

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

By Terri Stinn
Heartwood AAL Coordinator

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Welcome to the Heartwood Master Naturalist presentation for participation in Adopt-A-Loop
- This project is supported by the Texas Master Naturalist Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife, iNaturalist and eBird



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- This presentation will cover the following:

What is The Great Texas Wildlife Trail? (GTWT)

What is the Adopt-A-Loop (AAL) project?

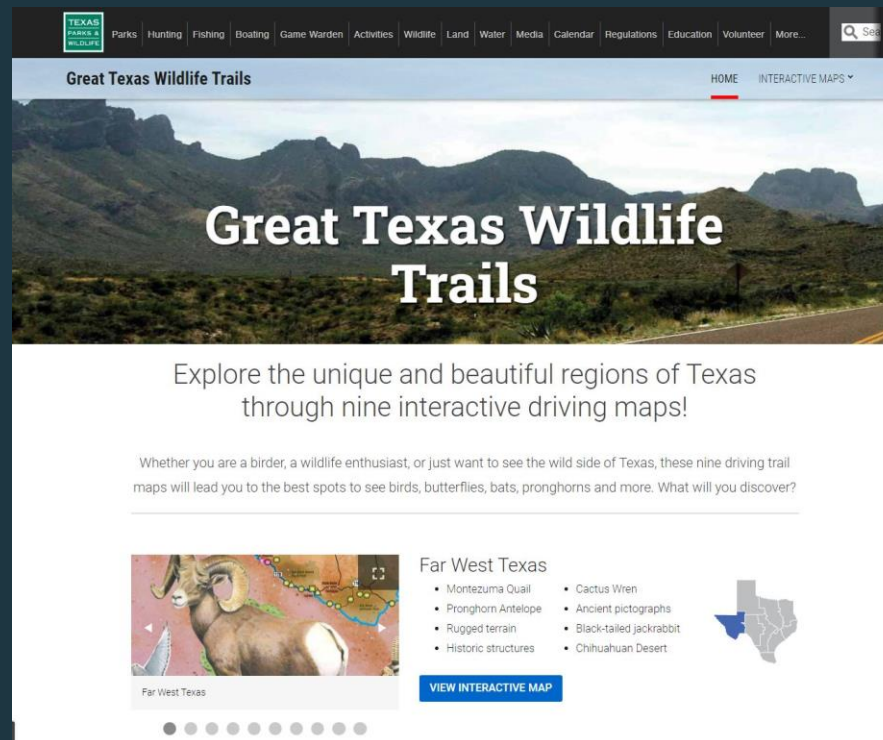
How does a Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) participate in the AAL Project?

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- What is The Great Texas Wildlife Trail?
(GTWT)

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- On the Texas Parks and Wildlife website there is a link to The Great Texas Wildlife Trails. These are interactive maps with descriptions that show the exact locations of all the sites on the trails. These sites are grouped into areas that make up our Adopt-A-Loop “loops”.
- <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails>



*from the internet

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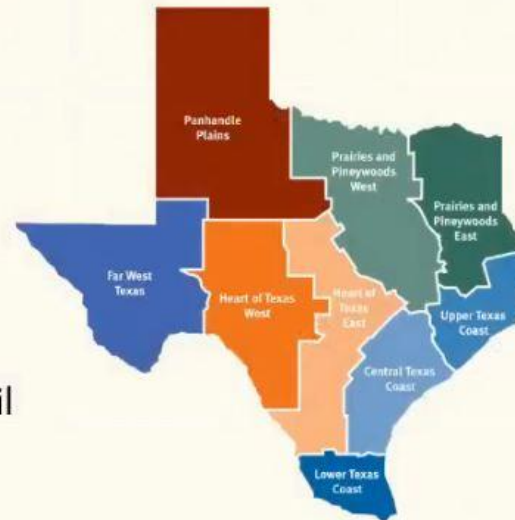
*Photo from Texas Parks and Wildlife Website

There are 9 regions of the Great Texas Wildlife Trails

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Great Texas Wildlife Trails

- Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail
 - UTC, CTC and LTC
- Heart of Texas Wildlife Trail
 - HOTW and HOTE
- Panhandle Plains Wildlife Trail
- Far West Texas Wildlife Trail
- Prairies and Pineywoods Wildlife Trail
 - PPW and PPE



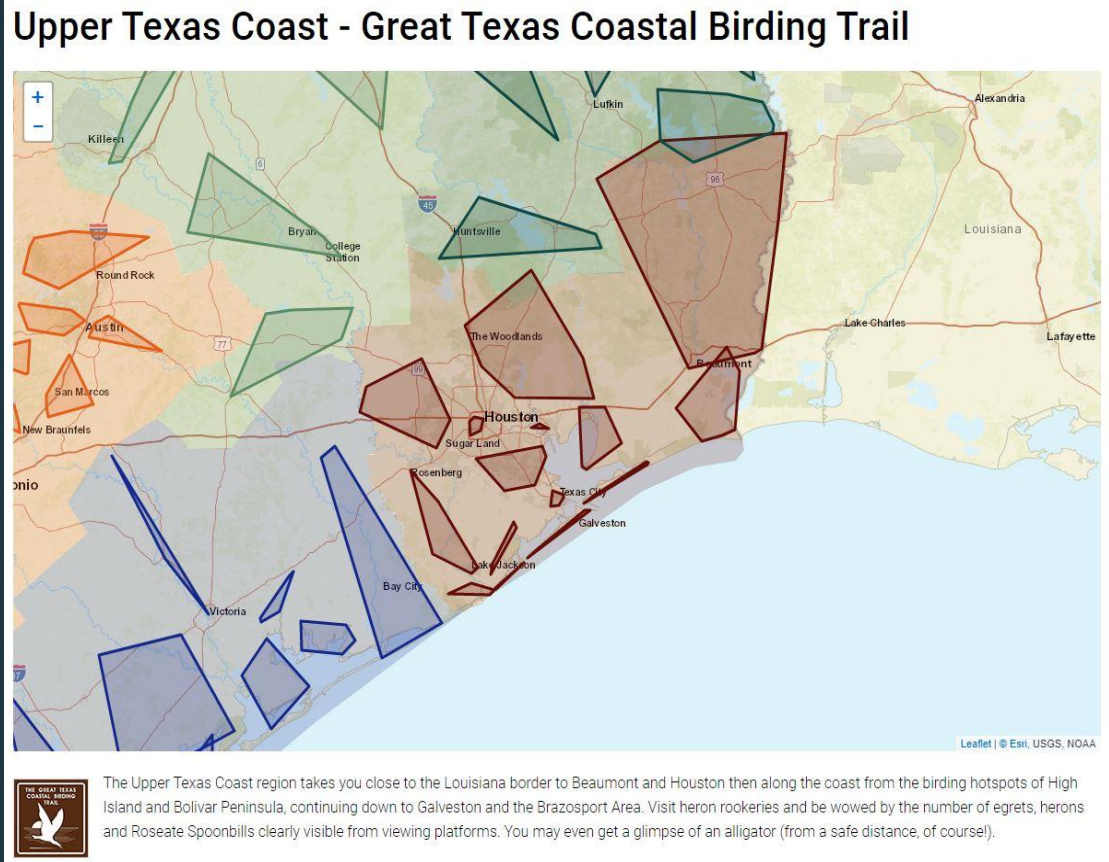
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Heartwood Master Naturalist Chapter is located in the Upper Texas Coast Region (UTC) and the Prairies and Piney Woods East Region. (PPE)

- The full list of regions are as follows:
- Far West Texas (FWTX)
- Upper Texas Coast (UTC)
- Central Texas Coast (CTC)
- Lower Texas Coast (LTC)
- Heart of Texas West (HOTW)
- Heart of Texas East (HOTE)
- Panhandle Plains (PHP)
- Prairies and Piney Woods West (PPW)
- Prairies and Piney Woods East (PPE)

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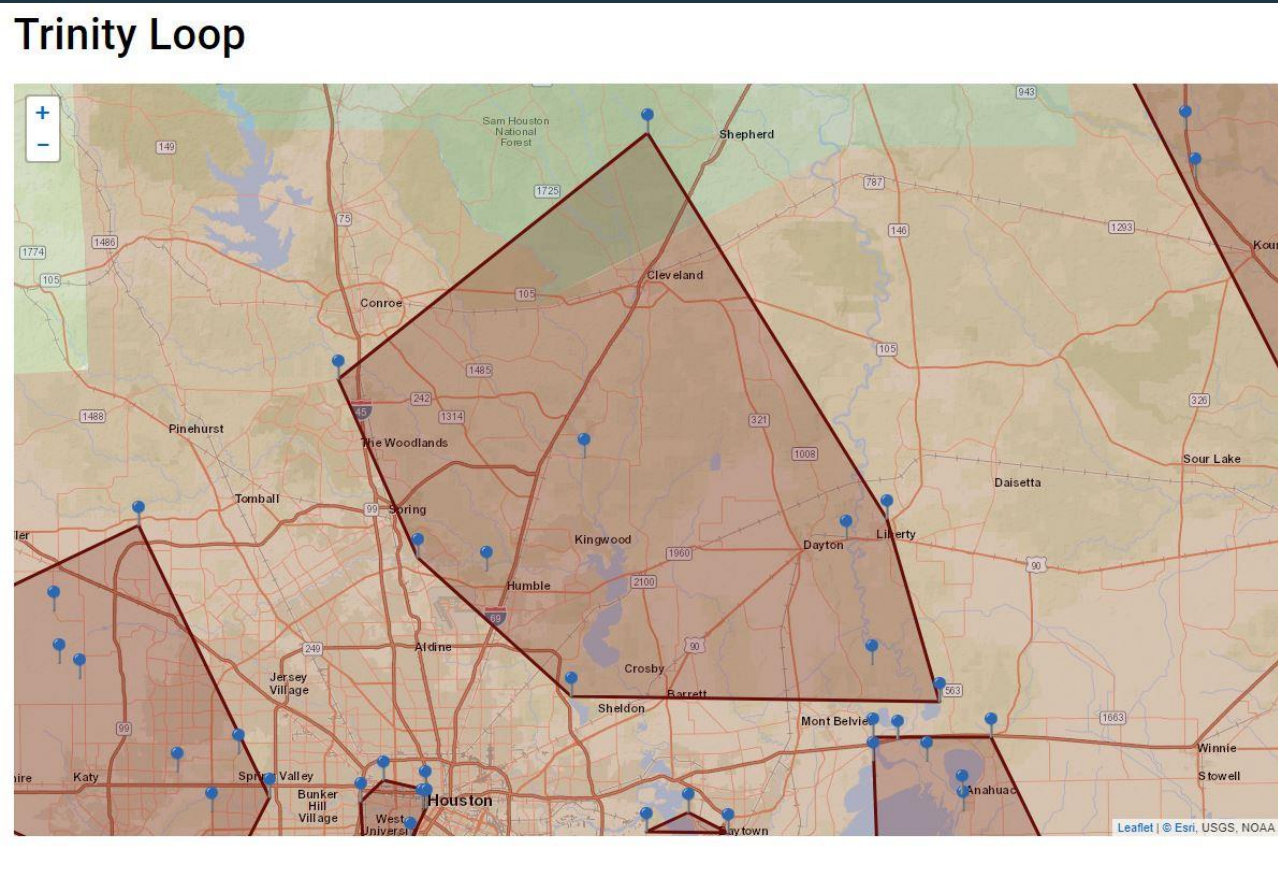
This map shows the loops in the UTC Region. They are represented by the brown shapes and are individually named.



