U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

The Wildlife Drive

Welcome to Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge's Wildlife Drive! Built in 2010, the 7.5-mile, self-guided, one-way auto route meanders past forests, grasslands, marshes, open water pools, and the Shiawassee River. Along the way you will find observation platforms and parking areas to help you enjoy the refuge more. You also will have better opportunities to see large concentrations of waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, eagles, and a great diversity of other wildlife. In addition, you will be able to see the management practices the refuge uses to attract the wildlife.

Open May 1 – October 5, Current hours are 9a.m. – 4p.m., due to gate vandalism, and October 6 – 25, 1:00 p.m. to Sunset

Please note the route may be closed due to flooding, soft road conditions, or special conditions such as events or wildlife needs. You may call the refuge at (989) 777-5930 for more information about closures or visit the refuge's website: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee.

Wildlife First

- You are guests in the "core" of the refuge only during a portion of the year when the disturbance to sensitive wildlife is at a minimum. Please act responsibly.
- Speed limit is 15 mph. At this speed you are able to stop and avoid snakes, frogs, turtles, insects and other slow moving wildlife.
- Except at designated parking areas, stay in your vehicle along the route. Animals interpret vehicles as a "blind" and your threat is minimal. They tend to flee when you're outside your vehicle.
- Dogs and other pets are not allowed outside your vehicle at any time on the refuge.

In Case of Emergency – Dial 911

Please note that our departmental regulations do not allow refuge staff to assist visitors with their vehicles in the event of lock outs, flat tires, jump start, stuck, etc. Please contact a local towing service such as Rose Towing (989) 755-9790 or Mike's Wrecker Service (989) 755-1133 for assistance.

Join the Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

Want to help the refuge? Consider joining the Friends of Shiawassee NWR. This private, non-profit group assists the refuge in many areas, including coordinating the volunteers who help out on the weekends. Stop by the refuge headquarters for an application or visit our website.

Refuge Quick Facts

- Established as a National Wildlife Refuge in 1953
- Shiawassee River State Game Area is refuge's next door neighbor
- 9,620 acres, including 18 miles of river
- 280 bird species, 32 mammal species, 10 reptile species, 10 amphibian species, and 48 fish species
- 9 permanent staff

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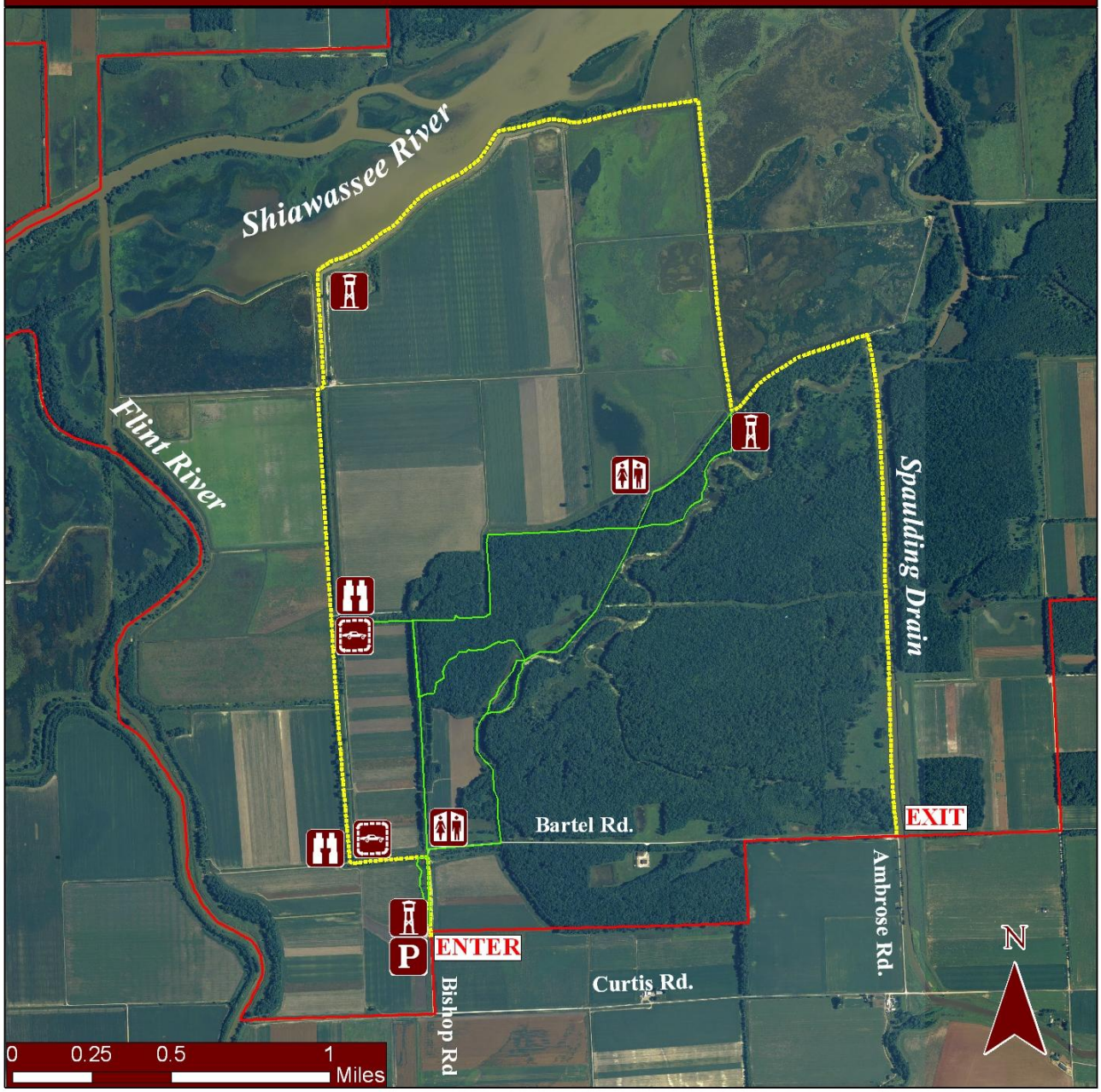

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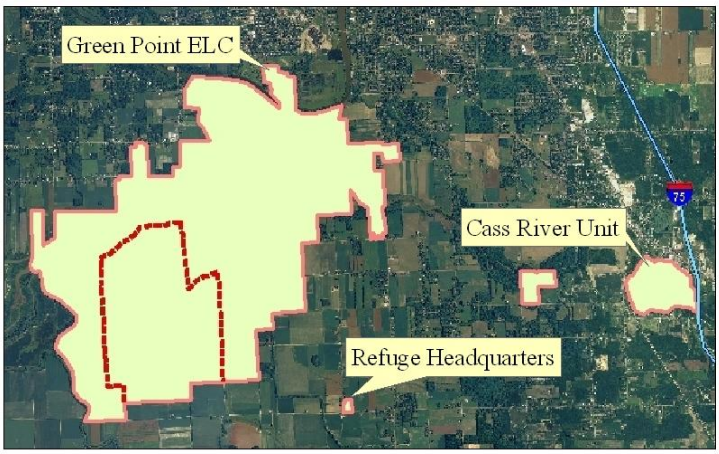
- Refuge Boundary
- Wildlife Drive
- Ferguson Bayou Trail
- Observation Platform
- Observation Point
- Parking
- Pull-off
- Restrooms