



PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

WATERFOWL BLIND REGULATIONS

ADDENDUM 2024

Every individual license holder must complete an application for the blind drawing in person. **Hunters are not permitted to complete applications for others.** Sign-ups will be taken seven days a week at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM beginning on Friday, August 30th through Saturday, September 14th. Also, hunters may sign up on Sunday, September 15th, outside of the TREC 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM before the drawing. Sign-up dates, times, and locations are listed below:

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration Period	Opening: Friday, August 30, 2024, at 8:00 AM Closing: Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 4:00 PM
*Drawing	Sunday, September 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM -- TREC, Room 112
**Issuance of Permits	Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 10:00 AM -- Picnic Shelter 2 on Presque Isle State Park (see map on next page)
Deadline for Removal of Blinds	All blinds and blind materials must be removed from the park by sunset, the third Sunday after the close of Lake Erie Zone Duck Season. For the 2024/2025 season, the deadline for blind removal is Sunday, January 26, 2025, by sunset. It is recommended that blinds be removed as soon as possible after the season, or when blind holders have finished hunting for the season, rather than waiting for the deadline date. If removing a blind early, notify the park office so the blind location can be allocated to other hunters.

***Drawing:** The drawing will be held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Signups will be accepted from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM the morning of the drawing outside of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. At 10:00 AM, Club representatives will enter the Center and set up a FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM with the supervision of park administrators to officiate. The drawing will be done live online and the names of those drawn will be read in order. The listing will then be published immediately afterwards on www.paduck.com.

****Issuance of Waterfowl Blinds: All drawing winners must report by 9:45 AM. Failure to arrive before the required time will result in blind forfeiture.** The pick will take place starting at 10:00 AM on Sunday, September 22nd at Picnic Shelter 2 on Presque Isle State Park. Blind owners will receive a postcard with their drawing order number to pick their blind. Each drawing winner may bring only one guest to help with the selection. **The Primary Owner or Co-owner must be present to pick the blind and must have BOTH the Primary and Co-Owner’s sets of required signed documents: PA Hunting License, PA Migratory Bird Privileges and Federal Duck Stamp. Failure to have all required signed documents for both Owner and Co-Owner will result in blind forfeiture. No exceptions.**

Picnic Shelter 2 Directions: The shelter is located on the corner of the western square pond. To reach the shelter from the park gate, travel approximately 2.6 miles into the park and take the first left turn past the Niagara boat launch. You will be heading back towards the entrance. Then take the first right turn to reach the picnic shelter parking area (see map below).



Water Level May Impact Blind Locations at Beach 11 and Locations on Park -

The Duck Club and the park will monitor water levels and shoreline configurations prior to and during the waterfowl seasons and may have to relocate or temporarily escrow locations that are unsuitable/unsafe for hunting due to conditions. **Individuals selecting Blind #18 on the east shore of Misery Bay by the Coast Guard Station must use a boat to access their blind. Do not trespass on United States Coast Guard property.** Due to high water levels, blind locations 1-10, 37-41, 62, 63, 65, 68, 72, and 73 may require boat access. At locations 65, 72, and 73, blind construction is prohibited, instead, buoys will be placed at these locations that allow for the mooring of hunting boats. Blind locations 64 and 66 are temporarily suspended due to high water levels. Due to high water affecting blinds at locations 29, 31, and 32, Duck Club Members will construct and maintain the blinds at these locations. These blinds will not be available to blind drawing winners. They will instead be open for first-come, first-serve, use throughout the season. This will add to the opportunities for those, not selected in the drawing, to hunt.

Special Note on Littering -

Littering at or in blinds is a punishable offense. When concluding your hunting session each day, remove all garbage, packaging, shot shells and food from the area. Do your part in protecting Presque Isle and the hunting opportunities that you enjoy. Contact the park office at 814-833-7424, immediately, if you observe violations. Blinds and blind materials left at blind locations after January 26, 2025, will also be considered litter.

ALL HUNTING DOCUMENTS AND A BLIND OWNERS LIST ARE AVAILABLE AT PADUCK.COM

For questions on blind rules and placements, please call Shawn Feiock, 814-882-3473.



PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

2024 WATERFOWL BLIND POLICIES

Does not apply to Early or Late Goose Seasons

Waterfowl blind permits for Presque Isle State Park will be issued according to the following policies and procedures:

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must sign up in person during the established registration period (see Addendum). Every applicant must present a valid PA Hunting License, PA Migratory Bird Privileges, and Federal Duck Stamp before completing an application for the blind drawing. The applicant's signature must be on the licenses and stamp. **Applications must be completed in person. Hunters are not permitted to complete applications for others.**

Note: Those persons who did not remove their blinds by the deadline for any one of the past five years are not eligible to participate in this year's drawing. No exceptions.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

The following restrictions govern all waterfowl hunting on parklands and waters:

- 1) Waterfowl hunting is only permitted at approved blind locations. Hunting on inland waters, including Lagoons, or land areas is not permitted, including Gull Point.
- 2) All shooting must be directed away from park shores.
- 3) No layout or boat blinds are permitted to set up in Marina Lake or Misery Bay (Misery Bay includes all areas north of Perry Monument).
 - a) All layout and boat blind hunting must be 500 ft. offshore of the special management area at Gull Point and all other areas surrounding Presque Isle State Park on Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay. Layout box tending from waterfowl blinds is permitted.
 - b) Special Note: the end of the North Pier to the shore on Beach 11 is exactly 500 ft from shore. Both blind hunters and layout box hunters should remember to always be courteous of each other.
- 4) All blind locations are subject to approval of park officials.
- 5) The possession of a loaded gun outside the blind is not permitted except in pursuit of a crippled waterfowl.

