Fall will soon be here, providing a great opportunity for New York’s hunters and trappers to enjoy days afield with family and friends or the quiet solitude of a wild place.

For many outdoor adventurers in rural New York, hunting season is a long-cherished tradition and a chance to spend time with others to reconnect with nature. But opportunities also abound close to the urban and suburban places many New Yorkers call home.

From waterfowl hunting on Long Island, to hunting deer in the Lake Plains, Finger Lakes goose hunting, and pursuing pheasants and other small game on Wildlife Management Areas across the State, New York has something nearby for everyone.

Before heading afield, I encourage hunters to review firearm safety rules and to always put safe practices first. New York has the oldest hunter safety program in the nation and our dedicated team of DEC staff and volunteer instructors continue to instill safe, ethical behavior to everyone participating in our hunting and trapping seasons.

Enjoy your time afield this year. Be safe, stay healthy, and enjoy success, whether it is measured in the game you harvest or in the time you spend with family and friends.

Governor Kathy Hochul
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New York State
Kathy C. Hochul, Governor

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Basil Seggos, Commissioner
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Katie Stone Petronis, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources
Jackie Lendrum, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife
James Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife
Michael Schiavone, Section Head, Game Management
Katherine Jones, Guide Editor

How to contact us:
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Game Management Section
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4754
Website: www.dec.ny.gov

Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Mission:
The mission of DEC’s Division of Fish and Wildlife is to serve the interests of current and future generations of New Yorkers by using our collective skills, in partnership with the public, to describe, understand, manage, and perpetuate a healthy and diverse assemblage of fish, wildlife, and ecosystems.

This guide is a summary that is intended for convenience only. For complete references, consult the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Volume 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State. These are available at:
www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2494.html
www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/ (Environmental Conservation Law)

The advertisements contained herein offset the cost of this guide, are provided for informational purposes only, and do not constitute an endorsement by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC is proud to print the official New York Hunting & Trapping Regulations summary on post-consumer recycled paper.
ON THE COVER:
Welcoming New York’s New Generation of Hunters and Trappers. This years Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide highlights the small but growing segment of New Yorkers who are getting involved in hunting and trapping, despite not having a social support network in place. A key component of getting new people involved is creating the “social habitat” that can sustain all hunters and trappers regardless of where they started from.

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Reminder: New Deer and Bear Hunting Opportunities and Requirements

In 2021, DEC and the NYS Legislature made several changes that increase and improve deer and bear hunting opportunities:

• 12- and 13-year-old hunters can hunt deer (not bear) with a firearm or crossbow under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter in counties that have passed a local law to participate. Check the DEC website for an updated list of participating counties.
• Holiday Deer Hunt is an extension of the late bow and muzzleloading season for deer in the Southern Zone from December 26 through January 1. Hunters may use the same implements (bow, muzzleloader, crossbow depending on license privileges held) and same tags (DMPs, bow/muzz either-sex, bow/muzz antlerless-only, unfilled regular season tag, and DMAP tags) as during the typical late bow and muzzleloader season.
• Daily hunting hours for deer and bear are 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. See the sunrise-sunset table on page 80 to determine daily start and stop times.
• Hunters must wear a fluorescent orange/pink hat or vest when hunting deer or bear with a firearm. See page 18 for details.
• Hunters may take deer of either sex during the early muzzleloader season in WMUs 6A, 6F, 6J.
• An antlerless-only deer season will occur from Sept. 10-18, 2022 with firearms, crossbows, and vertical bows allowed in WMUs 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F, and vertical bows in WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J, and 8C. Hunters may only use DMPs and DMAP tags during this early antlerless season.
• Bear hunting season in the Adirondacks has been simplified to a regular season that runs September 17 through December 4, 2022.

Additional Special Fisher Permit No Longer Needed

Trappers pursuing fisher are no longer required to obtain a special permit, complete a trapping log, or submit the skull/jaw of harvested fisher. A trapping license is still required, and trappers must have harvested fisher pelt-sealed by DEC staff within 10 days of the close of the season. Please note that a special permit is still required for trapping marten (see page 60).

Proposed Spring Turkey Season in Suffolk County

At press time, a proposed regulation was pending that would establish a spring turkey hunting season in Suffolk County. The proposed season would run from May 1–31, shooting hours would be from 1/2-hour before sunrise to noon, and the season bag limit would be one bearded bird. If adopted as proposed, the season would take effect in May 2023. Check the DEC website prior to going afield.

Use of Semi-Automatic Rifles for Hunting

New York State recently adopted legislation governing the purchase or transfer of ownership of semi-automatic rifles. See the "Q&A" on page 62 and go to www.dec.ny.gov or https://safeact.ny.gov for more information.
## Important Numbers

### Stony Brook University
**Region**: 1  
**Office**: 50 Circle Rd, Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409  
**Wildlife**: (631) 444-0210  
**Law Enforcement**: (631) 444-0250  
**Hunter Ed**: (631) 444-0255  
**Forest Rangers**: (631) 444-0291

### Hunters Pt. Plaza
**Region**: 2  
**Office**: 47-40 21st St., Long Island City, NY 11101-5407  
**Wildlife**: (718) 482-4922  
**Law Enforcement**: (718) 482-4885  
**Hunter Ed**: (631) 444-0255  
**Forest Rangers**: (631) 444-0291

### 21 South Putt Corners Rd.
**Region**: 3  
**Office**: New Paltz, NY 12561  
**Wildlife**: (845) 256-3098  
**Law Enforcement**: (845) 256-3013  
**Hunter Ed**: (845) 256-3063  
**Forest Rangers**: (845) 256-3026

### 1130 North Westcott Rd.
**Region**: 4  
**Office**: Schenectady, NY 12306-2014  
**Wildlife**: (518) 357-2355  
**Law Enforcement**: (518) 357-2047  
**Hunter Ed**: (518) 357-2355  
**Forest Rangers**: (518) 357-2161

### 21 South Putt Corners Rd.
**Region**: 5  
**Office**: Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296  
**Wildlife**: (518) 897-1291  
**Law Enforcement**: (518) 897-1326  
**Hunter Ed**: (518) 897-1303

### 317 Washington St.
**Region**: 6  
**Office**: Watertown, NY 13601-3787  
**Wildlife**: (315) 785-2263  
**Law Enforcement**: (315) 785-2231  
**Hunter Ed**: (315) 785-2533  
**Forest Rangers**: (315) 785-2263

### 615 Erie Blvd. West
**Region**: 7  
**Office**: Syracuse, NY 13204-2400  
**Wildlife**: (315) 785-2726  
**Law Enforcement**: (315) 785-2723  
**Hunter Ed**: (315) 785-2733  
**Forest Rangers**: (315) 785-2263

### 6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd.
**Region**: 8  
**Office**: Avon, NY 14414-9519  
**Wildlife**: (585) 226-5380  
**Law Enforcement**: (585) 226-6706  
**Hunter Ed**: (585) 226-5463  
**Forest Rangers**: (607) 622-8287

### 700 Delaware Ave.
**Region**: 9  
**Office**: Buffalo, NY 14209  
**Wildlife**: (716) 851-7010  
**Law Enforcement**: (716) 851-7050  
**Hunter Ed**: (716) 372-0645

### DEC Regions

### Other Important Numbers

- **DEC Automated Licensing System**: 1-86-NY-DECALS  
  (1-866-933-2257) M–F, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
- **Lifetime License Information**: (518) 402-8843
- **NYC Watershed Hunting Permits**: 1-800-575-5263
- **Hunter Ed**: 1-888-HUNT ED2  
  (1-888-486-8332)
- **Deer Management Hotline**: 1-866-472-4332
- **Report Game Take via DECALS**: 1-866-GAME-RPT  
  (1-866-426-3778)
- **Reporting Banded Waterfowl**: www.reportband.gov
- **Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)**:  
  https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com/
- **Forest Rangers**: 1-833-NYS-RANGERS  
  (1-833-697-7264)
- **Information on NY SAFE Act**: 1-855-LAW-GUNS  
  (1-855-529-4867)
- **Law Enforcement (ECOs)**: 1-844-DEC-ECOS  
  (1-844-332-3267)
Over the past two years, New Yorkers took extraordinary steps to overcome the challenges driven by the pandemic. One way many of us coped with these challenges was to turn to nature and outdoor recreation, including hunting and trapping.

DEC saw more people taking hunter education courses and buying sporting licenses in 2020 and 2021 than in 2019, and with the State’s adoption of a law allowing most 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow, we have more new hunters afield than we’ve seen in many years while setting new records for hunter safety.

As always, DEC wants our current and future hunters and trappers to be confident and knowledgeable to promote success and safety afield. Our 2022-23 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide contains all the information you need to guide you through the upcoming seasons.

A growing segment of New Yorkers are getting involved in hunting and trapping but may not come from a family with a long tradition of engaging in these activities. DEC and many other organizations like the National Deer Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Wild Harvest Table program are helping new hunters gain the skills they need to make hunting and trapping a lifelong pursuit. We also encourage long-time hunters to help us by sharing their expertise by taking someone new afield this fall.

DEC staff dedicated to managing and protecting our wildlife resources are available to answer any questions you may have. By following our New York State regulations and hunter safety requirements, we can continue to sustainably manage our natural resources and provide quality recreational opportunities for all hunters and trappers.

Good luck and be safe this season.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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**Game Harvest Reporting**

Hunters are required to report the harvest of deer, bear, and turkey within 7 days of take. You may report your harvest using one of these methods:

- **Online:** [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html)
- **By phone:** 1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778).
- **Game Harvest Mobile App** (see below for details).

**DID YOU KNOW?**
You may be fined up to $250 for failing to report your deer, bear, or turkey take.

**Take it • Tag it • Report it**

Harvest reporting is the LAW and necessary for wildlife management!

---

**Report your Game Harvests via Mobile App!**

DEC’s mobile app, **HuntFishNY** provides hunters with an e-license and game harvest reporting tool. Hunters now have a quick, user-friendly way to:

- gain instant, mobile access to an electronic version of sporting licenses and privileges;
- report the harvest of deer, bear, and turkey on a smartphone immediately while afield, even when out of cellular range;
- view current and past harvest reports.

The **HuntFishNY** App can be downloaded from the Apple App store or Google Play store.

**NOTE:** You will need a DEC Automated Licensing System (DECALS) user name and password in order to access your license documents through the app. If you have not yet created an online user name and password, visit the DECALS website today. Questions? Call our sporting license hotline at 1-866-472-4332.
Welcoming New York’s New Generation of Hunters and Trappers

New York has around 600,000 hunters and 13,000 trappers. Most people get involved and stay involved in hunting or trapping because they have a strong “social support network” – family and friends who introduced them to the outdoors, taught them about safety and ethics, and mentored them when they ventured afield. Sharing these experiences with their family and friends strengthened bonds, increased the likelihood that hunting or trapping became a lifelong endeavor, and reinforced the culture around these activities within their community.

This year’s Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide highlights the small but growing segment of New Yorkers who are getting involved in hunting and trapping despite not having that social support network in place. They may have grown up or live in a suburban or urban setting or may not know people who hunt or trap. Their friends and family may have misperceptions about hunting and trapping and may even discourage their newfound interest. Though they may not take the “traditional” path and may have unique obstacles to overcome to become a hunter or trapper, their motivations are often similar to those of people who grew up in a family with a long history of hunting or trapping: being self-sufficient, securing a healthy source of food, and connecting to nature.

Across the country, including here in New York, state fish and wildlife agencies and conservation organizations are working to recruit and retain the next generation of hunters and trappers.

The challenges faced by people from traditional and non-traditional backgrounds differ. If you grew up in a family that hunts or traps you may have access to mentors, have experience using firearms, and have a place to go on opening day. If you did not, then the obstacles to getting involved, even if you’re interested, may seem insurmountable.

A key component of getting new people involved is creating the “social habitat” that can sustain all hunters and trappers regardless of where they are starting from. This includes offering “next step” or advanced hunter education courses, connecting new hunters with mentors, and other approaches to improving skills and knowledge. It also includes raising public awareness of the benefits of hunting and trapping and maintaining these activities as an important part of New York’s culture so those who are interested but hesitant to begin feel welcomed and are encouraged to join.
Purchasing a License
Hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses can be purchased at over 1,200 agent locations throughout NYS, over the phone via the DEC call center (1-866-933-2257/M-F, 8AM-5PM, Sat. 9AM-5PM (extended hours Aug 1- Nov 30, M-F 7AM-7PM, Sat 9AM-5PM), and online through DEC's Automated Licensing System, DECALS (https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com). You can also visit this link to locate a license issuing agent near you. All major credit cards are accepted online and over the phone.

Mandatory Hunter Education
A hunter education course is required for persons who cannot provide proof that they have ever possessed a hunting license. You must be at least 11 years of age to take this class. The general course is an in-person or online course offered by DEC and is a minimum of seven hours in length. Once the course is complete, the individual must have the DEC hunter education certificate added to their DEC licensing profile. This can be done anywhere licenses are sold or by calling 1-866-933-2257. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries that meet IHEA-USA requirements.

Mandatory Bowhunter Education
Hunters wishing to bowhunt for big game must present either:
1. Proof that they successfully completed an approved bowhunter education course (in-person or online). (Note: Approved courses are International Bowhunter Education Program courses or an equivalent course. If in doubt, call toll free — 1-888-HUNT-ED2); OR
2. Proof that they previously held a New York State bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; if proof is from prior to 1980, they must take an additional 7-hour minimum bowhunter education course.

Mandatory Crossbow Requirement
Hunters wishing to use a crossbow must complete qualifications in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. See page 23 for details.

Residency
To qualify for an annual resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. To qualify for a Lifetime License, a person must live in New York State for at least one year immediately preceding the date of purchase. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licenses, Privileges and Permits</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting (Ages 16+)</td>
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<td>Privileges:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunt small game species with gun, bow, or crossbow during appropriate seasons when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 21 years of age or older.</td>
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<td>Those less than 12 years of age who are hunting big game for the first time as a holder of a hunting license must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.</td>
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<td>Qualifications:</td>
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<td>Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify.</td>
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<td><strong>Juniors</strong>:</td>
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<td>Ages 12–15:</td>
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<td>Privileges:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunt deer and bear with a bow during bowhunting season or the regular season when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season.</td>
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<td>Privileges:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunt deer or bear with a crossbow during the regular season.</td>
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<td>Those less than 12 years of age who are hunting big game for the first time as a holder of a hunting license must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.</td>
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<td>Qualifications:</td>
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<td>Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify.</td>
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<td><strong>Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)</strong></td>
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<td>Privileges:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunt small game species with a crossbow during the regular season when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season.</td>
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<td>Qualifications:</td>
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<td>Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify.</td>
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Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 12+)
Privileges: Hunt deer (ages 12+) and bear (ages 14+) with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the January special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C; ages 14+). Hunt deer (ages 12+) and bear (ages 14+) with a crossbow (see page 23).
Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license.

| Hunting (Ages 16+)              |                         |       |
| Privileges:                     |                         |       |
| Hunt small game species with gun, bow, or crossbow (see page 23). Hunt deer or bear with gun, muzzleloader, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). You may hunt frogs with a valid hunting or fishing license. |
| Qualifications:                 |                         |       |
| Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify. |

**Juniors**: Ages 12–15
Privileges:
- Hunt small game species with gun, bow, or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County, when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or “youth mentor” 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).

**Juniors**: Ages 14–15
Privileges:
- Hunt small game species with gun, bow, or crossbow (see page 23) when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years of age or older with written permission from parent/guardian, Hunt deer or bear with a gun, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County, when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or “youth mentor” 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).

* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.

Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license (certificates to possess firearms do not qualify). Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase. First-time applicants must show proof of age (birth certificate or passport). Junior hunters do not need a Federal Duck Stamp, but are required to register in NYS's Harvest Information Program (https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html) to hunt migratory game birds.

Bowhunting Privilege (Ages 16+)
Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during bowhunting seasons.
Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education Certificate, OR NYS Bowhunting Stamp issued in 1980 or later, OR NYS Junior Bowhunting License issued 1980 or later.
Note: To hunt deer or bear with a bow during the regular season, hunter must possess both a valid hunting license and either a current bowhunting privilege or a valid Bowhunter Education Certificate. This includes Westchester and Suffolk counties.

Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)
Privileges:
- Hunt small game species with a crossbow during the regular season when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season. Instead of a regular season buck tag.

Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.
### Licenses, Privileges and Permits

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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+)</td>
<td>12–15 (NYS Resident)</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Privileges: Application for up to two antlerless deer tags issued through a random computer selection process. Tags are valid for hunting antlerless deer only (both antlers less than 3” long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit. See DMP information on pages 28–29. Application deadline is October 1 annually. Qualifications: Must hold a current year NYS hunting license to apply and pay a non-refundable $10 application fee. Fee is waived for hunters 12–15 years of age and holders of Lifetime (Sportsman) Licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2009.</td>
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<td>16+ (NYS Resident)</td>
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<td>Military Disabled2</td>
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<td>Patriot2</td>
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<td>Indigenous Peoples3</td>
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<td>Turkey Permit (Ages 12+)</td>
<td>12–15 (NYS Resident)</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privileges: Hunt turkey during fall and spring turkey seasons (see page 45). To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime License (formerly Lifetime Sportsman).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16–69 (NYS Resident)</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70+ (NYS Resident)</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Military Disabled2</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patriot2</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples3</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12–15 (Non-Resident)</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16+ (Non-Resident)</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Military Disabled: Permanent status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is “permanent” and rated at a 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once permanent eligibility is determined, it will stay in your customer profile. Annual Status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter ANNUALLY from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is service connected and rated at 40% or more. The letter must be dated in the current year. Note: The first purchase of either a hunting, fishing, or trapping license within a calendar year will cost $5. Subsequent purchases of these license types within the same calendar year will be free for qualifying customers.

2 Patriot: Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate hunting or trapping education and are active members of the NYS National Guard, US Reserve Forces, or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

3 Indigenous Peoples: Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Unkechaug Nations, and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations wholly or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

### Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags

**Resident and non-resident hunter licenses**

- **Hunting**:
  - **Hunting (ages 12-15)**: Hunters ages 12 and older will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and hunters ages 14 and older will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and Regular Season Bear Tag.
  - **Muzzleloading privilege**: You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
  - **Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege**: You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters ages 12-13 will receive an Either Sex Tag and a Bear Tag.

