



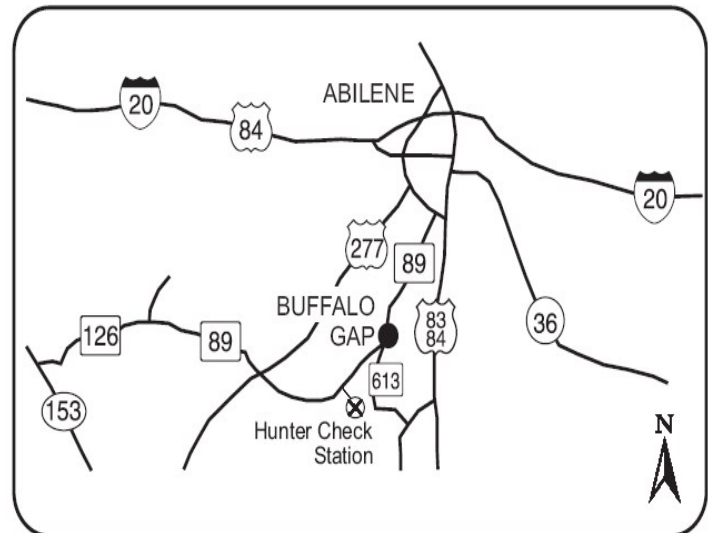
# Abilene State Park Public Hunting Information

## Archery Only Deer Hunt

### 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 within the original historic state park property which covers approximately 250 acres of land. Hunting will occur in and around areas traditionally used for day use and camping.

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 harvest of bucks is allowed during this hunt, the primary purpose is to control deer and feral hog populations. Opportunities to harvest mature bucks will likely be very limited.

### 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All park rules and regulations must be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations.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 stop the hunt at any time.

- Permits will be issued for a 3-day hunt period. Hunts will begin at noon on the first day and end at noon on the third day. The bag and possession limits for the Archery Deer Either Sex hunts will be two white-tailed deer (no more than one buck) and unlimited feral hogs. Non-permitted visitors and family members will not be allowed in the Park during hunts, unless the non-hunting adult is assisting a permitted hunter with mobility disabilities.
- Permitted hunters 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 for any available Standby hunt positions.
- Following a brief orientation, Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel will transport hunters to assigned compartments. Hunters will report to the hunt staging area no later than noon on the third day of the hunt period to check out and vacate the area. 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.
- Archery equipment and cross bows will be the only legal means of hunting.
- 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 in the Park.
- Use of dogs and horses is prohibited.
- Hunters are reminded that they must have a valid Texas Hunting License and required Archery Stamp.
- Hunters born on or after September 2, 1971 are required to have completed the Hunter Education Certification. See the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information.
- 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 in the park for permitted hunters only. Multi-use campsites with electricity and water will be available for use. Normal park use fees will be charged to those hunters using Park facilities. Call 325) 572-3204 for more information on the Park. .