



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

EXPLORE!

Presented by Jessica Burke TPWD Accessibility Manager &
Todd McClanahan, State Parks Chief of Programs

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Your Presenters



Jessica Burke, CTRS
TPWD Accessibility Manager



Todd McClanahan
State Parks Division Chief of Programs

What comes to
mind when you
think about Texas
Parks and Wildlife?

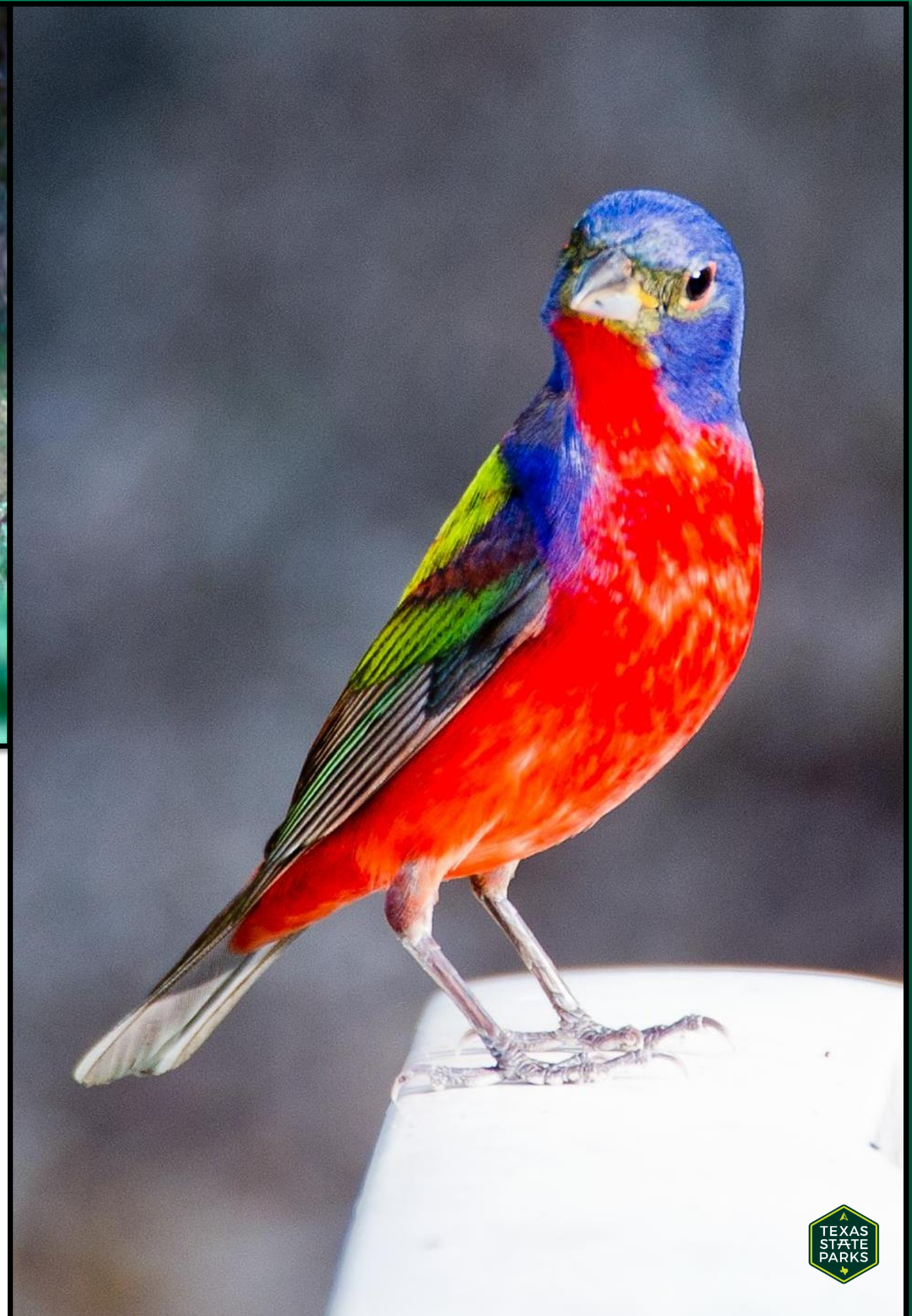




Perhaps you
think of
breathtaking
landscapes...



...or iconic wildlife like the white-tailed deer or the painted bunting.





You might think about game wardens protecting wildlife, ensuring public safety, and educating visitors...



...or that
once-in-a-
lifetime
outdoor
adventure.





TPWD Mission

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



TPWD employees are more than just biologists and park rangers.

We are more than 3,500 employees with operation in every county in the state.





