



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Stewart B. McKinney

National Wildlife Refuge, Great Meadows Unit Hunting Regulations

Welcome

Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge consists of ten units located along the coast of Connecticut from Westbrook to Greenwich. Due to its location within the Atlantic Flyway, the refuge provides important resting, feeding, and nesting habitat for many species of birds including the endangered roseate tern and threatened piping plover. The Great Meadows Unit is the largest refuge management unit, with 416 acres in Stratford and 4 acres in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge
733 Old Clinton Road, Westbrook, CT 06498
860-399-2513
860-399-2515 (Fax)

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Stewart_B_McKinney/
For State relay service TTY/Voice:
711 or 1-800-842-9710

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD
August 2020

I have read and agree to comply with the refuge rules and regulations described in this hunt brochure. Permit valid for current season only.

Signature _____ Date _____

You must carry this signed and dated permit with you at all times while hunting on the refuge.

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



Hunt Information

Waterfowl and white-tailed deer hunting occurs on 165 acres east of the public use trail, unless denoted by "No Hunting Zone" signage. Waterfowl may be hunted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the regular State season. After the close of regular duck, brant, and sea duck seasons, Canada and snow goose hunting is permitted every day except for Sunday. Deer is archery-only and may be hunted during the State archery season. Waterfowl may be hunted with all permitted methods of take, per Federal and State regulations. All State and Atlantic Flyway hunting regulations and harvest limits apply.

Safety

Hunters operating motorboats to reach refuge islands, or through refuge marsh areas, should always be aware of marine weather conditions and tide changes. Entering certain areas of the refuge is likely to expose hunters to mosquitoes, ticks and other disease-carrying insects.

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).

Boats

There are a number of public boat launch areas near the refuge, with further information found on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website: <https://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/coastalaccess/index.html>.

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/eo/public-civil-rights>.

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 Federal and State regulations.

Access

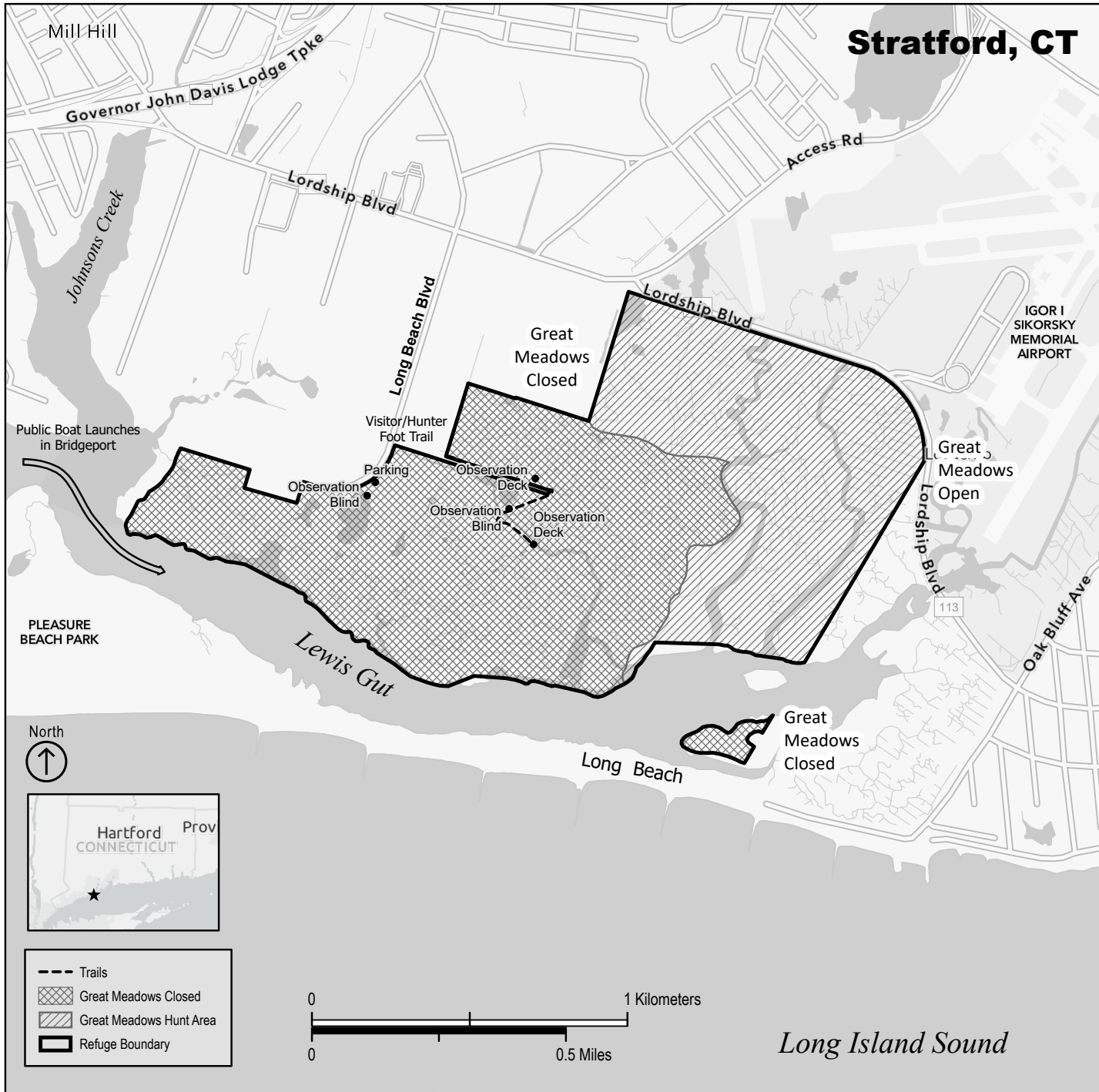
Access refuge hunting areas from 1 hour before legal sunrise until 1 hour after legal sunset. To access the Unit by foot, hunters may use the visitor parking lot or find legal parking along the refuge's boundary. To access the unit by boat, hunters may enter through Lewis Gut. See map on reverse.

Dogs

The use of dogs when hunting waterfowl on the refuge is allowed.

Harvest Reporting

Successful hunters are requested to return a Big Game Harvest Report (FWS Form 3-2359) and/or a Migratory Bird Hunt report (FWS Form 3-2361) to the refuge at the end of the hunting season. These may be emailed to the Visitor Services Manager at shaun_roche@fws.gov, faxed to 860-399-2515 or sent by postal mail to refuge headquarters.



Prohibited Activities

- Entering closed areas is prohibited.
- Camping and Fires are prohibited.
- Searching for or removal of any items such as antlers, skulls, plants, historic and archaeological features, which are protected by Federal law is prohibited.
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices is prohibited. Use of drones is prohibited.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance is prohibited.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree are prohibited. Tree stands, blinds, or other hunting equipment must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day.
- Access to the Refuge from private property is prohibited.
- Launching motorboats from the refuge is prohibited.
- Parking is prohibited on the refuge unless it is in the designated parking locations as indicated on the map or a public parking area.

Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:

- No vehicles; Refuge Boundary; No Hunting Zone

Applies to the area behind the sign

- Refuge Boundary: Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited
- No Hunting Zone: Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited.