Access to Hunting Areas

For information about places to hunt in New York, go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html.

Private Lands
Always ASK the landowner for permission to hunt and trap on private land. If it were your land, how would you want a visitor to act?
• Be courteous — ASK permission well in advance.
• ASK what is permitted. What species can be hunted? Are tree stands allowed?
• ASK if friends can join you.
• Exercise safety—always!
• Thank the landowner.

Many landowners use "ASK permission" stickers (see page 14) on their signs which show the landowners' willingness to allow access to their lands. Stickers are available for free from your local Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) or from DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754. For more information on hunting on private lands, visit our website: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html.

Remember: Damaging bark or cutting trees, branches or plants is illegal without permission of the landowner.

Rights of way that cross private property, such as for power lines and railroads, are NOT public land. Trespassing on these areas without permission from the landowner is illegal.

FWMA cooperative areas
Through cooperative agreements under New York's Fish and Wildlife Management Act (FWMA), Cooperative Hunting Areas provide access and management services to privately owned lands in order to increase public hunting opportunities. When using these areas, remember that you are a guest on private property. Littering and other abuses will only result in closure of many excellent hunting areas.

A word about liability
Whether or not the land is posted, New York State General Obligations Law protects landowners from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, trapping and fishing on their property. Because of this protection, recreational liability lawsuits against rural landowners are uncommon. This protection does not apply in cases of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against dangers.

State Lands
For information on hunting and trapping opportunities and rules governing the use of state land, contact the regional office for the county where you would like to hunt or trap (see page 6). Wildlife staff can provide information on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Cooperative Hunting Areas. Forestry staff and NYS Forest Rangers can provide details on state forest lands and the forest preserve. In some instances, written permission or permits are required to use state areas. These are available from DEC regional offices during normal business hours.

Motorized access to state lands
DEC has designated routes on state forests, wildlife management areas, and in the forest preserve for motor vehicle use by people with a qualifying mobility disability. The list of these opportunities, along with information on how to obtain a statewide permit for this purpose, is available by writing to the Regional Land Manager at DEC regional offices (see page 6) or at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html.

Wildlife management areas
The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages about 187,000 acres of wildlife management areas (WMAs). These areas are located throughout the state and contain a variety of different types of habitat and wildlife. They are managed primarily for wildlife and wildlife-related public use.

WMAs have specific use regulations in addition to the general use regulations for state land. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are permitted, except as specifically restricted by posted notice.

On wildlife management areas, it is unlawful to:
• Camp without written permission
• Travel off-road by use of motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, trail bikes, snowmobiles or any other motorized vehicle, except as specifically allowed by a permit or posted notice
• Remove, cut or willfully damage or destroy living vegetation of any kind
• Construct or place a permanent structure, blind, stand or platform (including placement of nails or other hardware into trees)
• Leave any personal property when leaving the area, including leaving tree stands overnight
• Enter property posted with No Trespassing signs, except with written permission from DEC

Lands and forests
The Division of Lands and Forests manages nearly 4,000,000 acres of land, located in almost every county of the state. From the remote locations of the Adirondack and Catskill mountains to the rolling hills of the western parts of the state and the forested areas on Long Island, a wide range of hunting and trapping opportunities await the outdoor recreationist.

Forest Preserves
Hunting and trapping are permitted in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. State-owned lands located within these preserves are designated “Forever Wild.” All state land rules and camping requirements apply to the preserves, as well as additional rules specific to certain areas. Contact the regional DEC office (see page 6) or nearest NYS Forest Ranger for further information.

Conservation easements
Conservation easements are tracts of privately owned property on which New York State has acquired certain public rights, which are outlined in the easement document as well as in a recreation management plan jointly developed by the state and the landowner. Public hunting and trapping is allowed on many conservation easements.
Access to Hunting Areas

State Parks
Many state parks offer waterfowl, small game and big game hunting. For more information, contact the appropriate DEC regional office (see page 6) or visit the state parks website (http://nyspark.state.ny.us/parks/). Call each state park to find out specific hunting and access regulations. For a listing of state parks that allow deer hunting, visit the DEC website: http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html

Other Areas to Hunt

- **Whitney Point Reservoir Recreation Area (federal):** Located on state route 26 several miles north of the Village of Whitney Point in Broome and Cortland counties. Offers big and small game hunting opportunities. No special hunting permits are needed.
- **Moose River Plains Wild Forest (state):** Located in Hamilton County. Hunting and trapping opportunities in a 64,500-acre wilderness setting. Register at the gates. Over 100 drive-in primitive camping sites. Extensive seasonal road network.
- **Finger Lakes National Forest (federal):** Located east of Seneca Lake in Schuyler and Seneca counties. Small and big game hunting opportunities. No special hunting permits are needed.
- **Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca County. Offers big game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting on a controlled basis during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Permits are required. When deer management permit use is allowed, WMU 8J permits are valid. For current information on seasons, permits, maps and regulations, write:
  - **Refuge Manager**
  - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
  - 3395 Route 5/20 East
  - Seneca Falls, NY 13148
  - Telephone (315) 568-5987
- **Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located east of Lockport in Genesee and Orleans counties. Offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Detailed information available from:
  - **Refuge Manager**
  - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
  - 1101 Casey Road
  - Basom, NY 14013
  - Telephone (585) 948-5445
- **Long Island:** For a brochure on areas to hunt and for access permits, write to
  - **Hunting Opportunities, NYS DEC**
  - SUNY Stony Brook
  - 50 Circle Rd.
  - Stony Brook, NY 11790-3404
- **Fort Drum Military Installation (federal):** Wildlife Management Unit 6H, located in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Over half of the 107,000-acre installation is open to the public for hunting and trapping. See the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program website for more information: www.FortDrum.iSportsman.net (search for “wildlife”) or call (315) 772-9636.
- **New York City Watershed Lands:** The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows trapping, as well as deer, bear, turkey, and small game hunting on specially designated city water supply lands. Hunters and trappers must possess the appropriate, valid New York State sporting license and a valid access permit to hunt or trap on designated hunting and trapping areas on city water supply lands. For more information, including maps, go to http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/hunting_and_trapping.shtml.

DEC Public Campgrounds
Camping is sometimes available during the big game season. Reservations for DEC campgrounds can be made by calling 1-800-456-CAMP or online at reserveamerica.com.

Licensed Guides
For information on licensed professional guides in New York, contact NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, NY 12233-2560 or phone (518) 402-8838.

Native American Tribal Lands
Some tribal governments have made provisions for limited public hunting, trapping and fishing access, while others do not permit non-tribal members to hunt, trap or fish on their land. Check with the governing tribal office to determine the requirements for hunting, trapping and fishing within the reservation boundaries. A special permit is required.

Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs) is restricted on most state land.
Public Lands & Management Areas

- Wildlife Management Units
- Adirondack/Catskill Park
- Federal Recreational Land
- State Park
- DEC Lands
- Wildlife Management Area
- Multiple Use Area
- Conservation Easements

Map produced by NYSDEC FWMR, 2/22/2018

DEC State Campgrounds

in New York State’s Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves
dec.ny.gov
Public Lands & Management Areas

- Wildlife Management Units
- Adirondack/Catskill Park
- Federal Recreational Land
- State Park
- DEC Lands
- Wildlife Management Area
- Multiple Use Area
- Conservation Easements

Conservation Easements

Public hunting and trapping is allowed on the conservation easements shown on these maps, but because rules and regulations are different for each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a particular easement property are strongly encouraged to contact the local DEC office (see page 6) before planning a trip.

For more information on Conservation Easements, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html

Map produced by NYSDEC FWMR, 4/13/2018
Regional Maps

Public Lands & Management Areas
- Adirondack/Catskill Park
- Wildlife Management Units
- Federal Recreational Land
- State Park
- DEC Lands
- Wildlife Management Area
- Multiple Use Area
- Conservation Easements

Pennsylvania

2018–19 Habitat & Access Stamp
Invest in the future of New York’s wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities by purchasing a $5.00 Habitat & Access Stamp!

All funds from stamp purchases are deposited directly into the DEC Habitat Conservation and Access Account (HCAA) and used for ongoing and upcoming projects aimed towards conserving fish and wildlife habitat and increasing access to public and private lands for outdoor recreational access.

Whether a hunter or angler, birder or photographer, the purchase of a Habitat & Access Stamp is the perfect way to conserve New York’s remarkable wildlife heritage.

Map produced by NYSDEC FWMR, 2/22/2018
Did you know in 2017, DEC Forest Rangers:

- Patrolled 25,902 miles of trails by foot, snowshoe or skis.
- Inspected 11,635 occupied state land campsites.
- Snowmobile patrol 14,565 miles of trails and checked 12,341 snowmobiles for safety compliance.
- Made 1,326 arrests for violations of state land use regulations.

www.dec.ny.gov
518-408-5850

Regional Maps