



# Skillern Tract

## Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

### Welcome

The **Skillern Tract** is located 7 miles (11.3 km) east of the main entrance to **Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge** on F.M. 1985, or 3 miles (4.8 km) west of Highway 124. The Skillern Tract contains 314 acres of moist soil units, rice fields, and wooded areas along the **East Bay Bayou**.

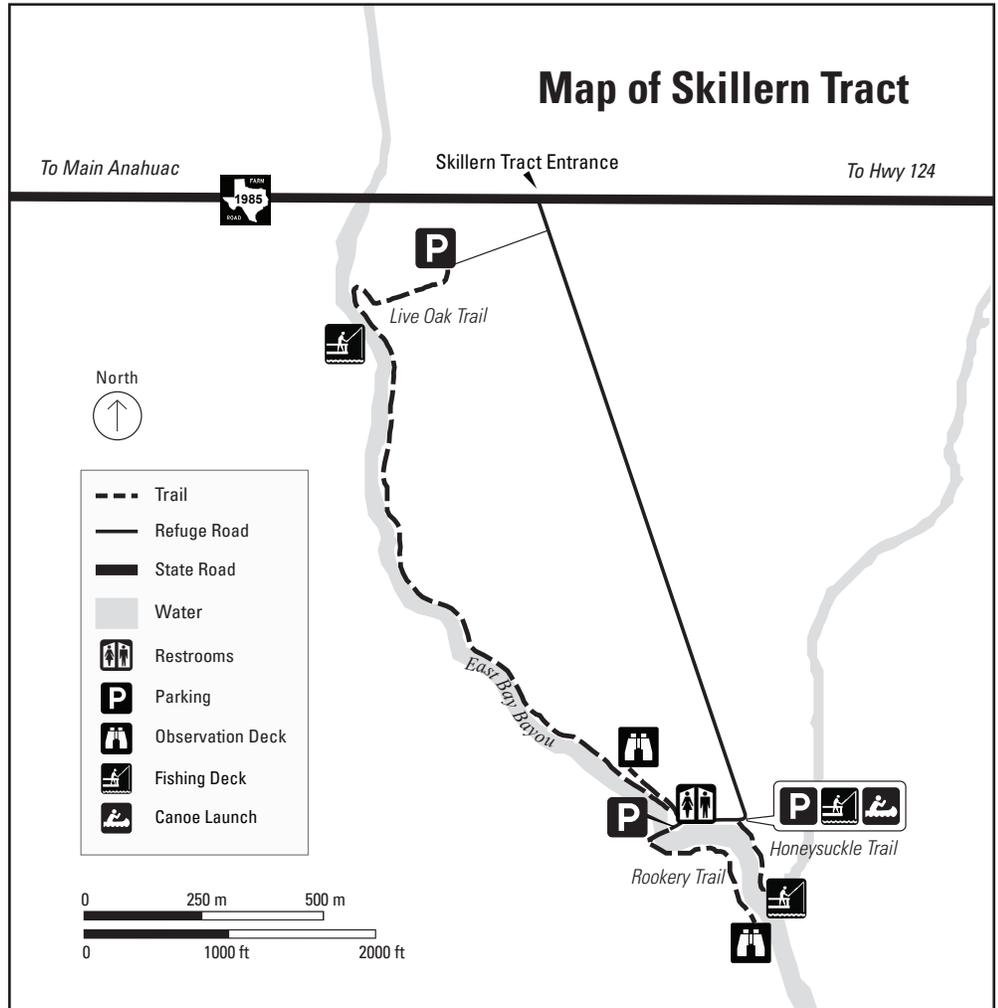
Featuring three trails, two observation decks, three fishing decks, and a non-motorized boat launch, the Skillern Tract offers a variety of recreation opportunities for everyone. It is easy to overlook, so make sure you stop by on your visit to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Please refer to the general brochure for a list of refuge regulations, which can be found at our visitor centers or the refuge website.

### History

Like most of the refuge, this land originates from large land-owning dynasties of Southeast Texas. In 1991 it was added to the refuge as the East Bay Bayou Tract. In 2006 it was renamed the Skillern Tract after Grady and Lu Skillern, long-time champions of this refuge. Grady and Lu were cherished volunteers and instrumental community leaders. Not only were they frequently volunteering for habitat projects and refuge improvement, they also started the organization “Friends of Anahuac Refuge”, our nonprofit partner that helps us achieve a shared mission of connecting people with wildlife conservation.

### Fishing

Three fishing decks and a concrete bridge offer anglers on-foot opportunities to catch freshwater species like crappie, large mouth bass, gar, bowfin, channel and blue catfish. Small, non-motorized boats may be launched at the canoe launch at the corner of the main road. Please refer to the fishing information brochure for detailed regulations on fishing and crabbing.



### Trails

The **Rookery Trail** offers an accessible 0.24-mile (0.39 km) paved path to a wooded observation deck. Take a stroll through some of our thickest woods and come out overlooking the beginnings of a rookery project.

The **Live Oak Trail** offers a 1-mile (1.6 km) vegetated path following East Bay Bayou. The south end of the trail is more utilized because there is a paved parking lot, bathrooms, and a separate sidewalk leading to an accessible wildlife observation deck. On the north end of the trail a grassy levee provides access to a more primitive parking area and, along the trail, a rustic fishing deck.

The **Honeysuckle Trail** offers a very short 0.10-mile (0.16 km) grass path through shrubs to a scenic knoll and large secluded fishing deck. The trail starts at a parking lot on the corner of the main road.

### For More Information Contact

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 278, 4017 FM 563  
Anahuac, TX 77514  
409/267-3337  
409/267-4314 Fax  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/Anahuac](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Anahuac)