WATERFOWL BLIND PERMITS

Waterfowl blind permits are assigned by drawing 100 names of those registered. All times listed shall be in accordance with Eastern Standard Time or Daylight-Saving Time, as in effect on the date listed. The procedures shall be as follows:

- a) **Registration: Each eligible person may register only once. Do not separate postcard from stub.** Any person registering more than once will be disqualified. Registration will be at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center from August 30, 2024, to September 14, 2024.

- b) Drawing: The drawing will be held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Signups will be taken from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM the morning of the drawing outside of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. At 10:00 AM, Club representatives will enter the Center and set up a FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM with the supervision of park administrators to officiate. The drawing will be done live online and the names of those drawn will be read in order. One hundred numbers corresponding with the postcard numbers on the registration cards will be selected using a computerized random number generator. The random number generator found at <https://www.random.org/> will be used. The sequence drawn will determine the position the person drawn will have on the blind selection list. In the event that the random number generator is unavailable, the drawing will be conducted using numbered chips as in previous years. The listing will then be published immediately afterwards on www.paduck.com.
- c) Notification by Postcard: A postcard will be sent to everyone whose name is drawn so that you may prepare for the blind selection process. Please do not call the Presque Isle State Park office to find out if your name has been drawn.
- d) Issuance of Waterfowl Blinds: **All drawing winners must report by 9:45 AM. Failure to arrive before the required time will result in blind forfeiture.** The pick will take place starting at 10:00 AM on Sunday, September 22nd at Picnic Shelter 2 on Presque Isle State Park (see addendum). Blind owners will receive a postcard with their drawing order number to pick their blind. Each drawing winner may bring only one guest to help with the selection. **The Primary Owner or Co-owner must be present to pick the blind and must have BOTH Primary and Co-Owner's sets of required signed documents: PA Hunting License, PA Migratory Bird Privileges and Federal Duck Stamp. Failure to have all required signed documents for BOTH Owner and Co-Owner will result in blind forfeiture. No exceptions.**
- e) Late Assignments: After all available blinds have been assigned, all remaining names on the selection list shall be discarded. Should there be any blind cancellations, forfeitures, etc., blinds will be reassigned by the Duck Club Blind Committee Chairman. Such reassignments can only be made after verification of the blind's availability. If the chairman does not have a builder for the vacant blind spot, a hunter may request permission to build at that location. This request may be made by contacting Shawn Feiock at 814-882-3473. Upon approval they will have to make arrangements to pick up a new blind permit and show that they meet the eligibility requirements of the new Owner and Co-Owner (PA Hunting License, PA Migratory Bird Privileges and Federal Duck Stamp).
- f) Listing of Permit Holders: A list of permit holders and their telephone numbers is posted at the Public Safety Building on Presque Isle State Park and the NWPA Duck Hunters website, paduck.com, during the open waterfowl hunting seasons.

DEADLINES FOR WATERFOWL BLINDS

Blinds must be erected by the date and time established for opening of the Lake Erie Zone Duck Season. If a permit holder fails to erect a blind by this time, the permit will be forfeited. The blind may be reissued following the late assignment policy above.

All blinds, blind materials, posts, and litter must be removed by the time and date listed in the addendum each year. Failure to do so will disqualify the permit holder from being eligible for a blind for a period of five successive yearly drawings. In addition, a \$100.00 penalty will be assessed by the Northwestern PA Duck Hunters' Association against those blind holders who fail to remove their blinds. Failure to pay the penalty will result in the five-year ineligibility being extended indefinitely until such time as payment is received. The permit holder may also face littering citations from the state for failure to remove materials from the blind site.

TRANSFER OF BLIND PERMIT

The transfer of blind permits is not permitted. If a person is not able to use the permit, the Ranger Staff/Public Safety Building, and the PA DUCK Association Representative, must be notified, so that the permit can be reassigned.

USE OF BLINDS

No more than five (5) persons may hunt together from a blind location at any one time. If the official permit holder is not occupying the assigned blind, other hunters may use the blind. If the official permit holder arrives later to use the blind other hunters must vacate the blind if requested to do so by the official permit holder. Hunters without an official permit must wait until 1 hour prior to shooting times daily to occupy blinds. All hunting, including regular season goose hunting, shall end on the last day of the established duck season for the Lake Erie Zone. This does not apply to any Late Goose Season approved for the park.

CONSTRUCTION OF BLINDS

Permanent blinds are to be constructed by the permit holder from materials suitable to withstand the weather conditions experienced throughout the waterfowl seasons. Permanent blinds must include walls and a roof. All blinds must have permanently installed seats. Permit holders may not use park materials in the construction of blinds. Drift materials found on shore may be used. It is unlawful to nail to trees, destroy vegetation, or build an open fire on the park. No vegetative matter is to be brought on the park.

