



GO

Near the Meadows Center is Spring Lake Natural Area. It is one of the prettiest Natural Areas in Hays County. Its trails wind through woodlands and meadows. Each spring, during March through May, some of the hillside trails are closed to provide a quiet space for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler to build its nest. Can you find some of these special hillside trails? You might even spot a Golden-cheeked Warbler!



KNOW

Golden-cheeked Warbler
(*Dendroica chrysoparia*)

- The Golden-cheeked Warbler is a small colorful songbird. It has black feathers on its back, throat and head, yellow feathers on its cheeks, and a black stripe through its eye. From a distance, its feathers look like soft velvet.
- Golden-cheeked Warblers make their nests only in juniper (a.k.a. “cedar”) and oak woodlands, like those at Spring Lake Natural Area. The Warblers build their nests out of spider webs and juniper tree bark.
- The female Warbler builds the nest and lays eggs. The male Warbler defends the nest while singing his buzzy song. Both parents care for their young.

GROW

Be a Nature Poet



A **cinquain** poem has five lines that don't rhyme. Find a quiet place and use your senses to create a poem about the area.

Title (person, place, animal, or thing)

_____, _____

Two adjectives to describe the title

_____, _____, _____

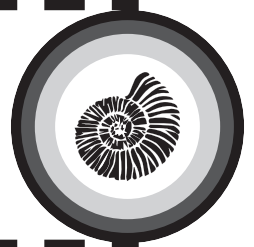
Three verbs (action words) to describe the title

Four-word phrase to describe how you feel about the title

Describe the title using a similar word

Fossils

Like much of Texas, Spring Lake Natural Area was once covered by a shallow warm ocean. Many marine fossils remain and are easy to find on the trails. Look for the fossils of **Exogyra**, an extinct oyster.



Spring Lake Natural Area San Marcos, TX

