

Alligator Etiquette

Thousands of people visit Brazos Bend State Park every year and there have been no alligator attacks of humans.

When you visit the park you are the guest in this wild habitat and should treat all wildlife with respect. All wildlife in the park is protected. Feeding, harassing, injuring or removing wildlife is prohibited.

You can ensure your safety by following these rules.

1. Absolutely do not feed or harass alligators.
2. Pets must be on a leash at all times. The leash must be no longer than 6 feet at any time. Bring water for your pet when you walk the trails. Never allow your pet to drink from or enter the lakes.
3. Keep a safe distance of 30 feet at all times. Do not assume the alligators are slow and sluggish. Remember they can move at speeds up to 30 mph for the first 30 feet.
4. If you hook a fish, an alligator may go after your catch. Do not continue to fish near an alligator which shows interest in your fishing line or catch. Do not use a stringer for your fish; keep them in a bucket.
5. Avoid any alligator sunning itself on the trail. The alligator has the right-of-way. You may turn around and go back the way you came.
6. If you see a pile of twigs, grasses and/or soil near the lakeside or side of the trail, avoid it. It could be a nest and the mother alligator is probably close by guarding it. This also goes for any group of small alligators one foot in length or smaller. This is what we call a "pod" and they are still under the protection of their mother. Mother alligators can be very aggressive if they feel their nest or pod is in danger!
7. When an alligator stands its ground and hisses, you have come too close. This is a warning! You need to slowly back away until the alligator no longer demonstrates this behavior.