











# Trails of Galveston Island State Park

## Legend:

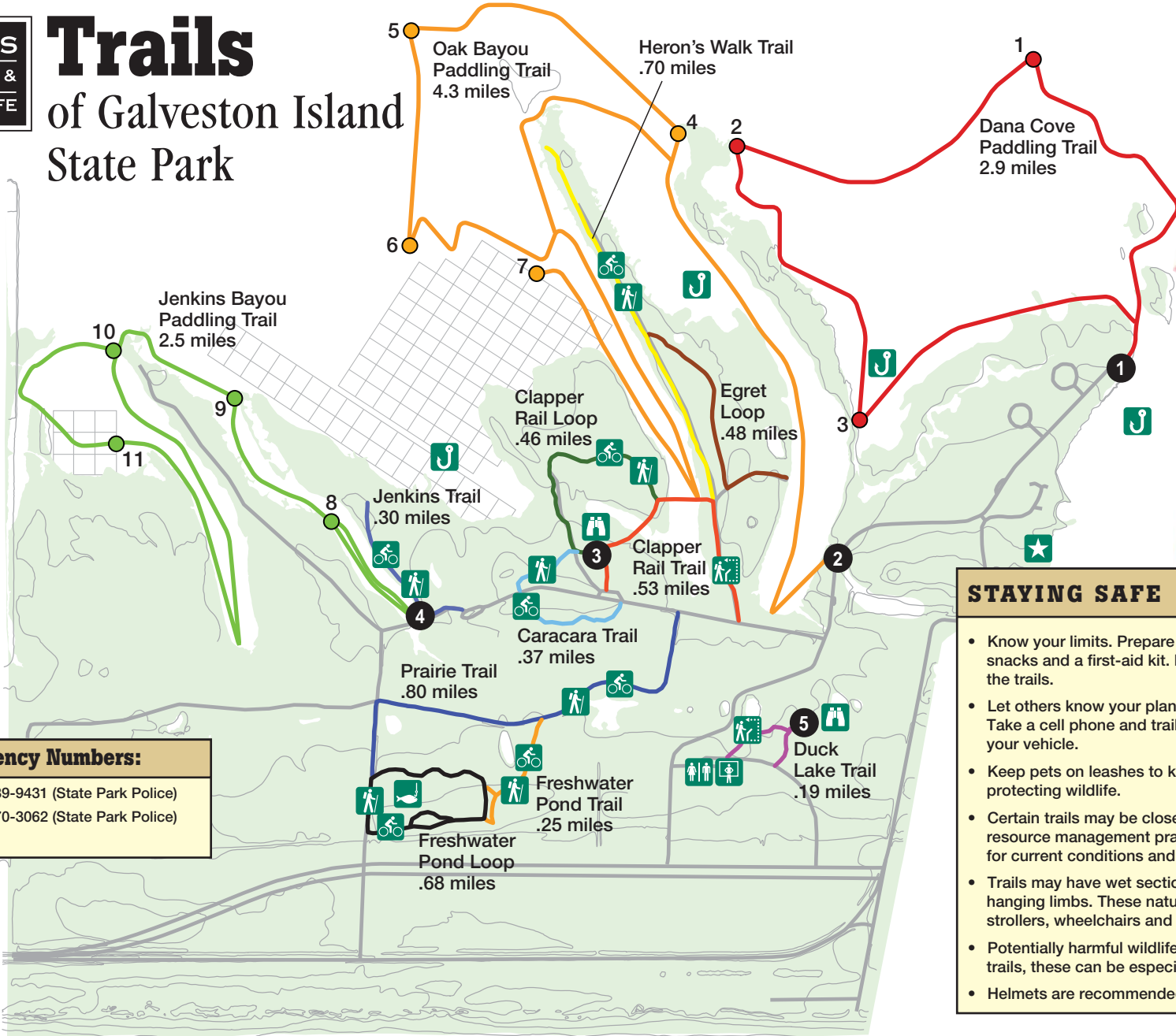
-  Headquarters
-  Rest Rooms
-  Biking Trails
-  Hiking Trails
-  Interpretive Trail
-  Freshwater Fishing
-  Wildlife Viewing
-  Saltwater Fishing
-  Welcome Center
-  Marsh Restoration Area

## Paddling Trail Coordinates

(GPS coordinates given in  
Lat/Long Minute Decimal - NAD 83)

1. ● (29° 13.110" N; 94° 57.652" W)
2. ● (29° 12.716" N; 94° 57.991" W)
3. ● (29° 12.484" N; 94° 57.524" W)
4. ● (29° 12.694" N; 94° 58.072" W)
5. ● (29° 12.585" N; 94° 58.572" W)
6. ● (29° 12.301" N; 94° 58.356" W)
7. ● (29° 12.397" N; 94° 58.148" W)
8. ● (29° 11.887" N; 94° 58.208" W)
9. ● (29° 11.976" N; 94° 58.455" W)
10. ● (29° 11.928" N; 94° 58.680" W)
11. ● (29° 11.800" N; 94° 58.584" W)

