

Paddling the Coastal Bend – Off the Marked Trails

Introduction to the Area

The Coastal Bend of the mid Texas Coast is blessed with many miles of coastal shoreline and inlets and wooded creeks and rivers. Moderate weather makes year round paddling possible and enjoyable except during storm events whose duration is usually only days. This paper describes several of those opportunities.

In addition to paddling, the regions' location on the Central Flyway provides opportunities to bird, both from the kayak and onshore. And kayak fishing is becoming increasingly popular!

San Antonio Bay Partnership

The San Antonio Bay Partnership (SABP -- www.sabaypartnership.org) is a regional, stakeholder-based organization working to "protect, restore and enhance the natural resources and human uses of the San Antonio Bay/Guadalupe Estuary System."



As part of efforts to enhance human use and enjoyment of our area waters, SABP is promoting establishment of additional paddling trails – and this listing is an intermediate step toward that goal. Each has public access at entry and takeout.

Marked Trails

Four trails in the mid Texas Coast are part of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Paddling Trail System and each is described at <http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails> :

1. The Victoria Paddling Trail – Inland Trails/Gulf Coast
2. Goliad Paddling Trail - Inland Trails/Gulf Coast
3. Guadalupe Valley Paddling Trail (Cuero) - Inland Trails/Gulf Coast
4. Port O'Connor Paddling Trail – Coastal Trails

Additionally, SeaGrant Texas has built a trail system near Indianola. Details can be found at

<http://www.stxmaps.com/go/alamoindianolamagnolia-beach-kayak-trails.html>

Paddling Safety and Ethics

Safety Issues

Key to the safety and enjoyment of paddling is attention to the weather conditions. Wind is the biggest hazard. The Coastal Bend is subject to periodic strong winds: southerly in the spring and summer and northerly in the winter and spring. Lightning can also pose a threat; you should not venture out when lightning storms are about.

The following link provides seasonal weather trends for Victoria:

<https://weatherspark.com/averages/31881/Victoria-Texas-United-States>.

Wind direction and strength statistics by month as well as typical temperature highs and lows are included.

For current weather conditions and forecast Victoria (zip 77905):

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=28.7747&lon=-97.0791#.WHqgFn16Cz8>

Coastal versions can be obtained for Port O'Connor (zip 77982) or Seadrift (zip 77983) or Port Lavaca (zip 77979).

The weather can change rapidly, especially from northers in Fall through Spring, so pay attention to the forecast. Getting caught out by a strong norther can be life threatening.

Also, current tidal conditions and forecasts are available at:

<http://tidesonline.noaa.gov/geographic.html>. Generally speaking, tides above 1 foot will allow you to paddle throughout the coastal area, and those below 0.0 feet (sea level) may require you to pull your kayak across occasional shallow spots.

Paddling speed varies based on experience, weather conditions and the kayak chosen. Paddling into a head wind will be significantly slower. Without assists from river current, an experienced paddler can average 2 miles and hour in moderate wind conditions, and is likely twice as fast as less experienced paddlers. Keep track of your time and location so that you can estimate your paddling speed. If you are out in the Spring, Summer and early Fall, prevailing winds will be in your face on the way out; with a tail wind allowing a quicker return if you are doing a coastal loop. In the Winter, late Fall and early Spring, northers can cause a sudden wind shift and a head wind for the return.

Regardless of the forecast, it recommended that you always take the following gear:

1. Requisite life jacket and whistle
2. Paddling shoes that can handle a river bank, oyster shells and mud
3. Hats, sunglasses and sunscreen
4. Rain jacket
5. Extra bottles of water and extra snacks
6. Mosquito repellent
7. A charged and water protected cell phone with Coast Guard's contact number or VHF radio on USCG Channel or the County Sheriff's contact info.
 - US Coast Guard Port O'Connor 361-983 4313, (361) 983-2617 or 2616
 - Victoria County Sheriff's Department-Victoria (361) 575-0651
 - Calhoun County Sheriff's Department – Port Lavaca 361-553-4646
 - Jackson County Sheriff's Department - Edna 361-782-3541
 - Refugio County Sheriff's Department-Refugio (361) 575-0651
8. A map of the paddling route
9. Leave route and schedule with a friend

Another potential hazard is interaction with power boats. Power boat traffic is most busy on summer or holiday weekends, and much less so on weekdays in non-summer months. Remember, the kayak trail is not exclusively for the use of paddlers. In particular, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway can be very busy with industrial barge traffic, fisherman and others in power boats, and with sail craft. So be careful and be courteous: look both ways before entering power boat channels and paddle on the side of the boat channel where you can. If paddling in groups, stay in single file in the narrow parts of the boat channel.

Trash

Plastics and trash are a plague on our natural systems. Do your part to lessen its impact:

- If you packed it in, pack it out! There is no municipal trash service in these rural areas, so take it back home.
- Leave the place cleaner than you found it! Yes, others may trash the place and you are not their mother. But it won't get better unless you do your part. Treat these places like your front yard.

Private Property

Respect private property by not trespassing or littering and keeping noise levels down. This river is classified as navigable, which permits public use of the streambed and, if necessary, the banks to portage any hazard. Any other use of private river banks without permission of the landowner can be considered trespassing. Under Texas Penal Code (§30.05), criminal trespass occurs when one enters property after receiving notice not to enter. Notice includes verbal notice, a fence, sign(s), purple paint on posts or trees, or the visible presence of crops grown for human consumption.

