1. **Absolutely do not feed or harass alligators.** If you love your pet, keep it on a leash. Do not throw objects into the water for your dog to retrieve.

2. Do not assume alligators are slow-moving or sluggish.

3. Keep a safe distance at all times—at least 30 feet from an alligator.

4. If you hook a fish, an alligator may go after your catch.

5. Avoid any alligator sunning itself in the middle of the trail.

6. If you see a pile of twigs, grasses and/or soil near the side of the trail, avoid it. It's a nest and the mother alligator is probably close by guarding it.

7. When an alligator stands its ground, opens its mouth and hisses, you have come too close.

8. Plan a route of retreat:
   - Retreat slowly; make no quick moves.
   - Keep your eyes on the alligator.
   - Retreat uphill where possible.
   - Keep retreating in this manner until the alligator no longer demonstrates aggressive behavior.
   - Above all, do not get close enough to threaten an alligator.

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**Follow the rules of Alligator ETIQUETTE**

ESTERO LLANO GRANDE STATE PARK

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