

Waterwood Wildlife Trail

This trail was chosen as a Texas Parks and Wildlife's Prairies and Pineywoods Wildlife Trail because it manifests the pineywoods experience of East Texas. Visitors must pick up a trail map and sign a one-time waiver of liability at the front desk.

Beginning at the Country Club parking lot, this loop trail can be walked as a 3-mile or 6-mile segment that is about 4 hours (hiking boots are recommended). Beginning at our cypress-lined pond where a bridge leads to the driving range, the trail enters woodland of cedar elm, water oak, sweetgum, pine, and sugarberry. Listen and watch for pileated woodpeckers, White-eyed Vireos, Great Crested Flycatchers, Northern Cardinals, Chickadees, and spring and fall migrants. The trail briefly joins a dirt road. Listen for frogs and watch overhead for hawks perched on limbs. Back in the woodland along a dry creek; be on the lookout for fox, White-tailed deer, squirrels, opossums and armadillos. After crossing a paved road, the trail winds through variable terrain in a forest that includes views of Lake Livingston before emerging near fairways and several blocks of residences. As you approach the marina, you may see White Pelicans in March and October, and swallows, scissored-tail flycatchers and Purple Martins swooping around the waters edge in spring and summer. The trail continues in a forest along Pools Creek, and crosses FM 980 to a unique, rustic chapel that is open to the public. Behind the chapel, a circular trail lined with sassafras, dogwoods, sweetgum, ironwood, and American elm includes a stunning view from a small rocky bluff of a deep creek lined with pools of water. As you cross FM 980 again to the Waterwood Parkway, be on the lookout for bluebirds, kingbirds, and red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers. The final stretch of this trail takes you to several more creative crossings over streams, into a forest nearby Park Forest, across a symphonic frog bog during wet seasons, and then to the parking lot.