

# LOBANILLO SWALES

East Texas -  
Caddo Region

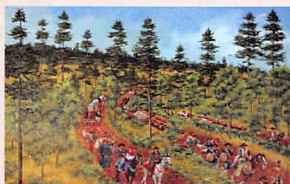
Sabine County, Texas



Located in the pine forest of east Texas, the Lobanillo Swales represent cultural human pathways imprinted into the landscape via pack mule, cart, wagon, and foot from the 1700s to the early 1900s. The swales are the best known physical remnants of a path that has long existed as one of the most ancient roads in American history.



## Lobanillo Swales Location



Across more than 2,500 miles, El Camino Real de los Tejas followed footpaths of American Indians who lived here for thousands of years. In the late 1600s Spaniards claimed this land and named it "Tejas" for the Hasinai Indian word meaning "friend." Missionaries and soldiers traveling time-worn routes built missions to establish an economy and presidios (military posts) to protect its territory from France. Their efforts opened a camino real (royal road), part of Spain's road network in the Americas. El Camino Real de los Tejas brought expansive change- trade, settlement, war, independence, and statehood. It fostered cultural interactions and created a distinct mosaic of lifeways that still colors the land today.



### LOBANILLO SWALES PROJECT AT A GLANCE

#### TIMELINE:

- 2013:** ELCAT launched crowdfunding campaign
- 2014:** ELCAT purchased Lobanillo Swales
- 2015:** Archaeological surveys conducted; Lobanillo Swales added to the National Register of Historic Places
- 2016:** Interpretive panels created; Lobanillo Swales certified as a trail resource
- 2017:** First phase of development
- 2018:** Second phase; site dedication



Over the course of the project, ELCAT has raised over \$50,000 in funds for the site, and the association is able to demonstrate the protection and development of Lobanillo. The site is forever protected for future generations to see, explore, learn about, and appreciate.

For more information please visit:  
 El Camino Real de los Tejas  
 National Historic Trail  
 Association (ELCAT)  
[www.elcaminotrail.org](http://www.elcaminotrail.org)

Sabine County Tourism  
 and Visitors Bureau  
[www.visitsabinecounty.com](http://www.visitsabinecounty.com)  
 National Park Service  
[www.nps.gov/elte](http://www.nps.gov/elte)