At TPWD, accessibility is everyone's job



TPWD Focus on Access

- Creation of ADA office & ADA Coordinator
 - + 3 full-time staff
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Comprehensive ADA Transition Plan
 - Multi-year phased approach
- Social Media & Web
- Continually growing culture
 - Internal & external



TPWD Accessibility Office

- Central hub for all things Title II
- Customer Service
 - accessibility@tpwd.Texas.gov
 - Modification requests
 - Resources for decision making
- ADA Transition Plan
- Outreach

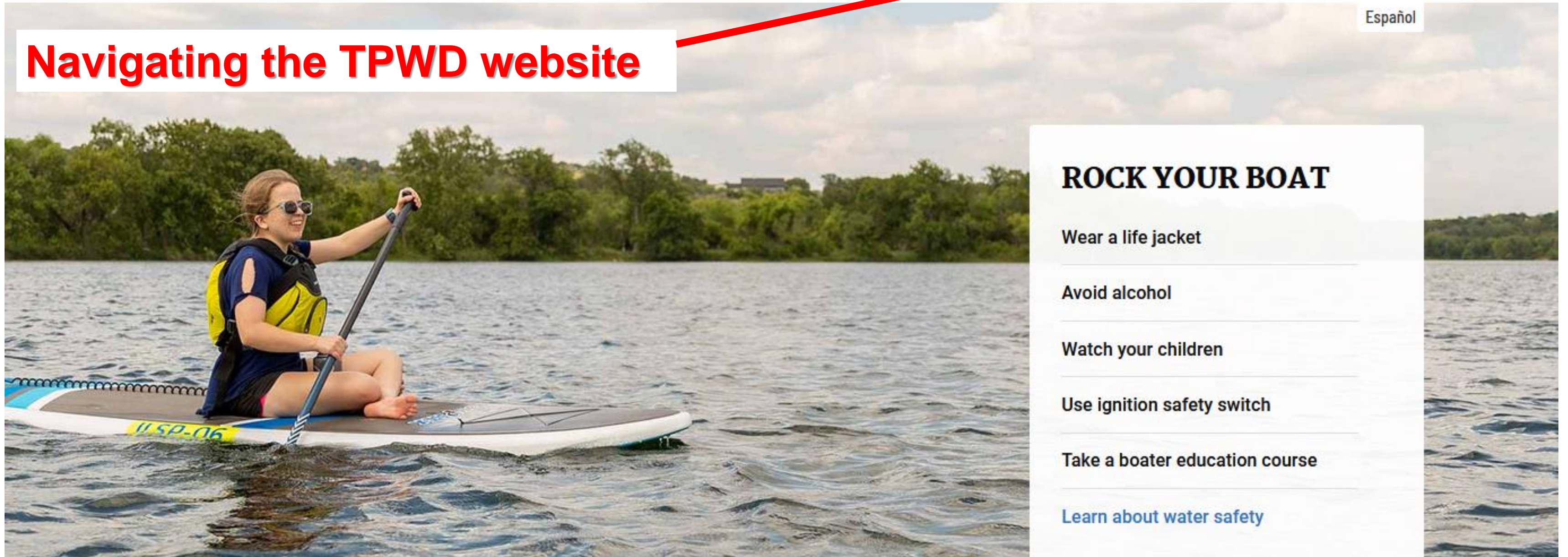
Navigating the Accessibility Website

TEXAS

PARKS &

WILDLIFE

Navigating the TPWD website



ROCK YOUR BOAT

- Wear a life jacket
- Avoid alcohol
- Watch your children
- Use ignition safety switch
- Take a boater education course
- [Learn about water safety](#)

Public Notice | TPW Commission Meeting May 22-23, 2024.
[View agenda.](#) | [Learn how to access the meeting.](#)

Parks

- Find a Park
- Reservations
- Park Passes
- Maps & Publications
- Park Events
- Park FAQs
- Park Rules

Game Warden

- Field Notes
- Career Opportunities
- Law Enforcement Offices
- Operation Game Thief

Education

- Classroom Resources
- Hunter Education
- Boater Education
- Angler Education
- Water Education

Hunting

- Buy a Hunting License
- Hunting Regulations
- Public Hunting
- Hunter Education
- Seasons by County
- Season Dates by Animal
- Hunting Permits

Activities

- Camping & Lodging
- Hiking & Nature Walks
- Swimming
- Boating & Paddling
- All Activities

Media

- News
- TPW Magazine
- Video
- Social Media
- Television Show

Fishing

- Buy a Fishing License
- Fishing Regulations
- Where to Fish
- Fishing Reports
- Fishing Programs
- Fishing FAQs
- Fishing Permits

Wildlife

- Wildlife Fact Sheets
- Wildlife FAQs
- Endangered Species
- Game Management
- Wildlife Management Areas

