



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Champion Lake Unit



Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2021–2022

Welcome

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge was established on January 4, 1994 with an initial purchase of 4,400 acres (18 km²). Since that time, the refuge has acquired additional acreage which now totals 30,000 acres (120 km²). The primary purpose of establishing this refuge is to protect a portion of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem along the Trinity River located in southeastern Texas. The refuge, which is a remnant of what was once a much larger natural area is a broad flat floodplain made up of numerous sloughs, oxbow lakes, artesian wells, and tributaries.

Driving Directions:

Champion Lake Unit
(GPS: 29.921353, -94.799573)

*Be sure to obey the 20 MPH speed limit signs while driving on CR 417.

From Houston: Take I-10 East, exit FM 3180, go North on 3180 (Eagle Dr) for 3 miles to FM 565, turn right on FM 565 and go 2.5 miles to FM 1409, turn left on FM 1409 for 3 miles to CR 417. Turn right on CR 417 for 1.8 miles to end at the road.

From Beaumont: Take I-10 West, exit FM 565, Old River / Winfree. Go north 2 miles to FM 1409. Turn right on FM 1409 for another 3 miles to CR 417. Turn right on CR 417 for 1.8 miles to the end of the road.

From Hwy 90 in Dayton: Take FM 1409 south 10.5 miles to CR 417. Turn left on CR 417 for 1.8 miles to the end of the road.

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge
601 FM 1011
Liberty, TX 75755
936-336-9786

www.fws.gov/refuge/Trinity_River
For State relay service TTY/Voice: 711

August 2021

General Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability.

Safety

All units are bottomland hardwood forests, subject to flooding from the Trinity River and may be closed upon short notice. Have cell phone, compass or GPS unit for safety. Alligators, venomous snakes, poison ivy, and fire ants are present. Minimum distance between hunt parties is 200 yards. Big Game and Upland Game hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waist AND a SOLID orange hat or cap. Liberty County Sheriff's Office non-emergency #936-336-4500.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands 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).

Vehicles and Boats

We permit licensed motor vehicles only on public use roads as shown on the map. The refuge allows canoes, kayaks, pirogues, and boats. Boat motors are limited to 10 horsepower or less in Champion Lake and 40 HP or less in Pickett's Bayou.

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 Texas regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures available by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

Access

WHEN: Open sunrise to sunset, year-around.

WHERE: Enter and park at the top of the hill in the parking lot. Hunt within the specified boundaries for hunting holes.

