

Ottawa

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2024–2025



Welcome

The refuge was established in 1961 under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act “for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds” (16 U.S.C. 715d). Much of the refuge was purchased with funds authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act to provide habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, resident wildlife, and endangered and threatened species. In addition to controlled and public hunting, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge offers a place for the public to enjoy wildlife-dependent activities such as wildlife viewing and photography, environmental education and interpretation, and fishing.

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>

Safety

Weather conditions at the refuge are often affected by Lake Erie and it can be hotter, colder or windier than it is further inland. Dress in layers, bring extra clothes, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. Insects can be a problem; wearing long sleeves and using insect repellent is advised. Be prepared with plenty of water and food.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

Equipment

All items, including but not limited to: blinds, boats, and decoys must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt. Portable tree stands are permitted for deer hunters. Only one tree stand per hunt unit per person. Tree stands do not need to be removed at the end of each day's hunt but may only be installed between Sept. 01 to the last day in February, annually.

Motorized Vehicles, Parking, Camping

Park only in designated parking areas. Camping and overnight parking are prohibited. Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

General Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Ohio regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge visitor center, or from the refuge website.

We allow the use of hunting dogs, provided the dog is always under the immediate control of the hunter. We allow non-motorized boats in areas open to waterfowl hunting during the waterfowl hunting season. Motorized boats are allowed in the Metzger Marsh Unit.

Hours: The refuge is open during daylight hours. Hunting access hours are 1 ½ hours prior to the State-listed morning shooting time to 1 hour after the State-listed evening shooting time.

General: Individuals accessing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, harvest limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by federal and state officers. Ohio state regulations and refuge specific regulations will be enforced. Refuge specific regulations supersede state regulations. Hunting is allowed only on refuge units described in this document. Only the species listed in this document may be harvested.

Controlled Hunt Permits: Controlled hunts at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge are open to those who have been issued a controlled hunt permit from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. For more information about these opportunities contact Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. To apply for these opportunities, visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife website: (<https://ohiodnr.gov/>).

Controlled Waterfowl Hunting: Controlled waterfowl hunts take place on specified days throughout October and November. Harvest is limited to goose, duck, and coot as governed by State Regulations.

14000 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

419-898-0014

ottawa@fws.gov

www.fws.gov/refuge/ottawa

For State relay service: V/TTY: 1-800-750-0750

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

August 2024



Controlled White-tailed Deer Hunting: The refuge offers archery hunts and gun hunts, mobility impaired hunts are available. Hunting access hours are 1 ½ hours prior to the State-listed morning shooting time to 1 hour after the State-listed evening shooting time. Hunting hours are governed by State regulations. Hunters may place portable tree stands within their unit for the duration of their hunt. Check-in times are specific to the type of hunt and will be provided prior to the hunt.

Controlled Youth Hunting: The refuge offers youth hunting opportunities for both waterfowl and deer. Youth permit holders must always be supervised by an adult, refer to state regulations for specifics. The refuge and our partners may offer special events and programs intended to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters and anglers. Check the refuge website or contact the refuge for a list of youth special events and programs.

Public Hunting: Public hunting at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is governed in accordance with State regulations, seasons, and harvest limits. The table outlines areas of the refuge that are open to public hunting of migratory birds, big game, and upland game. Hunting access hours are 1 ½ hours prior to the State-listed morning shooting time to 1 hour after the State-listed evening shooting time.

To Report Violations:

