Hours of Operation and Fees

- Open Daily
- 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (March 1 - Oct. 31)
- 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Nov. 1 - Feb. 28)
- Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day
- $5 per vehicle
- Season pass $60 per vehicle; valid Jan. 1 - Dec. 31; available at the gatehouse

Please Remember

- No pets are permitted, except for service animals
- No alcohol is allowed
- Portable toilets are located near the Pavilion and river parking areas
- All vehicles and equipment are permitted only on designated roads or parking areas
- Trails are for hiking only. No bicycles, horses, or motor vehicles of any kind. Bike rack available in Pavilion parking lot.
- Potable water is available in several campground locations
- Camping in designated areas only. No parking at camp sites; walk-in only.
- Fires allowed only in provided fire rings at rented camp sites
- Only use firewood provided in designated areas. Cutting or gathering wood is prohibited.
- No firewood from outside LLELA is allowed due to invasive insects
- Campground quiet hours are from 10 p.m. - 7 a.m.
- Fishing license required and enforced by Texas Game Wardens
- Nets of any kind are prohibited, including bait fish
- Don’t litter. Pack your trash back out when you leave to protect wildlife.

Trail Safety

- Remain on designated hiking trails
- Consult the map while hiking
- Always carry water
- Return to your vehicle by closing time
- Carry a cell phone for 911 emergencies
- Venomous cottonmouths and copperheads are present at LLELA and part of the native ecosystem. Respect snakes and all other wildlife by keeping your distance.

Visitors to LLELA can enjoy

- Hiking on more than six miles of trails
- Camping and fishing along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River
- Birding opportunities, including both migratory and resident species
- Paddling on the Elm Fork and the Beaver Pond Paddling Trail
- Renting the large pavilion area for picnics (reservation required)
- Visiting the 1870s log home
- Guided activities, including Night Hikes, Stars on the Prairie, Campfires, Bird Walks, Log Home Tours, Kayak Tours, Photo Safaris, Migration Bird-Banding Observation and more

Trail Descriptions

The Cottonwood Trail winds through wooded areas and prairie restorations-in-progress. The highlights are the Beaver Pond and the 1870s Minor-Porter Log House (guided tour schedule on website). Length: 1.3 miles

The Cicada Trail follows the historic channel of the Elm Fork through a hardwood forest. The channel is often dry, because the river was moved during Lewisville Dam construction, but does fill with rainwater and provides a temporary water source for wood ducks and other wildlife. Length: 0.3 mile (one way)

The Redbud Trail meanders through open grasslands and scattered woods to beautiful views of the Elm Fork. Herons, egrets, ospreys, turtles, and other wildlife are often seen. Length: 1.4 miles

The Bittern Marsh Trail takes hikers through a bottomland hardwood forest to Bittern Marsh. Boardwalks and two viewing blinds at the marsh give birders, photographers, and hikers great views of wetland wildlife. Length: 2.1 miles

The Blackjack Trail leads hikers through a Cross Timbers forest remnant dominated by post oak, cedar elm, and black jack oak to the Beaver Pond Paddling Trail parking lot. The trail route includes a number of prairie glades with native grasses and wildflowers. Hikers can choose to take a return spur to loop back to the trail’s beginning. Length: 1.5 miles

The Green Dragon Trail is named for a rare plant found in North Texas bottomland forests. LLELA’s population of Green Dragon (Arisaema dracontium) only blooms for a short time each April, but hikers can also enjoy bottomland forest views and abundant bird life on this connector trail between the Beaver Pond parking area and the Cottonwood Trail. Length: 0.25 mile

The Beaver Pond Paddling Trail is a route for kayakers/canoeists through an area rich with wildlife. A quiet paddler has great opportunities to view herons, egrets, ducks, turtles, frogs, deer and many other wildlife species. There are plenty of cool, shady areas in which to escape the sun on warm days, and the trail includes 12 stops at interpretive signs mounted at various locations in the pond to enhance your experience. Bring your own boat. Length: approximately 1.0 mile

LLELA.org
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