

## New Online Features Make Visits to Texas State Parks Easier

In 2019, it will be easier than ever to plan day and overnight visits to Texas State Parks thanks to improvements in the online reservation system. The new features will allow visitors to reserve a specific campsite, buy day passes in advance and buy or renew a Texas State Parks Pass online.

The system will include features that are easy to use both online and through mobile devices. Once the new system launches, for the first-time visitors will be able to:

**Pick Your Site-** Campers will be able to reserve specific campsites, screened shelters, cabins and lodge rooms with the click of a button. Visitors can search for sites by specific parks and site types, see photos of the site before making their decision and see details for each site including utilities, parking pad length and width and amount of shade. Groups can use the new system to book neighboring sites that work best for friends and family enjoying the outdoors together.

**“Save the Day” Pass-** Visitors will never have to worry about driving to parks only to be turned away because it is full. “Save the Day” day-use entry tickets can be purchased up to one month in advance to ensure access to even the most popular state parks in Texas. This addresses a growing issue, since more state parks now have to temporarily turn day visitors away when they fill to capacity at busy times.

**Buy a Parks Pass-** Parkgoers will be able to renew or purchase a Texas State Parks Pass online. With a Texas State Parks Pass, an entire vehicle of guests will get unlimited visits to more than 90 Texas State Parks with no entry fee for 12 months. Parks pass holders also receive camping discount coupons, discounts on Texas State Park store merchandise, reduced rates on recreational equipment rentals and opportunities to participate in special park programs and events for reduced fees.

To be notified when these new features go live, sign up at [www.texasstateparks.org/better](http://www.texasstateparks.org/better) or text TPWD BETTER to GOV311 (468-311).

## Seasonal Rainbow Trout Stocking Begins Statewide Nov. 30

After a long, hot summer, many Texans are looking forward to going outside and enjoying the long-awaited cool weather this holiday season. Starting Nov. 30, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be stocking thousands of cold weather-loving rainbow trout at ponds, lakes and rivers statewide so that family members of all ages can enjoy the crisp seasonal air and catch a feisty, colorful sport fish for fun or to prepare a tasty meal.

With 170 locations being stocked throughout the state, from El Paso to Texarkana and everywhere in between, most Texas anglers are likely to find a

place close to home to enjoy catching these fish and spending time in the outdoors.

For urban and suburban families in major cities, Neighborhood Fishin’ lakes offer some of the best opportunities to catch rainbow trout this winter. TPWD manages 19 Neighborhood Fishin’ lakes statewide in most major urban centers, including Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio. These lakes are stocked with rainbow trout every two weeks and offer plenty of amenities so that family members of all ages can enjoy a fun and relaxing day fishing and connecting in nature.

Families looking to spend a day or weekend exploring a Texas State Park can add fishing to their list of activities, as 22 state parks throughout the state will receive periodic stockings

of rainbow trout this winter. Many state parks offer excellent fishing amenities such as fishing piers and shoreline access, cleaning stations, and equipment rentals for tackle and kayaks or canoes. As a bonus, state parks are the only locations in Texas that anglers can fish for free without a fishing license.

For anglers interested in tailrace fishing, TPWD will be stocking rainbow trout below several dams and spillways, which often have very cool water and provide excellent conditions for trout fishing. This year, TPWD will stock rainbow trout into the Canyon Tailrace on the Guadalupe River below Canyon Lake, the Lewisville Tailrace located on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River below Lake Lewisville, and the Possum Kingdom Tailrace on the Brazos River below Possum Kingdom Lake.

Other stocking locations include dozens of local city and county managed park ponds, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center casting pond, and several rivers including the Frio, South Llano and Guadalupe rivers and the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Rainbow trout can be caught on a variety of baits and lures. Depending on an angler’s experience level and interest, they can be caught using simple, light tackle or on hand-tied flies using a fly rod. Other tips to consider when trout fishing include arriving early to stocking sites on stocking days, maintaining a safe and courteous distance from fellow anglers, keeping an array of baits and lures nearby and having ice available when harvesting trout to keep fish fresh.