*Map from TPW website

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Notice the location of the Woodlands is shown just within the Trinity Loop. The Trinity Loop covers a large area. Sites are designated by the blue pins.

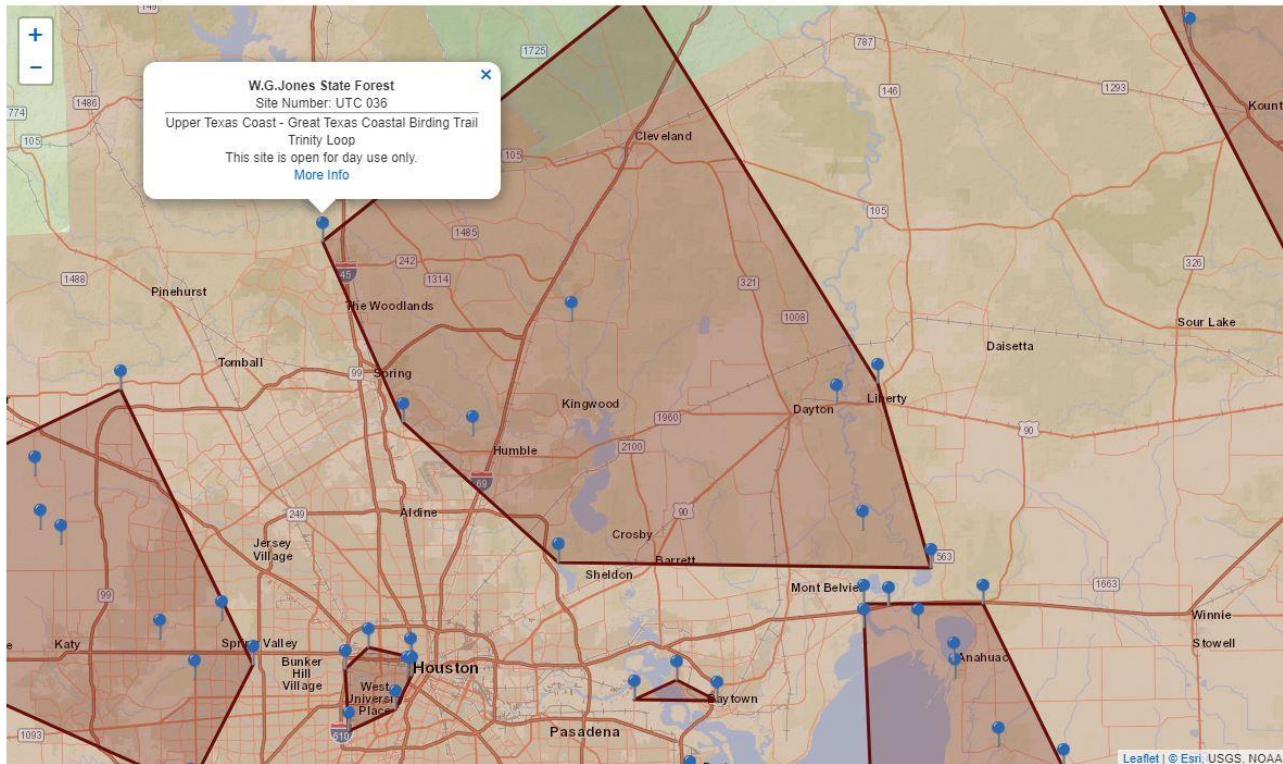


*Map from TPW website

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One of our sites is Jones Forest shown on the map.

Trinity Loop

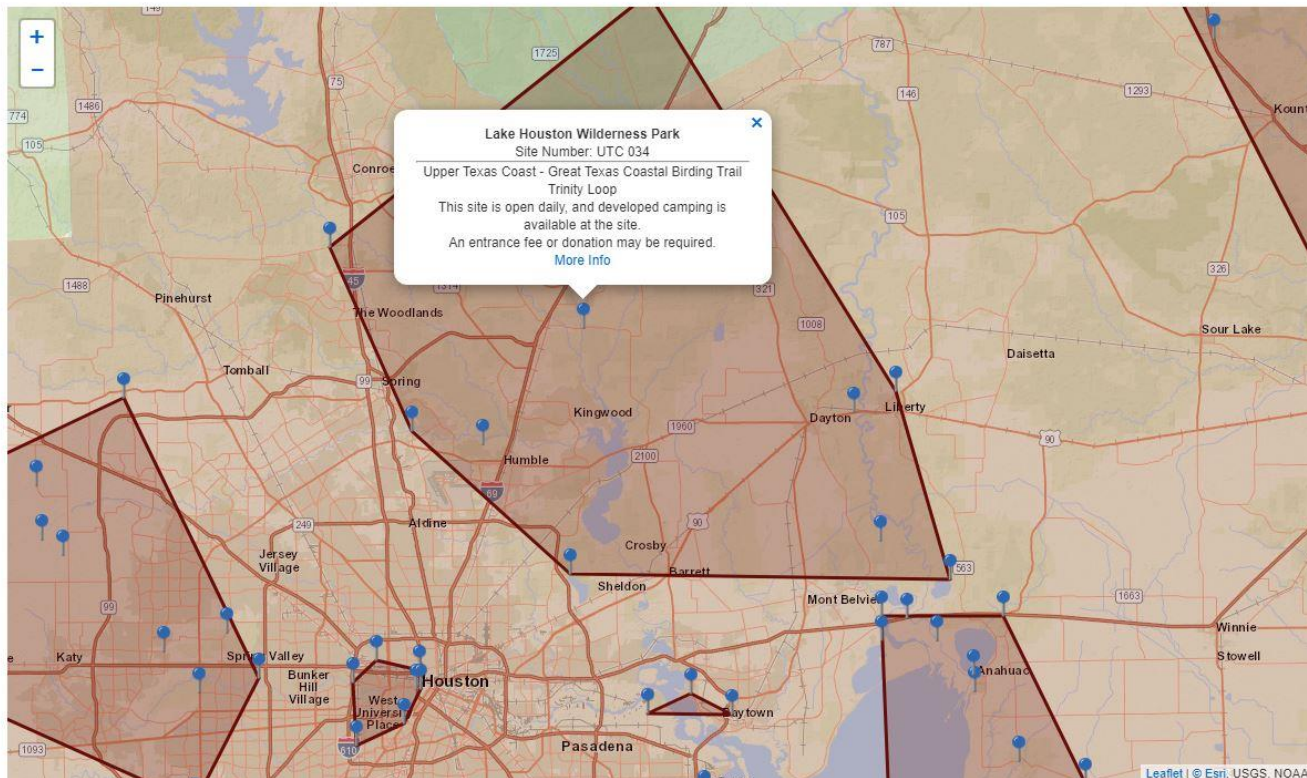


*Map from TPW website

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Our second site is Lake Houston Wilderness Park.

