

### 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 muzzle-loader. Weapons legally possessed for hunting on the refuge are the same as those prescribed by the state of Illinois.

### Ammunition

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited; steel shot is required for all hunting on the refuge except:

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

### Commercial Use

Any 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.

### The Refuge

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1990 to protect, restore, and manage wetlands and bottomland forests in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Hunting and fishing opportunities are abundant within the refuge. The area includes a variety of habitats from floodplain and upland forests, to deepwater swamps and shallow wetlands, to agricultural and early successional fields. These areas support waterfowl, deer, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, and other game species. The Cache River and associated wetlands and backwater sloughs also offer opportunities to catch crappie, bass, bluegill and other fish throughout the year. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with disabilities by contacting the refuge office.

### 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.**

### Refuge General Permit

This informational brochure serves as the refuge permit for hunting; no permit is needed for fishing on the refuge. This brochure needs to be signed and in the **hunter’s possession** while hunting on refuge property; it acknowledges individual understanding of refuge regulations. In addition, hunters and anglers must possess all state and Federal required licenses, stamps, and permits which are available on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources web-site.

### 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

- 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
- Baiting and/or hunting in the vicinity of bait. Baiting includes, but is not limited to, the distribution of grains, feeds, salts, mineral blocks, meats, and fruits.
- Hunting within 300 yards of any inhabited dwelling when hunting with shotgun slugs or muzzleloaders.
- Hunting within 100 yards of any inhabited dwelling when hunting with bow or shotshells.
- Marking trails with paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks or other manmade materials.
- Trapping
- 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
- Drive or screw a 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.

### Fishing

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

### Specific Fishing Regulations

- Sportfishing, 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 and equipped anglers in the Cache River downstream of HWY 51.
- Anglers may take fish with no more than 2 poles with no more than 2 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

- State season and bag limits apply unless otherwise specified.
- Hunting is permitted only in designated areas shown on map.
- Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980, must show proof that they have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course. Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Education Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 or older. Each adult must have this Refuge General Hunt Permit and can supervise only one

### 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/>



### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Cypress Creek

*National Wildlife Refuge*

*2011-2012 Hunting &*

*Fishing Regulations*



### Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit 2011-12

**This permit must be completed to be valid and must be carried by the hunter while hunting on the refuge. It is not transferable. Note: No permit required for fishing.**

**I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations. This permit is valid only when signed by the hunter and must be carried on hunter’s person.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.

- All deer and turkey must be tagged as prescribed by state regulations and checked through authorized state harvest reporting procedures.
- 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.**
- As required by state law, all persons hunting deer or upland game during gun deer season must wear a solid blaze orange cap or hat and an upper outer garment displaying at least 400 square inches of solid blaze orange material. Upland game hunters must wear a solid blaze orange cap while afield during all other seasons.
- 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.
- Dog training is prohibited.

### Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve

The Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve is closed to hunting except under the following conditions:

- Goose hunting is permitted after closure of the duck hunting season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. (This area will not be open to any late snow goose hunting season).
- Hunters may enter the area after 5:00 a.m. and must be out of the area by 2:00 p.m. each day. Those hunting at Bellrose Reserve must sign in at the check station and walk to designated hunting sites.
- No hunting is allowed within 100 yards of any private property boundary. In addition, the distance between hunting parties shall be no less than 200 yards (a hunting party is defined as an individual or group of hunters occupying a hunting site).
- Each party is required to hunt over a minimum of twelve decoys at each blind site and decoys must be removed from the area at the end of each day’s hunt.
- All hunters must sign out at the end of their hunt and report harvest.
- Boats are not allowed in the Bellrose Reserve.

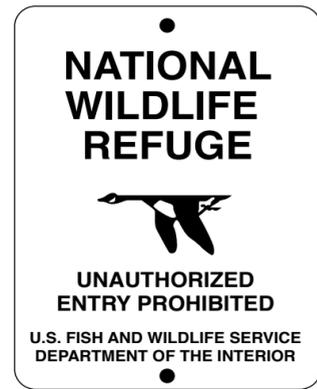
### Furbearer Hunting

- 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.

**Rely on Signs, Not the Map**

To avoid trespass on private property, know the meaning of the signs below and area regulations. Authorized activities on refuge land include hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife observation, canoeing, nature photography, environmental education and interpretation.

