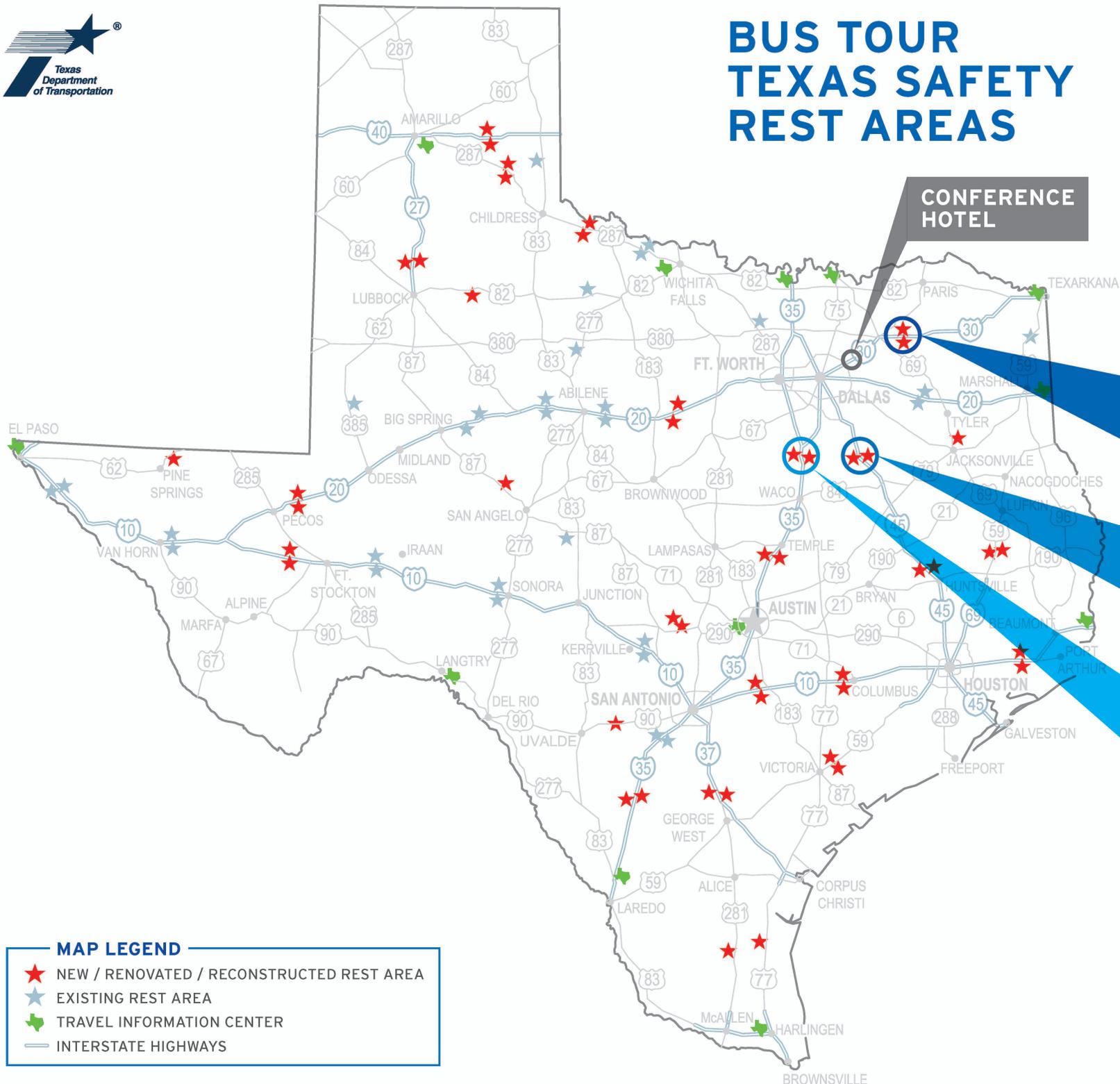




BUS TOUR TEXAS SAFETY REST AREAS

WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 19, 2018



CONFERENCE
HOTEL

**HOPKINS COUNTY
SAFETY REST AREAS**

PAGE 11-14

**NAVARRO COUNTY
SAFETY REST AREAS**

PAGE 7-10

**HILL COUNTY
SAFETY REST AREAS**

PAGE 3-6

MAP LEGEND

- ★ NEW / RENOVATED / RECONSTRUCTED REST AREA
- ★ EXISTING REST AREA
- 🌿 TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS



Each Texas safety rest area is designed with context sensitivity to capture the look and feel of the unique area where the project is located. As you ride the bus on this tour, observe the changing sceneries along the way and note how they might have influenced the building designs.

