Lockhart State Park is located in the Blackland Prairies ecoregion. When the buffalo roamed, the Blackland Prairies were covered with several species of bunch grasses: Indiangrass, switchgrass, little bluestem, big bluestem and eastern grammagrass, to name a few. Today the landscape looks very different due to agricultural practices and development. These grasses are no longer common; however, they are being reintroduced.
NATIVE FLORA

Along the Nature Trail many plants are identified with markers. These markers identify the plant by its common name and scientific name. This set of trails is approximately one mile long. Below is a list of some of the plants identified along the trail. They are listed in alphabetical order by common name. Enjoy discovering the native flora of Lockhart State Park.

HONEY MESQUITE  Honey-producing bees are attracted to this tree’s blooms.

LIVE OAK  This tree drops its leaves in the spring and can live to be hundreds of years old.

MEXICAN BUCKEYE  Its three-chambered seed pods give this large shrub its name; however, it is not a true buckeye.

MEXICAN PLUM  Produces small, tart fruit that is relished by birds and small mammals.

MUSTANG GRAPE  Birds and mammals feast on its fruit even though it is quite sour.

NETLEAF HACKBERRY  Many consider this to be a “trash” tree; however, the leaves and berries are a treasure to wildlife.

POISON IVY  Leaves of three, let it be! The oils from this plant cause skin irritation.

POSSUMHAW  Provides an abundance of berries in the winter for birds and mammals.

PRICKLY ASH  The thorns along the trunk provide protection for nesting birds.

PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS  Its bright yellow flower is the “Yellow Rose of Texas.”

ROUGHLEAF DOGWOOD  This shrub forms thickets that provide shelter for wild turkeys.

SAWTOOTH GREENBRIAR  The tender new leaf growth is a favorite browse (food) for the white-tailed deer.

SOUTHERN DEWBERRY  These prickly vines provide food and shelter for the box turtle. If you see a turtle, please don’t bother it and let a park ranger know where you saw it!

TEXAS KIDNEYWOOD  The leaves smell like citrus when crushed.

TEXAS LANTANA  This ornamental shrub is a drought-tolerant, native plant used in private landscapes.

TEXAS PERSIMMON  This tree is a relative of the African ebony tree.

TEXAS RED OAK  In the fall this tree’s leaves turn rich shades of red, reminding us that fall has arrived.

TURK’S CAP  This shade-loving plant has a fez-shaped blossom that is sure to attract hummingbirds throughout the spring, summer and fall.

VIRGINIA CREEPER  The rule for this vine is “Leaves of five, let it thrive.” Virginia creeper is often mistaken for poison ivy. This vine is the larval host of the sphinx moth.

WINGED ELM  Its name comes from the unusual way the bark grows on its limbs. The bark stands out from the branch, giving it a “winged” appearance.