Blinds must be constructed so that they do not exceed 6 ft by 12 ft in size. Only one blind may be placed at each blind marker stake. **Blinds must remain in an upright position and be usable by others when the blind holder is not present.**

Orange stakes or buoys mark the location of all blinds. Blinds must be located within 10 feet of the orange stake. Moving of blind stakes or buoys is expressly forbidden. Failure to obey these rules will result in the loss of your blind permit.

Permit holders must post the blind permit in the blind throughout the entire season. If the permit is lost or destroyed, a new permit must be obtained from the NW PA Duck Hunters Association prior to any future hunting. No exceptions.

GENERAL

The cooperation of all participants is important for the success of this program. The intent of this method of blind issuance is to give equal opportunity for the limited number of blinds available. Attempting to circumvent this process impacts all hunters and creates unfair situations.

Driving to remote blind locations to erect or remove a blind must be approved in advance by park officials. Failure to obtain the park's permission may result in the issuance of a citation to the offender and the forfeiture of the blind. **It is not permissible to drive or park on service roads to drop off decoys or hunt.** Never block gates as this may prevent access to emergency vehicles. If parking along the side of the road; ensure all tires are completely off of the road and the multi-purpose recreation trail, that "no parking" signs are not posted and also do not block any park information signs. Failure to do so will result in parking fines. The feather access road is closed to all vehicle traffic. No exceptions. Contact the park office at 814-833-7424 with questions about access.

It is the hunter's responsibility to retrieve game. A boat or trained retriever is highly recommended due to deep water in front of many blinds.

The Park Office or Public Safety Building/Rangers must be notified if a blind is destroyed or removed for repairs by the owners. Absence of a blind for more than seven days may result in forfeiture of the blind permit. Park Staff or NWPA Duck Club Staff will attempt to contact a blind holder to inquire about a missing blind. Blinds can be removed by the owner prior to the close of duck season, but please notify the Park Office or Public Safety Building/Rangers staff if doing so.

- ❖ Individuals selecting Blind #18 on the east shore of Misery Bay by the Coast Guard Station must use a boat to access their blind. **Do not trespass on United States Coast Guard property.** Due to high water levels, blinds 1-10, 37-41, 62, 63, 65, 67, 68, 72, and 73 may require boat access. At locations 65, 72, and 73, blind construction is prohibited, instead, buoys will be placed at those locations that allow for the mooring of hunting boats. Blind locations 64 and 66 are temporarily suspended due to high water levels.
- ❖ Due to high water affecting blinds at locations 29, 31, and 32, NWPA Duck Club Members will construct and maintain the blinds at these locations. These blinds will not be available to blind drawing winners. They will instead be open for first-come, first-serve, use throughout the season. This will add to the opportunities for those, not selected in the drawing, to hunt.
- ❖ **During the remaining Goose hunting seasons, in the resident population zone, hunters are permitted to hunt from ALL approved blind locations. Temporary blinds may be used at these locations if permanent blinds are not present. Only one blind may be present at each location.**

