

# Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

## Wildlife Observation

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. Wildlife observation is a priority public use and can provide a quality recreational experience when pursued responsibly. While visiting the refuge please observe the following:

The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset.

From March 1 – October 1 please stay on designated trails, overlooks and the Feeder Road. All other areas of the refuge are closed to public access to minimize disturbance to nesting and resting wildlife.

### Overlooks

**Cayuga Marsh** – Route 77 - View waterfowl, shorebirds, a bald eagle nest, and black terns from the observation deck.

**Ringneck Marsh** – Oak Orchard Ridge Road - View waterfowl, osprey, bald eagle, and great blue heron.

**School House Marsh** – Oak Orchard Ridge Road - Waterfowl and shorebird observations are possible here.

**Mallard** – Sour Springs Road - Look for the eagle nest and waterfowl.

### Nature Trails

**Kanyoo** – Route 77 - 2 loops: yellow is 0.66 mile and blue is 1 mile. This dirt and gravel trail, bounded by wildflowers and fungi, takes visitors through mixed woods and vernal wetlands. A small observation platform and boardwalk give views of a marsh.

**Swallow Hollow** – Knowlesville Road - 1.3 mile loop. An elevated boardwalk, dirt, and gravel trail takes visitors through marsh and forested wetlands for unique encounters with wetland species. Interpretive panels describe common sightings along the way. Warblers are in abundance in late spring and summer.

**HQ** – Casey Road - 1 mile loop. Headquarters trail starts at the kiosk outside the Visitor Center. This loop trail winds its way through grasslands, forested habitat, and marshland. The gravel trail is ADA accessible and provides an easy stroll with ample opportunity for wildlife observation. You may see purple martins catching dragonflies to feed their young, a resident opossum meandering through the trees, wood ducks on the pond, and butterflies pollinating the goldenrod.

**Onondaga** – Sour Springs Road - 1.2 miles one way. A gravel dike leads visitors through Onondaga Marsh and into mature mixed woods and evergreen plantations that pre-date the refuge. A side loop circles a small pool where wood ducks may nest in the spring. At the third bench rest, reflect, and retrace your steps.

**Feeder Road** – Route 77 - 3.5 miles one way. The original Feeder Road was built using the spoils from digging the Feeder Canal in 1823. The canal carried water pumped from Tonawanda Creek to augment the flow from Oak Orchard Creek into the Erie Canal in Medina. Near the south end is a shorebird observation area, beyond are woods and grasslands. At the south end, park at Kanyoo Nature Trail and take the grass path to the west. At the north end park off of Dunlop Road. Vehicles are permitted on Feeder Road from Route 77 to the gated halfway point from October 1 through the end of February.

**Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing** We allow cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on Onondaga and Kanyoo Nature Trails, Feeder Road, and the Mohawk Ski Trail. The Mohawk Ski Trail, a 7.5 mile loop around Mohawk Pool, starts and ends at the refuge office. The relatively flat, ungroomed course traverses fields, woods, and along straight dikes. Mohawk Ski Trail closes on March 1. See our Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing Fact Sheet for more information.



Robert Savannah

### Vehicles

Stay on public roads. Off-road travel, ATVs, and snowmobiles are not allowed. Please do not block gates and access roads.

### Boats

Canoes, kayaks, and other non-motorized boats are permitted 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.

### Bicycles

We allow bicycles on public roads and on Feeder Road only.

### Pets

Please keep pets on a leash no longer than 10 feet at all times.

**Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge** 1101 Casey Road

Basom, NY 14013-9730

585/948 5445

[www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois)

[www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting)

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

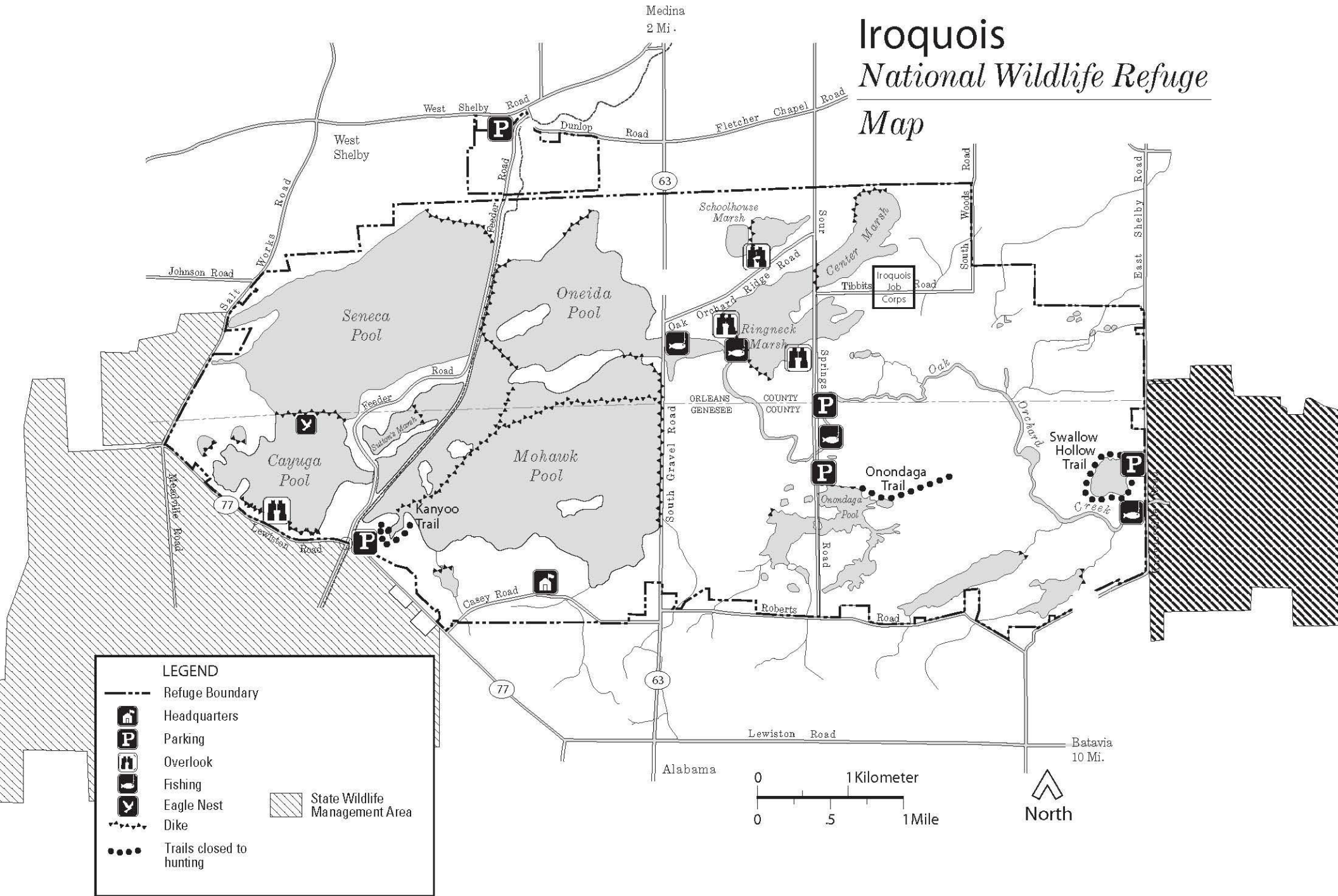
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
1 800/344 WILD

<http://www.fws.gov>

October 2020

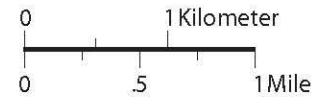


# Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Map



## LEGEND

- Refuge Boundary
- Headquarters
- Parking
- Overlook
- Fishing
- Eagle Nest
- Dike
- Trails closed to hunting
- State Wildlife Management Area



Medina  
2 Mi.

Batavia  
10 Mi.

Alabama

63

77

63

77

63

ORLEANS  
GENESEE

COUNTY  
COUNTY