



**Activities Guide to the  
Natural  
Experience**

of Monument Hill and Kreische  
Brewery State Historic Sites

**Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery  
State Historic Sites**

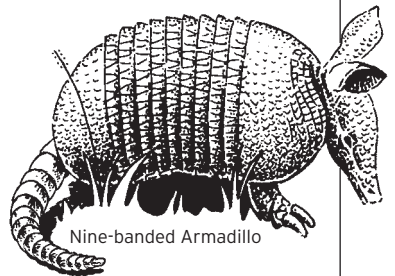
# Pledge

**I will:**

- Stay on trails.
- Protect the wildlife and treat it with kindness.
- Bring home only memories and pictures.
- Leave wildflowers where I find them.
- Be courteous to other visitors.
- Leave my area cleaner than I found it.
- Throw away my trash and recycle when appropriate.
- Have a safe and fun visit!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Park Visitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

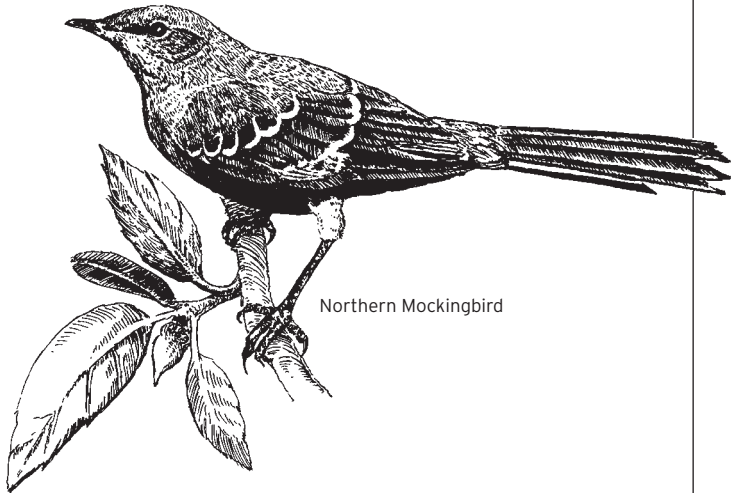


Nine-banded Armadillo

# Introduction

Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites is a 40-acre park located one mile south of La Grange, in Fayette County. There are numerous activities available at the park including hiking, picnicking, exploring the scenery, and Texas history studies. Also, group tours by staff or volunteers may be scheduled in advance.

The latest addition to the park is the 1.5-mile trail that opened in 2007. This trail gives better access to the "roads" that Kreische constructed himself to have easier access to the brewery. This booklet is a convenient guide to assist in identifying important land structures, wildlife, and sites within the park and the local community. Along the trails there are 10 areas, each with its own tidbits about the park's historic and natural resources. Follow along in your guide to see if you can find these special features in the park!



Northern Mockingbird

# Trail Guide

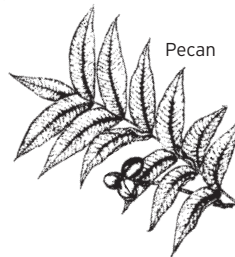
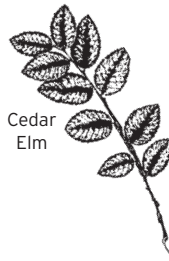
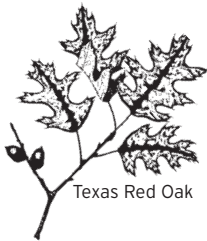
Refer to map on page 17.

## 1. Historic and Scenic Bluff Area

(29°53.294" N; 096°52.602" W)

The Historic and Scenic Bluff Area provides an opportunity to learn about the Dawson Massacre and Mier Expedition along with the Black Bean Incident. Look for wildlife in this area such as mockingbirds and the nine-banded armadillo, as well as the Eastern fox squirrel. They thrive off of the food and shelter that the following list of trees provides.

- The **Texas red oak** is native to Texas and is located on the south side of the Interpretive Shelter.
- **Cedar elm** was used occasionally by settlers for wheel hubs and fence posts. This tree is located sporadically around the Historic and Scenic Bluff Area.
- The **pecan tree** is the official state tree of Texas. One is located on the north side of the Interpretive Shelter.



