

ARANSAS NATURE FEST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 16	Sunday, March 17	Monday, March 18	Tuesday, March 19	Wednesday, March 20	Thursday, March 21	Friday, March 22	Saturday, March 23
Self-guided Tours all week							
<p>Rockport Cemetery 10 – 11 a.m. Guided walk by Texas Master Naturalist</p> <p>Bay Education Center 10:30 – 11 a.m. Bee Condos program</p> <p>Rockport Center for the Arts 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day Celebration</p> <p>Bent Oaks Rookery Park 1 – 3 p.m. Rookery and wildflower viewing and education, plus children’s activities.</p> <p>1 – 1:30 pm Talk by local beekeeper</p> <p>2 – 2:30 p.m. Wildflowers and Pollinators talk by a Texas Master Naturalist</p> <p>Wings Rescue Center 1 -2 p.m. “Explore South Texas Parks” presentation by Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist</p>	<p>Rockport Cemetery 2 -3 p.m. Guided walk by Texas Master Naturalist</p>	<p>Aransas Woods Wildlife Sanctuary 10 – Noon Guided walk by Texas Master Naturalist</p> <p>Linda S. Castro Nature Sanctuary 2 -3 p.m. Educational tour by Aransas Pathways</p>	<p>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Noon – 1 p.m. Brown Bag luncheon presentation “Natives for Pollinators”</p> <p>Tule Marsh East 2 -3 p.m. Guided walk by Texas Master Naturalist</p>	<p>Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary 10 – 11 a.m. “Breakfast with Butterflies” with Aransas Pathways</p> <p>Lamar-Burton Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary 2 -3 p.m. Guided walk by Texas Master Naturalist</p>	<p>Big Tree Natural Area 10 a.m. – Noon Monarchs & Milkweeds survey (registration required)</p>	<p>Rockport Beach Park 8:30 – 11 a.m. Birding with Bob</p> <p>Cove Harbor Wetlands Sanctuary 2 -3 p.m. Guided walk by Texas Master Naturalist</p> <p>Memorial Park 1601 FM 2165 (Pearl St) 6 – 8 p.m. Glow Easter Egg Hunt.</p>	<p>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Spring plant sale at Coastal Oaks Garden by Texas Master Gardeners</p> <p>Rockport Center for the Arts 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Terra Cotta pot decorating and seeding</p> <p>Bay Education Center 10:30 – 11 a.m. Native Seed Balls program</p>

Event Notes

(Sites in alphabetical order; see map for Site # locations)

Aransas Woods Wildlife Sanctuary

Site #31

820 Highway 35 N.

<https://aransasfirst.org/aransas-woods/>

phone: 361-790-3074

There will be a guided tour on Monday, March 18 from 10 a.m. – Noon. The parking lot is next to the Texas Coastal Birding Trail sign on the Highway 35 Bypass. We will walk 1-2 miles on the trail system through a Live Oak woodland, with views overlooking wetlands. Bring binoculars if you have them. Have good footwear and be prepared for insects. Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities.

Bay Education Center

Site #22

121 Seabreeze Drive

<https://utmsi.utexas.edu/visit/public-programs/bay-education-center>

phone: 361-774-1785

The Center will be hosting two talks during the week of the Aransas Nature Fest:

- Saturday, March 16 from 10:30-11 a.m., “Bee Condos” lecture
- Saturday, March 23 from 10:30-11 a.m., “Native Seed Balls” program

Free, no registration required.

Bent Oaks Rookery Park

Site #17

1902 E. Maple Street

<https://rockporttx.gov/116/Area-Parks>

phone: 361-790-1136

A series of educational activities are planned for Saturday, March 16 from 1 – 3 pm, including those geared for children, along with rookery and wildflower viewing.

- 1 – 1:30 p.m. Presentation by a local beekeeper
- 2 – 2:30 p.m. Wildflower and pollinators talk

Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities.

