

# A Century Celebration: Texas State Parks Learning Guide Grades 6-12

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This Learning Guide supports the film, *A Century Celebration: Texas State Parks*, from the H-E-B Presents: Our Texas, Our Future film series. Watch the 9-minute film for free: <https://ourtexasourfuture.com/stories/state-parks/>

## About This Resource

Today, Texas's state parks system includes more than 85 parks that span 640,000+ acres of public land. These landscapes cover 10 unique ecoregions and are home to many native plants and animals.

The film, *A Century Celebration: Texas State Parks*, and the learning resources included here will introduce you to the breathtaking beauty of Texas State Parks and the 100 years of history that led to the thriving state park system that exists today. The resources will also challenge you to explore the impact of Texas State Parks and how you can support public lands in Texas or in the place where you live.

## Learning Objectives

Students will...

1. SUMMARIZE key events in the history of state parks in Texas.
2. EXPLAIN how Texas State Parks impact ecosystems across the state.
3. COMPARE and CONTRAST different land uses.
4. LOCATE the state park closest to where they live.
5. IDENTIFY how state park departments and politicians impact natural environments and EXPLORE these possible career paths.

## Teaching Tips

This Learning Guide is written with grades 6-12 in mind. You can implement the full guide or select the learning objectives, standards, and discussion questions that will work best for your students.

The film and learning resources in this guide can be used to engage students in the topic of state parks and the diversity of ecoregions across Texas. If you'd like to expand these learning activities to explore additional content, here are some ideas:

- Challenge students to do an online search and find a state park in each Texas ecoregion. Then divide students into 10 small groups and have each group investigate a state park in one of Texas's ecoregions. Possible prompts:
  - RESEARCH common plants and animals that live in that ecoregion and LIST examples of predatory, competitive, and symbiotic relationships. [Grade 6(12)(B)\*]
  - DESCRIBE how organisms in that ecosystem depend on and may compete for abiotic and biotic factors. [Grade 6(12)(A)\*]
  - SKETCH a food web and/or energy pyramid. [Grade 7(12)(A)\*]
- Prompt students to research how past hurricanes such as Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Ike, and Hurricane Harvey impacted the ecosystems of specific state parks. [Grade 8(12)(A)\*, ENV(9)(A)\*, BIO(13)(D)\*]

\*For Texas educators, these are Science TEKS, Adopted 2020/21 (implementation begins fall 2024).

## Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) Science

Science TEKS, Adopted 2017	Science TEKS, Adopted 2020/21 <i>implementation begins fall 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ENV(3)(E)</b> describe the connection between environmental science and future careers</li> <li>• <b>ENV(9)(E)</b> evaluate the effect of human activities, including habitat restoration projects, species preservation efforts, nature conservancy groups, hunting, fishing, ecotourism, all-terrain vehicles, and small personal watercraft, on the environment</li> <li>• <b>ENV(9)(K)</b> analyze past and present local, state, and national legislation, including Texas automobile emissions regulations, the National Park Service Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act, the Endangered Species Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6-8(3)(B)</b> communicate explanations and solutions individually and collaboratively in a variety of settings and formats</li> <li>• <b>6-8(4)(C)</b> research and explore resources such as museums, libraries, professional organizations, private companies, online platforms, and mentors employed in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field to investigate STEM careers</li> <li>• <b>6-8(5)(B)</b> identify and investigate cause-and-effect relationships to explain scientific phenomena/analyze problems</li> <li>• <b>BIO&amp;ENV(3)(B)</b> communicate explanations and solutions individually and collaboratively in a variety of settings and formats</li> <li>• <b>BIO&amp;ENV(4)(C)</b> research and explore resources such as museums, libraries, professional organizations, private companies, online platforms, and mentors employed in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field in order to investigate STEM careers</li> <li>• <b>ENV(6)(A)</b> compare and contrast land use and management methods and how they affect land attributes such as fertility, productivity, economic value, and ecological stability</li> <li>• <b>ENV(11)(B)</b> evaluate the positive effects of human activities on the environment, including habitat restoration projects, species preservation efforts, nature conservancy groups, game and wildlife management, and ecotourism</li> </ul>

## Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) Social Studies

Social Studies TEKS, Adopted 2018	Social Studies TEKS, Adopted 2022 <i>implementation begins fall 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7(8)(B)</b> locate and compare places of importance in Texas in terms of physical and human characteristics such as major cities, waterways, natural and historic landmarks, political and cultural regions, and local points of interest</li> <li>• <b>7(9)(A)</b> identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications</li> <li>• <b>7(20)(A)</b> differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7(8)(B)</b> locate and compare places of importance in Texas in terms of physical and human characteristics such as major cities, waterways, natural and historic landmarks, political and cultural regions, and local points of interest</li> <li>• <b>7(9)(A)</b> identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications</li> <li>• <b>7(20)(A)</b> differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas</li> </ul>

# Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

**MS-ESS3-3.** Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.

The performance expectation listed above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

## Science & Engineering Practices

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions** in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.

