

Celebrate Mother Nature! . . .
at these Dallas-area parks & recreation spaces,
List courtesy of the North Texas Master Naturalists



Arbor Hills Nature Preserve

6701 W Parker Rd., Plano, TX 75093

<https://www.plano.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Arbor-Hills-Nature-Preserve-20>

Located on the western border of Plano, Arbor Hills Nature Preserve is a 200-acre park featuring vast areas of natural beauty for walking, jogging, hiking, orienteering, and other outdoor activities. Amenities include a playground, restrooms, a .3 mile paved walking path as well as many natural-surface hiking trails, and an off-road bike trail.

Cedar Ridge Preserve

7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, Texas 75249

www.audubondallas.org

Located just 20 minutes from downtown Dallas, at an elevation of 755 feet, Cedar Ridge Preserve (formerly the Dallas Nature Center) is a slice of the hill country. Cedar Ridge Preserve is a natural habitat of 600 acres featuring about 9 miles of trails, native trees, grasses and wildflowers, butterfly gardens, limited picnic areas, and wild mammals, birds, insects and reptiles. CRP has been managed by Audubon Dallas since April 2003 by charter from the Dallas County Park & Open Space Program and the City of Dallas.

Coppell Nature Park at Wagon Wheel Park

Freeport Parkway & Ruby Road, Coppell, TX 75019

www.coppellnaturepark.org

Coppell Nature Park is located on the Cottonwood Branch of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The park contains approximately one mile of streambed fed by natural springs. The park has 63 acres of woodland and grassland, providing a natural habitat for hawks and other local and migratory birds, coyotes, bobcats and other animals. The park is dedicated to promoting the preservation of our natural environment through education of the public. To reach the trail, park at the West parking lot (near the batting cages) and follow the concrete trail to the tree line. There will be a cut-off point where you can enter the trail.

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

6465 Refuge Road Sherman, TX 75092

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Hagerman/>

The Hagerman NWR was established to provide and manage habitat for migratory birds, wildlife, and native plants. It consists of 12,000 acres of uplands and wetlands located on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma. The refuge is in the region where the blackland prairies meet the eastern cross timbers. It serves as a stop-over and wintering grounds for thousands of migratory birds, including Canada snow, white-fronted, and Ross geese and pintail, mallard, gadwall, and other ducks. The refuge has wildflowers, prairie grasses, white-tailed deer, bobcats, river otters, and other animals. The refuge also offers wildlife-dependent recreation including wildlife observation and photography, fishing, hunting, hiking, and educational programs. It is maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary

1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75069

www.heardmuseum.org

A 289-acre wildlife sanctuary and natural science museum established for education of the public, especially children, about nature, and as a place dedicated to conservation and preservation of the environment.

John Burke Nature Preserve

1111 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

<http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov/index.aspx?nid=254>

A 100-acre natural area set aside by the City of Farmers Branch Parks and Recreation Department for the public, school and scout groups to observe and learn about nature. The site consists of bottomland hardwood, grassland and wetlands along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River.

Kiest Park

2179 Kiest Blvd. Dallas, TX 75224

Kiest Park, a City of Dallas Park and Recreation park located in Oak Cliff in southwest Dallas, has 264 acres of natural areas, gardens, recreation and picnic areas, and athletic fields. A 3-mile trail connects the various areas of the park.

Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area

201 E. Jones St. Lewisville, TX 75057

<http://llela.unt.edu/>

A 2,000-acre area dedicated to the preservation and restoration of native habitat and biodiversity, environmental education and environmental research. LLELA contains prairie, forest, and wetlands and is home to a large variety of wildlife.

Oak Cliff Nature Preserve

2875 Pierce St. Dallas, TX 75233

The Oak Cliff Nature Preserve consists of 121 acres and part of Five Mile Creek. It includes riparian, prairie, and mixed hardwood forest areas. The area is open to the public for hiking and mountain biking on designated trails, birding, observing wildlife in an urban wilderness and enjoying natural areas. The preserve is dedicated to conservation of the wildlife habitat, native plant communities and scenic landscapes through natural resource management.

Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve

5901 Los Rios Blvd. (between Jupiter and Parker Road) Plano, TX 75074

<https://www.plano.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/23>

Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve, Plano's largest park, is an 800-acre park extending from Parker Road on the south to Chaparral Road on the north and from Spring Creek Parkway on the west to Los Rios Boulevard on the east. The park boasts 3.5 miles of concrete trails and 5 miles of soft surface trails located along Rowlett Creek. Nature trails are open from sunrise to sunset daily.

Spring Creek Forest Preserve

1787 Holford Road (west side of Holford); 1770 Holford Rd. (east side of Holford) Garland, TX 75044

www.springcreekforest.org

Spring Creek Forest is an area of bottomland forest and prairie, with many trees 100-300 years old, native grasses, wildflowers and a large variety of wildlife. Over 630 species of plants and animals have been observed there. It is preserved and protected as a cultural and natural resource for study and enjoyment by the public. The Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest was established in 1987 and is sponsored by the City of Garland Parks and Recreation Department.

Texas Discovery Garden at Fair Park

3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75210 (located in Fair Park at Gate 6)

texasdiscoverygardens.org

Organic gardens, including a butterfly house with daily butterfly releases, a butterfly garden, and a snake house; open daily to the community and supported, in part, by City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department. Its purpose is to teach effective ways to restore, conserve and preserve nature in an urban setting, with a focus on gardening organically and sustainably. Admission fees apply.

Twelve Hills Nature Center

817 Mary Cliff Road, Dallas, TX 75208

twelvehills.org

A five-acre nature center established on reclaimed land many years ago. It serves as a place for the local community to access a nature area without driving, and as an outdoor classroom for neighboring schools. It is located in north Oak Cliff, 7 minutes west of the Bishop Arts District.