Big Tree Natural Area (restricted access)

Site #4

Goose Island State Park

1600 W. 12th Street on Lamar Peninsula

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/goose-island>

phone: 361-729-2858

A “Monarchs & Milkweeds” survey will be conducted at the natural area on Thursday, March 21 beginning at 10 a.m. Join Texas Master Naturalists and a park ranger to become a citizen scientist by helping us survey for Milkweed plants, Monarch butterflies and caterpillars! We'll search for milkweed and Monarchs to report to citizen scientist projects such as [Journey North](#). This survey may take you into areas of dense vegetation where you may come into contact with insects, ticks, and possibly snakes. Be sure to dress appropriately.

- **How to prepare:** There are no restroom facilities at Big Tree. The nearest restroom is located at Goose Island State Park Headquarters, about 1 mile from Big Tree. We recommend wearing long sleeves, pants, long socks, hiking boots, hat, sun protection, and plenty of bug spray. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water as well.
- **When:** Thursday, March 21 from 10:00am-12:00pm
- **Where to Meet:** Big Tree parking lot (on 12th St)
- **Cost:** Free with park entrance permit (\$5/adult, kids 12 & under are free), or with an Annual Texas Parks Pass. Plan ahead: [Reserve and print your day pass online](#).
- **Accessibility:** Big Tree Natural Area is a sandy environment over uneven terrain. You can expect to walk up to 1.5 miles.

Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary

Site #28

1401 S. Church Street

<https://aransaspathways.com/connie-hagar-cottage-sanctuary/>

phone: 361-556-5308

Join Aransas Pathways staff for “Breakfast with Butterflies” on Wednesday, March 20 from 10 -11 a.m. Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities.

Cove Harbor Wetlands Sanctuary

Site #30

160 Cove Harbor N

<https://aransasfirst.org/cove-harbor-wetland/>

phone: 361-790-3074

Join a Texas Master Naturalist on Friday, March 22 from 2-3 p.m. to walk the boardwalk over the wetlands, and observe the bird and plant life. Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities

Lamar-Burton Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary (restricted access)

Site #2

Approx. 200 Seaside Loop S. on Lamar Peninsula

<https://aransasfirst.org/lamar-wetlands/>

phone: 361-790-3074

A guided tour of this site will be conducted on Wednesday, March 20 from 2-3pm. There is a driveway and parking area next to Seaside Loop. Come prepared for mosquitos and other critters, and rubber boots are recommended. Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities.

Linda S. Castro Nature Sanctuary

Site #9

4041 Hwy 35 North

<https://aransaspathways.com/linda-s-castro-nature-sanctuary/>

phone: 361-556-5308

There will be a tour of the site on Monday, March 18 from 2-3 p.m. Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities.

Memorial Park

Site #15

1601 FM 2165 (Pearl St)

<https://rockporttx.gov/116/Area-Parks>

phone: 361-790-1136

A “Glow” Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the park on Friday, March 22 from 6 – 8 p.m. Activities include Touch-a-truck, Easter Bunny photos, face painting, hot dogs, egg hunts, activity booths, and more. Egg hunts close the event and will start at 8 p.m. Each age group is at a different ball field at Memorial Park. For more information contact belkins@rockporttx.gov.

Rockport Beach Park

Site #19

210 Seabreeze Drive

<https://www.rockportbeach-texas.com/about>

phone: 361-729-6661

There will be a “Birding with Bob” tour at the park on Friday, March 22 from 8:30 – 11 a.m. Meet at the parking lot behind the “Rockport Beach” sign, just before entering Rockport Beach Park. Celebrate the birds of the Rockport area! Join retired park ranger and bird guide Bob Showler to look for birds at Aransas Pathways sites and other points of interest. Be prepared to drive your own car up to 20 miles round-trip and bring water, sun & insect protection, and binoculars (if you have them; loaner binoculars also available). We may be walking up to 1/4 mile at certain stops. **Beginning birders welcome!** The tour is free, but there is a \$10 fee to enter Rockport Beach Park (free to annual passholders; visit [Rockport Beach \(rockportbeach-texas.com\)](https://www.rockportbeach-texas.com) for more information on purchasing an annual pass).

