



Village Creek State Park Special Permit Deer Hunts

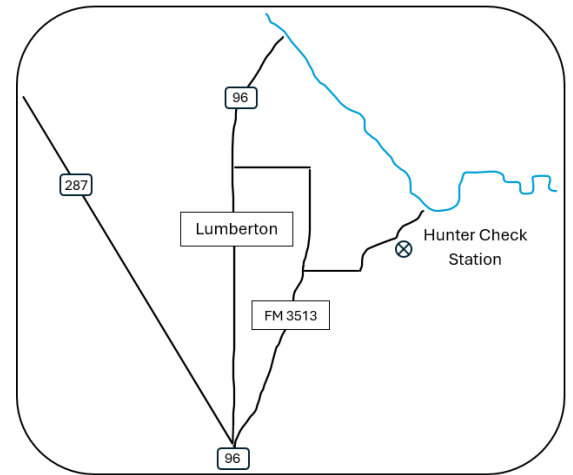
Background

Acquired by the state in 1979, Village Creek State Park consists of 2,466 wooded acre's location in Hardin County outside the city of Lumberton, 10 miles north of Beaumont. The park takes its name from Village Creek, a free-flowing stream that flows next to the park and the edge of the Big Thicket

Reporting/Orientation

When: Permitted hunters should report to the park headquarters by 11:00 a.m. on the first day of their assigned hunt period. Following a brief orientation, hunters will be assigned a hunt blind.

Hunters must contact the area personnel 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 report at 10:00 a.m. to complete the application process. Drawing for standby will occur at 11:00 a.m.

Where: Check Station at State Park Office located 1 mile E of Lumberton on Alma Dr.

Preparation: Orientation starts at 11:00 a.m. Monday morning. Hunters must complete orientation and paperwork before being allowed to hunt. Hunting will end at 11:00 a.m. on the final day of the assigned hunt.

All hunters and adult supervisors must have a valid Texas hunting license, even though it is no longer necessary to use a hunting license 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 a harvested deer prior to leaving the hunt area and a valid hunting license is required to use such a tag.

Antler Restrictions for Hardin County will apply to this hunt.

All persons afield in the hunt area must visibly wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material with 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear at all times when hunting with firearms.

Hunters must have a Special Permit. Only hunters with permits will be admitted. No substitutions will be allowed within drawn hunt positions. No non-permitted guests allowed, other than a non-hunting adult directly assisting permitted youth or a permitted hunter with mobility disabilities.

Hunter Safety Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971. (See Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information.)

Check Station Hours: Opens at 9:00 a.m. on the first day of the hunt and at 6:00 a.m. on the second day of the hunt. Closed each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Facilities: Hunters will be responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. A cleaning area is available, but no facilities for storage will be available within the park. Refrigeration is **not** available; commercial facilities are available in the surrounding cities.

Check In/Out: All hunters must check in/out with Area Personnel as explained in the orientation.

Latecomers Check In: Hunters unable to report in time for the 11:00 a.m. sign-in must still report to the check station upon arrival to the Area to receive the orientation information. Those arriving after closing of the check station in the evening must report to the check station the following morning for registration and orientation prior to going to the field.

Hunting Conditions

Stands: Stand locations are predetermined with a pop-up tent style blind. Blinds will be assigned to hunter during orientation. There will be **no** chair provided, as this will be the responsibility of the hunter. Each hunter should bring a flashlight, food, water, and inclement weather gear. Shooting sticks are recommended.

Firearms: Legal means for Gun Deer hunts includes Centerfire Rifles **.243 or Larger only**. Centerfire rifles are the only legal weapons allowed. Rimfire rifles and buckshot are prohibited. Firearms should be sighted in prior to arriving on the area.

Use of dogs prohibited.

Vehicles: Transportation to and from the assigned hunting blinds will be provided by Area Personnel. Interior roads are minimal. Be prepared to walk short distances to and from stand if necessary. 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 the permitted handicapped hunter.

Terrain: The area consists of young to mature mixed pine forest with a variety of hardwood species located along its many swampy areas. The topography ranges from near flat to slight incline.

Camping Facilities: Camping will be available in the park for permitted hunters. Multi-purpose campsites with electricity, water, and -tent pads will be available for use. For site information call the Park at (409) 755-7322. The normal overnight camping fees will be charged to hunters. Adequate lodging is available in nearby cities.

Garbage must be disposed of in receptacle provided on park grounds or taken out with the hunter.

The public display or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Hunters may not consume or be under the influence of alcohol while hunting.

Note: During the Special Permit Hunt periods, the Area is closed to general public access.

Minor or Underage Hunters: Persons **under 17 years of age** must be accompanied and supervised by a permitted parent or authorized adult.

Other Information:

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.

If you have any further questions, you may call TPWD Wildlife Biologist Gabrielle Hargrove (409) 383-8010 / gabrielle.hargrove@tpwd.texas.gov or the Village Creek State Park at (409) 755-7322.