TOUR AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
(Time is estimated and subjected to change)

7:30 a.m.	Depart hotel
-----------	--------------

As the bus gets near the pair of Hill County Safety Rest Areas, notice the agrarian scenery with rows of crops, barns, silos and windmills.

9:15 a.m.	Arrive at Hill County Safety Rest Areas
-----------	---

10:15 a.m.	Depart
------------	--------

Note the change in scenery along the way to the next pair of safety rest areas. Open spaces become more wooded.

Noon	Arrive at Navarro County Safety Rest Areas
------	--

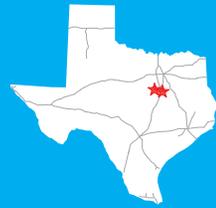
1 p.m.	Depart (with lunch)
--------	---------------------

The bus ride to the next pair of safety rest areas will cross a few water bodies, and an alternation of sceneries between woodlands and open prairies which originates the word "Crosstimmer" which is also often used to describe the area.

3:45 p.m.	Arrive at Hopkins County Safety Rest Areas
-----------	--

4:45 p.m.	Depart
-----------	--------

5:30 p.m.	Arrive back at conference hotel
-----------	---------------------------------



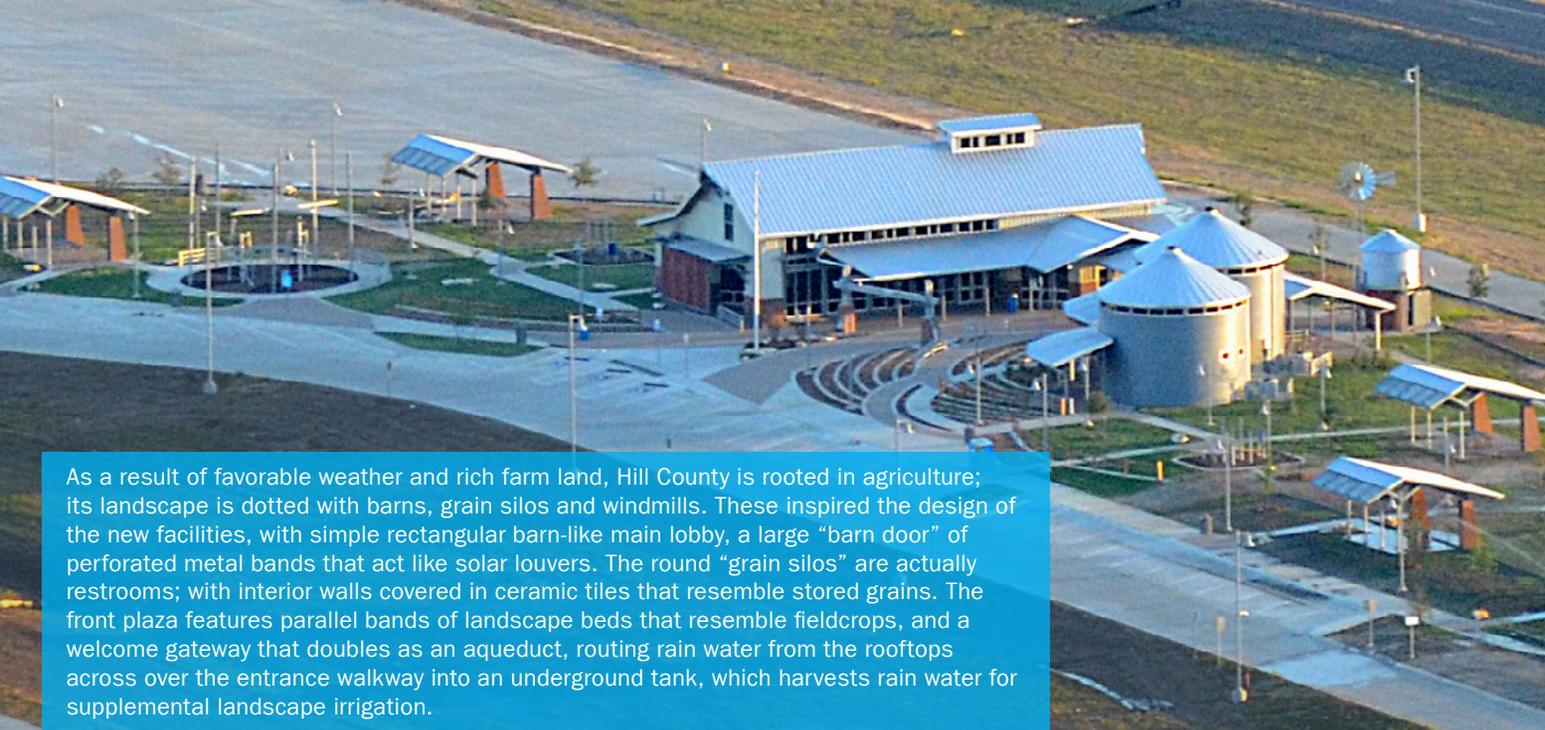
HILL COUNTY

Safety Rest Area

IH-35 S. of Hillsboro, 75 miles S. of Dallas



Each facility features an actual, working windmill. The design, with barn-like main building, and round, grain silo-like restrooms, is a tribute to the local farming history.



