Hardy’s Nature Guide
for Young Naturalists

I’m Hardy—your Phil Hardberger Park guide to adventure and learning
Write Your Own Guide!

Here’s how it works:
• Learn about the park.
• Read the pictures!
What Is Phil Hardberger Park All About?

- Learn about all the plant and animal species that live in the park.
Who lived in the park?

• Many thousands of years ago, people lived in San Antonio.

• Dr. Steve Tomka, Director of the Archaeological Research Center at the University of Texas at San Antonio,
Early Humans in San Antonio

- We find arrow heads and darts from long ago.

People used rocks to make the arrow heads.
The Voelcker Farm

Before there was a Voelcker had a dairy farm, Max and Minnie.

The Voelcker Farm

- They ed milk their cows.

- Here R some things U find on a dairy :
Ashe Juniper

- There R lots of
- in the
- park
Ashe Juniper

- The bark is rough.

- The leaves are thin and green.
Savanna

- The savanna used to be.
- savanna is with just a few grasses.
Savanna

- Bison ate the grass. Burned the small
- Then elephants came and ate the grass to the roots.
- Man put out the fire.
- The grass died and the trees took over.
Snags

- A **snag** is a dead standing tree.

snag
Snags

- Birds make nests in snags.
- Lizards live in snags too.
Texas Persimmon

- The fruit has smooth skin and small oval shape.
Texas Persimmon

- You can make **jelly** from **persimmon fruit**.
Other Small Trees

- Kidneywood is a small tree in the family. 

- Other trees are Gum Bumelia, Toothache Tree, Wafer ash and Eve’s Necklace.
Other Small Trees

- People used to chew the 🌳 of the Toothache 🌳 to stop 🦷 pain.
  - tooth
- They chewed the sap of the Gum Bumelia like 🍁.
  - gum

- The 🌱s of Eve’s seed Necklace look like a 🍁.
  - necklace
Wildlife of the Park

- Ringtails are active at night.

- Ringtail (Bassaricus) from USDA FS
Wildlife of the Park

- Rock squirrels like the wet creek bed.
- Squirrels and raccoons and coyotes use the road as a trail.

raccoon     coyote     road
Birds of the Park

What are some good places to look for birds?

- Roadrunner
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Sage Thrasher
- Field Sparrow

Photos courtesy of Lora Render
Birds of the Park

Cedar waxwings roost in s.

Roadrunners run on the . ground

U C vultures flying in the .

can

sky

Photo courtesy of Barbara Schmidt
Reptiles of the Park

• Reptiles hide.

• They blend in with their surroundings.

Rosebelly Lizard
Reptiles of the Park

- **Turtle**
- **Snake**
- **Lizard**

These are reptiles that live in the park.
Wildflowers of the Park

- Y R wildflowers important?

- Horsemint
- Bladderpod
- Greenthread
- Gaillardia
- Prairie Verbena
- 2 Leaved Senna
Some flowers are used as medicine.
Exotic Invasive Plants

- Some do not come from Texas.
Exotic Invasive Plants

• We call these "invaders".

• They take over and grow.

not
Prickly Pear

• Prickly pears are called cactus pears.

• You make jelly from the fruit.

• Prickly pears have spines.
Tasajillo

- Tasajillo is called the Christmas Cactus.
It is also called the pencil wrens in the Tasajillo.
The Yucca Moth and the Yucca need each other.
Yucca Moth

- The moth lays its eggs in the yucca eggs.

- The Yucca needs the moth to pollinate its flowers.
Butterflies and Bugs

Butterflies love all the wildflowers and plants.

Caterpillars grow into butterflies.
Grasses

- Texas wintergrass
- Bushy Bluestem
- Little Barley
- Perennial Ryegrass
- Australian Bluestem
- Eastern Gamagrass
Grasses

There are lots of s in the .

• There are bushy s
• and bristly s and
• prickly s.
Your Phil Hardberger Park!

- What do U like about the_____?
- Draw a picture of something in the_____

Useful Websites

- http://www.flyingwild.org/
- http://www.wildflower.org/plants/
- http://sfr.psu.edu/youth/sftrc/lesson-plans/forestry/k-5
- http://www.projectwild.org/growingupwild.htm
- http://www.thebutterflysite.com/texas-butterflies.shtml
- http://www.sanaturalRas.org/butterflyid1.htm
- http://www.npot.org/
- http://essmextension.tamu.edu/plants/
- http://www.austinreptileservice.net/lizards.html
- http://birdingbyear.com/
- http://www.saws.org/education/h2o_university/index.cfm
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