Trinity Loop

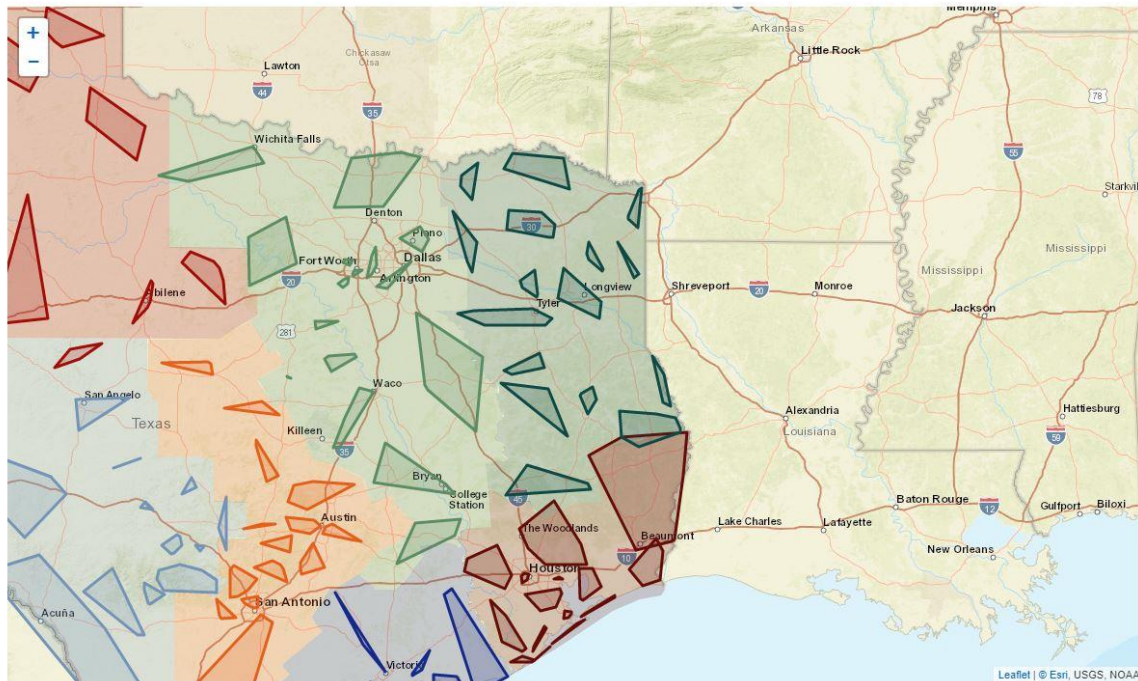


Map from TPWD website*

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This map shows the loops in the Prairies and Piney Woods East Region. The loops are outlined in dark green.

Prairies and Pineywoods East Wildlife Trail



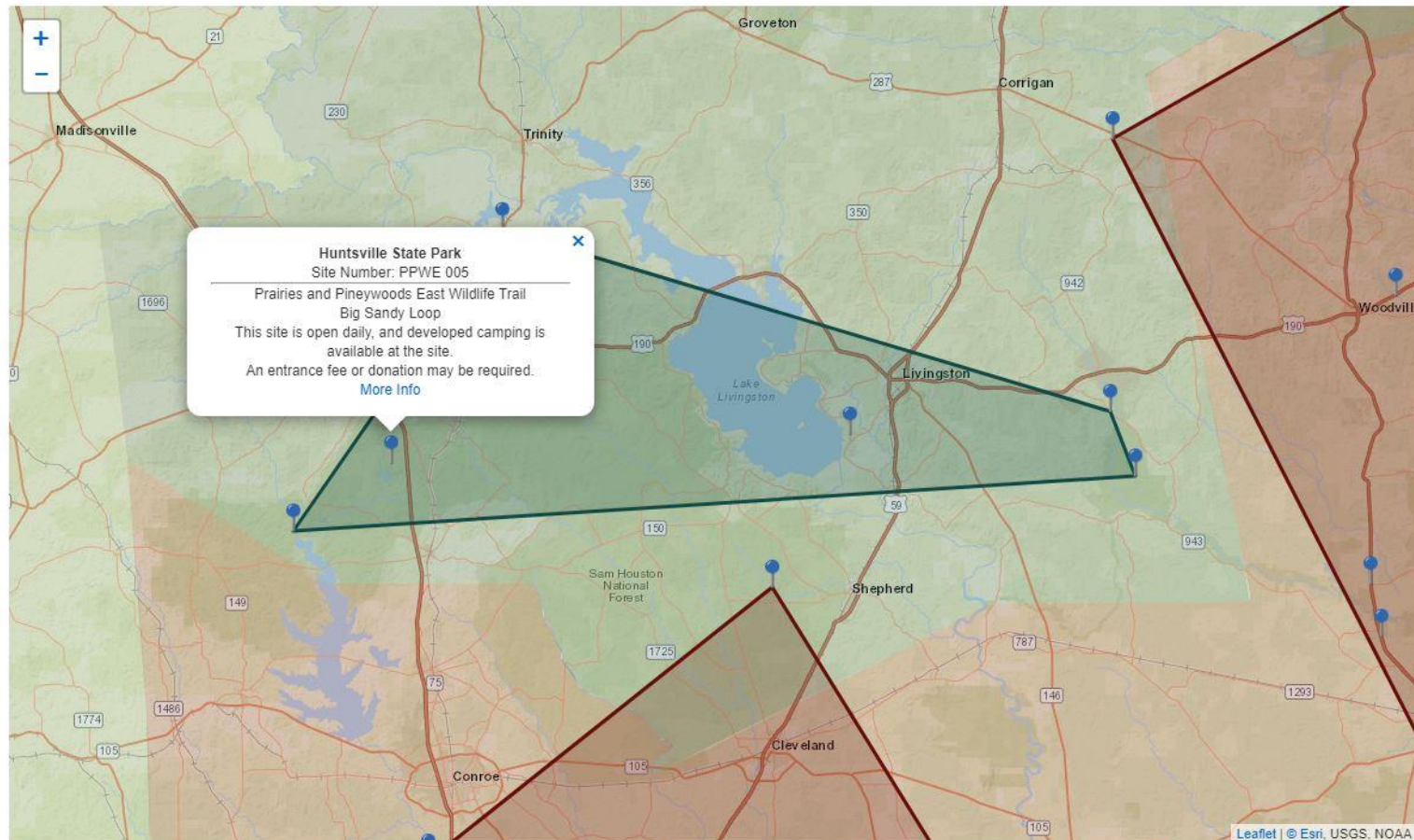
Travel through a region that goes from Paris to Texarkana, and down through Tyler, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Huntsville. Spend time in east Texas to explore the Big Thicket and hardwood forest for a variety of raptors, warblers, woodpeckers and other woodland species. Or, take time to fish one of the many lakes, rivers and streams and maybe spot an eagle soaring above.

*Map from TPW website

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Huntsville State Park is one of our adopted sites shown on this loop.

Big Sandy Loop

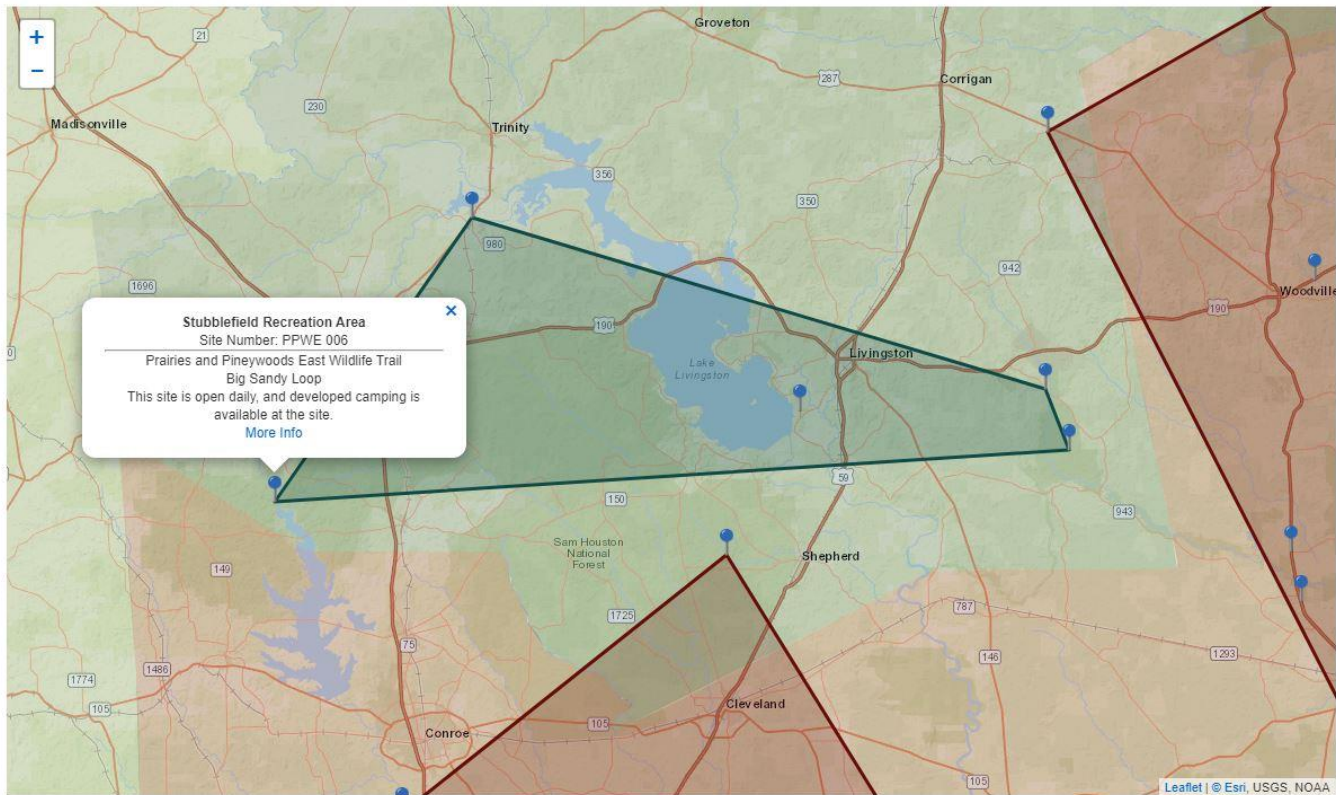


*Map from TPWD website

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Stubblefield Recreation Area on the North end of Lake Conroe is one of our sites as shown on the triangle in the lower left corner.