As a result of favorable weather and rich farm land, Hill County is rooted in agriculture; its landscape is dotted with barns, grain silos and windmills. These inspired the design of the new facilities, with simple rectangular barn-like main lobby, a large “barn door” of perforated metal bands that act like solar louvers. The round “grain silos” are actually restrooms; with interior walls covered in ceramic tiles that resemble stored grains. The front plaza features parallel bands of landscape beds that resemble fieldcrops, and a welcome gateway that doubles as an aqueduct, routing rain water from the rooftops across over the entrance walkway into an underground tank, which harvests rain water for supplemental landscape irrigation.



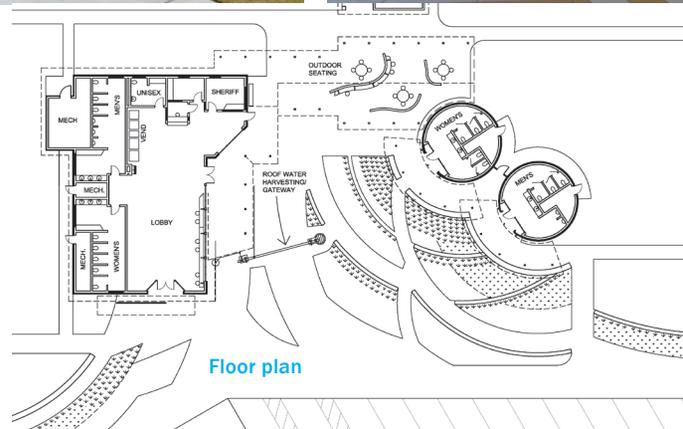
View inside a round silo-like restroom. The interior walls are covered in ceramic tiles that resemble grains. The stainless steel air-duct above the sinks resembles a grain blower.



View toward the building from the children's playground. A hovering Texas-size star-shaped roof canopy provides shade for the playground.



Interior exhibit continues the agrarian theme and includes an actual tractor.



FACTS & FIGURES
Lat/Long: 31.921446, -97.099792
Opening Date: Fall 2013.
Parking Space: 42 cars/60 trucks.
Main Building Area: ~ 9,400 S.F.
Located along one of the highest ADT highways in the state.
Special Features: “grain silo” restrooms, fieldcrop landscape, working windmill, Monarch butterfly garden.
The town of Abbott, approximately three miles south of this rest area location, is the birthplace of outlaw country music superstar Willie Nelson.
The facilities were designated as Monarch Butterfly Waystations in 2015 and their gardens have been planted with native plants including milkweeds to feed the butterflies during their spring migration.