Rockport Cemetery

Site #14

2040 Tule Park Drive (entrance gate is on Picton Lane)

There will be guided walks of the cemetery on the following dates and times:

- Saturday, March 16 from 10 – 11 a.m.
- Sunday, March 17 from 2 – 3 p.m.

Park outside the cemetery on the right-of-way on the west side of Tule Park Road, next to Tule Creek (**see map below**). Please do not park on the east side next to the cemetery fence, as wildflowers can be abundant there. After parking, walk the short distance (~500 feet) to the cemetery main entrance next to Picton Lane. We will then walk the cemetery’s paved drives, an easy walk of no more than a mile. We will identify wildflowers, butterflies, and other pollinators, and explore the human history of the cemetery. Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities.

Rockport Center for the Arts

Site #25

204 S. Austin Street

<https://www.rockportartcenter.com/>

phone: 361-729-5519

There will be a St. Patrick’s Day celebration on Saturday, March 16, and Terra Cotta decorating and seeding on Saturday, March 23. Hours 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Free, no registration required.

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

Site #8

892 Airport Road

<https://txmq.org/aransas/>

phone: 361-790-0103

There will be a Brown Bag Lecture titled “Natives for Pollinators” on Tuesday, March 19 from noon – 1 pm, (bring your own lunch).

The Master Gardeners’ plant sale is on March 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come see the impressive Coastal Oaks Garden (and to buy plants!). Free, no registration required. Restroom facilities are available.

Tule Marsh East

Site #13

2002 Tule Park Drive (enter parking lot from Business Highway 35 across from Walmart)

<https://aransaspathways.com/rockport-demo-bird-garden-and-wetlands-tule-east/>

phone: 361-556-5308

There will be a naturalist-led walk on Tuesday, March 19 from 2 – 3 p.m. A short trail system leads through a woodland, with wetland views from an elevated boardwalk. Free, no registration required. No restroom facilities.