Big Sandy Loop

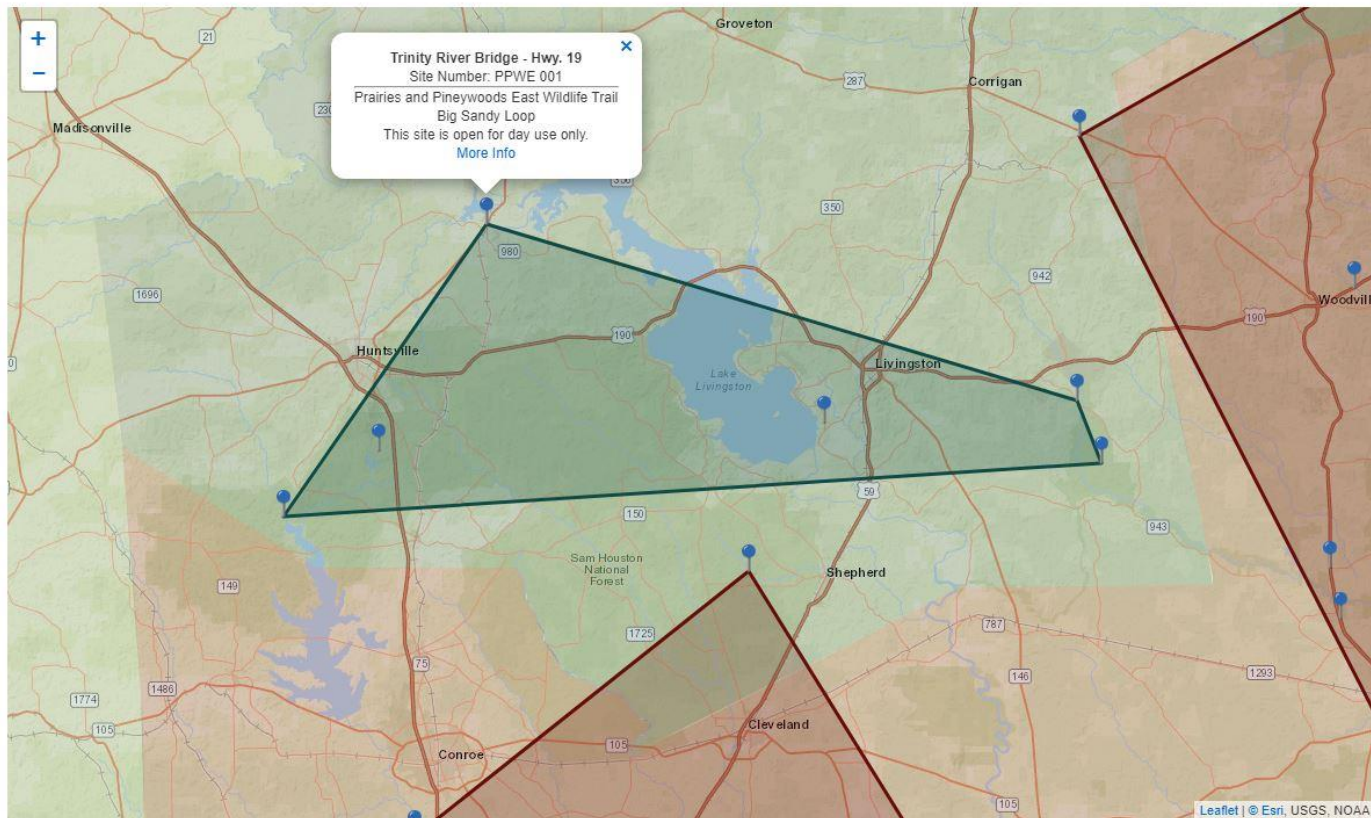


*Map from TPW website

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Our chapter's third site in the Big Sandy Loop is Trinity River Bridge on Hwy. 19

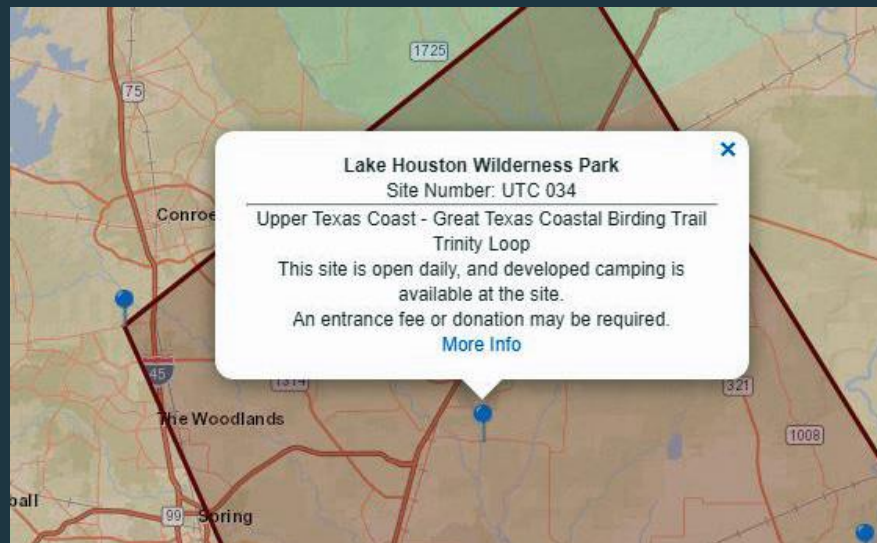
Big Sandy Loop



*Map from TPW website.

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Every site on the Great Texas Wildlife Trails has a site number.
- The site numbers are required when adding your observations in iNaturalist Adopt-A-Loop Project.
- The site numbers are found by clicking on the blue pushpins on the various loops on TPWD's website.

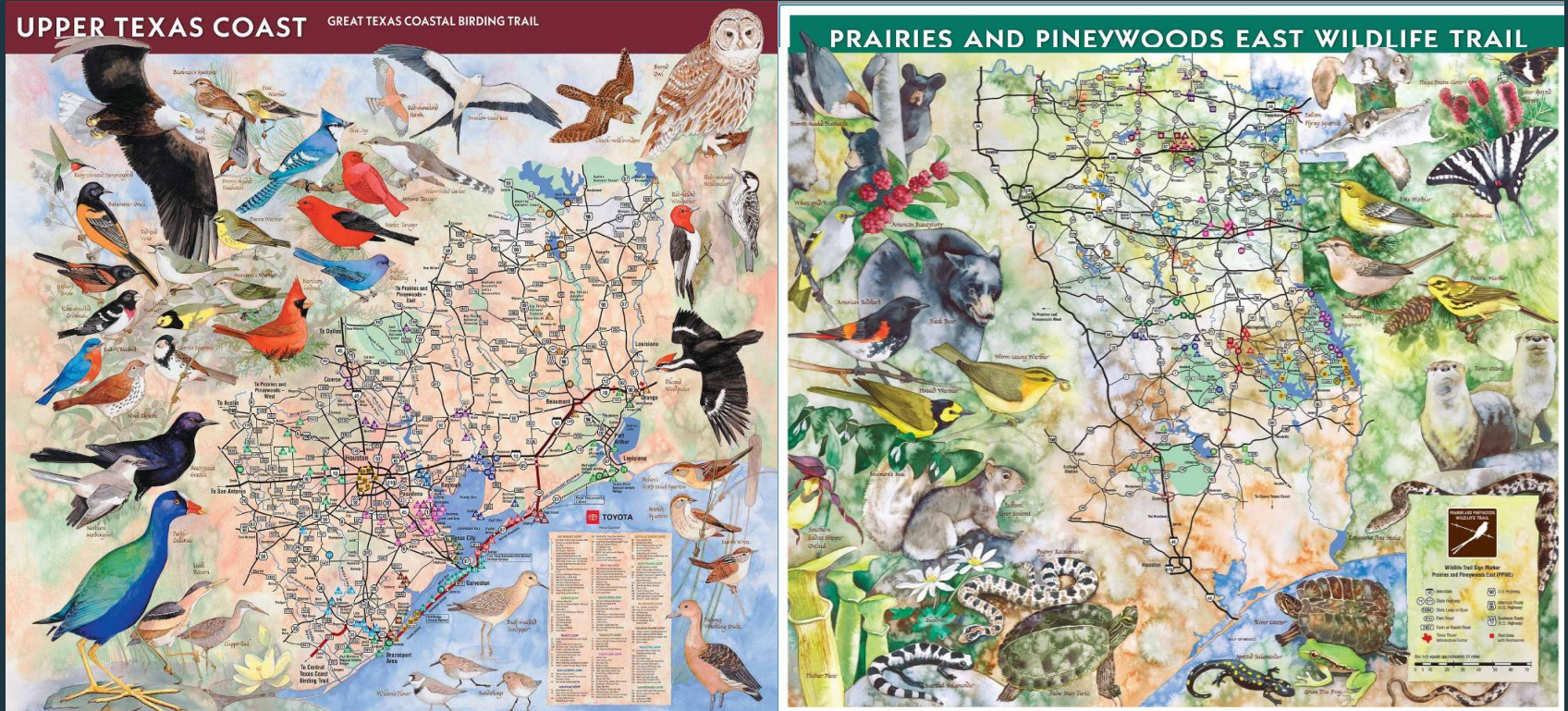


GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Heartwood Chapter has been assigned 5 sites by Texas Parks and Wildlife.
 - Lake Houston Wilderness Park – UTC 034
 - W.G. Jones State Forest – UTC 036
 - Trinity River Bridge – PPWE 001
 - Huntsville State Park – PPWE 005
 - Stubblefield Recreation Area – PPWE 006
- The sites are NOT in the same region.
- The sites are NOT in the same loop.
- Our chapter does NOT have an entire loop.
- The sites were assigned by proximity to our location.

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Heartwood Chapter falls within the boundaries of the Upper Texas Coastal Region and the Prairies and Piney Woods East Region. These are examples of the travel maps.



*maps from TPW website

These maps can be purchased from TPWD and are found on their website.

