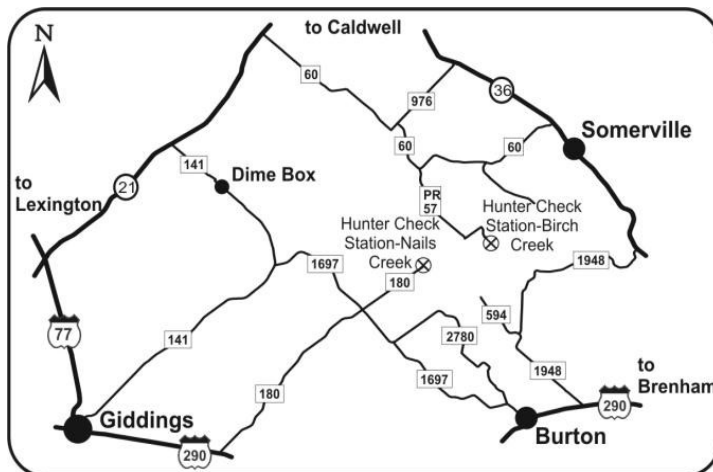




## Lake Somerville State Park Birch Creek Unit

### Background

Lake Somerville State Park in Burleson and Lee counties contains approximately 5,520 acres of post oak, hickory, blackjack oak and water oak timber with an understory dominated by dense stands of yaupon. The terrain is flat to gently rolling. The hunter check station is in the Birch Creek Unit of Lake Somerville State Park. To get to the Birch Creek Unit, access Park Road 57 from Farm to Market Road 60; Park Road 57 dead ends into the park.



Objectives of the department are 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 the carrying capacity of the habitat, the preferred method of reduction is public hunting. Public hunts were instituted at the park during the 1986 season as a population control measure.

### Reporting/Orientation

- Mandatory orientation will be held on the first day of the hunt at the Birch Creek Unit. Arrive by the instructed time to the Birch Creek Headquarters for further instructions.
- Permitted hunters should report to the Park Headquarters by 10:45 am on the first day of the hunt. Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend the hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation. **Hunters arriving late may forfeit their position on the hunt.**
- Standby hunters should report to the check station by 10:30 a.m. on the first day of the hunt. Standby hunters will be drawn as vacancies permit.
- Hunters must have a Photo ID, valid Texas Hunting License, Annual Public Hunting Permit, and any stamp required by statute.
- All deer must be checked into the check station. Hunters will not be required to use tags from their hunting license; a TPWD issued tag will be issued at the area by hunt personnel.

## Hunting Conditions

- **Notice:** All park rules and regulations must be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations.
- 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.
- **Special Restrictions: centerfire rifles, shotguns with slugs, and archery equipment are the only means which may be possessed or used during the hunts.** Only one legally permissible mean per hunter will be allowed into the hunt area.
- Ground blinds are provided by the park. Hunters may bring pop-up blinds, however use of personal blinds/stands will be at the hunt manager's discretion.
- It is recommended that you bring your own seating (folding/camp chairs).
- Non-permitted visitors and family members will not be allowed in the hunt area, except a non-hunting adult will be allowed to assist a permitted hunter with mobility disabilities.
- Hunters will be responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. Deer cleaning facilities are available at the check station; however, no game storage facilities exist.
- Baiting is allowed. Corn is the only bait allowed and must contain less than 20ppb aflatoxin.
- Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts or other objects is prohibited.
- The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Vehicle use is restricted to public roadways. Use of ATVs, UTVs, and horses are prohibited.
- Accommodations for hunters with disabilities on public hunt sites vary between areas. If you would like to request accommodation, please contact each area directly at least 2 weeks in advance of your hunt to discuss the options that may be available.
- Camping is available at the Birch Creek Unit for permitted hunters. Multi-purpose campsites with electricity and water will be available for use. Reservations are not required. The normal overnight camping fee will be charged to those hunters using the Park's facilities. Private motels are available in Giddings, Somerville and Caldwell.

**For further information, contact the Birch Creek Unit at (979) 535-7763.**