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 IDYLLIC 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 savannas once dominated by impermeable stands of second-growth Ashe junipers.

The Discovery Center offers hands-on experiences for youth and adults.

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The mountains are cedar bedecked, the valleys contain delightful prairies with occasional groves of trees of ten or twelve varieties of oaks.”

C. Hugo Claus (c. 1875), description of the Cibolo and Guadalupe River Valley

**HONEY CREEK SNA**

Adjacent to the park is Honey Creek State Natural Area, home to the spring-fed, pristine and fragile Honey Creek, lined with century-old bald cypress trees dripping with Spanish moss. Adjacent woodlands are home to stands of dwarf palmetto, red buckeye, sycamore, ash and walnut. Water lily-like leaves of spadderdock float on the creek’s surface, providing shelter to a rich diversity of aquatic organisms. Each spring, the distinctive, buzzy spring song of the golden-cheeked warbler announces its return while the loud rattle call of the belted kingfisher reverberates up and down the creek throughout the year.

Enjoy this beautiful protected area by joining our weekly Saturday morning guided walk. Beginning at the historic Rust house, you’ll learn both cultural and natural history as you pass through restored grasslands and old-growth Ashe juniper, your walk culminating at the breathtaking creek. Occasional night hikes are also offered to enjoy the tranquility of the night along the stream’s bank. Along the way, you may hear the steady clicking of the Blanchard’s cricket frog, the distinctive call of the song of the golden-cheeked warbler announces its arrival, and the sturdy chug-chug of the red-eyed tree frog. The steady rattle of the belted kingfisher can be heard throughout the day while the soft croaking of the wood frog, the loud rattle call of the belted kingfisher at dusk, and the steady drone of the cricket, all join in the symphony of nature.

**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 instantly 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 organisms. Each spring, the distinctive, buzzy spring song of the golden-cheeked warbler announces its arrival while the loud rattle call of the belted kingfisher reverberates up and down the creek throughout the year.

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.