

Anahuac *National Wildlife Refuge*



Refuge Rules

Visitor Access

The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset daily.

Visitors must stay on designated roads and trails.

Pets must be under control and on leashes at all times.

Camping, campfires, charcoal or wood-based fires, glass containers, and fireworks are prohibited.

Bicycles are permitted on designated roads only.

Off-highway vehicles are prohibited.

24-hour access is permitted only for individuals actively fishing along the East Bay shoreline, parking areas on Frozen Point Road, and at the East Bay boat ramp.

Any activity, other than those listed, or any commercial activity is prohibited unless approved by the refuge through a Special Use Permit.

Wildlife Observation and Photography

Collection of plants or animals, disturbing or feeding wildlife, playing recordings to attract wildlife, and drone use is prohibited.

Fishing

Fishing and crabbing are permitted in accordance with state regulations and subject to several conditions. Please contact refuge headquarters for a fishing information sheet.

Hunting

Hunting is permitted in certain areas of the refuge for designated species during designated dates. Hunters should contact refuge headquarters for a hunting brochure.

Introduction

Designated in 1963, Anahuac NWR provides and manages protected habitat for resident and migratory birds including waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, song birds, and raptors. The refuge contains over 37,000 acres of diverse coastal wetlands ranging from freshwater marsh to salt marsh that borders East Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. These habitats are home to an abundance of wildlife.

Six Things to Do at Your Refuge

Wildlife Observation and Photography

Between October and March, visitors to Anahuac NWR are likely to see approximately 31 species of waterfowl. Huge flocks of snow geese, sometimes in excess of 80,000, can be seen blanketing the marsh like a heavy layer of snow. During spring and fall, warblers and other songbirds can be found in small wooded areas, while wading birds take advantage of mudflats and shallow water in moist soil units. Shorebirds can be found at the south end of the refuge along Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

The refuge is also home to many species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Rabbits and raccoons can be commonly seen along the roadsides. Coyotes and bobcats can be seen in the early morning hours. Western ribbon snakes and American alligators are easily seen during the daylight hours basking on the water's edge. At night, the refuge comes alive with the croaks of American bullfrogs and Southern leopard frogs. For a more detailed list of animals, visit the information sections on our website.

Hunting

The refuge has three hunt units that offer seasonal access for waterfowl hunting: East Unit, Middleton Tract, and Pace tract. The East Unit is over 10,000 acres, the Middleton Tract is over 3,400 acres, and the Pace Tract is over 1,500 acres. These three hunt units provide ample hunting opportunities and have a rich tradition in waterfowl hunting dating back several generations. See our refuge hunting brochure for details on regulations.

Fishing

The refuge provides both freshwater and saltwater fishing opportunities. Some of the best wade fishing in Texas for speckled trout, red drum, and southern flounder can be found on the refuge shorelines along East Bay and south along Bolivar Peninsula. The Skillern Tract provides three fishing platforms and a bridge that offers fishing opportunities for freshwater species like crappie, largemouth bass, gar, bowfin, channel catfish, and blue catfish.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

The refuge hosts ample environmental interpretation and education opportunities from interpretive signs and kiosks to school aged programs and tours offered by our staff and volunteers. The Visitor Information Station and Visitor Center provide several interactive displays including an airboat simulator and a nature store. Refuge staff also host annual Jr. Ranger Day Camps and Game Warden Youth Camps.



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/



Mottled duck: © Joe Blackburn
Angler: © Steve Feldman
Birding: © Mike Arnold



Trails

- Cypress Trail** — 0.25-mile accessible trail at the Anahuac NWR Visitor Center (located north of the City of Anahuac) leading to a boardwalk over Lake Anahuac.
- Honeysuckle Trail** — 0.10-mile grass trail in the Skillern Tract ending in a peaceful knoll and fishing platform overlooking East Bay Bayou.
- Hackberry Trail** — 0.67-mile gravel trail offering two observation platforms that overlook moist soil units. The south platform is handicap accessible.
- Live Oak Trail** — 1.00-mile grass trail in the Skillern Tract paralleling the East Bay Bayou with a fishing pier and an accessible observation platform.
- Rookery Trail** — 0.24-mile accessible trail in the Skillern Tract crossing East Bay Bayou and winding through hardwoods to an observation platform.
- Shoveler Pond Auto Loop and Boardwalk Trail** — 2.64 mile auto tour surrounding a 220-acre freshwater impoundment offering visitors an opportunity to see wildlife up-close and hosts a 0.14-mile long accessible boardwalk with excellent sunrises.
- Willows Trail and Butterfly Garden** — 0.71-mile accessible trail starting at a pollinator garden and following a prairie leading to a freshwater marsh with willows.
- Woodlot Trail** — 0.12-mile paved trail in an isolated patch of live oaks featuring a bird blind for wildlife photography. A must-visit during spring and fall migration.

Directions

The Anahuac NWR Visitor Center (see map below) is located 2-miles south of I-10 and north of the City of Anahuac at 4017 FM 563 Anahuac, TX 77514.

To reach the refuge from the Anahuac NWR Visitor Center (north of the City of Anahuac), continue south on FM 563 for 4 miles until you reach a four-way stop in the City of Anahuac. Take a left onto Hwy 61 and drive east for 2 miles until you reach another four-way stop. Turn right onto FM 562 and continue south for 8 miles until the road splits. Bear left onto FM 1985 (Whites Ranch Road) and drive 4 miles until you reach the refuge entrance on your right.

There is a seasonally staffed information station and nature store located at (GPS: 29.6131883,-94.5338319) approximately 3 miles from the refuge entrance.

