

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cypress Creek

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations



Welcome

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge is nestled between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in southernmost Illinois. The refuge was established in 1990 to restore and manage bottomland hardwood forests and wetland habitat and provide opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation and education. This 16,000 acre area supports rich floodplain forests, wetlands, and cypress-tupelo swamps. These resources provide resting, nesting, and feeding habitat for a diversity of migratory birds as well as resident wildlife like deer, turkey, mink, bobcat and otters.

Safety

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting the refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the regulations and property boundaries; please call the refuge with questions. Trails remain open during hunting seasons, be aware of hikers and wear appropriate clothing.

Firearms

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

Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader.

Ammunition

Hunters may only use or possess approved non-toxic shot shells while in the field, including shot shells used for hunting wild turkey. Exceptions include the following:

Small game and furbearers may be hunted with .22 and .17 caliber rim fire lead ammunition during open seasons.

During deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used.

Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

Boats

Boating is permitted on waters (rivers and ponds) owned by the refuge; however the Cache River and associated tributaries are not designated as "public water bodies". This means that boaters are welcome where the refuge or the Illinois DNR own one or both banks of a river; otherwise use of the river requires permission from the adjoining landowners. All boats have a 10-horsepower restriction and boats may not be left overnight on the refuge.

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/eo/public-civil-rights>

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are 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 and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Illinois regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

Specific Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing, frogging and taking of turtles for personal use are permitted in all refuge waters in accordance with state regulations. Refuge waters include ponds and portions of the Cache River and its tributaries that are within refuge boundaries.

The use of trotlines, jugs, yo-yo's, nets or any other commercial fishing equipment is prohibited, except that commercial fishing is allowed by legally licensed equipped anglers in the Cache River downstream of HWY 51.

Anglers may take fish with no more than two poles with no more than two hooks or lures per line.

Commercial Use

Commercial use of a national wildlife refuge including commercial guiding, commercial fishing and filming are prohibited except as may be authorized by a refuge Special Use Permit.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
6987 Headquarters Rd
Marion, IL 62959

618-997-3344
TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

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Access

Hunters may only access the Refuge two hours before legal sunrise until two hours after legal sunset.

Hunters must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map below, to access the Refuge for hunting.

Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Illinois regulations subject to the conditions stated below:

- Hunting is permitted only in designated areas shown on map
- Pits/permanent blinds are not permitted on the refuge. Only portable blinds or structures constructed of artificial camouflage (use of vegetation is prohibited) are permitted for waterfowl hunting. Blinds must be removed or dismantled at the end of each day's hunt. Cutting any vegetation on the refuge is prohibited.
- Hunting with recognized pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs, during the rabbit and squirrel season, and trailing hounds during designated raccoon/opossum season is permissible. Deer hunting with dogs on the refuge is prohibited.

To Report Violations

- 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477)
- Turn In a Poacher (TIP) Line: 1-877-236-7529

Prohibited Activities

- Target Practice
- Dog training
- Riding horses or mules except on roads open to vehicle traffic
- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.
- Use or Possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Camping, overnight parking and open campfires
- Night hunting activities except raccoon/opossum hunting
- Spot-lighting wildlife
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles
- Permanent tree stands
- Inserting a screw, nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes
- Leaving tree stands or blinds overnight
- Hunting is prohibited within 200 yards of any public use facility

Activity	Season	Hunting Hours	Special Regulations
Archery Deer	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply. All state approved archery equipment is allowed.
Muzzleloader Deer	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply.
Firearm Deer	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply.
Youth Firearm Deer	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply.
Fur Bearer Hunting	State seasons apply	Daylight hours only	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells.
Dove	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply.
Turkey	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells.
Upland Game	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells.
Waterfowl	State seasons apply	State Shooting Hours	State regulations apply. Hunters must possess and use only non-toxic shot shells.
Fishing and Bow Fishing	State seasons apply	Daylight hours only	State Regulations apply. Nighttime fishing prohibited.
State regulations apply for bag limits.			