- **Military Disabled** (combined hunting and fishing licenses, includes turkey permits):

  1. **Military Disabled**: Permanent status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is “permanent” and rated at a 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once permanent eligibility is determined, it will stay in your customer profile. Annual Status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter ANNUALLY from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is service connected and rated at 40% or more. The letter must be dated in the current year. Note: The first purchase of either a hunting, fishing, or trapping license within a calendar year will cost $5. Subsequent purchases of these license types within the same calendar year will be free for qualifying customers.

- **Military Disabled**: Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate hunting or trapping education and are active members of the NYS National Guard, US Reserve Forces, or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

- **Indigenous Peoples**: Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Unkechaug Nations, and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations wholly or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

**Junior bowhunters ages 14-15 will receive an Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may use the Either Sex Deer Tag during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment. Residents and non-residents must purchase a hunting license to be eligible for bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges. If you purchase both bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges, you will receive one Bow/Mz Either Sex Deer Tag and one Bow/Mz Antlerless Deer Tag. Both tags may be used in either season, with the appropriate implement.**

### Lifetime Sporting Licenses

The following Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents only and may be purchased at all license-issuing outlets throughout New York State. Applicants must prove NYS residency for one year prior to application (proofs are the same as annual licenses with the exception of the one-year requirement). For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License sales, contact our License Sales Unit, NYSDOE, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, call 518-402-8843, or visit our website www.dec.ny.gov. Lifetime License Holders should expect to receive their annual carcass tags in the mail no later than Sept. 1 annually. License Issuing Agents will replace licenses and tags free of charge between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. After Nov. 1, there will be a charge up to $15. If you have a lifetime license card, you will only have to replace carcass tags at a fee of $10.

#### Lifetime License (Sportsman) (combined hunting and fishing licenses, includes turkey permits):

- **For a person age 0–4**: $380
- **For a person age 5–11**: $535
- **For a person age 12–69**: $765
- **For a person age 70 or older**: $65

#### Other Lifetime Licenses/Privileges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunting License</td>
<td>$535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing License (age 0–69)</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing License (age 70 and older)</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapping License</td>
<td>$395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowhunting</td>
<td>$235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzleloading</td>
<td>$235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

General License Information

Residency continued from page 10

person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home (regardless of where temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person’s residence. For a complete list of valid residency proof documents please see www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95452.html#Res.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in New York and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

Minimum Hunting Age

Minors under the age of 12 may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wildlife.

License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from September 1 through August 31.

License Responsibilities

- A license or tag is not transferable and may be used only by the person to whom it was issued (except for Deer Management Permits—see pages 28–29).
- It is illegal to possess another person’s license while hunting.
- A license to hunt, trap, or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- You can legally purchase and possess only one hunting license per year.
- Your license must be carried on your person while hunting or trapping.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee, or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
- Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after receipt. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible.

Back Tags

Must be visibly displayed on the middle of your back while hunting, except in the Northern Zone and Catskill Park.

Hunting License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid hunting license in their possession except:
- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees and members of their immediate families do not need a hunting license when hunting small game on farmlands they are occupying and cultivating.
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a hunting license while hunting on reservation lands.
- Do NOT heat laminate your license. High temperatures will destroy the license and tags and turn them black. If destroyed, there is a fee for replacement.
- Sign the back of your license/privilege panel.

Free Licenses/ Patriot Licenses

Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Unkechaug Nations and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations in the state. They must be obtained from some Nations councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Federal Duck Stamp

Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores.

Privileges: Hunt migratory waterfowl. It is not needed for gallinules, coot, crows, rails, woodcock or snipe. All migratory game bird hunters, including junior hunters, must register with the Harvest Information Program by calling toll free 1-866-933-2257 or https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com/ Qualifications: Validated by holder’s signature on the face of the stamp. Hunter must also possess a current year NYS hunting license.

Stamps / Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat &amp; Access Stamp</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational or educational activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venison Donation</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>$1 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help feed the hungry by supporting NY’s venison donation program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Duck Stamp</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Licenses for Hunters with Disabilities

Non-ambulatory hunter permit

This permit allows qualified hunters to shoot a firearm from a motorized vehicle (including an off-road vehicle) that has the motor turned off and that is completely off the highway right-of-way.

To qualify for a Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit, a person must be physically unable to move about except with the use of a mechanized aid such as a wheelchair.

Modified longbow authorization

This authorization allows qualified people to hunt big or small game with a legal bow that is equipped with a device to hold it in a drawn and cocked position. It does not allow for the use of a crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Longbow Authorization, a person must be permanently physically unable to draw and hold a legal bow.

Modified crossbow permit

This permit allows qualified people to hunt big or small game during bowhunting season with a crossbow that has been specifically modified with a device that only allows it to be discharged (fired) by means of a breath tube. This permit does not allow the use of an unmodified crossbow in place of a bow for the entire bow season.

To qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit, a person must be permanently physically unable to hold or draw a legal bow or to fire a legal bow that has been modified to hold and release the string.

Lost Licenses

A lost current year license may be replaced at any license-issuing outlet at a cost of $5 for a license panel. Big game carcass tag sets or turkey carcass tag sets may be replaced at a cost of $10. There is no charge to replace a lost backtag.

For more information on these permits, write the NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752, email speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov or call (518) 402-8985. The application process takes time; write or call well before you intend to hunt.
How To Properly Fill Out Your Carcass Tag and Report Your Harvest

Carcass Tag

Fill out both sides immediately upon harvest

1. Date
2. County
3. Town
4. WMU

It’s as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!!

1. Fill in the date, location, biological and season information on the front of your tag.
2. Mark or cut out month and day of kill AND sign the back of your tag.

Remember: Take It • Tag It • Report It

Reporting Your Game Harvest

- Deer, Bear, and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online, or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast, and convenient!
Remember to save the bear’s skull so DEC can collect a tooth to age the bear.

Information You Will Need When Reporting

CUSTOMER ID #

12 DIGIT DOC #

- For Spring Turkey:
  » Spur length (none, less than ½”, ½” or longer)
  » Beard length (less than 3”, 3” or greater but less than 7½”, or 7½” or longer.
  » Estimated weight

- For Fall Turkey:
  » Remember to save a leg. We will request it to determine age and sex.

If you SEE something, SAY something

Report Poachers and Polluters
Call an Environmental Conservation Officer at 1-844-DEC-ECOS
General Hunting Regulations

The following are general hunting regulations. Specific regulations for various game species are in the Small Game, Big Game, and Trapping sections of this booklet.

Definitions

**Air gun**—a firearm that uses spring or compressed air (not gunpowder) to propel a single projectile that is .17 caliber or larger and produces a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second. You may use a smooth or rifled bore.

**Bow**—includes long (stick), compound, or recurve bow.

**Crossbow**—consists of a bow, a string, and either compound or recurve limbs with a minimum width of 17 inches (tip of limbs, uncocked), mounted on a stock. The stock shall have a trigger with a working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds. Opti
cal sights are allowed on crossbows.

**Firearm**—all guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, BB and pellet guns.

**Handgun**—is any pistol or revolver intended to be aimed and fired with one hand and having a barrel length not exceeding 16 inches. Possession of handguns in New York State requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

**Muzzleloading firearm**—is a firearm loaded through the muzzle, shooting a single projectile and having a minimum bore of .44 inch. Scopes or fiber-optic sights may be used at any time. You must possess a New York State Pistol Permit to hunt with a muzzleloading pistol.

**Rifle**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 16 inches or more with rifling in the barrel that uses metallic cartridges.

**Shotgun**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 18 inches or more that uses shells that are nonmetallic except for the base.

**Motor vehicle**—means every vehicle or device operated by any power other than muscle power including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, trailers, motorboats, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles, whether operated on or off public highways.

**Public highway**—means any road maintained by a state, county, or town. A private road is one maintained by a person or corporation.

**To hunt**—means to pursue, shoot, kill or capture (other than trap) wildlife and includes all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife, whether or not they result in taking. Hunting also includes all acts to assist another person in taking wildlife.

**Spotlighting**

You may use lights to observe wildlife under the following conditions:

- You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear)
- While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm, bow, or crossbow, or if:
  - the implement is taken down, or
  - the implement is securely fastened in a case, or
  - the implement is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
  - the implement is a handgun

For information on hunting furbearers at night, see page 54.

**Possession of Firearms and Crossbows**

During the open season for deer, it is illegal to:

- Possess shotgun shells loaded with slug or ball, unless holding a valid license (including carcass tags) or permit to take deer or bear, or
- Possess a rifle larger than a .22-caliber rimfire in areas where rifles are banned for taking deer. A rifle larger than .22-caliber rimfire means a rifle chambered for a rimfire cartridge greater than .22-caliber or any centerfire rifle. Centerfire rifles less than .22-caliber and muzzleloading rifles are legal.

In Westchester County and on Long Island, it is illegal to use any rifle for hunting or to carry one afield. In Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties, it is illegal to use a crossbow to hunt wildlife.

In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 rimfire or a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot afield if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

Possession of handguns in New York requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

New York State recently adopted legislation governing the purchase or transfer of ownership of semi-automatic rifles. Go to www.dec.ny.gov or https://safeact.ny.gov/resources-hunters for more information.

**Transportation of Firearms**

A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle or crossbow in or on a motor vehicle unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is unloaded or taken down. While legally hunting migratory game birds, a loaded firearm may be possessed in a motorboat not under power OR in a motorboat under power only while retrieving dead/crippled birds.

**Hunt Safe — Hunt Smart**

- Assume every gun to be loaded.
- Control the muzzle, point in a safe direction.
- Keep finger off the trigger until firing.
- Be sure of your target and beyond.
- Wear hunter orange.
Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows

It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow:

- So that the load or arrow/bolt passes over any part of a public highway
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of any school, playground, or an occupied factory or church
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of a dwelling, farm building or structure in occupation or use unless you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner’s consent

You may hunt waterfowl over water within 500 feet of a dwelling or public structure as long as neither are within 500 feet in the direction you are shooting.

Protected and Unprotected Wildlife

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks, and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine, red squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon and monk parakeet.

Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow, crossbow, or firearm.

Game species may be taken only during their open seasons and as summarized in this guide. Persons taking wildlife on licensed shooting preserves must comply with regulations governing those shooting preserves.

Our scientists are working to create a world where people and nature thrive. In the Adirondacks, this means finding innovative ways to tackle the threat of climate change and conserve the lands and waters we all depend on. Our efforts to reconnect rivers and streams by upgrading road crossings ensure that fish can thrive and communities won’t flood. We’re working hard to make the region a better place to live for future generations of all species.
Access to Hunting Areas

Places to Hunt in New York

DEConfio Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html.

For additional information about places to hunt in New York, go to https://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 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 Central Office, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754. For more information on hunting on private lands, visit our website: https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html#Hunting.

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 Recreation 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. DEC Forestry staff and Forest Rangers can provide details on State Forest lands and Forest Preserve lands. In some instances, written permission or permits are required to use state lands. These are available from DEC regional offices during normal business hours. For more information on State Recreation Lands, visit: https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82098.html.

Motorized access to state lands

DEC has designated routes on state forests, wildlife management areas, Forest Preserve lands and conservation easement lands for motor vehicle use by people with a qualifying mobility disability. For a list of these opportunities, along with information on how to obtain a motorized access permit, please visit the DEC website 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:

• Target shoot unless posted as an allowed activity.
• 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. Tree stands labeled with name and address or DEC ID number may be left overnight, but must be removed at the end of the hunting season
• Enter property posted with No Trespassing signs, except with written permission from DEC

For more information on WMAs, go to: https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7768.html.

Lands and Forests

The Division of Lands and Forests manages nearly five million 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 part of the state and the forested areas on Long Island, a wide range of hunting and trapping opportunities await the outdoor recreationist.

Forest Preserve Lands

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

Search & Rescue, Wildfire Report DEC State Land Violations or Complaints

833-NYS-RANGERS (833-697-7264)

IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE, DIAL 911
and camping requirements apply to the preserves, as well as additional rules specific to certain areas. Contact the regional DEC office (see page 6) of the county where you would like to hunt or trap for more information. For further information on Forest Preserve lands, please visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4960.html

Conservation Easement Lands
Conservation easements are tracts of privately owned property on which New York State has acquired certain public recreation rights. These rights are outlined in the easement document as well as in a recreation management plan jointly developed by DEC and the landowner. Public hunting and trapping is allowed on many conservation easements, but due to the individual nature of each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a given easement property are strongly encouraged to contact a local DEC office (see page 6) of the county where you would like to hunt or trap for details on how to properly access the property and the hunting and trapping regulations unique to the easement. For further information on DEC held Conservation Easements, please visit the DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands41156.html

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 hunting website (https://www.parks.ny.gov/recreation/hunting). 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: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/88998.html

Other Areas to Hunt
- Finger Lakes National Forest (federal): Located east of Seneca Lake in Schuyler and Seneca counties. Small and big game hunting opportunities. Special hunting permits are not required.
- Fort Drum Military Base (federal): Wildlife Management Unit 6H, located in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Over half of the 107,000-acre U.S. Army military installation is open to the public for hunting and trapping. See the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program website for more information: https://fortdrum.isportsman.net/ or call (315) 772-9303.
- Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (federal): Located at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca County. Offers small 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 visit Montezuma’s website at: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/montezuma/visit-us/activities/hunting
- Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (federal): Located in Genesee and Orleans counties in western New York. Offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. For further information visit: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/visit-us/activities/hunting
- Long Island: For a brochure on areas to hunt and for access permits, write to: 
  > Hunter Opportunities, NYS DEC
  > SUNY Stony Brook
  > 50 Circle Rd.
  > Stony Brook, NY 11790-3404

DEC Campgrounds
DEC operates 52 public campgrounds in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Hunting is not permitted within these campgrounds, although some campgrounds allow camping during big game season. Unloaded firearms are allowed on public campgrounds only during the spring and fall hunting seasons for hunting. A valid hunting license is needed. Firearms cannot be discharged in the campground or day use facilities at any time. For more information on DEC’s campgrounds visit: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7825.html

Licensed Guides
For information on licensed professional guides in New York, contact NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, NY 12233-4752, call (518) 402-8985, or visit the DEC website: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/30969.html

Indigenous Nation Territories
Some Indigenous Nations have made provisions for limited public hunting, trapping, and fishing access, while others do not permit non-citizens to hunt, trap or fish on their land. Check with the respective Nation’s office to determine the requirements for hunting, trapping, and fishing within the territory boundaries. A special permit may be required.

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

To speak with a Forest Ranger regarding specific state lands and regulations including backcountry camping permits, visit http://on.nys.gov/NYSForestRangerRoster for a listing of Forest Rangers by county.
York with whole carcasses or intact heads of deer, elk, moose, or caribou that they harvest anywhere outside of New York. Only the deboned meat, cleaned skull cap, antlers with no flesh adhering, raw or processed cape or hide, cleaned teeth or lower jaw, and finished taxidermy products of CWD-susceptible animals may be brought into New York. See page 22 (CWD page) for more information.

**Hunting Hours**

Big game hunting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise to 1/2-hour after sunset (see page 80). Sunday hunting is allowed in all areas of New York. For hunting on state lands confirm regulations for the area before hunting.

**Fluorescent Orange & Fluorescent Pink Clothing Requirements**

Any person hunting deer or bear with a firearm or a person who is accompanying someone hunting deer or bear with a firearm shall wear:

1. a minimum total of 250 square inches of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or
2. a minimum total of 250 square inches of patterned fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink consisting of no less than fifty percent fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or
3. a hat or cap with no less than 50 percent of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material and visible from all directions.

**Legally Antlered Deer**

A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is 3” or longer. Antlerless deer are those without antlers (does and fawns) and deer with antlers less than 3” long. Special regulations apply in the Antler Restriction areas. See page 24 for details.

**Defining “Early” and “Late” Seasons for Deer and Bear**

When you see the term “early” muzzleloader or bowhunting season, it means before the regular season for that particular zone. “Late” means after the regular season for that zone.

**Feeding & Baiting Prohibited**

Intentional feeding or baiting of deer or bear is prohibited at all times of year. This includes use of mineral blocks or powders. Exempt activities include agricultural plantings, wildlife food plots, and cutting of trees or brush to provide winter forage.

**CWD Import Restrictions**

Hunters are prohibited from returning to New York with whole carcasses or intact heads of deer and bear. Anyone returning deer or bear to New York must mail tag(s), boned meat, skull cap, antlers with taxidermy, and taxidermy mounts or rugs) from legally taken and reported deer and bear may be sold. Bear gall bladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy) is attached.

All hunting on state-managed land requires a DEC permit. The archery deer season runs from October through January. There is a January firearms season during which shotguns and muzzleloading firearms can be used. Firearms users must obtain a landowner’s endorsement to hunt during this season, and may also need a town permit. For more information on Long Island hunting opportunities visit our website, [http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8373.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8373.html).

**Prohibited Sale of Deer or Bear Meat**

It is unlawful to sell deer or bear meat. Other than meat, the parts (e.g., hides, skulls, claws, antlers, and taxidermy mounts or rugs) from legally taken and reported deer and bear may be sold. Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy) is attached.

In addition to the general hunting regulations for manner of take listed on page 14, it is unlawful to hunt big game with:

- Dogs or aircraft of any kind, including drones.
- The aid of a pre-established bait pile.
- A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam toward the target.
- A firearm using rimfire ammunition.
- A shotgun of less than 20 gauge or any shot gun loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile (rifling in the barrel or choke is allowed).
- A bow with a draw weight less than 35 lbs.
- Arrows with barbed broadheads; arrowheads less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than 2 sharp cutting edges.
- Double-barreled muzzleloaders or percussion cap revolvers during the special muzzleloading seasons.
- An air gun or air bow.

