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## Barrow Nature Preserve

**Location:** 7515 Step Down Cv.

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** No

**Terrain:** Difficult and often slippery rocky forested terrain

**Special Features:** Permanent Spring

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 7 Acres

### **Overview:**

Deeded to the city by the family of Mr. David B. Barrow, Barrow Nature Preserve was set aside to protect natural springs. There are many native wildflowers and sedges at this particular preserve but please be aware that only pre-approved guided hikes are allowed.

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## **Barton Creek Wilderness Park**

**Location:** 3918 South Mopac Expressway Service Road

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** 7+ miles

**Terrain:** Live Oak forest with limestone cliffs and springs

**Special Features:** Twin Falls, Airman's Cave, Sculpture Falls, rock climbing areas, mountain bike trails

**On/Off Leash:** On Leash Area only

**Size:** 1106 acres

### **Overview:**

The Barton Creek Wilderness Park is one of Austin's largest preserve areas. With over 1000 acres, the Barton Creek Wilderness Park offers a variety of activities for all age and fitness levels. There are intermediate mountain biking trails as well as intermediate rock climbing areas available. There are no public restrooms or water fountains in this preserve so be sure to bring enough water with you during your hike. Below are some of the more common access points to this park:

Zilker Park Entrance: 2312 William Barton Drive

Spyglass Entrance: 1601 Spyglass Drive (Campbell's Hole)

Gus Fruh Entrance: 2642 Barton Hills Drive

Barton Creek East Entrance: 3755-B Capital of Texas Hwy

Barton Creek West Entrance: 3900 South Mopac (Twin and Sculpture Falls)

Scottish Woods Entrance: 1710 Camp Craft Road

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## **Big Walnut Creek Nature Preserve**

**Location:** 9221 East 290

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** No

**Terrain:** Flat

**Special Features:** Walnut Creek runs through part of this preserve

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 43 Acres

### **Overview:**

This preserve was set aside to protect the creek area as well as the native flora and fauna. It is recommended that if you go to this site you should wear sturdy shoes and hike with a partner. This preserve is still in a transitional phase and debris may be present.

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## Blowing Sink Research Management Area

**Location:** 3705 Deer Lane, Austin TX 78749

**Public or Non-Public:** Non-public

**Trails:** No

**Terrain:** Flat karst topography

**Special Features:** Caves

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 167 acres

### **Overview:**

The Blowing Sink Research Management Area owned by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department is not a public access preserve. It is however; available to members of the public for educational and research purposes. All requests for access must go through the Parks and Recreation Department prior to the activity or event.

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## Blunn Creek Nature Preserve

**Location:** 1200 St. Edwards Drive

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** Yes, 1 mile

**Terrain:** Rolling hills

**Special Features:** Creek crossings and a volcanic scenic overlook

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 38 Acres

### **Overview:**

This preserve located near St. Edward's University provides a small mulched hiking trail. This area is currently under intense invasive removal so please be aware of possible trail restoration and detours. There is no formal parking area but you are welcome to park on St. Edwards Drive.

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## Colorado River Wildlife Sanctuary

**Location:** 5827 Levander Loop

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** Yes, 1.3 miles

**Terrain:** Flat, oak and elm forest

**Special Features:** Wetland area

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 43 acres

### **Overview:**

The Colorado River Wildlife Sanctuary is home to some great wildlife viewing such as Great Blue Herons, egrets, and other waterfowl. At the end of the trail is a prime view of the Colorado River, which shares the opposite shore with Roy G. Guerrero Metropolitan Park. Although the park has access to the river, please be aware that the parking area is actually owned by TXDot and is a “swim at your own risk” area. Park curfew applies.

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## Decker Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

**Location:** 8001 Decker Lane

**Public or Non-Public:** Non-Public

**Trails:** No

**Terrain:** Prairie with some occasional hills

**Special Features:** Blackland Prairie with many native wildflowers

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 347 Acres

### **Overview:**

This preserve was set aside to help in the restoration of Blackland Prairie. Here you can find many examples of native wildflowers, grasses, and birds. This preserve is not open to the public but is available for guided hikes with pre-approval from Austin Energy and the Parks and Recreation Department.