Other Reference Materials

1. *Kayaking the Texas Coast* by John Whorff, Texas A&M University Press. See page 55 for Matagorda Bay to Northern San Antonio Bay.
2. *Paddling the Guadalupe* by Wayne McAllister – Texas A&M University Press, College Station, www.tamu.edu/uppress
3. *A Naturalist Guide to Matagorda Island* by Wayne and Martha McAlister -- University of Texas Press, Austin

Discussion of unmarked paddling trails

1. Seadrift Guadalupe River Trail Page 5
2. Guadalupe River Delta Trails Page 7
3. Austwell Hynes Bay Trail Page 9
4. Powderhorn Ranch Shoreline Page 11
5. Chocolate Bay Page 14
6. Garcitas Creek – Barrett Park to Six Mile Page 17
7. Lavaca River - H616 to Point Comfort / Lakes- to be developed Page 19
8. Coletto Creek Reservoir Marina to H 622 – to be developed Page 20
9. San Antonio River – Goliad South Page 21
10. Guadalupe River between Guadalupe Valley (Cuero)and Victoria Trails Page 23

1. Seadrift - Guadalupe River

Test your skill and fitness on the final leg of the Texas Water Safari!

Distance: 12 miles

Time: 4-6 hours

Difficulty: For Experienced Paddlers given exposure to wind and waves in Guadalupe and San Antonio Bays and the remoteness of the area (opportunities to abort paddle are limited).

Put in: Calhoun's Riverside RV Retreat, 125 Haeber Lane, Tivoli, Tx 77990 off Hwy 35; 361-550-7536; Calhoun@calhounsrvretreat.com .

Launch Fee required. Cement small boat ramp; plenty of parking; restroom available.

Take – out: Seadrift Bayfront Park 699 W Bay Avenue, Seadrift Tx 77983

Cement small boat ramp; plenty of parking; public restrooms 2 blocks away.

Discussion: Scenic float down the last 6 miles of the Guadalupe River as it empties in to Guadalupe Bay, then an effortful paddle across Guadalupe Bay and into San Antonio Bay to nice city Park. Observe alligators; birds on wooded River and Bay.

Alternate Loop:

Distance: 8 miles

Time: 3-4 hours

Difficulty: Intermediate to experienced, depending on river and weather conditions

Put in and Take-out: GDWMA off River Road.

Limited use permit required by TPWD—available wherever fishing licenses sold.

Bank launch; limited roadside parking; no amenities.

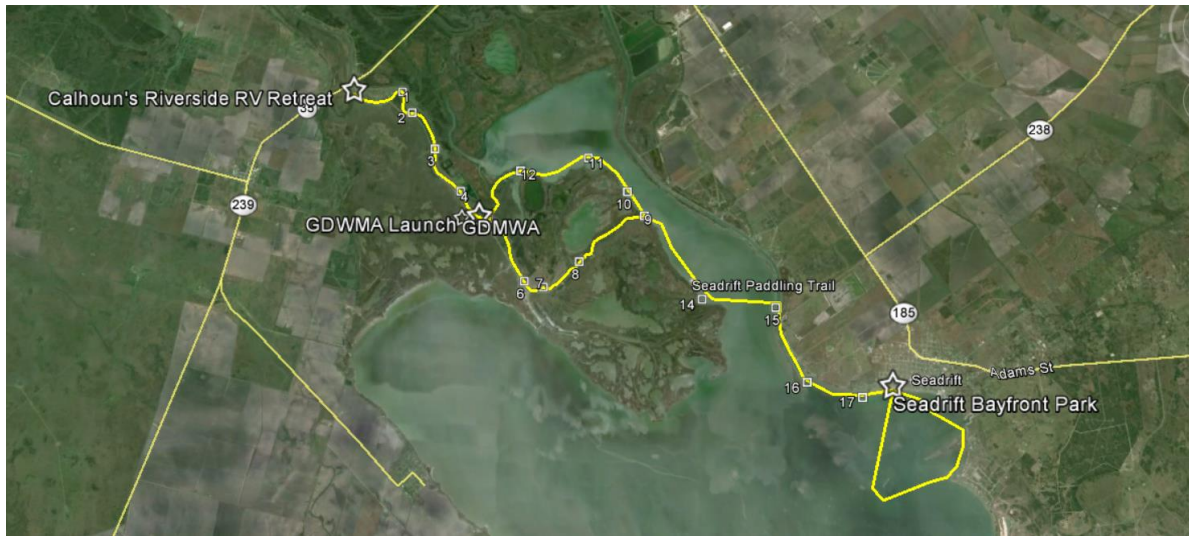
Discussion: launch is several hundred yards upstream from Traylor's Cut. With a southerly wind, suggested route is to stay in River to its mouth, looping back with the wind in Guadalupe Bay and Mission Lake into Traylor' cut and back to start. If wind is from the north, the route can be reversed.

Hazards and Risks:

Wind and waves, particularly strong southerly winds can make Guadalupe Bay and San Antonio Bay very difficult.

Alligators frequently observed in the River—give them lots of room.

Remoteness: Places to bail if trouble develops are limited. There is limited development on River Road and boat traffic can be light. Don't start unless you know you can finish.



