

Bayou Teche

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Regulations

2019-2020

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on the refuge:

- Littering
- Feeding bears, alligators, or any wildlife
- Taking, collecting or disturbing any plant or wildlife other than those specified by refuge rules
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or driving any motorized vehicle
- Activities between legal sunset and sunrise (except permitted hunters under refuge hunt rules)
- Target shooting
- Using areas designated "Area Closed"
- Camping, building fires, or overnight anchoring
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Cutting firewood or trimming vegetation
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads and pottery shards
- Unrestrained pets
- Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any active oil well site, production facility or equipment
- Using airboats or marsh buggies
- Horses and ATVs
- Acting as a hunting guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity that any other individual(s) pays or promises to pay directly or indirectly for services rendered to any other person or persons hunting on the refuge
- Fishing with unattended jug, trot, bush or similar lines, nets or traps
- Commercial fishing or crabbing
- Hunting or discharge of firearms within 150 feet (45 meters (m)) of any residence or structure adjacent to the refuge, from the centerline of any road, railroad, designated public use maintained trails, designated parking area, or other designated public use facilities.
- Killing animals without a refuge permit
- Climbing trees by driving nails, spikes, or other objects; using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or permanent steps; or using climbing spikes
- Hunting in and/or shooting into or across any agricultural field, roadway or canal during hunting seasons
- Marking with flagging, paper, paint, trash, etc., except that reflective tacks may be used
- Using man-drives for wildlife
- Trapping without a special use permit
- Use of trail cameras
- Use of deer decoys



This is an annual permit. In order to conserve tax dollars, please keep this permit throughout the year.

Bayou Teche Refuge Hunt Permit
October 2019 - September 2020

When signed and in your possession, this serves as your permit to hunt on the refuge. It acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature (permits are non-transferable)



Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge

Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge, established in 2001, is located in St. Mary Parish in southeast Louisiana. The 9,028 acre refuge is composed of wet bottomland hardwoods laced with bayous and canals. The primary mission of the refuge is to preserve and manage habitat for the Louisiana black bear. Other objectives are to provide habitat for other fish and wildlife species, environmental education, and opportunities for public recreation.

The refuge provides important habitat for the Louisiana black bear, a subspecies of the American black bear. It also provides excellent habitat for wading birds, neotropical songbirds, waterfowl, and reptiles and amphibians.

The refuge is open year round to the public from sunrise to sunset, with seasonal restrictions in some areas. The refuge can be accessed by vehicle, foot, or boat. Wildlife observation, boating and fishing are allowed on the refuge year round except in areas closed to public access. Hunting is permitted on the refuge. Open hunting seasons are listed in this brochure.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are 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 and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Louisiana regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

Permits

All Refuge hunters are required to possess a signed Hunt Permit (signed brochure) while on the Refuge. Hunt permits are free and are found on the front of this brochure. A signed hunt permit acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Other refuge visitors including anglers, birders and photographers do not need a refuge Permit.

Access

The Refuge is accessible by car, truck, foot, or boat, dependent on the area to be accessed and the time of year. Marked gravel roads crossing farm fields can be used to access the Centerville, Garden City, North Bend-East, and North Bend-West units of the Refuge.

Take note of Refuge signs on roads, trails and waterways indicating vehicle type restrictions.

Motorized vehicles are only allowed on specifically signed

access roads; they are not allowed on trails maintained for public access by foot. Walking trails are open February 1 - September 30.

Vehicles will not exceed 25 mph when driven on the Refuge's public access roads. Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) is restricted to the Refuge's public access roads. ATV's are prohibited within the Refuge boundary.

Physically Challenged or Disabled Users

Physically challenged or disabled public users are encouraged to inquire at Bayou Teche NWR headquarters for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable.

Fishing

All State of Louisiana fishing limits apply. Recreational fishing is permitted from legal sunrise until legal sunset unless specifically stated. Commercial fishing is not allowed. The use of nets, traps, or unattended lines (trot, jug, bush, etc.) is not allowed. Fishing is allowed from the shoreline and from boats in open waterways (see boating regulations).

Boating

Recreational boating is allowed in open waterways (canals and bayous). **The Franklin Unit Canals (Wood Duck, Black Bear and Alligator) will be open all year to boating at no-wake speed.** Please be aware and courteous to paddlers and kayakers using this. All State of Louisiana boating regulations apply including, but not limited to, running lights, registration, and personal flotation devices. Boating regulations are strictly enforced. Airboat use is not permitted on the refuge.

Hiking

Hiking trails are open February 1st through September 30th on the Garden City, and North Bend East and West Units. Hiking trails on the Centerville Unit are open February 16th though September 30th. The Franklin Trail is open all year. Centerville Unit trails are established on old dikes created when sugar cane drainage ditches were dug. They are minimally maintained and provide an excellent bird watching experience in a bald cypress - tupelo swamp.

The Palmetto Trail, located in the Garden City Unit, is also minimally maintained and meanders through bald cypress - tupelo swamp habitat. Waterproof foot wear is recommended during the rainy season. The Garden City Boardwalk located in the Garden City Unit is open year round and is a good site to view migratory birds.

