

# Sea Rim State Park

Sea Rim's estuarine environment serves as an important nesting area for various marsh birds and provides an initial stopover for migratory species traveling the Central Flyway.

**LOCATION:** Sea Rim State Park is located on the upper Texas Gulf coast in southeastern Jefferson County on State Highway 87, 10 miles west of the town of Sabine Pass or 22 miles from Port Arthur.

**SIZE:** 1,677 ha (4,141.1 acres)

**HABITAT:** Sea Rim State Park is one of the few areas on the Texas coast located on the Chenier Plain, an expanse

of broad marsh prairies separated by higher ridges. The majority of the Park consists of marsh

wetlands dominated by cordgrass, cane, and other grasses and sedges. The Willow Pond

Trail is located in a small grove of black willows, salt cedars, and other

small trees. The D. Roy Harrington Beach Unit includes 5.2 miles of sandy Gulf coast beachfront and grassy dunes.



**BIRDS:** Located just inland from the Gulf of Mexico, the wooded area surrounding Sea

Rim's Willow Pond Trail provides a primary stopover point for many migratory birds during the spring and fall; the spring migration (mid-March through mid-April) is particularly spectacular. The Willow Pond trail is one of the best places on the Texas coast to see Cape May Warbler in the spring. During the late spring and summer, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, and occasional Cave Swallow nest in the beams under the elevated Visitors' Center at the D. Roy Harrington Beach Unit. Sea Rim's Gulf beachfront provide ample space for viewing gulls, terns, pelicans, plovers, sandpipers, and various other shorebirds. Herons, egrets, ibis, rails, and Roseate Spoonbill can be viewed most of the year from the Park's Gambusia Nature Trail. Nelson's Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows can be seen among the marsh grasses and Blue-winged Teal and other waterfowl in the marsh estuaries during winter.

**CONSERVATION:** Park staff maintains Sea Rim State Park and its facilities. Wildlife and natural resources are protected according to standards established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. Controlled burns held in conjunction with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service help maintain the marsh prairies, allowing valuable nutrients trapped in old growth plants to return to the soil and encourage new growth. One primary conservation threat is the tremendous amount of ocean-borne trash that washes up on the park's beachfront. Park staff counters this threat through continual beach raking and litter collection, as well as through biannual Adopt-A-Beach Cleanups sponsored by the General Land Office. A secondary threat comes from activity associated with the petroleum industry; although no sites are located on park grounds there are several in close proximity.



## Site Partner:

Sea Rim State Park

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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### WEBSITE:

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