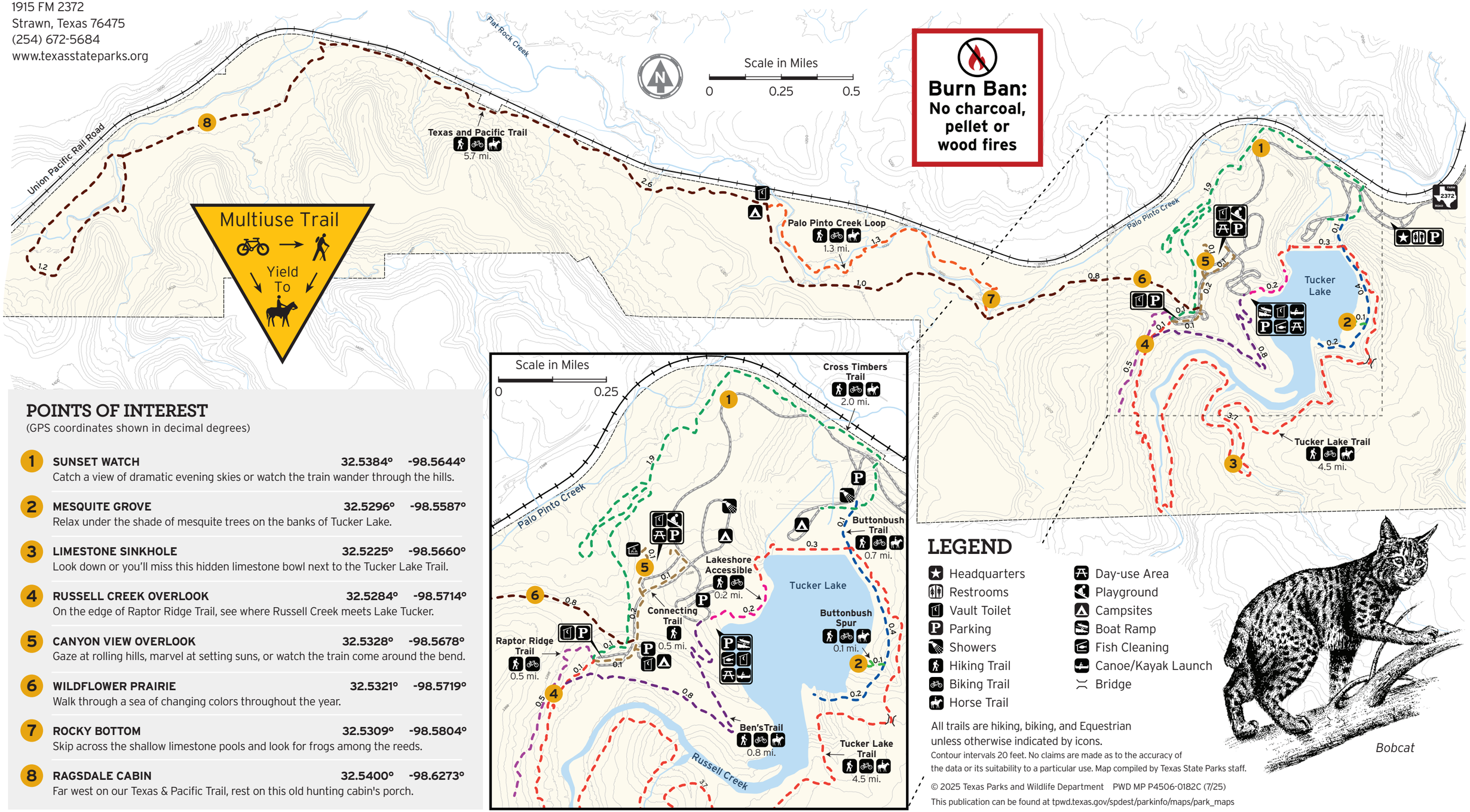
Palo Pinto Mountains State Park Trails Map

1915 FM 2372
Strawn, Texas 76475
(254) 672-5684
www.texasstateparks.org



POINTS OF INTEREST

(GPS coordinates shown in decimal degrees)

1 SUNSET WATCH 32.5384° -98.5644°
Catch a view of dramatic evening skies or watch the train wander through the hills.

2 MESQUITE GROVE 32.5296° -98.5587°
Relax under the shade of mesquite trees on the banks of Tucker Lake.

3 LIMESTONE SINKHOLE 32.5225° -98.5660°
Look down or you'll miss this hidden limestone bowl next to the Tucker Lake Trail.

4 RUSSELL CREEK OVERLOOK 32.5284° -98.5714°
On the edge of Raptor Ridge Trail, see where Russell Creek meets Lake Tucker.

5 CANYON VIEW OVERLOOK 32.5328° -98.5678°
Gaze at rolling hills, marvel at setting suns, or watch the train come around the bend.

6 WILDFLOWER PRAIRIE 32.5321° -98.5719°
Walk through a sea of changing colors throughout the year.

7 ROCKY BOTTOM 32.5309° -98.5804°
Skip across the shallow limestone pools and look for frogs among the reeds.

8 RAGSDALE CABIN 32.5400° -98.6273°
Far west on our Texas & Pacific Trail, rest on this old hunting cabin's porch.

LEGEND

- Headquarters
- Restrooms
- Vault Toilet
- Parking
- Showers
- Hiking Trail
- Biking Trail
- Horse Trail
- Day-use Area
- Playground
- Campsites
- Boat Ramp
- Fish Cleaning
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Bridge

All trails are hiking, biking, and Equestrian unless otherwise indicated by icons.

