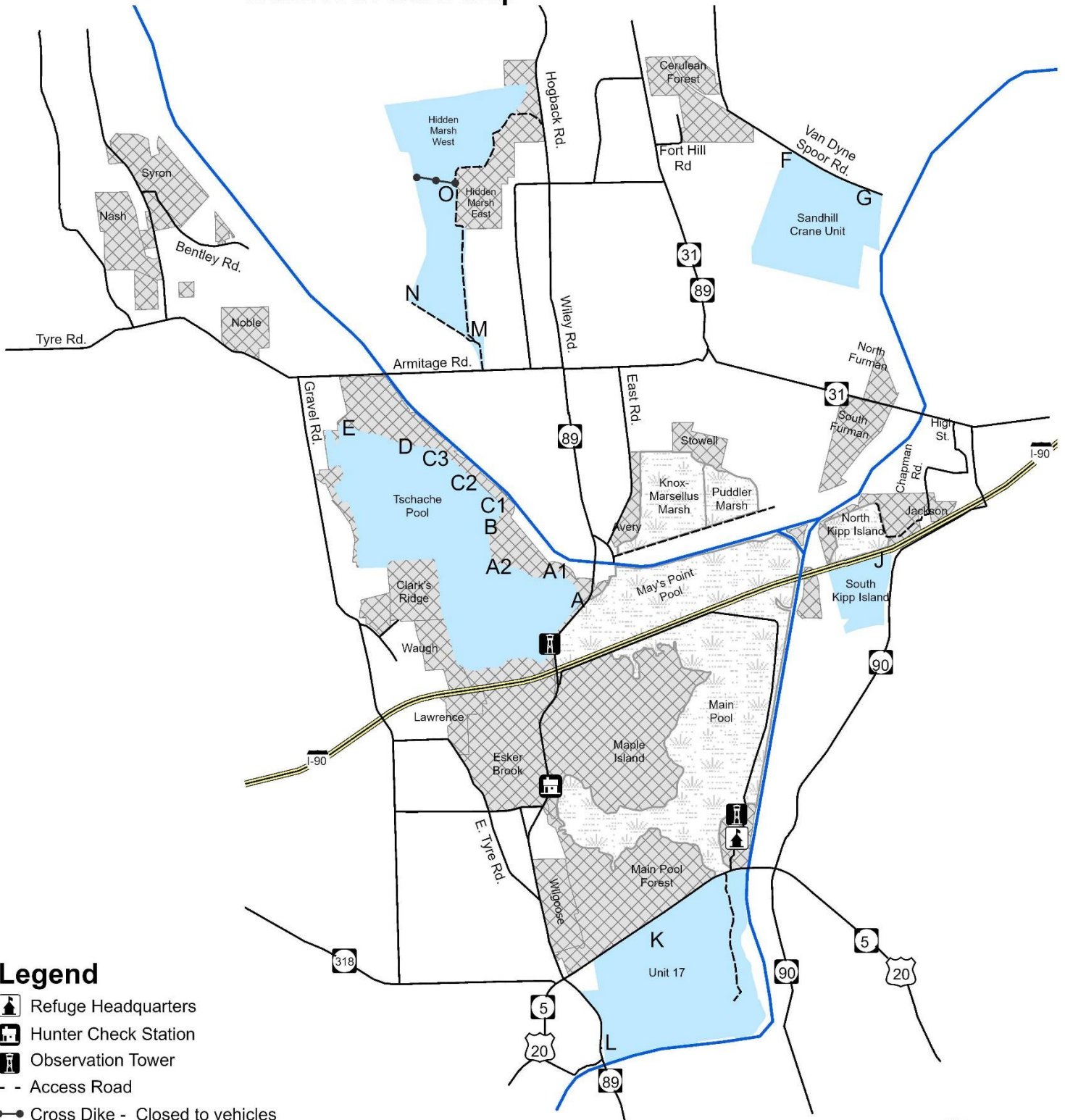




NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunt Map



Legend

- Refuge Headquarters
- Hunter Check Station
- Observation Tower
- Access Road
- Cross Dike - Closed to vehicles