Way points (Disclaimer- extracted from Google Earth; consider as approximate)

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Calhoun's RV Park	Start	28.476537°	-96.861589°
1 Bend North	0.9	28.476499°	-96.848943°
2 Pipeline Crossing	1.4	28.471470°	-96.846200°
3 Pipeline Crossing	2.1	28.462856°	-96.839901°
4 GDWMA Launch	3.5	28.446955°	-96.827618°
5 River Right; Traylor's Cut Left	3.7	28.446542°	-96.825346°
6 County River Bridge	4.9	28.432198°	-96.815957°
7 Bend East	5.2	28.430879°	-96.811071°
8	6.0	28.436730°	-96.802034°
9 River Mouth	7.3	28.447400°	-96.785454°
14 Bayou Mouth	9.0	28.428341°	-96.770788°
15 Guadalupe Bay East Shoreline	10.0	28.426584°	-96.752179°
16 Victoria Barge Canal	11.4	28.409962°	-96.744722°
17 SA Bay Shoreline	12.3	28.406696°	-96.730991°
Seadrift Bay Front Park	12.8	28.408907°	-96.723243°
Mission Lake Loop (from GDWMA):			
4 GDWMA Launch	0	28.446955°	-96.827618°
5 River Right; Traylor's Cut Left	.2	28.446542°	-96.825346°
6 County River Bridge	1.4	28.432198°	-96.815957°
7 Bend East	1.7	28.430879°	-96.811071°
8	2.5	28.436730°	-96.802034°
9 River Mouth	3.8	28.447400°	-96.785454°
10 Guadalupe Bay	4.3	28.453000°	-96.789840°
11	5.2	28.460910°	-96.799969°
12	6.3	28.457752°	-96.817514°
13	7.0	28.452465°	28.452465°
5	7.4	28.446542°	-96.825346°
4 GDWMA Launch	7.6	28.446955°	-96.827618°

2. Guadalupe Delta

Paddle Texas Bayous—see Big Gators!

Distance: out and back – up to 4 miles one way

Time: 1-4 hours

Difficulty: For intermediate level paddlers; generally protected from wind and waves and currents.

Remote—only one access point

Put in: Public Boat Ramp at Hog Bayou, east of Tivoli and the Guadalupe River bridge .

Cement boat ramp; plenty of parking; no amenities.

Take – out: Out and Back

Discussion: Scenic wooded freshwater bayous fed by River during flood conditions. Opportunities to observe alligators, gar, and birds.

Several out and back paddles of varying lengths. Paddle one or all:

Hog Bayou North – 4 miles one way—up bayou toward the River, past the freshwater diversion channel that supplies water for Port Lavaca. Continue north until the bayou ends or is blocked by vegetation

Hog Bayou South- 1 mile one way – down the bayou into the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area toward Mission Lake, until the bayou is blocked by vegetation or gators.

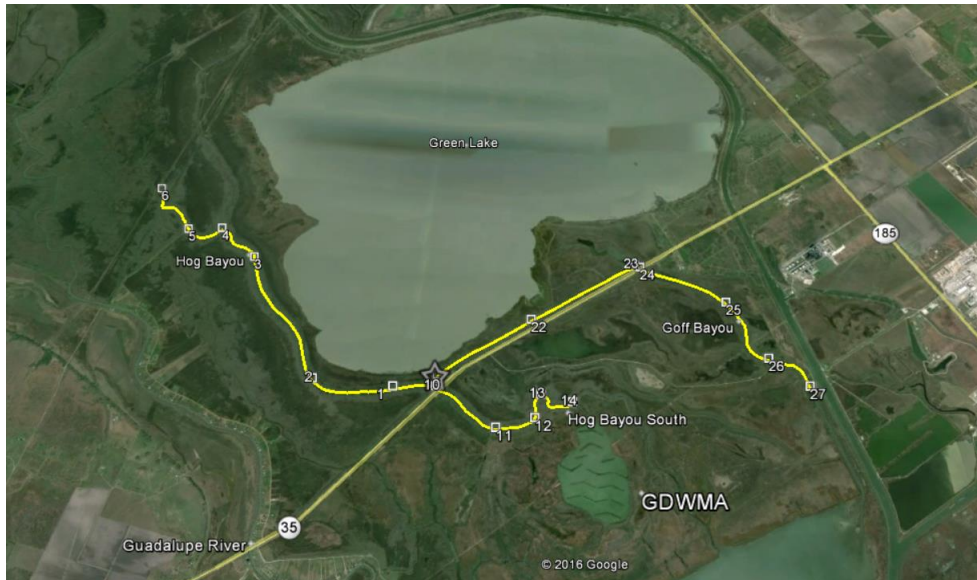
Goff Bayou, - 3 miles one way—east along the freshwater diversion channel, the south in Goff Bayou to the saltwater barrier.

Note that Green Lake is **not** accessible by the Bayous.

Hazards and Risks:

Big alligators frequently observed in the Bayous—give the lots of room.

Remoteness: Places to bail if trouble develops are limited. There is no and boat traffic can be light.



Hog Bayou North

Point	Mileage – 1 way	Latitude	Longitude
Hog Bayou Ramp	0.0	28.496408°	-96.843272°
1	0.3	28.496083°	-96.848469°
2	1.0	28.496977°	-96.858514°
3	2.2	28.512352°	-96.868410°
4 Invasive Bayou	2.7	28.516282°	-96.873428°
5 GRBA Water Canal	3.0	28.516132°	-96.877880°
6 Turnaround	3.5	28.521875°	-96.882756°

Hog Bayou South

Hog Bayou Ramp	0.0	28.496408°	-96.843272°
10 H35 Bridge	0.1	28.496126°	-96.843178°
11	0.6	28.491344°	-96.835558°
12	0.9	28.492488°	-96.830871°
13	1.1	28.495230°	-96.830193°
14	1.4	28.494359°	-96.826306°

Goff Bayou

Point	Mileage – 1 way	Latitude	Longitude
Hog Bayou Ramp	0.0	28.496408°	-96.843272°
21 GBRA Water Canal	0.1	28.496126°	-96.843178°
22	1.0	28.504358°	-96.831733°
23 Goff Bayou	1.9	28.511565°	-96.818402°
24 H35 Bridge	2.0	28.511225°	-96.817741°
25	2.7	28.506690°	-96.806797°
26	3.3	28.499688°	-96.801922°
27 GBRA Water InTAKE	3.7	28.496355°	-96.797118°

3. Austwell Hynes Bay

Hynes Bay Shoreline, past the Delta and on to Seadrift– Birds and Redfish tails!

