

MADLA NATURAL AREA TRAILS

EB: East Bend Trail - the perfect picnic area amidst the wild cherry patch –several plinths are provided for seating. Skill level Green Diamond (easy).

WW: Warbler Way - is a loop from East Bend back to the Pavilion and East Bend again; another large wild cherry patch where the warblers are – 4-5 plinths are located there, and another plinth at the end of the trail, before crossing over to the Jon Allan Loop. Skill level Blue Diamond (medium).

Warbler Alcove – located just off Warbler Way, is appropriately named as a perfect spot for observing the Warblers.

A: Amphitheater -a separate trail off Warbler Way and Ward’s Path or from the Prairie Path; a natural seating area above and over-looking the dry creek bed.

JA: Jon Allan Loop –is named for the former Helotes Mayor, Jon Allan. Benches for seating are located amongst a diverse motto of vegetation. “**Millie’s Place**” (**Mp**) is named in honor of Jon’s faithful lab and is just off the main Loop. Skill level Black Diamond (difficult)

PP: The Prairie Path - circles the wildflower/prairie field and extends from the right of the pavilion at the Huisache tree around to the left corner of the pavilion. This will not be accessible for the handicapped. Skill level Green Diamond (easy).

WP: Ward’s Path – is named for Board of Director Bill Ward. It connects Warbler Way to Prairie Path. Skill level Blue Diamond (medium)

Overlook at the Top of the Hill – be sure to read the Madla Park History Board, located on the South Wall of the Pavilion before venturing to the top of the hill on the Jon Allan Trail. A panoramic vista of the valley and surrounding hills awaits you. The two historic structures located there are ca 1900 and 1930’s vintage.

Both the Pavilion and Hilltop Areas are available for Rental. Brick Pavers and Plinths are available for purchase. For more information contact Grey Forest City Hall 210-695-3261 #5; visit madlapark.org or greyforest-tx.gov

*Take only photos
Leave only footprints*

SENATOR FRANK L. MADLA, JR. NATURAL AREA



Golden-cheek Warbler

Photo by Laurie Hawkins

A Facility of the City of Grey Forest

Park Hours: Sunrise to Sunset (unless otherwise posted)

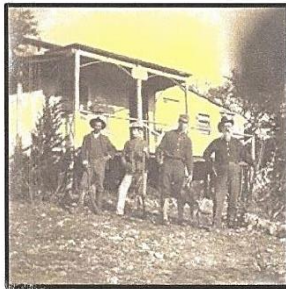
Located: .5 miles east of Scenic Loop Road on Menchaca Road

Report disturbances or vandalism to Grey Forest Police: 210-684-1011

In case of Emergency call: 911 Madla Park Voicemail: 210-695-3261 #5

Purchased through a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and conservation easement funds from the City of San Antonio.

HISTORY



The Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area is named for the late Texas State Senator, whose family is a long time resident of the Scenic Loop area, and who served the citizens of Texas for 33 years. The Natural Area is owned by the City of Grey Forest. The 42 acre park was purchased through a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife and conservation easement funds from the City of San Antonio. Donations from individuals and businesses in the surrounding communities have aided in the park development.

It is most appropriate that the City of Grey Forest has secured this property. Originally known as The Scenic Loop Playground, the City of Grey Forest was developed as a rural retreat with its emphasis on natural resources and man's relationship to nature. The community is sensitive to supporting green and public spaces. The Natural Area is located on Menchaca Rd off Scenic Loop. The 2011 Texas Legislature designated Scenic Loop - Boerne Stage - Toutant Beauregard as an Historic Corridor.

Like the surrounding lands, this park site has a rich history with structures that date to the late 1800's and early 1900's. John Conrad Beckmann and

his wife, Regina Muller, arrived in America in 1841 and settled in San Antonio in May 1846, becoming the city's first permanent German family. John was a wrought-iron craftsman by trade and built his homestead and shop next to the Alamo. In 1852 John purchased 320 acres in the "Canyon de los Helotes" for Regina, who had grown homesick for her native lands of Switzerland. The property was used as a weekend retreat for the family and would in time include a Swiss chalet style cabin on the hilltop. In 1853, the farm was the site of an Indian raid that would result in the deaths of the farm's caretaker and his family. By the 1920s a rock cottage, still standing, was added to the hilltop area. The names of two grandsons, Kurt and Werner Beckmann, still appear on area survey maps. This picture is of one structure on the park site taken in 1906 and includes Mr. John Beckmann on the far right.

The City of Grey Forest purchased this property in 2009 to preserve it as a natural area.

(Some information above is from Helotes Happenings by Jo Ann Gillis and condensed from an article from the San Antonio Light 1 April 1974.)

