

Natural Surface Trail Names and Descriptions

Bobcat Run is a natural surface trail running through the heart of a low-lying wooded area. After rain events, the trail is the only passable route through the heart of the forest between Rowlett Creek Trail and Willow Springs Trail. This trail affords users a unique view of the park's swamplier side, especially a day or two after a North Texas rain shower. The trail's namesake, as well as other forest dwellers, uses this trail after dark.



Willow Springs Trail gets its name from the small spring-fed pond on the north end of the trail. This

pond, encircled by playful willow trees, is home to a variety of woodland creatures, including turtles, snakes, frogs and fish. The pond should be enjoyed accordingly - from water's edge only. South of the willow pond, the trail hugs the slope of the Rowlett Creek basin. Trail users will see some mature bois d'arc, oak and hackberry trees along the way.

Backstage Pass takes the hiker behind the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park. This section of trail will be closed during Amphitheater events.

Coralberry Cut moves beneath the shade of a mature hardwood canopy, connecting to Rowlett Creek Trail. Coralberry, a shrubby plant native to North Texas, is a habitual spreader and is adept at colonizing large naturalized areas. The tiny pale blossoms provide food for nectar-seeking moths and butterflies in spring and summer with coral-colored berries to



follow.

Rowlett Creek Trail follows the south bank of Rowlett Creek from the south parking lot to the Jupiter Road trail head. Trail users will notice the distinctive white bark of mature sycamore trees along the creek banks.



Sandbar Scramble, a trail spur leading down to a small gravel landing, affords an opportunity to explore Rowlett Creek up close.



Elm Motte (mot) is a quick connection trail weaving through a grove of young stands of hackberry, elm and

oak. Elm Motte connects Rowlett Creek Trail and Bobcat Run. *Motte*, pronounced 'mot,' is a southwestern term for grove or thicket.

Sycamore Pass runs inland from Caddo Trail leading hikers through varied degrees of woodland maturity, ranging from



young, dense areas to more open spaces dominated by mature trees. The trail is named after the strikingly white sycamore trees living along the banks of Rowlett Creek.

Caddo Trail, named for early visitors to the Rowlett Creek corridor, tracks along the northern bank of Rowlett Creek. The trail begins at Parker Road and continues north to the corner of Jupiter Road and Los Rios Boulevard. In the spring of 2009, the Caddo Nation authorized the naming of this trail.

Barred Owl Byway is a short section of trail connecting Caddo Trail with Old Oaks. Named after one of the Preserve's resident species, the trail leads through habitat frequented by the Barred Owl and other local wildlife.



The **Prairie Creek Experience** is a short nature trail that explores the habitat along a gently flowing creek. Large willow trees mark the water's edge. An old pump house, used many years ago, speaks to the property's former use as a horse ranch.

Old Oaks is both a place and trail section. Within Old Oaks grow some of the City's most mature oak trees. Old Oaks starts and ends along Caddo Trail, and leads to a connection with the recreational trail around Oak Point Lake. Old Oaks is an ideal place to enjoy the serenity found in the deep woods.



Redbud Way, named for the young Texas Redbud growing at its gateway, enters the woods just west of the lake dam and follows the lake drainage through a stand of young trees to Caddo Trail.



Old Morton Vale is the remnants of the country lane that served traffic years ago. Today, Old Morton Vale provides a visual link to the property's history as a working farm and homestead.

Bois D'arc Trail runs along the lower edge of the terraced High Meadow to Old Morton Vale. Trail users will see a variety of prairie flowers and grasses, including blue-eyed grass, Texas paintbrush and Maximilian sunflower.



Blue-Eyed Trail, named for the diminutive flower of Texas Blue-Eyed Grass, weaves up and down agriculture terraces. Blue-Eyed trail leads to Vista Point, where trail users enjoy a panoramic view of the Rowlett Creek basin and Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve.



Timber Chase skirts an old tree line then runs along the cattail-lined edge of Oak Point Lake. Turtles, shore birds, and other wildlife use the wetland plants for food and cover. Walk quietly along the trail; birds and animals may be nearby.

High Meadow Trail enters Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve near the intersection of Los Rios Blvd and Cloverhaven. High Meadow winds its way downhill from the trailhead, working along the terraced landscape and among prairie flowers and grasses. High Meadow Trail connects with Homestead, Lakeview and Bois D'arc trails.

Lakeview Trail offers a pleasant view of Oak Point Lake and the southern portions of the preserve.

Homestead Trail leads hikers down the slope beside a turtle-filled stock pond to where a large two-story ranch house once stood. Homestead connects to Blue Eyed trail near Vista Point.

