

CHAUTAUQUA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

REFUGE REGULATIONS

**All activities are limited to day use only sunrise to sunset
(Except as noted under the hunting section).**

Public Access - All refuge land is open to public access in accordance with these refuge regulations. The nature trails are open throughout the year. **Oct 16 to Jan 31:** Refuge is closed for waterfowl sanctuary; however foot access is permitted on the shoreline from headquarters to Eagle Bluff Access Area and the bank fishing areas noted under the **Fishing** section. **Feb 1 to Oct 15:** Refuge is accessible by foot, bicycle and boat. No swimming allowed. Refuge lands are open for public use activities from sunrise to sunset except as noted under the **Hunting** section.

Motorized Vehicle/Watercraft Access - Motorized vehicles are permitted in existing parking areas only. Off-road vehicle use, including ATV's, is prohibited. Use of motorized boats is permitted at **no wake speed** on refuge waters within the north and south pools located inside the perimeter levees.

Alcohol - The possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited on refuge.

Fishing - Feb 1 to Oct 15: Sport fishing is permitted from bank, boat or ice on all refuge waters. The use of bows or crossbows is prohibited. Trotline and jug fishing is permitted. All fishing equipment must be removed from the refuge daily. Bank fishing is permitted between the boat ramp and fishing trail in North Pool and from Goofy Ridge to water control structure throughout the year. The waterfowl public hunting area is closed to fishing during the waterfowl hunting season. **Oct 16 to Jun 30:** Melz Slough Area closed as posted. Illinois and refuge regulations apply.

Bass: Minimum length 15". Limit 6 per day.

Hunting - Waterfowl hunting is only permitted outside the main dike in the Liverpool Lake section and north of the entrance to the north ditch known as Goofy Ridge Ditch in accordance with Illinois and refuge regulations. Hunting access is permitted from **one hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset**. The construction or use of permanent blinds is prohibited. All hunting aids must be removed at the end of each day's hunt. Approved, non-toxic shot must be used while hunting waterfowl. Access to hunting area is by river only. Boat launches are available on the Illinois River at Havana and Liverpool. All migratory bird hunting on the refuge closes in accordance with published State waterfowl seasons. Refuge hunting is not open for the conservation order light goose season.

Wildlife Observation - Wildlife observation is permitted in all areas from Feb 1 to Oct 15. Wildlife may be observed on nature trails throughout the year.

Nut, Berry and Mushroom Picking - Nut, berry, and mushroom picking is allowed.

Camping/Fires - Camping, overnight use of the refuge, fires and fireworks are not permitted.



PETS MUST BE ON A LEASH UNLESS ENGAGED IN HUNTING

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER - IF YOU BRING IT IN - TAKE IT WITH YOU!

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Office hours are 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM