



## Hiking Trails

### **Kirby Nature Trail**

The Kirby Nature Trail consists of several loops ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 miles. It passes through several plant communities, from a slope forest to cypress sloughs to the riparian zone along Village Creek. An interpretive trail guide is available at the visitor center.

Hikers can continue north from this trail to the Turkey Creek Trail and Sandhill Loop Trail.

The trailhead is on FM 420, 2.5 miles east of the visitor center.

### **Sandhill Loop Trail**

From the Kirby Nature Trail, cross the bridge over Village Creek and follow the Turkey Creek Trail north for 0.8 mile to reach the Sandhill Loop Trail. This trail makes a loop of 1.3 miles through a forest of longleaf pines.

The Turkey Creek Trail continues north from the Sandhill Loop Trail.

### **Turkey Creek Trail**

The Turkey Creek Trail is approximately 14.5 miles long and roughly parallels Turkey Creek. It provides many opportunities for short hikes, lengthy hikes, and backcountry camping.

Several trailheads provide access to different areas of the trail. Hikers can begin at the Turkey Creek Trail on FM 1943, 4 miles east of Warren; at the Pitcher Plant Trail, 2 miles south of FM 1943 on CR 4850; on CR 4825; along the Gore Store Road, 3.4 miles east of Hwy 69; and on FM 420 at the Kirby Nature Trail.

### **Pitcher Plant Trail**

The first quarter-mile of the Pitcher Plant Trail passes through a large bog of pitcher plants and sundews, two carnivorous plant species. The 1-mile trail continues through a mixed woodland, joining the Turkey Creek Trail for a short distance before looping back to the trailhead.

The trailhead is on CR 4850, about 2 miles south of FM 1943 and about 4.5 miles east of Warren.

### **Sundew Trail**

The Sundew Trail is one of the best places in the preserve to see birds and wildflowers. Both the inner 0.3-mile loop and the outer 1-mile loop pass through a small bog that supports pitcher plants and sundews. The inner loop continues through a savannah that has abundant summer wildflowers, while the outer loop winds through a woodland composed primarily of longleaf pines.

The trailhead is on CR 1910, 0.5 mile south of FM 2827 and approximately 7 miles north of the visitor center.

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### **Beech Creek Unit**

Hikers in the Beech Creek Unit can follow either the Beech Woods Trail, which makes a 1-mile loop, or a former road that extends from the trailhead for 6 miles through the unit.

The Beech Woods Trailhead is located on FM 1992, 1.5 miles north of FM 1013.

NOTE: Hunting is allowed in the Beech Creek Unit during the fall/winter season. The trail is not in the hunting area and is open year-round. However, during hunting season, the former road is open only to permitted hunters.

### **Big Sandy Trail**

The Big Sandy Trail is 9 miles long and has more topography than other trails in the preserve. It meanders through upland pine forests and beech-magnolia-loblolly pine slopes before leading to a floodplain forest of basket oak, sweetgum, hornbeam, and holly. It is the only trail in the preserve that is open to horseback riding and bicycling as well as hiking.

The trailhead is on the Sunflower Road, 3 miles west of FM 1276 near Dallardsville.

NOTE: Hunting is allowed in this portion of the Big Sandy Unit during the fall/winter season. During hunting season, this trail is open only to permitted hunters.

### **Woodlands Trail**

The Woodlands Trail consists of three loops of 3.3 miles, 4.5 miles, and 5.4 miles, giving hikers several distance options. This trail traverses a variety of plant communities, including the Big Sandy Creek floodplain and dense stands of hardwood trees. The east side of the trail follows Big Sandy Creek.

The Woodlands Trailhead is located on FM 1276, 5.9 miles north of Dallardsville and 3.3 miles south of US 190.

### **Beaver Slide Trail**

The Beaver Slide Trail makes a loop of 1.5 miles near Big Sandy Creek. It is heavily wooded and is an excellent short hike on which to see cypress trees.

The trailhead is on FM 943 approximately 0.25 miles west of the intersection with FM 1276.

### **Birdwatchers' Trail**

The Birdwatcher's Trail, located at the confluence of Menard Creek and the Trinity River, is 0.5 miles long. It provides a good view of the sandbars along the Trinity River and good opportunities to see shorebirds, raptors, and migrant songbirds.

The trailhead is just off of FM 2610, 3.1 miles north of Romayor, on Oak Hill Drive.

**For more information on visiting Big Thicket National Preserve, please call (409) 951-6700 or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/bith](http://www.nps.gov/bith).**

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