Minnesota Valley
National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting Regulations

HUNTERS:
- Hunters’ parking areas
- Visitor Center
- Boat launch
- Walking trails
Street addresses to parking areas are approximate.
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Revised August 2019

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

7701 County Road 101 East, Shakopee, MN 55379
Lot is west of the Hwy 169/101 interchange on north side of the road.

7701 County Road 101 East, Shakopee, MN 55379
Waterfowl hunter access. Drive 3 miles past the first gate to the second gate. Boat launch to Rice Lake is 50 yards east of the road. Vehicle and trailer parking is under the Hwy 109 bridge to the west.

11255 Bloomington Ferry Road, Bloomington, MN 55348
Park in lot and walk across the pedestrian bridge to access the Wilkie Unit.

Rappids Lake Hunting

Activities & Regulations

Big Game: Archery Only
White-tailed deer

Migratory Birds: Waterfowl Only
(Closed to all hunting)

Big Game: Archery & Firearms
White-tailed deer

Migratory Birds: WATERFOWL ONLY

North of Middle Road

Big Game: Archery Only
White-tailed deer

Migratory Birds: CLOSED

Upland Game: Archery & Firearms

Ruffed grouse, gray prairie, ring-necked pheasant, gray and fox squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, and wild turkey (spring and fall turkey seasons).

Closed to crow hunting.

Louisville Swamp Hunting

Activities & Regulations

Big Game: Archery & Firearms
White-tailed deer

Migratory Birds: (Closed to spring goose hunting)

Goose, duck, merganser, moorhen, coot, rails, snipe, and woodcock.

Upland Game: Archery & Firearms

Ruffed grouse, gray prairie, ring-necked pheasant, gray and fox squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, and wild turkey (spring and fall turkey seasons).

Closed to crow hunting. For Hunting Regulations on the DNR Carver Rapids Unit please call 651/259-5774.

Eagles are scavengers. They eat deer carcasses and gut piles. When those remains contain lead bullet fragments, eagles may eat lead and can die.

Hunters have been on the forefront of conservation for more than a century. Continue that tradition by changing to lead free ammunition!

www.fws.gov/midwest/refuges/leadfree.html

General Hunting Regulations

You may only hunt species listed in this brochure. Minnesota state regulations and refuge-specific regulations supersede state regulations. Hunting is allowed only on refuge units described in this brochure.

Each unit offers specific hunting opportunities during Minnesota state seasons. We prohibit the use of motorized (gas or electric) boats. We allow non-motorized boats in areas open to waterfowl hunting during the waterfowl hunting seasons.

Hunters may use bicycles and game carts on designated trails and service roads during the hunting season.

We prohibit hunting on, from, across, or within 100 feet (30 m) of any road, parking area, or designated trail.

All property brought onto the refuge must be removed after each day. This includes all vehicles, boats, decoys, blinds, stands, trail cameras and trash.

Entry into the refuge earlier than 2 hours before legal shooting time is prohibited. Hunters must leave the refuge no later than 1 hour after legal shooting time. You may only hunt coyotes, skunks, fox, opossum and raccoon from 1/2 hour before legal sunrise until legal sunset.

Camping, campfires and overnight parking are prohibited.

The use of hunting dogs is allowed during the State approved hunting season and for non-furbearers only. The dog is under the immediate control of the hunter at all times. Training and allowing pets off leash are prohibited.

Consider switching to lead free ammunition. Bald eagles live on Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge during the fall and winter. Eagles are scavengers. They eat deer carcasses and gut piles. When those remains contain lead bullet fragments, eagles may eat lead and can die.

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Animals on the Refuge

Big game: archery & firearms (Open)

Migratory Birds: Archery Only

Upland Game: (For hunting with a dog) All allowed except wild turkey.

Migratory Birds: Archery & Firearms

Upland Game: Archery Only

Migratory Birds: Closed

Upland Game: Archery Only

Migratory Birds: Closed

Upland Game: (Closed to spring goose hunting)

Goose, duck, merganser, moorhen, coot, rails, snipe, and woodcock.

Upland Game: Archery & Firearms

Ruffed grouse, gray prairie, ring-necked pheasant, gray and fox squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, and wild turkey (spring and fall turkey seasons).

Closed to crow hunting.

Wildlife Refuge During the Fall and Winter.

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Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Activities & Regulations

Big Game: Archery Only
White-tailed deer

Migratory Birds: Waterfowl Only (Closed to spring goose hunting)

Goose, duck, merganser, moorhen, coot, rails, snipe, and woodcock. Closely hunting mourning dove, snipe and woodcock.

Upland Game: Archery Only

Ruffed grouse, gray prairie, ring-necked pheasant, squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, and wild turkey (spring and fall turkey seasons).

West of Highway 169 bridge

including Fisher and Blue Lakes

Big Game: Archery Only
White-tailed deer

Migratory Birds: Closed

Upland Game: Archery Only

Ruffed grouse, gray prairie, ring-necked pheasant, squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, and wild turkey (spring and fall turkey seasons). Closely to crow hunting.

East of Eagle Creek

Closed to all hunting.

To report violations:

 Refuge Law Enforcement Officer 952/952-9771
TIP Line 1-800/555-9809

Carver Rapids Unit - DNR 651/259-5774
West Metro State Conservation Office Dispatch 651/562-1511

Contact the refuge at 952-954-5500 for more information.

For other hunting opportunities on Waterfowl Production Areas visit our website at:

www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/WMD/visit/visitor_activities.html

The following refuge hunting seasons differ from State seasons.

 Species

- Goose, duck, merganser, moorhen, coot, rails
- Ruffed grouse, gray prairie, ring-necked pheasant, squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, and wild turkey
- White-tailed deer
- Coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk

These hunting seasons differ from the State hunting seasons. For more information, please visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.