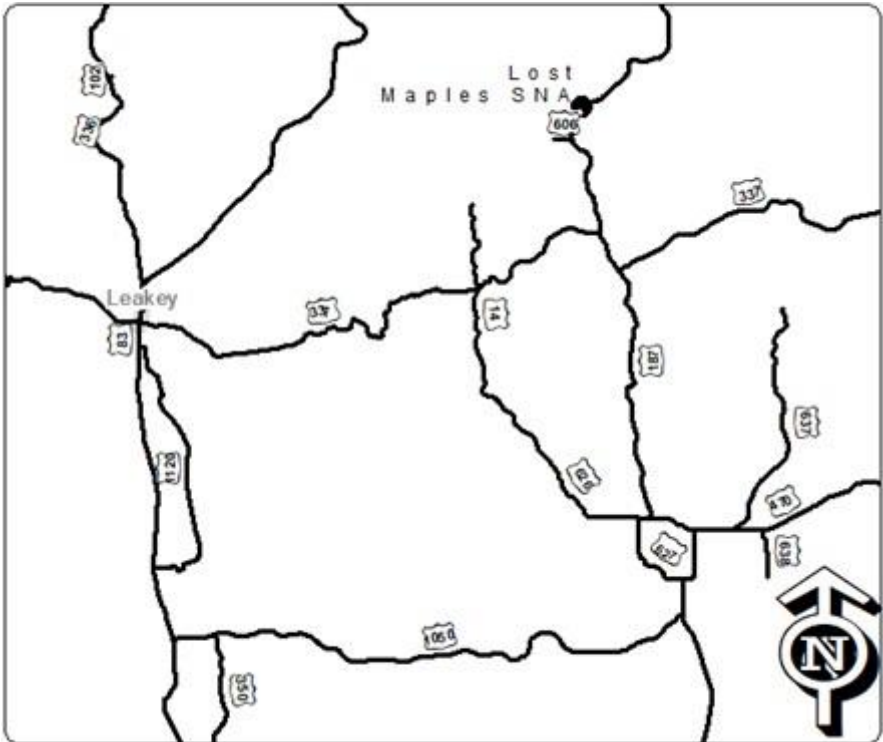




Lost Maples State Natural Area Special Permit Hunts

Background: Lost Maples State Natural Area is located on FM 187, five miles north of Vanderpool, in Bandera and Real counties, and contains 2,904 acres. The park was the first natural area in the Texas Park System and is best known for its spectacular autumn colors of Bigtooth Maples trees. Lost Maples was acquired in 1974, and public hunts were initiated during the 1991 season. 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 carrying capacity of the habitat, the preferred method of reduction is public hunting.



Hunting Information: All park rules and regulations must be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations. Permitted hunters should report to park headquarters by 10:00 a.m. on the first day of their assigned hunt period. **Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation.** Standby hunters should telephone the park one or two days prior to hunt date for availability of standby positions or report to the park by 9:00 a.m. on the first day of the desired hunt period to complete the application process. Standby hunters will be drawn as vacancies permit. Following a brief orientation, Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel will direct hunters to a hunt compartment. The hunting will end at 10:00 a.m. on the final day of the assigned hunt.

- 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.
- Only one legally permissible means per hunter will be allowed into the hunt area. Centerfire rifles are the only means which may be possessed or used during these hunts.
- Use of dogs is prohibited.
- Non-permitted visitors and family members will not be allowed in the park during hunts, except that a non-hunting adult assisting a permitted hunter with mobility disabilities will be allowed.
- Hunters will be responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. No facilities for deer storage will be available in the park, but commercial facilities are available in Utopia, Kerrville and Uvalde.
- Hunters are reminded that they must have a valid Texas Hunting License and any stamp required by statute. It is no longer necessary to use a hunting license tag or bonus tag for a deer taken during a Special Permit drawn hunt. However, a TPWD Legal Deer Tag, issued at the area, must be attached to any harvested deer prior to leaving the hunt area.
- Hunters 17 years of age and older must have in their possession a valid I.D, and Hunter Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971. (See the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information.)
- Hunters should bring portable blinds and chairs since blinds are not provided within compartments. Extensive walking is required to reach prime hunting areas.
- Each hunter should also bring a flashlight, food, drinking water, and foul weather gear.
- Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts, or other objects is prohibited.
- The public display or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Hunters may not consume or be under the influence while hunting on park property
- Hunters' vehicles will be allowed into the hunt area only on designated roads. Operation of an all terrain vehicle (ATV) or off-road vehicle (ORV) is prohibited, except by hunters with mobility disabilities or an adult directly assisting a hunter with mobility disabilities.
- Camping will be available in the park for permitted hunters beginning on the first hunt day. Campsites with tent pads will be available for use. Reservations are not required but will be accepted in advance. The normal overnight camping fee will be charged to those hunters using the park's facilities. Phone (512) 389-8900 for camping information. Campfires are allowed in the park in designated fire rings when there is no burn ban. Adequate lodging and private campgrounds are available in Leakey, Utopia and Medina. For more information, please call the park headquarters at (830) 966-3413.