**Meat Unfit for Consumption**

If a deer, bear, or turkey is found to be unfit for human consumption, a special permit may be issued that allows the hunter to take another deer, bear, or turkey, provided the season is still open. The entire animal, including the antlers, must be forfeited to get a permit. A permit will not be issued if the meat is unfit due to hunter neglect. Call a Regional Wildlife or Law Enforcement office listed on page 6.

**Tagging, Reporting, and Transporting**

Deer and bear are in legal possession only when tagged with the appropriate carcass tag, valid for that season, implement, and sex of animal. See page 26 for clear tag descriptions. Hunters who take a deer in remote areas may wish to bone it out and pack out the meat. This is lawful, but you must retain the carcass tag with the boned out meat.

After killing a deer or bear:

1. Ensure that you select the proper tag for the harvested deer or bear.
2. Immediately fill in all information and sign the carcass tag with ink that won’t erase.
3. Immediately cut or mark the month and date of kill on the tag reverse.
4. Write the date of kill on the report panel. This will help you when reporting a harvest.

See [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82382.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82382.html) for information on the Deer Management Focus Area in Tompkins County. Expanded antlerless bag limits and a January antlerless season in this area provide additional opportunities for hunters and help to reduce deer-related conflicts.
5. **Attach the tag** to the carcass upon arrival at your camp, home or vehicle. You do not need to attach the tag while it is being dragged or physically carried from the place of kill to a camp or point where transportation is available.

6. **Report your harvest** online, by phone or mobile app within 7 days as required by law. See page 8 for details.

After you have used your last deer tag, you may help others hunt deer. You must have your hunting license with you, and you may not shoot or attempt to shoot a deer.

### Transporting

Deer and bear may be transported either inside or outside the vehicle.

- A deer carcass with head and deer carcass tag attached may be transported with the taker in attendance.
- If someone other than the taker is transporting the deer or bear, the taker must attach an additional tag to the carcass and include the names and addresses of both the taker and the transporter. The tag may be handwritten in ink or typed on any paper.
- All portions of deer or bear meat being transported by the taker shall be individually tagged and the tags shall include the name, address, big game DOC #, the date that the portions were cut, and the signature of the taker. Packaged or boxed portions of venison need only one tag and must be labeled “venison” on the outside of the box. If someone other than the taker is transporting the portions, an additional tag signed by the taker with the names and addresses of the consignee and taker are required for each portion.
- Non-resident hunters: If your home state prohibits the importation of whole deer carcasses from New York, you will need to follow the above guidelines for transportation of individual or packaged portions of deer meat while in New York State.
- A deer carcass minus the head may be transported as above, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. The deer carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass, and a tag supplied by the taker must also be attached showing the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.
- Heads of male deer may be transported to a taxidermist only if a tag supplied by the taker is attached bearing the taker’s signature, address, big game DOC #, number of points on each antler and the name and address of the taxidermist.
- The head of a doe with antlers that are 3 inches or more can be removed for mounting. Follow the same procedure that you would use for a buck you are having mounted (see above).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broadheads for Big Game</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Blade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transports

- A deer carcass minus the head may be transported as above, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. The deer carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass, and a tag supplied by the taker must also be attached showing the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.
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- The head of a doe with antlers that are 3 inches or more can be removed for mounting. Follow the same procedure that you would use for a buck you are having mounted (see above).
Muzzleloader Hunting

Muzzleloading firearms may be used during the muzzleloader and regular seasons, and during the January Firearms season on Long Island.

• Hunters must possess a current muzzleloader privilege to participate during the muzzleloader seasons.
• The muzzleloader privilege is not needed for hunters to use a muzzleloading firearm during regular seasons.
• Muzzleloaders may not be used in WMUs 3S, 4J, 8C, and may only be used in 1C during the Special Firearms season in January.
• Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons, except in WMUs 1C and 3S.
• Hunters participating in the muzzleloader season shall not have in their possession, or be accompanied by a person who has in his or her possession, a bow or firearm other than a legal muzzleloading firearm or crossbow.

Crossbow Use

Crossbow opportunities include portions of bow seasons in addition to muzzleloader and regular seasons:

• Crossbows may be used to take deer during muzzleloader seasons and a portion of the early bow seasons (see maps on page 25) by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 12-15 only) license and a current muzzleloader privilege. Junior hunters (ages 14-15) may also take bear with crossbows during these seasons (see map on page 39).
• Crossbows may be used to take deer during the regular season by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 12-15) license and to take bear during the early bear and regular seasons by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 14-15 only) license.
• See page 23 for the required Crossbow Certificate of Qualification. The NYS Legislature does not allow all crossbows to be used to hunt big game in New York. See page 14 for the definition of a legal crossbow.

Bowhunting

Bowhunting opportunities include both the bowhunting and regular seasons:

• Hunters must possess a current bowhunting or junior bowhunting privilege to participate during the bowhunting seasons.
• The bowhunting privilege is not required to hunt with a bow during regular seasons, but hunters must possess proof of eligibility (either a valid bowhunter education certificate or prior bowhunting license).
• Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons except by junior bowhunters or in WMUs 1C and 3S.

Barbed Broadheads

Barbed broadheads are illegal for hunting big game. A barbed broadhead is one in which the angle formed between the trailing or rear edge of any blade and the shaft is less than 90 degrees. A notch at the base of the blade extending no more than two millimeters from the shaft shall not be considered a barb. Broadheads with mechanical blades are legal if the blades DO NOT form a barb or hook when the arrow is pulled from the flesh of a deer or bear. (See graphic on page 20.)
Chronic Wasting Disease: 
Hunters Can Help Keep New York CWD Free

Hunter movement of harvested deer and other CWD-susceptible cervids is the most likely entry route for CWD into New York. Deer and other CWD-susceptible cervids that are illegally imported into New York will be seized and destroyed.

What is CWD?
CWD is a contagious, fatal disease of deer, elk, moose, and caribou. It is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion, and animals become diseased from direct contact with live infected animals, carcass parts, or contaminated soil and plants. Infected deer can look healthy for months or years before dying but can shed infectious prions in saliva, feces, and urine for a long time before they die. There is no cure, vaccine, or genetic resistance to CWD. CWD could appear in New York if hunters aren’t careful.

CWD Would Affect Deer Hunting in NY
Once CWD is established in an area, eliminating the disease is virtually impossible. To contain CWD spread and reduce its prevalence, local deer populations would need to be reduced through hunting and/or culling. Hunting practices would have to change, including mandatory testing of deer, restricted transport and disposal of deer carcasses, and increased harvest of young bucks. Hunters would be encouraged not to consume infected deer.

Don’t Be a CWD Risk!
Most hunters are trying to keep CWD out of New York, but the actions of a careless few can put all deer and moose at risk. The most likely modes of CWD introduction into New York are through: (1) illegal movement of infected carcasses or carcass parts of deer or elk taken by hunters in other states; (2) illegal import of live deer or elk for fee-based shooting of confined animals; or (3) use of infected urine-based lures by hunters.

You Can Help Keep NY CWD Free

Don’t bring home infectious material – Debone your harvest if you hunt outside of New York
Meat, hide and cape, antlers, cleaned skull cap with antlers attached, finished taxidermy mounts, tanned hides, and cleaned upper canine teeth can be brought into New York. Hunters who improperly import whole carcasses or prohibited parts will be ticketed, and the entire animal (including antlers) will be confiscated and destroyed. If you have CWD-positive deboned meat from another state, DEC will assist with safe disposal of the animal and recommend disinfection methods.

Don’t contaminate your hunting spot – Avoid natural deer urine products
These products are made with urine from deer in captive deer facilities. If deer in those facilities are infected with CWD, the scent lures could contain the prions that cause CWD.

Keep New York deer wild and disease free – Do not feed wild deer
Feeding deer is illegal year-round. Concentrating deer around food sources can facilitate the spread of diseases like CWD.

Report sick and abnormal deer to DEC
DEC would like to examine any deer that are very thin, drooling, standing with legs splayed and head lowered, listless, circling, or are easily approached. Contact the DEC Regional Wildlife Office near you (see page 6) or visit www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html.

Import Restrictions and Allowed Parts:

**Hunters may not** bring whole deer, elk, moose, or caribou into New York. You may only import:
- Deboned meat
- Cleaned skull cap
- Antlers with no flesh
- Raw or processed cape or hide
- Cleaned teeth or lower jaw
- Finished taxidermy products

For information on how to bone-out deer meat to remove high-risk tissues, visit the CWD Alliance: cwd-info.org

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2022–2023 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
Crossbow Hunting Qualifications and Safety Information

A crossbow must have compound or recurve limbs with minimum width of 17 inches (outer tip of limbs excluding wheels and cams, uncocked); a minimum overall length from butt of stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches; and be able to launch a minimum 14 inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It must have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds.

Crossbows may be used by any person age 12 or older to hunt deer and any person age 14 or older to hunt bear, unprotected wildlife and most small game species. Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

Hunters who plan to hunt with a crossbow must have in their possession while afield either their completed Hunter Education Certificate or Qualification card dated on or after April 1, 2014 OR the completed Crossbow Certificate of Qualification located below.

Crossbow safety information

- Before shooting your crossbow, read and thoroughly understand your crossbow owner’s manual.
- Make sure your fingers are well AWAY (below rail) from the path of the bow string and cables.
- Never dry-fire a crossbow (cock and fire without an arrow placed on the rail).
- Make sure the crossbow limbs are free of obstructions before shooting.
- Never carry a cocked crossbow with an arrow in it while walking.
- If hunting from a tree stand, always cock (but do not load) the crossbow on the ground before climbing into the stand.
- Once seated and secured in the tree stand, pull up your unloaded crossbow with a haul line.
- Do not place an arrow on the crossbow until you are safely secured in your stand.

- Never use a cocking device to uncock a crossbow.
- To uncock a crossbow, shoot an arrow tipped with a field point into the soft ground or a target.
- Always identify your target and the area beyond it before shooting.
- To prevent wounding game, practice often and do not take shots at game that are beyond your effective range, generally less than 30–40 yards, similar to a modern compound bow.
- To better understand how an arrow functions and the skill required for hunting with an arrow, DEC recommends all crossbow hunters take a bowhunter education course.

NYSDEC Crossbow Hunting Qualifications: https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68802.html

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Crossbow Certificate of Qualification

I certify that I have read and understand the safety recommendations, license requirements, and legal specifications for crossbow use in New York.

Print Name

Signature

DEC ID# (this is your back-tag number) Date

Fill in, cut out, and carry afield with your hunting license while hunting with a crossbow.
Complete descriptions of all wildlife management units are available on DEC’s website www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html

**Northern-Southern Zone Line**

A line commencing at a point at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of that river to the Village of Pulaski, thence southerly along Route 11 to its intersection with Route 49 in the Village of Central Square, thence easterly along Route 49 to its junction with Route 365 in the City of Rome, thence easterly along Route 28 in the Village of Trenton, thence easterly along Route 28 to its junction with Route 29 in the Village of Middleville, thence easterly along Route 29 to its junction with Route 4, thence northerly along Route 4 to its junction with Route 22, thence northerly and westerly along Route 22 to the eastern shore of South Bay on Lake Champlain in the Village of Whitehall, thence northerly along the eastern shore of South Bay to the New York-Vermont boundary.

**Closed Areas**

The following closed areas are specific portions of the state where the taking of deer and bear is prohibited by the Environmental Conservation Law. This section does not include areas covered by town laws, local ordinances, or posting by landowners.

**Broome County**
City of Binghamton

**Erie County**
Area around Buffalo: bounded by Tonawanda Creek from East Branch Niagara River to Rte. 78 to Greiner Rd. to Rte. 268 to Rte. 5 to Ransom Rd. to Rte. 33 to Rte. 78 to Rte. 20 to Rte. 20A to Lake Erie.

**Herkimer County**
Area along Big Moose Lake: bounded by Judson Rd. from Herkimer-Hamilton County line to Higby Rd. to Big Moose Rd. to Martin Rd. and along it to its eastern end and then to the lake shore and back (starting westerly) along the shore to Herkimer-Hamilton County line and along it to Judson Rd.

**Herkimer and Hamilton Counties**
Area bounded by Rte. 28 from Old Forge to Inlet and by South Shore Rd. from Inlet to Old Forge.

**Nassau County**
All of Nassau County.

**New York City**
All of the City.

**Legal Implements for the Early Bear Season and Regular Deer & Bear Seasons**

This map shows where various hunting implements may be used in the state. Boundary descriptions and closed areas are found below. (Some closed areas are too small to show on the map.)

**Antler Restriction Program**

A mandatory antler point restriction exists in WMUs 3A, 3C, 3H, 3J, 3K, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W in southeastern New York (see deer hunting season maps). This program will continue as DEC encourages hunters elsewhere to practice voluntary restraint. Over time, as more and more hunters in the broader region opt to pass on young bucks voluntarily, it may be appropriate to lift the restrictions.

**Antler Identification**

**Antler Point Restriction**

- At least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1” long
- Applies to all public and private land and all seasons
- Hunters aged 12-16 are exempt and may take any buck with antlers 3” or longer

**Antlerless Deer**

- Adult does, doe fawns, buck fawns (button bucks), adult bucks without antlers, or with antlers less than 3” long
- May be tagged with your DMP or Bow/Muzzleloading antlerless or either-sex tags.
**Deer Hunting**

**Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons — 2022**

**Hunting Hours**
- 30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset

**Northern Zone**
- Deer of Either Sex: Oct. 15 - Oct. 21
- Deer of Either Sex: Dec. 5 - Dec. 11
- Antlered Deer Only: Oct. 15 - Oct. 21

**Southern Zone**
- Deer of Either Sex: Dec. 12 - Dec. 20
- Deer of Either Sex: Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

**Antler Point Restrictions**
- During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.

**Crossbows**
- May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons. May not be used to hunt deer anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

**Muzzleloading Deer Seasons — 2022**

**Hunting Hours**
- 30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset

**Northern Zone**
- Deer of Either Sex: Oct. 15 - Oct. 21

**Southern Zone**
- Deer of Either Sex: Dec. 12 - Dec. 20

**Antlered Deer Only**
- Oct. 15 - Oct. 21

**Crossbows**
- May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons. May not be used to hunt deer anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

**ATTENTION Bow and Muzzleloader Hunters** — At the time of this printing, legislation was pending that would allow counties to pass a local law or resolution to prohibit hunting from December 26 – January 1, during the late portion of the bow and muzzleloader season. Please refer to your county legislative office to learn your county’s status.
## Deer Tag Descriptions

For all season dates, see page 25. See page 11 for privilege information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Name</th>
<th>Tag Can Be Used In</th>
<th>Tag Is Valid For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Regular Season Deer Tag**       | Regular Season                                         | • Northern Zone  
|                                  | • Southern Zone                                        | Antlered Only  
|                                  | Westchester County                                     | Except: May be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer as follows:  
|                                  | • Regular (bowhunting only)                            | • In Westchester County (WMU 35)  
|                                  | • Special Firearms (special permit, see page 18)       | • In Suffolk County (WMU 1C)  
|                                  |                                                      | • In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C)  
|                                  | Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required)            | • In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege)  
|                                  | • Northern Zone                                        | • By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt  
|                                  | • Southern Zone                                        | • IF you have a non- 
|                                  | Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required)         |   ambulatory permit.  
|                                  | • Northern Zone                                        |                                                       |
|                                  | (check open areas and dates on map page 25)            |                                                       |
|                                  | • Southern Zone                                        |                                                       |
|                                  | Youth Deer Season                                       |                                                       |
| **Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag**  | Bowhunting Season (privilege required)                 | Antlered or Antlerless Deer  
|                                  | • Northern Zone                                        | Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County)  
|                                  | • Southern Zone                                        | Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special  
|                                  | Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)              |   bowhunting seasons and during the regular season, with bowhunting  
|                                  | • Northern Zone                                        |   equipment only.  
|                                  | (check open areas and dates on map page 25)            | • May be used for ant-  
|                                  | • Southern Zone                                        |   lered deer only during  
|                                  | Westchester County                                     |   muzzleloading seasons  
|                                  | • Regular (bowhunting only)                            |   in certain Northern  
|                                  | • Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)       |   Zone WMUs (see map  
|                                  |                                                      | page 25).  
|                                  | • Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone       |                                                       |
|                                  | Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt except as specified in   |                                                       |
|                                  |   right-hand column.                                   |                                                       |
| **Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag**  | Bowhunting Season (privilege required)                 | Antlerless Only  
|                                  | • Northern Zone                                        | Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County)  
|                                  | • Southern Zone                                        | Except: May not be used during  
|                                  | Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)              |   muzzleloading seasons  
|                                  | • Northern Zone                                        |   in certain Northern  
|                                  | (check open areas and dates on map page 25)            |   Zone WMUs that  
|                                  | • Southern Zone                                        |   are Antlered Deer  
|                                  | Westchester County                                     | Only areas (see map  
|                                  | • Regular (bowhunting only)                            | page 25).  
|                                  | • Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)       |                                                       |
|                                  | • Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone       |                                                       |
|                                  | Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt except as specified in   |                                                       |
|                                  |   right-hand column.                                   |                                                       |
| **Deer Management Permit Deer Tag** | Any Open Deer Season                                     | Antlerless Only  
|                                  |                                                       | Valid ONLY for the WMU specified and printed on the DMP Deer Tag (Deer  
|                                  |                                                       |   Management Permit) See page 29.  
|                                  |                                                       |                                                       |
|                                  |                                                       | ! This is the only tag that can be transferred to another hunter  
|                                  |                                                       | (see page 29 for How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag).  

For information on which tags may be used when hunting with a crossbow, see page 21.

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2022–2023 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
Report Your Moose Sightings
Moose are protected in New York and cannot be hunted. DEC and its research partners are working to understand the status of the moose population. You can help us by reporting moose sightings: https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964.html

Photo by Steve Spudie

Hannah T. got her first deer in 2021 in Greene County, mentored by her cousin Jamie N. 12- and 13-year-olds may now hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow in counties that pass a local law to participate in the opportunity. Visit https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html for a map of participating counties.
Deer Hunting

Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

Hunters possessing a DMP may take one antlerless deer per permit in addition to any deer that may be taken with a regular hunting license or bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges.

