BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK

- 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. Keep a safe distance from alligators. Be sure your pets remain on a leash.
- Call the park to schedule your school, scout or youth group for programs of wildlife discovery.
- Visit the park nature center to learn more about the plants and animals that make their homes here. Check with the nature center to participate in one of the park’s free interpretive programs. The park offers at least six programs each weekend. The nature center is open 9–5 weekends and most holidays, and 11–3 Monday through Friday.

Join or donate to the Brazos Bend Volunteer Organization and help us preserve and interpret the park’s natural resources for others!

Brazos Bend State Park
21901 F.M. 762, Needville, Texas 77461
(979) 553-5101 • www.tpwd.texas.gov/brazosbend
www.brazosbend.org

AND ALLIGATORS. THE PARK MARKS A CONVERGENCE ZONE FOR A VARIETY OF HABITATS WITH OVER 300 SPECIES OF BIRDS, 21 SPECIES OF REPTILES AND 23 SPECIES OF MAMMALS. PARK VISITORS ENJOY CAMPING, BIRD WATCHING, HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, FISHING, PICNICKING AND HORSEBACK RIDING.

In a rapidly changing landscape, the park endures as an island of natural diversity.

BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK INCLUDES 5,000 ACRES OF BOTTOM-LAND AND UPLAND COASTAL PRAIRIE JUST SOUTHWEST OF THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING HOUSTON METRO AREA.

THE PARK’S WETLANDS, PRAIRIES AND FORESTS BUSTLE WITH BIRDS, RACCOONS, WHITE-TAILED DEER
TALL GRASS PRAIRIE once covered much of North America. Today little of it remains. But within the park, visitors still explore small communities of native grasses that remind us of the grass prairies.

Long ago, the Brazos River brought sediment into a shallow ocean, providing a foundation for the park’s prairie land. After the waters receded, a great grassland grew in their place. The grass provided home to millions of buffalo. In time, cattle replaced buffalo. But the surviving prairie remained a place of diversity, in part because of undulations in the land. Deposits in that of the forest. But the swamp waters also give the birds protection unavailable in the forest by keeping land predators away. This attracts a greater variety of birds to the park.

Across the wetlands, visitors encounter the American Alligator, our last ruling reptile. Over 300 adult alligators make their homes in the park. Their keen senses and camouflage enable them to remain at the top of the food chain. In the spring, the alligators’ mating calls can be heard up to a half mile away. Their relaxed demeanor allows for safe observation. But these animals can also become aggressive if provoked and move very quickly over short distances.

GEORGE OBSERVATORY

The George Observatory opens a pathway to the stars. Operated by the Houston Museum of Natural Science and located within the park, the observatory features three domed telescopes and the Expedition Center.

The telescopes carry observatory staff, volunteers and visitors on journeys across the night sky where faint echoes of stellar history unfold. Here, the stories told by the stars and distant galaxies become the pages of our knowledge about the universe. Meanwhile, the Expedition Center calls on young people to work together to solve problems of space travel. Teamwork and science skills guide participants to success.

As the park provides sanctuary for many kinds of life, the observatory functions only while surrounding light remains dim. When you help preserve the park, you help maintain this passageway to the heavens.