

Trails of Village Creek State Park



Park Hours:

The park is open for day use from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.



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 timeframe). Take a cell phone and trail map. If alone, leave your plan details (trail choice, time) visible from your vehicle.
- Keep pets on leashes to keep them and others safe, while protecting wildlife.
- Certain trails may be closed due to down timber, flooding conditions, 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. Stay on trails/mowed areas where you can see possible hazards.
- Helmets are advised when bicycling in the park.

Park Emergency Numbers:

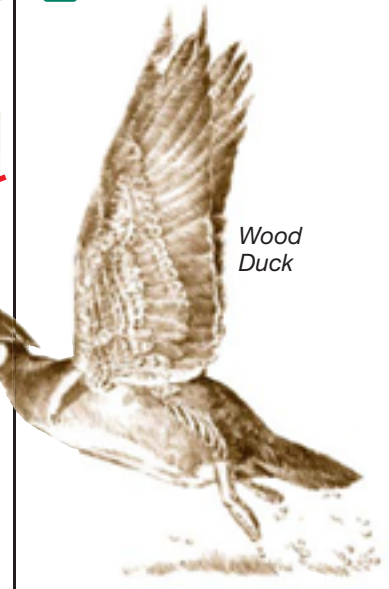
- 911
- (409) 755-7379 (Park after hours)

Park Reservations

(512) 389-8900
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Legend:

- Headquarters
- State Parks Store
- Rest Rooms
- Hiking Trail
- Bicycle Trail
- Playground
- Swimming Area
- Recycling Bin
- Group Camping Area



Unrivaled ecological diversity

Trek through Village Creek State Park and encounter life in rare variety. Yucca and prickly-pear cactus grow only a short walk from swamps of cypress and tupelo. Wood ducks feed in backwater sloughs as a hooded warbler sings from a nearby tree. From towering longleaf pines to small carnivorous sundews, park life presents a wondrous array of contrasts.



SUGGESTED HIKES

30 Minutes: Start at the picnic area trailhead parking lot. Take the trail through the picnic area past the walk-in tent campsites; right on River Birch Trail; right on Water Oak Trail; right on Loblolly Trail; back to the parking lot.

45 Minutes: Start at Village Slough Loop Trailhead. Take Village Slough Loop Trail's outer loop; left on Water Oak Trail; left on Park Road 74; return to the parking area.

1 Hour: Start at the picnic area trailhead in the parking lot. Take the trail through the picnic area to the Village Creek Trail. Travel to the sandbar, then come back the same way.

2 Hours: Park at the Bike/Fitness Trailhead. Start by going left on Park Road 74 and turn right at Water Oak Trail. Walk Water Oak Trail to the dead end at the pipeline, then return.

SUGGESTED BIKE RIDES

Challenging: Start at the Bike/Fitness Trailhead. Take the Bike/Fitness Trail to Park Road 74; carefully cross the road and continue; left on Water Oak Trail; continue to pipeline, then return; left on Yaupon Loop Trail; left back on Water Oak Trail; right on River Birch Trail; right on Village Creek Trail; go to the sandbar and return; left on River Birch Trail; right on Water Oak Trail; left on Village Slough Trail; right to the parking area (about 8.5 miles).

Moderate: Start at the Bike/Fitness Trailhead. Take the Bike/Fitness Trail to Park Road 74; carefully cross the road and continue; left on Water Oak Trail; continue to pipeline, then return; left on Village Slough Trail; right to parking area (about 5.5 miles).












Leisurely: Start at the Village Slough Loop Trailhead. Take the Village Slough Outer Loop to the Water Oak Trail; left on Water Oak Trail; left on Park Road 74 to the parking area (about 1.25 miles).

POINTS OF INTEREST

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

- 1 Canoe Launch** (30° 15.346" N; 94° 10.236" W)
The canoe launch is naturally formed by sand deposits where Sandy Slough meets Village Creek. Use this area to start or end your boating trip down the creek, or enjoy a less active afternoon as you sit along the bank and fish.
- 2 Sapsucker Tree** (30° 15.304" N; 94° 10.165" W)
This tree is an obvious favorite of yellow-bellied sapsuckers; a bird in the woodpecker family that drills holes in trees in well-designed rings. The bird makes a meal of the oozing sap, as well as bugs that are attracted to the sap. While sapsucker holes are fairly common in trees throughout the Big Thicket, rarely do we see a tree with so many.
- 3 Pine Crossing** (30° 15.122" N; 94° 10.365" W)
At this intersection, look for an example of each of the three species of pine found in the park; longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) and shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*). Examine the cones scattered on the ground to distinguish the tree species, but please leave them here when you are finished for the next curious visitor.
- 4 Recovering from Rita** (30° 15.203" N; 94° 10.177" W)
This area is one example of the destruction that can result from hurricanes. Notice the open canopy and the small trees growing around you. A look at this area reminds us that destruction is not permanent and forests will eventually recover if we manage them wisely.
- 5 Beaver Swamp** (30° 15.055" N; 94° 9.831" W)
This feature occurs naturally in a low-lying area close to Caney Slough. It takes its name from the beaver activity that can occasionally be spotted here. Swamps act as a natural filter for water and provide home to a wide variety of wildlife, from snakes basking around the water to bats nestled in the hollows of trees.

TRAIL INFORMATION

Beechwood Trail		.24 mi. 439 yds.	Travel from the picnic area to the Loblolly and Water Oak trails.
Bicycle/Fitness Trail		.45 mi.	Start your bicycle excursion with this moderate bike trail. Topography changes slightly along the slough and its drainages. Interactive fitness stations are located along the trail for stretching and strength training.
Lil' Paws Nature Trail		.09 mi. 162 yds.	Right off the playground, this short trail is designed with children in mind. Its a great way to learn about the plants and animals of the park.
Loblolly Trail		.10 mi. 183 yds.	Cut through to the Water Oak Trail from the main parking lot.
River Birch Trail		.15 mi. 278 yds.	Use this spur to connect the Village Creek Trail with the Water Oak Trail and see more of the park.
Tupelo Trail and Spur		.87 mi. .08 mi.	Accessible from the Village Creek Trail, you can leave the shore of the creek and see the bottomland forest and backwater sloughs.
Village Creek Trail		1.13 mi.	Follow beautiful Village Creek and end up at our famous swimming sandbar for a picnic or a dip in the cool water.
Village Slough Loop Trail/ Village Slough Inner Loop	 	1.10 mi. .56 mi.	This trail offers a peaceful stroll along Village Slough then curves into sandy lands, featuring longleaf pines and grasses.
Water Oak Trail		2.02 mi.	Stroll through four different ecological communities. View everything from prickly-pear cactus and yucca in the arid sandy lands to cypress and tupelo in the bottomland swamps, all within two miles. Extend your walk by taking the Yaupon Loop Trail.
Yaupon Loop Trail		1.31 mi.	Accessible from the Water Oak Trail, this loop adds another mile of beautiful scenery to your trip.