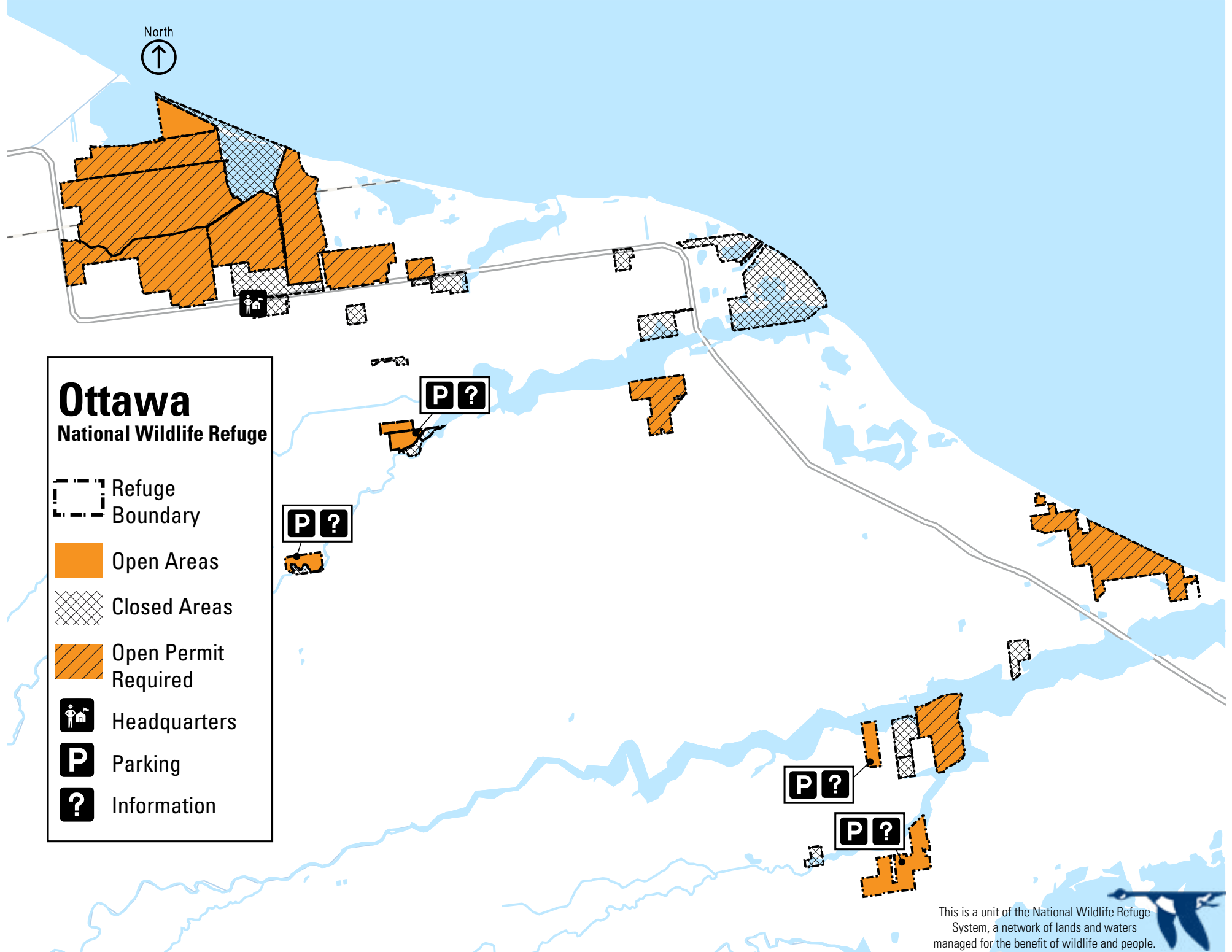
- Turn In a Poacher (TIP) Line: 1-800-POACHER
- 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477)

Big Game, Migratory Bird/Upland Game and/or Small Game Regulations: (see table)

Prohibited Activities

- Trapping any animal without a permit
- Night hunting
- Cutting woody vegetation
- Bait for any species
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Camping and Fires
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree
- The use or possession of any drug on any arrow
- Target shooting
- Paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks, or other human-made materials to mark trails or hunting locations
- Hunting within 150 feet of any structure, building, or parking lot
- Shooting from any roads
- Please follow "Leave No Trace" principles and do not leave trash
- <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/map/>

Activity	Season	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Special Regulations
Big Game: (White-tailed deer & Wild Turkey)	Ohio state seasons	State harvest limits	Turkey Run Unit, Middle Toussaint Unit, Upper Toussaint Unit, Metzger Marsh Unit, Two Rivers Unit	State regulations apply. Non-toxic shot required for Turkey hunting.
Small Game: (fox, raccoon, coyote, skunk, opossum, rabbit, squirrels, pheasants, woodchuck, American crow)	Ohio state seasons	State harvest limits	Turkey Run Unit, Middle Toussaint Unit, Upper Toussaint Unit, Metzger Marsh Unit, Two Rivers Unit	State regulations apply. Non-toxic shot required.
Migratory Birds: (goose, duck, merganser, coot, moorhen/gallinule, mourning dove, rails, snipe, and woodcock)	Ohio state seasons	State harvest limits	Turkey Run Unit, Middle Toussaint Unit, Upper Toussaint Unit, Metzger Marsh Unit, Two Rivers Unit	State regulations apply. Non-toxic shot required.
State regulations apply for bag limits.				



Ottawa

National Wildlife Refuge

-  Refuge Boundary
-  Open Areas
-  Closed Areas
-  Open Permit Required
-  Headquarters
-  Parking
-  Information

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.