Hunting

All hunters must complete a Daily Check-In Card prior to hunting. All game taken (including small game) on the refuge must be reported. Daily Check Cards are available on several refuge Units, Foster-Bailey boat ramp and at the refuge office. The Check Card includes a "Check-in" portion that is completed then deposited in the metal box at the check station before hunting. The "Check-out" portion is completed and deposited in the metal box after hunting is completed for the day.

- Refuge Hunt Permit must be in the hunter's possession at all times while on the refuge during the permitted hunt.
- Hunters are authorized to take only species listed on the season permit. Harming or needlessly disturbing plants or other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations.
- Adults age 18 or older must supervise youth hunters during all hunts. State regulations define youth hunter age and hunter education requirements. One adult may supervise two youths during small game and migratory game bird hunts but may supervise only one youth during big game hunts. Youth(s) must remain within normal voice contact of the adult who is supervising them. Adult guardians are responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not violate refuge regulations.
- Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4 am and must exit no later than one hour after legal sunset for that day. Waterfowl hunting must cease by 12 noon and all decoys and blinds removed from the hunting area by 1 pm. The Franklin Unit is closed to all hunting.
- Organized deer drives are not permitted. We define a "deer drive" as an organized or planned effort to pursue, drive, chase, or otherwise frighten or cause deer to move in the direction of any person(s) who is part of the organized or planned hunt and known to be waiting for the deer.
- Possession of lead shot is prohibited on the Refuge. Approved non-toxic shot must be used in shotguns. Possession of buckshot is allowed only during gun deer season.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).
- We prohibit possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the refuge.

■ Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands may be erected one day before the deer archery season and must be removed from the refuge within one day after the season closes. Hunters may place only one deer stand on the refuge. Deer stands must have owners name, address, and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when not in use.

■ We only allow dogs to locate, point and retrieve when hunting migratory game birds. All dogs must be collared with owner's name and phone number. Dogs used for chase are not allowed on the refuge.

■ We prohibit the use of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except reflective tacks.

■ No hunting within 500 feet of the Garden City boardwalk and associated levee trail and parking area.

Archery Deer Season

See the "Hunting Regulations" table in this brochure for dates, bag limits, areas, etc. Bowhunters are encouraged to participate in the International Bowhunters Education Programs.

Bows are permitted only during the Refuge archery season. State of Louisiana regulations governing drug tipped arrows, pods, broadhead size, etc., are applicable. Longbow, compound bow, and crossbow or any bow drawn, held, or released by mechanical means will be a legal means of take during the deer archery season.

Gun Deer Season - General and Youth

All hunters (including small game hunters), except waterfowl hunters must wear and display 400 square inches of "hunters orange" and a "hunters orange" cap during the deer gun seasons on the refuge.

Small Game Season (squirrel and rabbit)

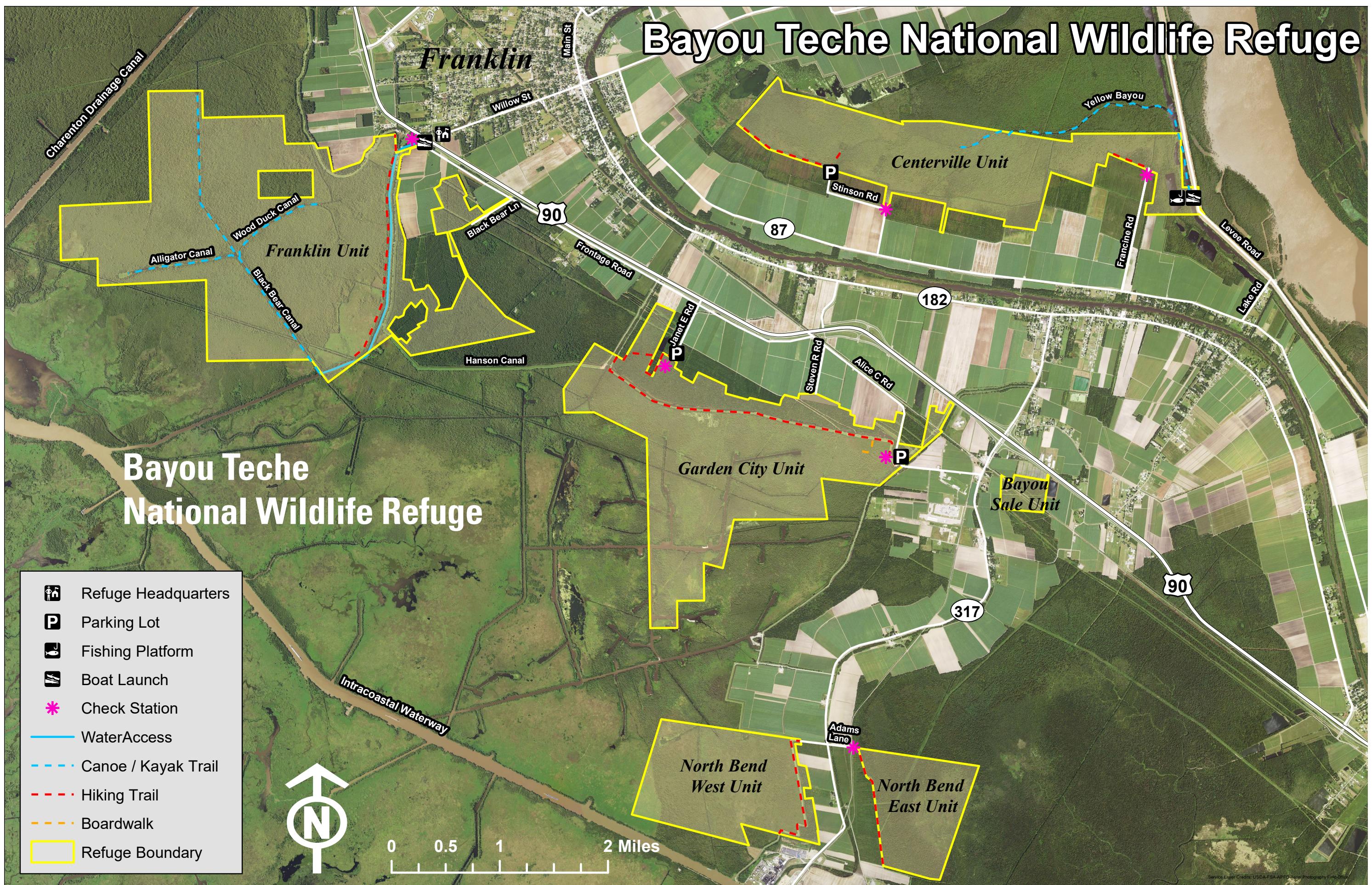
See the "Hunting Regulations" table in this brochure for dates, bag limits, areas, etc.

