

Welcome to the Austin Nature and Science Center

You are about to embark on an journey of discovery and wonder. Learn about the world around us and how people, plants and animals work together. And because nature is always changing, one visit is never enough!

Visitor Pavilion

The fun starts here. Explore the exhibits, including a honeybee colony and central Texas cave. In the Naturalist Workshop you can touch rocks and shells, measure and weigh bones and observe insects and tiny organisms through microscopes and magnifying glasses. If you have a natural treasure to trade, check out the Trade Counter. The Visitor Pavilion is also where you'll find the information desk, restrooms, water fountain and meeting room.



Small Wonders

Here you can learn about all of our tiny friends. See how lizards, snakes and even small mammals survive in the wild and how they help make our world a better place. While you're here, stop on the porch and listen to the sound of bats from the Congress Avenue bridge.



Mammal Exhibits

Visit high-climbing foxes, playful raccoons and many other native animals. Search for the secretive bobcat and say howdy to Martha the coyote. Our animal residents are unable to return to the wild because they were injured or unwisely kept as pets, so we care for them here. You can read their stories as you explore.



Birds of Prey

Ever wanted to get up close and personal with a hawk? How about an owl? Or a roadrunner? You can see them all and much more in the birds of prey exhibit. Want to explore further? Keep going and follow the trail into the vast Zilker Nature Preserve. Who knows what you'll find!



Eco-Detective Trail

Take a walk on the wild side. Explore the stream, ponds and all of the trees, plants and animals that make up our ecosystem. Stop at the dock to feed the fish and watch for turtles and other reptiles. You may even see a heron swoop down for a meal.



Dino Pit

You are a paleontologist. Your mission: uncover the most incredible fossils in all of Texas, including dinosaurs, mammoths and marine reptiles. It won't be easy. You will have to dig through tons of sand at the huge excavation site. It is up to you and your fellow explorers to unearth the treasures. Are you ready for the challenge?

All casts in the Dino Pit are replicas of specimens from the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas.

Trail House

The Ashford-Gill House is a historic homestead from the early days of Texas almost 200 years ago. Today it houses our Nature's Way Preschool.

Hours & Contact

Monday-Saturday Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Noon - 5:00 pm

301 Nature Center Dr. Austin, TX 78746

Phone: 7340 9605: : : Fax: 7340 9605: : 7

http://www.austintexas.gov/ansc/





Nature & Science Center

Cultural Places, Natural Spaces