



The Intellectual
and Developmental
Disabilities Council
of Tarrant County

Welcome!

Experience the Fun at Texas Parks

Presented by Jessica Burke and Laney Kohout –
Champions of Accessibility in Texas State Parks

July 31, 2025

Weekly Caregiver Education Webinar

To transform the region into an inclusive community where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) thrive.

meet & greet



Take this opportunity to introduce yourself in the chat box.

- ❖ Who are you?
- ❖ How can you assist?
- ❖ What do you need assistance with?

Welcome

NEW/RENEWING MEMBERS

- **Individual Members:**

- Bryan Cotton
- Daniel Durany
- Cynthia Rodriguez
- Theresa Moffitt
- Heather Crawford
- Guiyuan Li
- Amber Luckey
- Mike Anderson
- Sandy Rodriguo
- Ranella Franklin
- Joseph Barbarito
- Tammi Creed
- Stephanie Stone
- Rene Aguilar
- Deborah Norris
- Richard Garrett
- Audra Resell

- **Premier Partners:**

- Cook Children's Medical Center
- Fort Worth ISD (Founding Partner)
- Tarrant County, the office of Judge Tim O'Hare (Founding Partner)

- **Sponsor Member:**

- Green Oaks Education and Support

- **Professional Member**

- Macy Davis, Equitable Advisors, LLC

Your Name/Organization Belongs Here

www.IDDCouncil.org/join-us





Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Council of Tarrant County



MONTHLY MEETINGS

1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH 9-10:30 a.m.
3136 W. 4th Street, Fort Worth
Next meeting: August 7

SUMMER WEBINAR SERIES

WEEKDAY VARIES 12-1:30 p.m.
August 7, August 14,
August 21, August 26, Sept. 4

MAKING CONNECTIONS RESOURCES FAIR

October 11 – Fort Worth

CAPEabilities CAREER EXPLORATION EXPO

February 5 – ESC 11

TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2ND FRIDAY EACH MONTH 9-10:30 a.m.
Location Varies

Sept. 12 - TCC Trinity River Campus
Oct. 10 – Location TBD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caregiver Education Webinar Series Presents:
SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY: KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD
AUGUST 7, 2025 ■ 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

With the advent of social media, new challenges have surfaced. While it does provide support and a place to connect, it also poses risks to privacy and safety. This webinar will explore the importance of social media safety for individuals with IDD and provide strategies for supporting them in navigating this digital landscape.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3387dy>

Caregiver Education Webinar Series Presents:
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
AUGUST 14, 2025 ■ 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

You and individuals with disabilities are first, if not the only, individuals who are healthy and able to live independently. That's why it's important to know how to prevent, respond to, and recover from sexual assault. This webinar will provide information about the signs and symptoms of sexual assault, the importance of reporting, and the resources available for support.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3387dy>

Caregiver Education Webinar Series Presents:
Healthy Habits for Picky Eaters
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 ■ Noon – 1:30 pm

Many individuals with IDD have picky eating habits, which can lead to nutritional deficiencies and health problems. This webinar will provide strategies for encouraging healthy eating habits and addressing picky eating behaviors.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3387dy>

MAKING CONNECTIONS CENTRAL TARRANT
DISABILITY RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

The IDD Council is proud to partner with Fort Worth ISD to host "MAKING CONNECTIONS" CENTRAL TARRANT

SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 2025 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
M.G. Ellis Elementary • 215 NE 14th St., Ft. Worth, 76164

Visit with organizations that provide services for the community!
Schedule and Breakout Session Details:
<https://www.iddcouncil.org/makingconnectionsfw>

Resources for:

- Medicaid Waivers/Social Security
- Guardianship/Supported Decision-Making
- Behavioral Health
- Transition & Employment Services
- College Programs
- Assistive & Adaptive Technology
- Special Needs Trusts / Wills
- Homelessness
- Assisted Living / Housing
- Financial Planning
- Recreation & Leisure
- Therapy & Camp Providers
- Respite/Day Habilitation
- and more!

Breakout Sessions **Resources & Exhibitors** **Kid's Workshop**

EXHIBITOR & SPONSOR REGISTRATION: <https://tinyurl.com/3387dy>

The IDD Council's Making Connections Disability Resource Fair brings together the disability resource community to provide easily accessible location for families and caregivers to collect information and learn about benefits and services each provides. Making Connections Disability Resource Fairs are held throughout the year in various Tarrant County locations.