- DMPs may not be used for legally antlered deer (at least one antler 3" or longer).
- DMPs may be used in any open season and only in the WMU they are issued for.
- Hunters may transfer or receive up to 2 DMPs from other hunters (see page 29).

Applying for a deer management permit (DMP)

- **DMP Application Deadline:** Close of business on October 1, 2022
- You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone, or online beginning on August 1, 2022.
- DMPs are available to all hunters age 14 years or older who purchase or possess a regular hunting license (12 years old for Junior Bowhunting license holders).
- There is a $10 non-refundable application fee for all applicants. The fee is waived for holders of Lifetime Licenses purchased prior to 10/1/2009, and Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters.
- **Know your Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) before you apply.** If you are unsure of your unit, see the WMU maps on pages 66–73 of this guide or visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html) for written boundary descriptions. You may also call the DMP Hotline for additional information at 1-866-472-4332.
- You may apply for up to two DMPs. Both must be applied for at the same time. Application can be for DMPs in the same WMU or different WMUs.

- **Disabled veterans** with a service-connected disability rated at 40% or greater (who are residents of New York) will receive preference on DMPs. Annually, you must bring a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, dated in the current year, with your case number and your disability percentage. If you are claiming permanent disabled status, the letter must clearly state that the 40% or more service-related disability is permanent.
- **Landowners:** It is illegal for more than one person per 50+ acre tax map ID to apply as a landowner. If you own 50 or more contiguous acres of land within the WMU you will be hunting in, you will receive preference on DMP selection. Annually, you must bring your tax map identification number and SWIS code (found on your tax bill) with you when you apply. Be sure to tell the license-issuing agent PRIOR to applying that you are a landowner. Lessees do not qualify as landowners. Corporate ownership: It is illegal for more than one person to apply as a corporate landowner no matter how many 50-acre parcels are owned. The corporation must submit an original letter or certified copy of a resolution, dated in the current year, designating one individual and must include the tax map ID and SWIS code information.
- **Group ownership:** It is illegal for more than one person per 50+ acre tax map ID to apply as a landowner, regardless of how many co-owners. Additional 50+ acre parcels in the same WMU require separate tax IDs.
- **Preference points:** Preference points increase your chances of selection, but do not guarantee DMP selection.

Chances of DMP Selection

Your chances of selection for first and second DMPs by Wildlife Management Unit are available online at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/30409.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/30409.html), posted at all License Issuing Outlets or by calling our Deer Management Permit hotline at 1-866-472-4332. Chances of DMP selection remain the same throughout the entire DMP application period.

- Preference points are won and lost on first permit selection only.
- If you receive a DMP in your first choice WMU, all available preference points will be used.
- If you do not receive a DMP in your first choice WMU, you will receive a preference point for the following year.
- Any preference points contained in your file are automatically applied to your first-choice WMU selection, even if preference points are not required for that unit.
- If you do NOT receive your first choice, the points are applied to your second choice, but will remain in your file for the following year, regardless of your second-choice selection results.
- Qualifying landowners and disabled veterans will receive their first choice DMP in all open WMUs.
- Preference Points are not WMU specific. That is, if you earned a preference point by being denied in one WMU, you can use that preference point in a subsequent year when applying for a DMP in a different WMU.

Consider Being a Mentor

By Cliff Cadet

As I sit and write this, I have a diaphragm call in my mouth and my wife and kids are yelling at me to cut it out. They could easily attest that I can often be a pest. But just a few years ago, if you would’ve told me that I’d be practicing turkey calling in anticipation of New York’s spring turkey season, I’d have called you crazy.

Sometimes crazy can be good.

Having been born and raised in New York City, I had no knowledge of the public lands available to me. Sadly, my story is not unique. New Yorkers, especially from the City, are often unaware of the beauty the woods have to offer. Even sadder still, is how close we all are to those public spaces.

Since 2019, I’ve been enjoying deer and turkey hunting in New York. I was fortunate to have partnered with a mentor and have been hunting since. The joy of hiking to a hunting spot by the soft glow of moonlight or witnessing a sunrise while sitting high in a tree are pleasures that everyone should experience. Also, learning about wildlife and habitats native to our magnificent state is a responsibility we all should welcome. But it can’t be done without the help of some awesome people.

With the increase in the number of “adult-onset” hunters throughout the U.S., there’s a corresponding need for folks to serve as mentors. I was privileged to have been mentored by a knowledgeable and patient (extremely patient) hunter. It was through his tutelage that I was able to understand and learn the skills necessary to hunt New York’s woods. Our mentor/mentee relationship has evolved and I’m proud to now call him a friend.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping in New York can be humbling experiences.

Cliff Cadet in his tree stand.

These outdoor spaces do not discriminate; they can often be seen as a great equalizer. If you’re a seasoned outdoorsperson, consider stepping out of your comfort zone and taking someone under your wing. Show them the joy you’ve experienced in our State’s woods. Trust me. You won’t regret it.
DMP selection order
During the instant issuance, an applicant’s chances of selection are determined by an applicant’s category. The categories, in priority order, are as follows:
1. Landowners (50 or more acres of land within a WMU) and Disabled Veterans (40% or more service-related disability). All applicants in this category will receive their first-choice DMP.
2. NYS Residents and Non-residents with 3 Preference Points
3. NYS Residents with 1–2 Preference Points
4. NYS Residents without Preference Points
5. Non-residents with 1–2 Preference Points
6. Non-residents without Preference Points

Additional DMP opportunities
Bonus DMPs: If you fill a DMP in bowhunting-only WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J and 8C, you can apply for a bonus permit for another antlerless deer. Bonus permits may only be obtained from regional wildlife staff at predetermined locations. For complete information, visit our website or call a DEC Regional Wildlife Office as follows:
- WMU 1C — 1-631-444-0310
- WMU 3S — 1-845-256-3098
- WMU 4J — 1-518-357-2154
- WMU 8C — 1-585-226-5380

Leftover DMPs: If there are still permits remaining after the initial DMP instant-issuance period closes on October 1 and the back-end correction selections have occurred, the remaining DMPs may be available on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning on or around November 1. These DMPs are only available in person at license-issuing agents. Leftover DMPs will not be available by phone or online. The Wildlife Management Units with permits available will be announced by news release and on our website (www.dec.ny.gov). If you already applied for a Deer Management Permit during the initial application period, there is no additional application fee. Fee is waived for Resident and Non-resident Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters, and for Lifetime license holders who purchased prior to October 1, 2009. You will be allowed to use two DMPs during the first-come/first-served application period in addition to any you may have received during the initial application period.

Deer Management Assistance Program
The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enables wildlife biologists to help landowners and resource managers implement site-specific deer management on their lands. In doing so, DEC issues a special permit for use only during the open deer hunting season and a determined number of antlerless deer tags to landowners or resource managers whose property is in need of site-specific deer management efforts. Hunters are expected to report their harvest. For more information on the program, refer to http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/33973.html.

How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag
Hunter Jane Doe wants to transfer her DMP tag to hunter Pete Moss.
Step 1. Jane Doe signs the bottom of her DMP tag.
Step 2. Jane Doe gives the DMP tag to Pete Moss.
Step 3. Pete Moss records the DOC# of the DMP tag on his reporting panel, completing the transfer.
Step 4. If Pete Moss takes an antlerless deer with the transferred DMP, he is required to report the deer by calling the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or by reporting online at https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html using the transferred DMP DOC# and his own date of birth.
- Hunters are allowed to receive only two transferred DMPs per year.
- DMPs can be transferred from the receiving hunter back to the original hunter or to another. The other hunter must record the DOC# on his/her reporting panel, as in Step 3 above, to complete the transfer.

Remember: Hunting licenses are not transferable. Only DMP carcass tags can be used by another hunter. A hunter must be in physical possession of a DMP when taking antlerless deer pursuant to a DMP. It cannot be “shared” by a group afield.

Note: To report a deer taken on a transferred DMP, the hunter who took the deer must call the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or report online at https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html using the transferred DMP carcass tag DOC# and his/her own date of birth, along with other required information (see page 13).

ADD GREEN TO YOUR PROPERTY
With Trees and Shrubs from DEC’s Nursery
Dozens of varieties of NY-grown seedlings are available for affordable prices during our annual sale, open January through mid-May.

Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery (518) 581-1439 www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395.html
Deer Hunting

DMAP on State Lands
DEC has enrolled several state lands in DMAP. Tag availability is limited and hunters must apply to participate. See www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/121387.html for information. Properties include:
- Bully Hill State Forest, WMU 9P
- Doodletown Wildlife Management Area, WMU 4Z
- Valcour Island, WMU 5A

Eurasian Boar
Eurasian boars are a destructive invasive species that damage habitat and crops, and threaten native wildlife and domestic livestock. DEC and USDA have worked hard to eradicate these animals from the state’s landscape. We are now working to prevent their reintroduction into New York.
- It is illegal to possess, sell, distribute, trade or transport Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to import, breed or release Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to hunt, trap or take free-ranging Eurasian boar or their hybrids.

Although DEC’s eradication efforts have been very successful to date, we must remain vigilant. Anyone who sees a Eurasian boar should report it to DEC as soon as possible by emailing wildlife@dec.ny.gov or calling 518-402-8883.

Become a Hunter Education Program Instructor

“I volunteer my time to the Hunter Education Program because I get more out of it than I give. Those few hours give me a greater appreciation for all things conservation. The smiles of a child that can now go afield with purpose, men and women who will get to put fresh game on their tables, and a new group of people with a greater understanding of the wildlife and nature around them.”
Ann Wilcox-Swanson, Instructor

Qualifications
- At least 18 years of age
- Hunting experience preferred
- Good communication skills
- Good moral character

APPLY TODAY! 1-888-HUNTED2 www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html
Deer Hunting

New York Field to Fork for Hunters of Color

By the National Deer Association

According to a national survey that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts every five years, the number of people who participate in hunting has been declining since the 1980s, even as the human population continues to rise. The same data show that of the approximately 11.5 million licensed hunters in the U.S., 90% are male and 97% are Caucasian.

There is a growing movement within the outdoor industry to diversify hunting so its participants more closely represent American demographics today.

Motivated by these disproportions, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), New York Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Hunters of Color, DEC, and the National Deer Association came together to host a “Field to Fork” mentored hunting event for aspiring hunters from the Black, Indigenous and People of Color community in November 2021. The event was hosted on TNC’s Hannacroix Preserve, roughly 30 minutes outside Albany. Participants ranged in age from 34-62 and were given the opportunity to take a New York Hunter Education class, learn about deer biology and behavior, gain experience shooting, go on multiple hunts with an experienced mentor by their side, and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie found in many New York deer camps each fall under a safe and welcoming environment.

“Without this event, I estimate that it would have taken me at least two years before I would be hunting on my own” said Avery Toledo, one of the participants. “When you are studying and reading, you have all these questions, but you don’t have someone to ask. I was able to ask those questions, get immediate feedback and not only that, after I leave here, we’re going to stay connected.”

Make sure to take a new hunter afield this upcoming season!

Pay it Forward: Reach out to a Non-traditional Hunter

By Kate Graham

I started hunting much older than most — late middle age! When I moved to a rural area in the Finger Lakes, hunting seemed to be a natural fit since I love being outdoors in all seasons and there are loads of deer in our area. I also liked the idea of knowing where my family’s meat came from. But no one in my family hunted and it was too intimidating to go to a gun club. But when I turned 55, although it seemed daunting, I decided it was time to find a way to learn to hunt. Thankfully, opportunities slowly fell into place to make it happen.

After completing the hunter safety course, I was able to participate in several of DEC’s Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) programs. BOW provided me with hands-on instruction about firearms and field dressing and cooking game, and meeting other like-minded women was very inspiring. But even with these experiences, I knew I was still a long way away from getting out into the field.

A year later, I signed up for the “Field to Fork” program run by the Greater Rochester Southern Tier Branch of the National Deer Association. To be a participant, you had to be new to hunting. For several months prior to rifle season, our small group was in the classroom or on the gun range learning and preparing for the upcoming season. Once the season started, we were paired with a mentor. Moira Tidball, my mentor, guided me every step of the way and I was fortunate to harvest a 10-point buck during the first week of hunting. Being in the field was better than I imagined and I was hooked!

With the knowledge I gained with Field to Fork I now feel comfortable asking experienced hunters if I could continue my learning with them. I have spent many hours in tree stands over the past two seasons and was fortunate to harvest a second big buck.

I am very grateful to the many people who were so generous with their time and expertise to help me realize a long-sought goal. I hope my story is an inspiration to other non-traditional hunters that with perseverance and seeking every opportunity, it is possible to learn to hunt. I also hope it might encourage experienced hunters to reach out to a non-traditional beginner.

Snapshot of the 2021 Big Game Hunting Seasons — New Opportunities for New York Hunters

Junior Hunting – New legislation created a pilot program through 2023 for 12- and 13-year-old hunters to pursue deer with a firearm or crossbow in counties that passed a local law to participate; 52 of 54 eligible counties passed the required local law. The 9,859 licensed 12- and 13-year-old hunters in 2021 was about 33% more than in 2020. Approximately 87% hunted deer at some point during the season, and there were no safety incidents with this age group.

Daily Hunting Hours – To align with the national norm, DEC extended daily hunting hours for deer and bear to begin 30 minutes before sunrise and continue until 30 minutes after sunset. 2021 was the safest year on record for New York hunters, and none of the hunting-related shooting incidents occurred during the extended times.

September Antlerless Hunt – DEC established an antlerless-only deer season in mid-September using firearms, crossbows, and vertical bows in WMUs 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F, and using only vertical bows in WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J, and 8C because harvest on Deer Management Permits hadn’t been adequate in these units. We anticipate an increase in participation and management impact in coming years, but even during this first year hunters took about 2,000 deer.

Holiday Deer Hunt – The new extension of the late bow and muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone from December 26–January 1 provided additional opportunity for hunters, particularly younger hunters who were on break from school. The objective was to provide opportunity, not substantially increase deer harvest, and that is what occurred. With the additional 7 days of hunting, harvest during the late bow and muzzleloader season increased about 10% from 2020. Young hunters reported taking more deer during the Holiday Deer Hunt than during the traditional portion of the late bow and muzzleloader season.
**HUNTERS:** Want Older Bucks in New York?

**It’s Your Choice**

You can increase the availability of older bucks by choosing to pass up shots at young bucks.

- Older bucks create more rubs and scrapes, vocalize more, and yield more meat – all things that create unforgettable hunting experiences.

You can boost deer condition and body and antler size by balancing the deer population with the habitat:

- Take a doe if permits are available in your area
- Create young forest to enhance natural forage and cover for deer

---

**4 Rules of Firearm Safety**

1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times!
2. Treat every firearm as though it is loaded!
3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond it!
4. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot!
**Deer Hunting**

**Doe or Fawn?**
During the fall, it can often be difficult to distinguish adult does and fawn deer, particularly if seen alone. In recent years, about 20% of the total antlerless deer harvest has been fawns (5–7 months old), with nearly even proportions of doe fawns and buck fawns. Though fawns provide excellent table fare, some hunters prefer to target adult deer. Taking adult female deer contributes to management objectives, and passing buck fawns may allow some of them to be available later as antlered bucks. By learning the differences between antlerless deer, hunters can make more informed harvest choices.

**Hunting Tips**
- Button bucks often travel alone, but adult does rarely do. Wait until several antlerless deer are present before making a harvest decision.
- It is easier to identify sex and age when animals are standing still or moving slowly.
- Harvest antlerless deer early in the season when differences between fawns and adult does are most noticeable.

**Fawn**
- Body about as long as tall (square)
- Short neck and compact nose/head
- Eyes look large for head
- Doe fawns have a more rounded head shape between their ears
- Buck fawns’ heads appear flattened and may have visible antler nubs or “buttons”

**Adult Doe**
- Body longer than tall (rectangle)
- Long neck and elongated nose

**Tree Stand Safety — Hunt Safe, Hunt Smart**
- Read the manufacturer’s instructions. Replace worn/missing parts.
- Use a full-body harness with a foot strap to relieve harness leg pressure.
- Use a “lifeline” or safety rope that is secured at base of the tree or stand and to the tree just above your head when sitting in the stand. Stay connected to a lifeline from the time you leave the ground to the time you get back down.
- Attach the tether from your full-body harness to the lifeline using a carabiner and prusik knot, which easily slides up and down the lifeline.
- Once secured in your stand, use a haul line to raise/lower unloaded implements and quiver. Do not tie the haul line around the trigger or trigger guard. Haul unloaded guns, bows, and cocked (but unloaded) crossbows pointed down.
- Carry emergency equipment (knife, phone, flashlight, whistle) in your pockets at all times, not in your pack.
- Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return.
### Future Big Game Season Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Northern Zone</th>
<th></th>
<th>Southern Zone</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bear</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adirondacks</strong> <em>(WMUs 5A, 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6C, 6F, 6H, and 6J)</em></td>
<td><strong>Regular</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting</strong> <em>(some WMUs)</em></td>
<td><strong>Regular</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st Saturday after the 2nd Monday in September through the Sunday immediately following the 1st Saturday in December.</td>
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<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 10 days of this season).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Western Periphery</strong> <em>(WMUs 6A, 6G, 6K, 6N)</em></td>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Early Muzzleloading</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 consecutive days beginning on the 1st Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Regular</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 10 days of this season).</td>
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<td>44 consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday after Columbus Day.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Early Muzzleloading</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading</strong> <em>(some WMUs)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7 consecutive days beginning on the 1st Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 consecutive days immediately following the regular season.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Zone</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bear</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Deer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Early Firearms</strong> <em>(some WMUs)</em></td>
<td>16 consecutive days beginning the first Saturday after Labor Day.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting</strong> <em>(some WMUs)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting</strong></td>
<td>October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 14 days of this season).</td>
<td></td>
<td>October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 14 days of this season).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regular</strong></td>
<td>23 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in November.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading</strong></td>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season.</td>
<td></td>
<td>23 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in November.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting</strong> <em>(some WMUs)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 14 days of this season).</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season and December 26 through January 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regular</strong></td>
<td>23 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in November.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading</strong></td>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season and December 26 through January 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Northern &amp; Southern Zone</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deer &amp; Bear</strong> <em>(ages 12-15)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday of Columbus Day Weekend.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deer &amp; Bear</strong> <em>(bowhunting only)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 1 through December 31.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deer</strong> <em>(bowhunting only)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 1 through December 31.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Special Firearms Season</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The first Sunday in January through Jan 31.</td>
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Introducing a new generation to the outdoors — Take a youth hunter afield this Fall

Once again, DEC is providing a special youth deer season over the three-day Columbus Day weekend. Junior hunters (ages 12–15) are eligible to take one antlered or one antlerless deer with a firearm and 14- and 15-year-old junior hunters may also take a bear with a firearm during this season. Rules of the Junior Hunter Mentoring Program (page 37) also apply.

