

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Shiawassee

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations



Welcome

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1953 as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. Additional refuge purposes include providing fish and wildlife-oriented recreation, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered and threatened species. The refuge encompasses approximately 10,000 acres of emergent marsh, forested wetlands, prairie, and riverine areas. This diversity of habitats supports an abundance of plant, bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, and fish species.

Shiawassee NWR provides a wide variety of wildlife-dependent recreation activities to the public, including environmental education, interpretation, wildlife observation and photography, hunting, and fishing. This brochure provides specific information on our hunting and fishing program. To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Shiawassee NWR, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations. For more information about the refuge and our other public use activities please visit our website by doing a internet search using keyword: Shiawassee NWR.

Safety

All State of Michigan hunting regulations for public lands apply.

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).

Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads and trails as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs, snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles are prohibited. Bikes/E-bikes are permitted on roads and trails only.

Park in designated areas. Parking along roadways is permitted in accordance with State regulations. Do

not block gates. Overnight parking is not allowed in the refuge or parking lots.

Boats

Boating is allowed only on navigable waterways flowing through the refuge. The refuge maintains a boat launch on the Cass River off of highway M-13.

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 Civil Rights, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are 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. Individuals accessing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by federal and state officers.

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

The take of feral hog is allowed incidental to other lawful hunting using legal methods of take.

Access

See table for specific hunt access hours.

Hunters must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map below, to access the refuge for hunting.

Permits

Refuge specific permits are required for white-tailed deer hunting. *Please see the table for specific information about licenses and permits.* Hunters

must possess all State required licenses, stamps and permits for the species hunted.

Trapping

We allow furbearer trapping on the refuge for management purposes via a sealed-bid application system. Trappers are issued a Special Use Permit by the Refuge Manager. If interested, please contact the refuge to obtain an application package.

Special Hunts

For information about special hunts, see refuge website.

Weapons

Follow State of Michigan regulations regarding the use, transportation, and possession of firearms, and archery equipment, while hunting on refuge lands. Firearms are not permitted in refuge buildings.

Permissible Shot

Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting waterfowl and turkey. State of Michigan restrictions on firearms, caliber, cartridge length, and magazine capacity apply on refuge lands. Refer to the Michigan Hunting Digest for current regulations.

Lead Free

Please consider switching to lead free ammunition for all game species. Bald eagles live on Shiawassee NWR during the fall and winter. Eagles are scavengers and eat carcasses. When those remains contain lead bullet fragments, eagles may eat lead and can die. Hunters have been conservation leaders for more than a century. Continue that tradition by changing to lead free ammunition! Refer to State of Michigan regulations.

Hunttable Species

See table

To Report Violations

- Michigan Report All Poaching (RAP) Hotline 1-800-292-7800 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week . Call or Text)
- FWS-TIPS line 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477)
- FWS_TIPS@FWS.GOV)

Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:

- No vehicles: All traffic prohibited
- Parking area: Designated areas to park while hunting
- Do not block gates

Prohibited Activities

By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances, including marijuana, is prohibited.
- Camping and fires are prohibited.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, plants, historic, and archaeological features, are protected by Federal law.
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices and trail cameras ("Game Cameras") is prohibited.
- Pre-season scouting for game species is prohibited.
- Cutting of vegetation for blinds, shooting lanes, or any other purpose is prohibited.
- The use of paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks, or other human-made materials to mark trails, trees, refuge features or hunting locations is prohibited.
- Hunting over bait and the distribution of bait, including salt licks, mineral blocks, or any chemical substance applied to the ground or vegetation is prohibited on refuge lands. Construction of food plots is also prohibited.
- Hounding

