



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Refuge Hunting Regs – NY Tracts

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge

General Information

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1990, is **federal** land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Located along the Wallkill River in Sussex County, New Jersey and Orange County, New York, hunting is permitted on approximately 160 acres in New York on the Winding Waters tract. The hunting program is administered in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Hunting Regulations

The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting is permitted in accordance with all applicable NYSDEC and Federal regulations and is subject to special regulations.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF SPECIAL PROHIBITIONS:

NO BAITING
NO DEER DRIVES
NO NIGHT HUNTING
NO ELECTRONIC CALLS
NO RECREATIONAL TRAPPING

The refuge is open to the following in accordance with NYSDEC seasons and regulations.

Always consult the Official New York Hunting & Trapping Guide to Laws & Regulations for current information:

DEER
BEAR
TURKEY
WATERFOWL
MIGRATORY GAME BIRD
SMALL GAME
WATERFOWL
FURBEARER

Refuge Permit

Hunters **MUST** purchase a Wallkill River NWR Hunting permit prior to **hunting or scouting**, in addition to all applicable state licenses/permits. Permits are not transferable and are not valid until signed. Permits are valid for the calendar year & valid for all game seasons.

Scouting

Scouting is permitted two weeks prior to any Deer, Bear, Turkey and Waterfowl seasons opening. Permittees must wear hunter orange while scouting during firearms seasons. Weapons are prohibited while scouting.

Observer

All refuge permit holders will receive one Observer Permit to allow one non-hunting person to accompany the hunter. This is an opportunity for others to learn about hunting or to assist the hunter. The holder of this permit must be set up with the hunter at the same location, and is not allowed to possess or shoot a weapon.

Dogs

The use of dogs is allowed in accordance with state regulations.

Hunter Property

Only portable tree stands may be used. All stands, ladders, sticks, cameras and blinds must have the hunter's RAID # displayed. All hunter property must be removed no later than March 31st. Anything left on Refuge Property after March 31st will be considered abandoned and is subject to disposal. Spikes/nails driven into trees prohibited.

Hours

Hunters may enter the refuge two hours before shooting time and leave no later than two hours after shooting time. See the Official New York Hunting & Trapping Guide to Laws & Regulations for legal hunting hours.

Parking **Hunters must park in designated refuge parking areas (see map) with the Refuge Parking Permit displayed on the vehicle's dash. Do not block gates, roads and buildings.**

No Hunting Zones No Hunting Zones are located in various areas within the refuge. Hunting is prohibited in these areas. Refer to **refuge hunt map** for details, you can visit <https://www.fws.gov/media/wallkill-river-national-wildlife-refuge-hunt-map-2023pdf> or scan the QR code below to be taken to the map.



Nature Trails Hikers may be using the Winding Waters Trail during some hunting seasons. The trail is closed during the NY bear and deer rifle seasons but hunters should always use extreme caution. Refer to **refuge hunt map** for trail locations.

Report Your Harvest Harvested game must be reported in accordance with state regulations. Please indicate you are hunting on **FEDERAL** land.

Law enforcement Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge or state law enforcement officers.

Hunt Permit Webpage Visit <https://wallkillriver.recaccess.com/> or scan the QR code below to be taken to the webpage.



Refuge hunting areas may change each year. Hunters are required to read the hunt maps provided. Please respect adjacent landowners, **DO NOT TRESPASS!**

Other Prohibited Activities

- Trimming or cutting vegetation.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Use of ATVs and/or dirt bikes.
- Target practice
- Camping and campfires
- Overnight parking
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

An Important Message

Our wildlife is a valuable resource. Laws and regulations are intended to protect them, while allowing for some consumptive use. Hunters are encouraged to report any violations they may encounter to a State or Federal employee. The future of hunting on the refuge requires responsible hunter behavior and compliance with regulations.

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge

1547 County Route 565

Sussex, NJ 07461

Contact Jared Green for questions: 978-440-0280 or jared_green@fws.gov

2025 Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Map

