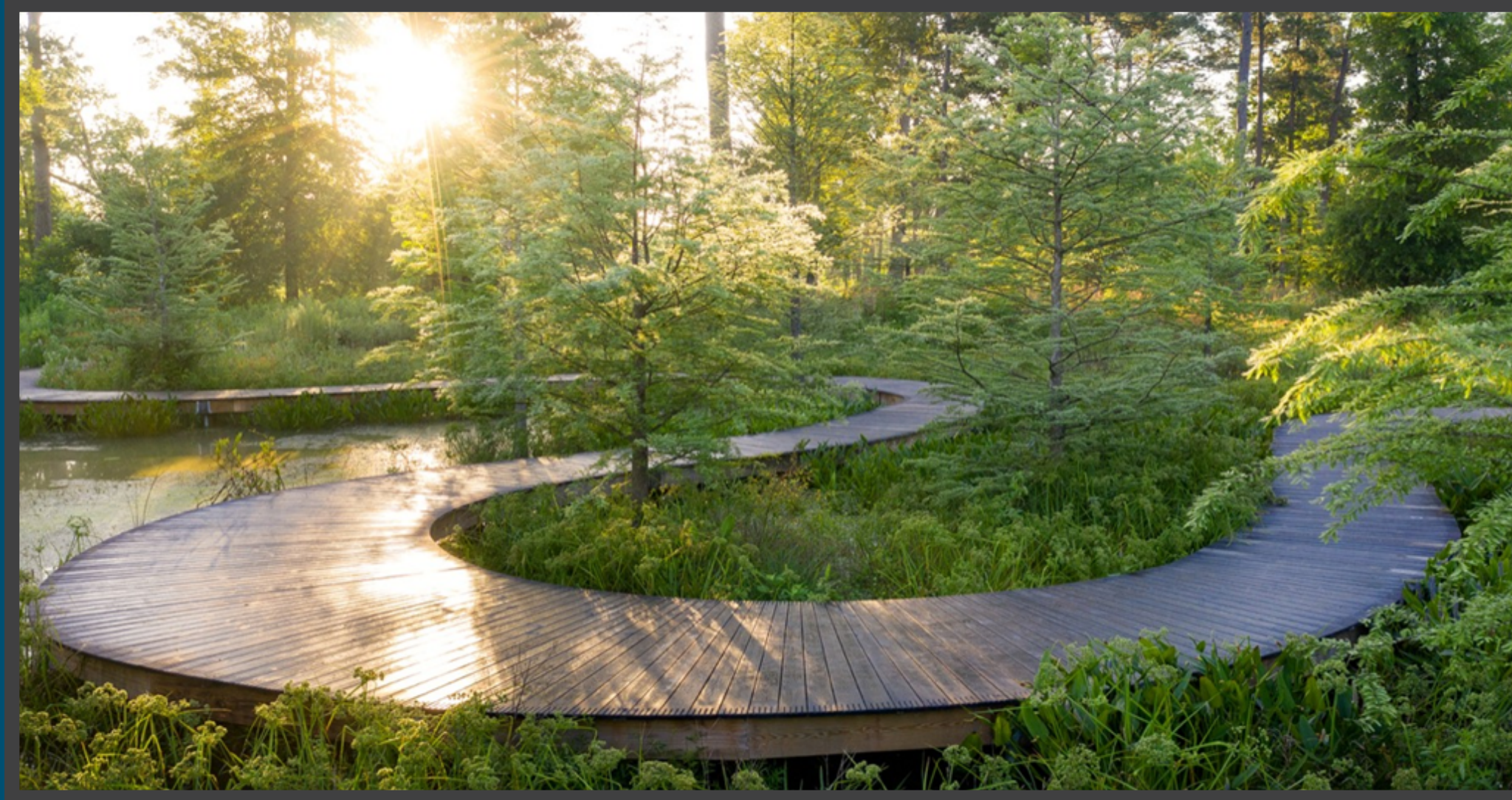


OUTDOORS FOR ALL



Presented by Patti Bonnin
Senior Naturalist

HOUSTON
ARBORETUM &
NATURE CENTER



IMPORTANCE

Everyone benefits from time spent outdoors.

Everyone has the right to visit natural spaces.