Wings Rescue Center

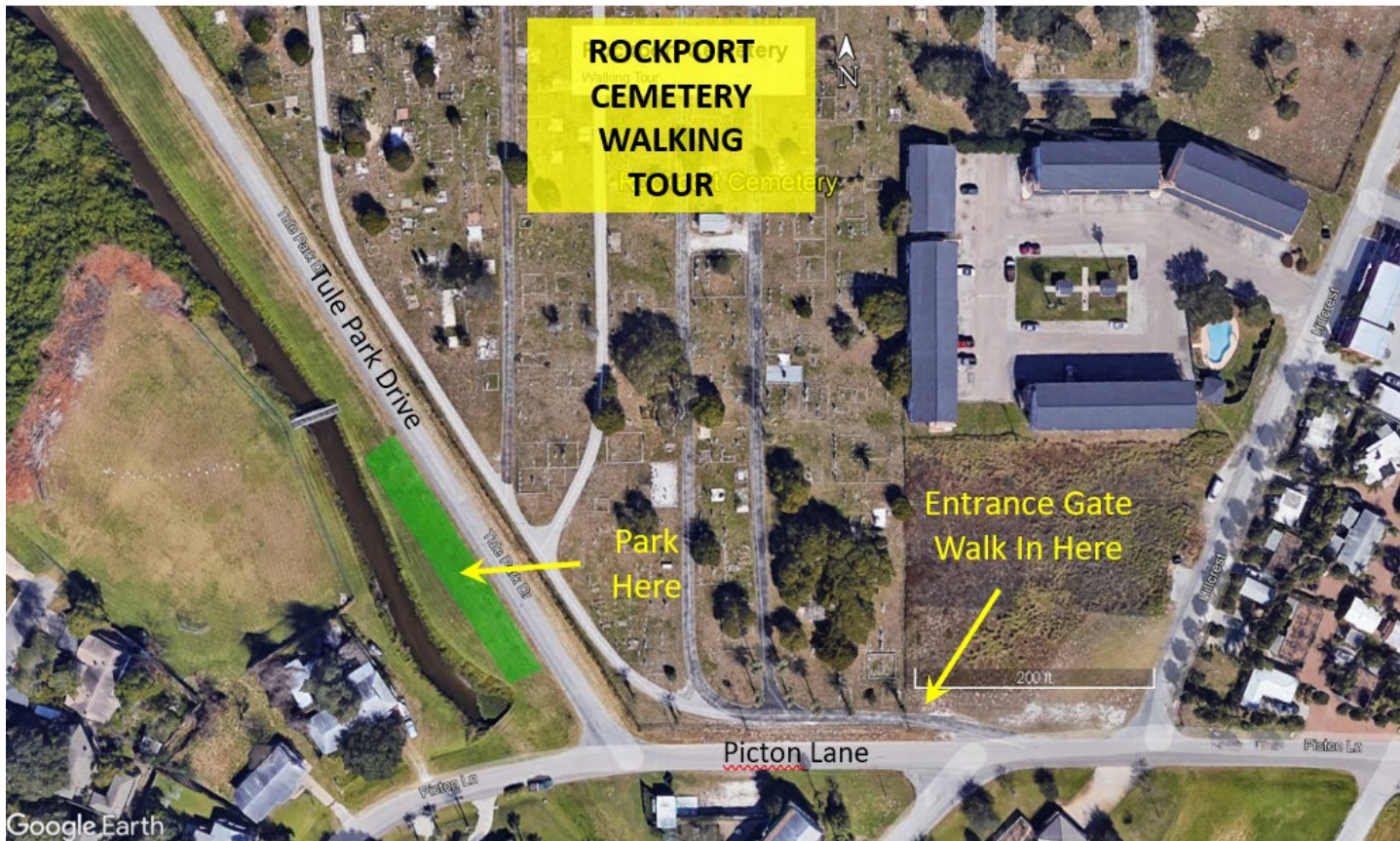
Site #29

324 W. Third Street

<https://www.wingsrescue.com/>

phone: 361-205-0892

Attend the “Explore South Texas Parks” talk by a Texas Parks & Wildlife biologist on Saturday, March 16 from 1-2 p.m. Enter from the Kossuth Street gate. Free, no registration required, limited restroom facilities.



