

Black Bayou Lake

National Wildlife Refuge

Public Use Regulations 2026-2027

Black Bayou Lake NWR Hunting and Fishing Welcome

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1997, is one of over 560 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The refuge contains a diversity of habitat types including freshwater lake, forested wetland, and upland pine forest.

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge
480 Richland Place
Monroe, LA 71203
318-726-4222

blackbayoulake@fws.gov

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/blackbayoulake>

For State relay service TTY/ Voice: 711

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.
<http://www.fws.gov/1-800-FWS-TIPS>

General Information

Use caution when operating boats or wading in flooded areas of the refuge. Obstructions/obstacles may be submerged and unmarked. Daylight use only.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Firearm ammunition larger than a .22 caliber rim-fire is prohibited for hunting. Shotgun slugs, buckshot and lead shotgun ammunition are prohibited

Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Louisiana regulations subject to the conditions stated below. A signed refuge hunting permit (front of this brochure) must be carried by all hunters in addition to required State licenses to hunt.

Access

WHEN: Hunters may only access the Refuge no earlier than 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after legal shooting hours unless otherwise specified.

WHERE: Hunting is restricted in certain areas as shown on the hunting map. No hunting is allowed within 100 feet of the centerline of a designated road, refuge maintained road, pipeline, hiking trail, ATV trail, dwellings, above ground gas or electrical transmission facilities or designated public facility. Maintained road and hiking trail is defined as one that has been mowed, disked, or bulldozed and is free of trees. Hunters may not access the hunting area by boat from the public launch site.

Tree Stands

Tree stands, elevated platforms, and ground blinds may be put up each day but must be removed at the end of the day. Leaving personal property overnight is prohibited.

Harvest Reporting

A self-clearing permit is required for hunting on the Refuge. Permits can be obtained at entry points of the refuge. Self-clearing permits consists of three portions: Check-In, Check-Out, and a Vehicle tag. The Check-In Portion must be completed and put in the permit box prior to each day's hunt. The middle portion is the Daily Hunting Harvest Permit that must

Refuge Hunting Permit 2026 - 2027 Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge

I have read and understand these regulations.

Signature of hunter

This permit is valid only when signed and must be carried on hunter's person (may cut out)

be carried by each hunter while on the refuge. At the end of the day's hunt, the Daily Hunting Harvest Permit should be completed by each person indicating the number of game harvested (must indicate zero if no game was harvested). Do not include the number of game harvested by another person. Return the Daily Hunting Harvest Permit into the box before exiting the Refuge. Each person parking an automobile on the Refuge must leave the Vehicle tag on the dashboard of the vehicle face up so it can be read from outside of the vehicle. Each person riding in the vehicle should display their Vehicle tag on the dashboard.

ATV Regulations

ATVs are permitted on trails designated for their use (see map). The trails are marked with signs and will be closed March 1 through August 31. ATVs are prohibited from two hours after legal shooting hours to 4 am. Raccoon hunters may not use ATVs. ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 26 x 12 with a maximum 1" lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 12 psi. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATVs cannot exceed 750 lbs, 85" in length and 48" in width. Use of all other ATVs or ATV tires is prohibited on the refuge.

Bicycles

Bicycles including electric bicycles (e-bikes) are permitted on public roads, maintained refuge roads, hiking trails, ATV trails and maintained rights-of-way. Maintained refuge roads and maintained right-of-way is defined as one that has been mowed, disked, or bulldozed and is free of trees. Electric bicycles must be no larger than 750 watts.

Youth

Youths are defined the same as State regulations. Supervising adult may supervise only one youth on a big game hunt and no more than two youth on a small game or waterfowl hunt.

Prohibited Activities

- Launching boats with motors greater than 50 horsepower
- Operation of a boat with any muffler that is not original equipment to the engine's power unit or use of an altered exhaust system.
- Airboats
- Launching personal watercraft (jet skis)
- Crossing the plastic booms in a boat
- Operating a boat more than idle speed in No Wake Zone
- Taking of wildlife (including frogs, turtles, and mollusks) and plants other than specified in refuge regulations
- Using motorized vehicles off the designated public access roads. This includes motorcycles, ATVs, jeeps, cars, trucks, etc. Parking is restricted to parking areas and along public access roads which are shown on the map.
- Camping
- Littering
- Possession of deer decoys
- Overnight parking
- Drones
- Commercial fishing
- Target practice
- Horses and mules
- Cutting vegetation, including limbs
- Taking or possession of waterfowl, big or small game, fish or plants by use of a guide or outfitter

- Driving or screwing a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or hunting from any tree in which a nail, spike or other metal object has been driven or screwed
- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, mineral, or any non-naturally occurring food attractant on the refuge
- Using trotlines, limb lines, yo-yos, traps or nets
- Participating in deer drives
- Possessing or using alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity, including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts
- Leaving personal property overnight (includes boats, deer stands, blinds, cameras, decoys)
- Leaving flagging or other trail markers
- Using a metal detector
- Use of night vision equipment
- Use of or installation of trail cameras

Warning

On February 17, 2025, the state of Louisiana issued the following fish consumption advisory for Black Bayou Lake: Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should consume no more than one meal per month of bowfin (choupique, grinnel); OR should consume no more than three meals per month of largemouth bass. Other adults and children seven years of age and older: no advisory.



Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording applies to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.



This sign marks the refuge boundary. Public entry by foot is generally authorized at all times on the refuge.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason other than an emergency.