Caregiver Education Webinar Series Presents:
HEART HEALTH IN INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD
AUGUST 21, 2025 ■ 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, and individuals with IDD are at a higher risk of developing heart disease. This webinar will explore the importance of heart health for individuals with IDD and provide strategies for supporting them in maintaining heart health.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3387dy>

Caregiver Education Webinar Series Presents:
High Quality IEPs
SEPT 4, 2025 ■ 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are the foundation for ensuring that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education. This webinar will provide strategies for developing high quality IEPs that meet the needs of each student.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3387dy>



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of Tarrant County

JOIN A COMMITTEE

- ❖ **COMMUNICATIONS & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE:** Identifies and schedules topics of interest for Council events and helps create and distribute information important to members of the Council and community through written and electronic media. Meets hybrid as needed.
- ❖ **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:** Calling all party planners, entertainers and creative thinkers! Let's plan programs that add value to the community, advocates and creates awareness of IDD. The committee is looking for parents, providers, community leaders and event planners to join us in finding and creating new opportunities. Meets hybrid as needed.
- ❖ **TRANSITION COMMITTEE:** Provides educators the opportunity to collaborate and discover resources to share with families in the path to adulthood. The committee is looking for school counselors, transition specialists, parents and advocates interested in establishing or advancing opportunities for people with disabilities after high school. Help develop strategies that support families and students in schools and secondary education. Meets the 2nd Friday of the month from 9-10:30 a.m.



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GRANT WRITER NEEDED

If you are an experienced grant writer, or if you know of one, please message us or email us.





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of Tarrant County



Call for Applications

**for the
IDD Council
Board of
Directors**

The IDD Council is accepting applications from outstanding leaders, self-advocates and caregivers to serve as Board members. Help us to grow and prosper in our work.

<https://www.iddcouncil.org/board-member-info>.



Intellectual and
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of Tarrant County

ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS



Laney Kohout



Jessica Burke



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

EXPLORE!

Presented by Jessica Burke TPWD Accessibility Manager &
Laney Kohout, Dinosaur Valley SP - Park Interpreter