Distance: 12 miles to Seadrift

Time: 4-6 hours

Difficulty: For experienced paddlers given the exposure to strong southerly winds and waves

Put in: Public Boat Ramp at Austwell.

Cement boat ramp; plenty of parking; porta pottys.

Take – out: Seadrift Bayfront Park 699 W Bay Avenue, Seadrift Tx 77983

Cement small boat ramp; plenty of parking; public restrooms 2 blocks away.

Discussion: Shoreline paddle with opportunities to see shore birds and tailing redfish. Final stretch is open water across Guadalupe and San Antonio Bays.

Out and Back option from Austwell: paddle shoreline to Delta, then back west across Hynes Bay – 11 miles

Alternate Route

Put in at: Public Boat Ramp at Austwell.

Cement boat ramp; plenty of parking; porta pottys.

Takeout : the Beach bluff near ANWR Fishing Pier.

Parking, Picnic area, restrooms, and fishing pier available.

Note: seasonal restrictions apply in winter due to endangered whooping cranes – check with Refuge.

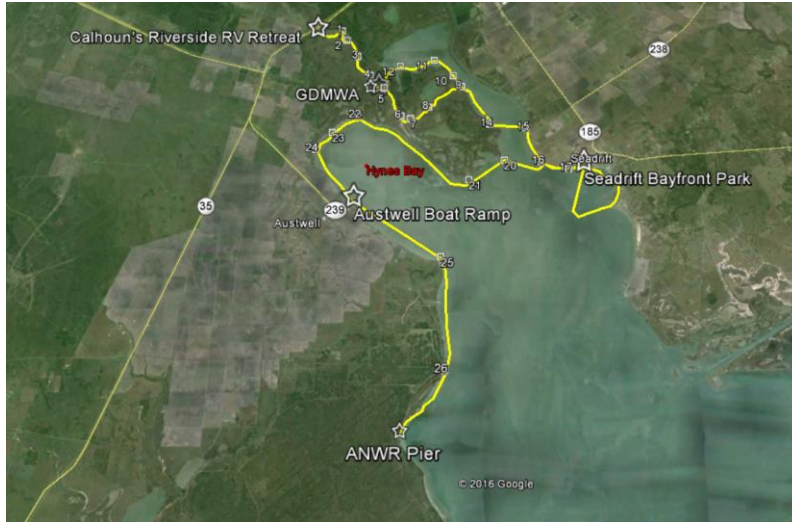
Distance: 9 miles to Austwell

Time: 3-4 hours

Hazards and Risks:

Exposure to strong winds and waves can make paddling difficult. Moderate north winds in winter offer a more protected shoreline for Hynes Bay.

Austwell – Hynes Bay Trail (including intersection with Seadrift Trail)



Austwell to Seadrift via Hynes Bay Shoreline

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Austwell Boat Ramp	0.0	28.391340°	-96.837225°
24	2.1	28.415385°	-96.858559°
23	2.9	28.423664°	-96.850413°
22	3.8	28.432242°	-96.837995°
21	8.1	28.400987°	-96.780837°
20	9.4	28.410588°	-96.763256°
16	10.7	28.409962°	-96.744722°
17	11.5	28.406696°	-96.730991°
Seadrift Bayfront Park	12.0	28.408907°	-96.723243°

Austwell Hynes Bay Loop

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Austwell Boat Ramp	0.0	28.391340°	-96.837225°
24	2.1	28.415385°	-96.858559°
23	2.9	28.423664°	-96.850413°
22	3.8	28.432242°	-96.837995°
21	8.1	28.400987°	-96.780837°
Austwell Boat Ramp	11.5	28.391340°	-96.837225°

Austwell to ANWR Pier

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Austwell Boat Ramp	0.0	28.391340°	-96.837225°
25	3.2	28.365085°	-96.793655°
26	6.7	28.316096°	-96.790519°
ANWR Pier	8.8	28.290746°	-96.809895°

4. Powderhorn Ranch Shoreline

Paddle the Shoreline of the soon to be State Park and understand why it's special!

Distance: 12.3 miles point to point

Time: 4-6 hours

Difficulty: For Intermediate to Experienced Paddlers given exposure to wind and waves in Matagorda Bay shore and the remoteness of the area (opportunities to abort paddle are limited—it's a long walk out since the Park is not yet open).

Put in: Boggy Bayou Nature Park- north end of 3rd Street in Port O'Connor, Tx 77982. Sand roads, launch and parking; no facilities.

Take – out: FM 1289 Bridge across Coloma Creek, between Port Lavaca and Port O'Connor. Bank launch, roadside parking in ROW.

Discussion: Interesting paddle along shoreline, in shallow water. Opportunity to see dolphin and fish and lots shore birds; and perhaps exotic deer on the shore.

Hazards and Risks: Matagorda Bay shore can be windy and rough, especially from north or east winds. There are minimal opportunities to abort the paddle since the Park is not yet open to the public. Emergency exit available at Indianola, but that is a long way from your vehicles at FM1289.



Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Boggy Launch	0	28.458310°	-96.415540°
MB1	0.5	28.464585°	-96.418119°
MB2	1.6	28.475466°	-96.430116°
MB3	2.6	28.484750°	-96.443357°

MB4	4.1	28.498330°	-96.461870°
MB5	5.6	28.507724°	-96.484020°
Indianola Marina	6.0	28.511594°	-96.488245°
Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Indianola Marina	0	28.511594°	-96.488245°
PL 11	0.1	28.510731°	-96.488378°
PL 10	0.4	28.505410°	-96.489369°
PL 9	2.7	28.494725°	-96.504434°
PL 8	4.2	28.477115°	-96.517170°
PL 7	4.6	28.475294°	-96.524987°
PL 5	6.6	28.479358°	-96.555994°
PL 6	7.0	28.474141°	-96.555636°
Coloma Creek Launch	7.1	28.473749°	-96.556279°

Boggy Bayou Option

Paddle up this gem of a coastal marsh on edge of town. Ideal for beginners; experienced paddlers will be pleasantly surprised!

Distance: over 3 miles one way; turn around anytime

Time: 2-4 hours

Difficulty: Ideal for beginners. Protected waters and no boat traffic.

Put in: Boggy Bayou Nature Park- north end of 3rd Street in Port O'Connor, Tx 77982. Sand roads, launch and parking; no facilities.

Take – out: same

Discussion: Interesting paddle west along shoreline of the Boggy Lake into the Creek. Continue on for over 3 miles. Opportunity to see lots shore birds and perhaps exotic deer on the shore.

Hazards and Risks: Alligators and snakes in the area. Give them lots room. As name implies, can be very muddy if you try to walk.

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Boggy Launch	0	28.458310°	-96.415540°
BB1	.3	28.455030°	-96.418694°
BB2	1.1	28.452611°	-96.429139°
BB3	1.7	28.447625°	-96.435767°
BB4	2.3	28.443411°	-96.444763°
BB5	2.6	28.441353°	-96.448724°
BB6	2.8	28.439589°	-96.450384°
BB7	3.2	28.435894°	-96.455029°

Coloma Creek Option

Paddle west up the Creek into this less traveled coastal marsh. Ideal for intermediate to experienced paddlers.

Distance: over 4 miles one way; turn around anytime

Time: 2-6 hours

Difficulty: Moderate difficulty given remoteness and potential exposure to winds.

Put in: FM 1289 Bridge across Coloma Creek, between Port Lavaca and Port O'Connor. Bank launch, roadside parking in ROW.

Take – out: same

Discussion: Interesting paddle west up Coloma Creek and several broad coastal marshes. Continue on for over 4 miles. Opportunity to see fish in the shallow water, lots shore birds and perhaps exotic deer on the shore.

Hazards and Risks: The Creek and its lakes are mostly shallow and muddy. Low tides can reduce the amount of paddle-able water. Winds can make the trip back effortful. Remote.

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Coloma Creek Launch	0	28.473749°	-96.556279°
CC1	0.5	28.467970°	-96.559479°
CC2	1.6	28.462304°	-96.572446°
CC3	2.2	28.459248°	-96.580758°
CC4	2.5	28.454970°	-96.583231°
CC5	3.0	28.460721°	-96.586212°
CC6	3.6	28.465821°	-96.594013°
CC7	4.2	-96.594013°	-96.603954°

5. Chocolate Bay

See Skimmers on shell spit or paddle up a coastal creek.

Distance: 5-11 miles

Time: 2-6 hours

Difficulty: Paddling across the Bay in windy conditions should be considered by experienced paddlers only. But Chocolate Bayou and the wind protected shorelines in the Bay offer a protected place for novices to improve their skills.

Access sites:

Little Chocolate Bayou Park – launch off the bank near the Outdoor Classroom. The bank is low and the creek bottom firm. Restrooms and picnic areas are available in the County's Park. Paddle 0.6 miles down the bayou into Chocolate Bay.

The entrance to the County Park is located off FM 238/W Austin Street in Port Lavaca at latitude 28.598310° / longitude 28.598310°.

H238 Boat Ramp on Chocolate Bayou – launch at cement small boat ramp, plenty of parking but no amenities. Paddle down the Bayou into Chocolate Bay or upstream.

Harbor of Refuge Boat – this cement ramp offers a shorter route to the birds on the shell spit, or the opportunity for point to point paddle.

Paddle 'out and back' or 'point to point' from the access sites.

Discussion: Chocolate Bay offers excellent birding, fishing and paddling. It is a large cove off Lavaca Bay. The estuary is formed by Chocolate Bayou draining the area from the north and west.

The bay is lined by smooth cord grass, has a long shell spit that attracts shore birds, and high shrub coved brush. Chocolate and Little Chocolate Bayous are tree lined in spots, but this is mostly coastal flood plain.