## 2. Bluff Overlook (29°53.387" N; 096°52.583" W)

The Bluff Overlook showcases a major erosional feature called the Oakville Escarpment, which is a sandstone formation that consists of alternating layers of calcareous sandstones and clays. It took thousands of years of erosion to create this structure, which the locals call "the Bluff." The formation of this massif forced the Colorado River to make a major regional course change from the southeast to the northeast.

The Texas alligator lizard is a rare species that exists at the park. These lizards are identified by their large plate-like scales and unusually slow movement, unless frightened. They are more commonly found in the Edwards Plateau, but the isolated colony here is thought to be derived from ancestors that floated in on vegetation from the west during times of flooding.



### 3. Kreische House: House and Tree

(29°53.366" N; 096°52.560" W)

The Kreische House was built around 1855, and the live oak tree below the house is well over 200 years old. It provided shade which helped to keep the house area cooler during the summers. Below the barn near Kreische's trail was a natural spring. This groundwater was used in Kreische's brewing process.

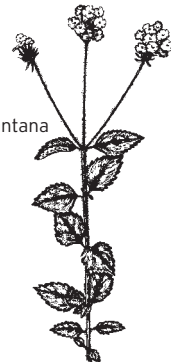
In the yard of the Kreische House a variety of wildflowers may be seen, depending on the time of year. These wildflowers may include:

- **Brown-eyed Susan:** a native prairie biennial flower that forms a rosette of leaves the first year, followed by flowers the second year. It's covered with hairs that give it a slightly rough texture.
- **Texas bluebonnets:** the state flower of Texas, which can be found in prairies, open fields and along roadsides.
- **Texas lantana:** was used by Spanish colonists who drank and bathed in infusions of lantana for its alleged medicinal benefit.

Texas Bluebonnet



Texas Lantana



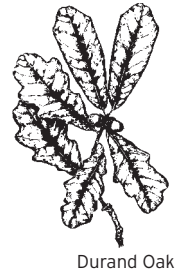
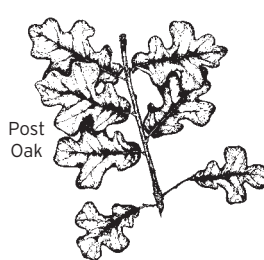
#### 4. Scenic Overlook (29°53.417" N; 096°52.538" W)

Looking out over the Scenic Overlook, a view of the Colorado River as well as the city of La Grange can be seen. The La Grange Water Tower, located just outside of town off of Highway 77, is approximately 1.6 miles from this overlook.

The Bluff was a landmark for primitive tribes that followed the old hunting trail below. This river was crossed by the Spanish explorers, who gave that trail the name "El Camino de la Bahia," which means "The Bay Trail," and was used for trade from present-day Goliad to Nacogdoches.

The oak woodlands below consist of:

- **Live oaks**, an evergreen tree that provided food and building material for Native Americans and early settlers.
- **Post oaks**, used for constructing posts for fence lines and for railroad crossties.
- **Durand oaks**, which can grow up to 95 feet tall and have shaggy bark with leaves with wavy margins.



#### 5. Brewery Overlook (29°53.399" N; 096°52.505" W)

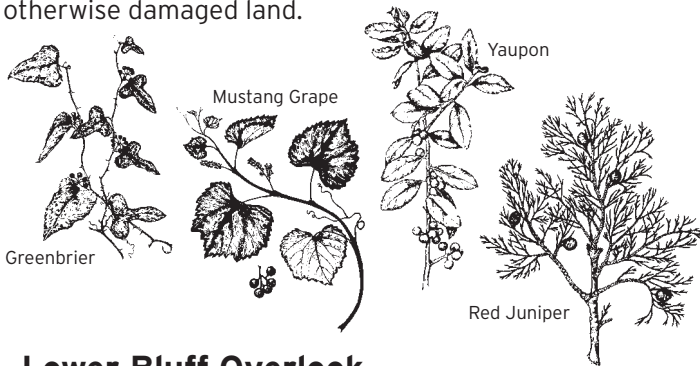
The Brewery Overlook gives a great historical view of the Kreische Brewery, which was built in the early 1860s. The location of the brewery is in a valley, making this a great area for wildlife and plant life to thrive.