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Your Presenters



Jessica Burke, CTRS
TPWD Accessibility Manager



Laney Kohout
Dinosaur Valley SP - Park Interpreter

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

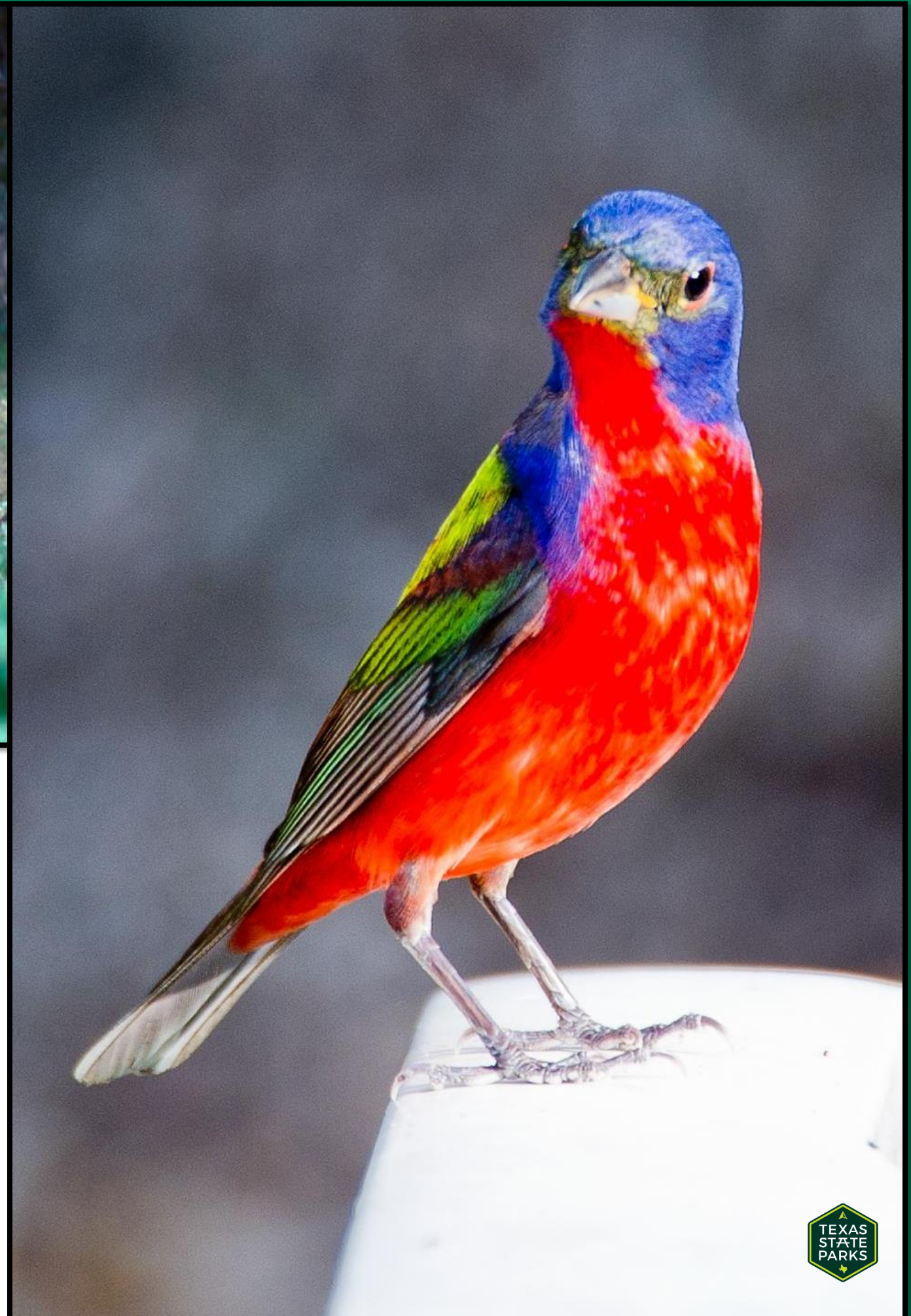




Perhaps you're
think of
breathtaking
landscapes...



...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 & staff
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Comprehensive ADA Transition Plan
- Continually growing and expanding



TPWD Accessibility Office

- Central hub for anything ADA Title II
- Customer Service
 - accessibility@tpwd.Texas.gov
 - Modification requests
 - Resources for decision making