6975 Mower Rd
Saginaw, MI 48601

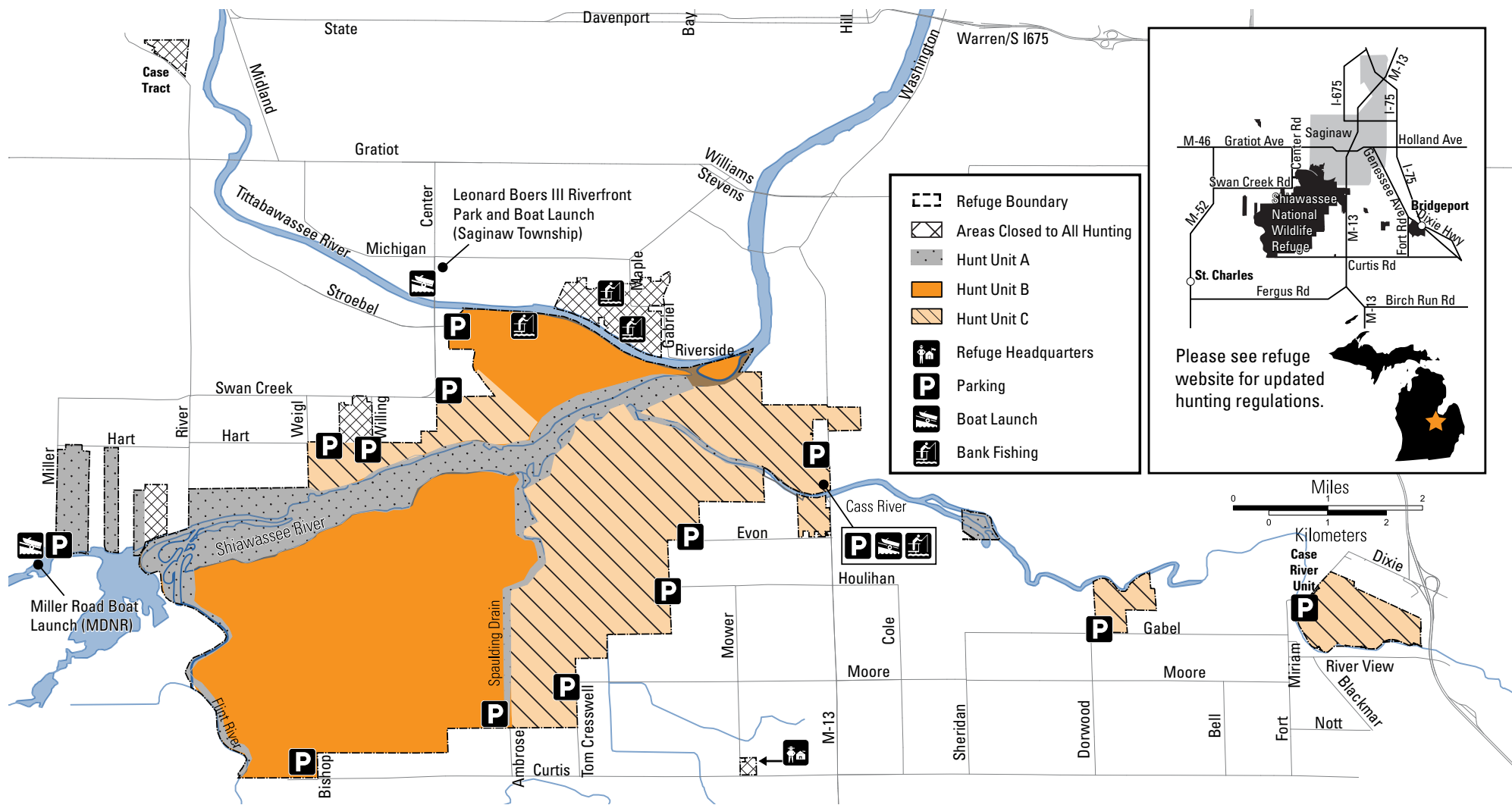
989-777-5930
TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD (9453)

August 2026



Activity	Season/Access	Hunting Area	Special Regulations
White-tailed Deer	State of Michigan seasons	Unit A Unit B Unit C	Reserved Hunt only. Lottery and access permits are administered through Michigan DNR. Permits are valid for ONE deer harvest. Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours. For additional information, see refuge website. For special deer hunts, see refuge website
Turkey	State of Michigan seasons	Unit A Unit C	Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours See refuge specific regulations on website. Non-toxic shot only
All state-listed furbearers, small game, woodcock and crow	State of Michigan seasons	Unit A Unit C	See refuge specific regulations on website. Access permitted 1/2 hours before/after legal hunting hours. Night hunting for year-round, no limit species prohibited.
All state-listed migratory game birds	State of Michigan seasons	Unit A	Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday until noon. Thursday noon until end of legal hunting hours. May possess no more than 25 shotgun shells. Non-toxic shot only. Use of dogs is allowed. Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours. No hunting during Spring Light Goose Season. See refuge specific regulations on website.
Fishing (boat)	State of Michigan seasons	Navigable waterways (boat)	Must follow State of Michigan regulations
Fishing (bank)	State of Michigan seasons	Tittabawassee, Green Point Area, Cass River - designated areas	Must possess and carry a State of Michigan license. Access permitted sunrise to sunset.
Species not listed here are closed to hunting on the refuge.			



The USFWS makes no warrant for the use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content. Boundaries posted in the field supersede all boundaries shown on map.

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