BLIND FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES

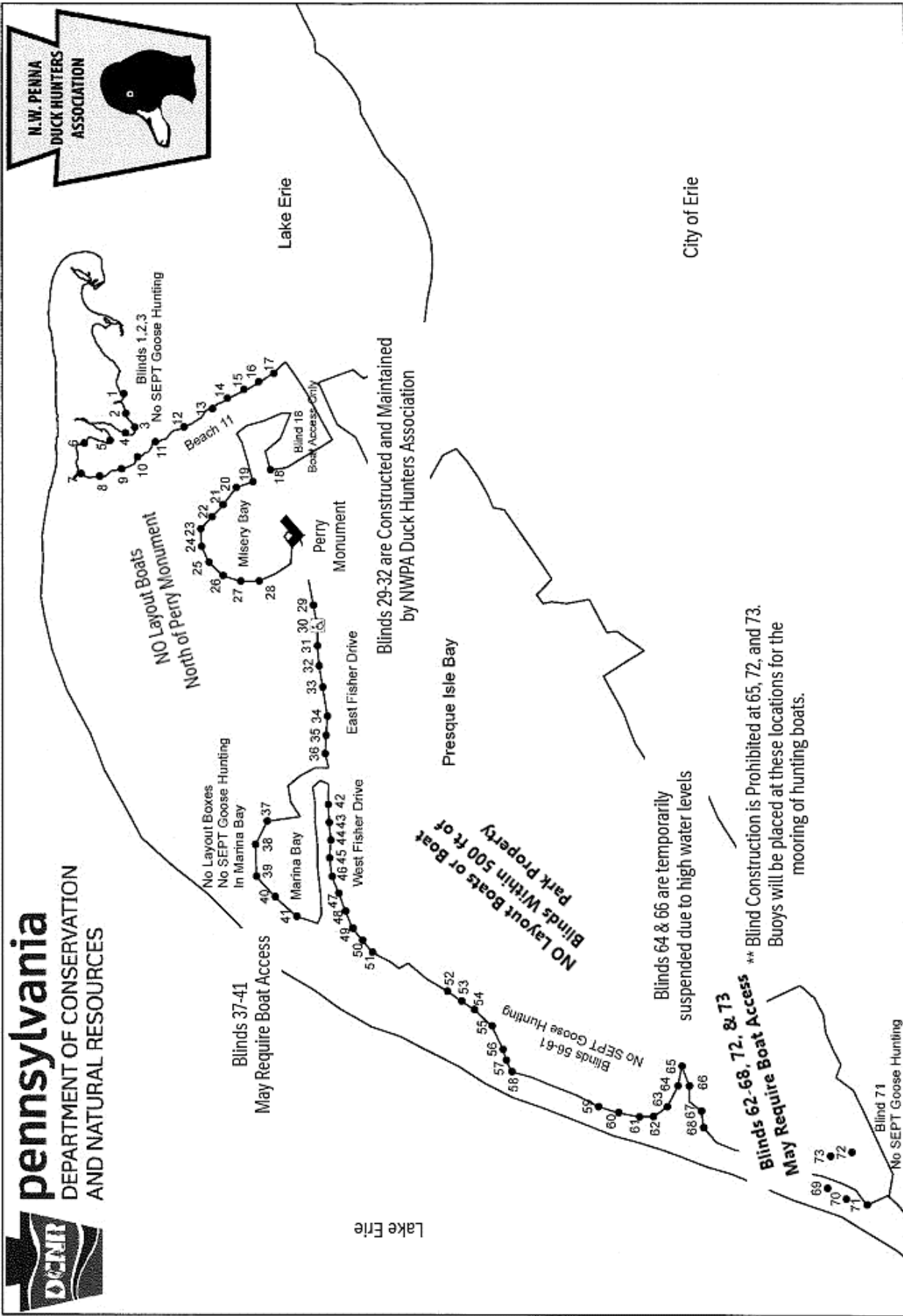
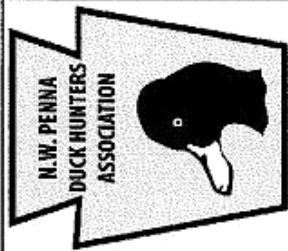
A specially designed accessible blind is located on East Fisher Drive at blind location 30 for hunters with disabilities. This blind is not issued to a permanent holder so it can be used on a daily basis during the season with preference given to individuals with a disability regardless of the time of day. Individuals without disabilities may not occupy this blind prior to 7:00 AM.

If you or a member of your group is a person with a disability and requires an accommodation to participate in these activities, please contact the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service by dialing 711 or at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD), or 1-800-654-5988 (VOICE).

MAP ON NEXT PAGE



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Presque Isle Duck Blind Locations



PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK - Rules for Ownership of Waterfowl Blind **Blind Owners and Co-Owner Definitions - Rights and Responsibilities**

1. The person, whose name is drawn, is the **Primary Owner of the Blind.**
2. The Primary Owner may list one other person as the **Co-Owner of the Blind.**
3. These designations are permanent and cannot be changed throughout the season.
4. The Owner or Co-Owner **must be present** at the Blind Pick:
 - a) Co-Owner must show proof of their PA Hunting License, PA Migratory Bird Privileges and Federal Duck Stamp **and have the Owners blind application post card, PA Hunting License, PA Migratory Bird Privileges and Federal Duck Stamp.**
 - b) Co-Owner is established on the day of pick. **If Co-Owner is not present, the Owner must show proof of Co-Owner's eligibility** (PA Hunting License, PA Migratory Bird Privileges and Federal Duck Stamp).
5. Both Owner and Co-owner have equal rights to occupy their blind, at any time. **No other person**, other than the two specific names on the permit, has the right, at any time, to ask another person/party to vacate a blind.
 - a) If you are using someone else's blind and someone shows up and claims to be the Owner or Co-owner and asks you to leave, that is their right to so, at any time, but identification must be shown to verify that they are in fact the Owner or Co-Owner. Park Rangers will not tolerate disputes and will ask all parties to leave the park.
6. **When neither Primary Owner nor Co-owner are present, the blind may be used by the public. Non- Owners may not take possession of a blind anytime earlier than one hour before shooting hours. No exceptions.**
7. A person's name may only appear on **ONE** blind permit on the park. If you are **EITHER** the Owner or a Co-Owner on one blind, you may **NOT** be the Owner or Co-Owner on any other blind on the park that year.
8. With equal rights comes equal responsibility. **Both** Owner and Co-Owner are responsible for maintaining their blind. Trash bags should be provided, all trash must be removed after each hunt and the blind must be maintained for the public to use.
9. At the end of the season, both Owner and Co-owner are responsible for blind removal on or before the posted deadline.
10. Failure to remove your blind, by the deadline, will result in **BOTH the Owner and Co-owner being fined and BOTH being placed on the list of ineligibility for future blind drawings.**



Participation in this program is up to the person whose name is drawn
- This program is not mandatory.

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A general hunting license or Mentored permit is required.

To hunt waterfowl, persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp, and if the actual stamp is carried it must be signed across the face. The Electronic Duck Stamp, or E-Stamp, version of the Federal Duck Stamp has now been authorized for use through the entirety of a waterfowl hunting season, and stamps can be purchased through HuntFishPA.