14901 F.M. 3005  
Galveston, TX 77554  
(409) 737-1222



### Emergency Numbers:

- (409) 539-9431 (State Park Police)
- (409) 370-3062 (State Park Police)
- 911

### STAYING SAFE

- Know your limits. Prepare for sun and heat. Take plenty of water, snacks and a first-aid kit. No water or rest rooms are available on the trails.
- Let others know your plans (anticipated activity and time frame). Take a cell phone and trail map. If alone, leave details visible from your vehicle.
- Keep pets on leashes to keep them and others safe while protecting wildlife.
- Certain trails may be closed during prescribed burns or for other resource management practices. Check with park headquarters for current conditions and future trail closures.
- Trails may have wet sections, thorny plants, tree roots, or low-hanging limbs. These natural conditions may be challenging for strollers, wheelchairs and bicycles.
- Potentially harmful wildlife and plants exist in the park. Off the trails, these can be especially difficult to see.
- Helmets are recommended for bicycling in the park.



Speckled Trout



Great Blue Heron



Brown Pelican

# Many ways to play by the bay

There's always something to do at Galveston Island State Park. Hike, bike or paddle your way along the trails. Bring your tackle for bayside fishing. And don't forget your binoculars for the great wildlife viewing the park offers throughout the year.

## SUGGESTED HIKES

**30 Minutes:** With its short distance, interpretive signs and location next to the park's welcome center, the Duck Lake Trail helps you see a lot of nature in little time.

**1 Hour:** Start with the Caracara Trail where it meets the road, take the Clapper Rail Loop and finish your hike with the Clapper Rail Trail. Enjoy the view from the observation tower and more interpretive signs along the way.

**2 Hours:** Hiking all of the park's foot trails provides two hours of vigorous exercise in a beautiful, natural setting.

**Full Day:** Bring your kayak or canoe and paddle all of the park's paddling trails. Stow your gear and hike all of the park's foot trails for a day-long journey by the bay.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

(GPS coordinates given in Lat/Long Minute Decimal - NAD 83)

- 1 Como Lake** (29° 12.792" N; 94° 57.192" W)  
The site provides a kayak launch point and access to the park's best route for exploring the bay on foot.
- 2 Oak Bayou** (29° 12.288" N; 94° 57.425" W)  
Bring your gear! Here you will find some of the park's best crabbing and fishing. It's also an excellent place to launch your kayak.
- 3 Observation Tower** (29° 12.082" N; 94° 57.784" W)  
The tower gives you a fine view of the entire park and beyond. Birders delight in the opportunities it provides to observe water birds. From this vantage point, you can even see barge traffic on the intercoastal canal.
- 4 Jenkins Bayou** (29° 11.841" N; 94° 57.975" W)  
This spot offers another kayak launch point, more good fishing and access to one of the park's hiking trails.
- 5 Hank Rosenthal Memorial** (29° 12.045" N; 94° 57.309" W)  
Dedicated to the memory of one of the park's great supporters, the memorial is a place of quiet reflection removed from the bustle of life elsewhere on the island.



Blue Crab

Fiddler Crab

## PADDLING TRAILS

<b>Dana Cove Points 1-3</b>	■	Paddle across wide expanses of open water where seagrass beds once cover the floor of Galveston Bay.
<b>Oak Bayou Points 4-7</b>	■	From secluded bayous to open coves and seagrass beds to the wetlands restoration project, this trail offers it all
<b>Jenkins Bayou Points 8-11</b>	■	For close-up views of many shore and wading birds, it's hard to beat.

## TRAIL INFORMATION

<b>Caracara Trail</b>	■	As you follow this trail around the oak motte, keep an eye out for birds, including the Crested Caracara.
<b>Clapper Rail Loop</b>	■	Walk this loop and see part of our wetlands restoration project from ground level. Along the way, notice how the slightest rise or fall in the elevation dramatically affects the plants.
<b>Clapper Rail Trail</b>	■	Take a stroll down this trail and learn about the unique plants and animals that can be found in these brackish water wetlands.
<b>Duck Lake Trail</b>	■	Convenient, short and loaded with information, this short interpretive trail takes you through another section of our prairie. The route features interpretive signs and a view of the park's freshwater ponds.
<b>Egret Loop</b>	■	A good walk for seeing wading birds feeding along the bayous or roosting in trees near where the trail intersects the Clapper Rail Trail.
<b>Freshwater Pond Loop</b>	■	Let this trail take you all the way around one of our large freshwater ponds, and be sure to keep an eye out for alligators. They like the ponds, too.
<b>Freshwater Pond Trail</b>	■	Use this trail to get a good view of some small ponds that hold lots of birds. The trail intersects the Clapper Rail Trail.
<b>Heron's Walk Trail</b>	■	This trail takes you down the bayous through marshes and salt flats out towards the old observation platform that is now a favorite roost for many wading birds.
<b>Jenkins Trail</b>	■	Following the banks of Jenkins Bayou, this trail works its way out to some excellent fishing areas and offers good views of our wetlands restoration project from another angle.
<b>Prairie Trail</b>	■	Hike through a little of what Galveston Island once looked like. The prairies this trail goes through on its way to the large freshwater ponds are about all that is left of what was once the main habitat type on the island.