



- Legend**
- Benches/Rest Areas
 - Pedestrian/Bicycle Gate Access
 - 🏠 Visitor Center
 - P Parking
 - 🚻 Restrooms
 - 👁️ Viewing Area
 - 📷 Photo Blind
 - 🎪 Amphitheater
 - 🌳 Picnic Area
 - ☂️ Gazebo
 - 🏪 Cemetery
 - ⛺ Park Camping
 - 🚤 Park Boat Launch
 - 🏢 Refuge Office
 - 🌉 Bridge
 - Dirt Trail
 - - - Gravel Trail/Road
 - Paved Road - No Vehicles
 - Paved Trail
 - Paved Road (2 way traffic)
 - 🟠 Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park
 - 🌊 Wetlands
 - 🏠 Private Property
 - 🏠 Non-refuge Property
 - 🟡 Refuge Boundary

Welcome to Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge is located at the southern extent of Texas with ecological influences from the great plains, tropics, gulf coast, and desert, creating one of the most biologically diverse regions in North America. We have recorded over 417 species of bird species- more than any other national wildlife refuge.

Situated at the confluence of the Mississippi & Central flyways, Laguna Atascosa is a crucial stop-over point for millions of migrating birds, with peak numbers during fall migration. The 3,500-acre freshwater Laguna Atascosa Lake and adjacent wetlands of the Laguna Madre also host approximately 80% of the nation's wintering Redhead duck population. It is a sanctuary for migratory birds and wildlife species, including 45 mammals, 44 reptiles, 130 butterflies, and 450 plant species.

Laguna Atascosa was established in 1946 under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 with the purpose of conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats, while also providing opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation to the public. The refuge is home to eight Federal threatened and endangered species, such as the Ocelot, Northern Aplomado Falcon and Piping Plover. We hope you enjoy visiting the largest National Wildlife Refuge in South Texas, with over 110,000 acres and over 70 miles of hiking and biking trails!

For your safety and comfort

- Avoid chiggers, ticks, and rattlesnakes by staying on trails.
- Be prepared with insect repellent, sunscreen, and plenty of water!
- Plan to hike or bike during the cooler parts of the day, or March – November.
- Use a map to plan your trip when venturing out on trails.
- Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes with closed toes.

Laguna Atascosa is a U.S fee area and we charge \$3.00 per vehicle. You can pay with check or cash at the Visitor Center or use the self-pay station located to the right-hand side of the V/C door.

Please help us protect the Refuge by:

- Be watchful for wildlife on roads, mind your speed!
- Stay on designated public areas (i.e., drives and trails).
- Keep your pets on a leash, & do not allow them to drink or enter bodies of water due to American Alligators.
- Pack out your trash or throw away in a designated area.
- Do not disturb or remove wildlife, plants or historic objects. Metal detectors are not allowed.
- No fireworks, fires or alcohol.
- Camping is only allowed at Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park (entrance and camping fees apply, call 956-748-2044).

Trails

- **Lakeside Dr-** This is currently the only vehicle trail. This trail is 1.5 miles and will lead to the Osprey Overlook that overlooks the 3,500-acer freshwater lake.
- **Visitor Center trails-** These interconnected trails are ADA trails with 4 water sources and 5 bird feeding areas; these trails in total are approximately 0.8 miles.
- **Steve Thompson Wildlife Drive-** This 14.2 ADA trail is great for bicyclist with two entry points, one off FM-106 and the other across the Visitor Center off Buena Vista Rd. Prepare for flats and take plenty of water.
- **Gator Pond-** Gator Pond in total from Lake side Dr to FM-106 is 3.3 miles. The most sought-after point is the Gator Observation Deck which is at 0.3 miles and paved up to this point.
- **Gator pond/Mud trail/Scum pond-** For a lovely 5k head South on Gator Pond, East on Mud trail, and North on Scum Pond. During this hike you will have the opportunity to see White-tail deer, Javelinas, & Nilgai Antelope.
- **Kidney pond trail-** This 2.5-mile dirt/natural trail passes by a small pond that generally has an alligator.
- **Mesquite trail-** This 1.2-mile loop is located NW corner of the V/C parking lot across Lakeside Dr.