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- What is the Adopt-A-Loop Project?
(AAL)

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What is Adopt-A-Loop and why is it important



Adopt-A-Loop
Great Texas Wildlife Trails

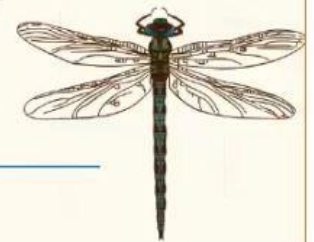
Joshua Lee

*slide from Joshua Lee volunteer presentation

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Project Logistics

- There are 124 loops and over 920 sites across Texas, so potential for hundreds of volunteers
- Site visits will be conducted on a seasonal basis
- Location—Across the entire state of Texas!
- Time commitment depends on how many loops/sites are adopted.
 - Site visits can take place any time through coordination with site managers
 - The length of time for site visits will vary for each site depending on how large the site is.
- Hours are flexible at the discretion of the TMN Adopt-A-Loop Coordinator.
- Adopt-A-Loop is a Long-Term Project!

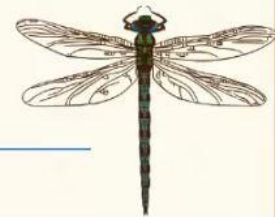


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Why is this project important for TMN chapters to participate in?

Program Benefits

- Volunteers will be able to expand their knowledge of wildlife and visit the best places for wildlife watching in Texas!
- Expand efforts to promote wildlife viewing in Texas, making it more easily accessible to everyone
- Work will ensure accuracy of site information and provide a list of watchable wildlife for use by the public
- Promotes citizen science and wildlife conservation in Texas
- Helps track wildlife and most importantly SGCN

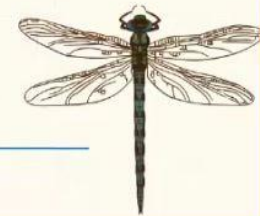


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How do the TMN chapters participate in AAL?

Adopt-A-Loop

- TMN chapters and members will assist in ensuring that site information along the Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT) is updated and accurate while performing site surveys along their adopted loop(s) throughout the year.
- A citizen science project by TPWD to provide site evaluation and better understand the distribution of Texas' wildlife along the GTWT.



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Project Expectations- Outcomes

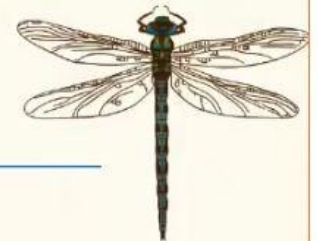
- Information will be used in trail updates as well as to help inform visitors on what species to look for when they are at a particular site
- By adopting a loop (or loops) on the GTWT, each TMN chapter will help collect data on our Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and wildlife in general
- Increase awareness, appreciation and conservation of Texas' wildlife and native habitats



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Project Experience, Equipment, Advanced Training Needed

- General knowledge of Texas birds and wildlife. Experience with iNaturalist and eBird is a big plus!
- A list of suggested items for site visits will be provided to TMN volunteers
- Some additional training may be required to review site visit forms and iNaturalist project requirements



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- How does a Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) participate in the project?

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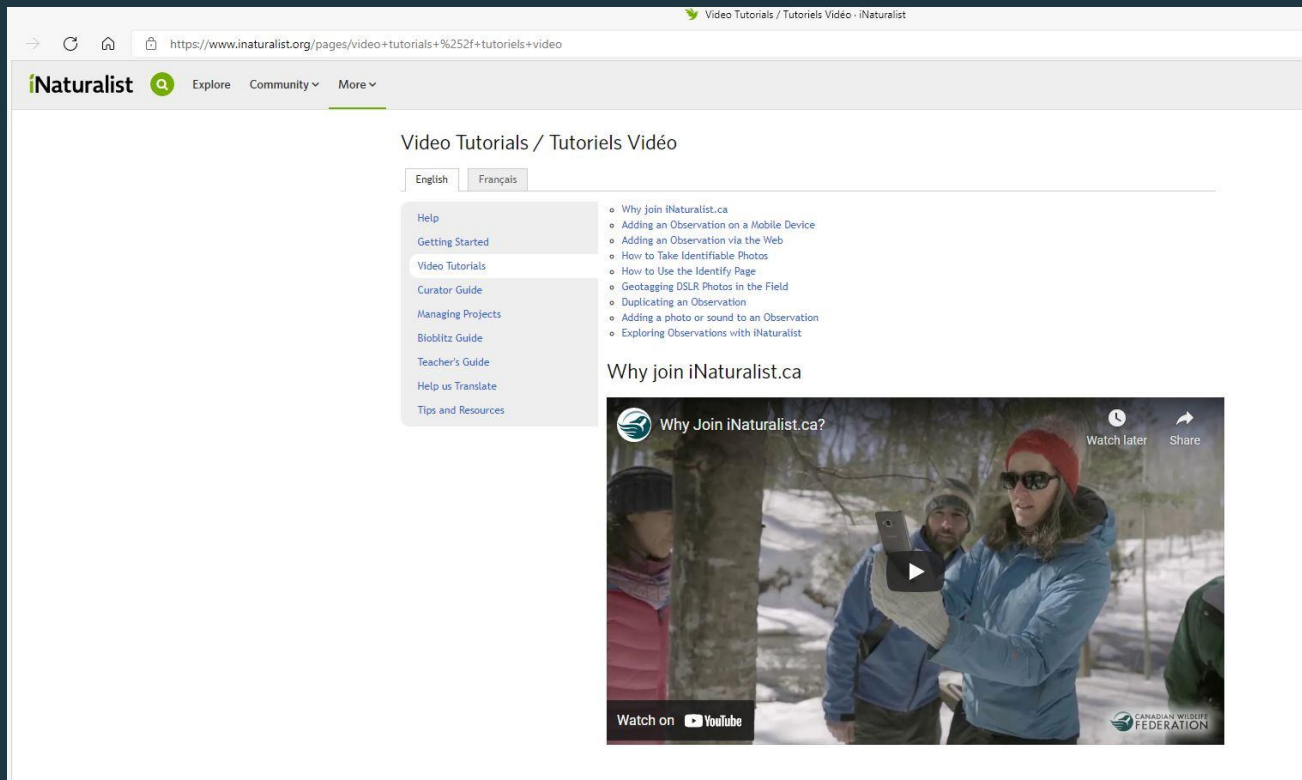
- Now that you have had an overview of the project, you are probably wondering how to get started.
- You simply go to one of our chapter assigned sites or a site that you have chose to explore (double check with AAL chapter coordinator on site info) and either take photos of all the flora and fauna or participate in birding through the eBird app.
- There are steps you must take as a TMN to receive VMS hours that goes beyond just hiking, photography and birding at one of the 912 state sites.

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- The only way to receive hours is to add the photos you have taken to the GTWT Adopt-A-Loop project in iNaturalist.
- In eBird you must use a hot spot that has an Adopt-A-Loop site code. You must also add your bird list number in the VMS hours performed description.

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Create an iNaturalist account .
- You can access your account through the phone app and on tablets, laptops and desktops.
- There are tutorials in iNaturalist that can help you learn how to navigate the website.



*from iNaturalist webpage

GTWT Adopt –A-Loop

- <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gtwt-adopt-a-loop>
- This is the link that you will use to find the project .

The screenshot shows a Google search for "gtwt adopt a loop". The search bar at the top contains the text "gtwt adopt a loop" and has icons for voice search, image search, and a magnifying glass. Below the search bar are tabs for ALL, IMAGES, VIDEOS, MAPS, NEWS, SHOPPING, and MORE. The search results show 8,530,000,000 Results and a toggle for "Open links in new tab".

The first search result is a snippet from iNaturalist. It states: "Adopt-a-Loop is a citizen science project by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) to better understand the distribution of Texas' wildlife. The Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT) are used by many to visit sites across the state for birding and other wildlife viewing. By adopting a loop on the GTWT, each TMN chapter will help collect data on our ...more ↓." To the right of the text is a small image of a pronghorn. Below the snippet is the link "GTWT Adopt-A-Loop · iNaturalist" and the URL "www.inaturalist.org/projects/gtwt-adopt-a-loop".

Below the snippet is a "Was this helpful?" section with thumbs up and down icons. Below that is another link "GTWT Adopt-A-Loop · iNaturalist" with the URL "https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gtwt-adopt-a-loop". Below this link is a date "Jul 09, 2020" and a description: "Adopt-a-Loop is a citizen science project by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) to better understand the distribution of Texas' wildlife. The Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT) are used ...". To the right of the text is a small image of a pronghorn.

Below the description is a "Members" section with the text "Bexarscott, Joined September 02, 2...".

Below the members section is an "EXPLORE FURTHER" section with a list of links:

- Great Texas Wildlife Trails: Adopt-A-Loop
- Best Time for Birdwatching in Texas 2022 - When to See - Rove.me
- The Top 5 Birding Hotspots in South Texas | BirdingLocations
- Texas Birding Trails & Trail Maps | TrailLink
- The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail - The Bird Guide

To the right of these links are the following URLs:

- txmn.org
- rove.me
- birdinglocations.com
- trailink.com
- thebirdguide.com

Below the "EXPLORE FURTHER" section is a "Recommended to you based on what's popular • Feedback" section.

Below the recommended section is a link "Great Texas Wildlife Trails: Adopt-A-Loop - txmn.org" with the URL "https://txmn.org/llano/great-texas-wildlife-trails-adopt-a-loop". Below this link is a description: "Permian Basin East Loop. LETMN has adopted the Permian Basin East Loop in the GTWT: Adopt-A-Loop program. To learn about the points of interest on this loop, go to Permian Basin East Loop. The Permian Basin East Loop includes ...".

