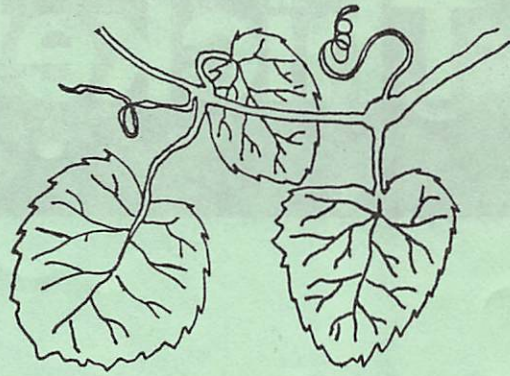


Walking in the Big Thicket is a great source of exercise, education, and recreation. Trails provide access to fishing spots, and opportunities for observing or photographing the many forms of wildlife and flowers. Early morning and late evening bird-watching is good along most trails.



You may select from five hiking trails, from one to nine miles in length. These trails include a variety of forest communities, providing glimpses of the diversity which makes up the Big Thicket. The trails are open at all times; however, keep in mind that flooding occurs after heavy rains. Permits are not required to hike, but you should register at the trailhead, and you will be provided a detailed trail map there. Parking is available at the trailheads. For

your comfort, bring drinking water and wear comfortable shoes that you don't mind getting muddy. Don't forget to bring mosquito repellent during warm weather months. All the trails are on relatively flat terrain and are easy to walk. Horses, pets, camping, and firearms are not permitted on these trails. Fishing is allowed with a state license. Additional trails are being planned for other units. Enjoy yourself, be safe, and happy hiking!



1 The Kirby Nature Trail, at the southern tip of the Turkey Creek Unit on FM 420, 2½ miles (4 km) east of the junction of US 69 and FM 420. It begins behind the Information Station where a ranger is on duty most daytime hours. This is a double loop trail with an inner loop that is 1.7 miles (2.7 km) long and an outer loop 2.4 miles (3.9 km) long. The trail leads through a diverse mixture of hardwoods and pines. Where it passes along sections of Village Creek there are cypress sloughs and floodplains. A trail guide booklet is provided at the trailhead to help you learn about this particular forest community.

2 The Sundew Trail, at the eastern edge of the Hickory Creek Savannah Unit, ½ mile south of FM 2827. The dirt road leading to the trailhead intersects FM 2827 ½ mile west of the US 69 junction. A trail booklet guides you around a 1 mile (1.6 km) loop that leads through an open longleaf pine wetland savannah containing a large variety of wild flowers, that bloom long and beautifully. A short, ½ mile long loop section is fully accessible. ♿

3 The Turkey Creek Trail, a 9.2 mile (15 km) linear trail which roughly parallels Turkey Creek. There are three trailheads. The north trailhead is 3½ miles (5.6 km) east of Warren on FM 1943. The south trailhead is located 4 miles (6.2 km) in on an unnamed paved road known locally as the Hardin County Line Road. This road is the first right turn (east) after the US 69/FM 3063 junction. The third trailhead is on the dirt road that crosses Turkey Creek, about 6 miles south of the north trailhead. The trail provides diverse views as it winds through the sandy pine uplands, mixed forests, floodplains, and baygalls that surround Turkey Creek.

4 The Beech Woods Trail, near the SW corner of the Beech Creek Unit. Access is from FM 2992 1½ miles (2.4 km) north of its junction with FM 1013. A short walk on an old dirt road brings you to the 1 mile loop trail. This trail meanders through a magnificent mature section of a beech—magnolia—loblolly forest. After walking the loop you may want to continue northbound on the dirt road to view the various stages of forest development. This occurs after disturbances such as logging and insect attack.

5 The Woodland Trail, at the NW edge of the Big Sandy Creek Unit. The trailhead is found on FM 1276 3.3 miles south of US 190, or 5.9 miles north of Dallardsville. The trail is a 5.4 mile long loop. Two shorter loops (3.3 or 4.5 miles) can be taken if you desire. There is a noticeable change in elevation as you drop into the Big Sandy Creek floodplain. Huge hardwood trees provide dense shade with sparse ground cover. Portions of the trail cut through upland pine stands and old pastures being reclaimed by nature. These, plus the mature forest, provide a rich diversity of plant and animal life.

6 The Pitcher Plant Trail, located on the NE side of the Turkey Creek Unit. Follow the east boundary road, which is 4.3 miles east of Warren, south 1.9 miles from FM 1943. The ¼ mile long hard-surfaced, fully accessible trail allows you to view close-up several kinds of carnivorous plants, including many pitcher plants. ♿

For detailed maps, and information about other activities, visit our Information Station located at the south end of the Turkey Creek Unit on FM 420, or write or call: Superintendent, Big Thicket National Preserve, 3785 Milam, Beaumont, Texas 77701; (409) 839-2689

Be alert for some common safety hazards and annoyances. Fire ants, poison ivy, and mosquitos are common. Avoid resting under dead trees, which could drop limbs on you.

(Please refer to trail numbers on the map on the reverse for trailhead locations described here.)

PLEASE REMEMBER . . .

- Lock your vehicle and do not leave valuables in your car.
- Take a map and stay on the trail to avoid becoming lost.
- Watch your step. Irregularities of the ground and protruding roots could cause you to trip.
- Hornets, wasps, fire ants, and some poisonous snakes do occur. Watch for, and avoid them.