



**SOUTH TEXAS
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
& NATURE CENTER**

8545 S. Staples St. • Corpus Christi TX 78413 • sbot.org • 361-852-2100



MaryJane Crull
mjc@sbot.org
361-852-2100 x 232
361-816-8889 M

Michael Womack
wmwomack@sbot.org
361-852-2100 x 224
361-834-6413 M

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South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center follows new CDC guidelines for fully-vaccinated guests

CORPUS CHRISTI—In following the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) May 13, 2021 updated COVID-19 guidelines, the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center no longer is requiring fully-vaccinated visitors age three and up to wear face masks on-site.

The Botanical Gardens strongly recommends and encourages those who aren’t yet fully-vaccinated (*including wait period*) to properly wear a mask indoors, social distance indoors and outdoors, plus get vaccinated for their own and others’ safety and protection. Masks are available at check-in for \$1.

Because some indoor spaces are tighter, posted capacity limits will be maintained in the Gift Shop, Resident Reptile Room, new Parrot Hut and Education Classroom.

“It’s been some time since we’ve required masks outdoors for anyone, only social distancing,” explained Executive Director Dr. Michael Womack. “Although fully-vaccinated guests no longer are required to mask-up in our indoor spaces, we know a good number will do so voluntarily, since so many adults and most children still are not vaccinated,” added Womack.

The Botanical Gardens will continue to monitor CDC recommendations, local and state requirements, adjusting its policy if necessary. The Gardens & Nature Center, at 8545 S. Staples St., is open 9 am-6 pm daily, 361-852-2100.

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ABOUT US: *FLORA, FAUNA, & FUN* are key at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a major Corpus Christi area visitor destination and nature tourism facility! The NON-PROFIT 182-acre venue showcases 11 floral exhibits and gardens, including the Butterfly House, Samuel Jones Orchid Conservatory, Anderson Bromeliad Conservatory, seasonal Plumeria Garden with viewing ramp, plus Rose Garden and massive Rose Pavilion, delightful Hummingbird Garden, desert-like Arid Garden and “artscaped” Sensory Garden. Entertainment includes Resident Reptiles and vibrant Exotic Parrot collection. Tranquil Gator Lake, Mary Hope Brennecke Nature Trail with two Kent Ullberg bronze wildlife sculptures, birding tower, Palapa Grande, wetlands boardwalk and newly enhanced Oso Creek Loop Trail make this a key site on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, and headquarters for Corpus Christi’s BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA! Bordering Oso Creek on Corpus Christi’s rapidly-growing upscale south side, this blend of beauty in the wild almost touches the northern edge of the world-famous King Ranch in an intriguing wildlife corridor.

A memorable experience for tourists, families, weddings, garden enthusiasts, birdwatchers, wildlife trackers, school field trips—or an enjoyable relaxing change of pace. Shop Nature’s Boutique in the Visitors Center. Memberships, group tours, facilities rentals, and private animal encounters are available. Free parking, picnics allowed, dog-friendly with leashes. GENERAL ADMISSION: \$9 adults; \$7 age 60, active Military, college; \$5 children ages 3 through 12. Under 3 and members, free.

American Public Gardens Assoc. • American Horticulture Society RECIPROCAL GARDENS PROGRAM • Texas Travel Alliance

The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.