



Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

2020 Waterfowl Hunt Information and Regulation Sheet



NEW For 2020:

In 2020, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (Shiawassee Refuge) will be shifting from the traditional in-person draw to a self-registered lottery system. The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers and partners at Shiawassee Refuge is our number one priority. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, this change in how we operate the draws is designed to provide a safe, quality hunt. Hunters will have the option to register in advance through on-site hard (paper) copy registration at the Refuge’s Office or online. Hunters will also be able to submit their harvest reports via email or drop box.

General Information:

The 2020 waterfowl hunt at Shiawassee Refuge will be held on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sundays during the State of Michigan’s regular waterfowl season for the southern zone from October 10th through December 16th. However, there will be no waterfowl hunts on November 15th or 17th. **Note:** Thursday hunts will be **afternoon hunts only**. The exception is Thanksgiving Day (November 26th) which will be a morning hunt, not an afternoon hunt. The following table summarizes the available waterfowl hunts:

Dates:	10/10 – 11/14	11/15 - 11/17	11/19 – 11/24	Thanksgiving 11/26	11/28 – 12/6
Tuesday	a.m. hunt	No hunt	a.m. hunt		a.m. hunt
Thursday	p.m. hunt		p.m. hunt	a.m. hunt	p.m. hunt
Saturday	a.m. hunt		a.m. hunt		a.m. hunt
Sunday	a.m. hunt	No hunt	a.m. hunt		a.m. hunt

2020 Format:

Unlike previous years, Shiawassee Refuge will offer one large scramble area (see 2020 Waterfowl Hunt Area map). The scramble area will include rivers within the refuge and one walk-in location. Each day’s hunt will host up to 16 parties; parties will range from one to four hunters **all of whom must be pre-registered**.

2020 Waterfowl Hunt Area map (when published) can be found on the Refuge’s website (https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Shiawassee/visit/visitor_activities/hunting.html)

The map will also be available on the Avenza Map App. This App allows users to navigate within Shiawassee Refuge Waterfowl Hunt boundaries.

Self-Registered Lottery Hunt:

To participate *all hunt parties* must **self-register** for the random draw up to six days in advance of the desired hunt. **There will be no “same-day” registration.** To register, use one of the two following methods:

A) Register on-site at the *newly constructed* Waterfowl Hunt Registration Kiosk (Shiawassee Refuge Office, 6975 Mower Road, Saginaw MI). The kiosk has a box labeled for each upcoming hunt day. A completed hunt party registration form must be placed in the box(es) representing the day(s) the party wishes to hunt.

Or,

B) Register Online: Visit our website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/shiawassee/>) to download and complete your hunt party registration form and submit the registration form to shiawassee@fws.gov in advance of the hunts as described below. **Include in the email subject line: Waterfowl Hunt.**

Guidelines:

- Parties may register up to six days in advance of a hunt. No hunter can be added to the hunt party after submission. There will be no “same-day” registration.
- Each party must submit their registration form prior to the hunt, as follows:
 - Tuesday and Thursday Hunts: Draw closes at Noon on Monday
 - Saturday and Sunday Hunts: Draw closes at Noon on Friday.
- Parties may apply for multiple days but are limited to one entry per day per party. Multiple entries will result in ineligibility for the hunt.
- **Each hunter is required to submit a completed harvest report after each hunt even if they did not hunt. These reports are available hard copy at the Waterfowl Hunt Registration Kiosk or online. Harvest reports can be: A) emailed to shiawassee@fws.gov; or B) dropped off at a collection box located at the Refuge Office, the Cass River, or Miller Road boat launch.**
- **Each party/hunter must carry with them their unique party number obtained from the drawing indicating they were drawn for that hunt. This information will be provided on the pre-recorded message identifying all drawn hunters/parties.**

Drawing Schedule:

Random drawings will take place every **Monday** (for the upcoming Tuesday and Thursday hunts) and **Friday** (for the upcoming Saturday and Sunday hunts). Drawing results will be available by 3:00 p.m. by calling 989-777-5930 and selecting the waterfowl hunt prompt. The recorded message serves as your hunter orientation covering the rules and regulations along with the drawing results. Successful hunters must also listen for their assigned **party number** which they **must be able to present in the field.**

Veteran and Youth Preference (non-reserved):

Preference will be given to Veteran and Youth hunters for the following hunts:

Youth Preference: Sunday, November 1, 2020

Veteran’s Preference: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

*Please identify whether you are a Youth or Veteran on your hunt registration form to gain preference.

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General Description of the Scramble Area:

- *Walk-in Only* – Hunters are encouraged to park at the Michigan DNR parking lot at the end of Miller Road and use the field entrance to access the field to the east of the parking lot. The waterfowl hunting portion of the area is wetland consisting of open water and cattails including the cattail marsh along Swan Creek.
- *Boat-in Only* - Hunters are encouraged to use the Cass River boat launch on M-13 or the Miller Road boat launch.
 - *Flint River* – At the confluence with the Shiawassee River, the area consists of a mix of open water and emergent wetland vegetation (cattails, rushes, and shrubs). Hunters who choose to hunt the main channel of the Flint River must hunt from the east bank as the refuge does not own land on the west bank of the river.
 - *Shiawassee River* – From the confluence of the Flint River to the confluence of the Spaulding Drain, the Shiawassee River consists of a mix of open water and emergent wetland vegetation, primarily cattails.
 - *Spaulding Drain* –The Spaulding Drain from the southern refuge boundary to the Shiawassee River is primarily open water hunting.
 - *Cass River* –The Cass River is primarily open water hunting.

All Federal and Michigan State Hunting Regulations Apply.

Information about waterfowl hunting in Michigan can be found in the annual Michigan Waterfowl Digest (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/waterfowl_hunting_digest_530152_7.pdf).

The Following Refuge Specific Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Apply:

1. Each hunter must possess their unique lottery assigned party number for each specific hunt.
2. We allow waterfowl hunting on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday as described above.
3. We allow hunter access 1½ hours before legal shooting time.
4. We allow hunters to shoot ½ hour before legal sunrise until 12:00 p.m. (noon) for morning hunts; afternoon hunts conclude at sunset in concurrence with State mandated times.
5. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot for waterfowl hunting.
6. We allow hunting with dogs.
7. You may possess no more than 25 shotgun shells while hunting in the field.
8. Retrieval zone is up to 50 yards or 150 feet from the river's edge or the toe of the dike into a managed unit. No guns are allowed within retrieval zones but dogs may be used.
9. Hunters must be within 10 yards or 30 feet of the water, with the exception of when hunting along a dike in which a hunter's feet must be in the water (no hunting from dike slopes or dike tops).
10. Hunting is restricted to the east side of the channelized portion of the Flint/Mistequay River.
11. Hunters must submit their harvest report for each hunt via email or a drop box located at the Refuge office, Cass River boat launch, or Miller Road boat launch.

Updated: 28 August 2020