DEC also offers special opportunities for junior hunters (ages 12–15) for waterfowl, wild turkey, and pheasants.

For all youth hunts, junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult hunter. Both the junior and adult hunters are required to have a hunting license for the youth deer season, a hunting license and a turkey permit for the turkey hunt, and a hunting license and current HIP registration for the waterfowl hunt. During the youth waterfowl hunt, the supervising adult must also have a federal duck stamp. During the youth pheasant, turkey, and big game hunts, adult hunters are not allowed to possess a firearm, crossbow, or bow, or to harvest an animal while accompanying a junior hunter. During the youth waterfowl hunt the adult hunter supervising the junior hunter may not carry a firearm, longbow, or crossbow afield, but the prohibition does not apply to other hunters in the party that are not mentoring the junior waterfowl hunter.

Crossbows may be used by 12- and 13-year-old hunters only to take deer. Hunters ages 14 and 15 may use a crossbow to take deer, bear, and other game for which crossbows may be used.

**Note:** Junior hunters (ages 12–15) must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter whenever they are afield in pursuit of game, not just during designated special youth seasons.

### Youth Hunts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Pheasant Hunt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern and Eastern New York</td>
<td>September 24–25, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western New York</td>
<td>October 8–9, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>October 29–30, 2022</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Waterfowl Hunt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterfowl Hunting Zone</td>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>September 17–18, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>September 24–25, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Champlain</td>
<td>September 24–25, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>October 1–2, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>November 5–6, 2022</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Wild Turkey Hunt</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County</td>
<td>April 22–23, 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)</td>
<td>Columbus Day Weekend; October 8–10, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Junior Hunter/Trapper Opportunities

Junior Big Game Hunting

NEW OPPORTUNITY: 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a gun or crossbow in counties that opt-in

A new law adopted in 2021 reduced the age for hunting deer with firearms and crossbows:
- Counties must pass a local law allowing the activity. See DEC website (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html) for a list of counties that have opted-in.
- 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt with a rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader during the youth deer hunt or regular season, and hunt deer with a muzzleloader during the early or late muzzleloading season.
- 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a crossbow during the crossbow portion of the early bow season, the regular season and late muzzleloading season.
- The new law does not authorize bear hunting.

12- and 13-year-old hunters must meet the same requirements as 14- and 15-year-olds hunting deer with a firearm.

12- and 13-year-old bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education.
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License.
- Are accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).

• The accompanying adult needs to have at least 3 years of experience in hunting deer or bear by longbow AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
• The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.

14- and 15-year-old junior hunting license holders can hunt deer and bear with a gun if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in Hunter Education.
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License.
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).

• The accompanying adult needs to have at least 3 years of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
• The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.
• The Junior Hunter must stay on the ground and cannot use an elevated (tree) stand.
• Both junior hunter and accompanying adult must wear fluorescent orange or pink: a shirt or jacket with 250 sq inches of solid/patterned fluorescent orange or pink (the pattern must be no less than 50% fluorescent orange or pink) OR a hat with no less than 50% of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or pink AND visible from all directions.

14- and 15-year-old junior bowhunters and first-time 16- and 17-year-old big game hunters must:
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years or older designated in writing (use form below).
- The accompanying adult needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.

Junior Trapping

Trappers under 12 years of age:
- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license themselves.
- The licensed trapper must have at least 3 years of trapping experience and may be a parent, legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).

Junior Trappers 12 years or older:
- Must complete NY’s Trapper Education Program whether they will be trapping alone or with an adult licensed trapper.

Share Your Hunting and Trapping Photos With Us!
Help us celebrate the successes of young and first-time hunters and trappers by submitting photographs to DEC’s Hunting and Trapping Photo Gallery:
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/54055.html

Mentored Youth Hunter and Trapper Permission Form

Use this form to designate a licensed adult hunter or trapper to accompany young hunters or trappers.

I, __________________________________________ am the parent/legal guardian

(Print name of parent or legal guardian above.)

(Please circle one.)

of ______________________________________, and I hereby give permission for him or her

(Print name of young hunter/trapper above.)

to be accompanied by ______________________________________ whom I acknowledge meets

(Print name of adult hunter/trapper above.)

the legal age, experience, and licensing requirements to function as a mentor during hunting and trapping seasons.

Signature: __________________________________________

(Parent or legal guardian sign above.)

Date _______________ Telephone Number ______________________

(Print today’s date above.)

(Print phone number above.)

Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.
Hunting Out of New York City:
A Call to New Urban Hunters

by Brandon Dale

39 minutes to the whitetail woods, 46 minutes to small game opportunities and 57 minutes to numerous waterfowling marshes. Where am I? You guessed it — New York City. Most people don’t think of NYC as a hub for outdoor opportunity, and on the surface, they’d be right. However, with a closer look, one can find a robust, vibrant and diverse assortment of hunting opportunities right outside the City limits. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection offers over 1,500 acres that are publicly accessible for hunting and fishing in neighboring Westchester County alone, most of which are less than an hour drive from the City. Even more, the numerous publicly accessible DEC lands in Westchester, Putnam and Suffolk counties that also offer a variety of game opportunities, again all within a 90-minute drive of the city (traffic included).

With so many opportunities near the City, it begs the question: why do so few New York City residents participate in hunting? With over 40% of the State’s population but only 3% of its licensed hunters, it’s clear that most of New York’s hunters don’t live and operate out of the Big Apple. But why? Lack of exposure, lack of support and most importantly, lack of access are the big culprits keeping many New Yorkers in the City. This lack of access becomes even more apparent when we think about the lack of diversity within the hunting community. Recent reports found that more than 98% of hunters are white and 89% are men. Given the diversity within the NYC population, it is apparent that these numbers don’t add up. And that’s because for people of color, women, LGBTQ+, disabled and other “non-traditional” hunters, the barriers to become a hunter are steep. Especially in NYC.

But why does this matter? First, with a booming population of 8.8 million, NYC boasts an incredible opportunity to greatly expand and enhance the broader hunting community in New York State. With this comes more funding for land protections and development of additional sporting opportunities. Most importantly, enhancing the urban-hunter population out of NYC will create a new wave of hunter-conservationist to protect, conserve and advocate for land access for future generations of hunters.

New York Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Hunters of Color, and New York Nature Conservancy have partnered to host a variety of trainings, community building events and mentored hunts to engage and expand opportunities for hunters in the NYC area, including “Explore Hunting” and “Urban Hunters Scouting” workshops and an Archery Summer Camp. Consider volunteering as a mentor, joining BHA, or passing along the information to future hunters.

Upcoming Events:
• Mentored Compound Bow Hunt, Long Island, NY – October 2022
• Mentored Crossbow Hunt, Albany, NY – November 2022

Questions?
• https://www.backcountryhunters.org/
• https://www.huntersofcolor.org/
• Instagram: @newyorkbha, @huntersofcolor, @bdale13

Brandon Dale is a board member for NY Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and the NY ambassador for Hunters of Color. A Louisiana transplant to NYC, he is an avid deer and waterfowl hunter as well as fly-fisher.

CHOOSE NON-LEAD AMMUNITION

CHOOSE PERFORMANCE: Non-lead ammunition expands rapidly and retains weight for a quick, humane kill.

CHOOSE HIGH-QUALITY MEAT: By using non-lead ammunition, you’re ensuring healthier food for you and your family.

CHOOSE YOUR CONSERVATION LEGACY: Eagles and other scavengers ingest lead when feeding on carcasses and gut piles, causing some to become sick or die.

Choose non-lead to protect wildlife, your family, and hunters’ conservation legacy.

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48420.html

2022–2023 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
Bear Hunting

• Resident and non-resident hunters can receive a bear carcass tag with their hunting license and may take one bear per year.
• In the Southern Zone, hunters may not shoot a cub or a bear that should be known to be a cub, shoot any bear from a group of bears, or shoot or take a bear from its den.
• Hunters may use and carry up to 1.5 fluid ounces of a liquid scent or lure, though such scent or lure may not be placed in a manner that it may be consumed as bait.
• Hunting bear with the aid of bait or dogs is prohibited.

Bear age and weight data
Hunters who harvest bears in New York are asked to submit a premolar tooth or part of the lower jaw of the bear for DEC to determine the bear’s age and to record the dressed weight of the bear (see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45598.html for more information). A collection packet including instructions and a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to each hunter that reports taking a bear. There are many cooperating taxidermists in New York who can extract the requested premolar teeth, weigh bears, and submit the data to DEC on your behalf, so check with your taxidermist. Generally, taxidermists do not use teeth or the lower jaw when preparing mounts or rugs. All successful hunters are still required to report their bear harvest online, via the mobile app, or via the automated phone system.

Attention Bear Hunters and Taxidermists
Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy of bear carcass tag) is attached. New York State law requires taxidermists to keep records of all bear gallbladders and bile received or sold.

Black Bear Seasons — 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northern Zone</th>
<th>Sept. 17 - Dec. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bowhunting</td>
<td>Sept. 17 - Oct. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossbow</td>
<td>Oct. 12 - Oct. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzleloading</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - Oct. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>Oct. 22 - Dec. 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Zone</th>
<th>Sept. 10 - Sept. 25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Bear</td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Nov. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossbow—Not in WMUs 4J or 8C</td>
<td>Nov. 5 - Nov. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>Nov. 19 - Dec. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Bowhunting</td>
<td>Dec. 12 - Dec. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Muzzleloading</td>
<td>Dec. 12 - Dec. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westchester County (35) Regular—Bowhunting Only</td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Dec. 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See map on page 24 for information on legal implements during the early and regular bear seasons.

New York State Bear Management Cooperator Program

The Bureau of Wildlife is requesting the assistance of successful black bear hunters in New York State. Hunters who harvest a bear in New York are required to report their harvest through the DECALS telephone system at 1-866-426-3778 (1-866-GAMERPT), via the mobile app, or use the new online Harvest Reporting System at www.dec.ny.gov. Successful bear hunters will be sent a tooth collection packet with premolar removal and submission instructions. Hunters may be contacted by a DEC wildlife biologist to examine your bear and extract a premolar tooth for aging.

Report your bear and return a bear tooth to receive a commemorative 2022 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2023. Cooperating hunters will receive patches and letters indicating the age of their bear in early fall 2023.

“Living with New York Black Bears”

(Great Outdoors Multimedia 2007).

Take an inside look at the mysterious world of black bears and learn some secrets to sharing the landscape with bears. This video will explore the history of black bears, the challenges that face New York black bear biologists, and how landowners can responsibly and safely share their neighborhood with bears.

Available for viewing or loan from your local library or local DEC Regional Wildlife Office.
Small Game Hunting

Small game includes upland and migratory game birds, small game mammals, certain fur-bearers, and reptiles and amphibians.

Please read general hunting regulations first on page 14.

General Regulations

- You may not use a rifle or handgun to hunt pheasant or migratory game birds. See page 44 for more information on turkeys.
- See pages 47–52 for additional information on migratory game birds.
- Air guns (see page 14) may be used to hunt squirrels, rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, fur-bearers that may be hunted (e.g., raccoons and coyotes) and unprotected species (see page 15). Air guns may not be used to hunt waterfowl, pheasant, wild turkey, or big game.
- Crossbows may not be possessed afield in the Northern Zone when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog. Crossbows may be used to take any other small game or game birds during their respective open seasons except in Westchester and Suffolk counties.
- In Wildlife Management Unit 2A, hunting is permitted by falconry only.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Frogs—“Frogs” are defined as eastern spadefoot toad, eastern American toad, Fowler’s toad, northern cricket frog, northern gray treefrog, northern spring peeper, western chorus frog, bullfrog, green frog, mink frog, wood frog, northern leopard frog, southern leopard frog, and pickerel frog.

A fishing or hunting license is required to take frogs with a spear, club, hook, or by hand.

Snapping Turtles—A hunting license is required to take snapping turtles. The only legal implements for taking snapping turtles are a gun, bow, or crossbow.

Reptiles and Amphibian Hunting Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reptiles and Amphibian</th>
<th>Frogs</th>
<th>Snapping Turtles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Season</td>
<td>June 15–Sept. 30</td>
<td>July 15–Sept. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Area</td>
<td>All wildlife management units except that (1) leopard frogs shall not be taken in Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1C, or 2A; and (2) northern cricket frogs and eastern spadefoot toads shall not be taken in any area of the state.</td>
<td>The upper shell (carapace) must be 12 inches or longer, measured in a straight line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size Limit</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Bag</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season Bag</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting Hours</td>
<td>Any time of the day or night, except that no person shall use a gun to take frogs when hunting at night (sunset to sunrise).</td>
<td>Any time of the day or night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possession and Release of Game Birds

It is illegal to possess or release migratory game birds and upland game birds without the proper license(s) from DEC. Before you take

Spruce Grouse vs. Ruffed Grouse

Male spruce grouse are very distinctive (mostly black with white markings and a red comb over each eye), but female spruce grouse are similar in color to ruffed grouse. By knowing the differences, hunters can avoid accidentally shooting spruce grouse. Loss of a female spruce grouse could be a significant setback for a small local population.

In New York State, the spruce grouse is an endangered species and not legal to hunt. Spruce grouse exist in lowland conifer forests in the Adirondacks. Although ruffed grouse occur in upland hardwoods statewide, during the fall and winter ruffed grouse may be found in spruce grouse habitat. Small game hunters in the Adirondack region must learn to distinguish between these species so that spruce grouse are not shot by mistake.

If you choose to eat snapping turtles, you should carefully trim all fat and discard fat, liver, and eggs prior to cooking to reduce exposure to contaminants. For information on these health advisories, call 1-800-458-1158 or visit the website https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/advice_on_eating_game.htm
Small Game Hunting

Use of Hunting Dogs
Dogs may be used to hunt small game, except:

- You may not use dogs to hunt wild turkey in the spring.
- In the Northern Zone, if you are hunting with a dog, or accompanied by a dog, you may not possess a rifle larger than .22-caliber rimfire or possess a shotgun loaded with slug, ball, or buckshot unless you are coyote hunting with a dog. In the Northern Zone, crossbows may not be possessed afield when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog.

Training
You may train dogs on raccoon, fox, coyote, and bobcat from July 1 through April 15. You may train dogs on other small game only from August 15 through April 15. You may train dogs at any time on lands you own, lease, or have written permission to use, if you are not training on wild game. You may only use blank ammunition when training dogs, except during an open season.

Control
Hunting dogs should remain under control of the hunter or trainer, especially on lands inhabited by deer. Do not allow your dogs to pursue game on any posted land without the landowner’s permission. Do not shoot dogs; report stray dogs to a local Environmental Conservation Officer or your local animal control officer.

Falconry Seasons
To hunt small game species with trained raptors, you must possess a Falconry License and a hunting license. Licensed falconers may take small game from October 1 through March 31 in any area of the state open to hunting these species EXCEPT:

- Common crow may only be taken during the open firearms season.
- A licensed falconer may take both male and female pheasants anywhere in the state when hunting under a Falconry License.

Waterfowl may be taken via falconry during the following seasons:

- Long Island Waterfowl Zone: Nov. 1–Feb. 13
- Lake Champlain Waterfowl Zone: Only during the regular hunting season for each species (see map on page 49).

For more information on falconry, contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752 or call 518-402-8985 or email speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov.
Small Game Hunting

Protect Rabbits & Hares from RHDV2

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2) is highly lethal to rabbits and hares. It is easily transmitted through direct contact between rabbits or contact with contaminated objects. RHDV2 is extremely hardy, remaining contagious on surfaces for 3 months. If it enters NY’s wild rabbit and hare populations, it will be impossible to control and could result in significant population declines. To protect these species:

- Avoid contact with domestic rabbits.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling rabbit and hare carcasses.
- Properly dispose of rabbit carcasses in trash that’s taken to a landfill or by burying deep enough to prevent scavenging.
- Disinfect all hunting gear after out-of-state travel with a 10% bleach solution (1-part household bleach, 9 parts water).
- Avoid travel to states that have confirmed RHDV2 outbreaks, and do not bring rabbit carcasses killed in other states to New York.
- Avoid transporting rabbits or hares to train hunting dogs.
- Although dogs cannot get sick from RHDV2, they can transmit the virus, so minimize contact between dogs and rabbit carcasses.
- Immediately report sick rabbits or unusual rabbit mortalities to DEC’s Wildlife Health Program (518-478-2203; wildlife@dec.ny.gov).

Hunters: You Can Help Combat the Illegal Wildlife Trade

One of the biggest threats to New York’s turtles is illegal collection. What to look for: people with bags poking around wetlands and streams; unmarked traps in wetlands (a trap set for legitimate purposes will be clearly labeled); sheets of metal/plywood laid out on the ground to attract reptiles; cars with collection equipment like nets, containers, pillowcases visible inside; unattended backpacks/bags left in the woods along a trail or road. If you see or hear about suspicious behavior that may be connected to poaching call DEC Law Enforcement - 1-844-DEC-ECOS. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has an anonymous tip line - 1-844-FWS-TIPS. For more visit: https://www.fws.gov/story/how-report-wildlife-crime.

Cottontail Rabbit Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1–Mar. 19</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Varying Hare Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1–Mar. 19</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1–Jan. 31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12–Feb. 28</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Got Hare?
DEC wants to learn more about the distribution of hare. You can report your observations online at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or email us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov! Thanks for your help!