NAVARRO COUNTY

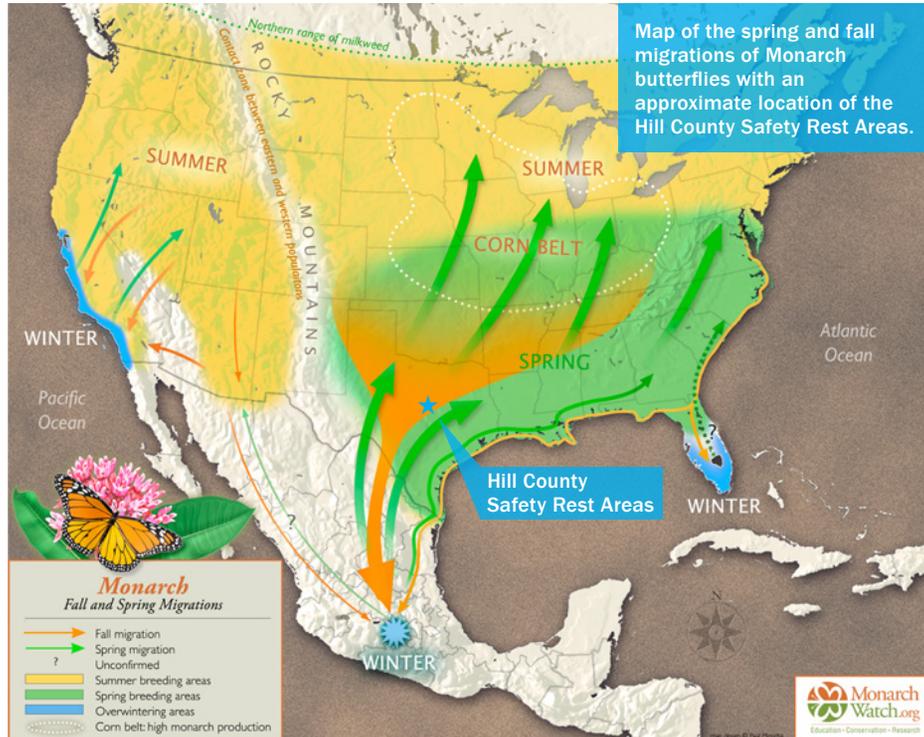
Safety Rest Area

IH-45 S. of Corsicana, 70 miles S. of Dallas

MONARCH WAYSTATIONS

In 2015, the Hill County Safety Rest Areas became Monarch Waystations. It's a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Native Plant Society of Texas and TxDOT.

Volunteers prepared landscape beds for planting of milkweeds and other native plants that support monarch butterflies.



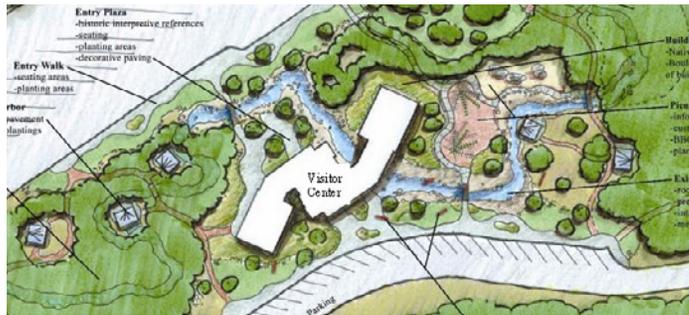
A life-size buffalo sculpture greets visitors near the building entrance. These mighty creatures once roamed the prairies and plains in this part of Texas.



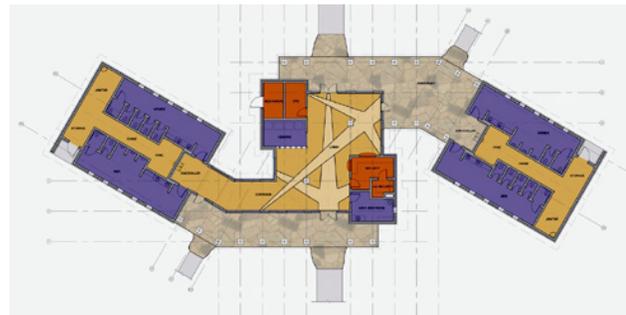
The building design reflects the regional vernacular of the Blackland Prairie and its agrarian character: gabled structures with sloped roofs and lean-to's with deep porches reminiscent of the farming and ranching buildings of the Blackland Prairie. The building's exterior walls are covered with riverstones similar to what are found along a creek bed, transitioning to cement plaster and plank siding. At the northbound site, the rest area building spans over a seasonal water stream and connect the building to the pedestrian trails (see picture below, left)



The site's existing honey locust trees, with their feather-like leaves and sharp thorns, inspired many architectural elements such as this picnic arbor sculpture, and at the pedestrian bridge seen above.