- Apply scientific principles to design an object, tool, process, or system.

## Disciplinary Core Ideas

### ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

- Human activities have significantly altered the biosphere, sometimes damaging or destroying natural habitats and causing the extinction of other species. But changes to Earth’s environments can have different impacts (negative and positive) for different living things.
- Typically as human populations and per-capita consumption of natural resources increase, so do the negative impacts on Earth unless the activities and technologies involved are engineered otherwise.

## Crosscutting Concepts

### Cause and Effect

- Relationships can be classified as causal or correlational, and correlation does not necessarily imply causation.

# English Resources

## Academic Vocabulary

From: lead4ward Academic Vocab <https://lead4ward.com/resources/>

Grade 6 Science	Grade 7 Science	Grade 8 Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ecosystem</li> <li>organism</li> <li>population</li> <li>species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>drought</li> <li>ecoregion</li> <li>ecosystem</li> <li>environment</li> <li>habitat</li> <li>organism</li> <li>species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ecosystem</li> <li>environment</li> <li>habitat</li> <li>organism</li> <li>population</li> <li>species</li> </ul>

Biology	Grade 7 Social Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ecosystem</li> <li>environment</li> <li>habitat</li> <li>impact</li> <li>organism</li> <li>population</li> <li>species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)</li> <li>elected</li> <li>environment</li> <li>federal</li> <li>Franklin Roosevelt (FDR)</li> <li>Great Depression</li> <li>New Deal legislation</li> <li>sales tax</li> <li>war effort</li> </ul>

## Background Reading

### Texas State Parks

In 1923, Isabella Neff donated six acres of her family's farm to be held in trust by the people of Texas. This land became Mother Neff State Park, Texas's first state park. Since then, Texas's state park system has grown to include more than 85 parks across the state that span a total of 640,000+ acres.

While Texas State Parks are thriving today, the development of these conserved landscapes was not a simple process.



Caddo Lake State Park  
Photo: Fin & Fur Films Productions

The original idea for a state-wide park system was initiated by Governor Pat Neff, the son of Isabella Neff. In the 1920s, Governor Neff envisioned a series of campsites across the state where people who traveled by automobile could stop to rest, picnic, and camp overnight. At that time, traveling by car was becoming more and more popular, however, Texas did not yet have hotels, restaurants, and service stations where travelers could eat and rest.

In 1923, Governor Neff persuaded the Texas Legislature to create the State Parks Board which included six members. The board and Governor Neff traveled across Texas to promote the state parks idea and ask for donations of money and land. Their goal was to create a park every 100 miles. In the first year, the board received 52 donated tracts of land.

Governor Neff then asked the state legislature for \$50,000 to develop the donated land into parks. This request was not approved. For the next 12 years, the State Parks Board continued to seek donations of land and funding to support the development of the state parks. However, they made little progress.

Surprisingly, it was the stock market crash of 1929 which caused the Great Depression that led to major support for Texas State Parks. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as part of the New Deal legislation. Young men could enlist in the CCC and work to improve public lands, forests, and parks throughout the United States. In return, they were provided lodging in military-like camps, three meals a day, clothing, and \$30 a month. \$25 would be sent directly to their families, giving the workers \$5 to keep (National Park Service, n.d.).

Members of the CCC who worked in Texas built structures, trails, and bridges on the lands set aside for Texas State Parks. Many of these features and structures still exist today. In the early 1930s, state parks received the first substantial financial support from the state when Governor Ma Ferguson, Texas's first female governor, granted the Texas State Parks Board \$25,000.

Another historical event again impacted Texas State Parks. When the United States entered World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, funding for public lands was diverted to the war effort, and many young men who may have worked in the CCC entered the military. Texas State Parks remained popular, with the number of visitors increasing each year, yet funding was sparse throughout the war.

In the 1950s, 75% of Texas experienced a drought known as the “Drought of Record.” In response, the state built a series of 200+ reservoirs across the state. Many of those reservoirs were developed as recreational areas through the establishment of state parks.