Work & Volunteer

- Jobs & Careers
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Internships
- Recruiting Events
- Friends Groups

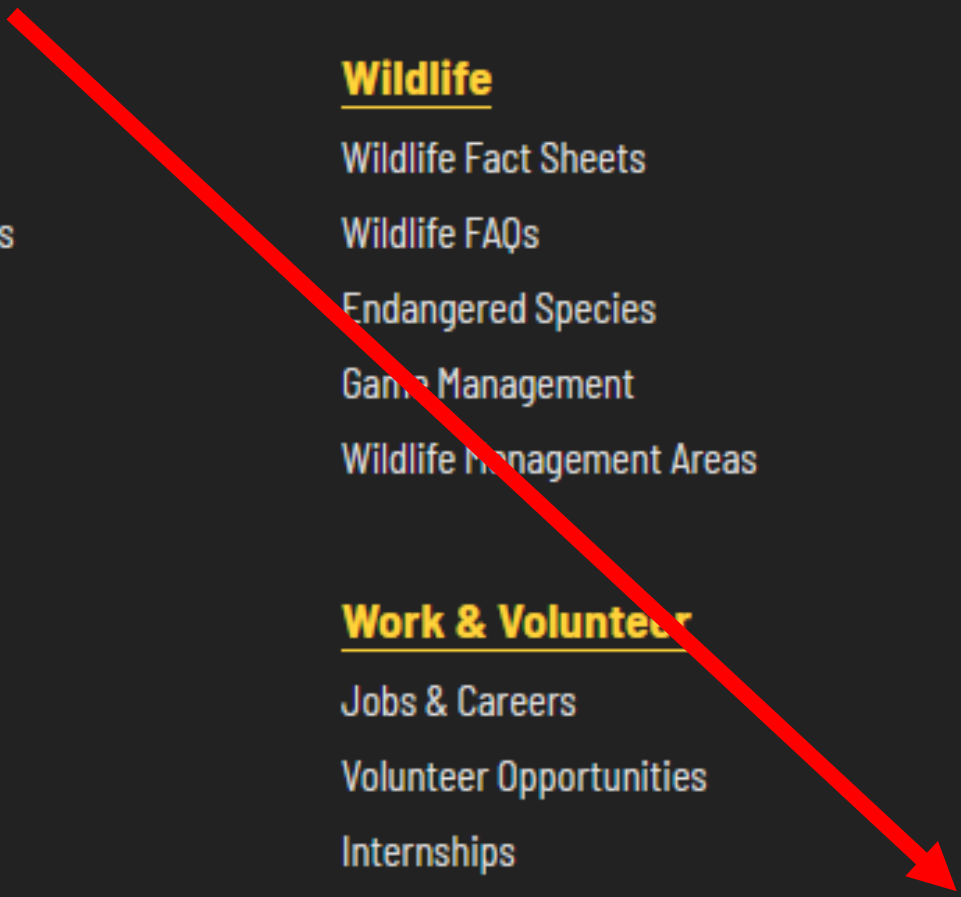
Boating

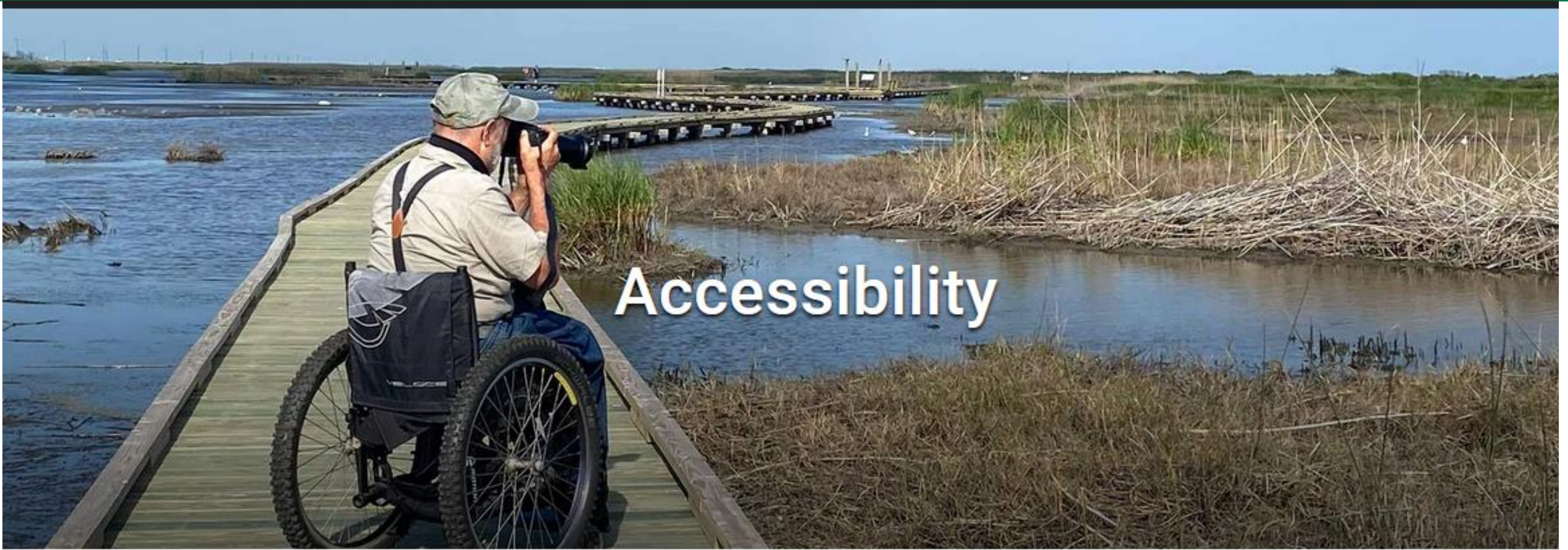
- Title, Registration & Tax
- Online Tools and Forms
- Office Locations
- Boater Education
- Boating Laws
- Boating FAQs
- Boating Permits

