

## Hours and Information

The Baytown Nature Center has been designated a special use area by the City of Baytown. It is open daily all year round except Christmas and Thanksgiving and during extreme inclement weather. Gates open 30 minutes before sunrise and close 30 minutes after sunset. Motor vehicles are allowed only on designated roads and in parking areas. The speed limit is 15 mph.

### Admission fees:

**Daily:** Adults—\$4; Children 5-12 & seniors—\$1

**Annual Pass:** Individual—\$30  
Family—\$65 (includes 6 adults)

**Free**—First Sunday of each month

### Ongoing Programs:

**Full Moon Hikes:** Saturday closest to full moon

**Nurture Nature Series:** First Saturday of each month, 10am-12 noon

**Nurture Nature Festival:** April 9, 2016; 10-4

**Tyke Hike:** Fridays, March-May and September-November, 10-11am

### Staff:

Superintendent of Natural Resource Programs:

Tracey Prothro

Naturalist: Christina Butcher

Interns: Mike Jaschek, Holly Hollingshead

Gate Attendants: Bill Martin, Merce Saldana, Epie Tucker, Rachael Turner and Stebbin Varner

The following activities are prohibited at the nature center:

- Pets, except guide dogs
- Alcoholic beverages
- Glass containers
- Fireworks, slingshots or bows and arrows
- Collection of natural objects
- Fires outside of grills
- Overnight camping except approved groups with reservations
- Motorized boating
- Model cars, boats, planes or other remote-controlled devices
- Sale of merchandise
- Fishing in natural areas



**The Baytown Nature Center**  
**6213 Bayway Drive**  
**Baytown, TX 77520**

Phone: 281-424-9198

Fax: 281-420-7142

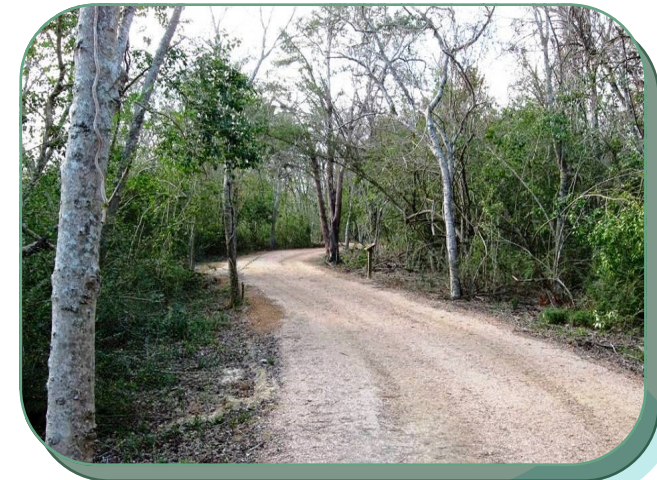
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[www.baytown.org](http://www.baytown.org)

Baytown Parks and Recreation Department

# The Baytown Nature Center

*Restoring, Protecting and Sustaining  
a Natural Environment*



**6213 Bayway Drive**  
**Baytown, TX 77520**  
**281-424-9198**

# The Baytown Nature Center

Welcome to the Baytown Nature Center, home to more than 300 species of birds and numerous species of butterflies, mammals and aquatic organisms. This 500-acre peninsula is an official site on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail and is designated a "U.S. Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy. In fact, several species of threatened and endangered birds rely on the area for migration, feeding or nesting. This makes the center a popular destination for bird-watchers. Visitors can also enjoy hiking, fishing and picnicking.



## History

The Baytown Nature Center, which is operated by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Baytown, was formerly the residential subdivision of Brownwood. Over the years, the land subsided due to the withdrawal of oil and groundwater, and the neighborhood suffered problems with flooding. In 1983, Hurricane Alicia struck the final blow, damaging many of the homes. During a community meeting in 1991 the idea arose to turn the area into a nature center. City officials seized the idea and began development of the Baytown Nature Center. Today, the site features picnic shelters, four fishing piers, two pavilions and two overlooks. It also includes the Crystal Bay Butterfly Garden, the Children's Nature Discovery Area and approximately seven miles of hiking trails.



Crystal Bay fishing pier



Wood Stork



Osprey

Bird Photos  
by  
Dwayne Litteer



Roseate Spoonbill



Children's Nature Discovery Area

## Environmental Significance

In the process of creating the Baytown Nature Center, the City of Baytown also restored a valuable part of the environment. The wetlands found at the center help control flooding and erosion and improve water quality by filtering out pollutants. In addition, wetlands provide feeding and breeding grounds for fish, shrimp, crab and a variety of other aquatic organisms. In fact, coastal wetlands are one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in existence.

## Education

The City of Baytown is committed to protecting this sensitive ecosystem and to educating others about the importance of wetlands. Thousands of students visit the nature center every year to participate in several award-winning programs designed to introduce them to a variety of hands-on environmental activities and concepts. The newest is *Back to the Bay* a program for high school science students. In addition, *Tyke Hike*, a pre-school program, is offered weekly during the spring and fall; *Full Moon Hike* and *Nurture Nature Series* present monthly programs for the entire family; The *Nurture Nature Festival* occurs annually in April; and Boy Scout and Girl Scout badge workshops are available year-round.

## Support

Programs and activities at the Baytown Nature Center are funded by the City of Baytown and through grants, donations, entry fees and memberships. Volunteers play a major role in making the nature center successful. Additional support comes from the Friends of the Baytown Nature Center, a nonprofit group that provides financial and hands-on support to the center. Their projects include designing and building trails, bridges, blinds, signage and other amenities plus the preservation and improvement of habitat.

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