In addition, all hunters must have a Pennsylvania Migratory Game Bird License to hunt ducks, geese, doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. Mentored hunters can purchase migratory game bird licenses and use them to hunt any migratory game bird species authorized for mentored hunting. This license may be obtained from any license issuing agent, or through www.HuntFish.PA.gov.

To hunt light geese in the conservation season, hunters must purchase a conservation season permit and submit a mandatory report on their hunting activity and harvest. For more information, visit www.pgc.pa.gov, or call 1-833-PGC-HUNT.

ARMS & AMMUNITION

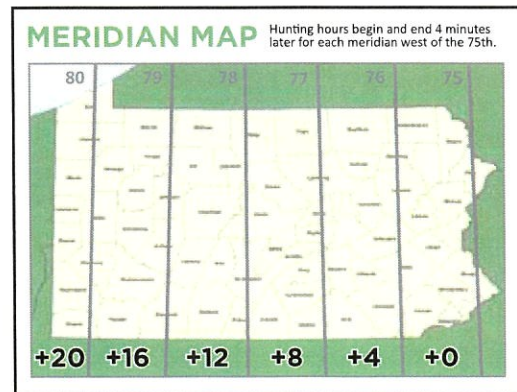
1) Manual and semiautomatic shotguns no larger than 10-gauge with a capacity limited to no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Long, recurve and compound bows and arrows; and crossbows. Only non-toxic fine shot up to and including size T (.20 inches) is lawful for waterfowl. It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl with lead shot.

HUNTING PARTIES

Waterfowl and dove hunters can hunt in a party of more than six persons as long as they are hunting from a blind or stationary position.

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours for the **entire dove season** are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. Hunting hours during the **September Canada goose season**, and the **light-goose conservation season**, are from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. However, hunting hours for all waterfowl end at sunset on Youth Waterfowl Days. Hours for **all other migratory bird seasons** are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.



SEE HUNTING HOURS PAGE FOR FULL-SIZE MAP

RESTRICTIONS

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. By using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 30 days after the removal of the bait.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic decoys can be used to hunt waterfowl, doves and crows. "Ice-eaters," which disturb water to melt and prevent ice formation so waterfowl hunters can set out decoys now can be used.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE

Not required for waterfowl and dove hunters.

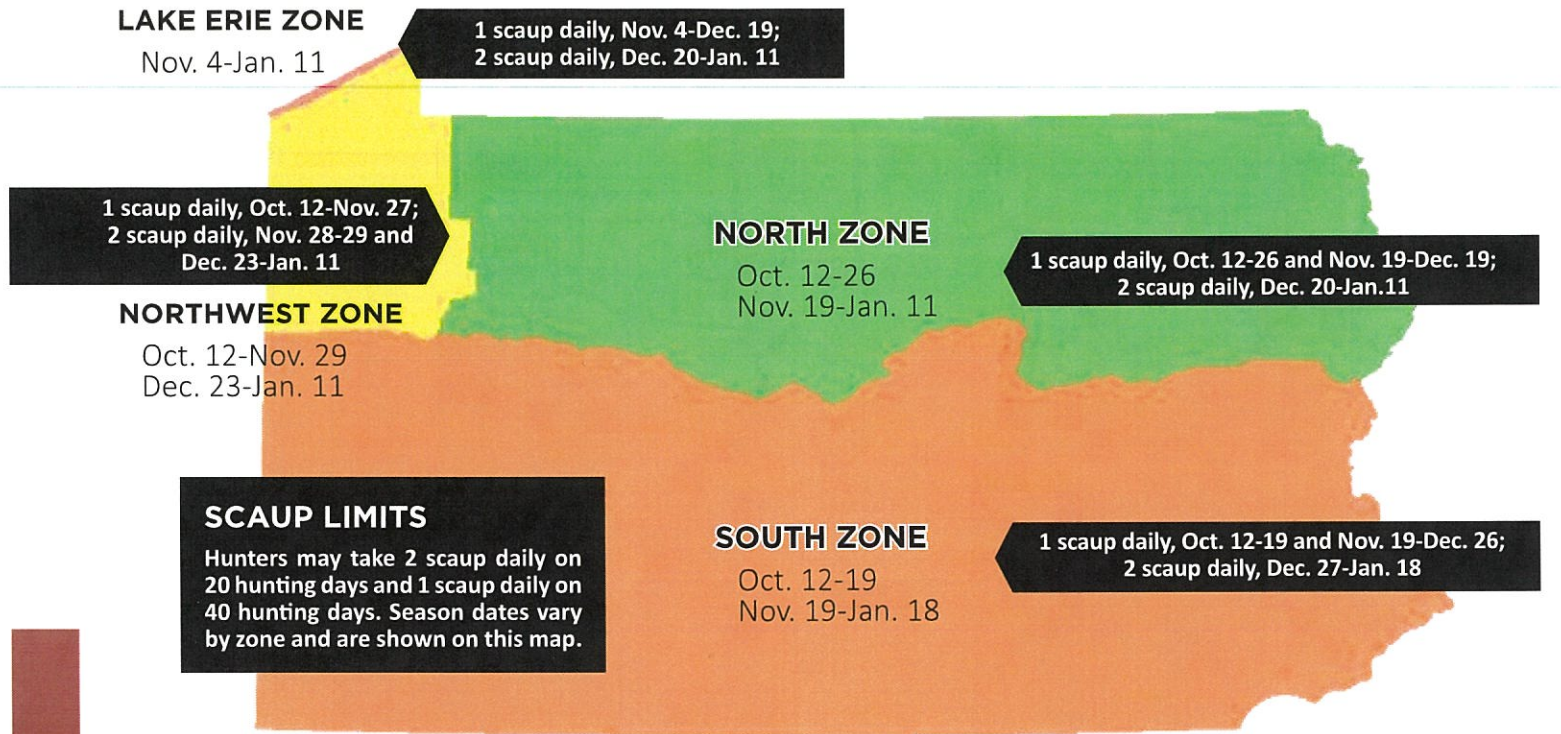
MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE

Dates	Begin		END		Dates	Begin		END	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
June 30 - July 6	5:06	8:32	Jan. 5 - 11	6:52	4:50				
July 7 - 13	5:13	8:29	Jan. 12 - 18	6:51	4:57				
July 14 - 20	5:19	8:24	Jan. 19 - 25	6:48	5:04				
July 21 - 27	5:25	8:18	Jan. 26 - Feb. 1	6:43	5:13				
July 28 - Aug. 3	5:31	8:11	Feb. 2 - 8	6:37	5:21				
Aug. 4 - 10	5:38	8:03	Feb. 9 - 15	6:30	5:29				
Aug. 11 - 17	5:44	7:53	Feb. 16 - 22	6:21	5:38				
Aug. 18 - 24	5:51	7:43	Feb. 23 - March 1	6:12	5:46				
Aug. 25 - 31	5:58	7:32	March 2 - 8	6:01	5:53				
Sept. 1 - 7	6:04	7:21	March 9 - 15 *	6:51	7:01				
Sept. 8 - 14	6:11	7:10	March 16 - 22	6:40	7:08				
Sept. 15 - 21	6:17	6:58	March 23 - 29	6:28	7:16				
Sept. 22 - 28	6:24	6:46	March 30 - April 5	6:17	7:23				
Sept. 29 - Oct. 5	6:31	6:35	April 6 - 12	6:06	7:30				
Oct. 6 - 12	6:38	6:24	April 13 - 19	5:55	7:37				
Oct. 13 - 19	6:45	6:14	April 20 - 26	5:45	7:44				
Oct. 20 - 26	6:53	6:04	April 27 - May 3	5:35	7:51				
Oct. 27 - Nov. 2	7:01	5:56	May 4 - 10	5:26	7:58				
Nov. 3 - 9 **	6:09	4:49	May 11 - 17	5:19	8:05				
Nov. 10 - 16	6:17	4:43	May 18 - 24	5:12	8:12				
Nov. 17 - 23	6:25	4:38	May 25 - 31	5:07	8:18				
Nov. 24 - 30	6:32	4:36	June 1 - 7	5:03	8:23				
Dec. 1 - 7	6:39	4:35	June 8 - 14	5:01	8:27				
Dec. 8 - 14	6:44	4:36	June 15 - 21	5:01	8:31				
Dec. 15 - 21	6:49	4:39	June 22 - 28	5:02	8:33				
Dec. 22 - 28	6:51	4:43	June 29 - July 5	5:04	8:33				
Dec. 29 - Jan. 4	6:52	4:49	Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**						

Add the minutes from the Meridian Map to the begin/end times on this table.

DUCKS, MERGANSERS & COOTS

Seasons for **Ducks, Sea Ducks, Coots and Mergansers** run concurrently, but each of the state's four zones has its own **opening and closing dates**. Waterfowl hunting is closed on Sundays.



The daily bag limit of six ducks or sea ducks is combined for any species with an open season, except for the following restrictions. Only 4 sea ducks may be taken daily. Daily limit may not include more than:

DUCKS

6 daily, 18 in possession

- 4 mallards
**No more than 2 hens*
- 1 scaup (2 scaup at times)
- 2 black ducks
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 redheads
- 2 canvasbacks
- 1 pintail

SEA DUCKS

4 daily, 12 in possession

- 3 eiders
**No more than 1 hen*
- 3 scoters
- 3 long-tailed ducks

*Possession limits are triple the daily limits.
There is no open season for Harlequin Ducks*

MERGANSERS

5 daily, 15 in possession

*Hooded mergansers
are now part of
overall merganser limit.*

COOTS

15 daily, 45 in possession

DUCK ZONE BOUNDARIES

Lake Erie Zone

Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie shoreline.

Northwest Zone

The area bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and including all of Erie and Crawford counties and all of Mercer and Venango counties north of I-80.

North Zone

The area east of the Northwest Zone and north of I-80 to Route 220, north from I-80 to I-180, north and east of I-180 from Route 220 to I-80, north of I-80 from I-180 to the Delaware River.

South Zone

All of state not in the Lake Erie, Northwest and North Zones.

