

**...Texas Public Lands**  
*(Continued from page 7)*

2. Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area: This 8,005-acre area offers a unique blend of ecological richness and cultural history. Its cypress swamp terrain, replete with waterfowl, alligators, and various game species, poses both a challenge and a thrill for hunters. Its diverse habitats support waterfowl, deer, and feral hog hunting.

3. Guadalupe River State Park: Although smaller than some counterparts, this state park is a gem among Texas hunting grounds. While hunting here is limited to drawn hunts for white-tailed deer and feral hogs, its scenic river, dramatic elevations, and exceptional biodiversity make it a must-visit for every outdoor enthusiast.

Each of these areas has specific regulations, seasons, and permit requirements that hunters must adhere to, ensuring sustainable practice and conservation within these natural refuges.

**Preparing for Your Hunt**

Preparation is paramount when planning a hunting trip in Texas, as the state's varied landscapes require different strategies and gear. Here are essential steps every hunter should undertake:

1. Scouting: Before you set foot on public land, scout potential hunting spots. Utilize online resources such as the

Texas Parks & Wildlife website for area maps and terrain information. Digital tools like the OnX Hunt app provide detailed, up-to-date maps highlighting public land boundaries, helping you stay legal and ethical in your pursuit.

2. Gear Up: Texas's diverse biomes, from its arid deserts to humid coastal marshes, necessitate appropriate gear. This includes suitable attire, camping equipment (if you plan to stay overnight), hunting tools, and safety gear, tailored to the specific requirements of your chosen game and hunting grounds.

3. Land Navigation: When navigating these vast areas, traditional maps or GPS tools are indispensable. Resources like the OnX Hunt app offer valuable digital assistance, providing detailed maps, land ownership boundaries, and even topographic information to keep hunters informed and safe.

Remember, respecting public land boundaries is not just a legal requirement but an ethical obligation. Straying onto private property can lead to serious consequences and mar the hunting community's reputation.

**Navigating the Annual Hunting Permit (AHP) System in Texas**

One of the most comprehensive and convenient options for residents and non-residents alike is the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's

Annual Hunting Permit (AHP), also commonly referred to as the "Public Hunting Permit."

The Annual Hunting Permit provides hunters with affordable, year-round access to designated public lands across Texas. For a nominal fee, this permit unlocks a diverse array of hunting opportunities beyond what standard hunting licenses offer. From pursuing small game like rabbits and squirrels to tracking larger prey such as deer and feral hogs, the AHP is a gateway to Texas's rich hunting landscape.

The AHP is unique because it consolidates many hunting opportunities under one umbrella. With this permit, hunters can access hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands, including Wildlife Management Areas, state forests, and leased private property. This is particularly advantageous for avid hunters, as it opens new, otherwise restricted territories, providing more flexibility and variety in hunting environments.



**Hog Down!** This hog was taken approximately 4 miles north of Bronte in mid-January 2023.

**How to Obtain Your AHP**

Purchasing an AHP is a straightforward process. Hunters can acquire the permit directly from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, either through their website or at license retailers throughout the state. These include sporting goods stores, gun shops, and even some general retailers. When purchasing, you'll need to

provide standard identification and, if applicable, proof of any hunting education or certifications, depending on your age and the type of hunting you plan to do.

Upon obtaining the AHP, hunters receive a public hunting lands map booklet and supplemental information, often accessible digitally, detailing the specific areas available for

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