

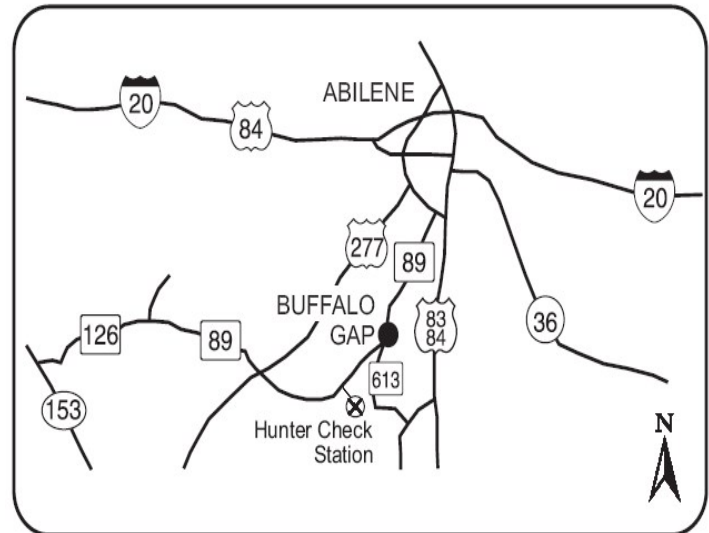


Abilene State Park Youth Only Gun Deer Either Sex

Background

Abilene State Park, southwest of Abilene, in Taylor County, is among a low range of hills called the Callahan Divide, in the extreme western portion of North Central Texas.

This public hunt will be conducted in eight compartments divided from approximately 1,600 acres of land surrounding Lake Abilene. The compartments consist of rough terrain primarily composed of juniper and mesquite covered hills and hardwood bottoms running along the edges of the reservoir. A deer feeder will be placed in each compartment prior to the hunt.



The public hunts are being conducted to control the impact to natural resources on the park. Access to the park will be limited to drawn participants. Hunters may use park camping facilities for which the standard fee is charged. To reach the park, travel 16 miles southwest of Abilene, through Buffalo Gap, on FM 89, then on Park Road 32 to the park entrance.

For more information, contact the Park headquarters (325) 572-3204.

Objectives

The department desires to restore and maintain healthy populations of native fauna and flora in natural habitats and to provide for compatible public use. Where game populations exceed carrying capacities of the habitats, the preferred method of reduction is public hunting. The hunts are designed to implement a biologically sound management practice.

We hope to reduce pressure on available browse species and thereby reduce competitive pressure on the park's deer herd, as well as reduce or stop habitat destruction and alteration caused by exotic species. **While the opportunity to harvest mature bucks will be possible, this will be a management hunt intended to control deer and feral hog populations.**

General Information

All park rules and regulations must be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations. The Parks and Wildlife Department retains the right to cancel permits, alter bag limits or stopping the hunt at any time.

- Permitted hunters and supervising adults should report to the Park headquarters by 10:00 a.m. on the first day of their assigned hunting period. Standby hunt applicants should report at 10:00 a.m. to complete the application process prior to the drawing any available Standby hunt positions. Following a brief orientation, Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel will transport hunters to assigned hunting compartments. Hunters will report to the hunt staging area no later than 7:00 PM on the second day of the hunt period to check out and vacate the area.
- Permits will be issued for a 2-day hunt period. Hunts will begin at noon on the first day and end 30 minutes after sunset on the second day.
- Only the youth hunter and a supervising adult will be allowed in the hunting area. Youth hunters 12 years of age or older that have completed Hunter Education Certification must be supervised, but do not have to be in immediate presence of the adult. All other youth hunters must be in immediate presence of the supervising adult.
- The bag and possession limits for the Youth Gun Deer Either Sex hunts will be two white-tailed deer and unlimited feral hogs. Legal means include centerfire firearms, shotguns with slugs and muzzleloaders .45 caliber or larger.
- Hunters must visibly wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material, with at least 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear.
- Hunters will be responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. No facilities for game storage will be available on the Park.
- Vehicular access is restricted to established roadways. Vehicles may not proceed beyond the designated Staging area, unless written approval is obtained from the Park Superintendent.
- Use of dogs and horses is prohibited.
- Hunters are reminded that they must have a valid Texas Hunting License.
- Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts or other objects is prohibited. The display or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Camping will be available on the park. Normal park use fees will be charged to those hunters using the Park's facilities. Call (325) 572-3204 for more information on the Park.