

- You can help TPWD conserve the resources of this park:
- Protect the integrity of the historic CCC structures. They are part of our heritage; please use them respectfully.
 - Tread lightly on the natural resources by staying on the trails and not littering.
 - Learn more about the park with literature available at the park headquarters.
 - Take advantage of the interpretive activities including guided nature hikes, evening presentations and special events.
 - Become an active supporter by joining the Friends of the Lost Pines or making a donation to the park.

Bastrop State Park
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www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/bastrop/

BASTROP STATE PARK CARRIZO INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Revealing
the mysteries
of the
Lost Pines



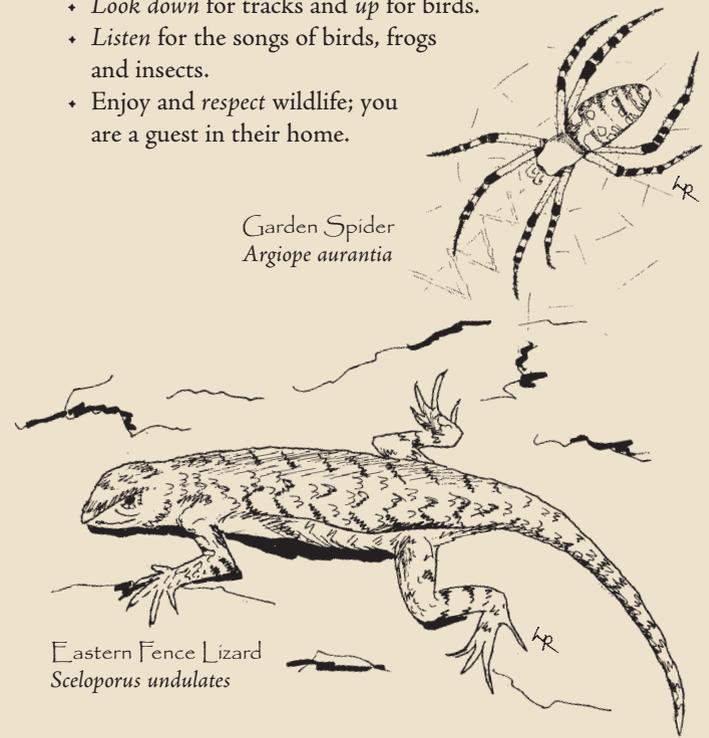
WELCOME TO THIS WONDROUS AND MYSTERIOUS STAND OF LOBLOLLY PINES. ALONG THIS TRAIL YOU WILL DISCOVER THE INTERTWINED NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORIES OF THE LOST PINES AND LEARN HOW THESE PINES PROVIDE FOR BOTH WILDLIFE AND HUMANS. THIS TRAIL'S NAME HONORS THE RED CARRIZO SANDSTONE OUTCROPS AND SANDY SOILS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE PARK. FORMED OVER 50 MILLION YEARS AGO FROM UPLIFT AS THE GREAT SEA RECEDED, THIS GEOLOGY LAID ESSENTIAL FOUNDATIONS FOR A FOREST OF "LOST" PINES.

WHO LIVES HERE?
The Lost Pines are home to many plants and wildlife. Over 250 species of birds call the Lost Pines home.

WHERE ARE THE ANIMALS?
They are here, but many of them are hiding or resting. Some wild animals, especially many mammals, come out only at night or at dawn and dusk.

HOW CAN I FIND THEM?
With practice, you can find animals and their signs all year round.

- *Speak and walk quietly and slowly* so you won't scare them.
- *Look down* for tracks and *up* for birds.
- *Listen* for the songs of birds, frogs and insects.
- Enjoy and *respect* wildlife; you are a guest in their home.



Bastrop State Park staff gratefully acknowledge and thank the people who donated their time and talent to help create the Carrizo Self-guided Trail. The Lost Pines Master Naturalists Chapter initiated the project through continued trail work and contributed to the writing of this brochure (for more information about this group, visit www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/). Louise A. Ridlon created the wonderful line art for this brochure. Barbara Atwell designed the map icons and trail markers.



1. PINES AS PROVIDERS

The towering pine forest stretching out before you has long attracted both people and wildlife. Pollen records indicate the pines have persisted in the area for over 18,000 years. Prehistoric Native Americans came to the area because the forest provided shelter, food, fuel and water. The dry sandy ground and the water that gathers in this creek proved important to the comfort and survival of the forest's early inhabitants. The pine forest contains a higher diversity of plants than the surrounding Post Oak Savannah, thus offering habitat for more species of wildlife.



2. THE 'COFFEE SHOP' OF THE FOREST

Although pine trees dominate the landscape, understory plants play a vital role in providing for the forest's wealth of wildlife. Yaupon, the common understory plant before you, provides shelter and nesting sites for small animals and birds. Look for its smooth bark and small dark green leaves. Yaupon leaves contain caffeine, and the roasted leaves provided Native Americans and early pioneers a welcome brew. The scientific name, *Ilex vomitoria*, gives an indication of why one **should not** eat the bright red berries. Interestingly, birds are unaffected and readily eat the berries.



