

Ottawa

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations



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 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 Civil Rights, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/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. We allow one portable deer stand or ground blind per refuge unit. We allow placement of tree stands and ground blinds after September 1 and require hunters to remove tree stands and ground blinds by the last day in February of each year. We require deer stands and ground blinds to be labeled with the hunter's Ohio customer identification number. Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree is prohibited.

Boats

The Refuge allows non-motorized boats (i.e., canoe, kayak, john boat) in areas open to waterfowl hunting during the waterfowl hunting season. Motorized boats are allowed in the Metzger Marsh Unit and navigable waters (except Crane Creek).

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. 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. 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. 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.

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. Night hunting is not authorized. Species without restricted hunt hours are authorized to be hunted 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

To Report Violations:

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

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

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Types of Hunts

Refuge offers three types of hunter access, Open, Controlled Migratory Bird (Gradel Marsh), and Controlled Hunting Access Lotteries. The areas are listed in the table and map of this brochure.

- Open Areas, open to all state legal species, map and table included in this brochure. No additional permit is required to access these units.
- Open State Permit Required Areas - Controlled Hunting Access Lottery units are issued through ODNR. Individuals apply through the states website (<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boatingboating/hunting-resources/controlled-hunting-trapping>) to receive an access permit.
- Daily Permit Units are part of daily permit system run by Ottawa NWR. Individuals obtain these access permits through recreation.gov (https://www.recreation.gov/search?activity_tags=featured-hunt-fish) to reserve a daily access permit.

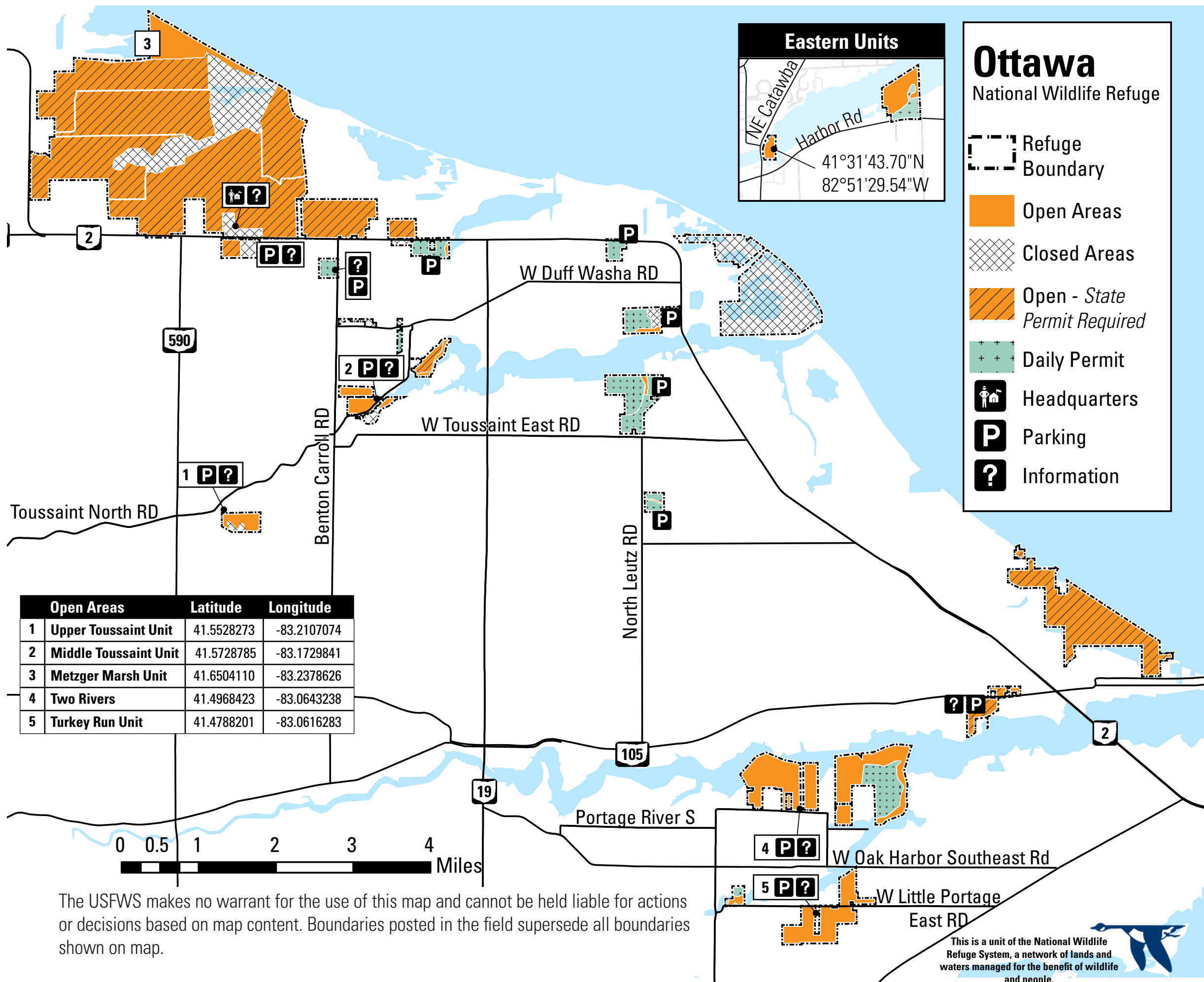
Big Game, Migratory Bird/Upland Game and/or Small Game Regulations: (see table)

Prohibited Activities

- Trapping any animal without a permit.
- Night hunting.
- Cutting woody vegetation.
- Baiting 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.
- We prohibit the use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices such as game cameras.
- The use or possession of any drug on any arrow.



Activity	Hunt Areas	Special Regulations
Big Game: (White-tailed deer and Wild Turkey)	Open Areas, *Open State Permit Areas, **Daily Permit Areas (deer archery only)	State regulations apply. Non-toxic shot required for Turkey hunting.
Migratory Birds: (dark geese, light geese, duck, teal, rail, gallinule, woodcock, dove, coot, and snipe)	Open Areas and **Daily Permit Areas	State regulations apply. Non-toxic shot required
Waterfowl (dark geese, light geese, duck)	*Open State Permit Areas	State regulations apply. Non-toxic shot required.
Upland Game (Small Game and Furbearers): (all state legal species)	Open Areas and **Daily Permit Areas	State regulations apply. Non-toxic shot required. Big Game permit date must overlap with state season. Use of buckshot for any hunting on the refuge is prohibited. Night hunting of upland game from 30 minutes after legal sunset until 30 minutes before legal sunrise the following day is prohibited.
State regulations apply for bag limits, seasons and harvest limits. Refer to map for special hunt permit required units and for specific closed areas. *Requires a state permit, ** Requires a station permit.		



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.