There are a couple of creeping plants that exist in this area, such as greenbrier and mustang grape. Greenbrier is a woody climbing plant that is seen in many places along the trails in

the park. Mustang grape is easy to recognize by its hanging looped vines whose stems are twisted and climb on trees.

Some easily noticeable trees located in this area are:

- **Yaupon:** This tree's scientific name is *Ilex vomitoria*, which refers to the effect that people can get from eating its fruit. Yaupon leaves contain caffeine that can be used to make tea.
- **Red juniper**, known locally as "cedar," is an evergreen tree with bluish berries. It is a pioneer invader, meaning that it is one of the first trees to repopulate cleared, eroded, or otherwise damaged land.



## 6. Lower Bluff Overlook

(29°53.428" N; 096°52.485" W)

The hillside at the Lower Bluff Overlook serves as a drainage basin, or watershed, that leads to the Colorado River. The Colorado is 862 miles long, making it the 18th-longest river in the United States. It starts to flow south of Lubbock and empties into Matagorda Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Its tributaries include the Concho, San Saba, Llano and Pedernales rivers. The Colorado is vital to farming irrigation, electrical power production, and for providing several recreational activities.

The Brewery Lane Trail was Kreische's "driveway" from the brewery to his house. This is where his accident was believed to have occurred, which led to his death in March of 1882. The Lower Bluff Overlook is located approximately 7.5 miles away from the Fayette Power Project.

## 7. Forest Area (29°53.484" N; 096°52.470" W) Watch for poison ivy!

In this forest area it is important to stay on the trail to prevent erosion and to save wildlife habitat.

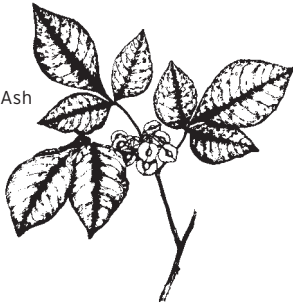
This habitat provides food and shelter needed for survival. By staying on the marked trails you can ensure that the wildlife's necessities will go unharmed and grow as needed. Please don't leave your trash behind anywhere on the trails.

This trail continues down to a road that goes to the left or right. The left goes on to private property and down to the ferry site that Kreische operated. Please be respectful to our neighbors and do not trespass on their land.

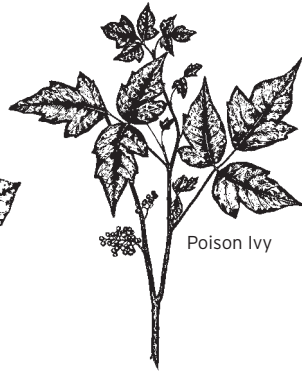
Some shade-tolerant species of plant life that can be seen around this area are:

- **Wafer ash:** The common name, Hop Tree, was used because the name refers to a reported use in earlier days of bitter fruit as a substitute for hops in brewing beer.
- **Poison ivy:** Not a true ivy but, in fact, a woody vine that is well known for its ability to produce urushiol, a skin irritant that causes an itching rash, so please watch your step.

Wafer Ash



Poison Ivy





## 8. Kreische's Bridges and Trails

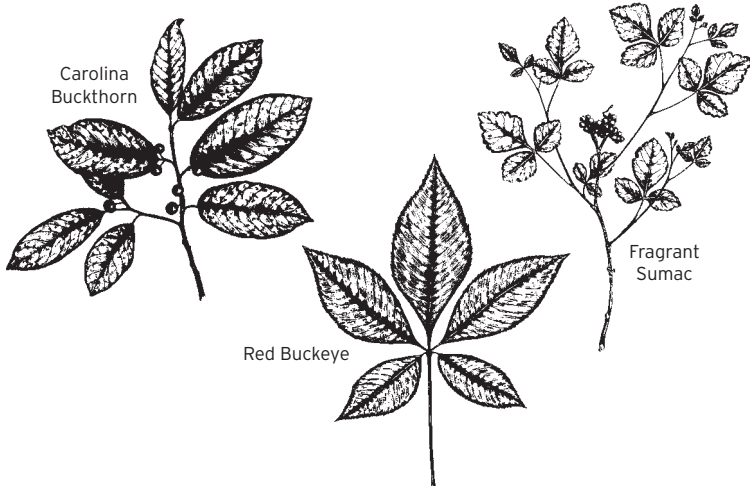
(29°53.378" N; 096°52.437" W)

