

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Deer Hunting

Welcome to Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the refuge in 1958 primarily for nesting, resting, staging and feeding waterfowl. Public hunting is a priority public use and can provide a quality recreational experience when pursued responsibly. Deer hunting is allowed in accordance with State regulations and the following Refuge specific regulations.

Highlights

HQ Trail has been added to the No Hunting Zone.

Hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or pink when hunting with a firearm.

Permits

No Refuge specific permits are required to hunt deer.

Access

Access to the refuge is two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset. Hunting hours are in accordance to State regulations

Hunters with Disabilities

We issue a non-ambulatory hunt permit which allows the use of two off-road parking sites. This permit is available to hunters with disabilities who possess a New York State non-ambulatory hunting license. Contact the refuge office for locations. You must apply in person.

No Hunting Zones/Closed Area

No Hunting Zones include but are not limited to: the immediate area around the refuge office; around refuge residences; the vicinity of the Iroquois Job Corps Center; HQ Trail, Swallow Hollow, Kanyoo and Onondaga Nature Trails, and safety zones around private residences adjacent to the refuge.

Permission must be obtained from refuge personnel to enter a "No Hunting Zone" or "Closed Area" for the purpose of tracking and/or retrieving legally taken game animals.

Scouting

Scouting is allowed from September 1 to the end of the deer hunting season. Dogs are prohibited while scouting.

Tracking

In accordance to State regulations, the use of a certified dog is permitted to track and recover deer that are dead, wounded or injured during any big game hunting season (including on weekends and 24-hours after last day of the hunting season.)

Blinds and Stands

We allow portable tree stands only. All equipment must be removed from the Refuge at the end of the hunting day. Hunters cannot use screw-in steps or the use of nails, spikes, wire, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree.

Vehicles

Vehicles are only allowed on established roads marked open for vehicular travel. Vehicles must be parked off the lane of travel and clear of gates. ATVs and snowmobiles are not allowed.

Boats

Canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized boats may be used on Oak Orchard Creek only, from Knowlesville Road to Route 63. You may launch boats from Route 63, Sour Springs Road and Knowlesville Road. As you pass through wooded swamp, expect obstructions and variable water levels.

Prohibited Activities

- The distribution of bait, or hunting over a baited area
- Use of trail cameras
- Camping, overnight parking, open fires and littering
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Weapons may not be discharged within, into or across a "No Hunting Zone" or "Closed Area"; or from, on or across any refuge road or designated foot trail. Hunting from within 500 feet of any residence or refuge building is prohibited
- Use of axes, hatchets, saws, nails, tacks, paint or flagging for the marking of trees and shrubs

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www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois
www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting

Federal Relay Service for the deaf
and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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White Tailed Deer
Credit: Robert Savannah

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National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Map