ROCKPORT
Cemetery
WALKING
TOUR
Cemetery

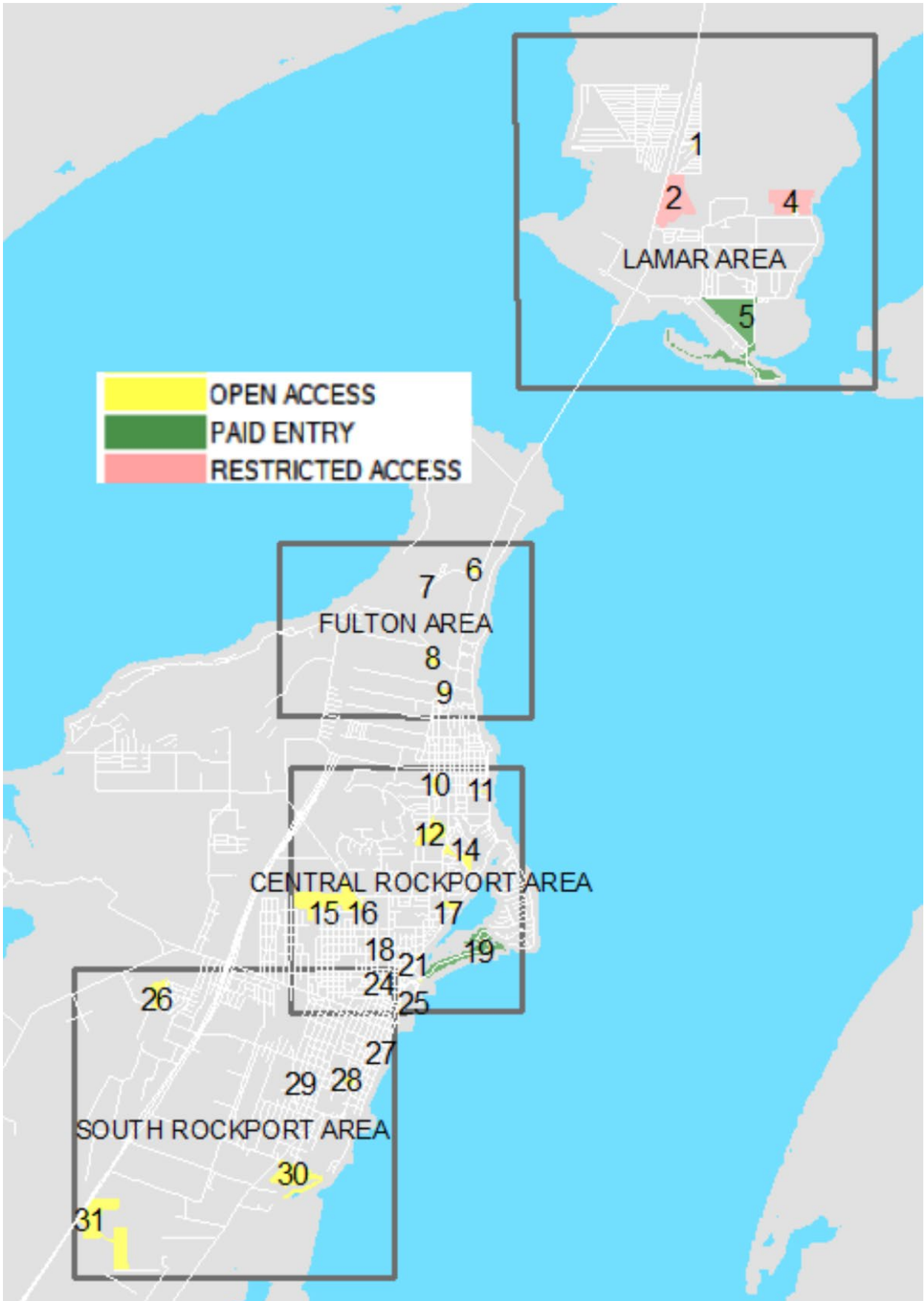
Park
Here