Gray, Black & Fox Squirrel Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td>6 total, regardless of species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where does DEC stock pheasants?
New for 2022, DEC is launching an interactive mapper that shows where pheasants are released throughout New York. Please note that many of these lands are privately owned and pheasant stocking is only permitted with the participation of landowners. Be sure to respect the land and any special rules that may be in place. To view the map, visit: https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9349.html

Grouse Hunters Needed!
DEC is embarking on a study of ruffed grouse age and sex composition. You can help by sending a sample of rump, wing, and tail feathers from all NY harvested ruffed grouse.
To request more information and supplies, please call 518-402-8929 or email wildlife@dec.ny.gov.
General Regulations

- You may buy only one turkey permit per year, which includes three carcass tags, two for spring and one for fall.
- If you have filled your bag limit, you may call turkeys for another hunter, but you may not carry a bow, crossbow, or firearm. You may call turkeys to aid another hunter only if you are licensed to hunt wild turkey in New York and have a valid turkey permit.
- If you have taken a turkey that is unfit for consumption, authorized DEC staff may issue a special permit to take another.
- You will have to surrender the carcass. Call your wildlife or law enforcement office (see page 6).

Manner of Taking

- You must carry your hunting license and turkey permit while you hunt.
- You may hunt with a bow or crossbow; however, crossbows may only be used by hunters 14 or older and may not be used to take wild turkeys in Westchester or Suffolk counties.
- You may hunt with a shotgun or handgun only when using shot no larger than #2 and no smaller than #8 (pending regulations at the time of printing would allow up to a #9, check the DEC website for updates before going afield).
- You may not take a turkey with a rifle or air gun, or with a handgun firing a bullet.
- You may use a muzzleloading shotgun.
- You may not hunt with a dog during the spring season. You may hunt with a dog during the fall season.
- You may not use bait to hunt turkey.
- You may not use an electronic calling or amplifying device to locate or hunt turkeys during the open season.
- You may use decoys. You may not use a live decoy when turkey hunting.
- A scope of any type is allowed.

Tagging, Possession and Reporting

- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, sign the back, and attach it to the carcass.
- The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
- You may give your turkey to another person.
- You must attach a tag with the following information to the turkey carcass:
  - Your name
  - Your address
  - Your hunting license number
  - Turkey permit carcass tag number
  - The recipient’s name
  - The recipient’s address
- You must report your harvest within 7 days via phone (1-866-GAMERPT), online (www.dec.ny.gov) or through our HuntFishNY mobile app (see page 8).

Reward

Protect wild turkeys against illegal hunting. Their future depends on you!

The National Wild Turkey Federation is offering a $200 reward to anyone giving information and testimony leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally hunting or killing a wild turkey in New York State. 1-844-DEC-ECOS
Fall Turkey Season
- You may take a bird of either sex.
- There is one carcass tag for the fall season and it may be used in any fall turkey hunting zone. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.
- If you take a turkey, save one of its legs. You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report your harvest. The legs are used for age and sex information.

Spring Turkey Season
- In the spring, you may take two bearded birds.
- You may only take one bird per day.
- You do not need to save and send in turkey legs in the spring.
- You do need to take careful spur, beard, and weight measurements for harvest reporting.
  1. Spur measurements: Spurs should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it emerges from the scaly part of the leg. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch. Do not measure to the forward edge of the leg, only to the base of the spur.
  2. Beard measurements: Beards should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin. Put the end of your ruler against the base of the beard and extend the beard along the body of the ruler. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch.
  3. Record the weight of the turkey to the nearest pound.

Youth Turkey Season 2023
- Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before Sunrise to Noon
- Statewide Bag Limit: 1 bearded bird
- Season Dates: April 22 and 23, 2023
- Open Areas: Same as Regular Spring Season

If you take a turkey, save one of its legs. You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report your harvest. The legs are used for age and sex information.

Turkey Hunting Tips
Successful turkey hunters sit and call.
Don’t wear red, white, blue, or black.
Most turkey hunting injuries happen when one hunter stalks another hunter.
DON’T TRY TO STALK TURKEY!
Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is a human (calls, footsteps).

If you see another hunter:
- Don’t move, wave, or nod.
- Don’t make turkey or animal sounds.
- Do speak up clearly, saying “STOP.”

If you see a turkey:
Be 100% sure of your target and beyond. To prevent another hunter from mistaking you for a gobbler, avoid using a turkey "reaper fan."

Jacob W. (right) and mentor Rick C. in May 2020.
Spring Youth Hunt
Eligible hunters are 12–15 years of age and hold a Junior Hunting License and a Turkey Permit.

All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, as required by law for a Junior Hunting License (see pages 36 and 37).

The accompanying adult must have a current hunting license and Turkey Permit. He/she may assist the youth hunter (including calling), but may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, or kill or attempt to kill a wild turkey during the youth hunt. Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

The bag limit for the youth hunt is one bearded bird. This bird becomes part of the youth’s regular season bag limit of two bearded birds. A second bird may be taken beginning May 1.

All other wild turkey hunting regulations remain in effect.

Why Do We Have a May 1 Opener?
Research has found that the optimal start date for the spring season is the median date of incubation (when about half of hens are on nests). In New York and much of the Northeast this is around May 1st. A May 1 opener provides the best opportunity to pursue gobblers when they are vocal and responsive to calling while minimizing disruption to reproduction. An earlier season start can disrupt breeding behavior and nesting, negatively affecting long-term turkey abundance and hunt quality.

BE TICK SAFE!
Ticks can spread disease, but not all bites will make you sick. Deer ticks may carry Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disease in New York.

QUESTIONS?
• Contact the NYS Department of Health or your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches, or fatigue after a tick bite.
• See www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/

TICK REMOVAL
• Using tweezers, grab the tick as close to your skin as possible.
• Pull upward with steady, even pressure.
• Clean the bite area with soap and water, rubbing alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide.

Check yourself, your children, and pets for ticks daily.
Waterfowl Hunting
Wild Waterfowl
Seasons and Bag Limits

Consumption of Wild Waterfowl

Migratory Game Birds

What is a “Migratory Game Bird”?

Under state and federal laws and regulations, all of the following are considered migratory game birds in New York:
- All wild ducks, mergansers, geese, and brant (“waterfowl”)
- All coot, rails, and gallinules (moorhens)
- Woodcock and snipe

Crows are not considered migratory game birds under federal regulations, but most of New York’s migratory game bird hunting regulations apply to crows. You should assume they are the same except where differences are noted.

Mourning doves are considered migratory game birds under federal regulations, but they are not defined as such under New York State law so no hunting season has been established for this species.

Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Migratory game bird hunting regulations are set by the federal government in consultation with state agencies.

Consumption of Wild Waterfowl

The New York State Department of Health recommends that you remove the skin and fat of eating game.htm.

Recent data indicate that waterfowl residing in the Hudson River between Hudson Falls and Troy have higher PCB levels than waterfowl from other portions of the Hudson River and are likely to have higher PCB levels than waterfowl from other areas of the state. Because PCBs may have a greater effect on young children or an unborn child, it is particularly important for women under 50 and children under 15 to minimize their PCB exposure. For more information visit: https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/advice_on_eating_game.htm.

Waterfowl Hunting in Populated Areas

Some excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities occur in shoreline areas of New York that are becoming more populated and developed. Waterfowl hunters have special privileges in New York, but please consider the possible concerns that nearby homeowners may have about noise, safety or invasion of privacy before you go afield. Avoiding such conflicts will help ensure that waterfowl hunting remains an accepted tradition in fast-developing shoreline areas. For more information, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/94213.html.

DEC, in cooperation with the South Shore Waterfowlers Association (SSWA), has produced A Pocket Reference for Police Officers and Waterfowl Hunters that summarizes the state laws that pertain to waterfowl hunting in general and includes a “code of ethics” for waterfowl hunters to help ensure that waterfowl hunting remains a viable recreational opportunity in New York. For a copy, call (518) 402-8883 or email wildlife@dec.ny.gov.

Snow Goose Conservation Order

Waterfowl hunters in New York will have a special opportunity to harvest snow geese in most areas of the state from January 16 through April 15, 2023. This additional opportunity is offered because of concerns about impacts that snow geese are having on natural ecosystems. For more information, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/50514.html.

General Regulations

Following is a summary of state and federal rules that apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of all migratory game birds in New York. For more complete information, consult the specific federal (50 CFR Part 20) and state (6 NYCRR Part 2.30) regulations. You can find links to both of these at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28175.html.

Definitions

Migratory game birds are wild ducks, geese, brant, coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock and snipe. Migratory waterfowl are wild ducks, geese, brant, and coot.

License requirements

All migratory game bird hunters must carry a valid New York State hunting license, except for persons not required to have a hunting license. All migratory game bird hunters must register annually with New York’s Harvest Information Program (HIP) and carry proof of compliance whenever going afield. If you are 16 years or older and you hunt waterfowl, then you also need a federal migratory game bird hunting stamp (“duck stamp”).

Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration

All migratory game bird hunters must register annually for HIP through DECALS, DEC’s licensing system. Information from this survey helps the USFWS and State wildlife agencies monitor the harvest of migratory game birds and is needed to establish hunting regulations. HIP registration is valid from August 1 – July 30 annually. There are two options for registering:

- Option 1 – Online HIP Registration:
  - Go to the DEC Hunting License website: https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com/
  - Click on the header at the top of the main page that says “REGISTER FOR HIP”
  - A DECALS login is NOT required, but you will be prompted to provide your DEC ID and Date of Birth
  - Click “Search”
  - The system will then list all previous HIP registrations you have associated with your DEC ID indicating whether they have been submitted or are still pending.
  - If no results return after pressing the “Search” button, it means you currently do not have a current/valid hunting license and are ineligible for HIP registration.
  - Once you find the current HIP year registration survey, you will select the dropdown arrow on the right-hand side, and select “Register for HIP”
  - You will be prompted to answer a series of questions pertaining to your hunting activities last year.
  - After answering all required questions, press “Submit.” The system will then save your data and provide your HIP number. This number completes the registration process and proves your participation in HIP. You are required to carry this number with you in some form while migratory bird hunting.

- Option 2 – HIP Registration via the automated phone system:
  - Call 1-866-933-2257
  - Select the option for “HIP registration”
  - Follow automated instructions.
  - At the end of the call, you will be given your HIP registration number. Migratory game bird hunters are required to carry this number in some form while hunting.

Migratory bird hunting stamp

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his/her person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (“duck stamp”) signed in ink across the face. Stamps do not have to be attached to your license. E-stamps, validated as defined in the Federal Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013, are also permitted. Duck stamps are not required to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock or snipe. Duck stamps are not required of minors 12 to 15 years of age hunting migratory waterfowl in New York State.
Federal duck stamps are sold at most post offices and many sporting goods stores and cost $25.00 each. They may also be ordered by calling 1-800-852-4897. There is a shipping and handling fee for phone or internet orders.

**Hunting hours**

Woodcock may be taken from sunrise to sunset. All other migratory game birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all hunting zones, when all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed. Otherwise shooting hours end at sunset. Snow geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during January 15–April 15 whenever all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed.

**Non-toxic shot requirement**

Non-toxic shot is required for hunting any migratory game bird, except woodcock, everywhere in New York State. Possession or use of shells loaded with shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-nickel or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is strictly prohibited when hunting waterfowl, snipe, rails or gallinules.

**Duck hunting blinds**

NYS Navigation Law Section 33-b requires that duck blinds placed in the waters of lakes within New York State be prominently marked with the owner’s full name and address. All duck blinds placed in lakes must be removed no later than March 15 annually.

**Prohibitions on methods of take**

No person shall take migratory game birds:
- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance
- 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. This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese in September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the 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 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation. Migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, or grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown or grains are found scattered solely as a result of the normal agricultural planting or harvesting.

**Military and Veteran Hunting Days**

Military veterans or active duty hunters possessing the necessary licenses, HIP registration, and duck stamp, may hunt migratory game birds during two (2) special days in each zone. The daily bag limit is the same as those allowed during the regular hunting season.

In addition to the previously mentioned license requirements for adults hunting migratory game birds, participants must carry one of the following forms of identification afield:
- Active military identification card
- Actively participating Guard or Reservist identification card
- Retired military identification card
- New York State drivers license with Veteran Status
- Form DD214, Certificate of Discharge
- Form DD215, Corrected Certificate of Discharge

**Wanton waste/possession of live birds**

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in his/her actual custody. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be killed immediately and included in the daily bag limit.

**Field possession limit**

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than personal abode) or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, storage (including temporary storage) or taxidermy services, unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:
- Hunter’s name, address and signature
- Total number of birds involved, by species
- Dates such birds were killed

For more information on regulations pertaining to possession, tagging, shipment and importation of legally killed migratory game birds, consult the specific federal and state regulations cited above.

**Caution/dual violation**

More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas (WMAs) open to public hunting. Violation of New York State migratory bird hunting regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.
2022–2023 Waterfowl Seasons

**Attention Boaters!**

Before you launch your boat or leave a site, you are required to clean all visible plant and animal material from your boat, trailer, and associated equipment. Drain your boat’s bilge, livewell, baitwell, and other water-holding compartments. For more information on invasive species visit: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50121.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50121.html).

**Brianna’s Law – New Boating Safety Law!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you were born on or after:</th>
<th>You will need a boating safety certificate when operating a motorized vessel in:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1993</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1988</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1983</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1978</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025. For more information and to find courses: [https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/](https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/)

**Military and Veteran Waterfowl Hunting Days**

Northeast Zone — September 17-18
Southeast Zone — October 8-9
Western Zone — November 11-12
Long Island Zone — November 12-13

Daily bag limit is the same as the regular season. There are no military/veteran hunting days in the Lake Champlain Zone.

**Bag Limits**

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take or possess in the field during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ducks**</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coot</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Geese***</td>
<td>See map</td>
<td>Three times the daily limit — see map page 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Geese***</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks) and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 2 mallards (of which may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 scap (2 scaup are allowed during the 20 days specified above for each zone), 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, or 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider). For all other duck species found in New York, the daily limit is no more than 6.

b Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross’ geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

**Youth hunters, 12 to 15 years of age, possessing a junior hunting license and HIP registration, may hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, brant, gallinules, and coot on two (2) special days in each zone. Daily bag limits for all species are the same as those allowed during the regular hunting season for all species. Youth hunters must be supervised by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, and the mentor may not carry a firearm. This prohibition does not apply to other hunters in the party that are not mentoring the youth.

** Crippled sea ducks may be taken under power in the Special Sea Duck area, only. The Special Sea Duck Area is defined as the coastal waters of New York State and all waters of streams and rivers seaward from the first upstream bridge.

*** Snow goose seasons include both the regular hunting season and the Conservation Order that runs from January 16 - April 15 in all zones (except Long Island).
### Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

#### 2022–2023 Canada Goose Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulations</th>
<th>Woodcock</th>
<th>Crow</th>
<th>Snipe</th>
<th>Virginia &amp; Sora Rails</th>
<th>Gallinules</th>
<th>Clapper &amp; King Rails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate New York</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bag Limit**

- **3/day**
- **9 in possession**
- **8/day**
- **24 in possession**

**Shooting Hours**

- **Sunrise to Sunset**
- **1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset**
- **1/2-Hr Before Sunset**

**Non-Toxic Shot**

- **NOT Required**
- **Required**

**HIP Registration**

- **Required**
- **NOT Required**
- **Required**

**Other**

- **Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required**
- **Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required; Rifles and electronically amplified bird calls or sounds permitted**
- **Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required**
- **Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required**

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**1** Upstate New York includes all of New York State north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary
**2** Long Island includes all of WMUs 1A and 1C (Nassau and Suffolk counties)
**3** Hunting season closed in New York City for all species listed in table; New York City includes all of WMU 2A (Bronx, Kings, Queens, New York, and Richmond counties)

### 2022–2023 Canada Goose Seasons

**Northeast**

- **Season Dates**
  - Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
  - Oct. 22 - Oct. 23
  - Oct. 29 - Nov. 25
- **Daily Limit**
  - 15
  - 1

**Lake Champlain**

- **Season Dates**
  - Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
  - Oct. 15 - Nov. 13
  - Dec. 1 - Jan. 21
- **Daily Limit**
  - 8
  - 1

**West Central**

- **Season Dates**
  - Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
  - Oct. 22 - Nov. 6
  - Dec. 19 - Jan. 1
- **Daily Limit**
  - 15
  - 1
  - 1

**East Central**

- **Season Dates**
  - Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
  - Oct. 22 - Nov. 20
- **Daily Limit**
  - 15
  - 1

**Hudson Valley**

- **Season Dates**
  - Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
  - Nov. 5 - Nov. 18
  - Dec. 3 - Dec. 18
- **Daily Limit**
  - 15
  - 1
  - 1

**South**

- **Season Dates**
  - Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
  - Oct. 22 - Nov. 17
  - Nov. 26 - Jan. 15
- **Daily Limit**
  - 15
  - 1
  - 1

**Long Island Regions**

- **Western**
  - **Season Dates**
    - Oct. 8 - Oct. 23
    - Nov. 19 - Nov. 27
    - Dec. 7 - Feb. 22
  - **Daily Limit**
    - 8
    - 8
    - 8

- **Central**
  - **Season Dates**
    - Sept. 6 - Sept. 30
    - Nov. 19 - Nov. 27
    - Dec. 10 - Feb. 8
  - **Daily Limit**
    - 15
    - 3
    - 3

- **Eastern**
  - **Season Dates**
    - Sept. 6 - Sept. 30
    - Nov. 19 - Nov. 27
    - Dec. 10 - Jan. 29
  - **Daily Limit**
    - 15
    - 2
    - 2

For written descriptions of Goose Hunting Areas and Waterfowl Hunting Zones, see pages 55-56.
New York State Goose Hunting Areas

See road boundaries at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28496.html

1. The Lake Champlain Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).
2. The Northeast Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).
3. The West Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 7A, 7H, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8H, 8J, 8R and 8S. The West Central Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 6K lying west of a continuous line extending along the north shore of the Salmon River from US Route 11 to Interstate Route 81, then south along Route 81 to Route 49; those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying west of Route 81; and that part of WMU 8G lying north and east of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murray’s Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along Route 98 to Route 20.
4. The East Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 4A, 4F, 6P, 6R, 6S, 7M and 7P. The East Central Goose Hunting Area also includes those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying south of Route 31 and east of Route 81.
5. The Hudson Valley Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3F, 3J, 3M, 4B, 4C, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4Y, 4Z, 5R; that part of WMU 5S lying south of a continuous line extending east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Washington County Route 153, then east along Route 153 to the New York–Vermont boundary; and that part of WMU 3G lying in Dutchess County.
6. The South Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3A, 3C, 3H, 3K, 3N, 3P, 3R, 4G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, 7R, 7S, 8M, 8N, 8P, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9A, 9C, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X and 9Y. The South Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 8G lying south and west of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murray’s Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to State Route 20; that part of WMU 3G lying in Putnam County; and that part of WMU 3S lying north of Route I-95.
7. The Western Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk counties lying west of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Sound Road (just east of Wading River Marsh); then south on Sound Road to North Country Road; then west on North Country Road to Randall Road; then south on Randall Road to Route 25A, then west on Route 25A to Sunken Meadow Parkway; then south on Sunken Meadow Parkway to the Saugatuck State Parkway; then south on the Saugatuck Parkway to the Robert Moses State Parkway; then south on the Robert Moses Parkway to its southernmost end; then due south to international waters.
8. The Central Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting areas, as defined above and below.
9. The Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoake Avenue in the Town of Riverhead, south on Roanoake Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25, west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue, south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue), south on CR 104 to CR 31 (Old Riverhead Road), south on CR 31 to Oak Street, south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane, then west on Stevens Lane, then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89), then due south to international waters.
Waterfowl Hunting Zones

Western Zone – That area west of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81 and then south along Interstate Route 81 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary.