Navigating the Accessibility Website

TEXAS

PARKS &

WILDLIFE

Find a Park

Fishing Reports

Buy a License

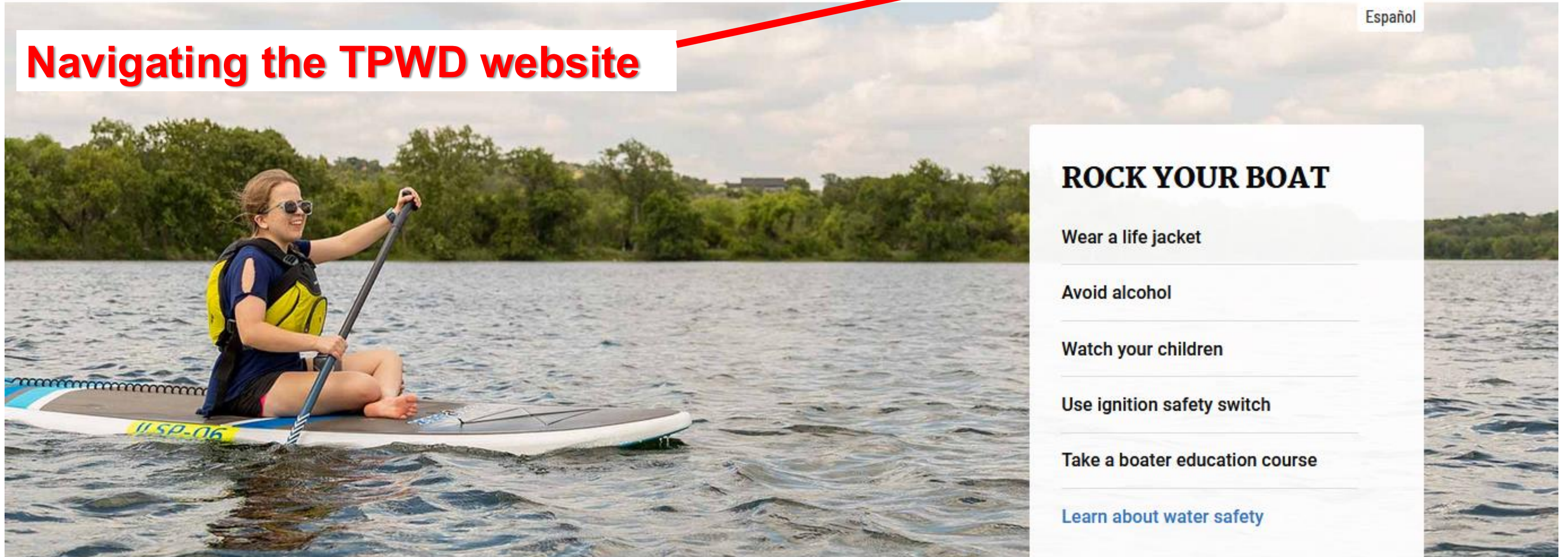
Hunting Seasons

Register a Boat

Donate

Español

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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Accessibility at Texas State Parks



Around the State

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

Visit [Center Texas](#) in Lake Jackson Marine



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.



Frequently Asked Questions

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

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



**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
- Accessible blinds and equipment at sites across state





Fishing in Texas

- License not needed -
 - State Parks
 - For person with IDD in therapy or with licensed angler
- Tackle Loaner Program

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

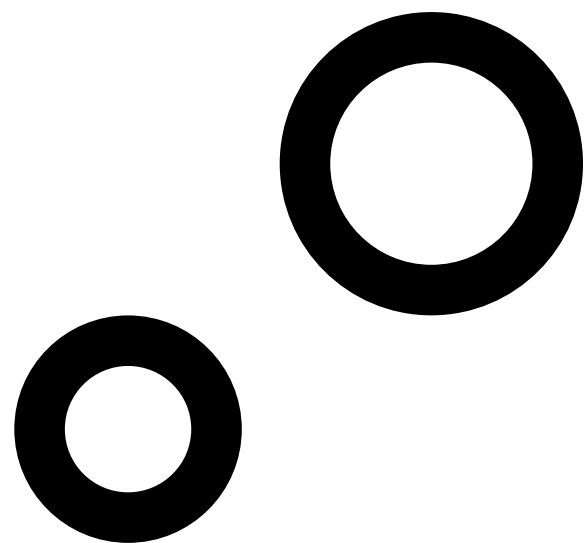




**A great
way to get
outside...**



**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





Stargaze in Big Bend





Put your
toes in the
sand at
Galveston





Observe
your first
eagle at
Tyler



Enjoy the
vastness of
Palo Duro
Canyon





Wet a line at Possum Kingdom





Stroll back
in time
at Cedar Hill





Cool off in
the spring-
fed waters at
Cleburne





Paddle through
peaceful coves
at Ray Roberts
Lake





Walk in ancient
footsteps at Di
nosaur Valley

Dinosaur Valley State Park



Accessible Facilities:

- Improvements to campsites, picnic areas, and buildings

Inclusive Interpretive Programs:

- Learning experiences for all abilities

Adaptive Hiking Equipment:

- 2 Motorized Chairs
- 1 GRIT Freedom Chair
- 1 Tandem Hiking Cart

GRIT Freedom Chairs

- 0° turn radius
- Mountain bike wheels
- Easy to push levers
- Optional handles for assistance
- Foot plate
- Parks with GRIT chairs:
 - Cedar Hill
 - Dinosaur Valley
 - Ray Roberts Lake – Isle du Bois
 - Purtis Creek
 - 18 additional parks



Motorized Wheelchairs

Available at:

- Cedar Hill State Park
- Dinosaur Valley State Park (2)
- Brazos Bend State Park
- Estero Llano Grande State Park
- Fort Leaton State Parks
- Government Canyon State Natural Area
- Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site
- McKinney Falls State Park
- Village Creek State Park



Tandem Hiking Carts

- Rider must be 50% or less body weight of “driver”
 - Ex: If rider is 50 lbs driver must weight at least 100 lbs
- Sherpa frame and harness
- Adjustable trekking poles
- Large wheel to navigate terrain
- Adjustable 4-point harness
- Available at:
 - Cedar Hill SP
 - Dinosaur Valley SP
 - McKinney Falls SP
 - Brazos Bend SP



