

Cypress Creek

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting & Fishing Regulations

General Regulations

The hunting and fishing regulations specific to Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge are set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Individuals using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge and state officers. To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting the refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the regulations and property boundaries; please call the refuge with questions.

Fishing

Fishing regulations are in accordance with state regulations. Please refer to Illinois Department of Natural Resources fishing Information Guide. This publication is updated and printed annually.

Specific Fishing Regulations

- Sport fishing, frogging and taking of turtles for personal use are permitted in all refuge waters in accordance with state regulations. Refuge waters include ponds and portions of the Cache River and its tributaries that are within refuge boundaries.
- The use of trotlines, jugs, yo-yo's, nets or any other commercial fishing equipment is prohibited, except that commercial fishing is allowed by legally licensed equipped anglers in the Cache River downstream of HWY 51.
- Anglers may take fish with no more than two poles with no more than two hooks or lures per line.
- All bass taken from refuge ponds must be at least 15 inches in length.
- Refuge ponds have a daily limit of six channel catfish per angler.

Hunting

Hunting is in accordance with state regulations subject to the following refuge specific regulations:

Specific Hunting Regulations

- Hunting is permitted only in designated areas shown on map
- Only portable deer stands or blinds may be used. All tree stands, blinds and personal property must be removed from the refuge by the end of each day's hunt.
- Pits/permanent blinds are not permitted on the refuge. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of artificial camouflage (use of vegetation is prohibited) are permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day's hunt. Cutting of any vegetation on the refuge is prohibited.

- Hunting with recognized pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and squirrel season, and trailing hounds during designated raccoon/ opossum season is permissible. Deer hunting with dogs on the refuge is prohibited.
- We prohibit the use of "deer drives" for the taking or attempting to take deer. We define a "deer drive" as a hunter(s) moving through an area with the intent of displacing one or more deer in the direction of another hunter(s).
- Dog training is prohibited.

Furbearer Hunting

- Raccoon/Opossum hunting is allowed at night on the refuge during the Illinois statewide season.
- Red and grey fox and coyote hunting is allowed during the Illinois state wide fox season dates during daylight hours only.
- Hunting or taking of groundhogs or striped skunks is prohibited.

Weapons

- Firearms and archery tackle are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts. Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, explosives, crossbows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, or other weapons on a national wildlife refuge is prohibited unless specifically authorized.
- Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader.

Ammunition

Hunters may only use or possess approved non-toxic shot shells while in the field, including shot shells used for hunting wild turkey. Exceptions include the following:

- Small game and furbearers may be hunted with .22 and .17 caliber rim fire lead ammunition during open seasons.
- During deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used.

Commercial Use

Commercial use of a national wildlife refuge including commercial guiding, commercial fishing and filming are prohibited except as may be authorized by a refuge Special Use Permit.

Boats

Boating is permitted on waters (rivers and ponds) owned by the refuge; however the Cache River and associated tributaries are not designated as "public water bodies." This means that boaters are welcome where the refuge or the Illinois DNR own one or both banks of a river; otherwise use of the river requires permission from the adjoining landowners. All boats have a 10-horsepower restriction and boats may not be left overnight on the refuge.

Motorized Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge. All vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on this refuge map. Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather or management needs. Vehicles may be parked alongside roads in a manner that will not block gates or interfere with the normal flow of traffic. ATV's are prohibited except by disabled persons possessing a refuge Special Use Permit.

Prohibited Activities

Please follow state regulations in addition to the following:

- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Camping, overnight parking and open campfires
- Taking of any wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.
- Target practice
- Marking trails with paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks or other manmade materials.
- Riding horses or mules except on roads open to vehicle traffic
- The entire refuge is closed to all night hunting activities except for raccoon/opossum hunting.
- Spot-lighting may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts. Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Inserting a screw, nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes.

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
0137 Rustic Campus Drive
Ullin, IL 62992
618/634 2231

Hearing impaired persons may contact
Cypress Creek through the Federal Relay Number
at 1 800/877 8339.

<http://midwest.fws.gov/cypresscreek>



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

Rely on Signs in the Field - Not this Map

Refuge Boundary Sign



These signs mark the boundary of the refuge. They DO NOT prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.

Area Closed Sign



These signs mean no public access.