In 1963 the Texas State Parks Board was merged with the State Game & Fish Commission to create the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The governor at the time, John Connally, then took on the task of funding Texas State Parks. He spearheaded efforts to establish a bond issue that Texans passed to provide funds to purchase and establish state parks. In addition, the state legislature implemented a cigarette sales tax that directly funded state parks. This led to what is called the “Golden Era” of state park creation. From 1963 to 1988, over 70 additional state parks and historical sites were developed.



Guadalupe River State Park  
Photo: Fin & Fur Films Productions

In 1993, a sporting goods sales tax replaced the cigarette tax as the funding source for Texas State Parks. In 2019 Texas voters passed Proposition 5, a constitutional amendment, permanently dedicating funds for state parks. In 2023, during the Texas State Parks Centennial, voters passed Proposition 14 which provided \$1 billion to purchase more parkland for the growing state, making it the largest investment in Texas State Parks history.

More than 95% of land in Texas is privately owned. This makes the public lands available in state parks an especially valuable resource for all who call Texas home. State parks not only conserve diverse ecosystems throughout the state, they also provide a space for all to enjoy the wonders of the natural world.

### **STEM Careers**

This video highlights how policy and those who work in local, state, and national government can impact environmental issues. “Policy” includes the laws, regulations, procedures, and practices of governments and other institutions.

- Governor Pat Neff who served as Texas’s governor from 1921 to 1925, established the Texas State Parks Board which was the state’s first effort to establish a parks system.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) created a series of programs and projects in the New Deal beginning in 1933 which included supporting public works projects.

- Governor John Connally who served as Texas’s governor from 1963 to 1969, oversaw the creation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and spearheaded efforts to fund state parks.

The examples above show how people elected to public office impact environmental issues. Working for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is another way to support the conservation and management of Texas’s 85+ state parks. Learn more about the variety of [TPWD careers here](#).

### Take Action

- You can support Texas State Parks by volunteering. [Learn more here](#). (Read the website for full requirements.)
- You can also support state parks by visiting them. Entrance fees are an important source of funding for the operation of parks. [Find a Texas State Park near you here](#). Learn more about Texas State Park field trips [here](#).



Palo Duro Canyon State Park  
Photo: Fin & Fur Films Productions



## Discussion Questions

### State Parks Today

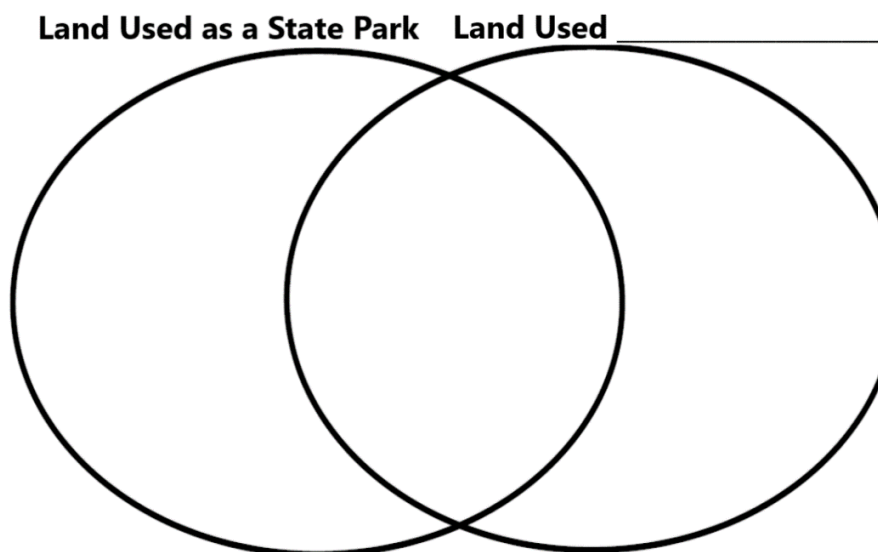
1. Think about all the different ecosystems shown in the video. Which place would you like to visit? Why?
2. Explore state parks:
  - a. Find the state park that is closest to where you live.
  - b. What is the name of the state park?
  - c. How long would it take you to get there? What might you see when you visit?
  - d. Have you visited this park before? If so, what did you do there? What did you like and/or dislike about the park?