Beach Wheelchairs

- Ray Roberts Lake SP – Johnson Branch
- Galveston Island SP
- Mustang Island SP
- Sea Rim SP



Texan's 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

Dinosaur Valley Trail



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



Accessible Facilities

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

[State Parks](#) > [Dinosaur Valley State Park](#) > [Fees & Facilities](#) > Accessibility

Dinosaur Valley State Park

[Overview](#) [Maps](#) [Fees & Facilities](#) [Nature](#) [History](#) [Mapping Dinosaur Tracks](#) [Events](#)

! This park has active alerts [View](#)

Accessibility Information

We have accessible restrooms, parking and some facilities. We also have several chairs designed to help those with mobility issues access trails.

Headquarters has paved access and one designated parking space.

Chairs for trail access

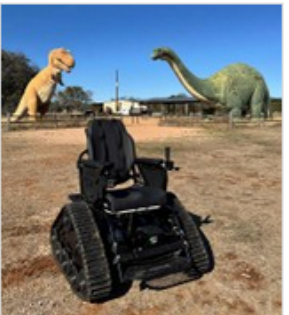
Reserve one of these chairs ahead of time by [emailing the park](#) or calling the park at (254) 897-4588. You can also borrow on the day of your visit, if available.

- [Grit Freedom Chair](#)
- [Motorized Trackchair \(two\)](#)
- [Tandem Hiking Cart](#)

Trails

Some portions of the Paluxy River Trail are paved. A 0.25-mile paved trail connects the Main Track Site Parking Lot to the Lanham Mills Campground, where the trail continues on the paved roadway for another 0.25 miles. Other areas of the trail are rougher and unpaved, but the GRIT chair can traverse it.

[Dinosaur Valley State Park](#)
[View on Google Maps](#)