Cache River SNA Boundary Sign

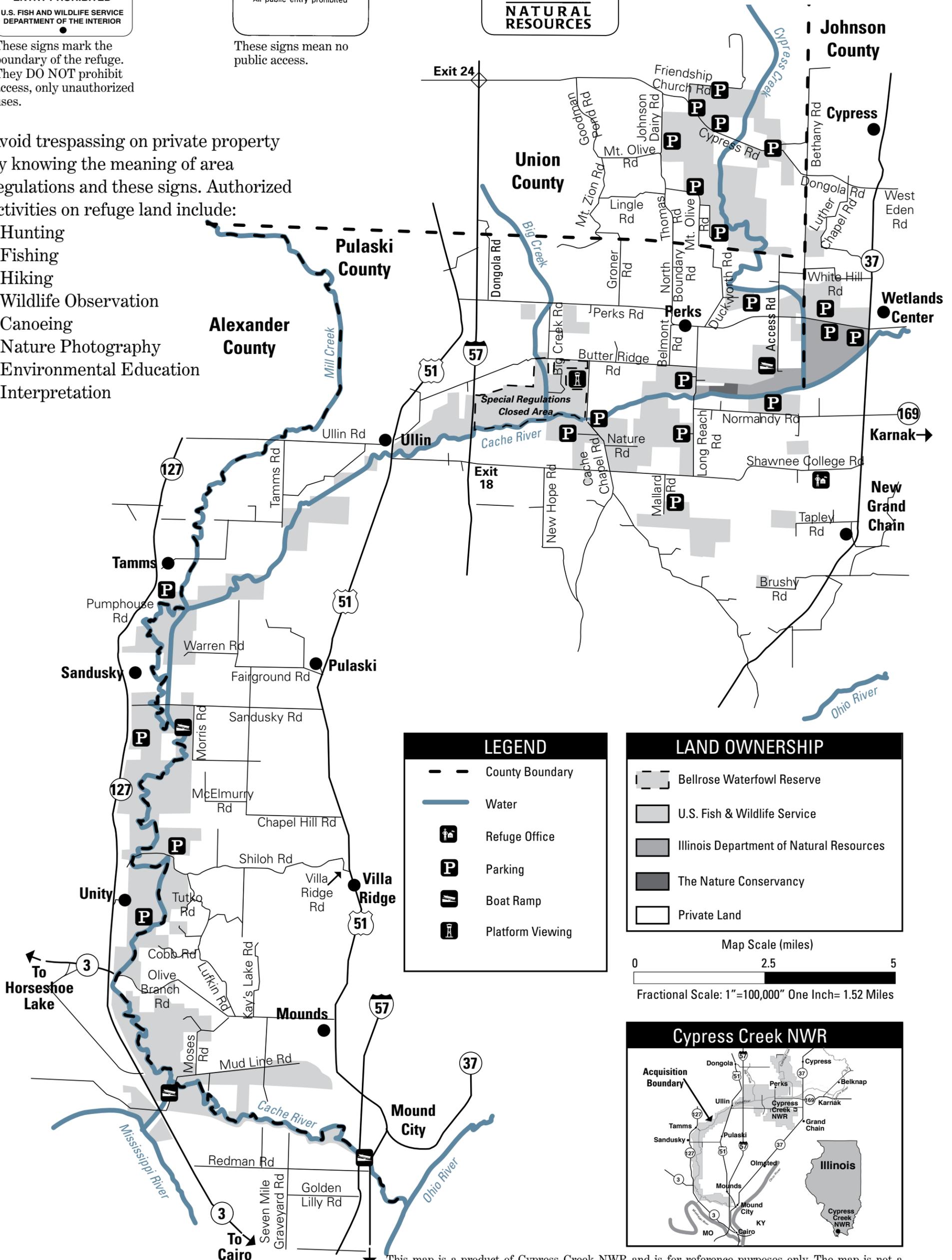


TNC Boundary Sign



Avoid trespassing on private property by knowing the meaning of area regulations and these signs. Authorized activities on refuge land include:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Wildlife Observation
- Canoeing
- Nature Photography
- Environmental Education
- Interpretation

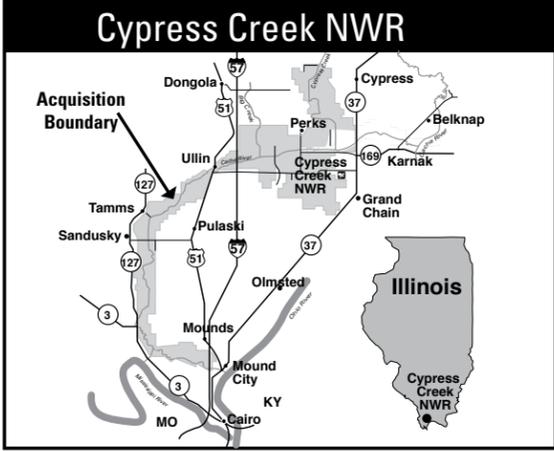
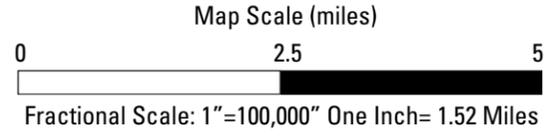


LEGEND

- - County Boundary
- Water
- Refuge Office
- P Parking
- B Boat Ramp
- V Platform Viewing

LAND OWNERSHIP

- Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- Private Land



This map is a product of Cypress Creek NWR and is for reference purposes only. The map is not a survey and should not be used to establish legal ownership. Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but it is not guaranteed to be without error. Cypress Creek NWR expressly disclaims responsibility for damages or liability that may arise from the use of this map.