

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife Observation



Robert Savannah

Welcome to Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the refuge in 1958 primarily for nesting, resting, staging and feeding waterfowl. Wildlife Observation is a priority public use and can provide a quality recreational experience when pursued responsibly. While visiting the refuge please observe the following:

The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset.

From March 1 – October 1 please stay on designated trails, overlooks and the Feeder Road. All other areas of the refuge are closed to public access to minimize disturbance to nesting and resting wildlife.

Overlooks

Cayuga Marsh – Route 77. View waterfowl, shorebirds, bald eagle nest, and black terns from the observation deck with scope mounts.

Ringneck Marsh – Oak Orchard Ridge Road. View waterfowl, osprey, great blue heron.

School House Marsh – Oak Orchard Ridge Road. Waterfowl and shorebird observations are possible here.

Mallard – Sour Springs Road. Look for the osprey nest, and waterfowl.

Nature Trails

Kanyoo – Route 77 - 2 loops: yellow is 0.66 mile and blue is 1 mile. This dirt and gravel trail, bounded by wildflowers and fungi, takes visitors through mixed woods and vernal wetlands. A small observation platform and boardwalk give views of a marsh.

Pick up a trail guide at the trailhead or the refuge office.

Swallow Hollow – Knowlesville Road - 1.3 mile loop. All elevated boardwalk and gravel trail takes visitors through marsh and forested wetlands for unique encounters with wetland species.

Interpretive panels describe common sightings along the way. Warblers are in abundance in late spring and summer.

Onondaga – Sour Springs Road - 1.2 miles one way. Gravel dike leads visitors through the Onondaga Marsh, and into mature mixed woods and evergreen plantations that pre-date the refuge. Aside loop circles a small pool where wood ducks may nest in the spring. At the third bench rest, reflect and retrace your steps.

Feeder Road – 3.5 miles one way. The original Feeder Road was built using the spoils from digging the Feeder Canal in 1323. The canal carried water pumped from Tonawanda Creek to augment the flow from Oak Orchard Creek into the Erie Canal in Medina. Near the south end is a shorebird observation area, beyond are woods and grasslands. At the south end, park at Kanyoo Nature Trail and take the grass path to the west. At the north end park off of Dunlop Road. Vehicles are permitted on. Feeder Road from Route 77 to the halfway point from October 1 through the end of February.

Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

We allow cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on Onondaga and Kanyoo Nature Trails, the Feeder Road and the Mohawk Ski Trail. The Mohawk Ski Trail, a 7.5 mile loop around Mohawk Pool, starts and ends at the refuge office. The relatively flat, ungraded course goes through fields, woods, and along straight dikes. Mohawk Ski Trail closes on March 1. See our Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing Fact Sheet for more information.

Vehicles

Stay on public roads. Off road travel, ATVs and snowmobiles are not allowed. Please do not block gates and access roads.

Boats

Canoes, kayaks and other boats without motors are permitted on Oak Orchard Creek only, from Knowlesville Road to Route 63. You may launch boats from Route 63, Sour Springs Road and Knowlesville Road. As you pass through wooded swamp, expect obstructions and variable water levels.

Bicycles

We allow bicycles on public roads and on the Feeder Road only.

Pets

Please keep your pet on a leash no longer than 10 feet at all times.

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
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www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois
www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

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

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