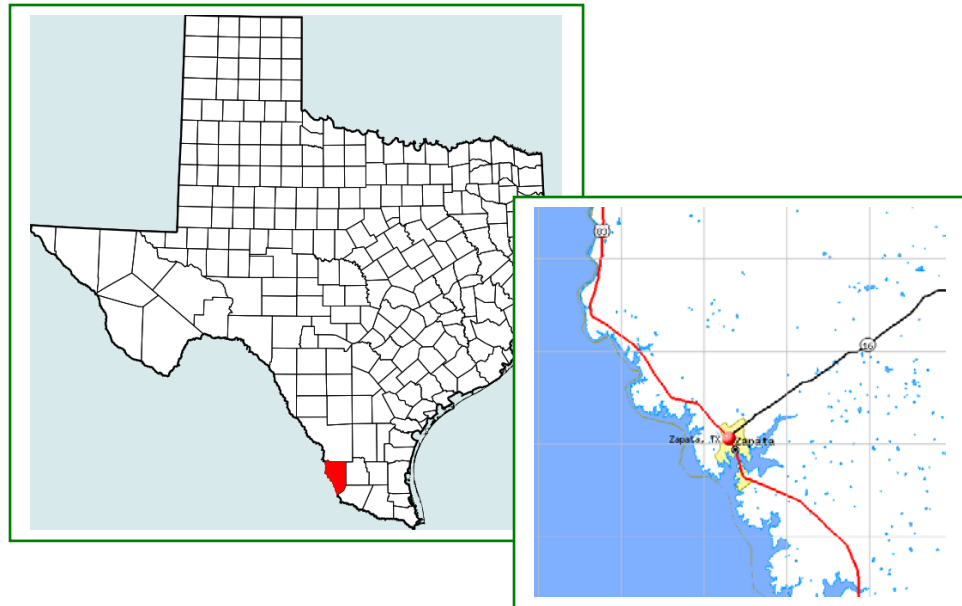


Zapata Background



Latest News:

- Zapata, Texas Named fdi Magazine 2007/08 North American Micro City of the Future

About the City of Zapata and Zapata County

Zapata is located at the intersection of State Highway 16 & U.S. Highway 83. The nearest Interstate Highway (I-35) is located 50 miles North on U.S. 83, at the Southern Terminus of I-35, in Laredo. Just across the Rio Grande is the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Average Elevation (Zapata County) 404 feet
Zapata County area 1058 square miles (997 land and 61 water)

The elevations within Zapata County range from 200 to 700 feet above sea level. Zapata County has light-colored loamy soils over reddish or mottled clay subsoil; limestone lies in places within forty inches of the surface. The flora includes thorny shrubs, grasses, mesquite, and cacti. Less than 1 percent of the county is considered prime farmland. Natural resources include caliche, lignite coal, sand, gravel, oil, and gas.

In 2003, Natural gas production was 282.6 billion cubic feet, which made Zapata County the second leading Natural Gas producing county in the state. In 2004, the gas production was 300.1 billion cubic feet, which made Zapata County the leading gas producing county in the state.

The town of Zapata, has the largest population in the county and is the county seat. Zapata is nestled on the shores of Falcon Lake and abounds in exciting and romantic history. Falcon Lake is the second largest fresh water lake in Texas, and is a major regional and international tourist attraction.

Temperatures and conditions in the lake produce ample resources for the regional ecosystem. In fact, resources are so abundant that Falcon Lake attracts tournament anglers and fishing

enthusiasts from all over the US and the world. Fish in the lake are often an average of 2 inches larger than those found in other parts of the country.

Zapata County is also a birder's paradise. Home to more than 360 species of birds, and 295 indigenous species, Zapata and the surrounding counties are a global destination for bird watching enthusiasts.

Birders are not the only group of enthusiasts frequenting Zapata as a vacation destination, but hand gliders, sail plane pilots, and other wind aviation fans are also traveling to Zapata in mass.

Temperatures, air currents, and other conditions have made Zapata County a top gliding location. The hand gliding world record was set in Zapata and wind aviation companies and the military use the area as a test side.

Although outdoor activity options abound, Zapata has a rich history and culture as well. The Spanish Mexican heritage of the region is quite apparent and very influential in every aspect of life, for it covers a period of over three hundred years of exploration and settlement. The people are justly proud of the rich historical and social heritage that is theirs.

Today Zapata County represents a unique blending of the old and the new. Just 15 miles north of Zapata, the town of San Ygnacio is one of the most historical villages along the Rio Grande.

Complementing the historic ambiance of downtown, the neighborhoods contain over 10 historic homes and beautiful plaza which offers a delightful viewing area. Because of its unique antiquity and typical early Spanish - Mexican architecture, San Ygnacio has been the setting for the filming of several motion pictures. The best known perhaps is Viva Zapata with Marlon Brando. With its quiet historic charm, San Ygnacio is recognized as a fine retirement and vacation community. Attractive RV, mobile home and cabin sites along the Rio Grande and Falcon Lake are available at reasonable prices.

For Information please contact:

Peggy Umphres-Moffet
President
Zapata County Chamber of Commerce
Zapata County Economic Development Center
601 US Hwy 83
Zapata, Texas 78076
T: 956 765 4871
F: 956 765 5434

Press inquiries:

Shirar O'Connor-Mugler
The Pont Group, inc.
shirar@thepontgroup.com
T: 646 496 7669

www.zapatacountyedc.org