



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

2025 Waterfowl Hunt Information and Regulation Sheet

General Information:

The 2025 Waterfowl hunt at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is conducted through a self-registered lottery system and will occur during the State of Michigan regular waterfowl season for the southern zone (October 18th – December 14th). Hunts will be held on the mornings of Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday, and an afternoon starting at noon on Thursday. Early teal, youth waterfowl hunt, and the late split are not open for waterfowl hunting at Shiawassee NWR. The area open to waterfowl hunting is one large scramble area ([click here to download map](#)). A maximum of 16 parties; parties may range from one to four hunters all of whom must be pre-registered will be selected for each hunt.

Self-Registered Lottery Hunt:

A weekly draw will be conducted at each Wednesday for the upcoming Thursday afternoon, Saturday morning, Sunday morning, and Tuesday morning hunts. The first drawing will be held on October 15th and run through Wednesday December 10th, 2025. All applications must be received by 11:00a.m., results will be available by 2:00p.m. by calling 989-996-1412. To participate all hunt parties must self-register by email. **New for 2025: For the 2025 hunting season, we are no longer accepting on-site applications.**

To register by email, hunters must complete a Shiawassee NWR waterfowl hunt registration form with information for all members of your hunting party and email the completed form to shiawassee_waterfowl@fws.gov. Forms can be downloaded from ([Shiawassee NWR Waterfowl Registration Form.pdf](#) | [FWS.gov](#)). You must complete a form for each day that you are applying to hunt.

***New for 2025 - Youth-Only Waterfowl Hunt (non-reserved):**

The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend is a statewide waterfowl season that takes place on public and private lands open to waterfowl hunting September 20-21st, 2025. The drawing for the Youth Waterfowl Hunt will be held on September 17th, 2025. Results will be available by 2:00pm by calling 989-996-1412. Youth 16 years old or younger can participate in this season.

- Hunters 9 years old and younger must be licensed through the Mentored Hunting Program and accompanied by a qualified mentor. A migratory bird youth endorsement (includes HIP) is also required.
- Hunters 10-15 years old must have a base license, base apprentice license or an inclusive mentored license. A migratory bird youth endorsement (includes HIP) is also required.
- Hunters who are 16 years old must have a Michigan waterfowl license and a federal duck stamp in addition to their base license, base apprentice license or inclusive mentored license. A HIP endorsement is also required.

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The Following Refuge Specific Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Apply:

1. Post hunt harvest reports are no longer required to be submitted after each hunt.
2. Hunters can't be added to the hunt party after submission.
3. Each party must submit their registration form by 11:00a.m. each Wednesday prior to the hunt to be considered in the weekly draw.
4. Parties may apply for multiple days but are limited to one entry per day per party. Multiple entries per day will result in ineligibility for the hunt.
5. Hunters may access the Refuge 2 hours before legal shooting time.
6. Hunters may shoot ½ hour before legal sunrise (see Michigan DNR Waterfowl Hunting Digest for shooting hours) until 12:00p.m. (noon) for morning hunts; Thursday afternoon hunt begins at noon and concludes at shooting hours posted in the Michigan DNR Waterfowl Hunting Digest for that day.
7. You may possess no more than 25 shotgun shells while hunting in the field.
8. Retrieval zone is up to 50 yards or 150 feet from the river's edge or the toe of the dike into a managed unit. No guns are allowed within retrieval zones, but dogs may be used for retrieval.
9. Hunting is restricted to the east side of the channelized portion of the Flint/Mistequay River.

General Description of the Scramble Area:

- *Walk-in Only* – Hunters are encouraged to park at the Michigan DNR parking lot at the end of Miller Road and use the field entrance to access the field to the east of the parking lot. The waterfowl hunting portion of the area is wetland consisting of open water and cattails including the cattail marsh along Swan Creek.
- *Boat-in Only* – Hunters are encouraged to use the Cass River boat launch on M-13 or the Miller Road boat launch.
 - *Flint River* – At the confluence with the Shiawassee River, the area consists of a mix of open water and emergent wetland vegetation (cattails, rushes, and shrubs). Hunters who choose to hunt the main channel of the Flint River must hunt from the east bank as the refuge does not own land on the west bank of the river.
 - *Shiawassee River* – From the confluence of the Flint River to the confluence of the Spaulding Drain, the Shiawassee River consists of a mix of open water and emergent wetland vegetation, primarily cattails.
 - *Spaulding Drain* – The Spaulding Drain from the southern refuge boundary to the Shiawassee River is primarily open water hunting.
 - *Cass River* – The Cass River is primarily open water hunting.

All Federal and Michigan State Hunting Regulations Apply.

Information about waterfowl hunting in Michigan can be found in the annual Michigan Waterfowl Digest.

Updated: September 9, 2025