Kreische's bridges and trails are located along the lower level and were built by Kreische himself. They were once used as roads for his customers, travelers, and family to pass through his property with greater ease. Kreische was responsible for maintaining his road, which was why it was so well kept.

Kreische's bridges are located at the end of a ravine. This ravine is an excellent water source for wildlife such as field mice, rabbits, raccoons, deer, foxes, lizards, snakes, turtles, frogs and many species of birds.

Also located around the area are several trees, including:

- **Carolina buckthorn:** Animals consume the berries produced by this tree, which are thought to have medicinal properties.
- **Red buckeye:** Fruits of this deciduous tree have saponins, chemicals which are poisonous to humans, but are not particularly dangerous because they're not easily ingested.
- **Fragrant sumac:** The fruit of this tree is a favorite of many wild animals including wild turkey, raccoon and white-tailed deer.



## 9. Prairie Area (29°53.303" N; 096°52.496" W)

The prairie area, like many around the park, has little bluestem grass as the main undergrowth species. Little bluestem grows in clumps in prairies, open woods, and dry hills. Numerous birds and small mammals utilize the dried stems for cover and for nesting material. The small seeds are also a good source of food for wildlife. Look along the trail for signs of white-tailed deer or other wildlife. Throughout the year vast amounts of wildflowers grow here, and as beautiful as they are, please refrain from picking them. It's against the law!



Little Bluestem Grass

## 10. Plant Identification Area

(29°53.330" N; 096°52.502" W)

Various species of plants and trees can be found in the surrounding area as well as throughout all of the trails in the park. Some species include:

- **White Ash:** Its bark is light gray with narrow ridges separated by deep fissures into interlacing patterns. The natural life span of these trees can reach a maximum of 300 years.
- **Basket grass:** This grass prefers limestone hills and ravines in the lightly wooded areas. It is an endemic species in the Edwards Plateau area.
- **Texas Persimmon:** Fruit provided by this tree is edible but stains clothes, hands and teeth.

White Ash

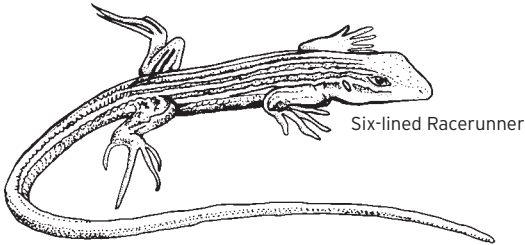


Texas Persimmon

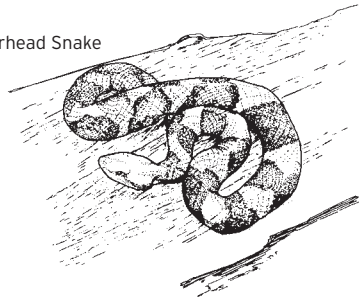


A number of animal species that can be seen, including:

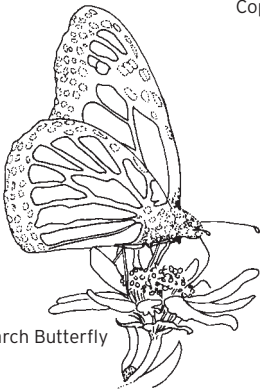
- **Six-lined racerunner** is a 6 to 9½-inch lizard with six light-yellow or white stripes down its back. Its ground-dwelling habits and impressive speed are often sufficient to identify it from a distance.
- **Monarch butterfly** is the official state insect of Texas. The monarch feeds on milkweed, which makes this species poisonous to predators such as robins, cardinals, grackles and brown thrashers.
- **Copperhead snakes** average between 12 to 24 inches long. These venomous snakes prefer the shelter of leaf litter, logs, branches and rocks.