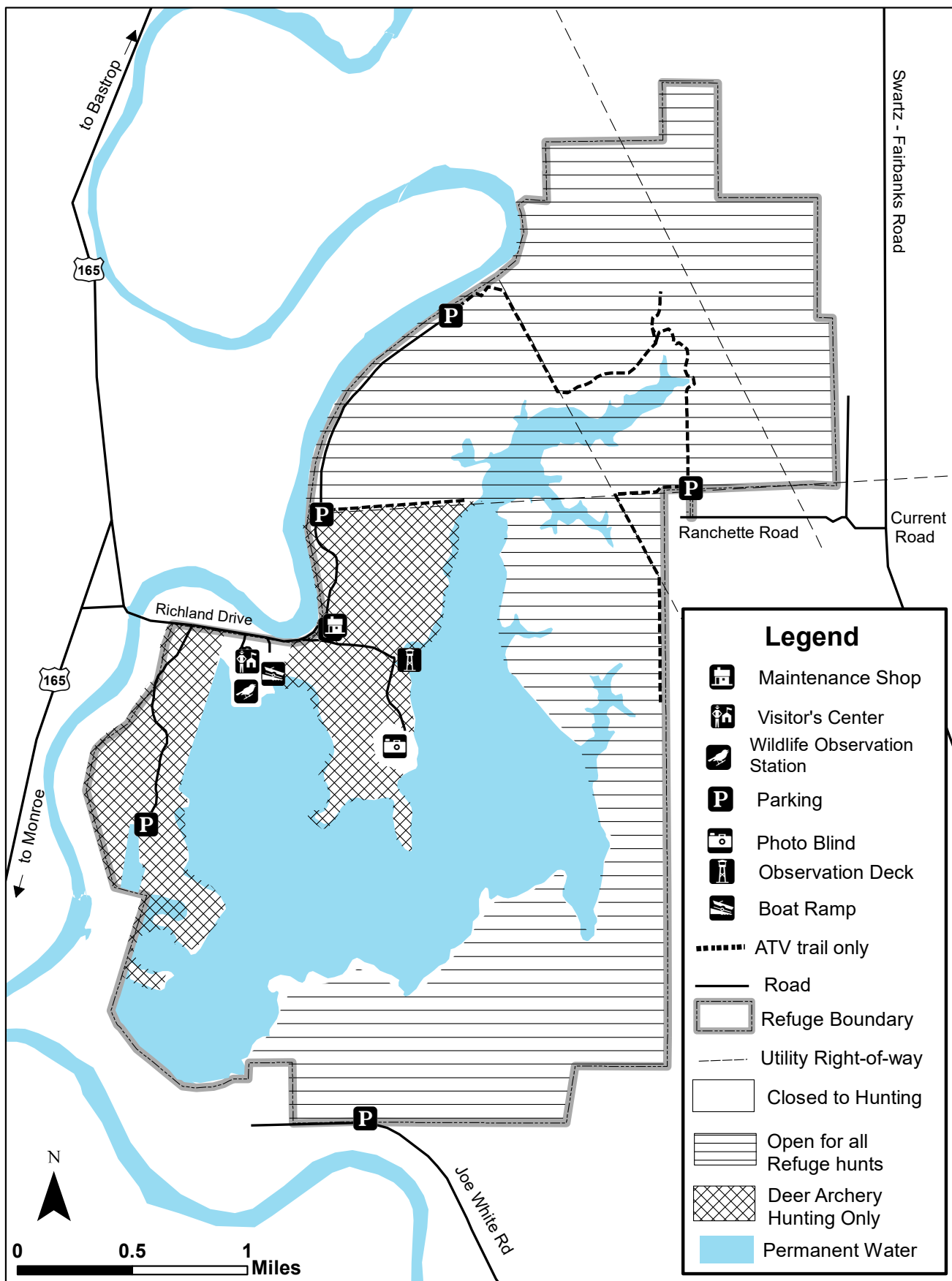
This sign means no motorized vehicles beyond this point. This applies to all cars, trucks, jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, and motorcycles. Non-motorized and electric bicycles are allowed.

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge
11372 Highway 143
Farmerville, LA 71241
318-726-4222

<http://southeast.fws.gov>
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
September 2026



Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Other Regulations
Ducks, Coot	State season, including Special Teal, Special Youth and Veteran seasons.	State bag limits	As indicated on the map	Hunting until noon only. Retrievers may be used. Construction of and/or hunting from permanent blinds is prohibited. Boats, blinds and decoys may not be left unattended.
Quail, Woodcock	State Season	State bag limits	As indicated on the map	Bird dogs may be used for hunting.
Squirrel, Rabbit	State season, except closed in Spring season	State bag limits	As indicated on the map	Dogs may be used in January and February only. Rabbit hunters using dogs must wear an orange hat.
Raccoon, Opossum	December 1, 2026 - January 31, 2027 for night hunting May be taken during daylight hours during rabbit and squirrel season.	State bag limits	As indicated on the map	Raccoons taken on the refuge may not be sold for human consumption. Elevated levels of mercury contamination have been found in refuge raccoons. It is recommended they not be eaten.
Deer Archery	State Season	Limit of one antlerless and one antlered deer per day	As indicated on the map	Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait is prohibited, including any grain, salt, mineral, or any non-naturally occurring food attractant on the refuge. A leashed dog may be used to retrieve wounded or un-recovered deer during legal hunting hours. A dog may be used to trail and retrieve un-recovered deer 2 hours after legal hunting hours; however, no person accompanying a dog after legal hunting hours may be in possession of a firearm, bow, crossbow or any other means of take while in the field.
Turkey	Closed	Closed		



New Map for Your Mobile Device!
Use the QR code to download a geo-referenced map of the refuge with boundaries that is compatible with apps such as Avenza.

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge