

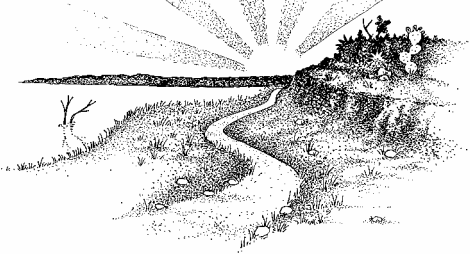
*Remember, all plants, animals and natural resources in the park are protected by federal law. Take only pictures and leave only footprints.*

The 4.2 mile roundtrip Sunrise Trail is a moderately-easy desert hike that begins at the San Pedro Campground and leads visitors along the shoreline of Lake Amistad to the Visitor Information Center on Highway 90.

Parking is available at both ends of the trail and near the boat launch on Spur 454. Early morning hikers along the San Pedro end of the trail will be rewarded with spectacular views of the rising sun reflecting off the waters of the reservoir. This area is also one of the best places in the park to view wildlife.

Mile two heads away from the shoreline and is one of the best places along the trail to spot cactus. Near the Visitor Center, the cenizo bushes will come alive after a rain with hundreds of small, purple flowers.

We encourage you to use this booklet, along with the trail signs, for an excellent introduction to the plants of the Lower Pecos.



## TRAIL-SIDE PLANT MARKERS

### Marker 1: Texas Persimmon

At the top of the ridge, just past Spur 454. Look to your right.

### Marker 2: Texas Mt. Laurel

At the end of the ridge, just before the stone steps. Look to your left.

### Marker 3: Mesquite

Go past the cactus field, just before you enter the blackbrush thicket. Look left.

### Marker 4: Blackbrush

A little past the mesquite marker, just before the thicket. Look straight ahead.

### Marker 5: Agarito

Going up slope, just out of the thicket. Look to your right.

### Marker 6: Cenizo

Just past the left turn towards the Visitor Information Center. Look right.

### Marker 7: Horse Crippler

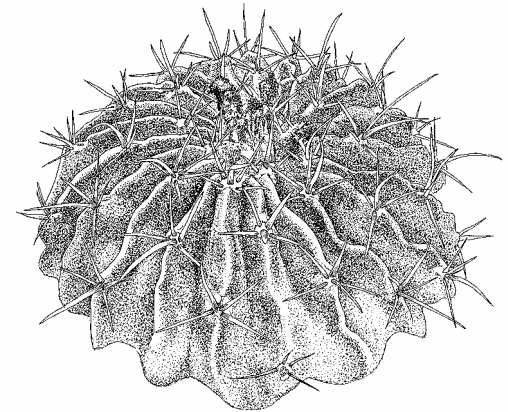
About 100 ft from the trails end, look to your left.

National Park Service  
U.S Department of the Interior



Amistad National Recreation Area

## NATIVE FLORA of the Sunrise Trail



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## CACTI & SUCCULENTS

### PRICKLY PEAR \_\_\_\_\_

*Opuntia engelmannii*

Of the several species found in this area, all have flat, fleshy green pads. This cactus is characterized by clusters of tiny, barbed, yellow and red spines called glochids. The fruit, called tunas, are edible as are the pads.

### CLARET CUP \_\_\_\_\_

*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*

The stems of this small, barrel-shaped cactus grow in clumps, each stem having 9/10 ribs. The accordion-like pleats swell after it rains. Scarlet, cup-shaped flowers bloom in the spring.

### TASAJILLO \_\_\_\_\_

*Opuntia leptocaulis*

Beware the spines of this thicket forming cactus; around each one is a hollow sheath that can be difficult to remove if you get stuck. The red berries are an important food source for wildlife.

### DOG CHOLLA \_\_\_\_\_

*Opuntia schottii*

One of the more annoying cactus, clumps of this low growing cactus easily break off and can travel great distances attached to wildlife, pant cuffs or a hiking boot. Sharp thorns.

### LEATHERSTEM \_\_\_\_\_

*Jatropha dioica*

Leathery brown stems, usually leafless and flowerless, resemble dead sticks stuck in the ground. Leaves, when present, are wide, bright green and blunt-tipped.

Blackbrush  
*Acacia rigidula*



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## TREES & SHRUBS

### GUAJILLO \_\_\_\_\_

*Acacia berlandieri*

A small tree or large shrub with deep green, fern-like foliage. Blooms are puffy, yellow or white, and appear in the spring. Has few or no spines.

### CATCLAW ACACIA \_\_\_\_\_

*Acacia greggii*

A large shrub with small, sharp, re-curved spines. Flowers are dense, yellow, cylindrical spikes. Legume-like fruits closely resemble those of mesquite but catclaw pods split open when mature.

### WILLOW BACCHARIS \_\_\_\_\_

*Baccharis salicina*

This upright, perennial shrub can grow to a height of 3-9'. Whitish, tassel-like blooms show in early summer. Look for it near areas of water.

### MORMON TEA \_\_\_\_\_

*Ephedra viridis*

Also known as joint-fir, this plant is a member of the pine family. At first glance resembles leafless, green twigs, actually has scale-like leaves. Pale yellow blooms. Used in many folk-remedies.

### LOTEBUSH \_\_\_\_\_

*Ziziphus obtusifolia*

A small shrub, 3-10' tall, that has green, oblong leaves and thorn-tipped branches. The fruit is a food source for many varieties of wildlife. Birds sometimes nest in the branches of this shrub.

### TEXAS LANTANA \_\_\_\_\_

*Lantana urticoides*

This low growing shrub prefers sandy soil and direct sunlight. Clusters of orange, yellow and red flowers appear in warm weather. Nectar is a favorite of butterflies.

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## WILDFLOWERS

### PRAIRIE VERBENA \_\_\_\_\_

*Glandularia bipinnatifida*

Low-growing, sprawling perennial, flowers nearly year-round. Five-petaled, pink or purple blooms cluster at the end of each stem.

### DOGWEED \_\_\_\_\_

*Dyssodia pentachaeta*

Small, yellow flowers with protruding, yellow centers. Leaves are short and slender. About 4-8" tall, will usually grow in sandy soils. This flower can be difficult to distinguish from other, similar, plants.

Mesquite  
*Prosopis glandulosa*