Contour intervals 20 feet. No claims are made as to the accuracy of the data or its suitability to a particular use. Map compiled by Texas State Parks staff.

Bobcat

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This publication can be found at tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/parkinfo/maps/park_maps

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For assistance using this map, contact the park. For a web version of the map text, visit our Trails Information page.

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park

Experience nature's beauty and challenges colliding with human innovation and resiliency.

Hike among the wildflowers where Native American tribes rooted their livelihoods. Ride through the impressive hills where ranchers and cowboys moved cattle. Marvel at starry skies that inspired legends and songs across generations. See the power of water eroding the limestone walls of Russell and Palo Pinto creeks. Speaking of power, do you hear a train?

STAYING SAFE

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. Prepare for sun and heat. Wear sunscreen, insect repellent and appropriate clothing/hiking shoes.

DRINK PLENTY OF WATER. Your body loses fluid quickly when you're on the trail. Bring at least one quart of water per person per mile. Don't forget extra water for your pets.

TELL OTHERS WHERE YOU'LL BE. If possible, avoid exploring alone. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.

BIKE SAFELY. Check with park HQ to match the trail to your skill level. Wear a helmet to protect yourself in case of a crash.

POTENTIALLY HARMFUL PLANTS AND ANIMALS LIVE HERE. You'll see them more easily if you stay on the trails.

TRAINS ARE BEST OBSERVED AT A DISTANCE. Wandering onto or under railroad tracks is dangerous and illegal.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Trash your trash. Keep the park natural. Pack out all of your trash and Leave No Trace.

Keep nature wild. Don't feed wildlife so they can stay healthy.

Take only memories and pictures. Help preserve nature and Texas heritage. Leave all plants, animals and artifacts in the park.

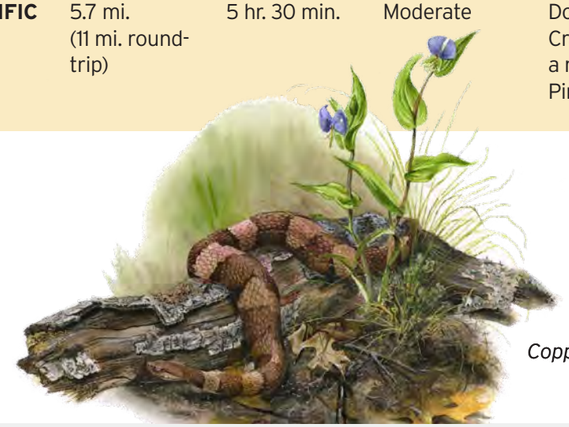
Keep pets on leashes to keep them safe, while protecting wildlife.

Campfires are permitted only in designated rings and not in the primitive camping area due to potential for ground scarring and wildfires.

We need to know about your caches. Please check with park HQ before placing geocaches within the park.

Trails can be rocky. Watch for steep cliffs and bluffs. Use caution when near low water crossings, especially after rain.

TRAIL	DISTANCE	TIME	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
RAPTOR RIDGE TRAIL	0.5 mi. (1 mi. round-trip)	30 min.	Easy	Meander down this accessible trail with gorgeous overlooks or rest among the juniper trees as you listen to native songbirds. NO HORSES.
CONNECTING TRAIL	0.5 mi.	20 min.	Easy	Find your way from Canyon View Day-Use to Painted Stick Campground or Main Trailhead on this accessible trail. NO HORSES.
TUCKER LAKE TRAIL	4.5 mi.	2 hr. 30 min.	Moderate	Bring plenty of water for this trek down, up and around the hills and limestone cliffs surrounding Tucker Lake and Russell Creek.
CROSS TIMBERS TRAIL	2.0 mi. (one-way)	1 hr.	Easy	Drink plenty of water as you ascend from Russell Creek up to Main Trailhead. Watch for deer and woodpeckers as you walk along the edge of Canyon View.
BEN'S TRAIL	0.8 mi.	30 min.	Moderate	Love lake views? Complete the lap of Lake Tucker along the cliffs of Russell Creek. Listen for the changing songs echoing off the hills with each new season.
LAKESHORE ACCESSIBLE	0.2 mi.	15 min.	Easy	Step back in time on this short, accessible trail through the historic remains of vacation cottages. During spring, the unique plants here bloom with vibrant colors and sweet aromas. NO HORSES
BUTTONBUSH TRAIL	0.7 mi. (1.3 mi. round-trip)	45 min.	Easy	Starting at Tucker Lake Dam, descend along the lake shore until you reach a welcoming mesquite grove. Watch for waterfowl hiding among the tall reeds and cattails.
PALO PINTO CREEK LOOP	1.3 mi.	45 min. from trailhead	Easy	Prepare to get wet! This well shaded trail jumps back and forth across Palo Pinto Creek. During the summer, these low water crossings dry up. But recent rain fills the creek beautifully.
TEXAS & PACIFIC TRAIL	5.7 mi. (11 mi. round-trip)	5 hr. 30 min.	Moderate	Don't forget your water! Descend from the Palo Pinto Creek canyon into prairies and tunnels of trees. Feel like a real cowboy on the western-most stretches of Palo Pinto Mountains.



Copperhead

FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1.