CANADA GEESE

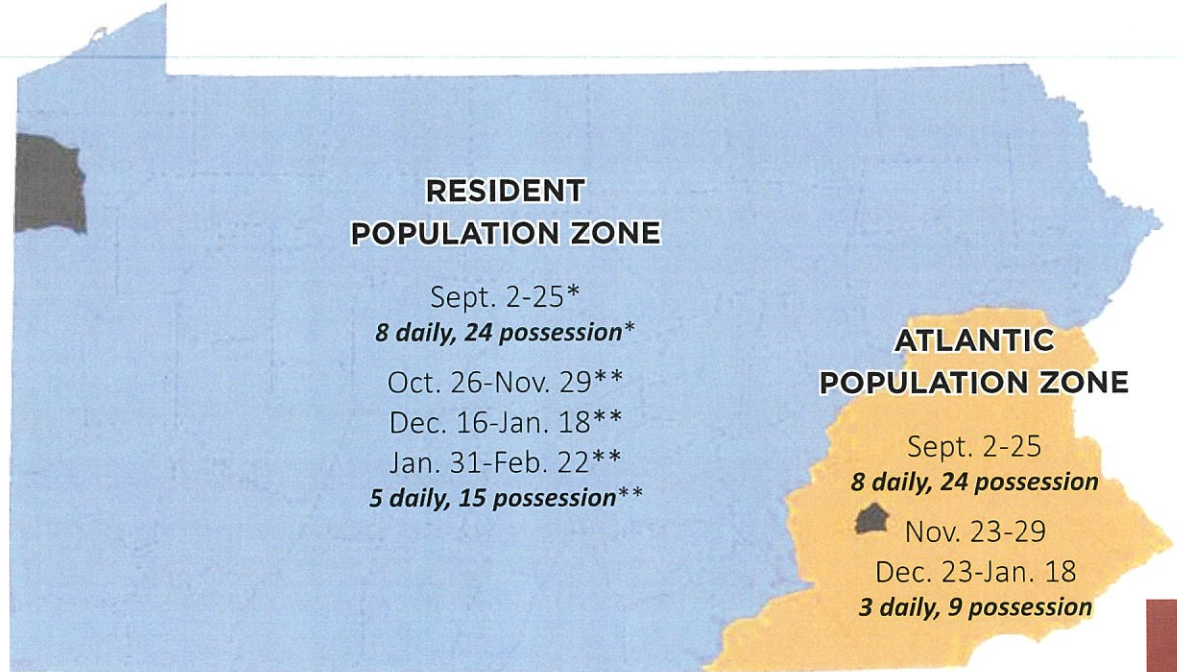
Canada Goose hunting is open statewide, but season lengths and bag limits vary by zone.

Seasons for Canada geese include white-fronted geese.

Waterfowl hunting is closed on Sundays.

* In western Crawford County & northwestern Mercer County, the season runs from Sept. 2-14 with a daily limit of 1 and possession limit of 3.

** In western Crawford County & northwestern Mercer County, the daily limit is 3 and possession limit is 9.



EXCEPTIONS

Detailed maps of described areas available at www.pgc.pa.gov

September Season

1) In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of I-79, west of I-79 to SR 358, north of SR 358 to the Ohio state line. The season is Sept. 2-14. The daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 214 where the season is closed to September goose hunting.

2) In the area of Lancaster and Lebanon counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to Lebanon-Berks county line, west of Lebanon-Berks county line and the Lancaster-Berks county line to SR 1053 (also known as Peartown Road and Greenville Road), west of SR 1053 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, the daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 3; except on SGL 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) where the season is closed.

Note: The above exception area restrictions do not apply to youth participation on the September youth waterfowl day in the public hunting areas of SGL 214 and SGL 46. The Controlled Hunting Areas within the Wildlife Management Areas of SGL 214 and SGL 46 remain closed to September goose hunting. Hunting hours for all migratory birds, including Canada geese, close at sunset on youth waterfowl days.

Regular Season

Areas in the public hunting sections of SGL 46 (Middle Creek WMA) in Lebanon and Lancaster counties that are outside of the controlled goose hunting areas have a daily limit of 1, and a possession limit of 3 during the regular Canada goose season. Areas inside of the controlled goose hunting areas of SGL 46 (Middle Creek WMA) have a season limit of one.

GOOSE ZONE BOUNDARIES

Atlantic Population Zone

The area east of SR 97 from Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of US Route 30, south of US Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I-81, east of I-81 to intersection of I-80, south of I-80 to New Jersey state line.

Resident Population Zone

All of Pennsylvania except for the Atlantic Population Zone.

Southern James Bay Population Zone

This zone has been dissolved and its area incorporated into the resident population zone due to a shift in migration patterns. However, different bag limits, and in some cases different seasons, continue to apply in parts of Crawford and Mercer counties.

LIGHT GEESE, BRANT & WEBLESS

LIGHT GEESE (Snow Geese & Ross' Geese)

25 daily, no possession limit

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 22-Feb. 22

CONSERVATION SEASON
Feb. 24-April 25

ATLANTIC POPULATION ZONE

REGULAR SEASON
Oct. 1-Jan. 25

CONSERVATION SEASON
Jan. 27-April 25

CONSERVATION SEASON

During the conservation season, recorded or amplified calls or sounds are permitted. Hunters need a Conservation Season permit (also known as a snow goose permit; \$1.97 transaction fee), a federal duck stamp (E-Stamp), and a Pennsylvania Migratory Game Bird License.

