



NESTLED JUST BEYOND THE HOUSTON METRO AREA LIES STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE PARK, A QUIET PLACE OF NATURAL BEAUTY RARELY FOUND IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS TODAY. SPANNING 473 ACRES, THE PARK FEATURES LUSH BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD FORESTS AND GREEN ASH SWAMPS, PROVIDING A HAVEN FOR WILDLIFE AND PLANT LIFE. HERE, YOU'LL DISCOVER TOWERING COTTONWOOD TREES, CEDAR ELM, WHITE-TAILED DEER, ARMADILLOS, OPOSSUMS, RACCOONS, AND OVER 200 SPECIES OF BIRDS. ALL THE PARK'S NATURAL BEAUTY CAN BE EXPERIENCED WHETHER YOU CAMP, BIKE, HIKE, STARGAZE, OR BIRDWATCH FROM THE FIVE MILES OF TRAILS.



PARK INFORMATION

You are visiting a nature preserve as well as a recreation area. Help us protect the park's wildlife diversity and ensure your safety by observing park rules.

- ✦ Stay on designated trails and boardwalks
- ✦ Keep pets on a leash
- ✦ Take only pictures, leave only footprints

Call the park to schedule your group for special programs. The Nature Center is open seasonally. Check with park headquarters for more information.

Join us as a volunteer to share your love of nature with others!

Stephen F. Austin State Park
Park Road 38, San Felipe, Texas 77473
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INTERPRETIVE GUIDE

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE PARK





BOTTOMLAND FOREST

In the northern section of the park, the bottomland forest thrives in the rich, moist soil of this riverside floodplain, home to towering cottonwood trees and massive sycamores that offer cool shade on hot summer days. The air hums with the sound of rustling leaves as you wander through this lush, dynamic landscape. After floods, willows and cottonwoods quickly take root in the freshly exposed soil, marking the beginning of a fascinating cycle of regeneration. These early settlers are soon replaced by hardier plants, creating a vibrant tapestry of life. The flooding itself nourishes the land, depositing nutrient-rich silt that fuels the growth of plants, providing food and shelter for a variety of wildlife, including armadillo, birds, and amphibians.

RECREATION



Recreation activities offered at Stephen F. Austin surprise many a first-time visitor. Both RV and tent camping is available for campers at one of the 100 campsites that bring you to a place of peace and natural beauty. Over five miles of well-maintained trails provide a way for hikers and cyclists to experience the wonder of nature firsthand. Birdwatchers will delight at the numerous species seen throughout the park. Nature is easily observable from the park's wildlife viewing area. Permanent geocaches exist within the park and are a fun way to bring technology and the outdoors together. After the sun sets, you can also look up at the stars, and marvel at the night sky.



WILDLIFE WONDERS

The park is home to a variety of native mammals, from armadillos and cottontails to coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons. These mammals play vital roles in the park's food web, helping to maintain ecological balance. During their long migrations, birds often stop at the park, utilizing the Brazos River's resources and the park's rich vegetation. Visitors may spot species such as woodpeckers, herons, eagles, and various songbirds. The park offers favored nesting habitats for species like the Pileated Woodpecker, Barred Owl and Red-shouldered Hawk.

