

Brazos Bend Junior Naturalist BOBCAT PATCH



Rev 5/21

First Name - _____ Age - _____ Date - _____

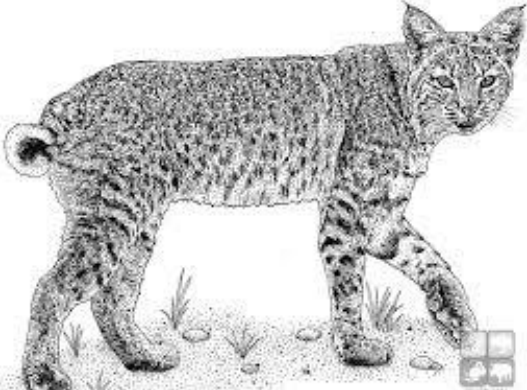
Funding provided by



The Brazos Bend State Park
Volunteer Organization

Hike the 40 Acre Lake Trail (1.2 miles all the way around).
Remember your drinking water!

- 🐾 When you come to the Observation Tower climb the stairs to the top.
- 🐾 At the top you are surrounded by 3 different ecosystems - a Swamp, a Marsh and a Lake. How are the three ecosystems different?



Look for the flood markers at the bottom of the Observation Tower.

List the 3 years the floods occurred: _____,
_____ & _____.

- 🐾 Read the information panel about "Brazos River Floods".

What is one of the benefits of floods? _____

- 🐾 Hike down the Spillway Trail towards Elm Lake (1.2 miles round trip)
Look for the "Family Life of Alligators" panel.

Why do male alligators bellow? _____
 What determines the gender of hatchling alligators? _____
 What animals might prey on hatchling alligators? _____

- 🐾 As you hike down the Spillway Trail towards Elm Lake, check off the animals you see along the way:

Wading Bird _____ Alligator _____ Turtle _____ Spider _____ Lizard _____
 Dragonfly _____ Snake _____ Butterfly _____ Frog _____ Perching bird _____
 Hawk _____ Fish _____ Bee or Wasp _____ Duck _____ Human _____



MORE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK



✿ Continuing down the Spillway Trail soon you will arrive at Elm Lake.



When you arrive, take a break and sit on the bench. You've hiked about 1 mile since you left 40 Acre Lake parking lot. Enjoy the view over Elm Lake.

✿ Look for the "Monarch of the Marsh" panel at Elm Lake.

Other than alligators what animals might live in "gator holes"? _____

What is the alligator eating in the picture on the panel? _____

Out of 100 alligator hatchlings how many are likely to survive? _____

✿ From here you can hike back to 40 Acre Lake parking lot or continue for 1.7 miles around the Elm Lake Trail.



✿ What is your favorite animal that lives at Brazos Bend State Park?

What do you like best about it? _____

What ecosystem does it live in? _____

Can you name one adaptation that it has to help it survive? _____

What is its "Niche", role or job in nature? _____

Would this animal make a good pet? _____ Why? _____

✿ Try to draw a picture of your favorite animal.

✿ What is something you could do to help protect Brazos Bend State Park and other natural places? _____
