

2026 Waterfowl Hunting Rules & Liability Waiver for The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve



The Emiquon Preserve is private property owned and managed by the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy for ecological purposes. Waterfowl hunting is being offered as a public service. For this hunting program at the Preserve, any and all decisions of Conservancy staff or designees are final, and anyone failing to abide by written rules or instructions from Conservancy staff or designees may have hunting privileges at this Preserve revoked. The Conservancy retains the right to modify these rules and to terminate this program at any time without prior notice.

1. Hunting spots are awarded via advanced drawing or Standby as described in #3 below.
2. Each hunter **(up to 4 per stake) must individually sign in** on the Daily Hunter Harvest Register and Waiver **no later than 6AM on the morning of the hunt**. The Register/Waiver is located below. After hunting, each person **must individually sign out** by recording their harvest in the Daily Hunter Harvest Register and Waiver. Failure to sign in and out could make you ineligible for future hunts.
3. Your signature on the Hunter Harvest Register and Waiver below is an acknowledgement that you have read, agree with, and will comply with the rules and waiver release contained on this sign.
4. After 6AM, any site with no one signed in is open to the first Standby hunter who signs in.
5. Hunting is allowed only in areas designated by Conservancy staff. Hunters must stay within their preassigned hunting areas and within 500 ft (167 yds) of their stake and must remain a minimum of 600 ft (200 yds) from any other group.
6. Parking is allowed only at designated areas on the Preserve. Participants may drive only on established/marked roadways. **You may not drive on paths mowed to hunting stakes.**
7. Currently the Conservancy does not charge a fee for public waterfowl hunting but becoming a member is encouraged.
8. This Preserve has drainage ditches that may be hidden from view under the water. Always keep in mind the location of ditches. Observe extreme caution when wading in any waters.
9. Only artificial blind materials such as lay outs or camouflage netting are allowed. No person may bring natural blind materials onto the Preserve. There shall be no cutting, breaking or clearing of vegetation.
10. The use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs)(utility vehicles, ATVs, Segways, golf carts, etc.) on this property has been assessed in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. OPDMDs are prohibited except on disabled individual hunting dates.
11. Hunters must observe all State and Federal waterfowl regulations. Conservancy staff or designees may be present and **violations will be reported to the Conservation Police.**
12. The following are prohibited: Gas-powered motors (not even on the boat); unnecessary shooting or shooting at targets; possession of alcohol; dumping of ashes, trash, garbage, chemical waste or other materials; camping; and open fires.
13. Collecting and/or removing the following are prohibited: rocks, plants, fossils, plant materials, animals (other than legally taken waterfowl), and artifacts.
14. Law violations or failing to abide by written rules or instructions from Conservancy staff or designees constitutes trespassing and may cause hunting privileges to be revoked and/or prosecution for trespass.
15. Respect the privilege of hunting on this private property and the rights and safety of fellow hunters. **Remove all spent shotgun casings and litter from your hunting site.**
16. All gear must be removed from the Preserve each day.
17. **Hunting ends promptly at 12PM noon and hunters must vacate the Preserve by 1PM.**
18. These rules and regulations are subject to change without notice.

It is approximately 6 miles to the nearest hospital-Mason District Hospital in Havana. For emergencies call 911. To contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resource Conservation Police call the Fulton County Sherrieff at (309) 547-2277

In consideration of the Conservancy permitting “me” the “Visitor” to enter onto the Preserve, Visitor states and agrees as follows:

- A. I will use the Preserve in designated areas solely for the Activities related to waterfowl hunting.
- B. Use of the Preserve for the Activities may begin when the Daily Hunter Harvest Register and Waiver is signed and shall terminate at 1:00 PM that same day unless earlier terminated by the Conservancy for any reason.
- C. I understand minors under the age of 18 are allowed access to the Preserve only under the direct supervision of an adult parent, legal guardian, or an adult designee of the parent or guardian. I agree to take full responsibility for all minors listed below and accompanying me, to keep them within sight and reach, and to directly supervise them at all times. No person may accompany me to the Preserve without signing the Daily Hunter Harvest Register and Waiver.
- D. I agree I am engaging in these Activities at my own risk and acknowledge that the Conservancy makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, regarding my engaging in the Activities at the Preserve. I understand the nature of the terrain and the possible dangers that might be involved in the type of Activities in which I will be participating. I am aware of no physical problem or condition that could endanger myself or others if I were to participate in the Activities.
- E. I, for myself and my heirs, hereby waive and release the Conservancy and its officers, directors, and employees from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses resulting from any injury to me and any accompanying minor child(ren), or damage to my property arising out of my Activities at the Preserve. I, for myself and my heirs, further agree to indemnify and hold the Conservancy harmless from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses incurred in connection with the foregoing.
- F. I have read, reviewed, and agree to abide by all the rules and regulations pertaining to Activities at the Preserve, including those listed above. I agree to abide by any and all restrictions placed on the location, timing, duration, or other aspects of my Activities by Conservancy staff. I further agree to comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances governing the Activities, including obtaining any and all appropriate government licenses or permits. I am aware of the property boundaries and agree to avoid trespassing on private property adjacent to the Preserve.
- G. I give permission for my name and contact information to be shared with researchers conducting research relating to the Preserve. I understand that such researchers may contact me, and that I may decline to participate in such research.
- H. I grant the Conservancy permission to take photographs and video and audio representations of me while at the Preserve. I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the royalty free use and reproduction by the Conservancy, or anyone duly authorized by the Conservancy, of any and all such photographs (including negatives) and video/audio representations for any legitimate purposes, including but not limited to advertising, trade and editorial purposes, at any time in the future in all media now known or hereafter developed, throughout the world. I also consent to the use of my name in connection with such photographs, video and audio representations and writings under the same terms. I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless the Conservancy and its officers, directors, agents, and employees from any and all claims which may result at any time by reason of the use of my image, video and audio representations, writings and name, including, without limitation, claims of privacy. My heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns shall be bound by this consent and release.
- I. By signing the below Daily Hunter Harvest Register and Waiver, I acknowledge I am at least 18 years of age, or if not, the signature of my parent, legal guardian, or adult designee of my parent or legal guardian is provided below. I acknowledge the statements I have made in this document are true. I understand the use of this Preserve is a privilege granted to me and that this privilege may be revoked at any time.