Tips: Do an online search for “[Your State] State Parks.” If you live in Texas, start here: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/parks-map>

### Land Use

3. In 1923, Isabella Neff donated a six-acre plot of land, about 30 miles south of Waco, Texas on the Leon River to be held in trust by the people of Texas. What were some impacts of this donation?
4. Before Isabella Neff donated her six-acre plot of land to Texas, she had options. Some ways she could have used the land include:
  - a. She could have kept the land as it was, an undeveloped part of the Neff family farm.
  - b. If the land was suitable for farming, she could have developed the six-acre plot into farmland.
  - c. If the land was suitable for development, she could have developed the land with housing or commercial buildings.
  - d. She also could have sold the land to another individual or given the land to her children. The person or people she sold/gave the land to would then decide how to use the land.

Create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast how the land would have been affected if Isabella Neff selected a different use of the land, as compared to the land becoming a state park.



### The Development of State Parks

5. How did the Great Depression (1929–1941) impact Texas State Parks?
6. In your own words, explain what this sentence means:  
*In 1993 the sporting goods sales tax was established to help fund state parks.*
7. The video mentions that a few other pieces of legislation helped fund state parks in Texas. Why do you think state parks need reliable funding sources? List at least two reasons.

### Impact of State Parks

8. List at least three ways Texas State Parks positively impact environments across the state.
9. List at least three ways the development of 85+ state parks across Texas has benefited the people who live in Texas.
10. When people and governments understand the significant positive impacts state parks have on ecosystems and the people who live near and visit state parks, state parks receive the support they need. How could one benefit of state parks be measured? Choose just one way state parks benefit the ecosystem. Design a method for monitoring and measuring that benefit.

### STEM Careers

11. Can you picture yourself working to support state parks in your future career? (This could include working for a state park department or serving as a politician who works to pass legislation that supports state parks.) Why or why not? What questions do you have about these career options?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# A Century Celebration: Texas State Parks

## Discussion Question Responses

**Directions:** After watching the film, *A Century Celebration: Texas State Parks*, answer the discussion questions. For each question, first write the number of the question and then write your answer.

## **Answer Key - Discussion Questions**

### **State Parks Today**

1. Students will describe one place from the video that they would like to visit.
2. Students will name the state park closest to where they live, identify how long it would take to travel there, and infer what they will see when visiting. If students have visited this park before, they will describe their experience visiting and what they liked/disliked about the park.

### **Land Use**

3. The land Isabella Neff donated became Mother Neff State Park, Texas's first state park. Over the last 100 years, Texas State Parks have grown from Mother Neff's initial six-acre donation to 640,000+ acres found in 85+ parks.
4. Students will create a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts using the six acres Isabella Neff donated as a state park vs. another use of the land.

### **The Development of State Parks**

5. In the 1930s, Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), employing thousands of men to create trails and build public land infrastructure. Their hard work is still found in 29 Texas State Parks.
6. Answers will vary. The general idea is: Every time someone purchases sporting goods, a tax is collected. The money generated from that tax supports existing parks and funds the creation of new state parks.  
*In discussion, help students think about what sports equipment they use such as balls, rackets, helmets, and bikes, and make the connection that the tax collected when those things were purchased helped to fund state parks.*
7. Answers will vary. Some possible ideas: State parks need funding to maintain facilities such as trails, picnic areas, restrooms, parking lots, and visitor centers. They also need money to pay the staff that maintains the parks.

### **Impact of State Parks**

8. Possible responses (ways state parks positively impact environments):
  - State parks conserve ecosystems.
  - They provide habitats for wildlife such as American bison, desert bighorn sheep, and many migratory birds.
  - Texas State Parks conserve parts of the Central Flyway that is crucial for many migratory birds.
9. Possible responses (ways state parks benefit the people who live in Texas):
  - State parks offer a space where humans can immerse themselves in nature, be awed by natural beauty, and experience stunning views.
  - State parks can be a place for people to experience solitude, where they can slow down and reflect.
  - When visiting parks with friends and family, state parks offer a beautiful environment to connect and build relationships.
  - Nearly 10 million people visit Texas State Parks each year.
  - As Texas grows from 30 to 50 million people over the next few decades, these parks will become increasingly important.
10. Students will design a method for monitoring and measuring one way state parks benefit ecosystems.

### **STEM Careers**

11. Students will describe whether or not they can picture themselves working to support state parks in their future careers. They will also draft questions they have about career paths that support state parks.

