In addition to the examination of species caught at Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, museum records and university collections from Texas A&M University, University of Texas-Austin, University of Texas-Arlington, University of New Mexico, University of Kansas, and the University of Michigan were used to compile this checklist. Every mammal on this list can be found, has been found, should be found, or could be found at the park. However, as with all checklists, species will either be added or deleted as more information is obtained. Mammals that have been documented in the park are listed below in bold.

**Mammals**

**Armadillo (Xenarthra)**
- Nine-banded Armadillo

**Opossums (didelphimorphia)**
- Virginia Opossum

**Bats (Chiroptera)**
- Big Brown Bat
- Eastern Pipistrelle
- Brazilian Free Tailed Bat
- Eastern Red Bat
- Hoary Bat
- Raffinesque’s Big Eared Bat
- Southeastern Myotis
- Silver Haired Bat
- Northern Yellow Bat
- Seminole Bat
- Evening Bat

**Rabbits (Lagomorpha)**
- Swamp Rabbit
- Eastern Cottontail

**Rodents (Rodentia)**
- Eastern Gray Squirrel
- Eastern Fox Squirrel
- Southern Flying Squirrel
- Raccoon
- American Beaver
- Nutria
- Common Muskrat
- Baird’s Pocket Gopher
- White Footed Mouse
- Fulvous Harvest Mouse
- Hspid Cotton Rat
- Hspid Cotton Mouse
- Marsh Rice Rat
- Cotton Mouse
- Deer Mouse
- Norway Rat
- Northern Pygmy Mouse
- Eastern Woodrat
- Eastern Harvest Mouse
- House Mouse
- Roof Rat

**Insectivores (Insectivora)**
- Eastern Mole
- Southern Short Tailed Shrew
- Elliot’s Short Tailed Shrew
- Least Shrew

**Carnivores (Carnivora)**
- Coyote
- Common Gray Fox
- Red Fox
- Mountain Lion
- Bobcat
- Common Raccoon
- Ringtail
- River Otter
- Long Tailed Weasel
- Mink
- Striped Skunk
- Eastern Spotted Skunk
- Common Hog Nosed Skunk

Even toed Ungulates (Artiodactyla)
- White Tailed Deer
- Feral (Wild) Hog

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**Mammals of Jones Park**

Harris County Precinct 4
Commissioner R. Jack Cagle
Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center
20634 Kenswick Drive
Humble, Texas 77338
281-446-8588
www.hcp4.net/jones
Please remember that all mammals are wild animals and should only be observed from a distance and never harmed, harassed, or handled in any way. The most dangerous mammal is the one that you lose respect for!

Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center has displays of many local mammals, to assist the public in learning to identify these unique creatures and showcase the local mammals, as well as, exotic varieties that are found on game ranches or in other parts of Texas.

Over the last century many mammals have declined or have been extirpated or have gone extinct. This is due to loss and/or fragmentation of habitat. For centuries, these animals were hunted to the brink of extinction and some of them have a thriving population in today’s world. The term extinct means that a species no longer exists anywhere on earth, like dinosaurs. Extirpated describes an animal that has disappeared from a given area, but still exists elsewhere.

A few of the many mammals that either, have declined, have been extirpated, or gone extinct are the red wolf, gray wolf, black bear, bison, and mountain lion.

If you would like more information on any mammals or other critters that make Jones Park their home, ask any of our naturalists, and they will be happy to help you.

**Bison (Buffalo)**
The bison is the largest of native terrestrial wild mammals of North America, commonly called buffalo, was formerly found in the western two-thirds of the state. Settlers deliberately slaughtered this majestic animal for hides. The bison was almost eradicated by 1885. Legendary rancher Charles Goodnight started the remnants of a herd on his JA Ranch in the Texas Panhandle in 1878 in an attempt to save the bison. This herd was later relocated to Caprock Canyon State Park where they live today.

**Red Wolf**
The red wolf is one of the world's most endangered canids with only 50 remaining in an isolated population in North Carolina. Once common throughout the eastern and south-central United States, including eastern Texas, red wolf populations were decimated by the early part of the 20th Century as a result of intensive predator control programs and the degradation and alteration of the species’ habitat for lumbering and farming. The last specimens of red wolves in Texas were taken near Anahuac in 1964.

**Gray Wolf**
The gray wolf formerly ranged over the western two-thirds of the state, but now is extirpated over the western United States, including Texas. The last sightings of gray wolves were in 1970, on two different ranches in Brewster County. It was listed as Endangered in 1967. An experimental population was released in New Mexico and Arizona in 1998. The extirpation of the wolf has created a serious overpopulation problem of big game animals in Texas. The valuable role which they played to control the big game population was frequently overlooked.

**Black Bear**
The black bear formerly common throughout most of Texas, has declined throughout its range due to over harvest by humans, and to loss and fragmentation of suitable forested habitats. Their last strongholds in eastern Texas were in the swamps and thickets of the Big Thicket Region of southeast Texas. The majority of the final remaining bears were extirpated from Eastern Texas between 1900 and 1940. However, there is a surviving remnant of these bears in portions of the Trans-Pecos. Also, black bears from Louisiana, primarily dispersing juvenile males, have started entering Texas and is on the increase in eastern Texas. The biggest threat to bears establishing in eastern Texas is altering, converting, and fragmenting forested habitats.

**Mountain Lion**
The mountain lion, also known as cougar, panther, catamount or puma, has the widest distribution of any wild cat from Canada to South America. Prior to European settlement, mountain lions lived throughout Texas. By 1960, predator control, loss of habitat, and human settlement reduced mountain lion numbers and limited their distribution within Texas to the mountainous country in the Trans Pecos region of West Texas. Since 1983, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has solicited and recorded voluntarily reported sightings and mortalities of mountain lions. Currently, sightings of mountain lions have occurred in all 254 Texas counties, but only confirmed in 67 counties.

There are many other critters that have been extirpated, driven to extinction, or are on the decline that you can learn about or help. You can make a difference by giving them space, learning all you can about them, and supporting conservation efforts.