WEBLESS BIRDS & BRANT

BRANT

1 daily, 3 possession
Federal duck stamp needed

BOTH GOOSE ZONES
Oct. 12-Nov. 15

WOODCOCK

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 19-Nov. 29
Dec. 16-24

GALLINULES

3 daily, 9 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 2-Nov. 21

VIRGINIA & SORA RAILS

3 daily, 9 possession
Bag limit singly or combined

STATEWIDE
Sept. 2-Nov. 21
Clapper and King Rail hunting is closed statewide.

Except for crows, migratory bird hunting is closed on Sundays.

WILSON'S SNIPE

8 daily, 24 possession

STATEWIDE
Oct. 19-Nov. 29
Dec. 16-24

DOVES

15 daily, 45 possession

STATEWIDE
Sept. 2-Nov. 29
Dec. 21-Jan. 4

LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED BY LAW

Nov. 1 To April 30

All boaters, including waterfowl hunters, must wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length, or on any canoe or kayak during the cold-weather period from Nov. 1 through April 30.

Recreational boating fatalities that occur in Pennsylvania from November through April are primarily caused by the effects of cold-water immersion.

When water temperatures are less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit, cold-water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities.

Victims who wear a life jacket when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages, such as insulation from the cold, buoyancy for victims who are unable to tread water and reduced risk of aspiration of water.

In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities related to cold-water immersion, the Fish & Boat Commission has amended regulations to require life jackets to be worn on small and unstable boats during the period most noted for cold-water temperatures.

For other times of the year and on other types and sizes of boats, all boaters are required to have properly fitted personal flotation devices readily accessible. For more information on boating laws and safety, visit www.fishandboat.com.

YOUTH, VETERANS AND MILITARY DAYS

Licensed junior and mentored youth hunters, military veterans and active military personnel can hunt ducks, mergansers, brant, coots, gallinules and Canada geese during selected days. Hunters 16 or older need a federal duck stamp (E-Stamp) to participate. All hunters need a Pennsylvania migratory game bird license. Regular season bag limits and other restrictions apply. Check www.pgc.pa.gov for more details.

Statewide

Youth only – Sept. 21

North Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Nov. 2
Veterans and active military only – Jan. 18

Northwest Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Sept. 28
Veterans and active military only – Jan. 18

Lake Erie Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Oct. 26
Veterans and active military only – Jan. 18

South Zone

Youth, veterans and active military – Nov. 9
Veterans and active military only – Jan. 25

SPECIAL HUNTS, INTERACTIVE MAP

DRAWING FOR SPECIAL HUNTS



Happy hunters pose outside the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center with Canada geese they harvested at a special hunt held at this legendary site. You can apply to take part in the special hunts held at Middle Creek and Pymatuning.

The Game Commission conducts several special hunts at the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area in Crawford County and the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon and Lancaster counties.

These consist of waterfowl, archery deer, muzzleloader deer and adult mentored hunts at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, and goose, youth turkey, archery deer and muzzleloader deer hunts at Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area. Permittees to hunt these areas are selected only by drawings held prior to the hunting season. Individuals can apply for a hunt at no cost but must hold an active license or permit, or have in their "cart" at the time of application. Applications may be submitted online at HuntFishPA or at any Game Commission region office or the agency's Harrisburg headquarters.

For more information on these hunts and how to apply, please visit the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov.

Hunters are encouraged to frequently check the website for the most up to date information regarding the special hunt programs.

HUNTING IN PA INTERACTIVE MAP

Collectively, state forest land and state game lands offer more than 3.7 million acres open to hunting in Pennsylvania. The interactive map from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission helps hunters on their public land outings. The map can be found through www.dcnr.pa.gov, by searching the site.

Hunters can use this map to:

- View public lands open to hunting.
- Search hunting seasons and bag limits across different parts of the state.
- Display hunting hours (starting and ending times) across different parts of the state.
- Add personal GPS data to the map (GPS waypoints and tracklogs).
- View different types of wildlife habitat across public forest lands, including mature oak forests, meadows, food plots, openings, winter thermal (coniferous) cover and young aspen forest.
- See where recent timber harvests have occurred on public forest lands.
- Get Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) information for state forest land.
- Add map layers associated with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
- Identify bear check station locations and get driving directions.
- Display and get information on the elk hunt zones.
- Add the locations of gated roads opened for hunters on public forest lands and when those gates will be opened.
- Analyze graphs and trends in antlerless/antlered deer harvests, and antlerless license allocations from 2004 to the present.

SWANS

Mute swans are non-native and not protected under state or federal law. Hunters may harvest mute swans and they do not count as part of the daily bag. Taking mute swans on private property requires landowner permission. Mute swans have an orange bill with a black fleshy knob on top at the feather line. Mute swans do not feed in fields and are encountered only in wetlands. Native tundra and trumpeter swans are protected. They have a black bill and commonly are found in fields and wetlands. Sandhill cranes are likely to be present in certain areas and are protected.



Mute Swan

Trumpeter Swan

Tundra Swan

REPORT BANDED BIRDS

Hunters can report bird bands online at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/index.cfm. In addition to band numbers, information requested includes when, where and what species of waterfowl were killed. The age and sex of the bird and where it was banded will be provided to the hunter by email. Online reporting provides better data quality and lowers costs.