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



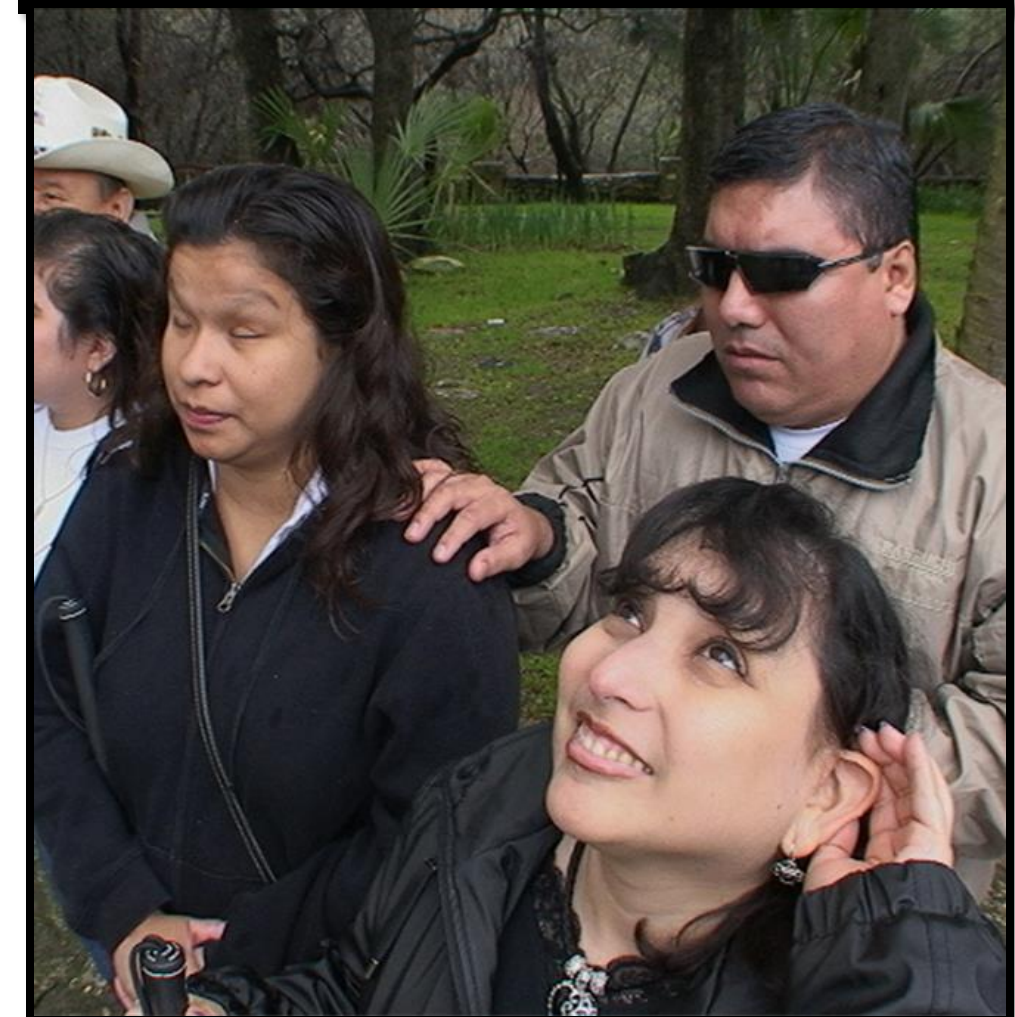
Texas Outdoor Family

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



Programs & Events

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



Dinosaur Valley Dino-bility Day

November 8, 2025

10AM-2PM

Inclusive, family-friendly event with

- DFW resources
- Sensory activities
- Nature walks
- Adaptive equipment



For more information:





