

# Aransas

## National Wildlife Refuge Archery Hunting Regulations 2024



### Welcome

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 as “a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife...” and “...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds...” Today, the refuge manages 115,324 acres of coastal marsh and upland habitat for resident and migratory wildlife, including the federally endangered Whooping Crane.

### Aransas Archery Season

The 2024 archery season is Saturday, October 5 through Sunday, October 13. The hunt area opens at 5:00 am and closes at 9:00 pm, road and other conditions permitting.

### Archery Hunt Area

A designated portion of the refuge is open to archery hunting (36,225 acres). No portion of the Hunt Area can be reserved. The entire Hunt Area is open to first come, first served. There are no assigned compartments or areas. Only permitted hunters are allowed in the Hunt Area during the archery hunt.

### Scouting Access

Permitted hunters may scout and place blinds or stands in the Hunt Area on September 28, September 29, and October 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hunters may bring one observer during scouting only to help with blind placement.

### International Bowhunter Education Program

Hunters are encouraged to enroll in an International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) class. Visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/bowedclass>, then “Find a Bowhunter Ed Classroom Course” for more information and to register. **Please note that there will no longer be an early scouting option for those that take or have taken the IBEP course.**

### Safety

Keep in mind that the refuge is wild, and you may encounter venomous snakes, alligators, and biting insects. Please use caution.

### Youth Hunters/Observers

In order to foster the sport of hunting, youth hunters (16 and under) may hunt for FREE. However, youth hunters MUST apply for and possess an Aransas permit, Texas hunting license, and Hunter Education certificate or one-time deferral, and must abide by all refuge regulations. Youth are the responsibility of the adult hunter or observer with them and must remain within normal voice control of an adult at all times.

### Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is 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 will be in accordance with applicable State of Texas regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Licensed hunters are responsible for knowing and following state hunting laws. Texas state hunting laws are not listed in this brochure. For complete information, hunters are encouraged to read the 2024-25 Outdoor Annual Hunting Regulations or contact Texas Parks & Wildlife at 800-792-1112 or [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

### Hunt Access

The hunt area opens at 5:00 am and closes at 9:00 pm, road and other conditions permitting. Hunters are accountable for their own entry and exit from the Hunt area.

### Permits

Hunters must have a valid Aransas Archery Season Permit to hunt on the refuge. The hunt permit must be printed and signed by the hunter and in the hunter’s possession. Hunters must also obtain a daily Self-Clearing Check-In Permit at the Hunt Check Station. Hunters must fill out the permit and drop the top portion of the permit in the IN box as they enter the hunt area, then place the bottom portion on the dashboard. Completed permits should be placed in the OUT box when hunters leave the hunt area at the completion of each day.

### Aransas NWR Archery Hunt 2024

I have read and understand all Archery Hunt 2024 regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (authorizations are not transferable)

## Closed Areas

Closed areas are delineated with "AREA CLOSED" signs. Any portion of the Hunt Area may be closed due to unusual conditions without prior notification. It is the hunter's responsibility to know their location. Hunting is not allowed within 100 yards of any road. Hunters may not shoot across roads. See attached map which can be used with Avenza app.

## Weapons

Hunting weapons must be unloaded and cased during transport to and from hunt areas. Hunters may only use bows and arrows or crossbows in accordance with Texas state law. Target shooting or the discharge of a weapon except to hunt is not permitted. Texas carry laws apply. Weapons prohibited in federal buildings.

## Vehicles

Only street legal cars and trucks are allowed in the Hunt Area. Vehicles must remain on designated roads. Parking is allowed along roadsides but may not interfere with normal traffic flow. The speed limit is 35 mph unless otherwise posted. All Texas driving laws apply. Blocking of any road or gate is prohibited.

## Flagging

Only biodegradable WHITE flagging is authorized for marking trails and hunt stands. Flagging will be checked upon entrance to hunt area and hunters must write their name and permit number in permanent ink on any flagging used in the hunt area. The use of any other non-biodegradable flagging or failure to remove flagging at the end of the hunt is considered littering and is subject to a fine.

## Legal Species & Bag Limit

Only hunting of white-tailed deer and feral hogs is allowed during the Aransas Archery Season. As part of a hunter's annual statewide bag limit, hunters may take three (3) white-tailed deer, of which no more than two may be bucks. No bonus tags are allowed. Hunters must legally tag harvested deer immediately upon kill and log the harvest at the Refuge Hunt Check Station.

## Hunting Stands

Portable stands and blinds are allowed on the Refuge during the Archery Hunt. There is a limit of two portable stands per permitted hunter. Hunters may set up equipment during scouting, but it must be removed by the end of their hunt. Stands or blinds must be a minimum of 100 yards away from any designated roadway on the refuge hunt map. Hunters may not:

- Drive any objects (nails, wire, screws, bolts) into any trees or other objects.
- Cut any part of a tree.
- Hunt from existing structures.
- Cut brush or remove vegetation.

## Field Dress

Hunters may field dress and quarter harvested game in the Hunt Area. Meat cooler may not be available for dressed game at the Refuge Hunt Check Station; please be prepared. Hunters are responsible for carcass disposal and cleanup of processing area.

## Oil and Gas Facilities

For your safety, all oil and gas facilities (pads, pumps, buildings, etc.) are off limits. Please stay 100 yards away from any designated oil and gas facilities.

## Bait

Use or possession of bait, salt or any ingestible attractant is strictly prohibited on the refuge. Use of scents is permitted.