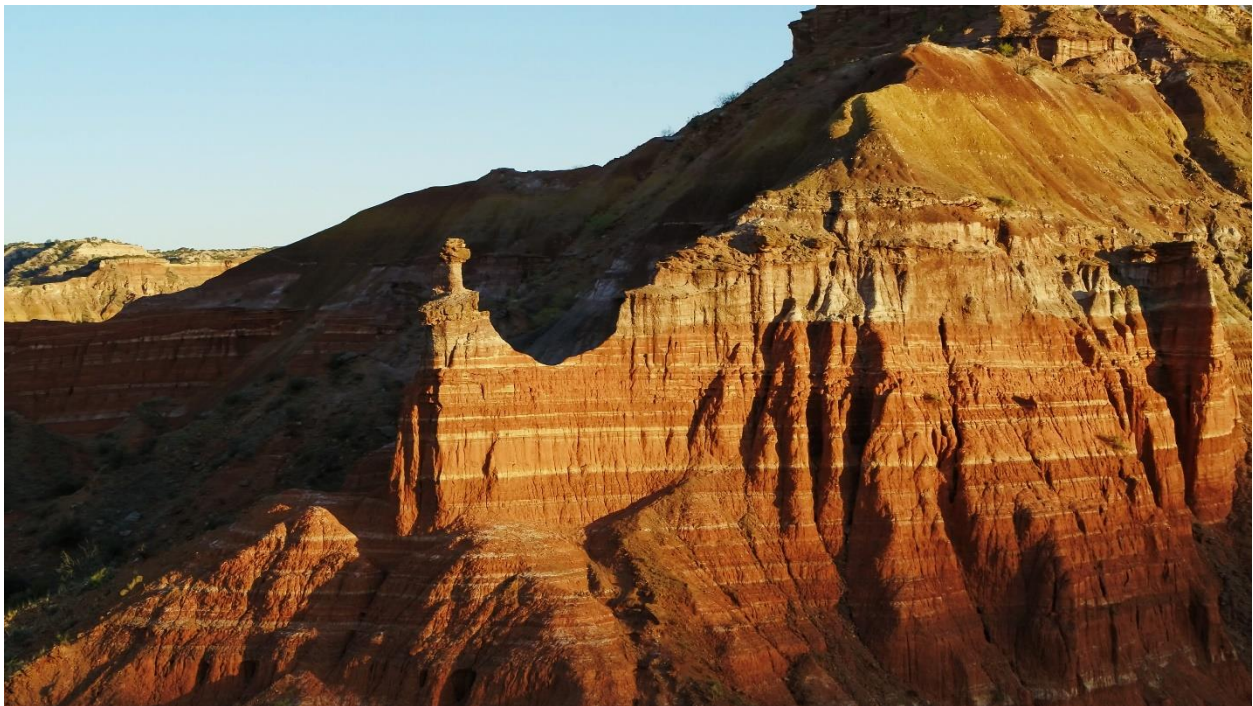
# A Century Celebration: Texas State Parks

## Spanish Resources

### Acerca de este recurso

En la actualidad, el Sistema de Parques Estatales de Texas incluye más de 85 parques que abarcan 640,000+ acres de terreno público. Estos paisajes cubren 10 ecorregiones únicas y albergan muchas plantas y animales nativos.

El video, *La celebración de un siglo: Parques estatales de Texas*, y los recursos educativos incluidos aquí te presentarán la impresionante belleza de los parques estatales de Texas y los 100 años de historia que llevaron al sistema próspera de parques estatales que existe hoy. Los recursos también te desafiarán a explorar el impacto de los parques estatales de Texas y cómo puedes apoyar las tierras públicas en Texas o en el lugar donde vives.



“Palo Duro Canyon State Park”

Foto: “Fin & Fur Films Productions”

## Vocabulario académico

De: lead4ward Academic Vocab <https://lead4ward.com/resources/>

6° Grado Ciencias	7° Grado Ciencias	8° Grado Ciencias
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ecosistema</li> <li>• organismo</li> <li>• población</li> <li>• especie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sequía</li> <li>• ecorregión</li> <li>• ecosistema</li> <li>• medio ambiente</li> <li>• hábitat</li> <li>• organismo</li> <li>• especie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ecosistema</li> <li>• medio ambiente</li> <li>• hábitat</li> <li>• organismo</li> <li>• población</li> <li>• especie</li> </ul>

