



Cactus Capital Hiking Trail



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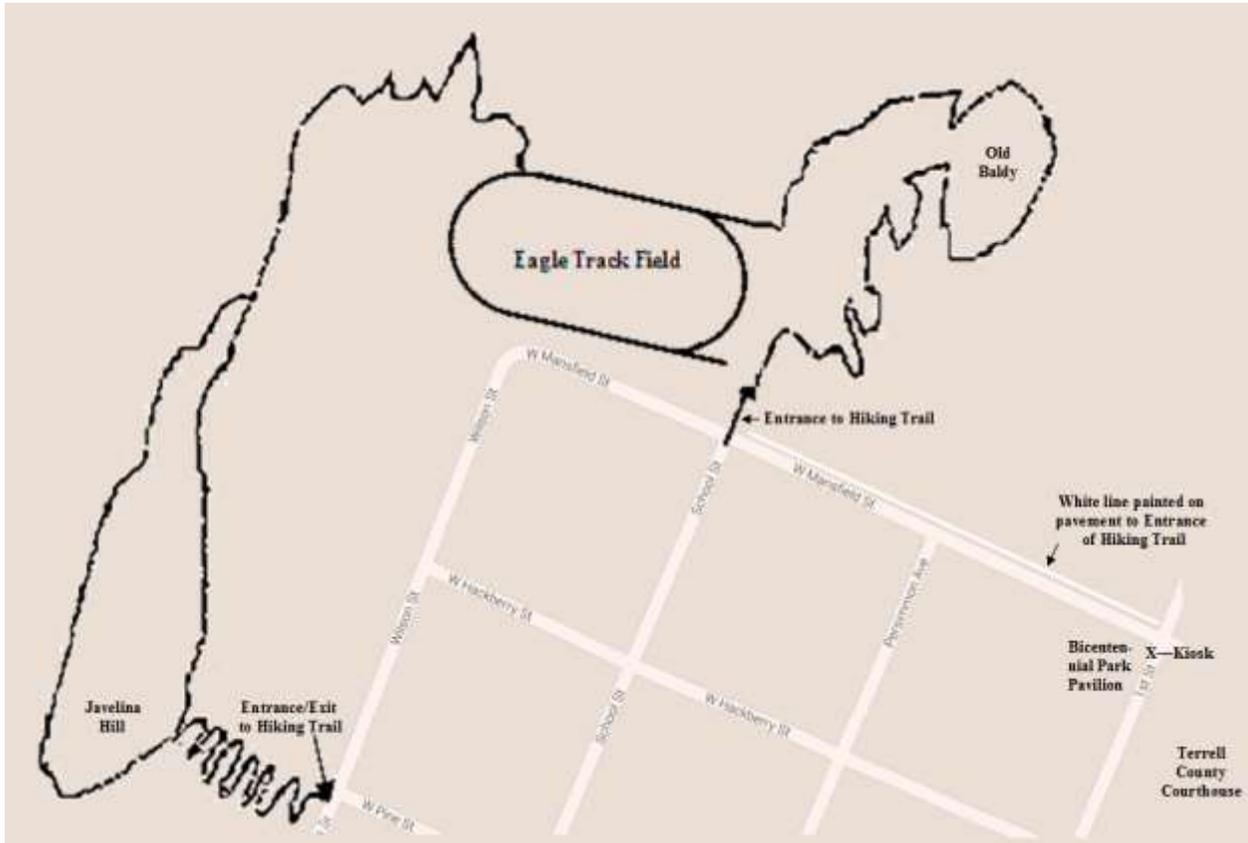
Terrell County and Sanderson

Terrell County and Sanderson are proud to present the Cactus Capital Hiking Trail. Named for the official state designation for Terrell County, we are the Cactus Capital of Texas. Our unique landscape has more species of cacti than anywhere else but Mexico. Five different biomes come together in this, the fourth largest county in Texas, and each has its own, typical cacti species. The Chihuahuana Desert, the Edwards Plateau, the Great Plains, the Sonora Desert and the South Texas Scrub region collide in a spectacular landscape of canyons, mesas and mountains, with Terrell County at its heart.

Founded as a railroad division point and ranching center in 1882, Sanderson has a rich history. The first twenty years of existence were wild and woolly times with very little law enforcement. Train robbers and bad guys frequented the thirteen saloons and bawdy houses and murder and mayhem were common place occurrences.

When Terrell County came into being in 1905, the new sheriff cleaned up the town and it began to thrive. It rose to a population of about 3200 in 1950, but gradually began a decline as the railroad modernized and steam railroading was phased out. Ranching and railroading took a hit in the 1990s and the population dwindled further.

Today we are rebuilding, featuring tourism and hunting. The town has modern infrastructure and amenities and is ready to build again. It's no secret...small town life here is wonderful, as our newest citizens will attest.



Cactus Capital Hiking Trail

The 1.7 mile Cactus Capital Hiking Trail winds around the hills northwest of Sanderson to give a magnificent bird's-eye view of our little valley. The trail begins with a kiosk and visitor information at the corner of 1st and Mansfield Street. Following a white line painted on the street, the entrance to the trail proper is at School and Mansfield, at the foot of Old Baldy, also humorously known as Hominy Hill. Climbing up from the valley floor one is afforded a spectacular view of Sanderson and the Terrell County Eagle Stadium. Then the trail descends to the Eagle track field, crosses the canyon and back up to the mountain top for another spectacular view. The trail ends at the foot of Javelina Hill just off Wilson and Pine. Along the way, small signs identify the unique flora found in our county. Park benches are spotted at intervals for those needing a breather. Hikers must bring water with them...there is no water on the trail. Public restrooms may be found at the Terrell County Courthouse or the Terrell County Visitor Center at 2nd and Oak (Hwy. 90.)

The trail was provided as part of a parks improvement program funded in part by a \$180,000 matching grant from the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife and by a half-cent venue tax approved by Terrell County voters in 2000. Crews from American YouthWorks of Austin, an AmeriCorps program for youths and young adults, created the trail in 2007.