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- When you click on GTWT Adopt-A-Loop iNaturalist link this is what you are going to see.
- You must join the project to add your photos.

iNaturalist Explore Community More

« Projects Terms & Rules | Join this project

Great Texas Wildlife Trails

ADD OBSERVATIONS

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Stats

Totals	Most Observations	Most Species	Most Observed Species
42461 Observations »	jcochran706 4727 observations	jcochran706 1166 species	Northern Cardinal 324 observations
4090 Species »	lswift 3946 observations	jsuplick 903 species	Eastern Pondhawk 256 observations
199 People »	hoimani01 2696 observations	peterjoseph 738 species	Great Egret 218 observations
	andygo1 2625 observations	lswift 720 species	Great Blue Heron 195 observations
	peterjoseph 2448 observations	andygo1 700 species	Pond Slider 175 observations

* From the internet

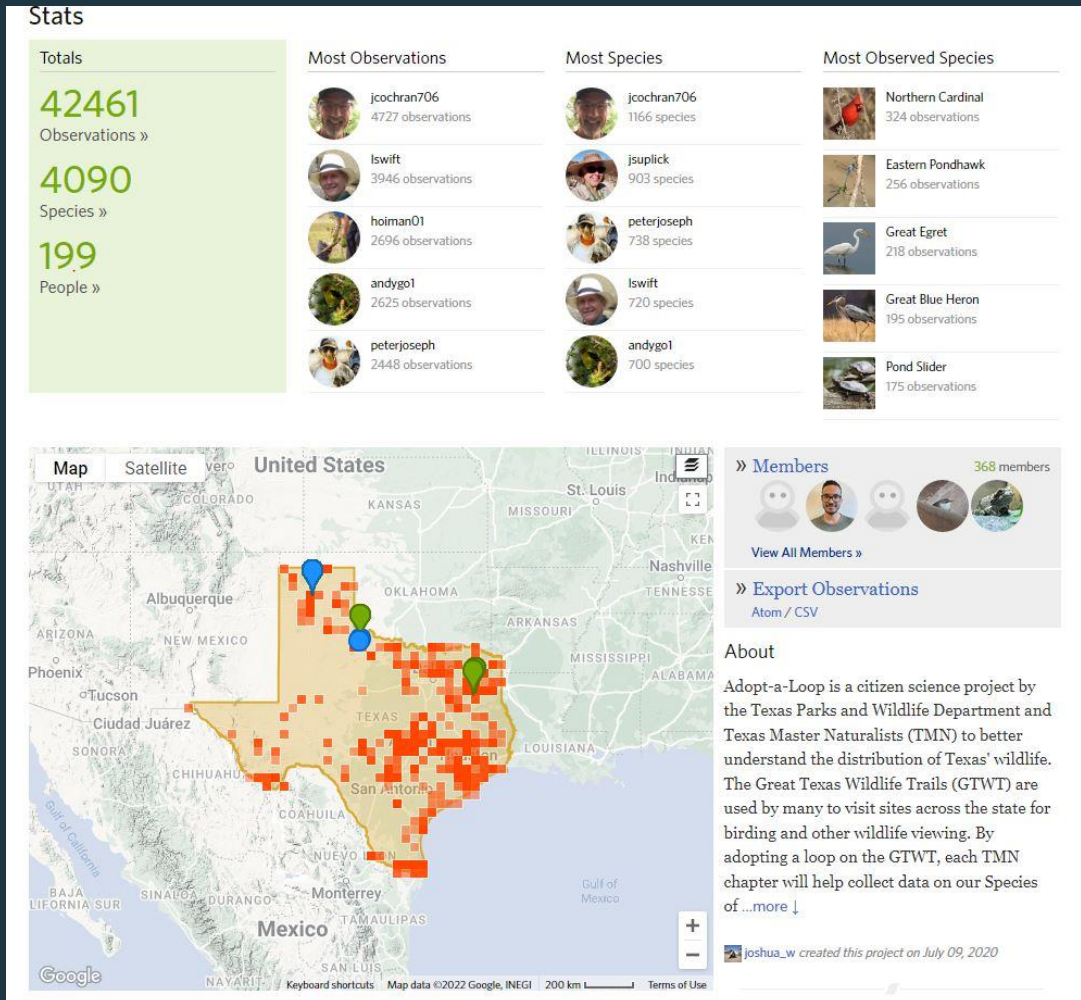
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- In the upper right hand of the project is the join this project tab. Click on this to add it to your iNaturalist account.
- From this point in your iNaturalist dashboard you can find your projects tab and go to GTWT Adopt-A-Loop to upload your observations.




















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- The green stats box on the project page gives you the updated standings of the people in the project and how many observations those people have made.



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

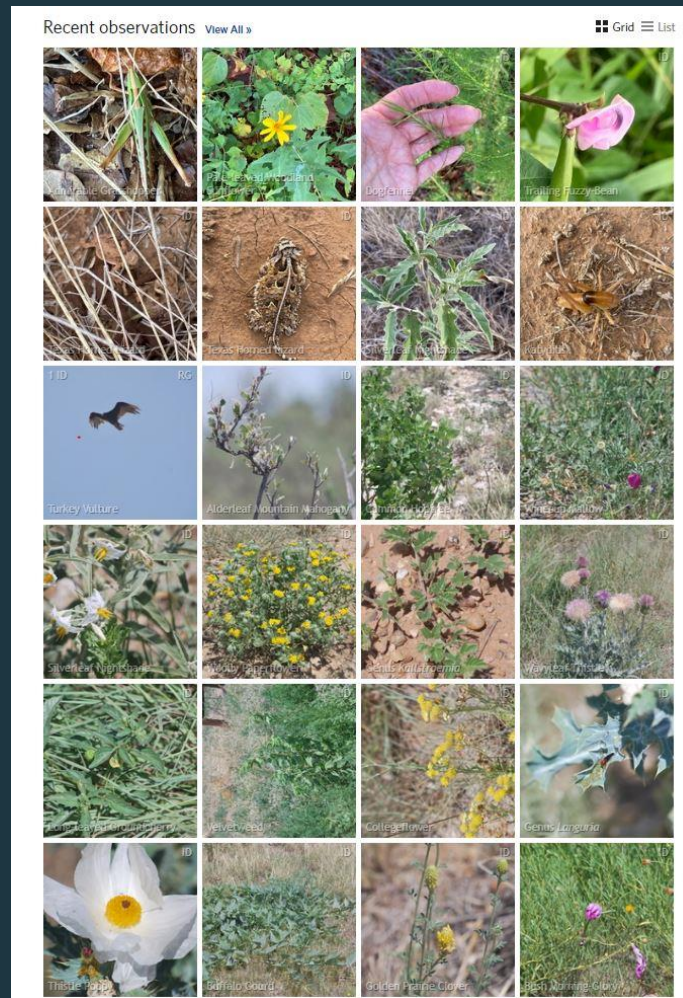
- These are the current standings. You can always check and see where you stand. I like to see how we as a chapter stand as well.

15	 ecbirdy	774	213
16	 gallafin	566	223
17	 firstcoffee	510	314
18	 wwrauscher	492	266
19	 jasonpike1980	455	351
20	 phototime	445	179
21	 cmjm93	430	171
22	 texasrx	408	279
23	 debnance	387	162
24	 rgvctmn	342	216
25	 camillaritchey	332	193
26	 jessgeo15	290	108
27	 johnfairlie	286	95
28	 jhamby	284	120
29	 mmoen	275	108
30	 tstinn	262	151
31	 lfairlie	258	109

*iNaturalist

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- Directly below the map on the page are the little thumbnail photos.



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- We are going to transition into adding your observations into the project now.
- If you need help with learning iNaturalist, there are many tutorials available online as well as a tutorial on Heartwood's website.





*iNaturalist

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- This is what a completed observation will look like in your iNaturalist account.


Southern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates sphenoccephalus*) ★ Needs ID Follow




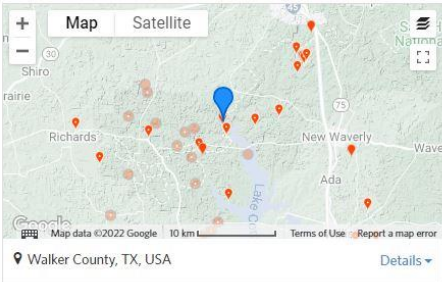
gallafin
1,935 observations

Observed:
Aug 19, 2022 · 9:32 AM CDT

Submitted:
Aug 19, 2022 · 2:24 PM CDT


 Map


 Satellite




Walker County, TX, USA Details

Activity

gallafin suggested an ID Leading 1d

Southern Leopard Frog
Lithobates sphenoccephalus



Comment


Suggest an Identification


[Log in or sign up to add comments.](#)


Community Taxon

What's this?

The Community ID requires at least two identifications.

 Projects (1)

 GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

 Observation Fields (1)

Place of Observation (Site Number):
PPWW-006

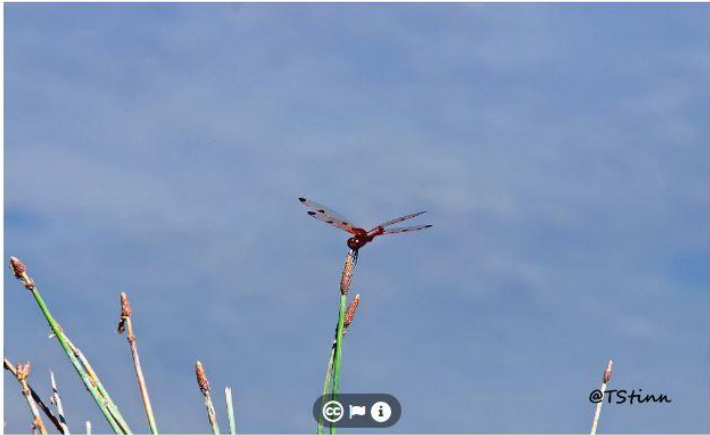
*iNaturalist

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- This is another example of an observation that has received the research grade designation.