Land & Water

- Lake Finder
- River Guide
- Private Lands
- Invasive Species
- Landowner Assistance

- Calendar of Events
- Maps & Data
- Sign Up for Email
- Contact Us
- Donate
- Accessibility
- Español





The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) wants everyone to be able to enjoy the outdoors. We are upgrading facilities, adding specialized equipment, making inclusive programs, and working with the disability community to make our programs, parks and places better for everyone. TPWD complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and works to give people better access to nature.

**ADA
Coordinator
Contact**

Planning an Adventure

TPWD manages spaces that are not naturally accessible. Many facilities were built before today's standards. As we improve these spaces, updates are made to the individual site's webpage and to the [TPWD Accessibility Updates Tracker](#). If you want to know about the accessibility of a site, email [the TPWD ADA Coordinator's office](#) or contact the site directly to ask.



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Around the State

Learn about accessible programs and facilities at Texas State Parks on [Accessibility at Texas State Parks](#).

Visit [Sea Center Texas](#) in Lake Jackson if marine biology interests you.

The [Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center](#) is closed for renovations, including accessibility upgrades. Tentative reopening is spring 2025.



Permits and Passes

The [Texas State Parks Parklands Passport](#) has reduced entry rates for qualifying people with medical disabilities and one companion and free entry for disabled veterans.

Disabled veterans may qualify for reduced rates on [hunting and fishing licenses](#).



Frequently Asked Questions

[Can I bring my service animal with me?](#)

[Can I bring my emotional support animal with me?](#)

[How do I request an ASL interpreter for a program?](#)

[How do I know if a facility or camp site will be accessible?](#)

[Where can I drive my Other Power Driven Mobility Device \(OPDMD\)?](#)



**Let's talk
about HOW
to get
outside!**

Hunting

- Learn to hunt
 - Hunter Education Courses
 - Mentored Hunting Workshops
- Public hunting & drawn hunts
- Visual aide for scope allowed for some disabilities
- TPWD Accessibility office can assist with resources and info on facilities





Fishing in Texas

- License not needed -
 - State Parks
 - For person with IDD in therapy or with licensed angler
- Tackle Loaner Program
- Fishing events coming up
 - *June Setting the Hook Fishing Tournament & Fishing with Fathers in SA*
 - *August Walsh Ranch Lake Fishing in FW*

Texas Outdoor Annual

- Official app for hunting, fishing, and boating in Texas
- Everything you need to know about licenses and regulations
- Tells you how to:
 - Prepare to hunt
 - Plan your fishing trip





**A great
way to get
outside...**



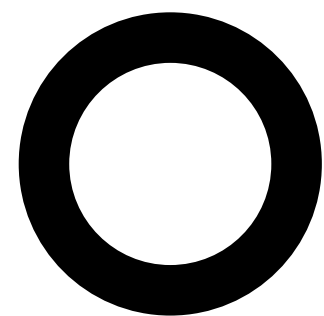
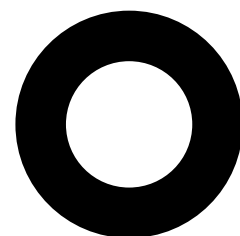
Texas State Parks

2023 National Gold Medal Award Winner

- 88 parks and counting....
- 630,000 acres
- Nearly 10 Million visitors each year
- Centennial Parks Fund (\$1 Billion)



