



**SOUTH TEXAS STEWARDSHIP OFFICE**  
**P.O. Box 6281**  
**McAllen, TX 78502-6281**  
**Phone and Fax: 956/580-4241**

## **CHIHUAHUA WOODS PRESERVE**

### **VISITOR GUIDELINES**

Welcome to Chihuahua Woods Preserve. These rules have been developed to protect not only the wildlife and vegetation of the preserve, but also your life and property. Please observe them.

1. *Walk-in access during daylight hours only.* Any other access must be requested from TNC's South Texas Land Steward at 956/580-4241.
2. *Parties visiting the preserve are limited to six adults;* for larger groups, permission must be obtained. The preserve is not suitable for children; no restroom facilities are available, paths are not regularly maintained, and thorns, cacti, and poisonous snakes and insects are ubiquitous. For their safety, *leave dogs and other pets at home.*
3. Do not collect, remove, injure, damage, or destroy any artifact or mineral or any animal or plant, living or dead. *Do not disturb or harass nesting birds or other animals in order to observe or photograph them. **No animals, including invertebrates, may be treed, trapped, held, caged, or chilled for photography or any other purpose. Collecting of plants, cactus, arrowheads, insects, butterflies, or reptiles is specifically prohibited.*** No hunting, trapping, fishing or discharging of firearms is allowed.
4. Any fence, structure or equipment damaged or destroyed by visitor or anyone in visitor's party will be repaired or replaced at visitor's expense.
5. If you are not a resident of South Texas, some hazards may be unfamiliar to you. Be aware that *Africanized bees may be present.* Do not disturb any bee colonies you may find. *Watch out for rattlesnakes.* Rabies is prevalent in South Texas; do not approach or handle any animal, whether wild or domestic. Do not handle any dead animal; rabies can be contracted from dead animals, too.
6. No camping or overnighting allowed.
7. ***Absolutely no fires allowed. No smoking allowed in the preserve.*** Do not litter.

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8. No permanent photography blinds may be constructed. Portable blinds are allowed, but we recommend that you remove them each time you leave; see Number 9 below. Neither bird, hummingbird, nor any other wildlife feeders are allowed. Do not scatter feed or seed of any kind. Do not use taped calls to attract wildlife.
9. The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Inc., is not responsible for injury or death of any person nor damage to or loss of any equipment. As with all natural areas along the U.S./Mexico border the preserve has at times been a site of criminal activity and poachers and trespassers could be present on the property. *Keep your vehicle locked at all times. Do not leave equipment or valuables in plain sight in your vehicle.* Do not leave equipment unattended anywhere on the preserve for any length of time. Leave the preserve before darkness falls. Do not confront any trespassers. If you notice any suspicious activity or feel threatened in any way, leave the preserve at once and call 911 or the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department at 383-8114; also contact the South Texas Land Steward at 580-4241. If possible without placing yourself in danger, please try to note vehicle license plate numbers of any trespassers.
10. Please respect the rights of adjacent landowners. Do not trespass. Do not block neighbor's driveway. Please do not use any entrance other than the one designated.

We hope you will share with us any wildlife observations you make on the preserve, especially birds. We are still developing our faunal and floral lists and any information you can provide would be appreciated. To obtain a free bird checklist for the preserve, or to report observations, please call 580-4241.

If you take photographs on the preserve, The Nature Conservancy would appreciate donation of any culled slides for use in brochures and slide programs. The photographer would receive full credit for use of any slides.

Thank you for your cooperation. The Nature Conservancy values the efforts of responsible nature lovers like you in helping us preserve our natural heritage.