Building at Northbound site spans over a seasonal creek



Floor plan



Interior exhibits feature an oil derrick to commemorate Texas' first substantial oil strike occurred in 1894 in nearby town Corsicana.

FACTS & FIGURES

Lat/Long: 31.911550, -96.394900

Opening Date: opened Fall 2011

Parking Space: 28 cars/28 trucks

Main Building Area: ~ 7,000 S.F.

Special Features: pedestrian bridge, honey locust sculpture, storm shelter, an MBR (Membrane Bio-Reactor) Sewage Treatment Plant to reclaim wastewater for flushing of toilets.

Navarro County was named after José Antonio Navarro, a signer of the declaration of independence of Texas from Mexico in 1836.

The county is located in a forest-grassland transition area of Texas known as the Blackland Prairie, which probably has fostered a nurturing ground for sightings of "Bigfoot," with over 3,000 sightings reported in the area over the years.



HOPKINS COUNTY

Safety Rest Area

IH-30 E. of Cumby, 66 miles E. of Dallas

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF THE NAVARRO COUNTY SAFETY REST AREAS



An oil derrick pays tribute to the discovery of the nearby Corsicana Oilfield in 1894 that started the oil boom in Texas.



The entrance sign features the building's iconic theme: thorns of the honey locust trees.



An outdoor display interpreting local flora.