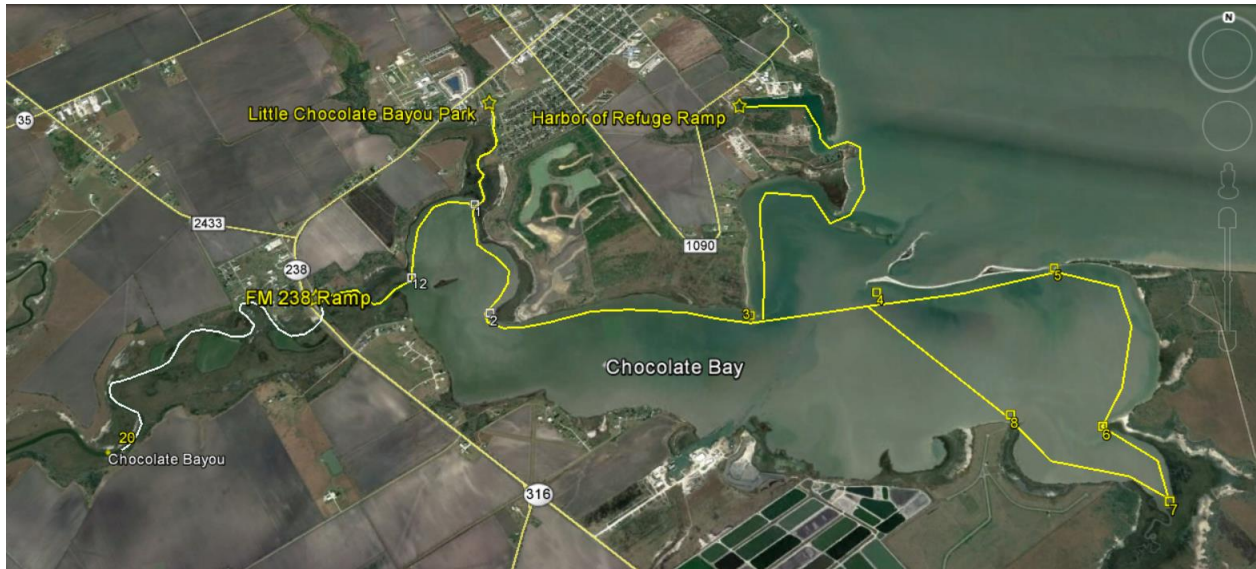
Several paddling options exist to explore this area:

1. Shell Spit offers close up birding by paddling quietly to the south of the spit. It can be paddled from the Little Chocolate Bayou Park (roundtrip about 8 miles), H 238 Boat Ramp (a couple of miles further), or from the Harbor with a 5 mile roundtrip
2. East Chocolate Bay Shoreline- continue south around the East Bay shoreline to another small creek that enters the Bay from the southwest. Explore it but be observant—this looks like gator country. The shoreline trail to the creek and loop back to the Shell Spit would add about 3 miles.
3. Chocolate Bayou – paddle up the creek. Its nearly 7 miles to H35 if you are ambitious—or turnaround after a couple of miles

Hazards and Risks:

- Wind and weather off the biggest risk. While a small bay, strong winds make paddling the Bay problematic.
- Beware of alligators, especially in the Bayous and creeks.
- Bottom conditions in the bay and bayous can range from firm to knee deep mud. Footwear that will stay on is essential.
- An industrial harbor lies on the southwest side of the bay. Avoid the area where old dredging pipe is moored.

Map



Virtual Markers and Coordinates:

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Little Chocolate Bayou Park	0	28.594502°	-96.639665°
1	0.7	28.586132°	-96.639793°
2	1.3	28.577963°	-96.637684°
3	2.5	28.578440°	-96.619287°
4	3.1	28.580438°	-96.610232°
5	3.8	28.582688°	-96.597238°
6	4.9	28.571783°	-96.595848°
7	5.3	28.567276°	-96.592429°
8	5.9	28.572134°	-96.600712°
4	6.7	28.580438°	-96.610232°
Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
FM 238 Ramp	0	28.578392°	-96.650150°
12	.5	28.580322°	28.580322°
1	1.5	28.586132°	-96.639793°

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
FM 238 Ramp	0	28.578392°	-96.650150°
20	1.8	28.568696°	-96.660490°

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Harbor of Refuge	0	28.594910°	96.619881°
3	2.3	28.578440°	-96.619287°

6. Garcitas Creek

Paddle this picturesque creek at the back end of Lavaca Bay.

Distance: 12 miles

Time: 4-6 hours

Difficulty: For Intermediate to Experienced Paddlers given exposure to wind and waves in Lavaca Bay.

Put in: Jackson County's Bennett Park. Concrete boat ramp and parking , or launch from bank in the Park. Rustic park, and picnic area; no other facilities.

or, Boat Ramp at H 616 (3 miles closer to Six Mile) . Concrete Boat ramp or sandy bank launch. Ample parking, but no facilities.

Take – out: Six Mile Boat Ramp and park; Cement small boat ramp; plenty of parking; picnic area; no other facilities.

Discussion: Scenic float down the last 6 miles of the Guadalupe River as it empties in to Guadalupe Bay, then an effortful paddle across Guadalupe Bay and into San Antonio Bay to nice city Park. Observe alligators; birds on wooded River and Bay.

Hazards and Risks: Lavaca Bay can be windy and rough. Indeed, the paddle down the creek into a strong south wind can be effortful (minimal current under normal conditions). Consider starting at Six Mile to take advantage of south wind. Caution: motor boats use the Creek!

Garcitas Upstream Alternative

Paddle this north up this picturesque creek. Picnic at the Park.

Distance: up to 5 miles one way. Turn around any time.

Time: 2-6 hours

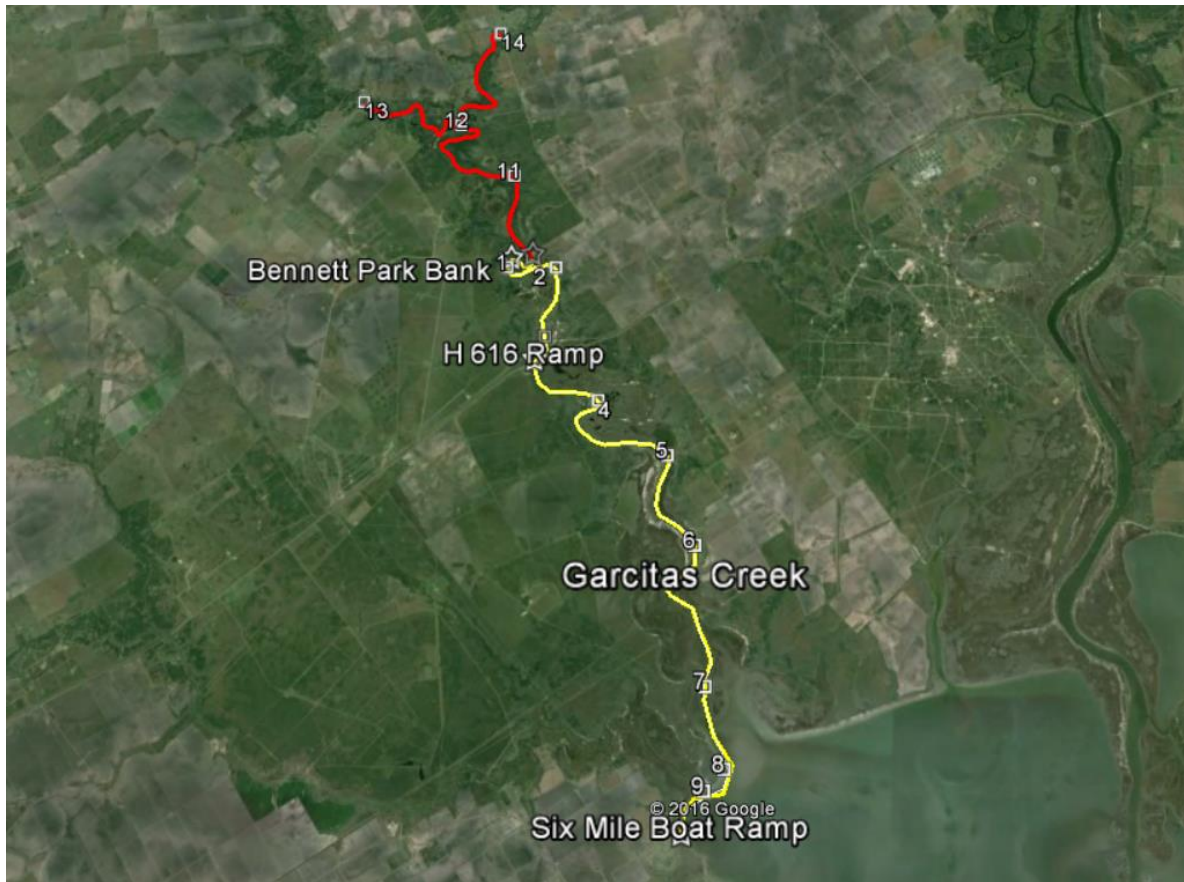
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Put in: Jackson County's Bennett Park. Concrete boat ramp and parking, or launch from bank in the Park. Rustic park and picnic area; no other facilities.

Take – out: same

Discussion: avoid the wind by paddling up this wooded creek. Opportunities to see lots of birds!

Hazards and Risks: watch / listen for boat traffic. Banks are private property. Creek narrows and is can be blocked by fallen trees. **It is not recommended to attempt to launch or take out at the County Roads.**



Garcitas Creek Virtual Markers and Coordinates

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Bennett Park Ramp	0.0	28.797816°	-96.705493°
1 – Big Bend	0.5	28.796230°	-96.706359°
2	1.3	28.796571°	-96.695892°
3 County Rd to East	2.3	28.782764°	-96.697218°
H 616 Ramp	2.7	28.777985°	-96.698849°
4	3.8	28.770767°	-96.685081°
5 Lake to East	5.6	28.760835°	-96.670057°
6 LaSalle private ramp	7.0	28.744362°	-96.663534°
7 at Cut to East	9.2	28.719239°	-96.660243°
8 Lavaca Bay	10.2	28.705149°	-96.655889°
9 at mouth of Placedo Creek	10.6	28.701318°	-96.659762°
Six Mile Ramp	11.3	28.777997°	-96.698998°

Garcitas Creek Upstream

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Bennett Park Ramp	0.0	28.797816°	-96.705493°
11	1.3	28.815023°	-96.706434°
12 Fork in Creek	3.3	28.825230°	-96.719007°
13 CR 444	up to 5.3	28.829383°	-96.740953°
14 CR 325	up to 5.4	28.845235°	-96.711960°

7. Lavaca River--- Being developed!

Distance:

Time:

Difficulty:

Put -in:

Takeout:

Discussion:

Hazards and Risks:

Map

Coords

8. Coletto Creek Reservoir---Being developed!

Distance:

Time:

Difficulty:

Put -in:

Takeout:

Discussion:

Hazards and Risks:

Map

Coords

9. San Antonio River, south of Goliad

Remote, high banked River; feel like you are back in time.

Distance: 19 miles

Time: 6-9 hours

Difficulty: For Experienced Paddlers given the remoteness and potential for log jams.

Put in: Goliad State Park (takeout for marked Goliad Trail). Bank launch; improved parking. Facilities available back in main Park area.

Take – out: Duke Bridge Ranch Road, south of Goliad. Steep bank launch; dirt road and parking. No facilities.

