

Rock Springs Nature Trails

EARLY INHABITANTS



The Rock Springs area was ideal for Indian tribes. The area provided food, and raw materials for clothing, tools, and shelter. Most importantly were the buffalo that would water along the Trinity River.



Trinity River



EARLY SETTLEMENT

Cheap land with plenty of timber and game along with an abundance of water made our area a promising place for families of settlers to start a new life.



FORT WORTH TODAY

In the 1860's Fort Worth went from a sleepy outpost to a bustling town when it became a stop along the legendary Chisholm Trail. Then the railway came to Fort Worth transforming the city into a premier cattle industry and started an era of astonishing growth. Now Fort Worth is home to more than 600,000 people and many businesses with plenty of skyscrapers dotting the sky. But places like the Boardwalk at the Botanic Garden give us a glimpse of what the area was like when the buffalo still roamed the river banks.

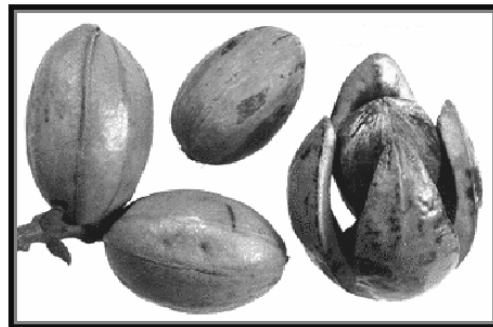


The Hollow Pecan Tree

A **nut**, such as a pecan may be defined as a one-seeded fruit with a hard pericarp (wall). Nuts are eaten by people and animals.

What happened to the middle of tree?

Just about any "hardwood" tree will start to develop a hollow trunk if the tree grows large enough. And this pecan tree has definitely had the chance to get big. It's estimated to be around 200 years old. That means that this tree was here before Texas won its independence from Mexico. Only the outer sections of a tree's trunk are alive, while the tree's core is considered dead wood. Eventually fungus will get into the tree through wounds caused by broken branches or animals and the fungus will start to rot the deadwood away, but as long as the outer wood remains strong, hollow trees can continue to live for a very long time.



Pecan: Look for the husk, which splits into 4 sections (valves). The nut is surrounded by a thick, woody outer wall (**pericarp**).

FOR