- Waterfowl Hunting Area
- Open Water/Emergent Marsh - No Waterfowl hunting
- No Waterfowl Hunting

*Letters indicate designated waterfowl hunt parking

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

NEW RECACCESS INFO: All hunters must set up a Login.gov account to use RecAccess here: <https://help.recaccess.com/#/loggingov>.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Montezuma

National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Season Hunting Regulations 2026

Welcome

The Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Part of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, this 10,000+-acre refuge provides essential habitat for many species of resident and migratory birds. A popular destination for outdoor recreation,

Montezuma NWR allows waterfowl hunting in accordance with New York State laws and refuge specific regulations.

Important Dates

Reservations:

Reserve your spot & obtain your permit at

<https://montezuma.recaccess.com>

from 6:00 pm 2 days before the hunt day until 5:00 am of the hunt day.

You must transition your account to Login.gov here:

<https://help.recaccess.com/#/loggingov>

Hunt Dates:

Youth Hunt Day: 09/26/26

1st Split: 10/10/26 – 11/01/26

2nd Split: 12/05/26 – 01/10/27

Veterans & Active Military: 11/07/26 & 11/08/26

NOTICE

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

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

3395 U.S. Route 20 East

Seneca Falls, NY 13148

315-568-5987

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Montezuma>

For State relay service TTY/Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1-800-344-WILD

August 2026

Changes to the permit procedure may be made at the refuge manager's discretion.



Hunt Information

The refuge is open to the regular waterfowl season on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Daily refuge permits and reservations are required for waterfowl hunting and can be obtained at

<https://montezuma.recaccess.com>.

All users must set up a Login.gov account to use RecAccess here:

<https://help.recaccess.com/#/loggingov>.

We require proof of successful completion of the New York State waterfowl identification course, the Montezuma nonresident waterfowl identification course, or a suitable nonresident State waterfowl identification course.

We encourage hunters to limit their shell possession within the hunting areas to 25 shells.

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 State regulations.

In addition to meeting statewide harvest reporting, permitted hunters must complete a harvest report on RecAccess by the end of the hunt day.

Failure to abide by federal, state, and local refuge regulations, including but not limited to the new permit process through RecAccess, may result in loss of hunting privileges.

Access

Hunting occurs on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays during the State's western zone season, the Saturday of New York State's youth waterfowl hunt, and on both days of the State's Veterans and Active Military Days.

- **You are permitted on the refuge (including parking areas and adjacent public roads) for check-in no earlier than 5:00 am.** You must complete your hunt by noon and be out of the hunting area by 1:00 pm each hunt day.
- Hunters must obtain their permits from <https://montezuma.recaccess.com>
- All hunters and companions with reservations must check in via the permit holder's RecAccess account to obtain the gate code for entry into the Tschache Pool area.
- Hunters must notify the refuge at 315-237-9862 if they are unable to make it for their awarded hunt date/permit. Newly-available spots will be made available to others by 8:00 pm the night before the hunt date.
- Waterfowl hunting access is by boat or foot from designated areas. You are permitted ONE boat and ONE vehicle in the hunting area per reservation. Hunters under the same reservation must stay within 100 feet of each other while in the hunting area.
- **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/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Reservations

Our RecAccess Reservation/Permit System is online at: <https://montezuma.recaccess.com/>.

You must **CREATE AN ACCOUNT WITH LOGIN.GOV** to use the RecAccess system and get your parking area and permit. Instructions to create your Login.gov account are here:

<https://help.recaccess.com/#/loggingov>. There is a \$5 service fee each time you get a permit.

Parking area reservations/permits are available at 6:00 pm 2 days before the hunt day until 5:00 am on the hunt day. If you are bringing a companion, you will be able to enter their name at Check-In as your Guest. There is no additional charge to bring a guest.

On the hunt day, go to your RecAccess account and **Check-In** before you go afield. Gate codes are provided at Check-In if needed for your area. **Check-In time is 5:00 am to 6:30 am.**

At the end of your hunt, be sure to go back onto RecAccess and **Check-Out**. This is where you will enter your harvest information for yourself and your guest (if you have one).