## Alcohol

Hunters are not allowed to use/possess alcohol on the refuge or be under the influence of alcohol.

## Fishing Access

Fishing is not allowed in the Hunt Area. Fishing access to San Antonio Bay is permitted at multiple access points on the refuge tour loop only from April 15- October 14. Year-round pier and wade fishing access are open at the Fishing Pier Area only. Check with the Visitor Center for more information.

While on the refuge, hunters are subject to inspection by state and federal officers at any time.

## Prohibited Activities

- Possession, consumption, or being under the influence of alcohol.
- Drone use.
- UTV/ATV use.
- Camping and Fires.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, bison skulls, plants, historic, and archaeological artifacts.
- Fishing in the Hunt Area.
- Bringing dogs into the hunt area.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree, or cutting vegetation or brush.
- Hunting within 100 yards of any road.
- Approaching and/or hunting within 100 yards of oil/gas infrastructure.
- Use or possession of bait, salt or any ingestible attractant (scents are allowed).

**1 Wildlife Circle  
Austwell, TX 77950**

**361-349-1181**

**AransasHunts@fws.gov**

**<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/aransas>**

**The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.**

**<http://www.fws.gov/>**

**1-800-344-WILD**

**June 2024**



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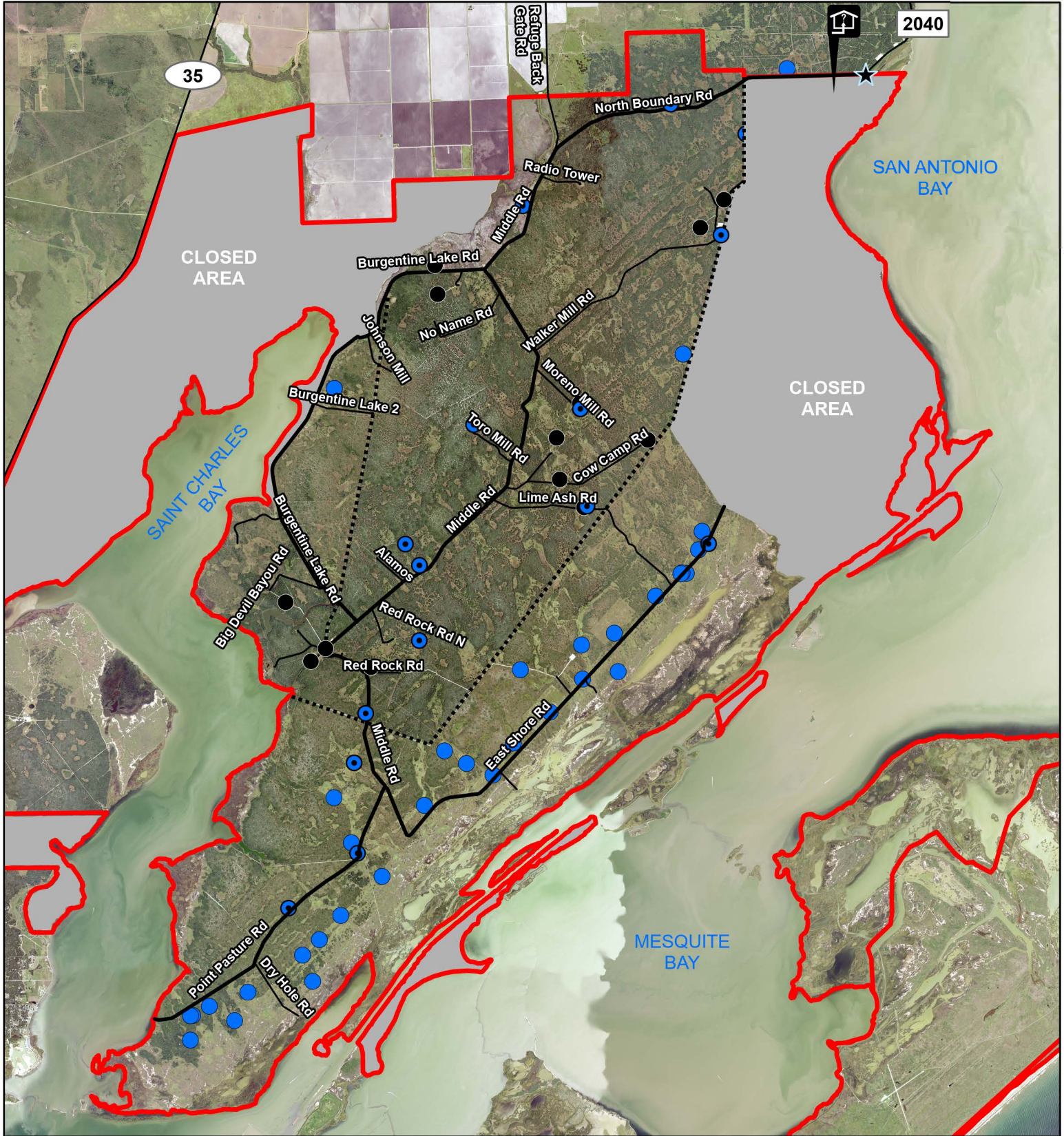




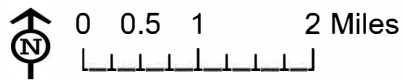
# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

### Archery Hunt Map V3



- Refuge Boundary
- Archery Closed Area
- ★ Hunter Entrance
- 🏠 Check Station
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Primary Fire Break
- Well Pond
- Oil Pad
- Pond



Map features are approximate. Refuge signs take priority and should be followed at all times.

