6703°

After sunset, listen as a chorus of frogs welcomes the night from among the cattails and other wetland plants.

#### 2 PAST AND PRESENT

33.3413° -95.6715°

This beautiful view of Cooper Lake was once a view of the Sulphur River floodplain. Can you imagine what this area looked like before the lake? Pause for a minute to reflect.

#### 3 FROM GRASSLAND TO PASTURE

33.3417° -95.6732°

During the mid-1800s, the grasslands were transformed with barbed-wire fence. The fertile bottomland soil grew healthy crops and held water for ponds, making it ideal for farmsteads and tenant farms.

#### 4 IF TREES COULD TALK

33.3434° -95.6719°

Over 100 years ago, oak trees like this one were only saplings. What stories can they tell about the grasslands, where fences changed life on the land forever?

#### 5 WATER IS LIFE

33.3450° -95.6684°

Take a moment. Watch for wildlife like farmers watched their livestock at this old farm pond to the north. You may just see an egret or a heron.

#### 6 MIGHTY OAKS

33.3450° -95.6803°

Gnarled oak trees throughout the park provide cavities and dens, sheltering birds, squirrels, and other small mammals.

No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or its suitability to a particular use.

Map compiled by Texas State Parks staff.

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# Cooper Lake State Park Doctors Creek Unit

## Enjoy the natural beauty of the forest, prairie and lake.

This park is close to the city, yet far away from the hustle and bustle. Visitors of all ages can take a journey through dense, shaded forest and wide-open prairie along the Cedar Creek Trail, which is named for a nearby community settled in the 1800s.

### STAYING SAFE

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

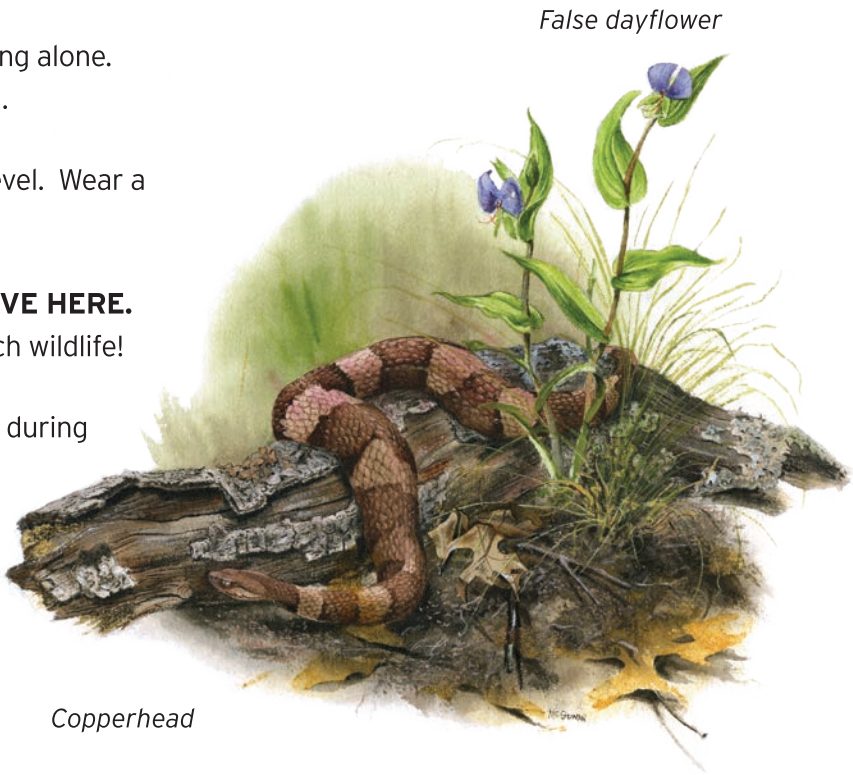
**DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.** Your body quickly loses fluids when you’re on the trail. Bring a quart of water per hour of activity.

**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 BIKING.** Always ride to your skill level. Wear a helmet to protect yourself in case of a crash.

**POTENTIALLY HARMFUL PLANTS AND ANIMALS MAY LIVE HERE.** You’ll see them more easily if you stay on trails. Do not approach wildlife!

**CHECK FOR TRAIL CLOSURES.** Certain trails may be closed during prescribed burns or for other resource management work.



False dayflower

Copperhead

	TRAIL	DISTANCE	TIME	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
●	CEDAR CREEK NORTH LOOP	0.6 mi.	40 min.	Easy	Follow this trail into the South Loop using the i.d. markers for trees and other plants as your guide. Keep an eye out for alien-like mushrooms as you pass the dead oak. This dead tree is actually teeming with life.
●	CEDAR CREEK SOUTH LOOP	0.5 mi.	30 min.	Easy	Journey to the leopard frog marsh. You’ll pass through woods where vultures perch and pocket prairies that are full of life. Enjoy views of the lakeside just off the main trail.
●	CEDAR CREEK EAST LOOP	1.3 mi.	1 hr. 25 min.	Easy	This trail is a must for wildlife viewing. Open prairies full of wildflowers and marshy grasslands lead to an exclusive view of the levee where deer abound and hawks patrol.
●	CEDAR CREEK WEST LOOP	0.6 mi.	35 min.	Easy	Gnarled old oaks line this trail where owls can often be heard in the evenings. The path crosses the old road of farm days past, along remnants of a farm fence line, then into a new-growth prairie and woodland.

### TRAIL ETIQUETTE

**Trash your trash.** Pack out all of your trash and Leave No Trace.

**Leave feeding to nature.** Feeding wild animals will make them sick. Please do not feed them.

**Don’t Pocket the Past.** Help preserve Texas heritage. Leave artifacts where you find them and report their location to a ranger.

**Take only memories and pictures.** Disturbing or removing any of the park’s plants, animals or artifacts is a violation of state law.

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

**Use only your muscles.** To protect park resources, no motor vehicles are allowed on the trails.

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