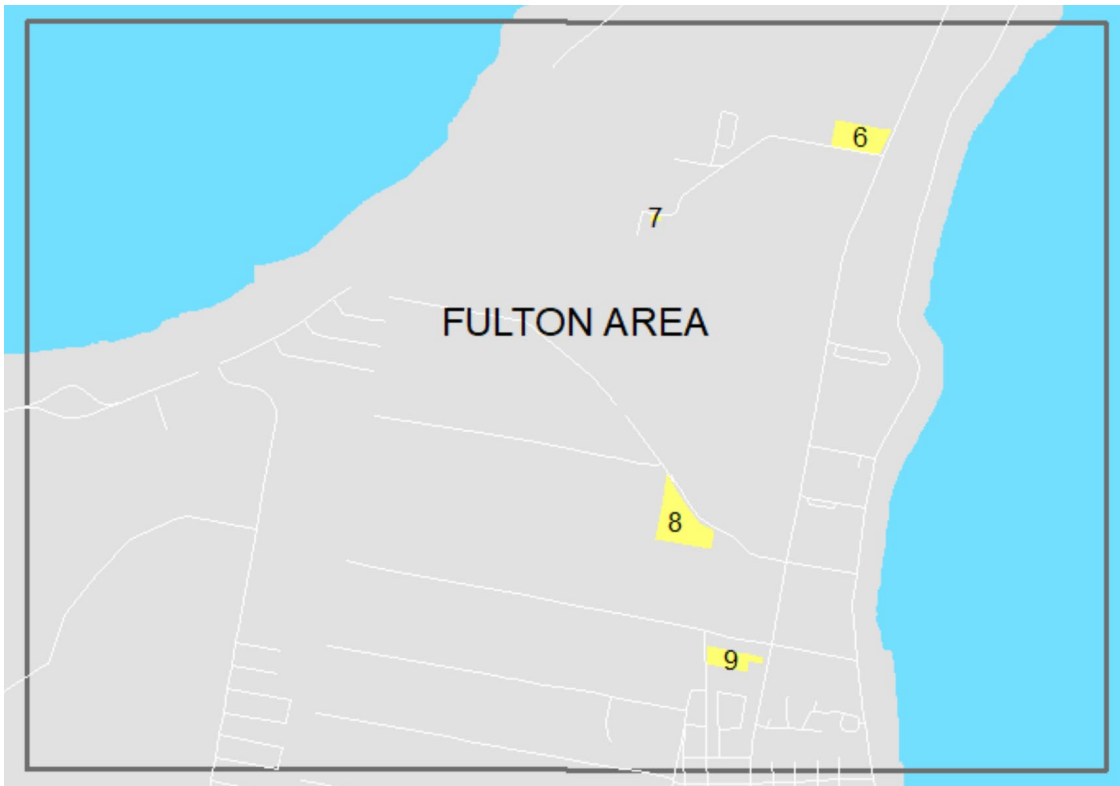
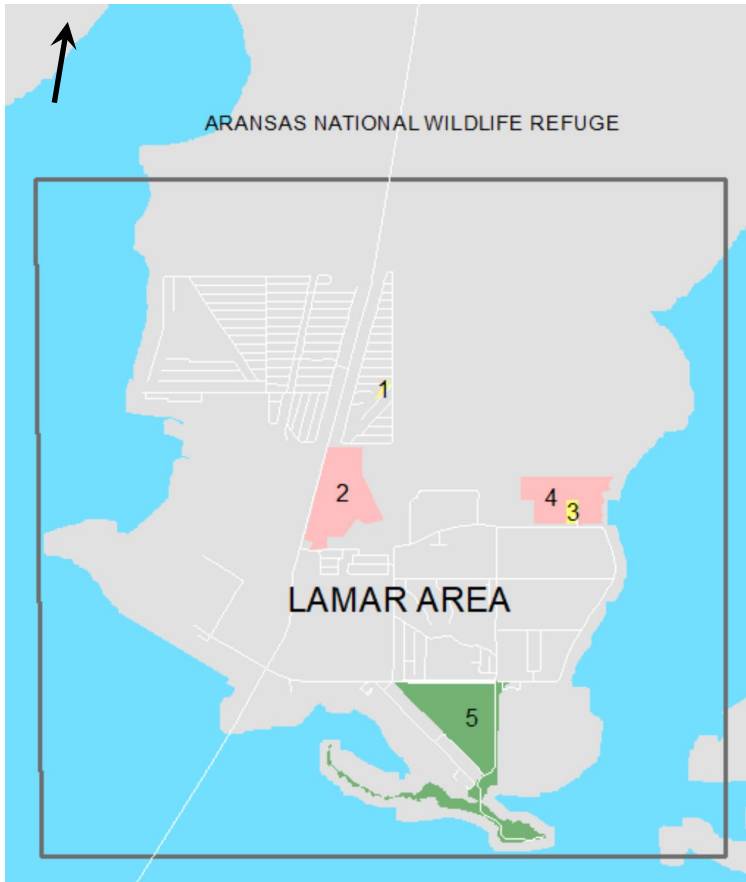
Entrance Gate
Walk In Here