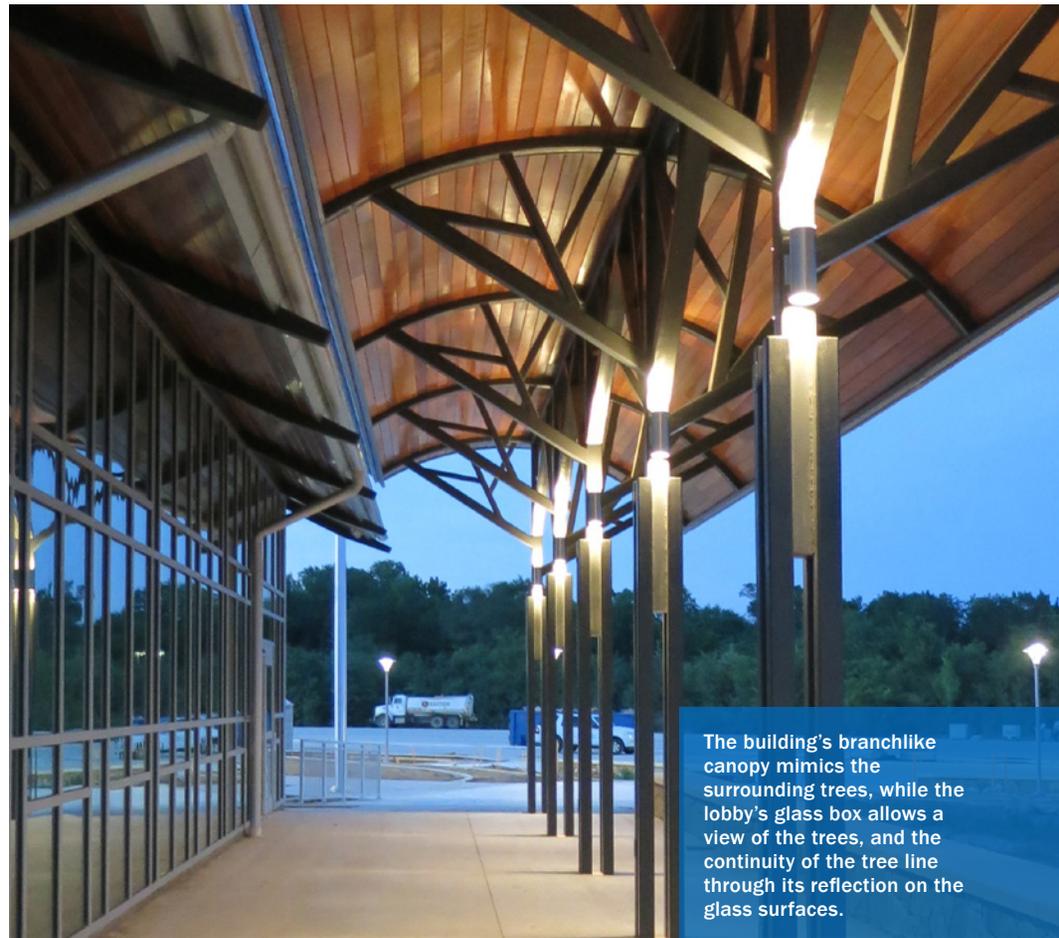
BIGFOOT IN TEXAS



While many give little credence to reports that a huge, hair-covered, upright, human-shaped mammal prowls the forests and thickets of East and Central Texas, there are people in Navarro County that swear Bigfoot is here. Two of the most thoroughly documented sightings within the county were near Trinidad, on the banks of the Trinity River, and at Navarro Mills Lake, just down the road from here. Both were thoroughly researched and the witnesses were found to be credible, their stories plausible. The Navarro County sightings have come to the attention of the Texas Bigfoot Research Conservancy, a non-profit scientific-research organization comprised of volunteer investigators, scientists, biologists and naturalists, dedicated to testing the hypothesis that a large, undocumented primate species does exist. Over the years the group has collected witness testimony, plaster casts of what might be Bigfoot tracks, hair samples, and compelling but inconclusive photographs. The mission now is to collect photographic evidence. Currently, the group has deployed what it calls digital camera traps, some 30 man-of-forest, high-speed cameras designed to automatically capture both still and video images. The goal is to have a network of 100 Bigfoot camera traps in the field within a year. The scientific method has come to the search for Sasquatch.



An interpretive display about Bigfoot. Many have sworn seeing Bigfoot in the area.



The building's branchlike canopy mimics the surrounding trees, while the lobby's glass box allows a view of the trees, and the continuity of the tree line through its reflection on the glass surfaces.



A display of the "Glyph Walk," a scavenger hunt game to pique a visitor's curiosity.



The original emblem of the Texas Department of Transportation (issued in 1924) adorns the building lobby and entrances to invite visitors to step inside.



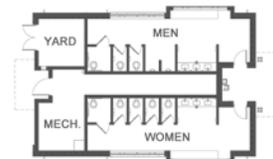
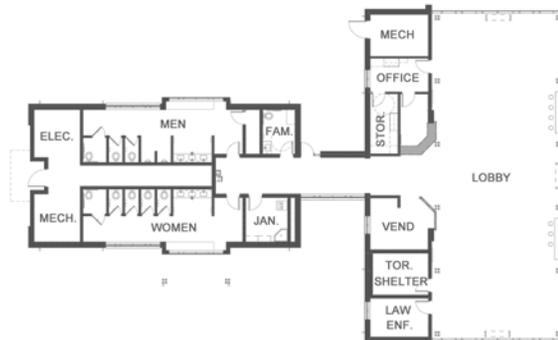
Native stones and red cedar planks adorn the building's walls and ceilings for a warm and welcoming invitation.



The interior interpretive exhibits follow the tree-inspired architecture, with "tree stumps" of different sizes serving as a theater area and as display stands.



Rendering of interior exhibit



Floor plan

The site's woodland character provides a perfect backdrop and inspired the transparent "glass box" lobby design to connect visitors to nature from the inside of the building. The entire building structure takes the form of trees and limbs to further reinforce and celebrate its connection to nature. Frequent rainfalls allow utilization of ponds for drip irrigation of the landscape.

FACTS & FIGURES

Lat/Long: 33.131053, -95.817681

Opening Date: early Fall 2018 (est.)

Parking Space: 28 cars/28 trucks

Main Building Area: ~ 9,000 S.F.

Special Features: storm shelter, walking trail, ponds for irrigation

The county is divided between the woodland and the open prairies and lakes regions of Texas. It is also known as the "Crosstimber" region, named by early settlers who found belts of oak forest crossing trips of prairie grassland, impeding their travel to the east and west.

Audie Murphy (1925 - 1971), one of the most decorated soldiers of WWII, and after the war went on to become an actor in 44 Hollywood movies, was born in the area in the town Kingston, Texas.