3. ROOSEVELT'S TREE ARMY

By the 1900s this forest provided wood for construction materials in nearby Austin and San Antonio. Demand for timber increased, and by the early 1930s the pine forest was almost completely depleted. The 1930s also brought the Great Depression, which inspired President Franklin Roosevelt to create the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as a means of boosting the economy and providing jobs for young men.

Ironically, the overcut pine forest provided a perfect site for the CCC. Companies 1805 and 1811 came here and renewed the forest by planting seedlings, many of which surround you today. The CCC also built the roads, cabins, swimming pool and other structures of Bastrop State Park, which opened in 1937. The park and pines now provide for thousands of visitors annually who enjoy their beauty and solitude.



4. CREEPING, NOT CREEPY: VINES OF THE FOREST

Although we may want to avoid touching the vines in this forest, they provide food and shelter for wildlife.

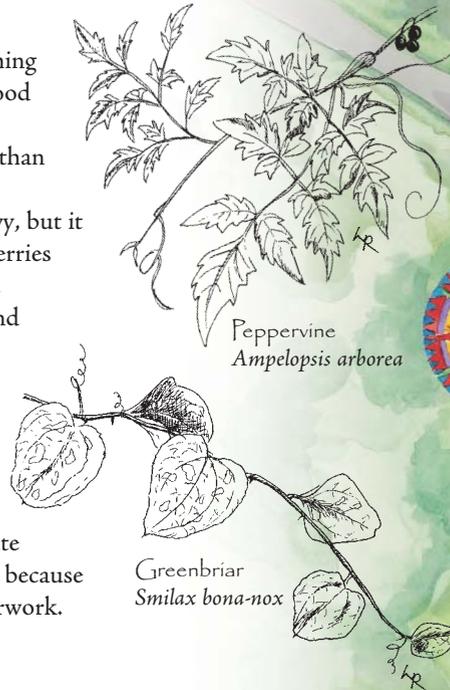
Poison Ivy sometimes looks more like a shrub than a vine; "Leaves of three, LET IT BE!"

Virginia Creeper can be mistaken for poison ivy, but it has five leaflets instead of three. It produces dark berries that are poisonous to humans but enjoyed by birds.

Greenbriar has pale green leather-like leaves and slender stems with sharp thorns.

Peppervine is a common, dark green, multi-leaved vine with dark purple berries.

Alabama Supplejack, seen twisting up many of the trees, is a woody vine with smooth oblong leaves. It produces greenish-white flowers in the spring and small blue fruit in the fall that is a favorite of many birds. It is commonly called "Rattan Vine" because the stem can be made into baskets and other wickerwork.



5. POND LIFE

After a rainfall, this shallow depression nurtures life as an important water source for birds and other wildlife. It is home to numerous animals and insects, and it is a breeding area for insects and amphibians. This is a favorite habitat for dragonflies. Look for their brilliant colors of luminous blue and orange. Dragonfly larvae consume harmful insects, notably mosquito larvae, making them beneficial as well as beautiful. Ponds such as this serve as important habitats for the endangered Houston toad. To protect this species, please avoid walking along the fragile pond edge.



6. THE FALLS OF COPPERAS CREEK

Early settlers who wanted to cross the creek by wagon to reach their homestead on the other side originally built a dam here, at the Falls of Copperas Creek.

The CCC modified the dam, creating a place to hear the soothing flow of water.

In contrast to the peaceful sound of the water, the noise of nearby traffic today is evidence of the sprawl that is threatening this creek and the forest it meanders through. Bastrop State Park is the largest remaining contiguous tract of public land in the Lost Pines, and its presence gives hope that this special habitat will endure for future generations of people and wildlife.



7. PINE PIONEERS

Renovated by the CCC, these old well remains are a mute testament to the early European settlers who traveled this area.

As early as the 1690s, Spanish explorers traveled through this forest establishing El Camino Real (The King's Highway), a major route for travel through Texas. It made it possible to transport supplies and provide military protection to remote Spanish missions. Parts of the route consisted of trails used by native peoples long before the Spanish and other immigrant settlers arrived.

Imagine the stories this well could tell. Dug by hand, it filled with clean water and was essential to the settlers' comfort and daily survival. Equally vital were the many trees and other plants that thrived in the area and served as sources of food, medicine and shelter. The pioneers' very survival depended on wise use of this forest's resources. Stop for a moment and imagine: How could you depend on this forest to provide for your needs?



8. DEAD WOOD HAS LIFE, TOO

Notice the scattered plant debris on the forest floor: Dead leaves, pine needles, broken and rotting branches all accumulate on the ground.

As plant debris decays, it becomes home to countless insects, spiders and worms, which in turn become food for larger wildlife. Living plants also benefit from the decaying matter. As the debris decomposes, it provides a source of nutrients that feed and renew the soil of the forest floor.



9. THE FUTURE OF THE LOST PINES IS IN YOUR HANDS

Before leaving the trail, we encourage you to think about these pines as providers. How have these pines provided for you? Wildlife and people depend on this forest now more than ever. Will the mysteries of the Lost Pines continue to be here for you to explore and enjoy? The future of the Lost Pines is in your hands.

Carrizo Interpretive Trail



Be aware of poison ivy. This three-leaved plant has clusters of tiny white flowers in spring, producing cream colored or white waxy berries in late summer. All parts of the plant contain urushiol, which causes severe rashes and itching. Remember the saying "Leaves of three, let it be!"