Calico Pennant (*Celithemis elisa*)

Research GradeEdit




Observed: May 27, 2022 - 11:52 AM CDT
Submitted: Jun 18, 2022 - 6:48 PM CDT



Montgomery County, TX, USA


Be the first to fave this observation!

Activity




tstinn suggested an ID

Improving 2mo




Calico Pennant
Celithemis elisa

Compare



williamedwards suggested an ID

2mo




Calico Pennant
Celithemis elisa

Community Taxon

What's this?

Calico Pennant (*Celithemis elisa*)

Cumulative IDs: 2 of 2




0 2/3rds 2

Agree Compare About


Annotations

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Activity




tstinn suggested an ID 🌱 Improving 🕒 2mo ⌵




Calico Pennant
Celithemis elisa

Compare







williamedwards suggested an ID 🕒 2mo ⌵



Calico Pennant
Celithemis elisa

Comment Suggest an Identification

B *I*    

Preview

Leave a comment

Done

☒ Mark As Reviewed

Community Taxon

[What's this?](#)

Calico Pennant (*Celithemis elisa*)
Cumulative IDs: 2 of 2



0

2/3rds

2

✓ Agree

⚖ Compare


ℹ About

Annotations


Attribute	Value	Agree	Disagree
Alive or Dead	Select ▾		
Evidence of Presence	Select ▾		
Life Stage	Select ▾		
Sex	Select ▾		


Projects (2)

Add to a Project




All Texas Nature





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Tags

Add Tag

Observation Fields (1)

Place of Observation (Site Number):

UTC 034

Choose a field

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- Adding Information to create an observation in the AAL project from a desktop or tablet.
 1. Click on Add observation and drop a photo in from a file.
 2. Fill out species name.
 3. Fill out location.
 4. Fill out projects.(AAL)
 5. Fill out fields. (this is where you enter the site #)
 6. Add observation.

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- Heartwood's assigned sites are as follows:
- Lake Houston Wilderness Park – UTC 034
- W.G. Jones State Forest – UTC 036
- Trinity River Bridge – Hwy 19. - PPWE 001
- Huntsville State Park – PPWE 005
- Stubblefield Recreation Area – PPWE 006
- The above codes go in your fields iNaturalist tab

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Photograph into the observation page.

iNaturalist

+ Add ▾ × Remove ✎ Combine 📄 Duplicate ☑ Select All

Editing 1 observation:

Details ▾

🔍 Species name

📅 2022/04/14 7:32 PM

📍 Location

Notes

Location is public ▾


☐ Captive / Cultivated

🏷 Tags ▾

📁 Projects ▾

📋 Fields ▾

🕒 Offset Time ▾



🔍 Species name

📅 2022/04/14 7:32 PM

📍 Location

Notes


GTWT Adopt-A-Loop


- Add to the AAL project.


iNaturalist

+ Add ▾ × Remove ✂ Combine 📄 Duplicate ☒ Select All


Editing 1 observation:


 Details ▾


 Tags ▾


 Projects ▸

- All Texas Nature
- Bees and Wasps of Texas
- Found Feathers
- GTWT Adopt-A-Loop
- North American Animal Tracks Database
- Plants of Texas
- The Insects of Texas
- WG Jones State Forest Insects



 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

 2022/04/14 7:32 PM

 Location

Notes

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- The all important, Site Number.

iNaturalist

+ Add ✕ Remove ✂ Combine 📄 Duplicate ☒ Select All

Editing 1 observation:

Details ▾

Tags ▾


Projects **1** ▾

Fields ▾

Place of Observation (Site Number)

☐ Invasive? [View Field Options](#)

Offset Time ▾



Yellow-crowned Night-I

2022/04/14 7:32 PM

Location

Notes


GTWT Adopt-A-Loop


- Place of observation.


iNaturalist


+ Add ▾ ✕ Remove ✂ Combine 📄 Duplicate ☑ Select All

Editing 1 observation:

 Details ▾


 Tags ▾


 Projects **1** ▾






 Fields ▸

Place of Observation (Site Number)

ex. PPWE 080

[View Field Options](#) 

 Offset Time ▾


 Yellow-crowned Night-H 
 2022/04/14 7:32 PM
 Location

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Great job. Your good to go when you see green.

Naturalist

+ Add ▾ ✕ Remove ✎ Combine 📄 Duplicate ☒ Select All


Editing 1 observation:


Details ▾
Tags ▾
Projects 1 ▾
Fields 1 ▾


Place of Observation (Site Number)
Invasive?


View Field Options 📄

⌚ Offset Time ▾



 Yellow-crowned Night-H

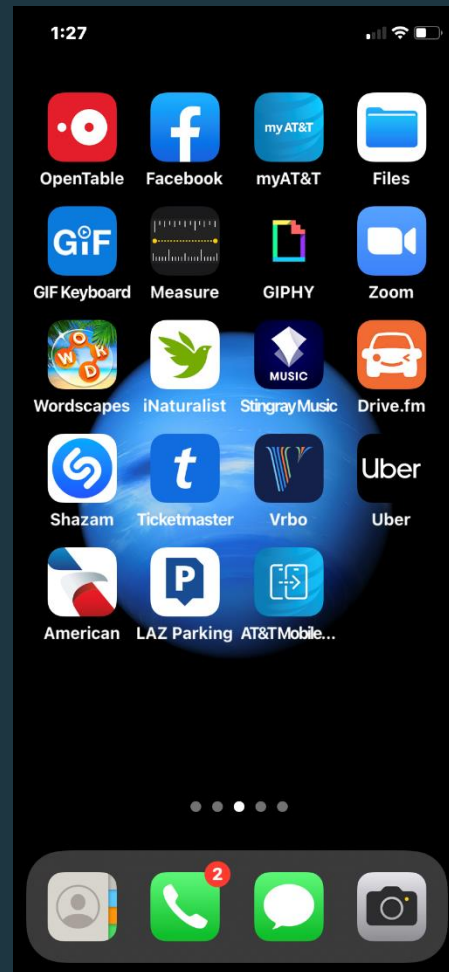
 2022/04/14 7:32 PM

 Location

Notes

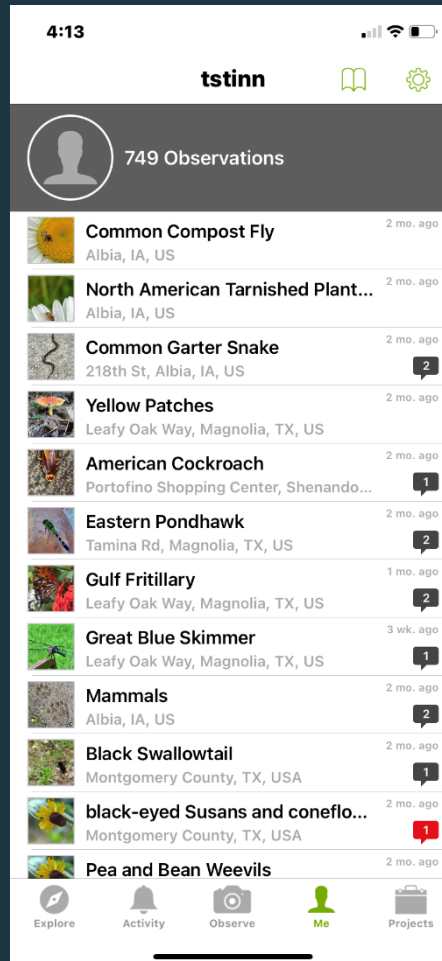
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Important Tips for using the app on i phones.



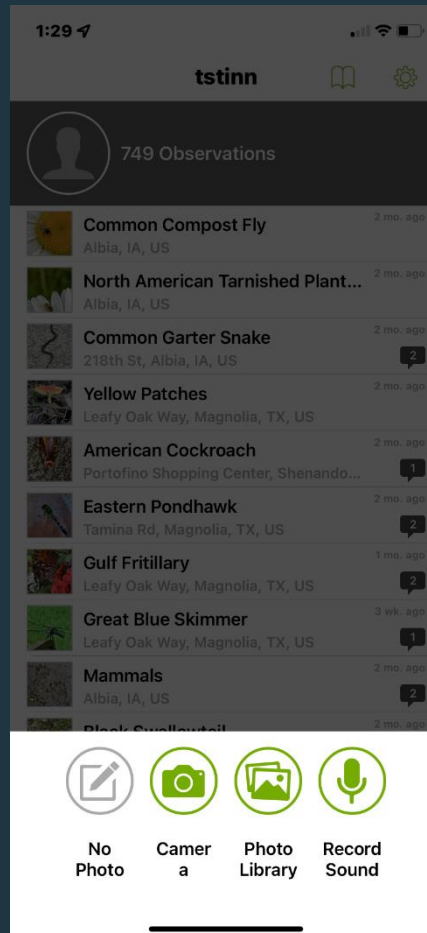
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Tap on the observe option.



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- This is the observe screen.