FLORA & FAUNA OF HOPKINS COUNTY



Great Blue Heron



Golden-fronted woodpecker: live in mesquite and riparian woodlands of Texas and Oklahoma.



Dogwood: found in eastern deciduous forests that extend to eastern Texas.



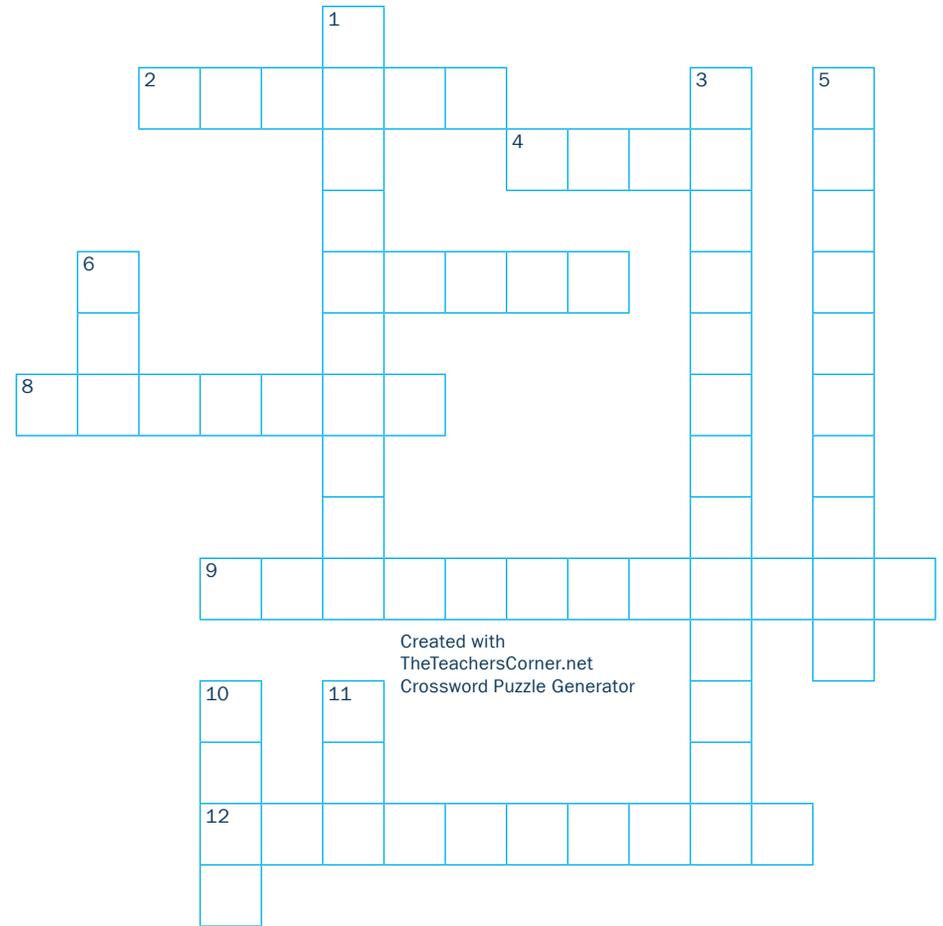
Spiders: Texas has a lot of spiders! This particular "banana spider" (*nephila clavipes*) lives primarily in Central America but can be found as far north as the southern states of the U.S.



Indian blanket: a highly drought tolerant wildflower native to Texas and other southern states.



Rattlesnake.



Created with
TheTeachersCorner.net
Crossword Puzzle Generator

ACROSS

- 2. A reason to make periodic stops during a driving trip.
- 4. A material that a Safety Rest Area can produce a whole lot of!
- 7. A covered structure with table and seating to protect someone from rain and sun.
- 8. What do Safety Rest Areas help drivers overcome?
- 9. What do Safety Rest Areas offer to help keep public safe?
- 12. An amenity Safety Rest Areas provide for children.

DOWN

- 1. An architectural style that is designed based on local needs, availability of construction materials and reflecting local tradition.
- 3. A written standard of workmanship and description of material used in building a Safety Rest Area.
- 5. What does each Safety Rest Area have to the surrounding communities?
- 6. Three-letter abbreviation for break stops along roadways.
- 10. Used to give travelers direction to their destination.
- 11. A federal act that all public facilities including Safety Rest Areas are required to comply with.