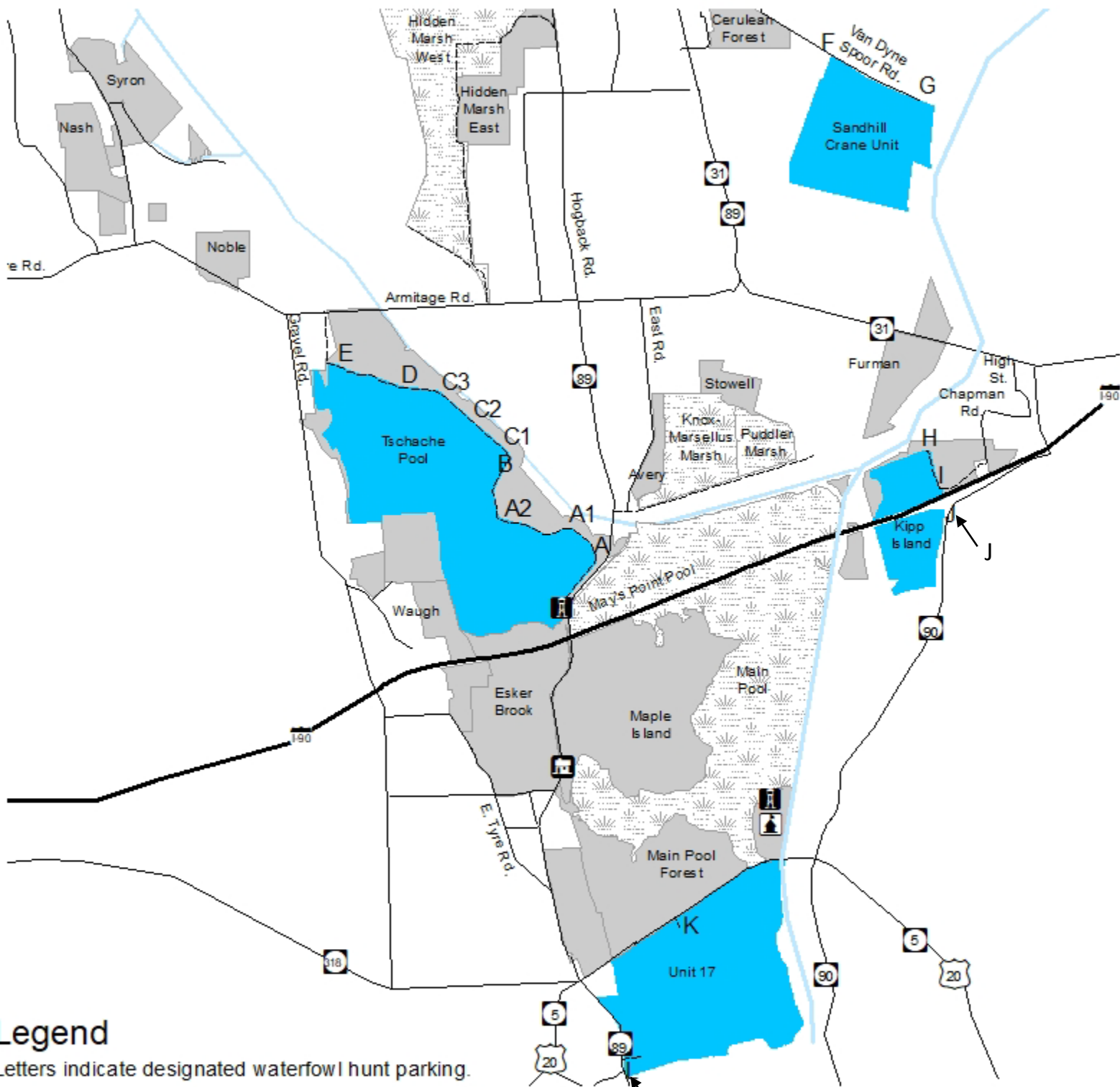




Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Hunting Map



Legend

Letters indicate designated waterfowl hunt parking.

