

Citizens working to preserve and enhance the state park system for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.



The Voice, Online – TfSP E-News

August 2011

- Proposed State Park near Strawn, Texas
- TPW Commission Annual Public Hearing set for Aug. 24, 2:00 p.m.
- Public Input Sought on Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan

President's Message

Texans for State Parks Facebook page now has over 200 "friends". This is an excellent way for us to keep our Friends Groups and interested parties updated on happenings at Texas State Parks. Between this and our website, we are able to pass along important information about the Parks System in a timely manner. Give it a try. Just search for Texans for State Parks on Facebook and it will take you to our page.

If you have information about your Park, such as events coming up or changes, you are welcome to post them on this site. This should be an excellent tool for all of us to use.

In other news, we are helping new Friends Groups start up at several different Parks with information about startups, insurance, and other important questions they might have. We have a great working relationship with both the groups and TPWD and are able to help both sides with information about what a Friends Group can bring to their site.

If you have questions on how to start up a group, you can contact us and we will be glad to assist.

John Cobb, President

Proposed State Park near Strawn, Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife staff will brief interested citizens and receive comment regarding the planned acquisition of property for a new state park in the area at the Strawn school auditorium, 224 E. Walnut St., on Tuesday, August 23 at 7:00 PM. TPWD has been working for several years, exploring land in Johnson, Parker, Palo Pinto and Tarrant Counties and has identified a property near the town of Strawn as a potential site for a new State Park. Purchase of the site will fulfill a commitment to use the proceeds from the 2008 sale of the former Eagle Mountain Lake State Park property to acquire a new park in the Fort Worth area.

The identified site consists of three tracts totaling approximately 3,300 acres located a few miles north of Interstate 20, southwest of the town of Strawn. The property is rich in natural resources, with hills and two miles of the north fork of Palo Pinto Creek, which gives it excellent recreational potential.

Department staff will seek approval from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at their August 25 meeting to acquire the acreage for future development and operation as a state park.

Comments may also be submitted via email to Kevin Good, Special Assistant to the State Parks Director at kevin.good@tpwd.state.tx.us.

TPW Commission Annual Public Hearing set for Aug. 24, 2:00 p.m.

Invitation from TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith:

On behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), I would like to extend an invitation for you to attend the Annual Public Hearing of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The Commission holds this meeting each year to receive input from our partners, stakeholders and constituents concerning any issues relating to Department policies, goals, programs, and responsibilities.

This year, mindful of conserving resources, this communication is being done electronically instead. Information has been posted on our website at [TPWD Annual Public Hearing](#). E-mail notification will be sent to TPWD constituents and stakeholders, and we'll be using all available communication channels to get the word out about this opportunity to address the commission, including news releases and social media posts.

Carter Smith, Executive Director

The meeting will be held at in the Commission Hearing Room at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department HQ, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

Directions and map

For Information: TPWD Executive Office, 512-389-4804 or 512-389-4802; www.tpwd.state.tx.us

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Headquarters is located at 4200 Smith School Road in southeast Austin near Highway 71/Ben White Blvd., close to the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA).Directions:

- Proceed south on IH 35, take Hwy. 71 east toward Bastrop and the airport.
- Exit Montopolis Drive and turn right on to Montopolis Drive (**NOTE:** the TPWD HQ sign).
- Proceed approximately ½ mile to the next intersection and turn left onto Burleson Road.
- Proceed ½ mile to the next intersection/light and turn right onto Smith School Road (**NOTE:** TPWD HQ sign on the corner).
- At the end of the road (Level 3 and Smith Elementary School on left side), **turn right** onto the winding road.
- Follow the winding road around the fenced enclosure to the Main two-story Headquarters Building.
- Parking is available on the left side of the main two-story building, properly marked as "Visitor Parking." The main entrance is the center of the main building that has the flag poles and the TPWD sign in front. Proceed into the main building to the Security desk; sign in and ask for your party.

Public Input Sought on Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan

The TPWD Recreation Grants Branch is conducting a survey to determine the kinds of outdoor recreation activities in which Texas citizens participate and their opinions about outdoor recreation in the state. This survey will support development of the Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan (TORP) 2012-2017. Results will help TPWD identify outdoor recreation needs and guide funding opportunities through the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund and other grant programs. Anyone may complete the survey online at the 2012 TORP survey website from now through Sept. 26.

The TORP ensures that Texas continues to receive federal Land and Water Conservation Funds program and other grant funds. Click on [**Tell us about park needs in Texas**](#) to get to the survey on TPWD web pages.