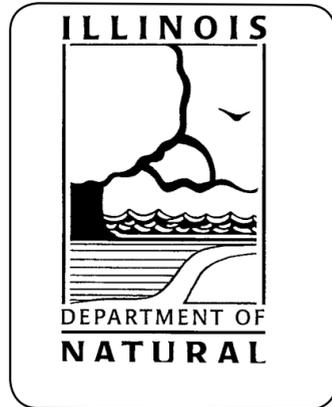
These signs mark the boundary of the refuge. It is important to understand they DO NOT prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.



These signs mean no public access.



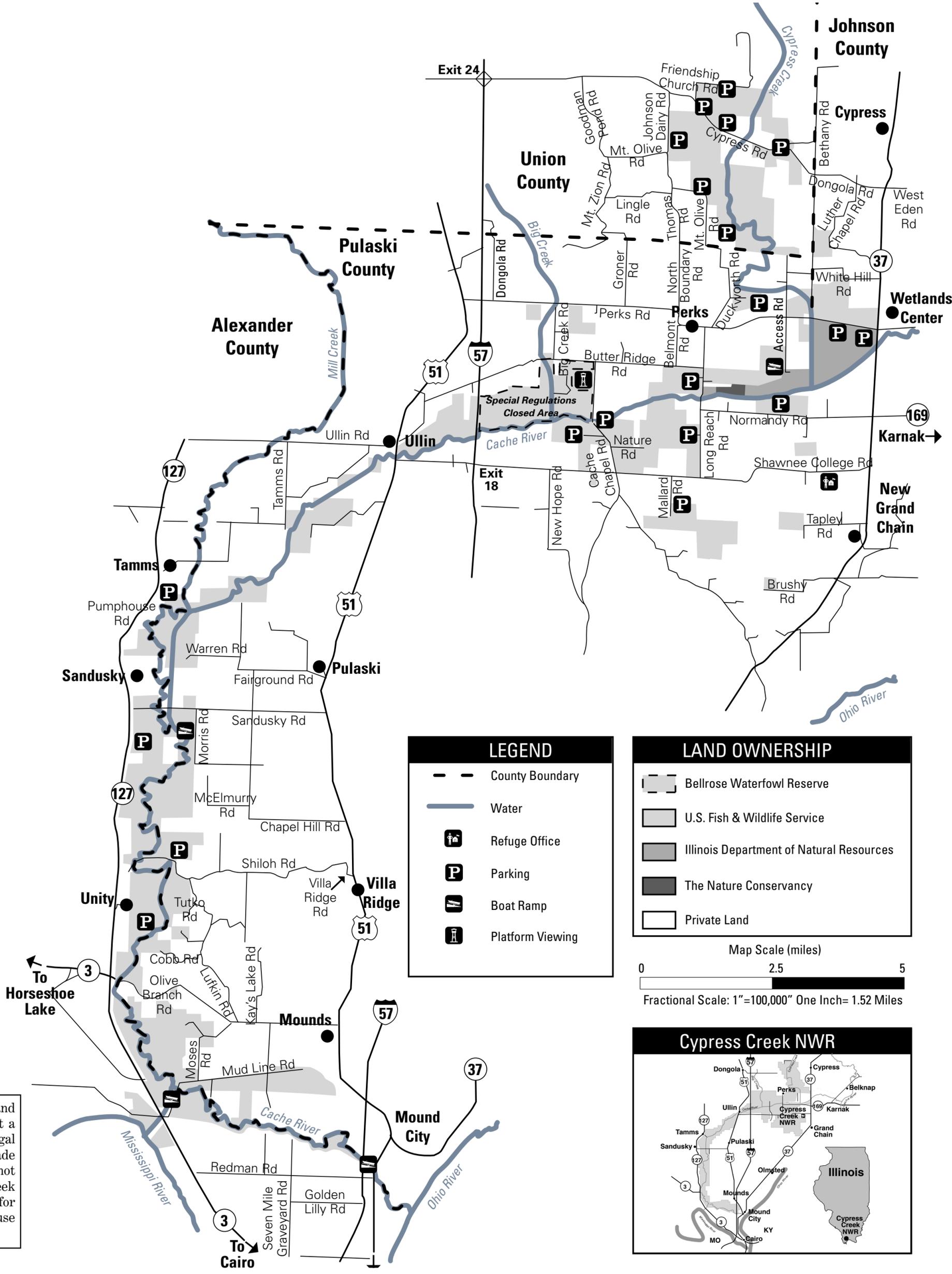
This sign marks the boundary of the Cache River State Natural Area.



This sign marks the boundary of TNC property.



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.



**LEGEND**

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

**LAND OWNERSHIP**

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

