

# 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

Hunters are required to comply with Michigan hunter orange requirements: You must wear a cap, hat, vest, jacket or rain gear of hunter orange when taking game during the established daylight shooting hours from Aug. 15 through April 30. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange. The garments that are hunter orange must be the hunter's outermost garment and must be visible from all sides of the hunter. Exception: This does not apply to a person engaged in the taking of deer with a bow or crossbow during archery deer season, a person engaged in the taking of turkey, crow or other migratory birds other than woodcock, or a person who is stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote or fox.

### 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.

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. Also, there are several other off-refuge boat launches in the area.

**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/eeo/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.

### 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. Gates opened to enter the hunting area from designated access points must be closed immediately after passing through (access for special hunts only). Access to the refuge from private property is prohibited.

### Permits

Refuge specific permits are required for white-tailed deer and migratory bird 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.

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

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### Special Hunts

Contact the refuge for additional information regarding our special hunts (e.g., youth, non-ambulatory), as opportunities may change annually.

### Weapons

State of Michigan regulations regarding the use, transportation, and possession of firearms, bows and arrows, and crossbows apply 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. State of Michigan restrictions on firearms, caliber, cartridge length, and magazine capacity apply on refuge lands. The refuge is located within the Limited Firearms Zone for deer hunting. 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 deer carcasses and gut piles. 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! Please visit [www.fws.gov/midwest/refuges/leadfree](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/refuges/leadfree).

### Tree Stands

With the exception of portable tree stands, all other items, including blinds, boats and decoys must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt.

### Huntible Species

**Feral Hogs:** Take of feral hogs will be allowed, by any legal method, while hunting any other game species open on the refuge.

**Big Game:** White-tailed deer. *See table*

**Migratory Birds:** waterfowl (ducks and geese), American coot, common gallinule, sora, Virginia rail, and Wilson's snipe.

**Small Game:** (eastern fox squirrel, eastern cottontail, ring-necked pheasant, American woodcock, and American crow), and furbearers (raccoon, coyote and red fox)

**Turkey:** Spring hunt only. *See table*

### Harvest Reporting

To be eligible for next year's refuge hunting season, holders of a refuge reserved deer access permit must complete the Deer Harvest Questionnaire administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Waterfowl hunters must submit a completed Migratory Bird Hunt Report (FWS form 3-2361) by email ([shiawassee@fws.gov](mailto:shiawassee@fws.gov)) or onsite drop-box immediately following their hunt.

All reports must be submitted regardless of whether you hunted on the refuge or were successful.


### 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](mailto:FWS_TIPS@FWS.GOV)
- Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Voicemail, 989-607-6059 (If you use this number, your report may be delayed. Use RAP or TIPS line to report in-progress violations.)

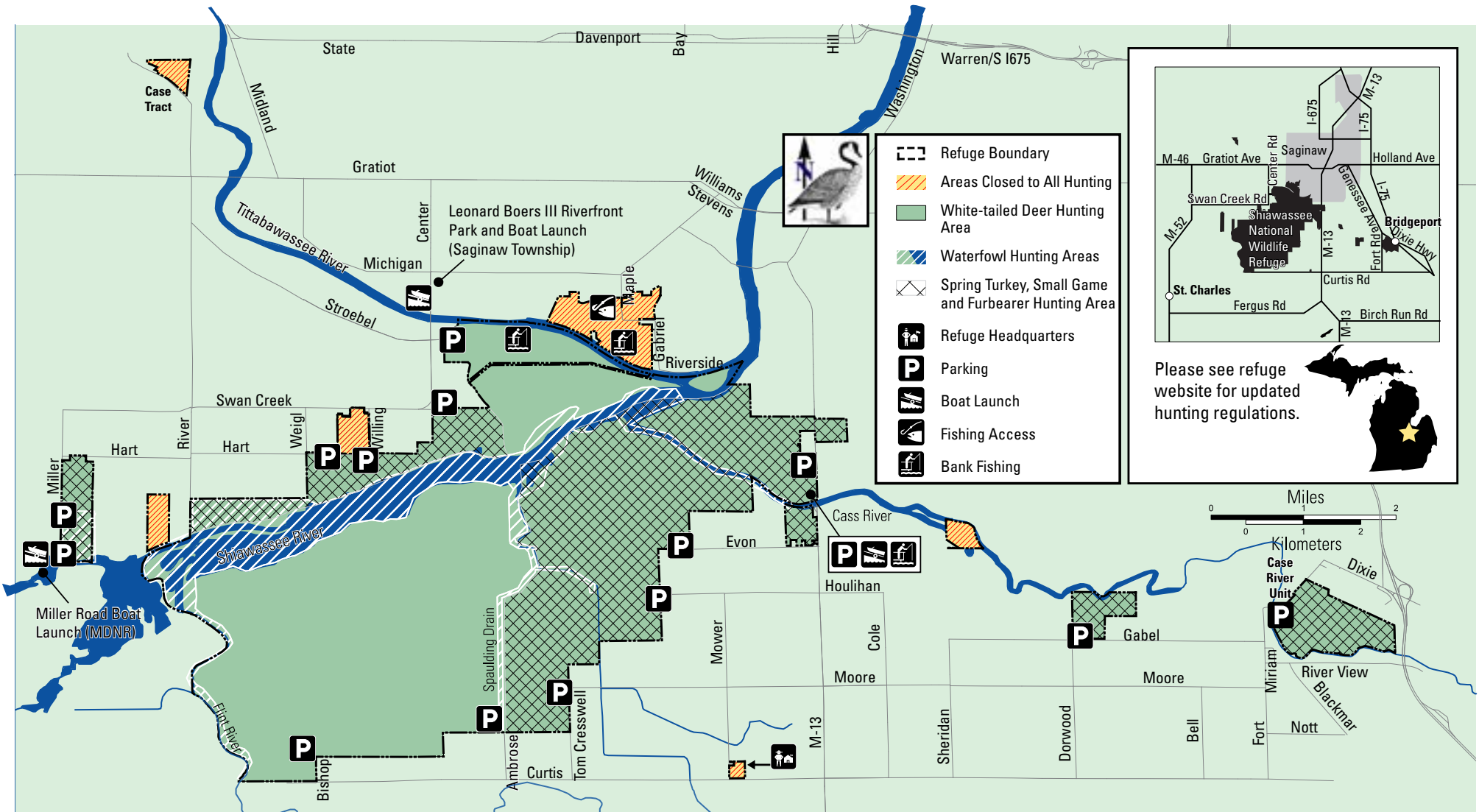
### Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:

