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scientifically literate public will be essential to society in the 21st Century. All areas of science and technology are progressing rapidly because of the revolution in information technology. Many predict that advances in biotechnology and nanotechnology will spur the same sort of dramatic changes in science, technology, and business. The 21st Century is also presenting us with the challenge of balancing economic development with stewardship of the environment at local and global scales. The more people know about the world around them, the more they understand science and the role it plays in their lives, the better equipped society will be to deal with these challenges.

Industry and academia should work together as partners in achieving excellence in scientific research and education. Indeed, industry supports academic and research efforts in science with many types of resources, and academia produces high-caliber research results and trains students who will create the new advances in industry. Of course, this could not be accomplished unless both partners spread enthusiasm and knowledge of science throughout their local communities.

This website, the *Austin Science Fun Guide*, represents just such a partnership. It is the outgrowth of the printed version of this gateway to intriguing science adventures, ranging from an entertaining and educational visit to a science center or an enjoyable stroll along a nature trail, to membership and a longer-term commitment to local science associations. All of these resources are generally accessible to the public and are located in the greater Austin area. All make science fun. The idea of the *Guide* itself grew along with a related program called Austin Science Fun Day. Austin Science Fun Day celebrates the joy of discovery by teaming school classes with groups of professional or serious amateur scientists to develop exhibit booths over the course of the winter for display on the first Saturday of every March at the Texas Memorial Museum.

The *Guide* and Austin Science Fun Day have always had corporate sponsorship. First AMD and later Motorola got the ball rolling on the *Guide*. National Instruments and AMD have been loyal funding sponsors of Austin Science Fun Day, and have recently been joined by Tokyo Electron America and KXAN-TV. Other corporations supply volunteers and judges for Austin Science Fun Day, like TyRex, the North Austin Rotary Club, National Instruments and AMD. And, of course, The College of Natural Sciences of the University of Texas at Austin was instrumental in creating and running both programs for several years, and remains a valuable partner in planning and organizing Austin Science Fun Day.

As with the previous editions of the *Austin Science Fun Guide*, many different types of science resources are included in the publication with the hope of stimulating interest in science for children as well as adults. We recognize that this guide is not comprehensive, thus, science groups not listed are encouraged to contact the Texas Memorial Museum for inclusion in the next edition of this guide.

As partners in this educational outreach mission, we hope that you will use the *Austin Science Fun Guide* as your companion while making scientific journeys in the greater Austin area.



Dr. Ed Theriot
Director, Texas Memorial Museum

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In and around Austin are many parks, walking trails and nature preserves, which make our city a wonderful place for hikers, bikers, nature enthusiasts, or Sunday strollers. Besides being beautiful and fun, many of the following nature trails feature self-guided or group tours aimed at educating the public. Nature trail tours help children and adults learn about habitats, local plants and animals, and the ecology of local environments.

Many of the listed areas are primarily preserves - land put aside for the purpose of protecting part of our local environment. Some preserves, such as the City of Austin Black-Capped Vireo Preserve, provide a protected habitat for a particular species. Others protect a unique natural feature or a piece of typical Central Texas woods or prairie. These preserves offer varied types of access ranging from daily visiting hours to seasonal hours or access by prior arrangement only.

Each entry has a phone number for those interested to call for information. Additional information, such as maps and brochures, is available at several of these locations.

Parks & Nature Trails



The following parks and preserves have nature trails with self-guided or group tours. Many of them are listed with a full description in other sections of *The Austin Science Fun Guide*.

COURTESY OF WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE



A lovely walk on its own, the ½ mile Easy Access Loop Trail connects to the larger 2 ½ mile trail system through Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.

Austin Nature & Science Center.....	(512) 327-8181
Austin Nature Preserves.....	(512) 327-8181
Hamilton Pool Preserve.....	(512) 264-2740
McKinney Falls State Park.....	(512) 243-1643
Primitive Recreation System.....	(512) 473-4083
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.....	(512) 389-4890
Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.....	(512) 327-7622
Zilker Park Botanical Gardens.....	(512) 499-6700
LCRA Natural Science Centers.....	1-800-776-5272

C. HANCOCK (COURTESY OF AUSTIN NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER)



Buckets, the porcupine, at the Austin Nature and Science Center Wildlife Exhibits



Nature Preserves and Greenbelts

For more information on these city preserves and greenbelts, call Austin Parks & Recreation at (512) 327-5478 or 327-5437, or visit the directory at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/traildirectory.htm>. Preserves and greenbelts are open from dawn to dusk. You are welcome to bike, jog, and walk your dog in most area greenbelts. Preserves are set aside for hiking and observation of the native plant and animal life.

Bee Creek Preserve

Redbud Trail on upper Town Lake

Big Walnut Creek Preserve

At the intersection of Loyola Lane and Crystal Brook Drive

Blunn Creek Preserve

1200 block of St. Edward's Drive

City of Austin Black-Capped Vireo Preserve

100-900 block, east side, Capitol of Texas Vireo Preserve Highway North - prior arrangement only during non-nesting season, group educational and service outings only September through February.

Indian Grass Prairie Preserve

Lindell and South Bluff (open on selected week-ends)

Karst Preserve

3900 Deer Lane off Brodie Lane

Mayfield Park and Preserve

3505 W. 35th Street

Onion Creek Preserve

Onion Creek, north of Texas Highway 71 East

Zilker Nature Preserve

West end of Zilker Park, has interpretive signs

Barton Creek Greenbelt

3755-B Capital of Texas Hwy.

Bull Creek Greenbelt

7806 N. Capital of Texas Highway

Shoal Creek Greenbelt

2600 Lamar Blvd./2600 blk of N. Lamar

C. Hancock (Courtesy of Austin Nature & Science Center)



Crossing the Austin Nature & Science Center creek.

C. Hancock (Courtesy of Austin Nature & Science Center)



The Austin Nature and Science Center in Zilker Park.