- Hunter Check Station
- Refuge Headquarters
- Observation Tower
- No Waterfowl Hunting
- No Waterfowl Hunting - Open Water/Emergent Marsh
- Waterfowl Hunting





NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Montezuma

National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Season Hunting Regulations 2023

Welcome

The Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Part of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, this 10,000+-acre refuge provides essential habitat for many species of resident and migratory birds. A popular destination for outdoor recreation,

Montezuma NWR allows waterfowl hunting in accordance with New York State laws and refuge specific regulations.

Important Dates

Reservations:

NEW!

Reserve your spot & obtain your permit at <https://montezuma.recaccess.com>

from 6:00 pm 2 days before the hunt day until 5:30 am of the hunt day.

Hunt Dates:

Youth Hunt Day: 9/30/23

1st Split: 10/21/23 – 11/11/23

2nd Split: 11/25/23 – 12/30/23

Veterans & Active Military: 10/7/23, 1/20/24

Scouting:

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 5:00 am to Noon

Get scouting permit from Hunter Check Station

Drive-in only; no launching boats or going into marsh

Youth Deer hunt in progress; wear orange

NOTICE

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on refuge lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

3395 U.S. Route 20 East

Seneca Falls, NY 13148

315-568-5987

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Montezuma>

For State relay service TTY/Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1-800-344-WILD

August 2023



Hunt Information

The refuge is open to the regular waterfowl season on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Daily refuge permits and reservations are required for waterfowl hunting and can be obtained at <https://montezuma.recaccess.com>. We require proof of successful completion of the New York State waterfowl identification course, the Montezuma nonresident waterfowl identification course, or a suitable nonresident State waterfowl identification course. **We encourage hunters to limit their shell possession within the hunting areas to 25 shells.**

Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with State regulations.

In addition to meeting statewide harvest reporting, permitted hunters must complete a harvest report on RecAccess by the end of the hunt day.

Failure to abide by federal, state, and local refuge regulations, including but not limited to the new permit process through RecAccess, will result in loss of hunting privileges.

Access

Hunting occurs on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays during the State's western zone season, the Saturday of New York State's youth waterfowl hunt, and on both days of the State's Veterans and Active Military Days.

- **You are permitted on the refuge (including parking areas and adjacent public roads) for check-in no earlier than 2 hours before sunrise.** You must complete your hunt by noon and be out of the hunting area by 1:00 pm each hunt day.
- Hunters must obtain their permit from <https://montezuma.recaccess.com>
- All hunters and companions with reservations must check in via the permit holder's RecAccess account to obtain the gate code for entry into the hunting area.
- Hunters must notify the refuge at 315-237-9862 if they are unable to make it for their awarded hunt date/permit. Newly-available blinds will be made available to others by 8:00 pm the night before the hunt date.
- Waterfowl hunting access is by boat or foot from designated areas. You are permitted ONE boat and ONE vehicle in the hunting area per reservation. Hunters under the same reservation must stay within 100 feet of each other while in the hunting area.
- **Accessibility Information:** Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Reservations

We have moved our Waterfowl Reservation and Permit System online at RecAccess: <https://montezuma.recaccess.com/>.

Once you're on our RecAccess site, you must **CREATE AN ACCOUNT** to use the system and get your parking area and permit. There is a \$5 service fee each time you get a permit.

Parking area reservations/permits are available at 6:00 pm 2 days before the hunt day until 5:30 am on the hunt day. If you are bringing a companion, you will be able to enter their name at Check-In as your Guest. There is no additional charge to bring a guest.

On the hunt day, go to your RecAccess account and **Check-In** before you go afield. Gate codes are provided at Check-In if needed for your area. **Check-In time is 5:00 am to 6:00 am.**

At the end of your hunt, be sure to go back onto RecAccess and **Check-Out**. This is where you will enter your harvest information for yourself and your guest (if you have one).