Waterfowl Season

Louisiana State Waterfowl regulations apply. Youths, with adult supervisors no younger than 18, are eligible to hunt on state youth waterfowl days. One adult can supervise no more than two youth hunters while waterfowl hunting.

See the "Hunting Regulations" table in this brochure for dates, bag limits, areas, etc. Only recognized retriever breeds for waterfowl hunting are allowed. Live vegetation can not be cut and used for blinds. We require waterfowl hunters to remove all portable blinds, boats, decoys and other personal equipment by 1 pm daily.

Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge



Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the rights of our refuge neighbors. Become familiar with refuge boundaries and avoid trespassing on private land. Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the sign applies to the area behind the sign. Please respect the following signs.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Always know the regulations before entering.



You are within the boundary of a national wildlife refuge.



All hunting and possession of any weapon is prohibited beyond this sign.



The area beyond this sign is closed to all public entry. Exceptions are stated on sign.

Hunting Regulations 2019-2020

Hunters are authorized to take only species listed on season permits and during season dates. Harming or needlessly disturbing plants or other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations.

Activity	Season Dates	Hunting Hours	Bag Limits	Hunt Areas	Refuge Permit
Deer Archery	Sep 21-Jan 15 Closed Oct 26-27 Nov 22-24	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	1 deer, either sex, per day	North Bend East, North Bend West, Bayou Sale, and Garden City (Franklin Unit closed)	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card
Deer Archery	Oct 1-Feb 15 Closed Oct 26-27 Nov 22-24	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	1 deer, either sex, per day, except buck only from Oct 1-15	Centerville Unit	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card
Feral Hogs Only as incidental take while participating in the refuge deer archery hunt.					
Gun Deer Youth No lottery	Oct 26-27	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	1 deer, either sex, per day	North Bend East, North Bend West, Centerville, and Garden City (Franklin and Bayou Sale Units closed)	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card (Youth hunters & adult supervisors)
Gun Deer No lottery	Nov 22-24	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	1 deer, either sex, per day	North Bend East, North Bend West, Centerville, and Garden City (Franklin and Bayou Sale Units closed)	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card
Small Game (squirrel, rabbit) Closed to hunting during the spring squirrel season	Oct 5 until the last day of the waterfowl season in the Coastal Zone. Closed Oct 26-27, Nov 22-24	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	State of Louisiana bag limit applies	North Bend East, North Bend West, Garden City, and Bayou Sale (Franklin Unit closed)	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card
Small Game (squirrel, rabbit) Closed to hunting during the spring squirrel season	Oct 5 until the last day of the waterfowl season in the East Zone. Closed Oct 26-27, Nov 22-24	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	State of Louisiana bag limit applies	Centerville Unit	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card
Woodcock	State woodcock season	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	State of Louisiana bag limit applies	North Bend East, North Bend West, Centerville, Garden City, and Bayou Sale (Franklin Unit closed)	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card
Waterfowl (closed during teal season) Centerville Unit is in East zone, remaining units in the Coastal Zone.	State waterfowl season Closed Nov 22-24	1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon. All equipment, decoys, blinds, etc. must be removed by 1 pm daily.	State of Louisiana bag limit applies	North Bend East, North Bend West, Centerville, Garden City, and Bayou Sale (Franklin Unit closed)	Hunt Permit Complete daily check card