**What can I do in a
Texas State Park?**





Gather with friends at Lake Casa Blanca





Feel the
mist on
the water
at Caddo
Lake





Enjoy the
sounds of
the rushing
Frio River
at Garner





Stargaze in Big Bend





Immerse
yourself in
history at
Goliad





Wet a line at Possum Kingdom





Picnic with family at Bonham



Put your
toes in the
sand at
Galveston





Experience the heights of Enchanted Rock



Observe
your first
eagle at
Tyler





Enjoy the vastness of Palo Duro Canyon



Texans' Favorite Feature - Trails

- Most used park amenity
- Most requested upgrade in surveys
- Dedicated funding for improvements
- Types of trails
 - Decomposed Granite
 - Dirt
 - Boardwalks
 - Overlooks
 - Steps
 - Paved

Seminole Canyon Trail Project



BEFORE

AFTER



Stay a while!

- Site specific reservations – choose your own site (photos, accessible, remote, etc)
- Search availability by accessible features, locations, activity, etc
- Call Center Agents assist you with your needs
- Ways to stay
 - Camping
 - Screen Shelters
 - Cabins
 - Lodges
 - Group Facilities



Find an adventure

Where?

Enter a city, state, zip code or facility name and we'll make recommendations based on where you want to go.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, USA

Interested in

Camping & Lodging

Looking for

Any Site

Arrival date

MM/DD/YYYY

Not Flexible

Length of stay

Accessible features

Pets allowed

Search

Reserve a Site

- Filter by “accessible features”
- Book early!
 - 5 months out for popular parks
- Double check site features
 - many are “close” to accessible
 - Call park if in doubt
- Contact Reservation Center





State Parks Accessibility

- [Accessibility Facilities page](#)
- [Loaner wheelchairs](#)
- [Programs & events](#)



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Accessible Facilities

- Park specific accessibility information
 - Not all parks are there yet but will be!
 - Info to make informed decisions
 - 360 Photos

Bastrop State Park

Overview Maps Fees & Facilities Wildfire & Flood Damage Nature History Events

 Park Alerts... [MORE INFO](#)



Accessibility Information

The park has an all-terrain wheelchair available during office hours. Call (512) 321-2101 to reserve the chair for your visit.

The [swimming pool](#) has an ADA entry into the pool house and pool area, and ADA accommodations to enter the pool.

The [scenic overlook on Park Road 1A](#) has an ADA parking space and wheelchair-friendly day-use area.

The Tree Army Trails are wheelchair accessible except for some locations on the north side (mostly Co. 1805) due to the slope and curve of the path. The trails are made of smooth concrete.