Migratory Bird Regulations

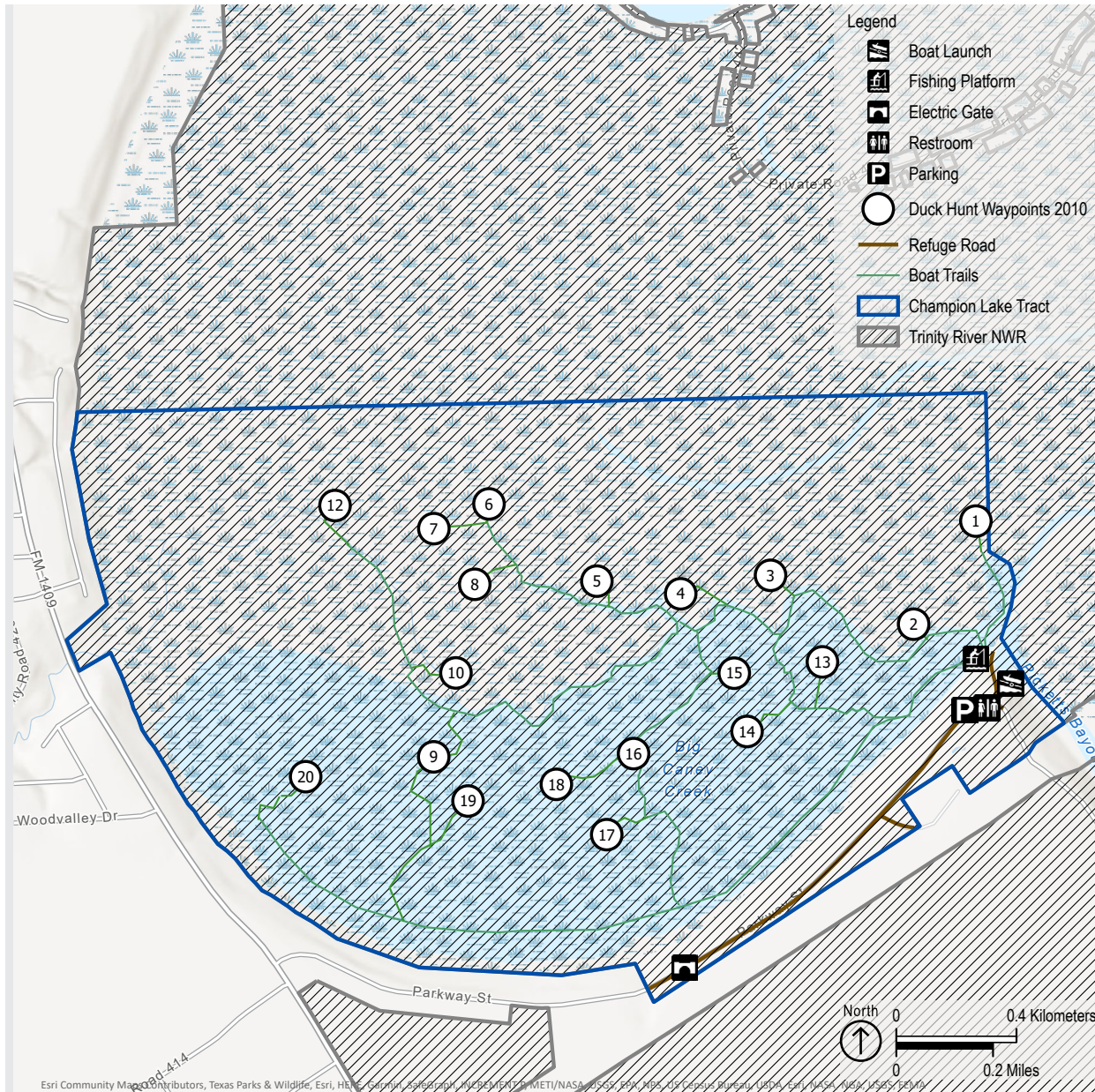
Application Process: Duck hunting is offered Saturdays and Sundays of the Duck Hunt season. Permits are issued through an email application system on Tuesdays. For information contact the refuge.

Permitted: Temporary blinds (blinds, decoys, boats, and all other equipment must be removed daily); Retrievers (must be under control of the owner and caged or leashed at boat ramp).

Specific fishing regulations

Fishing allowed from sunrise to sunset, year-round, with pole and line, rod and reel, or hand-held line except during special hours of operation while duck hunting is in progress.

Champion Lake Unit



Prohibited Activities

- Hunting weapons during designated scouting week
- Hunting and erection of blinds or stands WITHIN 300 feet of TRAILS, ROADS, POWER LINES, PIPE LINES, FENCES, and BOUNDARY LINES
- Driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects into trees
- Use of paint, reflectors, flagging, or other substances for marking
- Dogs for Big Game and Upland Hunting
- Feeders, bait, and chemical attractants
- Hunting from trees that require removing branches greater than one inch in diameter
- Clearing or cutting any live vegetation for a shooting lane
- Cutting of any cypress tree limbs
- Open fires, pits, campsites, or drones
- All-terrain vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, dirt bikes, horses
- Field dressing harvested game in parking lots
- Use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol while hunting, accessing or returning from hunting
- Removal, disturbance, or collection of any plant or animal material, including frogs and turtles, without a permit or license
- Entry (by boat, kayak, canoe, or walking) within 200 yards of an established bird rookery from March 1 through June 30 on any refuge tract
- Feeding of alligators and other wildlife
- Bow fishing, trotlines, setlines, gigs, spears, fish traps, crawfish/crab nets or any other traps or nets
- Wading, swimming, waterskiing, personal watercraft (PWC/ Jet Skis), or airboats on refuge waterways

| Type of Hunt | Season | Permit Fee | Special Regulations |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Duck | November-January: weekend mornings | \$10/day, Youth (age 9-17) free | State Regulations apply. Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 5:00 am. Contact refuge to apply. |