Discussion: The SA River south of Goliad is a relatively small river. It has steep banks along much of the route that make exits problematic. Occasional sand bars provide opportunity to break. The river has many opportunities for log jams to develop. See bald eagles, deer, feral hogs, longhorn cattle, kingfishers, hawks and songbirds - and no people.

Hazards and Risks: Remote. Banks are private property until the public road crossing. River is strewn with fallen trees and opportunities for log jams to develop is high. High banks make exit difficult.

Alternative: Continue on to JNF Campground

There is more of this unique paddle!

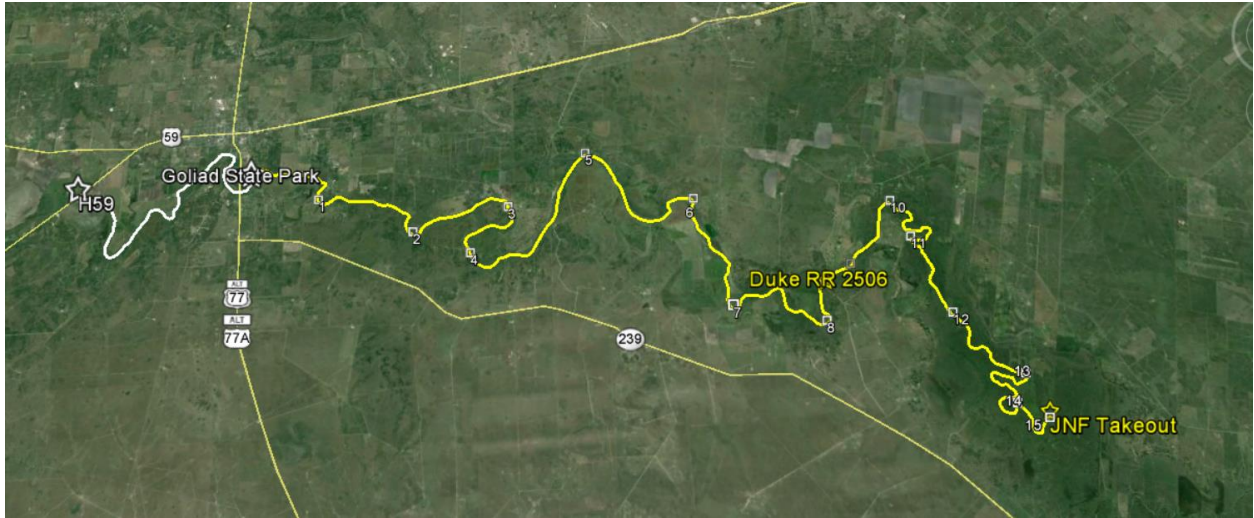
Difficulty: For Experienced Paddlers given the remoteness and potential for log jams.

Put in: Duke Bridge Ranch Road, south of Goliad. Steep bank launch; dirt road and parking. No facilities.

Take – out: JNF Campground at 6464 San Antonio Road. 361-550-4603; jnfcampground@gmail.com

Discussion: The next 11 miles are similar to the stretch above with more high banks and increased opportunities for log jams. The reward can be camping at the riverside at this great spot (or, RV sites are available well away from the River). You must make arrangements with the campground to leave your shuttle vehicles and to be sure the takeout is boldly marked (it a long way to the next takeout and you don't want to float past!)

Hazards and Risks: Remote. Banks are private property until the public road crossing. River is strewn with fallen trees and the opportunity for log jams to develop is high. High banks make exit difficult.



Goliad State Park to Duke Bridge Ranch Road

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Goliad State Park	0	28.652661°	-97.381589°
1	2.1	28.645296°	-97.361142°
2	4.4	28.634261°	-97.332853°
3	6.4	28.640126°	-97.304870°
4	8.0	28.627221°	-97.315968°
5	11.5	28.655272°	-97.281321°
6	14.6	28.639597°	-97.249741°
7	17.0	28.608343°	-97.241147°
8	19.3	28.602630°	-97.215141°
Duke Bridge Road	20.1	28.612910°	-97.213854°

Duke Bridge Ranch Road to JNF Campground

Point	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Duke Bridge Road	0	28.612910°	-97.213854°
9	0.6	28.617954°	-97.205954°
10	2.3	28.635685°	-97.191377°
11	4.1	28.624887°	-97.187159°
12	5.8	28.602903°	-97.179055°
13	7.7	28.585620°	-97.161946°
14	9.9	28.578169°	-97.166070°
JNF Takeout	10.9	28.574833°	-97.157773°

10. Guadalupe River – between Guadalupe Valley (Cuero) Trail the Victoria Trail

Remote, undeveloped River with cypress trees frequently along the bank.

Distance: 26 miles

Time: 3-5 mph ; 8-5 hrs

Difficulty: For Experienced Paddlers given the remoteness and lack of bail-out points.

Put in: FM 236 Bridge, River Haven RV Park (fee) or Thomaston River Road.

Take – out: River Haven RV Park(fee), Thomaston River Road or FM 447.

Discussion: The Guadalupe River is tree-lined and undeveloped on this 26 mile stretch. Cypress trees frequent the bank. During lower water several small rapids add a little excitement to the trip. Occasional islands and sand bars provide opportunity to break. Paddle it slow and stay at the RV Park; or paddle it all at once.

Hazards and Risks: Remote. Banks are private property until the access points at public road crossing or at the RV Park.



Access Point	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
FM 236	0	29.051326°	-97.265080°
River Haven	10	29.028299°	-97.184260° 351 Crestview Drive, Cuero, Tx 77954
Thomaston River Road	17	28.974948°	-97.187646°
FM 447	26	28.897289°	-97.138549°