Northeastern Zone – That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Lake Champlain Zone – That area east and north of a continuous line extending along Route 11 from the New York-Canada boundary south to Route 9B, south along Route 9B to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Route 22 south of Keesville, south along Route 22 to the west shore of South Bay along and around the shoreline of South Bay to Route 22 on the east shore of South Bay, southeast along Route 22 to Route 4, northeast along Route 4 to the New York-Vermont boundary.

Southeastern Zone – That area east of Interstate Route 81 that is south of a continuous line extending from Interstate Route 81 east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, and northwest of Interstate Route 95 in Westchester County.

Long Island Zone – That area consisting of Nassau and Suffolk counties and their tidal waters, and that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95. (See map page 49).

Special Sea Duck Area – All coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams in New York State seaward from the first upstream bridge.

Banding Together to Explain Declines in Eastern Mallards

Over the past 20 years, mallard populations in New York and the Northeast United States have declined significantly, leading to reduced bag limits starting in 2018.

To understand what factors may be contributing to the decline, DEC, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Ducks Unlimited, SUNY Brockport, and the University of Saskatchewan partnered with 22 state, federal, and non-governmental organizations to start one of the largest telemetry projects ever conducted in North America.

Over the next 4 years, states and provinces in the Atlantic Flyway will be putting over 1,100 GPS transmitters on female mallards to learn more about habitat use and migration timing and how these factors affect breeding success and survival. In the first year, DEC and partners deployed over 300 transmitters. Each transmitter can send tens of thousands of locations for up to 2 or 3 years. This project will give biologists and researchers a glimpse of what drives mallard populations and will help better inform mallard management in the Atlantic Flyway for years to come.

You can follow along by visiting the project website: https://atlantic-flyway-waterfowl-gps.weebly.com/ It includes an interactive map that is updated periodically so you can follow these birds through migration in near real-time!
Furbearer Hunting

Trappers and hunters who assist with furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch! You can receive a patch if you turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, marten, bobcat, otter, or weasel; report a violation that results in a conviction; provide data or assist with a research project; or promote furbearer hunting or trapping. Carcasses are used for biological data, training, education, and outreach. Contact your regional wildlife office for more information.

General Regulations
To hunt furbearers, you must possess a resident or non-resident hunting license. A trapping license does not allow you to hunt furbearers. Furbearers may be hunted with a bow, crossbow or firearm as described below:

- You may use a call, including an electronic call.
- Mink may only be hunted in the Southern Zone with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber during their open trapping season. Mink may not be hunted with a firearm in the Northern Zone.
- Muskrat may only be hunted on Lake Champlain during the open trapping season with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber.
- You may not hunt from any motor vehicle, including an ATV or snowmobile.
- Except as noted above, you may hunt furbearers using any handgun, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, bow, crossbow, or air gun.
- Spottlights, night vision, thermal and laser devices are permitted for furbearer hunting. They may be attached to the firearm.
- You may only possess a field dressed or unskinned animal sealed.
- If you take a bobcat, it must be tagged and sealed.

### Possession and Use of Rifles for Hunting Furbearers

1. Is any deer season open in the location you wish to hunt (including archery, muzzleloading, regular, late and Focus Area)? (pg. 25)
   - If NO, you may only possess a field dressed or unskinned animal sealed.
   - If YES, can deer be hunted with rifles in that location during the regular season? (pg. 24)
     - If NO, you may only possess a field dressed or unskinned animal sealed.
     - If YES, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers during any open deer season.

### Hunting Furbearers at Night

- Spotlights, night vision, thermal and laser devices are permitted for furbearer hunting. They may be attached to the firearm. All laws pertaining to the use of a spotlight apply.
- Hunters should consult with local government officials for any laws that may prohibit the discharge of firearms at night.

### Bobcat Hunting

**Hunting Hours:** After sunrise on opening day, and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.

**Season Dates 2022/2023**
- Oct. 25–Feb. 15
- Oct. 25-Nov. 18: There are no bag limits.
- Closed

- If you take a bobcat, you must:
  1. Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag AND
  2. Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

### Weasel, Opossum, Skunk, Raccoon and Fox Hunting

**Long Island:** Nov. 1–Feb. 25  
**All other areas of New York:**  
Oct. 25–Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.

### Coyote Hunting

**Statewide except Long Island and New York City:** Oct. 1–Mar. 26

There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.
Definition of Trapping
To trap means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. You do not need a hunting license to shoot a trapped animal.

Other Definitions
- **Public Highway:** The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
- **Carcass:** The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
- **Suspension:** This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
- **Restraining trap:** A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps (“foothold traps”), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
- **Foot encapsulating trap:** A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.
- **Cage or box trap:** A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.

Legal Traps
- You must put your name and address or your DEC customer identification number (see your hunting or trapping license) on all your traps.
- Foothold traps larger than 4” set on land must have a pan tension device and be covered when set.
- Teeth are not allowed on foothold traps.
- On land, foothold traps must be 5¾” or smaller (inside jaw spread). For information on how to correctly measure traps, see page 57.
- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼” are allowed if set under water.

Trapping Methods
**Checking traps**
- In the Southern Zone: You must check traps once in each 24-hour period.
- In the Northern Zone, follow these rules:
  - WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J and 6N: Visit once in each 48-hour period
  - WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H and 6K:
    - Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat: Visit once in each 48-hour period
    - Body-gripping traps set on land: Visit once in each 48-hour period
    - Restraining traps: Visit once in each 24-hour period

**Use of carcasses as bait**
Any carcass, as defined above, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include but not be limited to brush, branches, leaves, soil, snow, water, or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials, and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

**Reminders on Pelt Sealing**
All bobcat, fisher, otter, and marten need to be sealed within 10 days after the close of the season in the WMU where the fur was taken. Some things to keep in mind to make the pelt sealing process go smoothly:

- Contact your local wildlife office to make pelt sealing arrangements prior to showing up.
- When freezing an unsealed pelt, make sure that the face is on the outside and easily accessible.
- If having an unsealed animal mounted, thaw the carcass enough so that a seal can be inserted through the eye or foot. Inserting a stick or similar object through a pre-made hole makes the sealing process much easier. If this is not done, it may be impossible to seal the animal at that time.

**Land trapping**
- You may not set a trap in such a manner that it causes a captured animal to be fully suspended in the air.
- In the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and/or marten seasons are closed.

**Water trapping**
- You may set a trap in a permanent body of water only when the mink, muskrat, otter, or beaver season is open.
- You may not disturb a muskrat house or den.
- You may not set a trap on or within 5 feet of a muskrat house.
Furbearer Trapping

Land or water trapping
- You may use any legal method to kill a trapped animal. You do not need a hunting license to use a firearm to kill a legally trapped animal.
- You may not set or stake a trap prior to 7:00 AM on opening day.
- You are not allowed to set a trap within 100 feet of a house, school, playground or church unless you have permission from the owner of the land where the trap is set.
- You may not set a trap on a public road. You are allowed to set a trap in a culvert or ditch unless the property is posted or the landowner does not allow trapping.

Trapping near beaver dams and lodges
- You may not disturb a beaver lodge or beaver dam.
- You may not set a trap on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den or house, measured at ice or water level, except under the following conditions:
  » during an open otter season, traps of any legal size may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, but not on or within 15 feet of a beaver den or house;
  » during an open or closed otter season, any of the following traps may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den, or house:
    - body-gripping trap that measures less than 5.5 inches;
    - foot-encapsulating trap
    - foothold trap that measures 4¾ inches or less;
    - cage or box trap.

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

Pelt Sealing
Otter, bobcat, fisher and marten must have a plastic seal attached to the pelt or unskinned animal before:
- It is sold or ownership is transferred to another person, or
- It is mounted or tanned, or
- It leaves New York State, or
- Ten days have passed since the close of the season where the fur was taken

The plastic pelt seals can be removed when the pelt is processed for taxidermy, tanning or manufacturing.

How to get your pelt sealed: a two-step process
- **Step 1:** Fill out your furbearer possession tag.
  » A possession tag must be filled out for each animal you take.
  » Possession tags must be filled out immediately after you reach your motor vehicle, camp or home, whichever comes first.
  » Possession tags must stay with the animal or pelt at all times, but they do not need to be attached to the pelt.
- **Step 2:** Get your pelt sealed (see below).
  » A completed furbearer possession tag must be submitted to obtain a plastic pelt seal.
  » You can give your pelts to another person (other than a taxidermist) so he or she can get the pelts sealed or get them skinned. You must give that person your trapping license or a copy of your license and your completed possession tags while he or she has your pelts.
  » Only authorized DEC representatives can attach the plastic pelt seals to otter, bobcat, fisher, or marten sealed.
  » Call a Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) to make arrangements to get your otter, bobcat, fisher, or marten sealed. Seals for these species cannot be sent through the mail.
  » Special arrangements for no-contact sealing of pelts related to COVID-19 concerns can be made by contacting a regional wildlife office.
  » If the plastic pelt seal is broken or damaged, contact your Regional Wildlife Office for a replacement seal.

Furbearer possession tags can be obtained from your Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) or at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html).

Buying and Selling Fur
- Species requiring a pelt seal cannot be bought or sold or given to another person unless they have the plastic pelt seal attached to the animal. All other species may be bought, sold, and transported without restriction.
- Furbearers may be bought or sold either skinned or unskinned.
- People who buy fur do not need a fur buyer’s license in New York.

Rights of Trappers
- No one may disturb a trap lawfully set by another person.
- No one may remove a lawfully trapped animal from another person’s trap.
- No one may harass a trapper while he or she is trapping.

License Responsibilities
- A license is not transferable and can be used only by the person to whom it was issued.
- A license to trap does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.

Trapping License Exceptions
All residents must have a valid trapping license in their possession except:
- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees, and members of their immediate families do not need a trapping license when trapping on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating, for bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, raccoon, opossum, weasel, skunk and unprotected wildlife that may be lawfully taken by trapping. (Note: beaver, otter, fisher and marten are not included.)
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a trapping license while trapping on reservation lands.

Incidental and Accidental Captures of Trapped Animals

There are no provisions in the Environmental Conservation Law allowing trappers to possess animals that are taken outside of the open trapping season.

You must attempt to release any animals that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or if the area is not open for trapping that species.

If the animal is injured to the extent you believe it will not survive, humanely dispatch it. If you are not sure, contact a DEC Regional Wildlife Office or ECO for assistance.

When you find an unintentionally captured animal dead in the trap, or when you must dispatch an unintentionally captured animal due to a serious injury, you may remove it and lay it in the vicinity of the trap. There are no legal provisions for you to keep it, and you may not possess it even to take it back to your vehicle without permission from DEC.

DEC seeks information on all accidentally taken bobcat, otter, fisher, and marten, as well as other species of unusual nature. If the animal is dead, a DEC biologist will want to collect the carcass. Using the location and carcass data, biologists will be able to track the status of these species and study the age and reproductive data from the individual. The pelts from these carcasses will also be utilized in our trapper education classes.

Remember, you must contact the Regional Wildlife Office or an ECO as soon as possible to report the catch. You will receive instructions on what to do and information to provide.

Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers

If the trapping or hunting season is open for the species in a WMU, you may keep a dead furbearer found on roads within that WMU. The requirements for possessing road-killed furbearers are the same as for trapping and hunting. For example, if you find a road-killed bobcat in an area with an open bobcat season, you can possess it if you have a hunting or trapping license, but you must fill out a furbearer possession tag and have the pelt sealed.
How to Measure a Trap

How to measure a body-gripping trap:
Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame does not change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the maximum distance as shown in the top picture.

How to measure a foothold trap:
Measure the inside distance between the jaws excluding the gripping surface as shown. If the jaws have inside laminations, the measurement is the inside distance between the laminations. If the trap has double jaws, measure the inside distance between the outer jaws.

Trigger Regulations for Beaver Trappers
This regulation applies if you:
• Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season; and
• Use a body-gripping trap larger than 8½ inches (these are “330” size traps)

1. Body-gripping trap with off-set parallel trigger:
2. Example of non-legal vs. legal trigger brackets:
   Non-legal: V-notch, four-way trigger
   Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger

3. Examples of acceptable parallel triggers:

   The trigger must be 6½” or less.
   Recommended tension: 8 to 12 oz.
   Trigger wires must be joined together.

NOTE:
1. You can bait these traps in any manner. However, the trap must have all of the features noted above.
2. There is no exception for traps set under ice; traps set under ice, whether baited or not, must have all of the design features noted above.
3. There is no tension requirement. However, DEC research showed that 8 to 12 oz. of tension works best for protecting otter and catching beaver.
A body-gripping trap measuring less than 5½ inches may be set in any manner with or without the use of bait. Body-gripping traps measuring 5½ inches to 6 inches, set without the use of bait, must be set so that no part of the trap is 8 inches or more above the ground. Body-gripping traps measuring more than 6 inches to 7 1/2 inches may never be set in this manner.  

**NOTE:** During a closed season for fisher and/or marten in the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Body-gripping traps 5½ inches to 7½ inches set with the use of bait, lure, or other attractants may only be used as follows:

- Four or more feet off the ground

**OR**

- In a container of the following design:
  - Trap recessed minimum of 18 inches
  - Opening height and width 10 inches or less

**OR**

- In a container of the following design:
  - Only one entrance, facing the ground
  - Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground
  - Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

**OR**

- In a container of the following design:
  - Opening height 6 inches or less
  - Eight-inch minimum spring notches
  - Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks)

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Trap recessed minimum of 8 inches
Fisher & Marten Trapping

To trap marten, you also need a free permit from a Regional Wildlife Office. A special permit is no longer needed to trap fisher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2022</th>
<th>Species &amp; Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1 - Nov. 30</td>
<td>Fisher and Marten. Season limit of 6 marten. There are no bag limits for fisher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25 - Oct. 30</td>
<td>Fisher only. There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25 - Dec. 10</td>
<td>Fisher only. There are no bag limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Fisher and Marten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you take a fisher or marten you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Mink & Muskrat Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2022/2023</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1 - Apr. 15</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10 - Feb. 15</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10 - Apr. 7</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 15 - Feb. 25</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no bag limits.

Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2022/2023</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25 - Feb. 15</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25 - Nov. 18</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you take a bobcat you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Beaver Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2022/2023</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1 - Apr. 7</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10 - Apr. 7</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you take an otter you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

River Otter Trapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Dates 2022/2023</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1 - Apr. 7</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10 - Feb. 28</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>There are no bag limits for these species.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* In the Northern Zone (see page 24) body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.
I had just started a new job as a Wildlife Technician with DEC when my boss asked if I would like to attend a Trapper Education Course that he was conducting. I would be working on furbearer research and interacting with trappers in my new position, so the training was definitely relevant. I let him know that I’d be there, with little idea of the impact the course would have on my future!

After the one-day training, I dove into trapping head first. An entirely new wing of outdoor adventure had been revealed to me, with much to learn. Early on, I became fixated on catching a bobcat. I spent a portion of each fall dedicated to this goal, setting out early in the season for locations that I had scouted over the summer, toting various optical and olfactory curiosities. I made elaborate sets amongst the hills and swamps where I was certain a surly tom bobcat would lurk. In the years that followed, I successfully harvested every furbearer in my area...except for a bobcat. Though achieving my goal has proven to be a bit more difficult than I first imagined, I haven’t given up. There is plenty of enjoyment in the pursuit, whether I succeed or not! Each bobcat set that I have made remains vividly recorded in my memory, along with a host of other experiences that I have had along the traline.

If you have ever considered trapping or fur handling, I strongly encourage you to sign up for a Trapper Education Course. If you “catch the bug” like I did, you’ll come to know and respect the coyote, fisher, mink, and other furbearers in your area. You’ll find yourself learning new skills, meeting new people, and exploring new corners of the forests, fields, and wetlands. Most importantly, you’ll end up with a rewarding new hobby, another unique avenue to connect with nature, and a new way to create lasting memories in the outdoors. Maybe you’ll even catch a bobcat!

Permit Requirements for Marten
A free special permit is still required to trap marten in New York. To receive a permit, contact the DEC Region 5 Wildlife Office in Warrensburg at 518-623-1240. You must provide the following information:

- Name
- Mailing address
- DEC ID # (from your trapping license or backtag)
- Phone number and/or e-mail address.

You can also apply by email to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov, type “Marten Permit” in the subject line. Please be sure to include the information listed above.