Please note, a variety of outlets are being used to encourage participation in the survey, so you may receive more than one request. You will only able to answer the survey once, and your email is anonymous, so please complete a survey from just one source. *However, please share this message and link with your friends, family and any others that have an interest in parks.* If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at Rec.Grants@tpwd.state.tx.us. Thank you for your assistance in getting the word out on the survey.

Don't forget to send e-mail or other address changes to leevans@texas.net so you will continue to receive news and information about the State Park System.

TEXANS FOR STATE PARKS invites you to join with us in protecting our Texas treasures. Whether you are an individual, organization, school group or represent a small business or a major corporation, membership categories provide a way for you to become involved. For information and a membership application, see www.texasstateparks.org or e-mail leevans@texas.net.

Texans for State Parks – P. O. Box 41480 - Austin, TX 78704-0025

www.Texasstateparks.org

Texans for State Parks Board of Directors

John Cobb, President, Bastrop, Texas, 512/332-0371
cobbfarm@airmail.net

Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

Bob Armstrong, Vice President, Austin, Texas, 512/413-6891
landmanbob@aol.com

Big Bend Ranch State Park Advisory Board

Ruth Jordan, Secretary, San Angelo, Texas, 325/651-7346
RuthJordan@suddenlink.net
Friends of San Angelo State Park

Richard Solis, Treasurer, Canyon Lake, Texas 830/935-4011
Rsolis@GVTC.com

Friends of Guadalupe River & Honey Creek State Parks
Solis Surveying Co.

Scott Chase, Dallas, Texas 214/880-0404
schase@airmail.net

Law Offices of J. Scott Chase

Jan DeVault, Houston, Texas, 281/793-9569
jdV3dge1@ix.netcom.com

Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground

John M. Gosdin, Austin, Texas, 512/219-6737
jmgosdin@aol.com

Barbara McKnight, Stephenville, Texas, 254/968-4357
bmcknight3276@msn.com

Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association

Jamie McNally, Austin, Texas, 512/495-8827
jmcnally@dwmrlaw.com

Friends of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area; Friends of McKinney Falls State Park

Evelyn L. Merz, Houston, Texas, 713/644-8228
elmerz@hal-pc.org

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee, TPWD
Executive Committee Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club

Ken Pollard, Austin, Texas, 512/971-5145
kpollard52@yahoo.com

Texas Parks & Wildlife, Retired
Texas Buffalo Soldier Association

Beth McDonald, President Emeritus, Austin, TX, 512/721-3321
BethMcDonald@austin.rr.com

Friends of Lost Pines State Parks

Linda Evans, News & Administration, Austin, TX 512/444-8079
leevans@texas.net

Business Affiliations are provided for information purposes only.

Selected news items from various sources are edited and forwarded by Texans for State Parks. If you have news or an event you would like to include, send it to leevans@texas.net.



Texans for State Parks

P.O. Box 41480
Austin, TX 78704-0025

Citizens working to preserve and enhance the state park system for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.

TEXANS FOR STATE PARKS invites you to join with us in protecting our Texas treasures. Whether you are an individual, family, school group or represent a small business or a major corporation, our membership categories provide a way for you to become involved.

Individuals

___ \$25 Regular
___ \$50 Family
___ \$100 Supporting
___ \$1,000 Benefactor
___ \$5,000 Life

Organizations

___ \$50 Bronze
___ \$100 Silver
___ \$250 Gold
___ \$1,000 Platinum
___ \$25 Youth Groups under age 18

Business

___ \$100 Bronze
___ \$500 Silver
___ \$1,000 Gold
___ \$5,000 Platinum

\$ _____ Additional Donation

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed

Please check: ___ Renew Membership ___ New Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone (H) _____ **(Bs)** _____

Fax _____ *E-mail* _____

Do you wish to receive TfSP E-news? ___ Yes ___ No

I don't have e-mail. Please put me on a list to receive e-news items by mail. _____

Texans for State Parks is a 501(c)(3) organization; membership dues are tax deductible.

Please send a check to: **Texans For State Parks • P.O. Box 41480 • Austin, TX 78704-0025**

Web Site: www.texansforstateparks.org

Goals

- *Provide a united, state-wide voice for users of state parks and related groups on park matters of shared concerns.*
- *Serve as an information resource for interested persons on state park matters.*
- *Educate park users, legislators and the general public about state park matters.*
- *Support stable and adequate financing for the state park system.*
- *Work in partnership with local state park support groups and other interested groups on state park matters.*
- *Advise the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Commission on State-wide matters of importance to state park users and related groups.*