Bastrop State Park
View on Google Maps

Google

Keyboard shortcuts © TxStateParks Terms Report a problem

Beach chair



Loaner Wheelchairs



GRIT Freedom chair



More access upgrades



Access mats at Ray Roberts Lake State Park





Wayfinding tags at Palmetto

Kayak transfer bench and chariot launch at Inks Lake



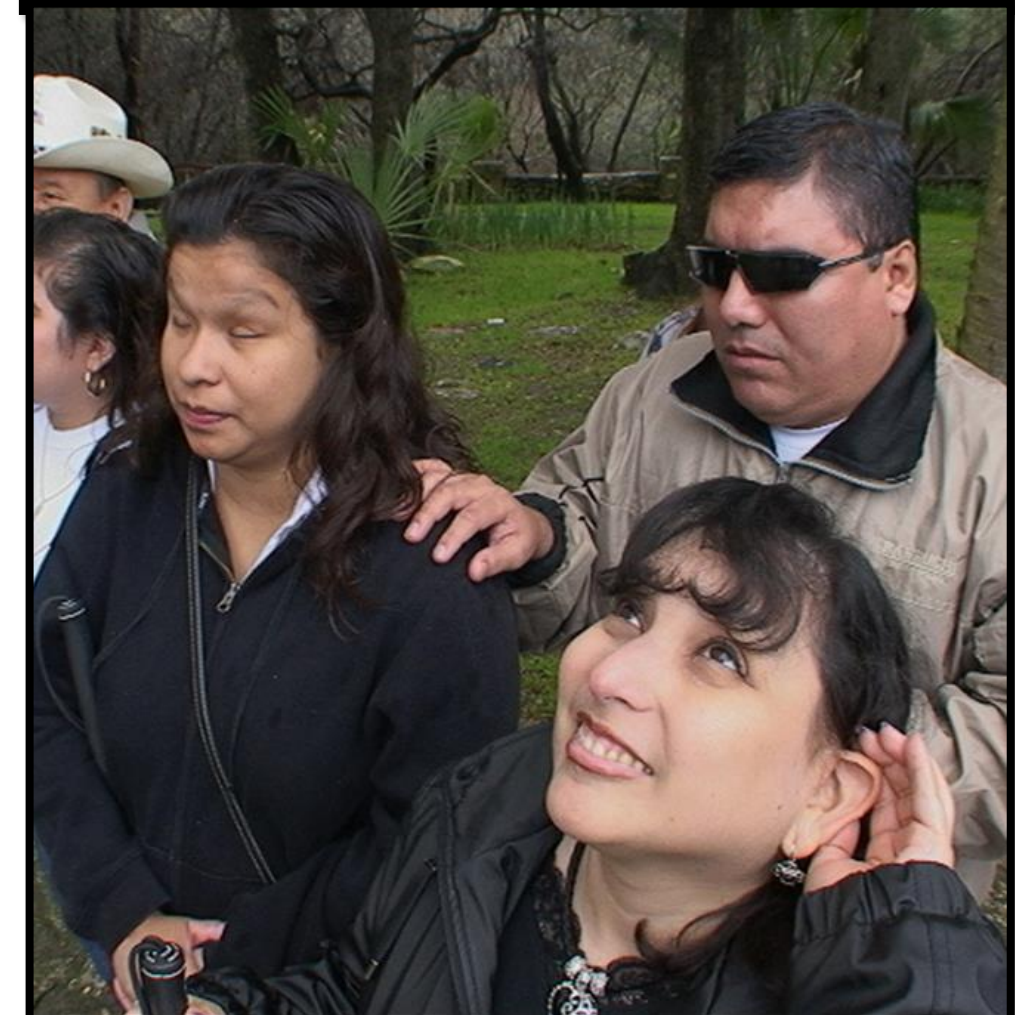


Coming soon

- Colorblind viewers
- Tactile exhibits
- New docks with accessible kayak launches
- Track chairs

