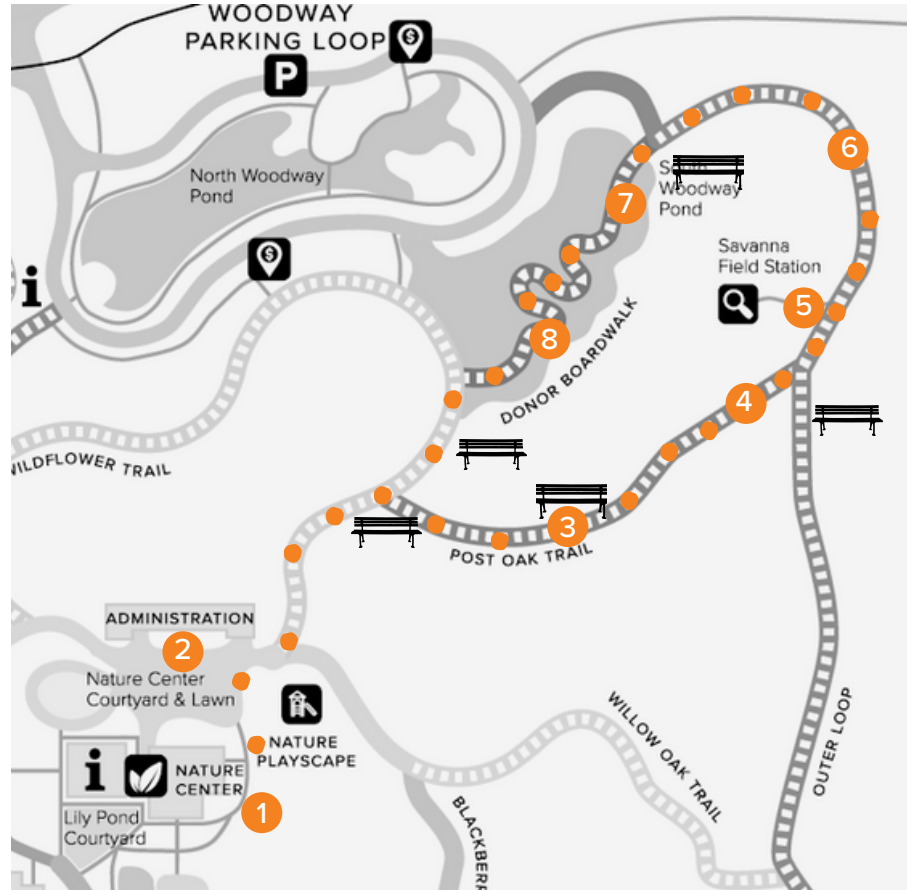


ACCESSIBILITY HIKE



Accessibility in the Outdoors

The Houston Arboretum believes nature should be accessible for everyone. The goal of this trail is to provide an educational outdoor experience for all. This trail is short, the surface is made of materials that are wheelchair accessible, and it offers a few areas with shaded benches where visitors can rest.

About the Hike

This self-guided, accessible hike is 1/2 mile in length. The trail consists of boardwalks, decomposed granite trails, metal grates, and paved concrete. The hike includes several different points of interest where you can engage your senses while you explore different ecosystems.



1 Sensory Garden

The sensory garden is a small area between the Nature Playscape and the Nature Center building. The garden has plants that you can smell, touch, or even taste. Use the mallet to bang on the flower bells to hear some nature-themed sounds.

2 Courtyard and Butterfly Statue

Between the Nature Center Building and the Administration Building is a paved courtyard with a butterfly statue and a Pollinator Garden full of native flowers. These wildflowers are buzzing with insects. Take a moment to explore this beautiful area.



3 Metal Grates

Along the first section of the trail you will notice a metal grate. The grates are placed over low-lying areas called dimples. During rain events, water will collect in these lower areas, creating a temporary water source for local wildlife. Look for evidence of their visits like muddy tracks and crawfish chimneys.

4 *The Savanna*

As you continue through the savanna, notice the abundance of wildflowers and grasses growing here. The lack of trees and canopy means there is very little shade available. Can you feel the warmth of the sun on your skin? Wildlife in the savanna can include birds of prey, voles, cotton rats, snakes, lizards, and many insects.

5 *Savanna Field Station*

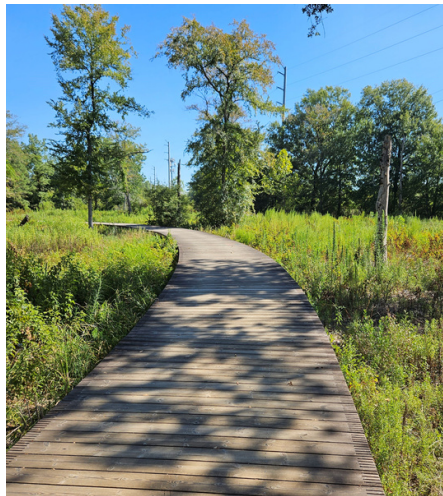


The Savanna Field Station is a great place to rest while you learn about the different plants and animals living here, as well as the conservation efforts used to keep this habitat healthy. Take a seat in the shade if you need to; you are just about halfway done with your hike.

6 *Savanna Boardwalk*

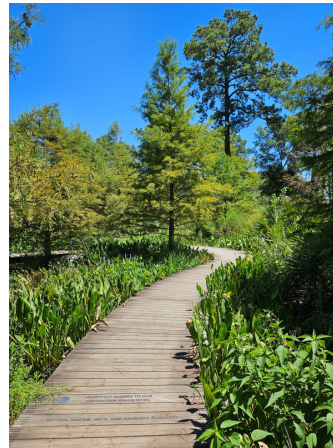
Venture along the wide, elevated boardwalk that takes you through a large section of savanna. Along the boardwalk, you will see several standing dead trees, or snags. Snags provide a place for birds of prey to rest or search for their next meal.

The bright orange trumpet flowers growing on the snags are a favorite of hummingbirds. Listen for the creaking of the wooden planks under your feet and humming of dragonflies as they zip around.



7 *South Woodway Pond*

Take the Donor Boardwalk around the edge of the savanna. The boardwalk goes through our South Woodway Pond. Keep an eye out for insects and aquatic wildlife like turtles, frogs, and birds. Thank you to the kind donors who support the Arboretum's mission.



8 *Bald Cypress Tree*

One of the species of trees that you can find growing in the pond is the bald cypress. They have unique aquatic roots that stick up out of the water. These roots can be a hunting ground for different animals like frogs and lizards.

At the end of the boardwalk, turn left and head back towards the Nature Center Building. There are additional benches along the way if you need a rest.

Become a member, volunteer,
and sign up for events at:

www.houstonarboretum.org

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