Biología	7° Grado Estudios Sociales
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ecosistema</li> <li>• medio ambiente</li> <li>• hábitat</li> <li>• impacto</li> <li>• organismo</li> <li>• población</li> <li>• especie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuerpo Civil de Conservación (CCC)</li> <li>• elegido</li> <li>• ambiente</li> <li>• federal</li> <li>• Franklin Roosevelt (FDR)</li> <li>• La Gran Depresión</li> <li>• la legislación del “New Deal”</li> <li>• impuesto sobre la venta</li> <li>• esfuerzo bélico</li> </ul>

## Lectura de fondo

### Parques estatales de Texas

En 1923, Isabella Neff regaló una parcela de seis acres de la granja de su familia para ser mantenida en fideicomiso por la gente de Texas. Esta tierra se convirtió en el Parque Estatal de Mother Neff, el primer parque estatal en Texas. Desde entonces, el Sistema de Parques Estatales en Texas ha ido creciendo hasta incluir más de 85 parques de todo el estado, abarcando un total de 640,000+ acres.



“Caddo Lake State Park”

Foto: “Fin & Fur Films Productions”

Aunque hoy prosperan los Parques

Estatales de Texas, el desarrollo de estos paisajes conservados no era un proceso simple.

La idea original para el sistema de parques de todo el estado fue iniciada por el Gobernador Pat Neff, el hijo de Isabella Neff. En la década de 1920, el Gobernador Neff imaginó una serie de campamentos en todo el estado donde la gente viajando en auto pudiera parar a descansar, tener un picnic, y acampar durante la noche. En esa época, viajar en coche era cada vez más popular, pero Texas aún no tenía hoteles, restaurantes, ni gasolineras donde los viajeros pudieran comer y descansar.

En 1923, el Gobernador Neff persuadió a la legislatura de Texas para crear el Consejo de Parques Estatales, compuesto por seis miembros. El Consejo y el Gobernador Neff viajaron por todo Texas promoviendo la idea de establecer parques estatales y solicitando donaciones de dinero y tierra. Su meta era crear un parque cada 100 millas. En el primer año, el consejo recibió 52 terrenos donados.

El Gobernador Neff luego pidió \$50,000 de la legislatura estatal para convertir el terreno donado en parques. Esta solicitud no fue aprobada. Para los próximos 12 años, el Consejo de Parques Estatales continuaba buscando donaciones de tierra y fondos para apoyar el desarrollo de los parques estatales. Sin embargo, ellos avanzaron poco.

Sorprendentemente, fue la caída de la bolsa de 1929 que causó la Gran Depresión que generó un importante apoyo para los Parques Estatales de Texas. En 1933, el Presidente Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) estableció el Cuerpo Civil de Conservación (CCC) como parte de la legislación del “New Deal.” Los hombres jóvenes podrían alistarse en el CCC y trabajar para mejorar las tierras públicas, bosques, y parques en todo Estados Unidos. A cambio, se les proporcionó alojamiento en campamentos de tipo militar, tres comidas al día, ropa, y \$30 cada mes. \$25 sería enviado directamente a sus familias, dejando \$5 a los trabajadores (National Park Service, n.d.).

Los miembros del CCC que trabajaban en Texas construyeron estructuras, senderos, y puentes en las tierras reservadas para los Parques Estatales de Texas. Muchas de estas características y estructuras todavía existen hoy. A principios de la década 1930, los parques estatales recibieron su primer apoyo financiero sustancial del estado cuando la Gobernadora Ma Ferguson, la primera mujer gobernadora de Texas, concedió \$25,000 al Consejo de Parques Estatales de Texas.

Otro evento histórico también afectaba los parques estatales de Texas. Cuando Estados Unidos entró en la Segunda Guerra Mundial tras el bombardeo de Pearl Harbor en 1941, la financiación de las tierras públicas se desvió al esfuerzo bélico, y muchos hombres que podrían haber trabajado en el CCC entró en el ejército. Los parques estatales de Texas siguieron siendo populares, con el número de visitantes aumentando cada año, pero la financiación fue escasa durante toda la guerra.

En de la década 1950, una sequía conocida como la “Sequía de Récord” afectó al 75% de Texas. En respuesta, el estado construyó una serie de 200+ embalses por todo el estado. Muchos de esos embalses se desarrollaron como zonas recreativas a través de la creación de parques estatales.

