A man and a woman are riding mountain bikes on a forest trail. The man is in the background, wearing a green shirt and a white helmet. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a red jacket and a grey helmet. They are both looking towards the camera. The trail is covered in fallen leaves and surrounded by trees.

Whether you've got the whole family biking a gentle paved path along the lake or you're a thrill seeker on a marathon ride with adventurous friends in the wilderness, there's a state park trail for you. Here are a few of the best parks in Texas to explore on two wheels.

# 10 PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES

*By Dale Blasingame*







PHOTO BY TPWD


# BENTSEN-RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK

## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES


This birder's paradise is mostly smooth sailing on paved roads. The wildlife viewing makes it a "bucket list" kind of excursion for visitors from around the world. Bike with a ranger (guided tour program) on Thursday mornings.


 [Map and directions](#)

 2800 S. Bentsen Palm Dr  
Mission, TX 78572

 Latitude: 26.186987  
Longitude: -98.381888

 [Online reservations](#)

 (956) 584-9156

 Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \$5 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)






PHOTO © ERICH SCHLEGEL


# BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK


## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES


If you're made of tough stuff, head west for 200+ miles of rocky trails at Big Bend Ranch. Where else can you have the desert to yourself? The park is home to the Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest and to one of only two International Mountain Bicycling Association "Epic" rides in Texas.


## Map and directions

 1900 Saucedo Ranch Rd  
Presidio, TX 79845

 Latitude: 29.418054  
Longitude: -103.989751

 Phone reservations  
(512) 389-8919

 (432) 358-4444

 Entrance Fees  
Adult (Peak): \$5 Daily  
Adult (Non-peak) : \$3 Daily  
Child 12 and Under : Free

 Visit park website






PHOTO BY CHASE FOUNTAIN / TPWD


# BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK

## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES


Twenty-one miles of trails await you, around the lake and through the hardwood forest. The Elm Lake Loop affords the best opportunity to see the park's amazing array of wildlife on your ride, including alligators, river otters, bobcats and more than 300 bird species.


 [Map and directions](#)

 21901 FM 762  
Needville, TX 77461

 Latitude: 29.371000  
Longitude: -95.631921

 [Online reservations](#)

 (979) 553-5101

 Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \$7 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)






PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM / TPWD


# CEDAR HILL STATE PARK

## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES


Mountain bikers designed this trail for themselves, so it's no surprise that the twists and turns and climbs and descents of the 12-mile DORBA (Dallas Off Road Bicycle Association) Trail are considered some of the state's best. Ride the trails clockwise; hikers do the opposite.


 [Map and directions](#)

 1570 West FM 1382  
Cedar Hill, TX 75104

 Latitude: 32.621721  
Longitude: -96.979087

 [Online reservations](#)

 (972) 291-3900

 Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \$7 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)






PHOTO © LAURENCE PARENT


# FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK




## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES


Practically in the heart of El Paso, you'll find some of the most rugged trails in Texas. There are more than 100 miles of trails, from easy-to-pedal jeep roads to steep single-track. Carry water and a cellphone and bring a friend — it's remote.


 [Map and directions](#)

 1331 McKelligon Canyon Rd  
El Paso, TX 79930

 Latitude: 31.842388  
Longitude: -106.486444

 [Online reservations](#)

 (915) 566-6441

 Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \$5 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)





PHOTO BY CHASE FOUNTAIN / TPWD

# GOVERNMENT CANYON SNA




## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES

This mountain biking haven on the northwest side of San Antonio offers extensive trails in the Backcountry for a rocky challenge. The Frontcountry has trails suitable for beginners or for a warm-up ride. The park is open Friday through Monday.


 **Map and directions**

 **12861 Galm Rd**  
San Antonio, TX 78254

 Latitude: 29.549316  
Longitude: -98.764715

 **Online reservations**

 **(210) 688-9055**

 **Entrance Fees**  
Adult Day Use: \$6 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 **Visit park website**






PHOTO BY TPWD


# LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK

## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES


The Lake Mineral Wells Trailway is a 20-mile stretch of reclaimed railroad bed that's now a gently curving, relatively flat trail connecting Weatherford and Mineral Wells. Another 13 miles of biking trails can be found inside the park; hikers and equestrians share these trails with you.


 [Map and directions](#)

 100 Park Road 71  
Mineral Wells, TX 76067

 Latitude: 32.812655  
Longitude: -98.043368

 [Online reservations](#)

 (940) 328-1171

 Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \$7 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)






PHOTO © LAURENCE PARENT


# PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK

## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES

The breathtaking second-largest canyon in the country offers a biking-only trail (Capitol Peak Trail). The trail to the landmark Lighthouse formation ends with a steep hike, and the 15-mile Palo Duro Canyon Cruise through the park on the paved road includes an uphill ride back to the park entrance.


 [Map and directions](#)

 11450 Park Road 5  
Canyon, TX 79015

 Latitude: 34.984677  
Longitude: -101.7018083

 [Online reservations](#)

 (806) 488-2227

 Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \$5 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)





PHOTO BY TPWD

# RAY ROBERTS LAKE STATE PARK



## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES

The park's beloved Greenbelt Corridor spans 20 miles through the shady woods along the Elm Fork Branch of the Trinity River, from Lake Lewisville to the Ray Roberts Dam. Other areas of the park feature 23 miles of multi-use trails.

[Read more about this park](#)

[Map and directions](#)

[100 PW 4137  
Pilot Point, TX 76258](#)

[Latitude: 33.365671  
Longitude: -97.012150](#)

[Online reservations](#)

[\(940\) 686-2148](#)

[Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \\$7 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free](#)

[Visit park website](#)






PHOTO BY CHASE FOUNTAIN / TPWD


# TYLER STATE PARK

## PARKS TO RIDE BICYCLES

Great fall color, a spring-fed lake, a serene pine forest and 10 miles of biking trails make this park popular with mountain bikers. Well-marked, varied trails (mostly single-track, rarely overcrowded) offer plenty of climbs and descents.


 [Map and directions](#)

 789 Park Road 16  
Tyler, TX 75706

 Latitude: 32.482180  
Longitude: -95.283396

 [Online reservations](#)

 (903) 597-5338

 Entrance Fees  
Adult Day Use: \$6 Daily  
Child 12 and Under: Free

 [Visit park website](#)



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