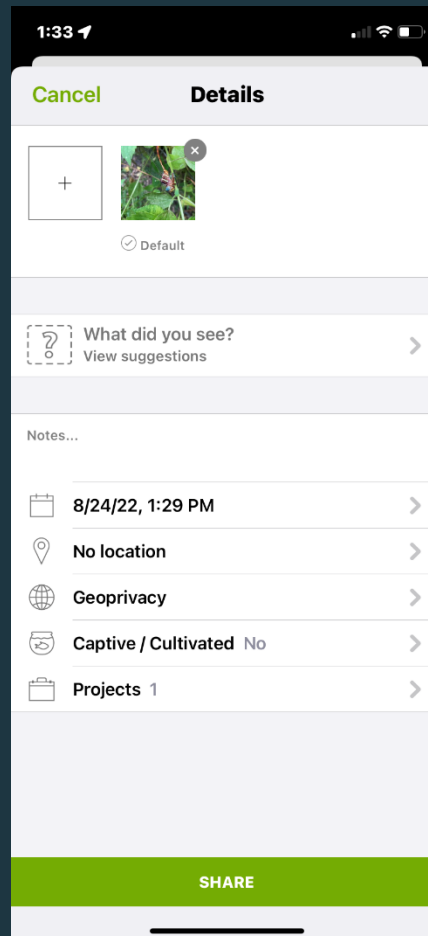
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- You can add photos in the field and fill out fields later under edit.
- You can take pictures and then go back into your photo library and create an observation. This will give you a chance to edit them for better reviewing.



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

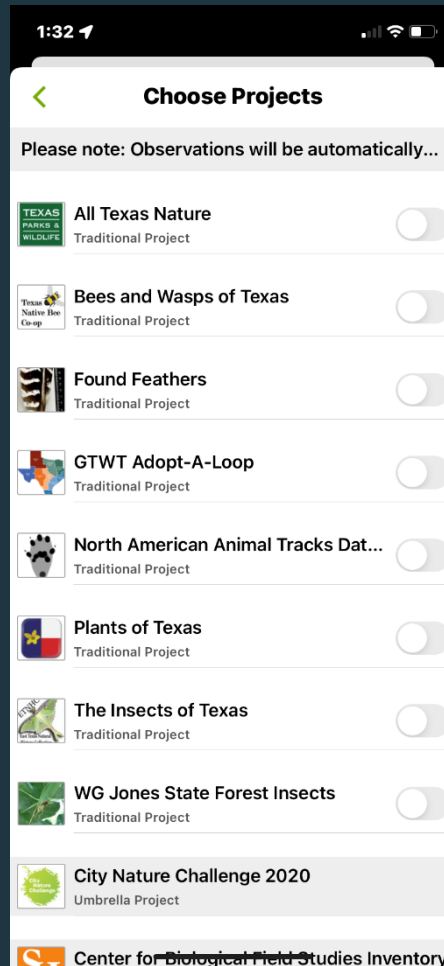
- Once the picture/pictures are added fill out the categories. The project field must be filled in.



The screenshot shows the 'Details' screen of the GTWT Adopt-A-Loop app. At the top, there is a status bar with the time 1:33 and signal indicators. Below the status bar, the screen has a header with 'Cancel' in green and 'Details' in black. The main content area includes a photo gallery with a placeholder (a square with a plus sign) and a photo of a plant with a close icon (an 'x' in a circle). Below the photo is a 'Default' label with a checkmark. A section titled 'What did you see?' with a question mark icon and 'View suggestions' text is followed by a 'Notes...' field. Below the notes field are several rows of information, each with an icon and a right-pointing arrow: a calendar icon for '8/24/22, 1:29 PM', a location pin icon for 'No location', a globe icon for 'Geoprivacy', a plant icon for 'Captive / Cultivated No', and a briefcase icon for 'Projects 1'. At the bottom of the screen is a green bar with the word 'SHARE' in white capital letters.

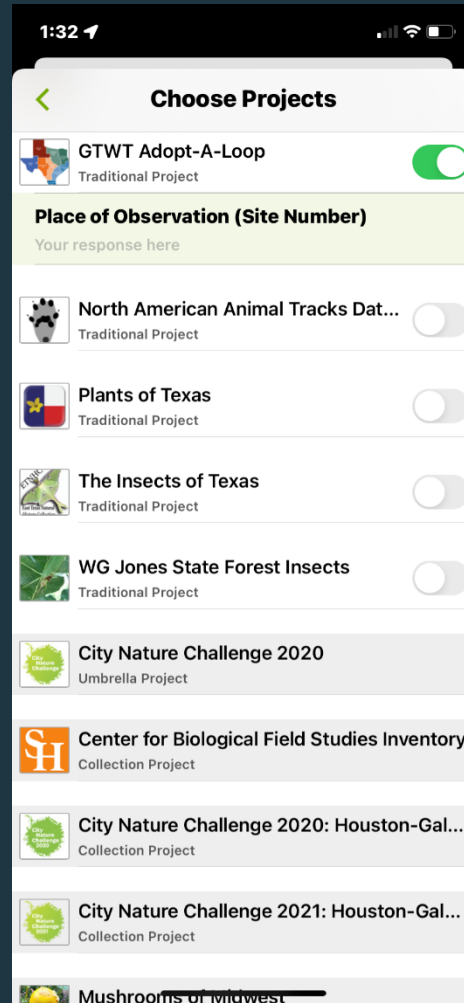
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Click on the Adopt-A-Loop tab.



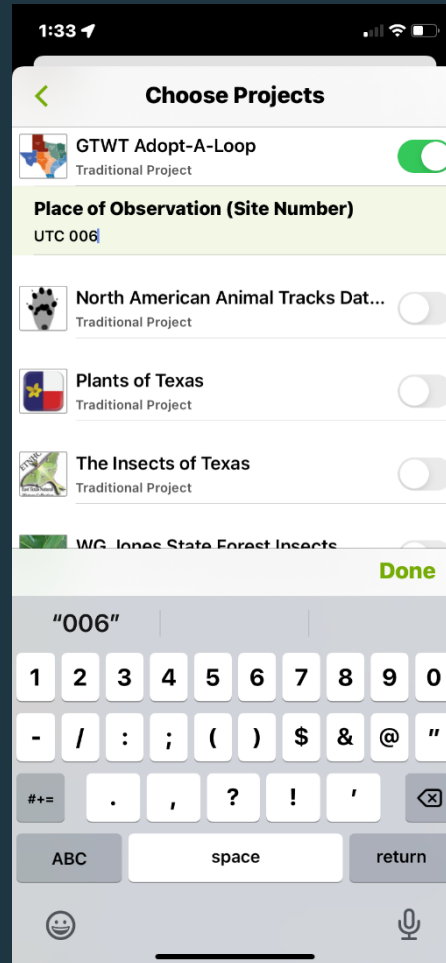
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- The most important step is to include the site number.



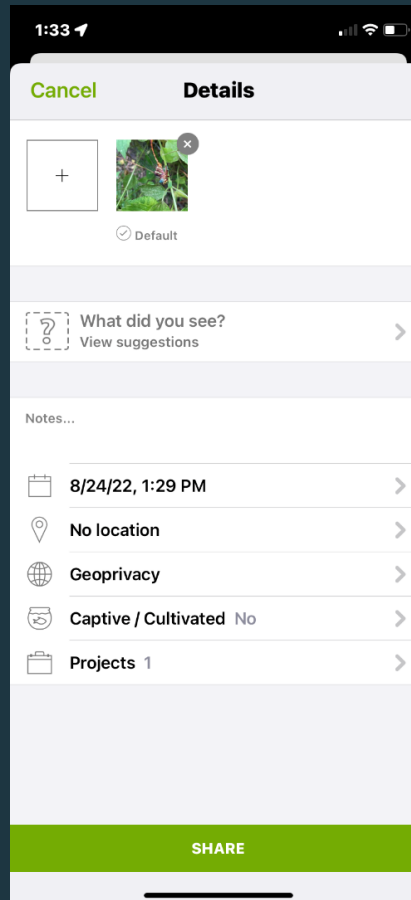
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Don't forget to click done and the green back arrow.



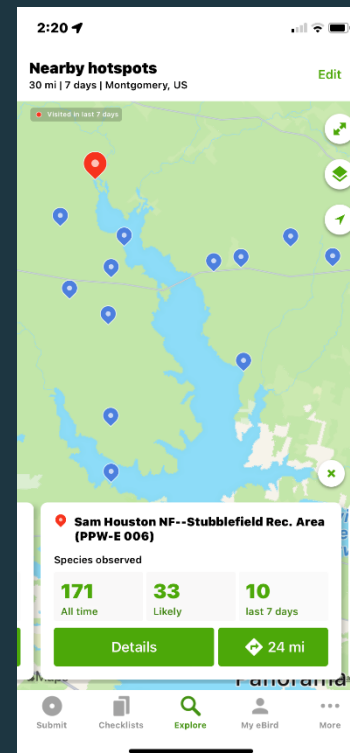
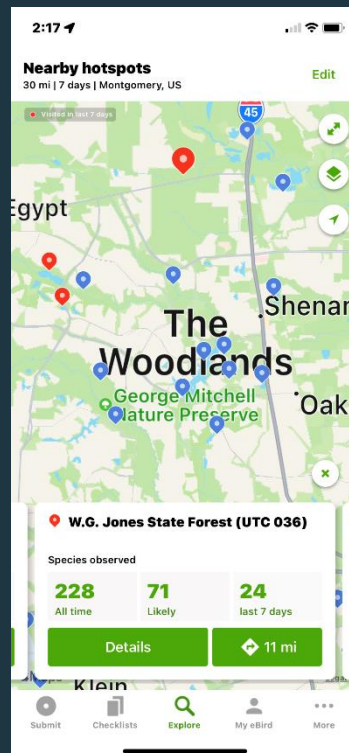
GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- A successful entry into the project will have all fields completed! Then tap the green share button.



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- There is an e-bird component to the AAL project as well. Once again, when out birding in the app make sure you are using a hot spot with the AAL code.



GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

Important Links

- iNaturalist Training Adopt A Loop Project Part 1 – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3T3ojK4p21>
- iNaturalist Training Adopt A Loop Project Part 2 - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ-48aAISfg>
- Great Texas Wildlife Trails and Adopt a Loop (AAL) Program – YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qv6l_Mt1og

GTWT Adopt-A-Loop

- Questions