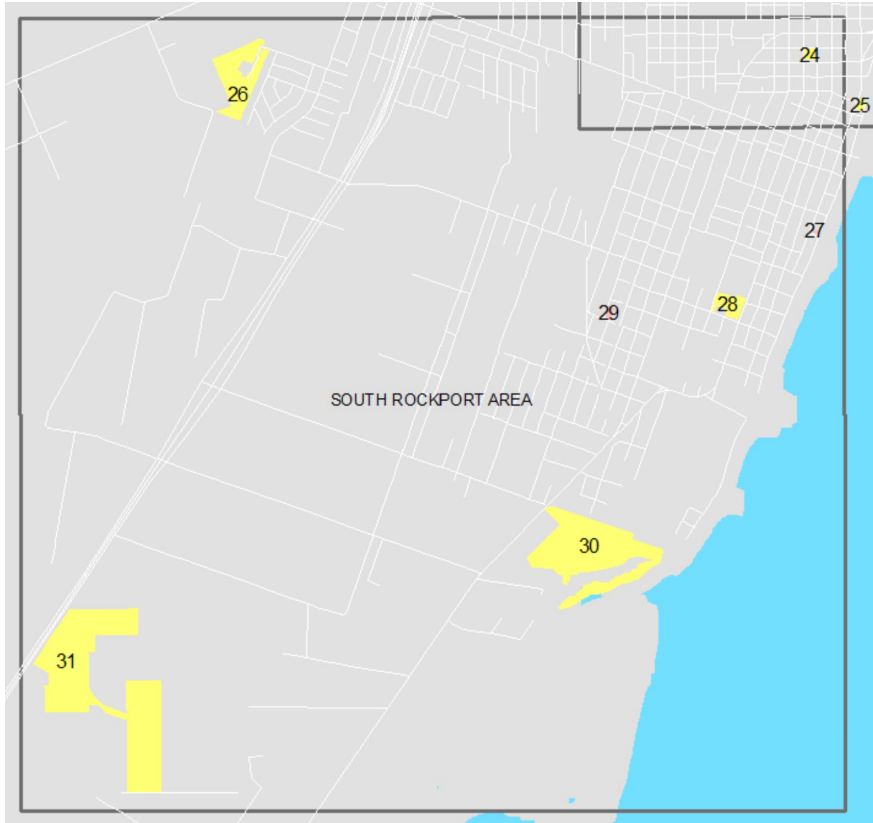
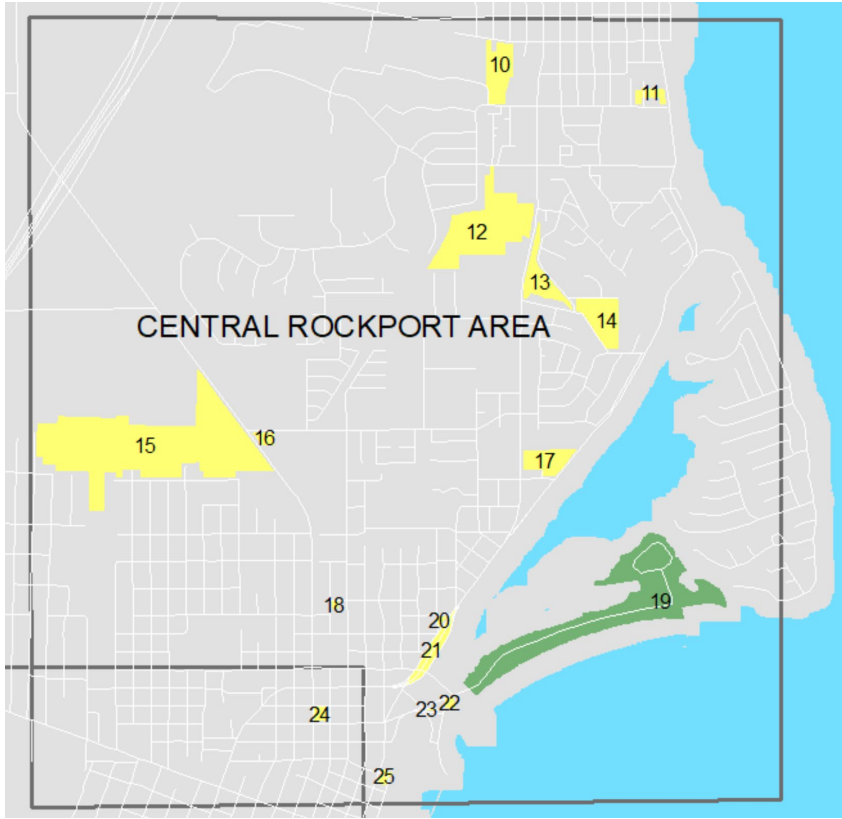
200 ft.