Across the State

Access mats at Ray Roberts Lake State Park





Wayfinding tags at Palmetto

Kayak transfer bench and chariot launch at Inks Lake

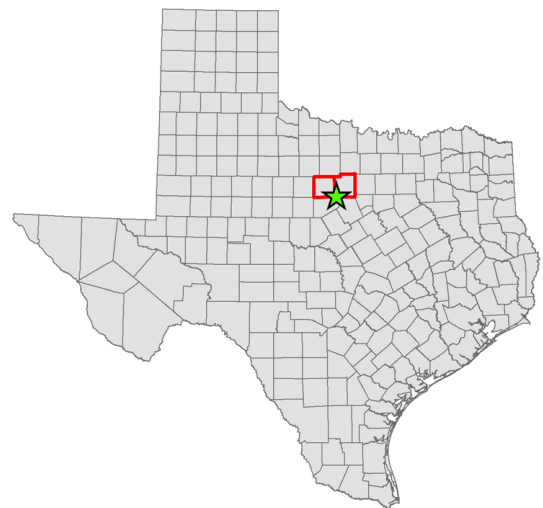


Colorblind viewers



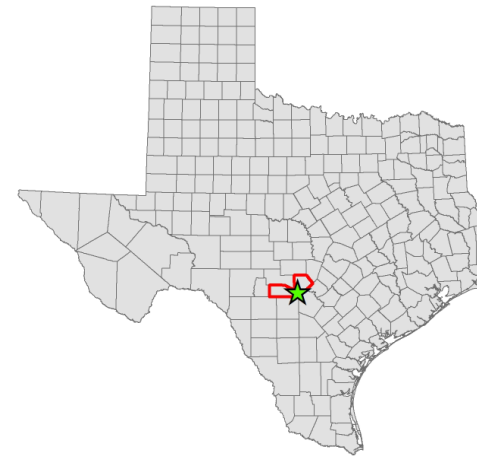
State Parks on the horizon





Palo Pinto Mountains

Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area

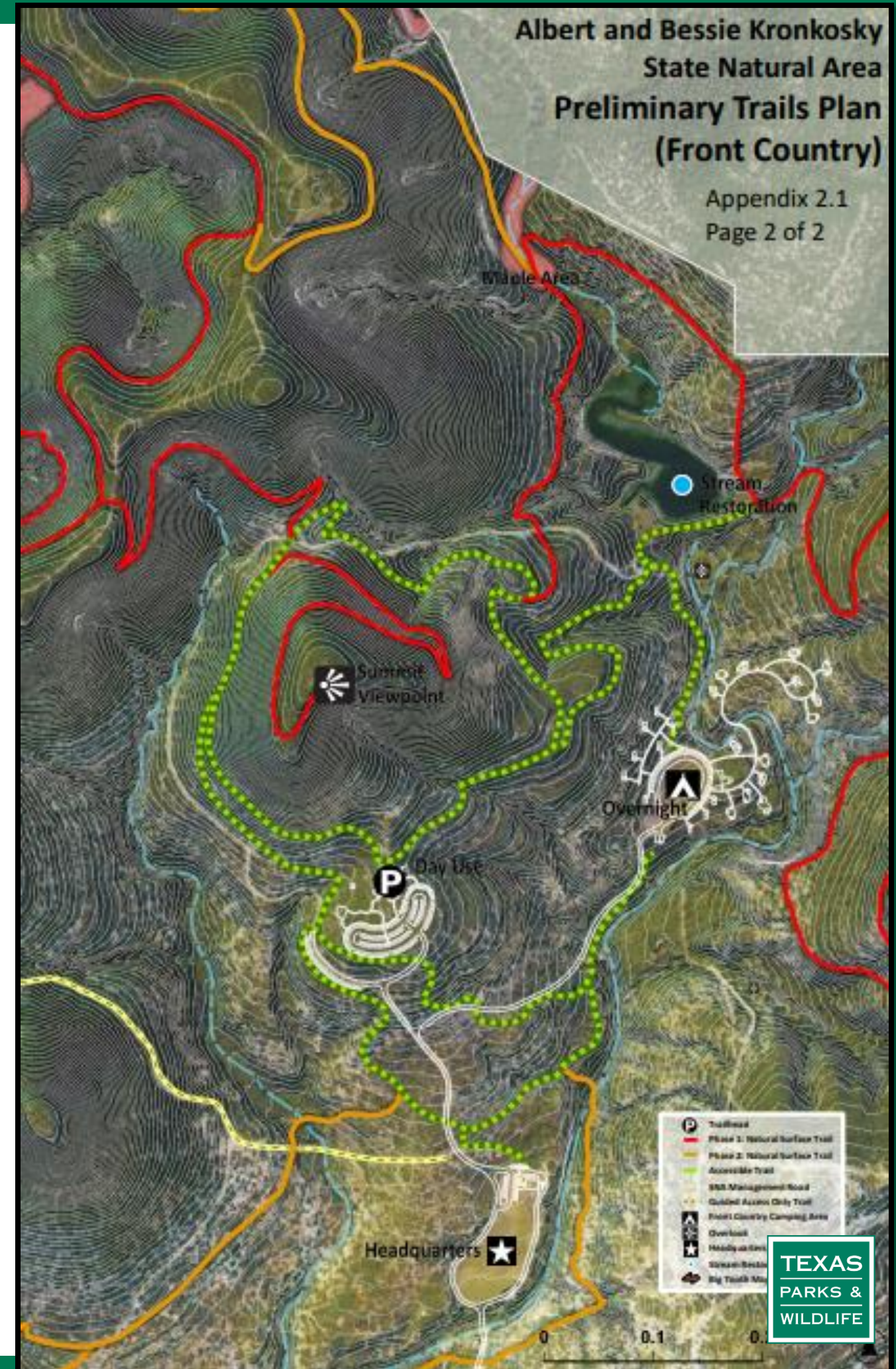


ALBERT AND BESSIE KRONKOSKY STATE NATURAL AREA
May 20, 2024



Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area Preliminary Trails Plan (Front Country)

Appendix 2.1
Page 2 of 2





Disability Community Feedback Drives Decisions

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

Send Resources & Requests to accessibility@tpwd.texas.gov

- Trip Planning
- Equipment requests
- ASL interpreters
- Braille printing

You can be TPWD

- **Employment**
 - 13 Divisions at 200 locations
- **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



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

Jessica Burke

Jessica.burke@tpwd.texas.gov

512-298-9036

Laney Kohout

anna.kohout@tpwd.texas.gov



Life's better outside.®



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Thank you for joining us!

Rita Stevenson
Executive Director
Rita@IDDCouncil.org
www.IDDCouncil.org



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SHOP, EAT AND SUPPORT THE IDD COUNCIL



Kroger Shopper Card Community Rewards: <https://bit.ly/2Sw9WX1>

Rosa's Cards \$20 value / \$20 each: Email request with Qty: Rita@IDDCouncil.org

More info and ways to support our mission: <https://www.iddcouncil.org/partners>

PAYMENTS MADE EASY WITH ZELLE, PAYPAL, OR ON OUR WEBSITE!



zelle®



<https://paypal.me/IDDCouncil>



<https://myqrcode.mobi/d2648a48>
(www.IDDCouncil.org/gift)