Changes to the permit procedure may be made at the refuge manager's discretion.

Summary of the RecAccess Process for Reserving a Waterfowl Hunting spot and obtaining a permit

1. Create your account for Montezuma's RecAccess site at <https://montezuma.recaccess.com/#/create-account>
 - o **DO THIS NOW!** You will thank yourself for having your account established before you go on to get a permit.
 - o Be sure to view and answer the **Waterfowl Hunt Requirements** at the bottom of the form. Otherwise you will not be able to create your account.
2. Permits for each hunt day will be available on a first-come/first-served basis two days before the hunt day at 6:00 pm through 5:30 am on the hunt day.
 - o For example, permits for December 13 will be available between 6:00 pm on December 11 and 5:30 am on December 13.
 - o Here is some **helpful information** about the first-come/first-served set up: <https://help.recaccess.com/#/FCFS>
3. Permits will be available at <https://montezuma.recaccess.com/>. You must have an account to get your permit (see #1 above).
 - o You will only be able to get permits during the timespan described above (see #2 above); otherwise you will see a message that says, "There are no products available at this time".
4. Select your hunting area (Tschache Pool, Sandhill Crane, Unit 17, Kipp Island) and parking area. It's like online shopping. Put your selection in your Cart. NOTE: Your spot will not be reserved just by putting it in your Cart. You must pay/check out to claim your spot.
5. **Pay/Check Out.** Permits will cost \$5 for each hunt day. This is the price of business; this fee pays for the service.
6. You will get your permit after payment, and an email confirmation. Print your permit. It also has a parking permit for you to place in your windshield while you're hunting.
7. ON THE HUNT DAY, go to your designated hunting area **no earlier than 2 hours before sunrise**. Go online to your RecAccess account and click on **Check-In**. Follow the prompts to Check in and get the gate code.
8. You will have the option to Check-In without a Guest or Check-In with a Guest. If you select Check-In with a Guest, you will then be prompted to enter the guest's name. **There is no additional cost to bring a guest.** The guest must meet all requirements for hunting waterfowl at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The regulations for one vehicle in the hunting area and one boat per hunting party still apply.
9. If your designated hunting area requires you to go through a gate, **the gate code will be provided to you at Check-In**. Please CLOSE & LOCK the gate behind you when you enter and exit the hunting area.

10. **Enjoy your hunt as usual!** Hunting ends at noon and you must be out of the hunting area by 1:00 pm.
11. Once you leave the hunting area, go back to your RecAccess account and **Check-Out**. Follow the prompts for completing your Harvest information. Record the harvest for yourself and, if you hunted with a guest, include your guest's harvest as well.

NOTES

- **Create ONE account.** Duplicate or suspected duplicate accounts will be flagged, investigated, and disabled if confirmed as duplicate.
- You may only purchase one permit per hunt day at Montezuma. If you want to buy permit for another location (ex., Iroquois) for the same day, you will be able to do so.
- We will not be able to accommodate Stand-By with this system. **HOWEVER**, to somewhat mitigate that, if you can let me know the day before the hunt that you cannot make it, I can go into the system and free your spot up for someone else (refunds will not be issued). **ALSO**, if you do not show up without notice more than twice, your Montezuma privileges will be suspended.
- There will be times when we will be present to check your credentials and permits. These will be random checks to help keep us honest. Permits are non-transferrable, so don't get caught with someone else's permit.

I'm sure there will be growing pains for you and for us. Let's work together to make sure we make the transition to this new system as smooth as possible! Questions can be directed towards me via andrea_vanbeusichem@fws.gov or my work cell phone (315-237-9862); I will be able to help you during regular business hours.

Andrea

Andrea Van Beusichem
Visitor Services Manager
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
andrea_vanbeusichem@fws.gov
Cell: 315-237-9862