Picton Lane

Google Earth







SITE #

ARANSAS NATURE FEST SITE NAME and ADDRESS

-
- 1 HOLIDAY BEACH POND
209 Lakeview Drive on Lamar Peninsula
- 2 LAMAR BURTON WETLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (restricted access)
Approx. 200 Seaside Loop S. on Lamar Peninsula
- 3 BIG TREE
1600 W. 12th Street on Lamar Peninsula
- 4 BIG TREE NATURAL AREA (restricted access)
1600 W. 12th Street on Lamar Peninsula
- 5 GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK (paid entry)
202 S. Palmetto Street on Lamar Peninsula
- 6 ARANSAS COUNTY AIRPORT PRAIRIE
Approx. 220 John D. Wendell Road
- 7 ARANSAS COUNTY AIRPORT OFFICE
421 John D. Wendell Road
- 8 TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
892 Airport Road
- 9 LINDA S. CASTRO NATURE SANCTUARY
4041 Hwy 35
- 10 HENDERSON HABITAT PRESERVE
944 Henderson Street
- 11 FULTON MANSION STATE HISTORIC SITE
317 S. Fulton Beach Road
- 12 SHELLCRETE BIRDING AND NATURE SITE
2601 Business Hwy 35 N.
- 13 TULE MARSH EAST
2002 Tule Park Drive (across from Walmart)
- 14 ROCKPORT CEMETERY
2040 Tule Park Drive (entrance on Picton Lane)
- 15 MEMORIAL PARK
1601 FM 2165 (Pearl Street)
- 16 ROCKPORT POST OFFICE
1550 FM 2165 (Pearl Street)
- 17 BENT OAKS ROOKERY PARK
1902 E. Maple Street

- 18 HISTORY CENTER FOR ARANSAS COUNTY
801 E. Cedar Street
- 19 ROCKPORT BEACH PARK (paid entry)
210 Seabreeze Drive
- 20 COMPASS ROSE PARK
811 Business Hwy 35 N.
- 21 HWY 35 MEDIANS NEAR LITTLE BAY
Business Hwy 35 between E. Sabinal and E. Laurel Streets
- 22 BAY EDUCATION CENTER
121 Seabreeze Drive
- 23 OLD ART CENTER MEDIAN
Approx. 902 Navigation Circle (near Bay Education Center)
- 24 ARANSAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
701 E. Mimosa Street
- 25 ROCKPORT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
204 S. Austin Street
- 26 IVY LANE BIRDING SITE
499 Ivy Lane
- 27 931 WATER ST (private)
931 Water Street
- 28 CONNIE HAGAR COTTAGE SANCTUARY
1401 S. Church Street
- 29 WINGS RESCUE CENTER (restricted access)
324 W. Third Street
- 30 COVE HARBOR WETLANDS SANCTUARY
160 Cove Harbor N
- 31 ARANSAS WOODS WILDLIFE SANTUARY
820 Hwy 35 N.