Copperhead Snake



Monarch Butterfly



## Monument Hill State Historic Site

# Birds





- American Crow
- American Goldfinch
- American Kestrel
- American Robin
- Bald Eagle
- Black Vulture
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Blue Jay
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- Carolina Chickadee
- Carolina Wren
- Chipping Sparrow
- Crested Caracara
- Downy Woodpecker
- Eastern Phoebe
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Great Horned Owl
- House Sparrow
- Inca Dove
- Ladder-backed Woodpecker
- Mississippi Kite
- Mourning Dove
- Northern Cardinal
- Northern Flicker
- Northern Mockingbird
- Painted Bunting
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Rock Dove
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Summer Tanager
- Tufted Titmouse
- Turkey Vulture
- White-crowned Sparrow
- White-winged Dove
- Wood Duck
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Carolina Wren

# Creature Habitat

Research the following animals using books, the computer or any other source to find out what kinds of food they eat, where they get their water and what they use for shelter. Fill in the table with as much information as you can. All of the animals below can be found in the park if you look hard enough! Researching what they eat and where they live may help you to find them on your visit.

Animals	Type of Food	Source of Water	Location of Shelter
<p>White-tailed Deer</p> 			
<p>Common Gray Fox</p> 			
<p>Texas Alligator Lizard</p> 			
<p>Northern Cardinal</p> 			

## Monument Hill State Historic Site

# Word Search

Using the sentences on the next page, find the words that fit in the blanks to make the sentence correct. After you have filled in the blanks with the missing words, find them in the puzzle. Some words can be found diagonally, horizontally, vertically and even backwards. Have fun!

O B T K J N L O N B E A N S P  
A M R T R L D N B U Y I N F U  
I O H H J A H F R Y G R H K I  
G T T E L G Z S Q M E X I C O  
Y N V A E R R A Q I U A X U I  
K L S F S A T N R E C S B H J  
K P L O G N M T N R T G T F H  
Y R Z S R G A A U I Y F H E V  
D G E R T E X A S F H N J G R  
A F D I G R B N V C Y J G F V  
W G D E S W Z N X F J H Y F J  
S Q E D T C X A C V T Y V U G  
O U F U H F H M O N U M E N T  
N G K L O P U E M N V C B T F  
X Y W V U S A M H O U S T O N

## The Clues

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Expedition included 54 men, mostly from Fayette County, who went to the aid of San Antonio against a Mexican army under General Adrian Woll in 1842.
2. The Dawson Massacre occurred at \_\_\_\_\_ Creek near San Antonio.
3. Many men often met at the \_\_\_\_\_ Oak in \_\_\_\_\_ before heading off to defend their country.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ declared its independence from \_\_\_\_\_ on March 2, 1836.
5. The men of the \_\_\_\_\_ Expedition were taken prisoner and marched to Hacienda Salado in Mexico.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ called for the decimation of the Mier prisoners. This was carried out by having them draw \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ was built by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and placed on the bluff for those who died during the Dawson and Mier Expeditions.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ was among the dignitaries present for the burial, on September 18, 1848, of those who were killed during the Dawson and Mier Expeditions.
9. A 48-foot \_\_\_\_\_ was erected in 1936 for the Texas Centennial and also as a tribute to those who died serving their country.

### Word Bank

Salado	Sam Houston	Tomb
La Grange	Mexico	Dawson
Monument	Mier	Muster
Texas	Santa Anna	
Kreische	Beans	

# Nature Trail Scavenger Hunt

You do not need to gather any of the items below, just check the box next to the item once you have seen it. Also, if you come across anything interesting along the nature trail, add the name or description of it to your list and share it with your classmates. But remember, leave everything where you found it!

	Find a tree with BALL MOSS on it.
	Find a PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS.
	Find any sign of a DEER (deer tracks, deer droppings, or an actual deer).
	Find a GREENBRIER (a type of thorny vine).
	Find a LIZARD.
	Find some ANIMAL TRACKS.
	Find a CARDINAL.
	Find a BIRD'S NEST.
	Find a SPIDER'S WEB.
	Find any kind of INSECT.
	Find a red or yellow FLOWER.
	Find any sign that HUMANS have been on the trail.

