

LOCKHART STATE PARK

# NATURE TRAIL

## INTERPRETIVE GUIDE



Turk's Cap

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.

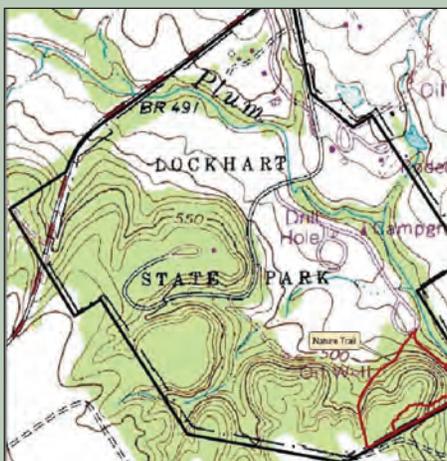


### PROJECT SPONSOR



#### LOST PINES CHAPTER

For more information about the Texas Master Naturalist Lost Pines Chapter, visit their Web site at [www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org)



Lockhart State Park  
4179 State Park Road  
Lockhart, Texas 78644  
(512) 398-3479

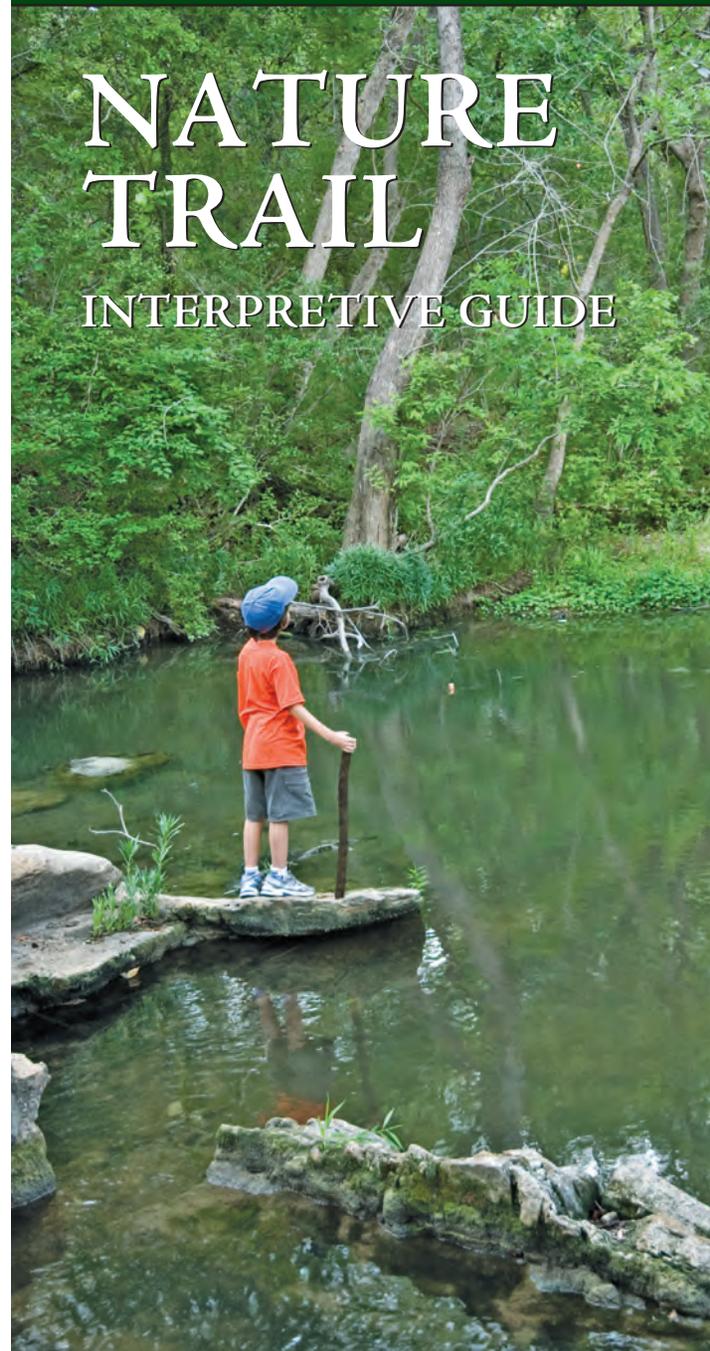
Life's better outside.®

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lockhart/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lockhart/)

© 2010 TPWD. PWD BR P4505-047F (7/10)  
In accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

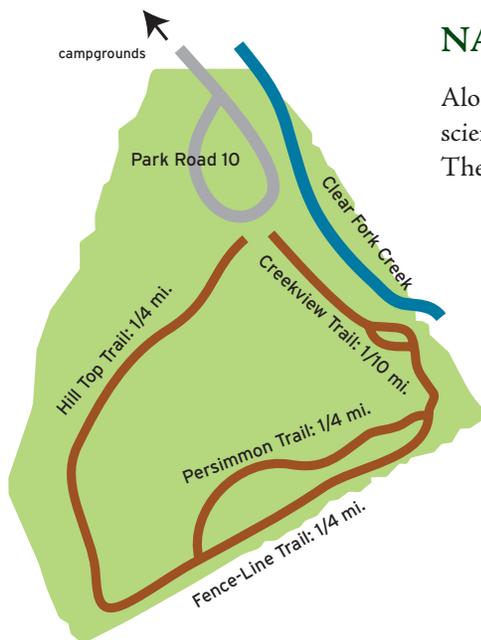
♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies and is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and state anti-discrimination laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or facility, or need more information, please contact Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.



## 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.



**AGARITA** The holly-like, dark, shiny, armored leaves provide protection for birds and small mammals that eat the abundant red berries.

**BALL MOSS** This is not moss at all, but a member of the pineapple family!

**BROADLEAF WOOD OATS** This shade-loving grass is identified by its droopy seed head that provides food for small mammals and birds.

**BUSHY BLUESTEM** The broom-like seed heads make this grass easy to identify.

**CEDAR ELM** This tree is a larval host to the question mark, comma and mourning cloak butterflies.

**CHILE PEQUIN** The pepper of this plant has a heat rating between a jalapeño and habanero—very, very hot!

**EASTERN RED CEDAR** Its scale-like leaves and wood repel many insects, and the waxy blue berries provide food for birds and small mammals.

**ELBOW BUSH** The branches curve downward, sometimes with an elbow-like bend.

**GREEN ASH** The strong, heavy wood is used for furniture and tool handles.

**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.

**PENCIL CACTUS** Segments of this cactus will break off and attach themselves to your skin or clothing.

**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.

Virginia Creeper



Texas Persimmon



Broadleaf Wood Oats



Mustang Grape