En 1963, el Consejo de Parques Estatales se fusionó con la Comisión Estatal de Caza y Pesca para crear el Departamento de Parques y Fauna Salvaje de Texas (TPWD). El gobernador en aquel momento, John Connally, asumió la tarea de financiar los parques estatales de Texas. Él encabezó los esfuerzos para establecer una emisión de bonos que se aprobó por lo tejanos para proporcionar fondos para adquirir y establecer parques estatales. Además, la legislatura estatal implementó un impuesto sobre la venta de cigarrillos que financiaba los parques estatales. Esto dio lugar a lo que se conocía como la “Época Dorada” de la creación de parques estatales. De 1963 a 1988, se desarrollaron más de 70 parques estatales y sitios históricos.



“Guadalupe River State Park”  
Foto: “Fin & Fur Films Productions”

En 1993, un impuesto sobre la venta de artículos deportivos sustituyó al impuesto sobre la venta de cigarrillos para servir como la fuente de fondos para los Parques Estatales de Texas. En 2019 los votantes de Texas aprobaron la Proposición 5, una enmienda constitucional, dedicando fondos para nuestros parques estatales. En 2023, durante la Celebración de un Siglo de los Parques Estatales de Texas, los votantes aprobaron la Proposición 14 que proporcionaba 1.000 millones de dólares

para adquirir más terreno para parques en este estado, la mayor inversión en la historia de los Parques Estatales de Texas.

Más de 95% del terreno de Texas es de propiedad privada. Esto hace que las tierras públicas disponibles en los parques estatales sean un recurso especialmente valioso para todos los que llaman a Texas su hogar. Los parques estatales no solo



conservan los ecosistemas diversos por todo el estado, sino también proveen un lugar para que todos disfruten de las maravillas del mundo natural.

### **Carreras STEM**

Este video destaca como la política y la gente que trabaja en el gobierno local, estatal y nacional pueden impactar los temas medioambientales. La “política” incluye las leyes, reglamentos, procedimientos, y prácticas de gobiernos y otras instituciones.

- Gobernador Pat Neff fue gobernador de Texas de 1921 a 1925, y él estableció el Consejo de Parques Estatales de Texas, que fue el primer esfuerzo estatal para establecer un sistema de parques.
- Presidente Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) creó una serie de programas y proyectos en el “New Deal” empezando en 1933 que incluían apoyo a proyectos de obras públicas.
- Gobernador John Connally fue gobernador de Texas de 1963 a 1969, y él supervisó la creación del Departamento de Parques y Fauna Salvaje de Texas (TPWD) y encabezó los esfuerzos para financiar los parques estatales.

Los ejemplos arriba muestran como las personas elegidas para cargos públicos impactan los temas medioambientales. Trabajar por el Departamento de Parques y Fauna Salvaje de Texas (TPWD) es otra manera de apoyar la conservación y gestión de los 85+ parques estatales en Texas. Puedes aprender más sobre la variedad de [carreras en TPWD aquí](#).

### **Tomar medidas**

- Puedes apoyar los Parques Estatales de Texas ofreciéndote como voluntario. [Aprende más aquí](#). (Lee el sitio web para ver los requisitos completos.)
- Además, puedes apoyar los parques estatales visitándolos. Las entradas son una fuente importante de financiación para la operación de los parques. [Encuentra un Parque Estatal de Texas cerca de ti aquí](#). Obtenga más información sobre las excursiones al Parque Estatal de Texas [aquí](#)

## Preguntas de discusión

### Los Parques Estatales hoy

1. Piensa en todos los distintos ecosistemas mostrados en el video. ¿Cuál lugar te gustaría visitar? ¿Por qué?
2. Explora los parques estatales:
  - a. Encuentra el parque estatal más cerca de donde vives tu.
  - b. ¿Cuál es el nombre del parque estatal?
  - c. ¿Cuánto tardarías en llegar? ¿Qué podrías ver al visitarlo?
  - d. ¿Has visitado este parque antes? Si es así, ¿qué hiciste allí? ¿Qué te gustó y/o no te gustó del parque?

