

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Hunting



NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM

Welcome to Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the Refuge in 1958 primarily for nesting, resting, staging and feeding migratory birds. Public hunting is a priority public use and can provide a quality recreational experience when pursued responsibly.

We allow hunting of geese, ducks and coots in accordance with State regulations and the following Refuge specific regulations. Season dates and bag limits are set by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Refuge allows waterfowl hunting on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Hunt times are half hour before legal sunrise until noon. Check out by returning your Migratory Bird Hunt Report form to the Waterfowl Permit Station on Rt. 77 no later than 1:00 pm.

Permits

We require Refuge waterfowl hunting permits. Permit fees are \$10 on Saturday and \$5 on Tuesday and Thursday. Up to three hunters can share each permit. We conduct a pre-season lottery to select hunters for the first two Saturdays of the first split.

Lottery applications can be submitted online at:

IroquoisNWR.RecAccess.com

There is a \$5 application fee to cover administration costs.

Applications can be completed online from Aug. 15 - Sept. 15. If selected, hunters will receive email notification. Hunters are required to have a copy of their lottery win receipt with them the morning of their hunt.

Individual hunting stands for lottery winners will be allocated on the morning of the hunt through a random drawing at 5:00 am at the Refuge Headquarters. A standby drawing will be held on lottery days immediately after the random draw to allocate any stands not taken.

Non-lottery day stand allocation during the first split will either be by random draw at 5:00 am the Refuge Headquarters or on a first come, first serve basis conducted through RecAccess. Consult our RecAccess web site for a list of first split hunt days and how stands will be allocated on those days.

The Refuge will be open for the second split of waterfowl season by permit only and on a first come, first serve basis conducted through RecAccess. There is no daily stand drawing for the second split.

First Split Morning Stand Draw

The drawing will take place at the Iroquois NWR Shop located at 1101 Casey Road, Basom, NY 14013. Hunters must check in by 5:00 am to participate in the hunt.

As you drive in, you will receive a draw chip from a staff member. Be sure to have your valid New York State hunting license, NYS Waterfowl ID Education Certificate, Harvest Information Program (HIP) number, and signed Federal Duck Stamp. Any partners you wish to bring (maximum of two (2) must possess the same documentation.

Parking is limited so we highly encourage you to carpool with your hunt partners. If you arrive separately, please have them remain at or near their vehicles. Your group of up to 3 may come forward to the "on deck" area when your number is called. Only ONE person per group will come up to the "selection area" to select a hunt stand and turn in the group's chips and money. This person will be given a Migratory Bird Harvest Report form which will serve as the group's hunt permit for the day.

Hunters with Disabilities

One hunt stand is available for hunters with a permanent disability who possess or qualify for an America the Beautiful Access Pass. Hunters who wish to be in the lottery draw for the first two Saturdays, should complete and mail a Migratory Bird Hunt Application to the address listed below. Please indicate "Accessible Blind" at the top of the application. There is no application fee for the accessible blind.

To be eligible for the accessible blind on all other hunt days, hunters must call the refuge office and submit their name by 12:00 pm the day prior to the hunt. If more than one hunter submits their name, a lottery will be held, and the selected individual will be notified that day prior to close of business. The permit allows for two helpers who may also hunt.

Continue to the back for more information.

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Waterfowl Hunting Continued



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Hunt Areas

We allow waterfowl hunting from designated stand markers in Cayuga, Mohawk, and Oneida Pools. You must hunt within 100 feet of your designated stand marker unless you are dispatching a crippled bird. A limited number of permits are distributed for free roam hunting of Mohawk Pool. All other Refuge areas are closed. The number of available permits is decided each year based on habitat conditions.

Scouting

Hunters may start scouting September 15. Scouting is restricted to dikes and upland areas. Hunters may not enter the wetland by boat or on foot.

Vehicles

Vehicles are only allowed on established roads marked open for vehicular travel. Vehicles must be parked off the lane of travel and clear of gates. ATVs and snowmobiles are not allowed.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt

We host a Youth Waterfowl Hunt for youth hunters between 12-15 years of age. The youth hunt is held on the Saturday of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Youth Hunt Weekend. Participants must pre-register online at IroquoisNWR.RecAccess.com.

The program is free, but space is limited to the first 20 applicants. Applications can be completed online beginning August 15th.

All youth hunters must have a valid NY State hunting license and NYS Waterfowl ID Education Certificate.

All youth participants must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult as per New York State regulations. This adult must also possess a NYS Waterfowl ID Education Certificate.

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
1101 Casey Road Basom, NY 14013
(585) 948-5445 or Iroquois@fws.gov
Website: fws.gov/refuge/Iroquois

**Federal Relay Service for the deaf
and hard-of-hearing: 1-800-877-8339**

Last Updated August 2025

Prohibited Activities

- The distribution of bait or hunting over a baited area.
- Using illuminating devices, including automobile headlights, for the purpose of spotlighting game species.
- Camping, overnight parking, open fires and littering.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Weapons may not be discharged within, into or across a "No Hunting Zone", or "Closed Area," or from, on or across any refuge road or designated foot trail. Hunting from within 500 feet of any residence or refuge building is prohibited.
- Hunters may not possess axes, hatchets, saws, nails, tacks, paint or flagging for the marking of trees and shrubs.