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## Deer Park at Maple Run Preserve

**Location:** 4929 Davis Lane

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** No

**Terrain:** Flat/forested

**Special Features:** N/A

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 24 Acres

**Overview:**

Please be aware there is no official parking area or maintained trails in this preserve.

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## Goat Cave Karst Nature Preserve

**Location:** 3900 Deer Lane

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** Yes, 0.6 miles

**Terrain:** Mostly flat

**Special Features:** Sinkhole and caves

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 8 Acres

### **Overview:**

This small preserve is home to many limestone caves and small sinkholes. Cave tours are also available through the Austin Watershed or Austin Water Utility Department. Please be advised that there is very limited parking along the road and that the caves are not open to the public without a professional guide.

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## Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary

**Location:** 10203 Lindell Lane

**Public or Non-Public:** Non-Public

**Trails:** No

**Terrain:** Flat

**Special Features:** Blackland Prairie and wetland

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 290 Acres

### **Overview:**

This preserve was set aside to help preserve and restore Blackland Prairie habitat. It is a great place to see many native wildflowers and birds. The wetland along Lake Long also provides unique habitat for specialized plant and animal species. This preserve is not open to the public but is available for guided hikes with pre-approval from the Parks and Recreation Department.

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## Mayfield Nature Preserve

**Location:** 3801 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** Yes, 0.9 miles

**Terrain:** Slight hills, well-maintained mulched trails

**Special Features:** Historic cottage and peafowl

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 22 Acres

### **Overview:**

This preserve has a lovely 0.9 mile trail that winds through a very native forest area. On the preserve grounds is also a historic cottage and koi pond which can be rented for events. Peafowl are very prevalent here and so we ask that you please only observe the birds and do not disturb them. In the preserve there is also a small creek crossing and benches. This is a great place to take families and learn a thing or two about the native plants and peafowl. There is a small parking lot for your convenience and the preserve is located near Covert Park at Mount Bonnell, which offers breath-taking views of downtown Austin.

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## Onion Creek Wildlife Sanctuary

**Location:** 4435 East SH 71

**Public or Non-Public:** Non-Public

**Trails:** No

**Terrain:** Flat

**Special Features:** Native flora & fauna

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 173Acres

### **Overview:**

This large preserve was set aside by the City of Austin to help maintain native habitat in south east Austin. Although this sanctuary is not open to the public, arrangements can be made through the Parks and Recreation Department to take private tours of the area. A regional trail that runs through the sanctuary is currently being planned for park users.

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## Stephenson Nature Preserve & Outdoor Education Center

**Location:** 7501 Longview Road

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** Yes, 4.2 miles

**Terrain:** Flat-mixed meadow and forested areas

**Special Features:** Seasonal Ponds

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 147 Acres

### **Overview:**

Originally deeded to the City of Austin for educational purposes, this preserve provides a prime example of central Texas wildflower and woodland habitat. With seasonal ponds and relatively flat hiking trails, it is a great place for families and learning opportunities. It is also conveniently located near Longview Park where there are restrooms and water fountains available.

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## Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve

**Location:** 7810 Sterling Drive

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** Yes, 0.2 miles

**Terrain:** Paved, flat

**Special Features:** Scenic Overlook

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 20 Acres

### **Overview:**

This small preserve is home to a few endangered species such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black Capped Vireo. The short trail that runs through the preserve is paved and has a few wooden benches. At the end of the trail is an overlook with a wooden viewing platform and seating.

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## Zilker Nature Preserve

**Location:** 301 Nature Center Drive

**Public or Non-Public:** Public

**Trails:** Yes, 1 mile

**Terrain:** Slight hills

**Special Features:** Skyline View

**On/Off Leash:** No Dogs Allowed

**Size:** 77 acres

### **Overview:**

This small preserve behind the Austin Nature and Science Center is home to some of the best native wildlife viewing in the parks system. With excellent bird watching as well as many native plants, Zilker Nature Preserve has something for everyone. The trail system, although fairly large, is a bit confusing to some so make sure to bring plenty of water and comfortable footwear. Please do not bring pets to the preserve as there are ongoing restoration projects and plantings which are sensitive to disturbances.