TPWD will be stocking a total of 322,568 rainbow trout at all

locations from Nov. 30 through the beginning of March. Because rainbow trout are unable to survive in Texas after the winter, anglers are encouraged to keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout. Rainbow trout are an attractive, tasty fish found on many restaurant menus, and anglers can easily find recipes to prepare these fish online.

In Texas, children under 17 fish for free, but a fishing license is required for adults in the family.

An angler fishing in a Community Fishing Lake or from a dock, pier or jetty within a Texas State Park may use no more than two poles. The statewide bag limit is five trout, except on parts of the Guadalupe River where special limits are in effect.

For more winter trout stocking program angling tips, to find a rainbow trout fishing location near you, or to find stocking dates visit [tpwd.texas.gov/troutstocking](http://tpwd.texas.gov/troutstocking).

# Water Weekly

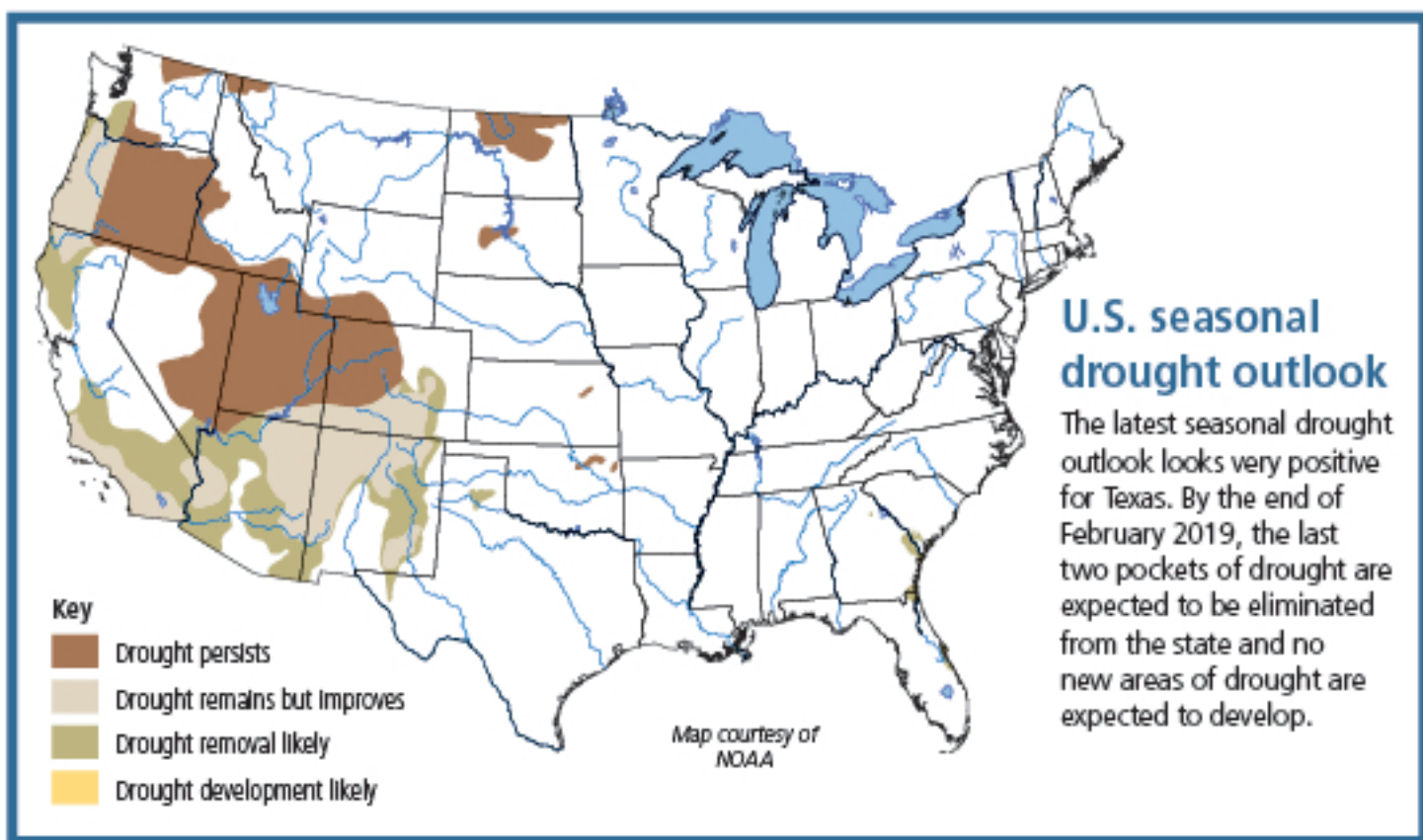
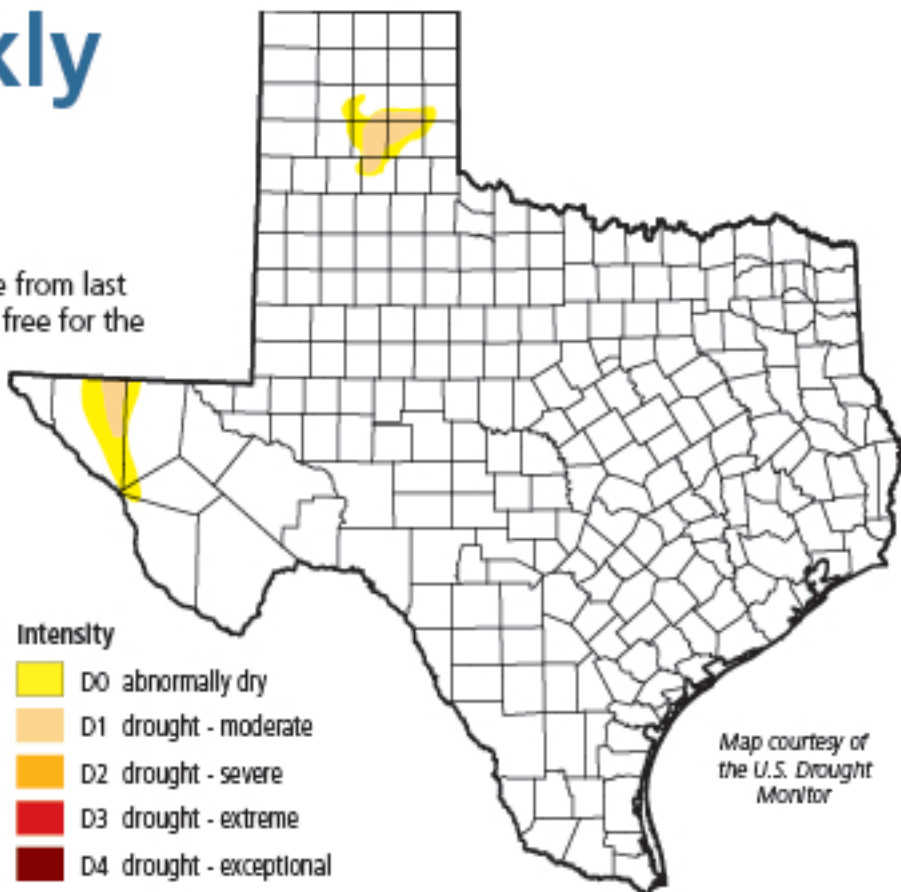
For the week of 11/26/18

## Water conditions

The latest drought map shows little change from last week. Most of the state has been drought free for the past six weeks. Two pockets of drought continue to persist, one in far West Texas and the other in the Panhandle.

## Drought conditions

- ◆ 0.8% now
- ◆ 1% a week ago
- ◆ 60% three months ago
- ◆ 20% a year ago



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