

# Armand Bayou Nature Center

Armand Bayou Nature Center protects one of the largest remaining tracts of tallgrass prairie in the Galveston Bay region and one of the last remaining unchannelized bayous draining Harris County. It's location within the densely populated suburbs of Houston makes it the perfect spot to "reconnect with nature", one of ABNC's primary goals.

**LOCATION:** Armand Bayou is near Clear Lake, Texas about 25 miles southeast of Houston.

**SIZE:** 1133 ha (2800 acres)



Least Bittern

**HABITAT:** ABNC lies in a biological transition zone between the southern mixed hardwood forest, coastal prairie, and coastal salt marshes with 2500 acres of upland habitat and 300 acres of bayou habitat including tallgrass prairie, coastal flatwood forest, natural bayou and marshes. The Discovery Loop interpretive trail provides a half-mile accessible tour along boardwalks and gravel paths through the forest, prairie and marshes, live animal displays and educational signage, past bison and prairie overlook platforms, through butterfly, rainsmart and heritage gardens and a restored 1890's farm site. Additionally, over five miles of developed hiking trails and a ten mile paddle trail provide public access to the upland and bayou habitats.

**BIRDS:** ABNC is home to more than 370 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Over 220 species of birds reside there or rely on the Nature Center as a safe resting place on their long migratory journeys. ABNC lies along the largest migratory bird route in North America, the Central Flyway. Visitors can hear the melody of songbirds including warblers, flycatchers, orioles, and Painted Buntings as well as the cry of birds of prey such as Osprey, owls, kites, and hawks. The restored prairie landscape now provides regular sightings of Eastern Meadowlark, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher,

Barn Swallow, Sedge Wren, Le Conte's Sparrow and Loggerhead Shrike. The rebounding marshes now offer glimpses of Sora, Wood Duck, Mottled Duck, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Least Bitterns.

**CONSERVATION:** ABNC has restored over 700 acres of prairie habitat, removing invasive plants and replacing them with native grasses and forbs and has restored over 21 acres of marsh lands along bayou shorelines that were previously lost to subsidence.



**Site Partner:**  
Armand Bayou  
Nature Center

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