



Bastrop State Park

# HOUSTON TOAD

*Bufo houstonensis*



Bastrop State Park provides a safe haven for this endangered species.



## HOUSTON TOAD

*Bufo houstonensis*

Bastrop State Park is home to the largest known population of the Houston toad. The park is a refuge for this endangered amphibian. The number of Houston toads living in the wild could fit into the back of one dump truck.

Each February the life cycle of the Houston toad begins again. When nights are still cold enough for us to wear a jacket, these toads come out from their winter hideaways and begin to breed. You might hear the high-pitched trill of a male Houston toad singing from a nearby pond on a crisp winter night. At these ponds the female toads lay their eggs – up to 6,000 at one time!

Often confused with the Gulf Coast toad, a Houston toad can have brown, black and even orange spots used as camouflage. Toads need to blend in to hide from predators, which include snakes, owls and raccoons. They also use deep, sandy soil of the Lost Pines to burrow and escape heat or cold.

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