Adopt Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Learn practical traps and techniques that improve efficiency, selectivity, & the welfare of trapped animals
- Find out about specifications for traps that meet BMP criteria for each species
- Instill public confidence in and maintain public support for trapping

Visit www.dec.ny.gov and search “Trapping BMPs”
Furbearer Trapping

Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

DEC wants to learn more about the occurrence of various furbearers throughout New York such as bobcat, otter, fisher, weasel, and snowshoe hare. Your observations help biologists understand the distribution and abundance of these elusive or inconspicuous mammals.

You can report your observations online, and you can even include photos!

Go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or email us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov!

Thanks for your help!

2022–2023 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
Q: Can I use a carcass tag from a friend or family to put on a deer, bear or turkey that I shot? A: No - it is unlawful to possess or use tags of another person, except for consigned Deer Management Permits (DMPs) or landowner DMAPs. DMP instructions can be found in this guide.

Q: I’m using an “app” that shows land owned by NY State – can I hunt on that land? A: State lands are owned by DEC, DOT, SUNY, NYS Parks, Thruway, and others. It’s your responsibility to check the rules for each property, as even some DEC lands are off-limits to hunting.

Q: What documentation must I carry when hunting? A: You must carry your hunting license, plus carcass tags (deer, bear, turkey), any special permits (e.g., Turkey permit), and a “duck” stamp with HIP® (if hunting migratory game birds), plus a back tag (where required). “Hunting license” means the printed license listing privileges or a lifetime license card or NY driver’s license with an “Adventurer” hunting icon. You may also use your “FishNY” app for proof of a hunting license, provided you still have your back tag (where required) and carcass tag(s), or the quarry you’re hunting doesn’t require a carcass tag. Special hunts or hunt areas may require additional paperwork.

Q: Why can NY stores sell deer bait and salt blocks when it is illegal to use them for hunting in NY? A: The law and regulation do not prohibit sale, but they prohibit the use of bait to aid in hunting and feeding deer (and bear) at all times. If the material is placed where the animal may ingest it, it is likely to be considered baiting or feeding.

Q: Are deer urine scents legal in NY? A: Yes, but DEC strongly urges hunters not to use natural deer urine products to protect NY deer from Chronic Wasting Disease. Hunters who want to use deer attractant scents should only use synthetic products.

Q: Why aren’t food plots considered feeding or baiting? A: DEC regulations exempt wildlife food plots from feeding and baiting prohibitions as “areas established by standard agricultural production practices.” Wildlife food plots do not concentrate deer in the same way as supplemental feed sites and do not entail the same risk of disease spread, behavioral changes, or localized ecological damage.

Q: Can I hunt small game with a rifle in counties where deer hunting with a rifle is prohibited? A: Yes, but if any deer season is open, you cannot use a rifle larger than .22 caliber. You may not possess rifles afield on Long Island or in Westchester County.

Q: If the trapping season is open, can I hunt for that species? A: It depends on the season and species. Some furbearers may only be trapped, while some may also be hunted, but with different seasons. Coyote is a good example of a species that can be hunted and trapped, but season dates for hunting and trapping this species are different, so be sure to check the guide before going afield.

Q: Are there exceptions to the 500’ rule for discharge of a firearm? A: You may discharge a firearm within 500’ of an occupied dwelling or structure only under the following situations: 1) you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner’s consent; 2) if you are hunting waterfowl over open water, there are no dwellings, public structures, or people within 500’ of the direction you are shooting.

Q: After reporting my deer, transporting and cutting it up, what do I do with the carcass tag? A: The tag stays with the carcass and is not needed after the deer is prepared for consumption. DEC strongly encourages all hunters to dispose of your carcass waste in a landfill as a “best practice” for minimizing disease risks.

Q: What basic steps should I follow when an ECO approaches me while I am afield hunting? A: Most importantly, keep firearms pointed in a safe direction with the safety “ON.” Do not try to unload them, which can lead to accidents.

Q: I own a camp and property in New York. Can I purchase a resident hunting license? A: Residency is a fixed, permanent and principal place of abode to which a person always intends to return. Simply owning land or paying taxes does not make one eligible for resident license fees. More information on residency is found in the front of this guide.

Q: Can our hunting party “share” Deer Management Permits (DMPs) or a deer drive? A: Only the person possessing the DMP may take an antlerless deer. DMPs may be consigned from one hunter to another, but this needs to happen before the deer is harvested. See the DMP consignment rules for more info.

Q: Can I target shoot on DEC lands? A: Yes, on some DEC lands. Many DEC state lands, including State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) have specific rules prohibiting target shooting in some or all areas — call ahead. If a portion of a DEC property is posted as being open to target shooting, you may not damage live trees and must remove all litter.

Q: Can junior hunters (12-15 year-olds) hunt deer with a firearm? A: 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a firearm only in counties that have opted into this opportunity. 14- and 15-year-olds can hunt deer with a firearm in any county open to deer hunting with a firearm. All junior hunters must be supervised by a licensed adult hunter. NYS law requires that the junior hunter and their mentor wear blaze orange/pink and remain on the ground.

Q: Can I carry a handgun while bowhunting deer/bear during the special bowhunting seasons? A: No, you may not possess a firearm of any type while bowhunting during those seasons. Possession of a handgun in NY requires a NY Pistol Permit. In some circumstances, NY does not recognize any permits from other states.

Q: May I transport an entire deer carcass into NY from another state? A: No. Chronic Wasting Disease regulations ban importation of whole carcasses from anywhere outside of New York State. See the CWD pages of this guidebook.

Q: Where can I target shoot on DEC lands? A: Target shooting on DEC lands is restricted. Many DEC state lands are closed to target shooting in some or all areas — call ahead.

Q: Are there exceptions to the 500’ rule for discharge of a firearm? A: You may discharge a firearm within 500’ of an occupied dwelling or structure only under the following situations: 1) you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner’s consent; 2) if you are hunting waterfowl over open water, there are no dwellings, public structures, or people within 500’ of the direction you are shooting.

Q: When do waterfowl hunting seasons begin? A: The opening date for waterfowl hunting seasons is posted annually in the “A" Guides and in the “SAFE Act Resources for Hunters” website (https://safeact.ny.gov/resources-hunters) for a description of these features. Also, notes, rifle may not be used for hunting wild turkeys, pheasants, or migratory game birds (except crows).
ECO Spencer Noyes with an illegal 10 Point buck seized in Oneida County.

ECO Bohling with a youth hunter in Schoharie County.

ECO Jeff Johnston at a Boy Scout presentation in Monroe County.

ECO Schuck on patrol in Orange County.

ECO’s Gerrain and Brassard with two seized deer in Warren County.

Region 8 ECOs after the Annual Finger Lakes Youth Hunt in Seneca County.
Environmental Conservation Officers

Report All Poachers and Polluters

1-844-DEC-ECONS (844-332-3267)

Approximately 250 field ECOs patrol the entire state. Their job includes enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and state environmental quality laws. ECOs rely on the eyes and ears of our dedicated members of the sporting community to report suspected violations. Poachers and other violators are stealing from you, your children, and our environment.

As soon as possible, call the hotline to report suspected violations. Dispatchers will assist you in filing a complaint. You may ask to have your name kept confidential or file anonymously. File complaints online at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.html

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The sooner you call and the more detailed information you provide, the more likely the officer will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, when, where and how” of the event.

Keep your distance. Do not approach or confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.

Who did it? Provide names, age, sex, height, weight, clothing or vehicle descriptions, etc.

What occurred? What exactly is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking deer using bait, over limit, shooting from roadway, trespass, using tags of another, after hours, non-resident buying a resident license.

When did it occur? Dates and times. Is it still in progress, ongoing or yet to happen?

Where did it occur? Provide exact street addresses, town/city. GPS locations or other ways the officer can locate the scene, suspects and evidence.

How did it occur? What methods or circumstances were used in the violation?

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

New York State is a member of IWVC, which is an agreement between 47 states to share information regarding hunting, fishing and trapping convictions. The IWVC gives members the capability to honor each other’s license revocations so a violator convicted in one state may be barred from hunting, fishing or trapping in all member states, at the discretion of each state.

Call NYSDEC Law Enforcement at (518) 402-8816 or visit http://wildlifecrimestoppers.org/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albany</th>
<th>Essex</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Jason DeAngelis (518) 357-2047</td>
<td>Lt. Stephen Gonyeau (518) 897-1200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bevis, Kyle (518) 626-1541</td>
<td>Buffa, Bradley (518) 354-0539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hameline, Micheal (518) 339-7403</td>
<td>Dewey, Sean (518) 653-3077</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swan, Kurt (518) 869-5237</td>
<td>Hovey, Jeffrey (518) 354-9014</td>
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<td>Allegany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. Liza Bobseine (716) 851-7050</td>
<td>Lt. Geoffrey Younglove (518) 897-1200</td>
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<td>Calammi, Jr., Russell (585) 403-2437</td>
<td>Favreau, Nathan (518) 354-9833</td>
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<td>Oliver, Dustin (607) 590-1335</td>
<td>Okonuk, Jennifer (518) 319-0064</td>
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<td>Lt. Michael Unger (718) 482-4885</td>
<td>Riggs, Kevin (518) 335-3558</td>
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<td>McCormick, Andrew (607) 621-3464</td>
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<td>Lt. Anthony Glorioso (518) 357-2047</td>
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<td>Mead, Nathaniel (716) 548-1482</td>
<td>Fuerch, Fay (585) 245-4975</td>
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<td>Nosal, Robert J (607) 532-0461</td>
<td>Laczi, Evan (585) 208-3571</td>
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<td>Powers, Jason (716) 771-8266</td>
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<td>Lt. Mark Colesante (315) 426-7431</td>
<td>Lt. Anthony Glorioso (518) 357-2047</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prentice, Zachary (315) 404-6185</td>
<td>Palmateer, Lucas (518) 478-1698</td>
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<td>Sinciauagh, Scott (315) 253-8534</td>
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<td>Freeman, Christopher (716) 490-3947</td>
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<td>Kinney, Jerry (716) 401-1877</td>
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<td>Lt. Matt Lochner (585) 226-6706</td>
<td>Lt. John Murphy (315) 785-2231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dalecki, Erik (607) 592-2783</td>
<td>Gates, John (315) 816-1449</td>
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<td>Lifieri, John (607) 644-3815</td>
<td>Noyes, Spencer (518) 240-8862</td>
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<td>Armstrong, Brett (607) 895-6515</td>
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<td>Powers, Jamie (716) 604-5353</td>
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2022–2023 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
# Environmental Conservation Officers

## ECO Dispatch — 1-844-332-3267 for General Questions

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## Suffolk-West

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## Ulster-Eastern

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Regional Maps

DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html
Regional Maps

Did you know, in 2021 DEC Forest Rangers:

- Inspected 13,827 occupied campsites.
- Patrolled 23,800 miles of trails by foot.
- Patrolled 14,183 miles on snowmobile.
- Conducted 13,691 snowmobile safety law safety checks.
- Conducted 426 search and rescue missions.

https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/41086.html
1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264)

MOVING FIREWOOD
TRANSPORTS TREE KILLING
INSECTS AND DISEASES

Buy Local, Burn Local
• It is illegal to bring untreated* firewood into New York State
• It is illegal to transport untreated firewood more than 50 miles from its source or origin
• When transporting firewood, you must carry proof of source (receipt from a vendor), origin (self-issued certificate from DEC website), or treatment (label showing treatment method)
* Treated firewood has been heated to 160°F for 75 minutes to eliminate pests living inside the wood. Treated firewood can be moved without restriction.
Failure to follow these regulations may result in a ticket.
For questions, call toll-free: 1-866-640-0652
State and federal quarantines exist that further restrict the movement of firewood. For more information, visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for “invasive insects”.

What’s lurking in your firewood?

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE
EMERALD ASH BORER
SPOTTED LANTERNFLY
SPONGY MOTH

Wildlife Management Units
Adirondack/Catskill Park
Federal Lands
State Park
Wildlife Management Area
DEC Lands
Conservation Easement Lands

Public Lands & Management Areas

Regional Maps

WMA Accessible Features for Regions 1 and 3

Suffolk
Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve (Babylon, Huntington, Islip)
• 1.7 mi CP-3 trail*
Otis Pike Preserve (Riverhead, Brookhaven)
• Accessible Blind, Parking
Randall Pond, Ridge Conservation Area (Ridge)
• Fishing Access, Parking, Permit Station, Restroom, Viewing Area, Viewing Platform, 2.1 mi foot trails

Sullivan/Orange
Bashakill WMA (Mamakating, Deerpark)
• Blind, Fishing Access, Parking
Mongaup Valley WMA (Forestburgh, Highland, Lumberland, Deerpark)
• Eagle Blind, Parking, Restroom


Did you know, in 2021 DEC Forest Rangers:

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https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/41086.html
1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264)
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: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html
WMA Accessible Features for Regions 4 and 7

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<td>Partridge Run WMA (Berne)</td>
<td>CP-3 — Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to <a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html</a> for application instructions and forms.</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Bear Spring Mountain WMA (Walton)</td>
<td>CP3 trails</td>
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<td>Greene</td>
<td>Vosburgh Swamp WMA (Coxsackie, Athens)</td>
<td>Accessible Blind, Boardwalk, Parking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onondaga</td>
<td>Hamlin Marsh WMA (Clay)</td>
<td>Boardwalk, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail</td>
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<td>Oswego</td>
<td>Deer Creek Marsh WMA (Richland)</td>
<td>Hand Launch, Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail</td>
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<td>Schoharie</td>
<td>Franklinton Vlaie WMA (Broome)</td>
<td>Parking, Viewing Pavilion, Fishing Access</td>
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2022–23 Habitat and Access

BE A HABITAT HERO

Donate toward improving New York’s habitat and increasing access.

All funds from stamp purchases are used to create and expand important habitats and improve access for fish and wildlife–related recreation.

To make your $5 donation today, go to [www.dec.ny.gov/permis/47452.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/permis/47452.html), visit your local license issuing agent, or call 1-866-933-2257.
Regional Maps

Public Lands & Management Areas

- Wildlife Management Units
- Federal Lands
- State Park
- Wildlife Management Area
- DEC Lands
- Conservation Easement Lands

Map produced by NYSDEC DFW, 3/15/2019

DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html

2022–2023 New York Hunting & Trapping Guide
WMA Accessible Features
for Regions 8 and 9

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<td>Accessible Blind, Parking, Restroom, Viewing Platform, 1.4 mi foot trails</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tillman Road WMA (Clarence)</td>
<td>Boardwalk, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesee</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John White WMA (Alabama)</td>
<td>Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.62 mi CP-3 trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livingston</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conesus Inlet WMA (Conesus)</td>
<td>Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail, Fishing Access, CP-3 trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livingston/Allegany</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake Hill WMA (Nunda, Ossian, Grove)</td>
<td>Viewing Platform, Parking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monroe</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Braddock Bay WMA (Parma, Greece)</td>
<td>Fishing Access, Parking, Restroom, Viewing Platform, Kayak Launch</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ontario</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honeoye Creek WMA (Richmond)</td>
<td>2.2 mi CP-3 trails</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ontario/Yates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Tor WMA (Naples, Italy Middlesex)</td>
<td>Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking, 7.1 mi CP-3 trails</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orleans/Erie/Niagara/Genesee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonawanda WMA (Shelby, Newstead, Royalton, Alabama)</td>
<td>Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.2 mi foot trail</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orleans/Genesee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oak Orchard WMA (Barre, Shelby, Oakfield, Alabama)</td>
<td>Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail, 3.2 mi dikes</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schuyler</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catharine Creek WMA (Dix, Montour)</td>
<td>2 mi, CP-3 trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waneta-Lamoka WMA (Tyrone)</td>
<td>Hand Launch, Parking</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Steuben</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erwin WMA (Erwin)</td>
<td>Parking, 5.38 mi CP-3 trails</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wayne</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galen WMA (Galen)</td>
<td>2.2 mi foot trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Shore Marshes WMA (Rochester, Oswego)</td>
<td>Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking, Restroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wyoming</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlton Hill MUA (Middlebury)</td>
<td>0.6 mi CP-3 trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) programs teach women a wide range of outdoor skills and foster community at each of the workshops. We hosted a successful Beyond BOW, Bowhunting 101 workshop May 13-15 at Camp Amahami in the Catskills. Twenty-six women (ages 22-73) traveled to join us for hands-on classes to learn bow shooting skills, including learning to shoot instinctively, shooting compound bows with sites and releases, shooting crossbows, safely using tree stands and shooting from them, and participating in a 3-D shoot in the woods, in addition to learning tracking and blood trailing. Nineteen of the participants earned their NYS Bowhunter Education Certification during the workshop. All participants were able to try something new and discover many ways to have outdoor fun.
Whether you are an angler or hunter, birder or photographer, purchasing a $5 Habitat & Access Stamp is the perfect way to preserve New York’s wildlife heritage and increase public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation.

For more information, talk to your NYSDEC license-issuing agent, or visit our website at www.dec.ny.gov
The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is a cooperative effort between state conservation departments, school systems and private organizations to help engage young citizens in outdoor activities and participate in the enduring sport of archery. DEC coordinates this program in 370 schools across New York State and hosts an annual statewide tournament. New York NASP is dedicated to providing quality instruction, information, and support for implementation of archery in physical education curriculums for grades 4-12. Safety and a positive atmosphere for students are emphasized. The program helps build muscle, endurance, and flexibility, and helps develop hand-eye-coordination, grip, and body strength.

Archery is a non-discriminatory sport and can be taught through this program to almost any student of nearly any age or skill level. Educators report that NASP "engages the unengaged" and inspires students to greater achievement in school.

For more information on NASP, contact the state program coordinator for NY-NASP at 1-888-486-8332 or send us an email at hunter@dec.ny.gov.
When Hunting for Wildlife, All Shooting Hours are Sunrise to Sunset, Except:

- Unprotected wildlife—any hour.
- Furbearers - after sunrise on the opening day of each respective season, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, red fox, gray fox, opossum and coyote may be taken at any time of day or night.
- For most migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, snipe, rails—½ hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Spring turkey—½ hour before sunrise to noon.
- Big game- ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.