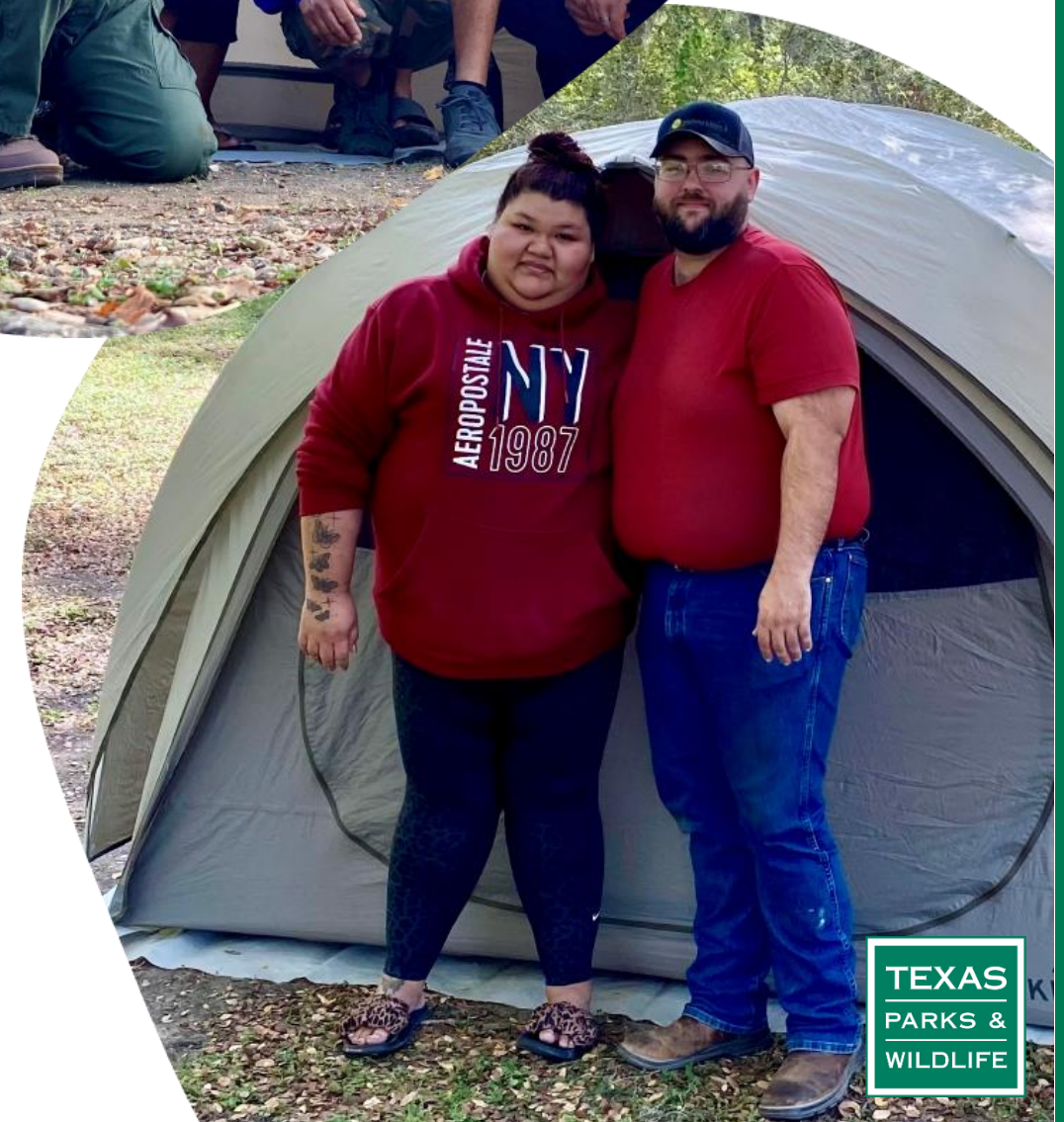
Programs & Events

- Ranger led programs
 - Recreation
 - Education
 - Wellness
 - Outdoor Skills
- Event descriptions & park contact
- “Wheelchair-friendly” tag on calendar



Texas Outdoor Family

- Learn to camp workshops
- No experience necessary
- Park ranger on site
- Equipment provided
- Partner program for underserved groups



Inks Lake Fun for All Event

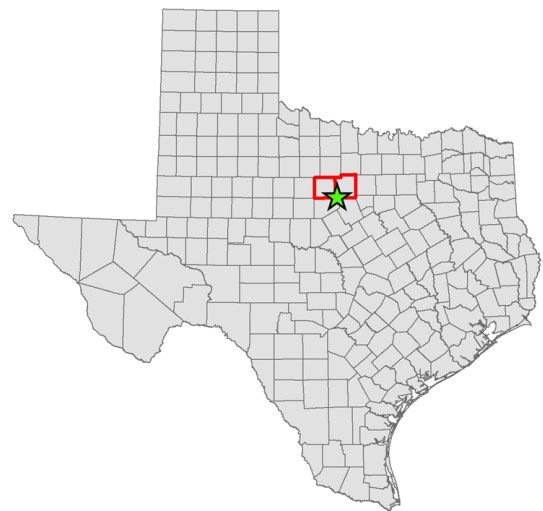


Adaptive outdoor expo with

- Friends of Inks Lake SP
- City of Austin Camacho Recreation Center
- Lone Star Paralysis
- Texas Technology Access Program

