

Anahuac

National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2023–2024



Hunting units include the East Unit, Middleton Tract, and the Pace Tract. Consult specific sections below for information on open hunting days as they vary across units. Hunting is limited to ducks, geese, and coots and is only permitted in accordance with all federal regulations in addition to Texas state, and local laws. NOTE: Opening of hunting units can change based on weather, marsh conditions, or safety concerns. Emergency changes to regulations will be posted on the Anahuac NWR webpage (www.fws.gov/refuge/anahuac).

Failure to abide by or excessive violations of these refuge specific hunting regulations, federal regulations or state laws may result in revocation of your hunting privileges by the refuge manager. The regulations listed are a supplement to the general Regulations set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations which govern all activities on National Wildlife Refuges.

Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations

All individuals entering the East Unit, Pace Tract, or Middleton Tract are considered hunters and MUST 1) be legally licensed to hunt waterfowl and 2) carry a signed copy of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Authorization (included on this document). Hunters may not enter the East Unit, Pace Tract, or Middleton Tract prior to 4:00 am or later than 30 minutes before legal shooting time. Hunters must leave hunt units by 12:30 pm.

- Hunters may not shoot before legal shooting time and must stop hunting by 12:00 pm.
- Hunters age 17 or younger must be under the supervision of an adult age 18 or older.
- Hunters must maintain a minimum distance of 200 yards from other hunting groups.
- Individual hunters within a group must remain within 50 feet from one another.
- Scouting on any unit is only permitted from sunrise to sunset during the seven days prior to Veterans and Youth Waterfowl Weekend (October 28-29). You may not scout at any other time.
- Hunters 16 years of age or younger who plan on hunting during the Veterans and Youth Waterfowl Weekend must have a valid hunting license and be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.
- All regulations stay in effect during Light Goose Conservation Order.

We permit the following:

- Possession of firearms in accordance with federal and state laws. All hunters must unload and encase shotguns while traveling in boats and vehicles on the refuge.
- Kayak use
- Temporary portable blinds. You must remove all blinds, decoys, boats, spent shells, chairs, and equipment from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt.
- Use of retriever dogs is encouraged. They must be under the control of their handlers at all times.

We prohibit the following:

- Driving and parking on levees and non-designated roads. Parked vehicles must not block the roadway or access to levees.
- Any form of blocking the following: roadways, gates, trails, catwalks, boat ramps, or any facility.
- Discharge of a firearm for purposes other than waterfowl hunting.
- Use or possession of toxic shot, e.g., lead, including those shells in vehicles and boats.
- Individual possession of more than 50 approved shotgun shells (including within boats and vehicles).
- Hunting from a roadway.
- Mooring to water control structures.
- Operation of motorized boats on or through emergent wetland vegetation and mudflats.
- Boat motors greater than 25 HP in the hunting units.
- Motorized boats powered by air-cooled or radiator-cooled engines with a propeller larger than 9 inches in diameter in the hunting units.
- Airboats, marsh buggies, ATV's/UTV's, and personal watercraft (PWC).
- Possession or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs. Possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Drone use.
- Open flames and stoves.
- Construction, use, or occupancy of permanent hunting blinds.
- Deliberate destruction, cutting, or harvesting of refuge plants. Introduction of non-native, invasive, or exotic plants.
- Use of plastic flagging, reflectors, or reflective tape. Leaving personal property, trash, or spent shells.

Anahuac NWR Waterfowl Hunting Permit 2023-2024

When signed and carried, this authorization will serve as your general acknowledgement of rules for this season. This authorization is valid only when signed below and must be carried with you at all times while on the refuge.
Expires August 31, 2024

Signature (authorizations are not transferable)

East Unit (Fee Area)

Persons 16 years of age and older on the East Unit are required to pay either the daily fee (\$10) or annual fee (\$40). If entering by boat, the annual fee is mandatory if age 16 or older. Hunters traveling by vehicle to the East Unit are required to 1) hold a prior reservation, and 2) check-in and check-out of the check station off FM 1985. The entrance gate to the East Unit on FM 1985 will open at 4:00 am on the morning of the hunt during Regular Waterfowl Season (this time will vary during the Light Goose Conservation Order). No hunters will be allowed to enter the refuge prior to this time, or within 30 minutes of shooting time. All numbered ponds and fields have a maximum capacity of six individuals, only four of which can be adults (18 years or older).

Hunters traveling by motorized boat to the East Unit are prohibited from hunting the numbered ponds and fields. Motorized boat access to ponds north of Jackson Ditch should be done via Oyster and Onion Bayous by launching from the Oyster Bayou boat ramp on Anahuac NWR. Motorized boats are prohibited from launching at the East Unit.

East Unit Reservations: Reservations will be made online and the link for the website can be found on the Anahuac NWR website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/anahuac/visit-us/activities/hunting>). When you arrive at the reservation website you will be prompted to select your hunting date, then you will see which ponds and fields are available for reservation. After you have made your selection, you will have ten minutes to fill out your information and confirm your reservation. At this point you will receive a confirmation email with a link to change or cancel your reservation if you wish. Reservations for Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays will be made available at 7:00 PM on the Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays of the week before. Reservation holders must be 18 years of age or older. On the day of the hunt, at least one person on the reservation must be present in the hunting party. The handicap accessible hunt pond is reserved exclusively for individuals with an ID, hang tag, or license plate displaying a disabled designation, which must be presented when checking in the morning of the hunt.

Open for Hunting: Regular Waterfowl Season: open on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays. It will be determined each season if the East Unit will be open for the Light Goose Conservation Order. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect, the East Unit will be open on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays until February 25, 2024.

Closed for Hunting: Closed during Early Teal Season, Early Canada Goose Season, Thanksgiving Day, November 27 — December 8, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Pace Tract (Non-Fee Area)

The Pace Tract is located between Onion Bayou and Oyster Bayou and should be accessed via Oyster Bayou boat ramp. Access to the Pace Tract is by boat only.

Open for Hunting: Early Teal Season: seven days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season: seven days a week. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect, the Pace Tract will be open seven days a week until February 25, 2024.

Closed for Hunting: Closed during Early Canada Goose Season, Thanksgiving Day, November 27 — December 8, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Middleton Tract (Non-Fee Area)

Middleton Tract is located between East Bay Bayou and State Highway 124. Walk-in access off of Hwy 124 from the feeder road is difficult. Primary access is by boat. Two boat rollers are located on East Bay Bayou for access to the interior waterways of the Middleton Tract.

Open for Hunting: Early Teal Season: seven days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season: open on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect, the Middleton Tract will be open seven days a week until February 25, 2024.

Closed for Hunting: Closed during the Early Canada Goose Season, Thanksgiving Day, November 27 — December 8, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Signs and Boundaries

The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.



National Wildlife Refuge. This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.



Area Closed. Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



No Hunting Zone. This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.



Public Hunting Area. This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.



Waterfowl Hunting Only. This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.

Hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges is a privilege, please respect it.

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
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