

Montezuma

National Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Information



Outdoor facilities are open from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. The Wildlife Drive is open April 1 – November 30, weather-dependent. The Visitor Center & Nature Store are open April 1 – November 30 on weekdays from 10 am to 3 pm. We may not be open on weekends due to a lack of volunteer help.

About the Refuge

Montezuma National Wildlife refuge provides resting, feeding, and nesting habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The refuge is located at the north end of Cayuga Lake, situated in the middle of one of the most active flight lanes in the Atlantic Flyway.

Montezuma encompasses more than 10,000 acres in Seneca, Wayne, and Cayuga Counties. Most of the habitat on the refuge is emergent marsh, but there are also areas of grassland, shrubland, and forest.

Enjoy Your Refuge

- Seneca Trail: 1-mile loop starting from the Visitor Center parking area; easy. Observation tower & deck. Restrooms.
- Wildlife Drive: 3-mile, One-Way driving trail. Stay in your car until you reach designated viewing areas. Pull over for better viewing but do not park and walk along the Drive. Walking & biking from the Visitor Center parking lot permitted May 25 – August 15.
- Tschache Pool & May's Point: Viewing structures overlooking amazing emergent marshes!
- Esker Brook & South Spring Pool Trails: Nearly 4 miles, mostly in the forest. Moderate difficulty.

Refuge Etiquette

The refuge habitats provide homes, food, breeding grounds, and rest areas for migratory birds and other wildlife. You can be a welcome guest by following a few simple guidelines and setting an example for those who are not “in the know”!

Please DO:

- Stay on designated refuge trails & at designated refuge viewing areas.
- Stay in your car along the Wildlife Drive until you reach designated viewing areas marked with a brown & white binocular sign.
- From May 25 – August 15, you may exit your car anywhere on the Drive, but you must stay with your car.
- Walk & bicycle along the Wildlife Drive from May 25 – August 15 only. Park at the Visitor Center Parking lot, not along the Wildlife Drive.
- Walk your dog on a leash on the Seneca Trail and Refuge entrance road only.
- Fish only in designated areas.
- Observe information & orientation signs.

Please Do NOT:

- Leave designated trails, walk on dikes, enter into water/Refuge pools, enter into closed areas.
- Jog/Run anywhere on the refuge.
- Camp, have fires, or stay overnight on any part of the Refuge.
- Collect any materials (feathers, plants, rocks, animals, etc.) from the Refuge.
- Park on the Wildlife Drive and then take a walk along the Drive. Parking is available at the Visitor Center Parking lot.
- Bicycle anywhere on the refuge, except on the Wildlife Drive from May 25 – August 15.
- Fish or boat in Refuge pools and other waters. You may fish and boat in the canals and rivers around the Refuge from designated fishing and launching areas.
- Feed wildlife.
- Fly drones.
- Walk your dog, except on the Seneca Trail and Refuge entrance road.

Contact Us at 315-568-5987

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<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/montezuma>