State Parks on the horizon

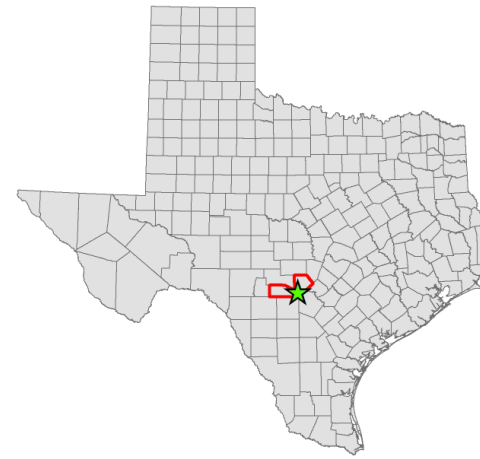




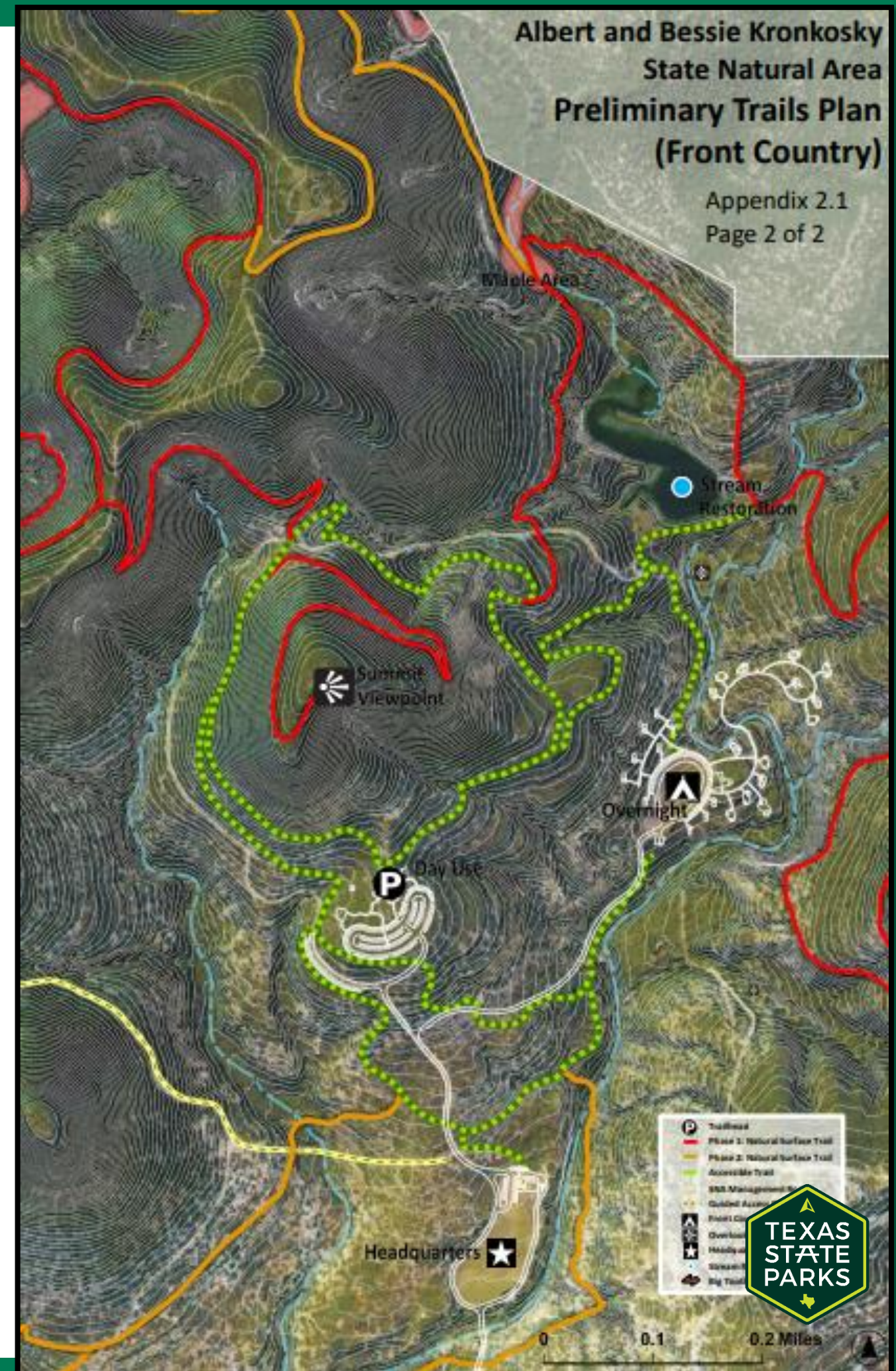
Palo Pinto Mountains



Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area



ALBERT AND BESSIE KRONKOSKY STATE NATURAL AREA
May 20, 2024



BEYOND STATE PARKS

Sea Center Texas

- **Accessible facility** – aquarium, hatchery tours, hands-on programs, group fishing events
- **Adaptive Fishing Gear Loaner Site** with Texas Technology Access Program
- **3rd Annual SOTX Fishing Tournament**
Fall 2024



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Sea Center Texas Aquarium Tour

Planning a visit and want a sneak peak of our facility? This virtual tour allows you to click your way through Sea Center Texas.



Sea Center Texas Virtual Tour

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

- Total remodel
- Will reopen spring 2025
- Features will include:
 - Large viewing tanks
 - New fishing piers & pond access



Accessibility Barriers

- **Existing barriers in built environment**
 - Prioritized in 2023 ADA Transition Plan
- **Barriers in nature at some of our most scenic and iconic places**
 - Exploring innovative ways to bring these experiences to everyone – description of parks, 3D models, virtual reality, interactive exhibits, social media, all terrain wheelchairs, etc.
- **Striking balance with nature and accessibility**
 - Using intentional design and actively incorporating feedback from the disability community





Disability Community Feedback Drives Decisions

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Reasonable modification requests
- Access & inclusion solutions
- Surveys & data

You can be TPWD

- **Employment**
 - 13 Divisions at 200 locations
 - Telework opportunities
- **Volunteering**
 - Critical for agency success!
 - Tons of options
 - Accessibility Office can help navigate



Can't make it out? Visit from home!

- Texas Parks and Wildlife PBS Show
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine
- TWPD & Texas State Parks Social Media
- TPWD Website
 - Educational videos
 - Online classes



TPWD Accessibility team on the Road

Upcoming outreach events

- Fort Parker State Park Lakeside Legacy Event
- Texas Technology Access Program Conference
- Texas Advocates Conference
- SOTX Fishing Tournaments – Cedar Hill and Sea Center Texas
- White Cane Day

Invite us to your conference or event!



TEXAS
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**Don't be a stranger -
drop us a line anytime!**

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Life's better outside.®