

Lake Somerville Trailway

State Park - Birch & Nails Creek Units



Please wear helmet when bicycling in park.

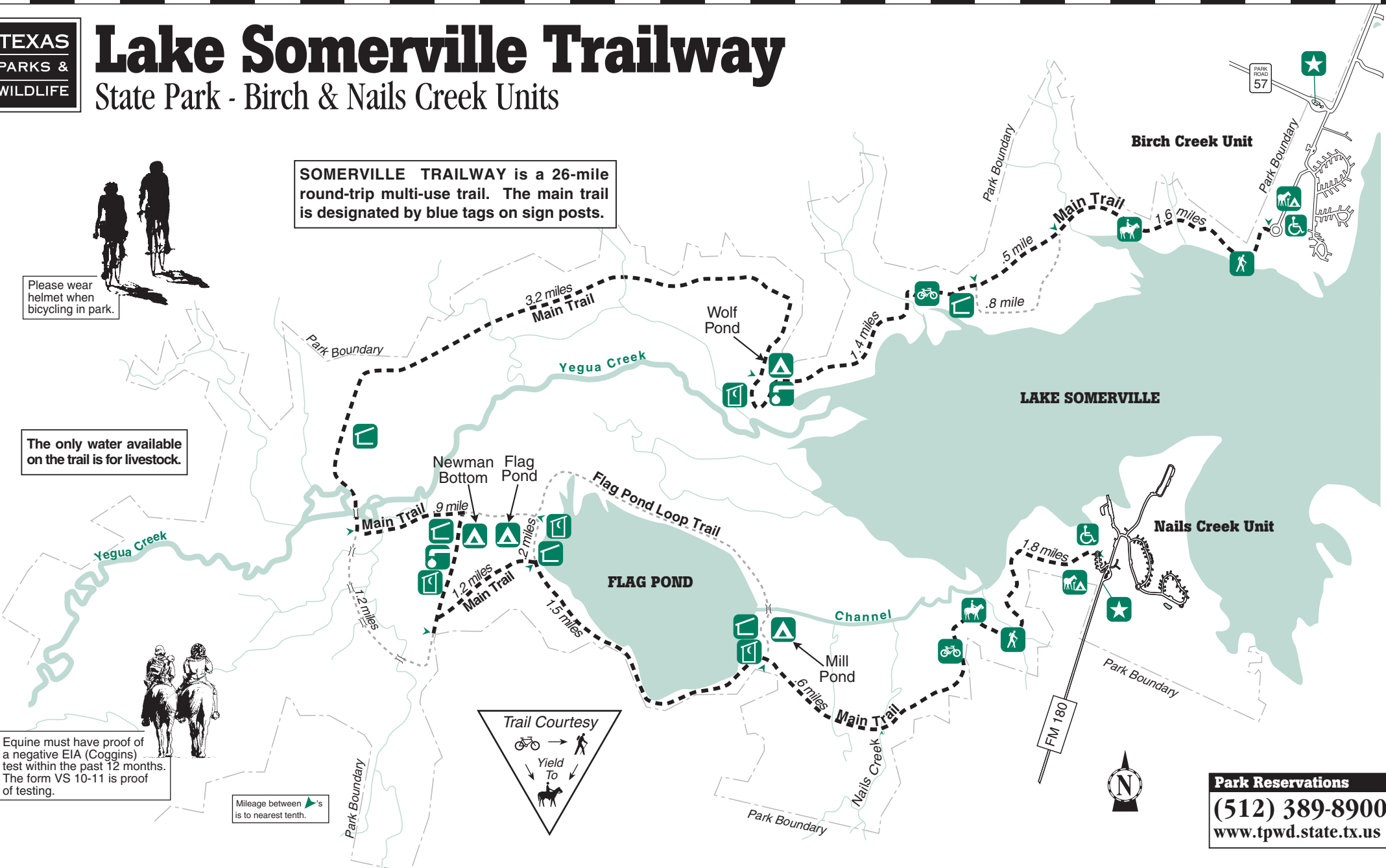
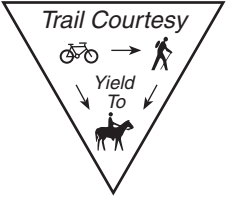
The only water available on the trail is for livestock.



Equine must have proof of a negative EIA (Coggins) test within the past 12 months. The form VS 10-11 is proof of testing.

Mileage between 's is to nearest tenth.

SOMERVILLE TRAILWAY is a 26-mile round-trip multi-use trail. The main trail is designated by blue tags on sign posts.



Legend:

- Headquarters
- Primitive Sites
- Shade Shelter
- Chemical Toilets
- Hiking Trail
- Bike Trail
- Equestrian Trail
- Equestrian Sites
- Non-potable Water
- Handicapped Accessible

Birch Creek Unit
14222 Park Road 57
Somerville, TX 77879
(979) 535-7763

Nails Creek Unit
6280 FM 180
Ledbetter, TX 78946-9512
(979) 289-2392

Park Reservations
(512) 389-8900
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Guidelines for the use of the Lake Somerville Trailway

Somerville Trailway, with 21.6 total miles of trails, connects two park units on Somerville Reservoir: Birch Creek Unit is on the north shore (located northwest of Brenham off State Hwy. 36) and Nails Creek Unit on the south shore (located northeast of Giddings off Hwy. 290).

Terrain is gently rolling; the trail passes through dense stands of yaupon and post oak, hickory, Blackjack oak and water oak forests, past scenic overlooks and water crossings. Abundant wildlife can be seen. A bird checklist is available at park headquarters. The trail section between Nails Creek headquarters and Flag Pond has one of the best spring wildflower displays in the Texas State Park System.

Facilities: Hikers, all-terrain cyclists and equestrians are permitted on the Somerville Trailway. An equestrian camping area is located at both Birch and Nails Creek Units. Four primitive campgrounds for backpackers and equestrians with approximately 100 campsites are located along the trailway. Non-potable water is available at Newman Bottom and Wolf Pond campsites; all primitive campsites have area pit toilets. In addition, Birch Creek unit have 103 multi-use campsites with water and electricity, a group trailer area and a group dining hall. Nails Creek Unit has 40 multi-use campsites. A handicapped accessible trail is also found in both units.

Avoid oil field equipment and drilling areas.

Trail rules - we ask your help in conserving the park's resources - please observe these law trail rules:

EQUESTRIAN RULES

1. Equestrian camping permitted only in designated equestrian campgrounds at Nails and Birch Creek as well as designated primitive campsites on trailway.
2. No persons in a unit of the state park system may ride, drive, lead or keep a saddle horse except on a horseback riding trail or in a horseback riding area so designated and posted.
3. No person may ride a saddle horse in a manner that is dangerous to a person or animal.
4. No person may allow a saddle horse to stand unattended or insecurely tied.
5. No person may hitch a saddle horse to a tree, shrub or structure in any manner that causes damage. Secure horses with a halter and lead rope to hitching posts (provided throughout trail).

BICYCLE RULES

Practice trail courtesy.

1. No person may ride a bicycle in a manner that is dangerous to a person or animal.
2. No person may ride a bicycle on a trail except where so designated and posted.
3. Yield right-of-way to horses and hikers. Slow speed and let other trail users know you are approaching them or passing. When passing a horse from opposite direction, slow or come to a complete stop to avoid startling the horse.

GENERAL TRAIL RULES

1. Walk on designated trails only.
2. Do not cut corners or cut across switch backs. Do not cross fences.
3. Do not take plants, plant parts, ferns, twigs or limbs from trees.
4. It is unlawful to disturb historical or archeological sites or features.

5. Do not litter. Pack out what you pack in. Don't be bashful - feel free to pick up litter left by others less considerate.
6. Carrying or discharging a firearm is prohibited.
7. Pets must be on a leash or secured at all times. Do not leave an animal unattended.

PRIMITIVE CAMPING RULES

1. Camp in designated area only.
2. Ground fires are strictly prohibited on the trailway.
3. Pack out what you pack in or dispose of trash in designated trash receptacles.
4. Be especially considerate of others when camping. Do not crowd your neighbor or make undue noise. A primitive camp should reflect the peacefulness and serenity of the area.
5. Do not rearrange the landscape with rock ramparts or windbreaks: Never cut branches, samplings or trees. As much as possible, please avoid disturbing the ground cover and topsoil. Locate your camp in order to take advantage of natural drainage and topography. Bed sites or tents should be pitched on naturally flat ground. Do not dig or level an area for a bed site. Please remove all traces of your camp when you leave.

FLASH FLOODS are natural phenomenon in this area. During periods of heavy rain, stay on or move to high ground. Do not attempt to ford creeks.

Lake Somerville (BIRCH CREEK UNIT)
14222 Park Road 57
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Office hours 8-5

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