- No vehicles: All traffic prohibited
- Parking area: Designated areas to park while hunting

Activity	Season/Access	Hunting Area	Special Regulations
<b>Deer Youth</b>	State Regulations Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours (See MI hunting Digest)	White-tailed Deer Hunting Area	Reserved hunt only. Lottery administered through MDNR. Hunters must possess the appropriate access permit AND appropriate deer license(s) to harvest deer in DMU 273.)
<b>Deer Non-Ambulatory (Accessible  Hunt)</b>	State Regulations Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours (See MI hunting Digest)	White-tailed Deer Hunting Area	Reserved hunt only. Lottery administered through MDNR. Hunters must possess the appropriate access permit AND appropriate deer license(s) to harvest deer in DMU 273.) Special hunt administered November 15-18th.
<b>Archery Deer</b>	State Regulations Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours (See MI hunting Digest)	White-tailed Deer Hunting Area	Reserved hunt only. Lottery administered through MDNR. Hunters must possess the appropriate access permit AND appropriate deer license(s) to harvest deer in DMU 273.)
<b>Muzzleloader Deer</b>	State Regulations Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours (See MI hunting Digest)	White-tailed Deer Hunting Area	Reserved hunt only. Lottery administered through MDNR. Hunters must possess the appropriate access permit AND appropriate deer license(s) to harvest deer in DMU 273.)
<b>Limited Firearms Deer</b>	State Regulations Access permitted 2 hours before/after legal hunting hours (See MI hunting Digest)	White-tailed Deer Hunting Area	Reserved hunt only. Lottery administered through MDNR. Hunters must possess the appropriate access permit AND appropriate deer license(s) to harvest deer in DMU 273.)
<b>Migratory Bird</b>	(Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday) during regular goose season after September 30th. Access permitted 1½-hours before legal shooting time. Legal shooting time starts ½-hour before sunrise.	Waterfowl Hunting Areas	Self-registered reserved hunt, by lottery only. You may possess no more than 25 shotgun shells while hunting migratory birds. Must possess and use only non-toxic shot. We allow hunting with dogs.
<b>Small Game and Furbearers</b>	½-hour before legal sunrise to ½-hour after legal sunset	Small Game and Furbearer Hunting Areas	We allow hunting with dogs in accordance with State regulations. Training of dogs is not allowed. For raccoon hunting dogs must wear GPS or radio collars.
<b>Turkey Hunting</b>	State spring season Only 1½-hour before legal shooting time	Spring Turkey Hunt Area	Must possess and carry a State of Michigan license. No refuge permit is required.
<b>Fishing(boat)</b>	State Regulations	Navigable waterways (boat)	Must possess and carry a State of Michigan license.
<b>Fishing (bank)</b>	State Regulations Legal sunrise to legal sunset only	Tittabawassee and Cass Rivers - designated areas	Must possess and carry a State of Michigan license.

**An access permit is only valid for ONE deer harvest. Your access permit must be attached to a harvested deer along with a validated kill tag. State bag limits apply. Species not listed here are closed to hunting on the refuge.**



### 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
- 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 ("Game Cameras")
- Hunting with dogs is allowed for migratory birds and small game only. Training of dogs is not allowed.
- 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.
- Hunting is prohibited within 200 yards of any public use facility

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

