

# Sand, sun and adventure at Matagorda Bay Nature Park

A special place awaits you where the lower Colorado River channel meets the Gulf of Mexico. Matagorda Bay Nature Park is a great place to relax at the beach and explore hundreds of acres of coastal marshes and dunes. It's also one of the best birding sites in the nation.

The 1,600-acre park is a unique, environmentally significant property being carefully preserved and developed by LCRA, a conservation and reclamation district created by the Texas Legislature. LCRA acquired the property in 2001 and has worked closely with the Matagorda community to develop plans for the park and its recreational and educational programs and activities.

## What's there to see and do?

Seeking rest and relaxation? Play in the warm waters of the gulf and hunt seashells along 22 miles of beach. Feeling adventurous? Kayak the wetlands or walk the trails and observe hundreds of species of birds in their natural habitat.

Tent camping is allowed on the beach and an RV park is on the river channel. Nearby Matagorda has restaurants, motels, bed and breakfast inns, and RV parks. Information on local restaurants, places to stay, fishing and hunting businesses, shops, and other visitor attractions and services is available at [www.visitmatagorda.com](http://www.visitmatagorda.com).

## Activities and facilities

- ❖ Natural science center
- ❖ Fishing along the shore and from four free public piers – three on the river channel and one on the gulf
- ❖ RV park with 70 sites and full utility hookups
- ❖ Half-mile pedestrian beach
- ❖ Rest rooms and outdoor showers
- ❖ Group pavilion with covered picnic tables

- ❖ New picnic shelters
- ❖ ADA-accessible facilities
- ❖ Beach combing
- ❖ Bird watching
- ❖ Tent camping on the beach
- ❖ 22-mile beach with vehicle access
- ❖ Trails and shaded wildlife viewing areas
- ❖ Meetings and events facility rentals available

## Recreation and education programs

(call 1-800-776-5272, Ext. 4740, for dates and reservations)

- ❖ Guided kayak trips
- ❖ Rafting on the river
- ❖ Beginning birding
- ❖ Angler education
- ❖ Boater safety
- ❖ Scouting and youth programs
- ❖ Teacher workshops and grade-appropriate educational programs for public, private and home school students from grades K - 12 on topics such as:
  - ~ Wetland soils, vegetation and hydrology study
  - ~ Estuary investigations
  - ~ Adaptations of aquatic organisms
  - ~ Dune analysis
  - ~ Beach processes including gulf seining
  - ~ Organisms of the salt marsh
  - ~ Shoreline shells
  - ~ GPS program – plotting your course

## Coming features

- ❖ Recreational equipment rentals such as small boats, fishing gear and beach umbrellas
- ❖ Food and drink kiosks
- ❖ Playscape