

Falcon State Park

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<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/falcon>

Falcon State Park is 572.6 (144 developed) acres located north of Roma at the southern end of the 98,960-surface-acre International Falcon Reservoir in Starr and Zapata Counties. The park was leased from the International Boundary and Water Commission in 1949 and was opened to the public in 1965.

Falcon Dam was dedicated by Mexican President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines and President Dwight D. Eisenhower in October 1953. The waters of the Rio Grande River have formed a beautiful 60-mile-long lake behind the dam. This dam was built for conservation, irrigation, power, flood control, and recreational purposes.

Falcon Lake is a big fishing paradise, especially for those seeking black and white bass, catfish, and stripers. The area is very popular with bird watchers; varied and interesting bird life consisting of common resident birds, and many of the tropical species for which this is the northwestern most outpost. Also, there are uncommon varieties such as the small green kingfisher and the varied bunting. Gently rolling hills are covered by mesquite, huarache, wild olive, ebony, cactus native grasses.

Facilities: Facilities include screened shelters; air-conditioned screened shelters; campsites with water, electricity, and sewage; campsites with water and electricity; campsites with water; restrooms with showers; a fish-cleaning shelter; playgrounds; trailer dump stations; a group recreation hall with kitchen for day-use or overnight-use, and a Texas State Park Store. There are 3 miles of hiking/mountain biking trails that make a complete loop around the park. Signs detailing plant life provide a 1-mile self-guided nature trail. There is a new boat ramp with three 24' lanes to an elevation of 269' and a single 24' lane to an elevation of 259'. The new ramp is in use when the lake is above 261'.