CREAMY LIMESTONE CLIFFS AND TOWERING CYPRESS TREES GRIP THE BANKS OF A SEEMINGLY LAZY AND DOCILE RIVER TO CREATE THE FOCAL POINT OF GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK. THIS IDYLIC SETTING IS THE ONLY DEVELOPED PUBLIC ACCESS POINT TO THE UPPER GUADALUPE, ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC RIVER SECTIONS IN TEXAS. YET THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK THAN THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER. LEAVE THE CROWDS BEHIND AND DISCOVER OTHER WONDERS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL PARK.

BEYOND THE RIVER
While at the park be sure to "take another look" at the children’s Discovery Center. This hands-on facility provides children and adults alike the opportunity to explore skins, skulls, skeletons while interactive exhibits reveal fascinating details of the park’s flora and fauna. Be sure to check out a backpack to continue your exploration along the trails.

Speaking of trails, there are more than 13 miles of hiking trails, including six miles on the Bauer Unit, located across from the day use area. Home to our largest population of the golden-cheeked warbler, trails at the Bauer Unit wind through a mix of grasslands, oak woodlands and stands of old-growth Ashe junipers.

Between headquarters and the river, seven miles of trails wind through grasslands and savannahs once dominated by impenetrable stands of second-growth Ashe junipers. Today you’ll encounter a diverse assemblage of wildflowers including antelope horns milkweed, an important host plant for monarch butterflies. Eastern bluebirds, vermilion, and scissor-tailed flycatchers, along with painted buntings galore nest in these restored habitats.
HONEY CREEK SNA

Along the way, you may hear the steady clicking of the Blanchard’s cricket frog, the distinctive call of the golden-cheeked warbler, and the resonant roar of a water fall reverberating up and down the creek throughout the year. As you pass through restored grasslands and old-growth Ashe juniper, your walk culminating at the breathtaking Rust house, you’ll learn both cultural and natural history. Every visitor – past, present or future – leaves a mark on the face of the resource that is Guadalupe River State Park. Maintain this community, providing new habitat for a host of flora and fauna, including the golden-cheeked warbler.

RESPECTING THE RIVER

The Guadalupe is a true Texas river, flowing entirely within the state. The 2.75-mile portion within the park is wild, rugged and untamed by dams. Respect is required; river conditions can change instantaneously since the river flows free and is subject to intense flash flooding. The river is a ribbon of life providing a healthy ecosystem for wildlife as well as people. Its watershed is a major artery of fresh water for central Texas cities, industry, agriculture and recreation. Despite recognition of the river’s water quality and scenery, overuse threatens its flow. In 2002 the national non-profit conservation organization American Rivers ranked the Guadalupe River as one of the top 10 most endangered rivers in the United States. Please demonstrate respect for this precious Texas resource through safe and responsible use of the river.

In recent years, TPWD has actively worked to restore several hundred acres of savannah-like grasslands similar to those prior to European settlement 200 years ago. Prescribed burns now maintain this community, providing new habitat for a host of flora and fauna, including the golden-cheeked warbler.

The diverse plant life provides habitat to many invertebrates, fish and mammals, as well as over 240 species of birds that call this park home. Rare and endangered species survive at the park, including the Cagle’s map turtle, Guadalupe bass, golden-cheeked warbler, and the Comal blind salamander. The diverse mammal populations provide excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. The nature of Guadalupe awaits your discovery and appreciation.