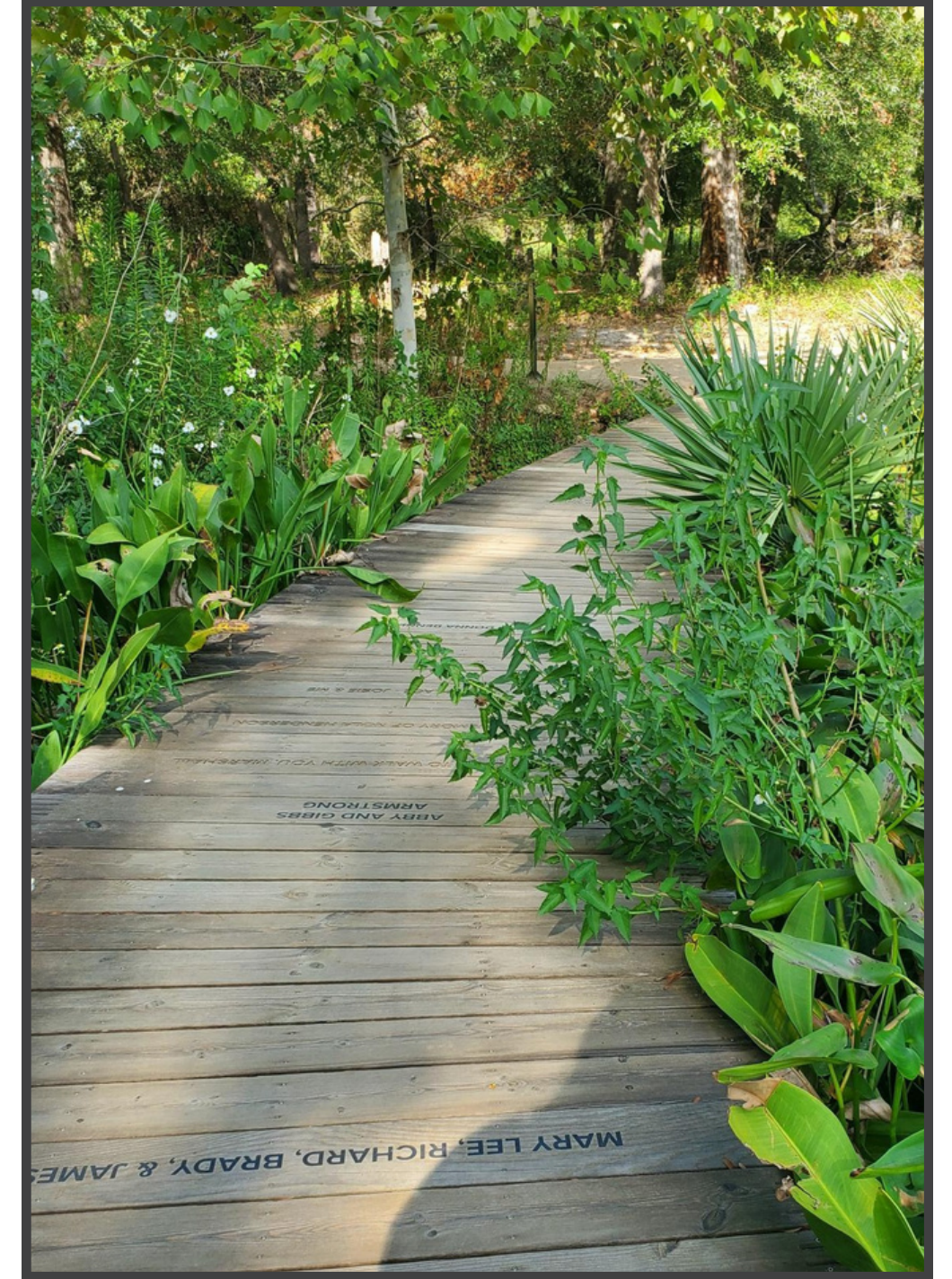
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PHYSICAL SITE REVIEW



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ACCESSIBLE TRAILS



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MONTHLY CLEAN UP

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING



Photo courtesy of BYOplaygrounds.com

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BECOMING MORE ACCESSIBLE

Interpreters for Deaf/HOH

Accessible trails & hikes

Inclusive education programs

Amplifiers for hike leaders

Sensory kits

Social Stories

Accessibility information on website

Birdability

Adaptive equipment

Mobility Devices:

(all-terrain wheelchair, trekking poles)

Staff and volunteer training



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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.



Birdability



Photo courtesy of Birdability.org

Birdability Site Review Checklist

Thank you for completing a Birdability Site Review to submit to the Birdability Map. Documenting the physical accessibility of birding locations helps ensure that birding truly is for everybody and every body! **Once complete, please visit birdability.org/map to submit.**

Question numbers on this checklist correspond to the question numbers in the online Birdability Site Review; not all questions in Part 1 are included on this printable checklist.

Part 1: General Information

1. a) Trail/bird blind name:



1. b) Location name (park or area):

4) Good car birding site? Describe if so:

6) Length of trail:

7) Type of trail:

- Loop
- Out-and-back
- Lollipop (out-and-back with a loop attached)

8. a) Entrance fee?



8. b) Parking fee?

9) Nearby public transit information, including route numbers, stop names:



10) Walking or biking access from residential areas:



Part 2: Birding Location Accessibility Criteria

1. Parking



- No parking area
- Pull-off areas (for car birding)
- Signed accessible parking spaces. Number:
- Van accessible parking spaces. Parking space is 132 in. (3.3m) wide, with extra 60 in. (1.5m) wide aisle/side space for a ramp. Number:
- Curb cuts present from parking lot to sidewalk/trail
- Surface is paved
- Surface is gravel
- Surface has many potholes/bumps
- Parking on unmanageable slope

Comments:

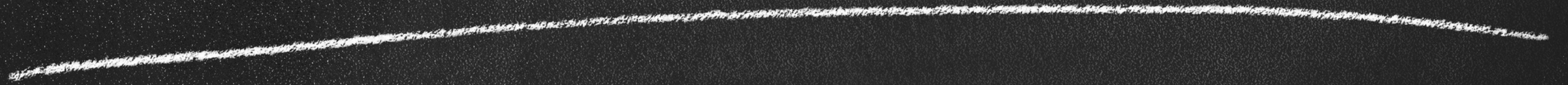
2. Services available at this location



- Visitor center
- Staff or volunteers
- Interpretive programs
- Accessible tram or motorized tour
- Gated areas (for example, drive-up bird blinds) accessible if arranged ahead of time
- Meals available
- Water fountains outside buildings
- Accessible water fountains, no higher than 36 in. (91 cm) from the ground, outside buildings

Comments, including visitor center hours:

Transparency



RESOURCES

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Designs

<https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/2010-stds/>

U.S. Access Board - Guide to Accessibility Standards

<https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/>

USDA, US Forest Service, US DOT's Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor
Recreation and Trails

Access Smithsonian

<https://access.si.edu/museum-professionals>



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Thank
you,



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