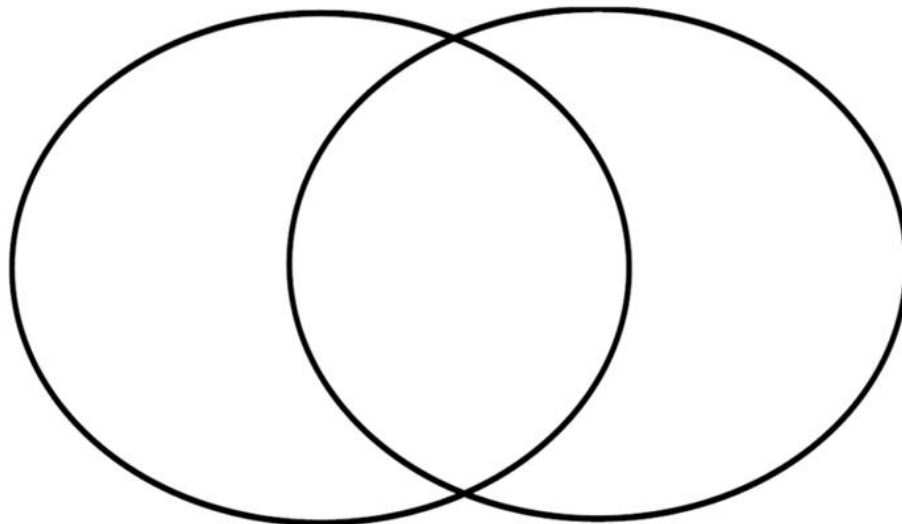
Pistas: Haz una búsqueda en línea para “[Tu estado] State Parks.” Si vives en Texas, empieza aquí: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/parks-map>

### Utilización del terreno

3. En 1923, Isabella Neff regaló una parcela de seis acres, aproximadamente 30 millas al sur de Waco, Texas en el río Leon, para ser mantenida en fideicomiso por la gente de Texas. ¿Cuál ha sido el impacto de esta donación?
4. Antes de que Isabella Neff donó su terreno de seis acres a Texas, ella tenía opciones. Algunas maneras en que ella podría haber usado su terreno incluyen:
  - a. Podría haber dejado el terreno como estaba, una parte no desarrollada de la granja de la familia Neff.
  - b. Si la tierra era apta para la agricultura, ella podría haber convertido la parcela de seis acres en tierras de cultivo.
  - c. Si la tierra era apta para la urbanización, ella podría haber urbanizado el terreno con viviendas o edificios comerciales.
  - d. Ella podría haber vendido la tierra a otra persona o dársela a sus hijos. La persona o las personas a quienes se la vendió o se la dio podrían haber decidido cómo utilizarla.

Crea un diagrama Venn para comparar y contrastar los efectos posibles si Isabella Neff hubiera elegido un uso diferente para el terreno, en vez de donarlo para la creación de un parque estatal.

Terreno utilizado como parque estatal    Terreno utilizado \_\_\_\_\_



### **El desarrollo de los parques estatales**

5. ¿Cómo afectó la Gran Depresión (1929–1941) a los Parques Estatales de Texas?
6. En tus propias palabras, explica el significado de esta oración:  
*En 1993 el impuesto sobre la venta de artículos deportivos fue implementado para ayudar a financiar los parques estatales.*
7. En el vídeo se menciona que algunos otros actos legislativos ayudaron a financiar los parques estatales de Texas. ¿Por qué crees que los parques estatales necesitan fuentes de financiación fiables? Enumera al menos dos razones.

### **El impacto de los parques estatales**

8. Enumera al menos tres impactos positivos de los Parques Estatales de Texas en todo el estado.
9. Enumera al menos tres maneras en que el desarrollo de los 85+ parques estatales en todo Texas ha beneficiado a la gente que vive en Texas.
10. Cuando las personas y gobiernos entienden los grandes impactos positivos de los parques estatales en los ecosistemas y en la gente que vive cerca y visitan los parques, los parques estatales tienden a recibir el apoyo que necesitan. ¿Cómo se podría medir un beneficio de tener parques estatales? Escoge un beneficio que aportan los parques al ecosistema. Diseña un método de seguimiento y medición del ese beneficio.

### **Carreras STEM**

11. ¿Te imaginas trabajando para apoyar los parques estatales en tu carrera futura? (Se podría incluir trabajar en un departamento de parques estatales o ser político que trabaja para aprobar leyes que apoyen los parques estatales.) ¿Por qué o por qué no? ¿Qué preguntas tienes sobre estas opciones profesionales?

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

# La celebración de un siglo: Parques estatales de Texas

## Respuestas a las preguntas de discusión

**Instrucciones:** Después de mirar el video, *La celebración de un siglo: Parques estatales de Texas*, contesta las preguntas de discusión. Para cada pregunta, primero escribe el número de la pregunta, y luego escribe tu respuesta.

## Sources (Fuentes)

- National Park Service. (n.d.) *CCC History*. Retrieved January 21, 2024, from <https://www.nps.gov/colm/learn/historyculture/ccc-history.htm>
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. (n.d.). *The History of Texas State Parks*. Retrieved January 8, 2024, from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/100years/history/>