



For Immediate Release

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Let's Take It Outdoors!

Stay safe, Stay healthy, Stay socially distanced

ROCKPORT-FULTON, TX — The year 2020 brought us a pandemic that nobody could have ever imagined. Covid19 has changed all of our lives. The world changed seemingly overnight. People were confined to their homes to stay healthy. But people can't stay locked inside forever, so what can one do to stay healthy and still be safe? Get outside! With a profusion of natural resources, Rockport-Fulton is the place to do just that. The mild coastal weather makes any time of year easy to enjoy an abundance of outdoor activities.

Rockport Beach

The secret gem on the Texas Coast is a mile-long pampered and palapa sprinkled beach. This beach proudly flies the "Blue Wave" Flag, signifying it as nationally certified by the Washington D.C. Clean Beaches Council. Rockport Beach was recently named the No.1 Beach on the Texas Coast by USA Today readers. It offers private, covered picnic cabanas, each with a BBQ grill; three beach playground areas; two sand volley ball courts; four public boat launches; a fish cleaning stand; a bathhouse; a walking trail; a bird sanctuary; an 800' fishing pier; and plenty of boating and fishing space. There are also two indoor, well equipped waterfront venues and a large outdoor shelter available for rent.

Goose Island State Park and The Big Tree

Just minutes north of Rockport-Fulton in historic Lamar, Goose Island State Park, 321.4 acres, surrounded by the St. Charles and Aransas Bays, is located north of Rockport in Aransas County. The earliest park facilities were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the early 1930s. Although located on Aransas Bay, there is no swimming area at this park. The shoreline is comprised of concrete bulkhead, oyster shell, mud flat, and marsh grass. The main recreational activities are camping, excellent birding, and fishing. Other activities include picnicking, boating (motors allowed), nature study, wildlife observation, geocache, and photography. Guided nature hikes are held year round. Guided birding tours are held from January through April. And, don't miss a visit to the Big Tree just minutes from Goose Island at 1622 12th Street, it is estimated to be over 1,000 years old and was a meeting spot for local native tribes.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Voted the No. 1 birding spot and No. 5 National Wildlife Refuge in the nation for *USA TODAY* Readers' Choice, this site is the place to go for watching the more than 400 species of birds, especially the endangered whooping cranes in the winter. These birds stand five feet tall with a seven-foot wingspan. Other wildlife can be found here as well, such as turtles, Alligators, Wild

pigs, blue crab, butterflies to name a few, all in addition to the beautiful scenery. Located just a short drive from Rockport-Fulton at 1 Wildlife Cir. Austwell.

Boat Cruises: Whooping Crane/ Dolphin /Sunset

Bring a camera and look for whooping cranes as they nest November through March on this popular sightseeing tour, which is fun for both the young and young at heart. In the summer, dolphin and sunset cruises are also available, while other types of wildlife, such as alligators, pelicans and more, can be seen throughout the year. The Summer months are a great time to view the beautiful sunset over the bay or watch dolphins as they plunge in and out of the bay.

Birdwatching

With 10 birding sites on the Great Texas Birding Trail, this area is perfect for spotting flocks. Hundreds of birds can be seen in just one day, such as mottled duck, snowy egret, sandhill crane and little blue heron. Favorite birding places include the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary, Ivy Lane, Linda S. Castro Nature Sanctuary, Tule Marsh East, and Rattlesnake Point Road.

Hike/Bike

Those who love the great outdoors will find plenty of places to get out and bike no matter their skill level. Tule Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Memorial Park, water street, and Goose Island Big Tree Route are just a few.

Boating/Kayaking

There are plenty of places to get in the water in the Rockport-Fulton area. Public boat ramps and piers include Cove Harbor, Fulton Harbor and Rockport Harbor, while Little Bay North and South, Airport Road and Howard Murph Park are just a few of the places perfect for kayaking. Aransas Pathways has sixteen kayak launch areas for a printable map go to Aransaspathways.com

Outdoor Dining

Many restaurants in the Rockport-Fulton area offer outdoor dining. This feature not only allows to dining in a safer environment but allows a unique experience that isn't allows available in other areas. If are fortunate enough to have had a great fishing experience, many local restaurants will also cook your catch. Don't forget, curbside is also available in many places.

Coastal Gardens

A well-kept secret that is slowly being discovered are the amazing Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Gardens that ate kept by the Master Gardeners. The gardens are open for viewing and strolling during the open hours of the Agri-Life Center. Everything from native to exotic plants can be seen. A great way to take a mental break in the open air.

Aransas Pathways

A favorite with visitors and locals alike are the Aransas Pathways sites. These sites include outdoor activities, from kayaking to hiking, biking, birding and more along with historical markers and a not to be missed History Center with local plants and herb garden in back. Reach them by visiting Aransaspathways.com

Cemeteries

The Rockport, Fulton and Lamar cemeteries display the history of the area and feature several graves from some of the area's earliest settlers. Gravestones of Confederate soldiers from the Civil War can be seen, as well as notable people from Aransas County.

Golfing/ Golf Cart Rentals

Looking for some time on the green? Tee off at premier golf clubs for a fun and challenging round. Want to rent a cart to just cruise around? It is a favorite pastime for our visitors. Stop by the Rockport-Fulton Visitors Center for a full list of courses and golf cart rental companies.

Disc Golf and Sports Complex

Memorial Park has a newly designed Disc golf course intertwining among the oak trees. The course is designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, gender, and economic status, making it a great lifetime fitness activity. Memorial Park is located at 1601 FM 2165 (Pearl St.) in Rockport. You will also discover a dog park, outdoor fitness complex and other. Consisting of more than 100 acres, the Park includes 1.65 miles of Hike and Bike trails and a 3/4-mile Nature trail with interpretive signs, and rest benches. Soccer fields, basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, off leash Dog Park, playscapes and fitness stations, birding sites and picnic facilities to serve a wide variety of interests throughout the year.

Fishing

From beginners to experts, anglers of all skill levels and ages will enjoy the abundance of opportunities to cast a line and reel in the big one. A few of the local favorite spots include the Fulton Pier, Rockport Beach Park Piers and Boat Ramp and South Jetty Pier, as well as Copano Causeway launch site. Contact the Aransas Navigation district for more information

Harbors

Life on the coast wouldn't be complete without harbors and the picturesque views they bring. The Rockport, Fulton and Cove harbors are perfect for setting sail, enjoying the fresh air or just soaking up the warm Texas sunshine. We have unique opportunities to catch both the sunrise and sunset as Rockport-Fulton is located on a peninsula with Aransas Bay to the east and Copano Bay on the west.

For more information on the attractions above visit www.rockport-fulton.org or call the Rockport-Fulton Chamber Visitor Center at 361-729-6445.