Find as many of the above items as you can. Remember to protect the forest by leaving it the way you found it. Please do not pick any wildflowers while along the nature trail so that others can view them as well. We want to keep the forest beautiful because it is the home of the many animals that live there.





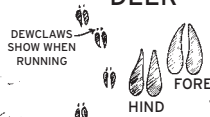
# Texas Tracks



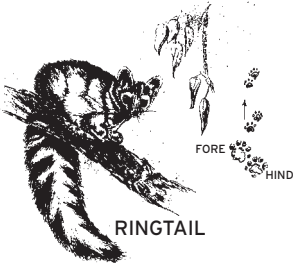
RACCOON



WHITE-TAILED DEER



SKUNK



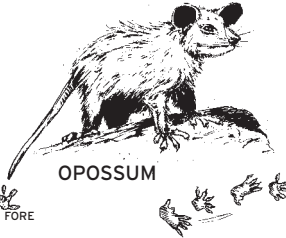
RINGTAIL



FOX SQUIRREL



OPOSSUM



BOBCAT

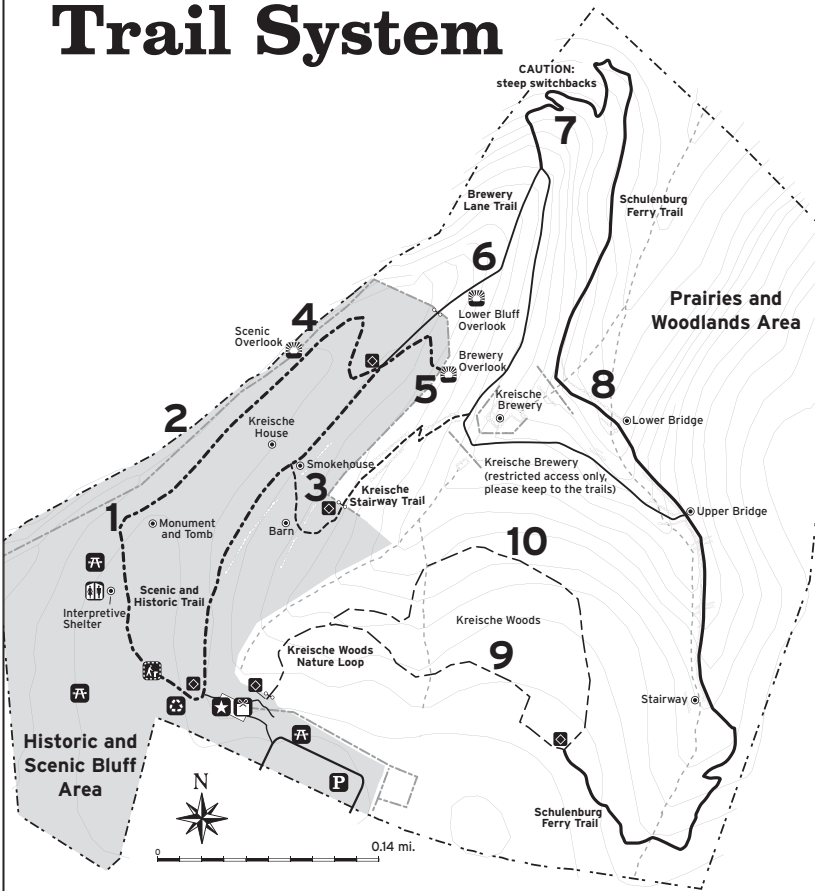


COYOTE



# Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites

## Trail System



### Legend:

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Headquarters       | Recycling                |
| Rest Rooms         | Point of Interest        |
| Parking            | Trail Kiosk              |
| Picnic Sites       | Lower Trails Access Gate |
| Overlook           | Historic Stonework       |
| Interpretive Trail | Safety Fence             |
| Gift Store         | Park Boundary            |



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State Historic Sites  
La Grange, Texas

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