



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Thicket
National Preserve

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Big Thicket National Preserve

News Release

Release Date: September 25, 2008
For Immediate Release
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BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE REOPENS MORE AREAS FOR PUBLIC USE

Big Thicket National Preserve continues to provide neighboring counties with mutual-aid assistance to open roads in the Preserve and to clear trails and facilities in each of the 15 units. To provide the public with opportunities for a respite from the stress of Hurricane Ike, units will be opened on an individual basis. As of Friday, September 26, the following two units were added to the list of units open to the public:

- Village Creek Corridor Unit
- Beaumont Unit

These are in addition to the following units, which were opened on Wednesday, September 23:

- Hickory Creek Savannah Unit
- Lance Rosier Unit
- Preserve Visitor Center (open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.)

All other units remain closed until further notice.

The public is advised to use caution on roads and in the Preserve as numerous hazards such as fallen timber, leaning trees, and debris may still exist. These hazardous conditions extend to traveling in the Preserve on foot. Leaning and hanging trees as well as unstable footing can be dangerous to persons walking in the woods. There is also an elevated risk of wildfires given the amount of downed trees and other flammable debris present in the woods.

Those visitors using the Village Creek Corridor Unit are reminded that hazards still exist, such as high water, swift currents, submerged debris, and changing water levels. Use caution whenever using the water, especially after major weather events such as Hurricane Ike.

Hunters holding permits for units that are still closed to the public will be allowed to hunt in other designated hunting units that are currently open until your designated unit is open to the public. **Call the Preserve Visitor Center before you go for daily updates on which units are open.** Updates are also available on the internet at nps.gov/bith.

The Preserve will issue updated information as the conditions of roads and trails change. Specific questions concerning the condition of roads and trails should be directed to (409) 951-6701.

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