

Connecticut Public Hunting Areas - 2023

The following areas are open to public hunting. The key to the left specifies what type of hunting is permitted. Special stamps and permits are needed when hunting some species. Consult season descriptions for the species you are hunting. Some portions of these properties may be closed to hunting. Obey all postings. Maps for many of these areas are available on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Public-Hunting-Areas>. It is recommended that you check the Public Hunting Area Map on the DEEP website for the most current hunting area information as changes or updates may occur. This online list will be updated if necessary.

Access: Public hunting areas marked by an asterisk (*) have notes at the end of this section.

Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-lottery Shotgun Deer	Western Connecticut - Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties			
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting Permitted ❖ Archery ONLY * Special Conditions Apply ▲/• or ❖/• Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see maps online) (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 30, unless noted otherwise.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Archery Deer/Turkey Hunting F Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting ONLY ○ Daily/Season Permit Required (see page 36 of guide) 			
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
•	•		•	•	•	62		Aldo Leopold WMA	308	Southbury	553
•	•		•	•	•		•	Algonquin State Forest	201	Colebrook	1,198
•	•		•	•	•		•	American Legion State Forest	202	Barkhamsted	1,303
			▲					Barber Pond WMA	203	Bloomfield, Windsor	70
	•		▲					Bennett's Pond State Park	309	Ridgefield	460
•	•		▲/•	•	•		•	Camp Columbia State Forest	207	Morris	600
•	•		▲	•				Cedar Swamp WMA	208	New Hartford, Torrington	268
			•*			56		Centennial Watershed State Forest* (Archery deer hunting allowed by permit when the shotgun deer lottery season is closed.)	310	Easton, Weston	3,479
•	•		•	•	•		•	Centennial Watershed State Forest (Wangum Lake Block)	209	Canaan	164
	•							Charles E. Wheeler WMA	312	Stratford, Milford, Orange	750
			▲					Collis P. Huntington State Park* (archery deer hunting ONLY)	313	Bethel, Newtown, Redding	1,040
•	•							East River Marsh WMA	314	Guilford	249
•	•		▲	•				East Swamp WMA	315	Bethel	76
•	•		▲					East Twin Lakes Water Access Area	211	Salisbury	99
•	•		▲	•				Enders State Forest (Worthen Parcel ONLY)	332	Granby	352
			▲					George C. Waldo State Park	316	Southbury	149
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Goshen WMA	213	Goshen	1,084
	•							Great Harbor WMA	317	Guilford	176
•	•	•	▲	•				Housatonic River WMA	215	Kent	490
•	•		•	•	•		•	Housatonic State Forest	216	Sharon, etc.	11,284
•	•		▲	•				John A. Minetto State Park ♿	217	Torrington	576
•	•		•	•	•		•	Mattatuck State Forest	219	Watertown	4,491
❖			▲					Mohawk State Forest – Clark Pond Tract	341	Cornwall	120
•	•		•	•	•	63		Mohawk State Forest – Ziegler/Johnson Tract	342	Goshen	302
			▲					Mount Riga State Park	222	Salisbury	301
•	•		•	•	•		•	Nassahegon State Forest	223	Burlington	1,140
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Naugatuck State Forest	319	Oxford, Beacon Falls, etc.	4,175
•	•		▲	•				Naugatuck State Forest (Great Hill Block)	320	Seymour	238
•			▲/•	•	•	28		Naugatuck State Forest*(Quillinan Reservoir Block)	321	Ansonia, Seymour	581
•	•		•	•	•		•	Nepaug State Forest	224	New Hartford	1,364
•	•		▲	•				Newgate WMA	225	East Granby	425
•	•							Nod Brook WMA and Field Trial Area (Closed during field trials)	226	Avon, Simsbury	125
•	•		•	•	•		•	Paugnut State Forest	229	Torrington	1,960
•	•		▲/•	•	•		•	Paugussett State Forest (see map online)	322	Newtown	2,102
•	•		•	•	•		•	Peoples State Forest	230	Barkhamsted	3,108
•	•		•	•	•		•	Pootatuck State Forest	324	New Fairfield	1,032

Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-lottery Shotgun Deer	Western Connecticut - Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties			
								● Hunting Permitted	▲ Archery Deer/Turkey Hunting	○ Daily/Season Permit Required (see page 36 of guide)	
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
	●							Quinnipiac River Marsh WMA	325	North Haven	655
●	●		▲	●				Quinnipiac River State Park	326	North Haven	346
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Robbins Swamp WMA	231	Canaan	1,638
●	●		●	●	●		●	Roraback WMA	232	Harwinton	2,100
●	●	●	▲	●				Simsbury WMA	234	Simsbury	373
●	●	●	▲	●				Suffield WMA	236	Suffield	265
●	●		▲	●				Sunnybrook State Park (west of Newfield Rd.)	237	Torrington	447
●	●		●	●	●		●	Topsmead State Forest (north and west of Rte. 118)	239	Litchfield	193
●	●		●	●	●		●	Tunxis State Forest	240	Hartland, etc.	10,242
●	●		▲	F				Wooster Mountain State Park	328	Danbury	444
●	●		●	●	●		●	Wyantenock State Forest	243	Cornwall, etc.	4,118
STATE-LEASED, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
*	*		▲	F*				Black Rock Lake (Army Corps)* Closed March 30–3rd Sat. Oct.	204	Thomaston, Watertown	400
●	●		▲	●				Bloomfield Flood Control Area (Site 1)	205	Bloomfield	285
						52		Bristol Water Company	329	Bristol	4,319
	●							Eversource Kings Island Cooperative WMA	262	Enfield, Suffield	174
●	●		▲	F				Eversource Newgate Cooperative WMA (borders Newgate WMA)	210	East Granby	207
❖/●	●		▲	❖/●				Great Swamp Flood Control Area* (see map online)	318	Ridgefield	383
*	●		●	●*			●	Hancock Brook Lake (Army Corps)*	214	Plymouth	593
●	●	●	▲	●				Mad River Dam Flood Control Area	218	Winchester	463
						64		MDC Barkhamsted Reservoir – East Block	343	Barkhamsted, Hartland	4,282
						67		MDC Barkhamsted Reservoir – West Block	346	Barkhamsted, Hartland	3,700
●	●		●	●	●		●	MDC – Colebrook Reservoir/Hogback Dam	220	Colebrook, Hartland, etc.	4,516
●	●	●	▲					MDC – Greenwoods Pond	221	New Hartford	368
						58		MDC Nepaug Reservoir - Valentine/Pine Hill Block	330	New Hartford	1,488
			●					MDC – Lake McDonough* (Archery hunting for deer and turkey only during the archery season)	349	New Hartford, Barkhamsted	780
						66		MDC Nepaug Reservoir - Sweetheart Mt. Block - ❖	345	Canton	500
			▲					Northfield Brook Lake (Army Corps)	227	Thomaston	201
●	●		▲	●				Sucker Brook Flood Control Area	235	Winchester	152
*	*	●	▲	F*				Thomaston Dam (Army Corps)*	238	Thomaston, Harwinton, etc.	850
●	●		▲	●				Whiting River Flood Control Area	241	North Canaan	45
●	●		▲	●				Wood Creek Flood Control Area	242	Norfolk	107
PERMIT-REQUIRED AREAS (DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED)								CODE	TOWN(s)	ACRES	
○	○							Bloomfield Flood Control Area (Site 2)* - Town Permit	206	Bloomfield	365
		○						Bristol Fish and Game - 3rd Sat. in Oct.–Sat. after Thanksgiving	4	Harwinton, Plymouth	1,397
			○*					Centennial Watershed State Forest* (Permit required from Aquarion. Only open for archery DEER season, without an interruption during the shotgun lottery hunting season.)	310	Easton, Weston, etc.	4,470
○*			○*					Centennial Watershed State Forest - Monroe Parcel (Garder Rd.)* Obtain daily permit from DEEP for small game hunting.	311	Monroe	93
○	○	○	●	●	●		●	Eversource Skiff Mountain Cooperative WMA*	228	Sharon	732
○	○	○						Meriden Rod and Gun Club*	14	Meriden, Cheshire	1,364
○	○							Pequonnock Valley WMA - Only open M/W/F/Sat. from 3rd Sat. in Oct.–Sat. before Christmas	323	Trumbull	162
			○	○				Sessions Woods WMA - No waterfowl blind	233	Burlington	771

Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-lottery Shotgun Deer	Western Connecticut - Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties ● Hunting Permitted ❖ Archery ONLY * Special Conditions Apply ▲/● or ❖/● Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see maps online) (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 30, unless noted otherwise.)				
PERMIT-REQUIRED AREAS (DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED)								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES		
○	○	○						Seymour Fish & Game Club*	19	Oxford	91	
			○					South Central CT Regional Water Authority)* Archery deer hunting ONLY		See page 53.	4,327	
○	○							Stanley Works Coop WMA*	27	Kent, Cornwall	1,464	
	○		❖					Stewart B. McKinney NWR – Calf Island Unit* (also open to waterfowl hunting)	350	Greenwich	26	
	○		❖					Stewart B. McKinney NWR – Great Meadows Marsh* (also open to waterfowl hunting)	350	Stratford	165	
	○		❖					Stewart B. McKinney NWR – Chimon/Sheffield Islands* (also open to waterfowl hunting)	350	Norwalk	119	
			❖					Stewart B. McKinney NWR – Salt Meadow Unit*	350	Westbrook	150	
○	○	○						Suffield Sportsmen's Assoc.*	22	Suffield, East Granby	240	
			○	○	○	26		Trout Brook Valley State Park – Call 860-424-3011 for gate combo.	327	Easton	300	
○	○	○						Wallingford Town Owned Area* (Only open M/W/Sat.)	24	Wallingford	823	

Notes for Western Connecticut Hunting Area Table

Black Rock Lake, Hancock Brook Lake, and Thomaston Dam: Portions of area open to hunting through cooperation of the Army Corps of Engineers. Firearms hunting limited to shotgun ammunition only. Firearms hunting prohibited between March 30 and the third Saturday in October at Black Rock Lake and Thomaston Dam. Target or trap shooting prohibited.

Bloomfield Flood Control Area Site 2: Site 2 is leased to the town of Bloomfield and a special permit from the town clerk is required to hunt small game under special restrictions. Only open from the third Saturday in October until the end of February. Site 3 is no longer open to hunting.

Meriden Rod & Gun Club, Eversource Skiff Mountain Cooperative WMA, Seymour Fish & Game Club, Stanley Works Coop. WMA, Suffield Sportsmen's Assoc., and Wallingford Town Owned Area: All open for hunting on the third Saturday in October.

Centennial Watershed State Forest: Easton, Weston, Monroe, Newtown, Trumbull. Portions open to archery deer hunting by special access permits only. Access permits available from the Aquarion Water Company. Consult the DEEP's website (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/2023-Connecticut-Hunting-and-Trapping-Guide/Deer-Hunting#Aquarion>) in summer 2023 for updated information. **No turkey hunting allowed. Monroe Parcel (Garder Rd.):** Obtain daily permit from DEEP for small game hunting.

Collis P. Huntington State Park: Open to archery deer hunting ONLY. No turkey hunting allowed.

Great Swamp Flood Control Area: Open for firearms waterfowl hunting; stay south of Farmingville Rd.

MDC Lake McDonough: Archery hunting for deer and turkey **only** during the archery season. No archery hunting allowed during the firearms and muzzleloader seasons.

Naugatuck State Forest – Quillinan Reservoir Block: No access or parking from Deerfield Lane or Ansonia Nature Center property.

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority: Bowhunting for deer only is allowed each year on 3,233 acres in North Branford, 154 acres in Seymour and Ansonia, 420 acres in Prospect, and 520 acres in Bethany. Details on how to apply are at <https://www.rwater.com/learn-more/sustainable-solutions/our-water-resources>.

Stewart B. McKinney NWR (Calf Island Unit, Great Meadows Unit, and Chimon and Sheffield Islands): Waterfowl and archery deer hunting only. At the Great Meadows Unit, waterfowl may be hunted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the regular state season. After the close of the regular waterfowl season, Canada and snow goose hunting is permitted every day except Sunday. Hunters must have a signed USFWS Hunt Brochure at all times. Brochures, maps, and more detailed information is at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/stewart-b-mckinney/visit-us/activities/hunting>.

Stewart B. McKinney NWR (Salt Meadow Unit): Archery hunting for deer and turkey during the fall only. Hunters must have a signed USFWS Hunt Brochure at all times. The brochure, a map, and more detailed information is at: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/stewart-b-mckinney/visit-us/activities/hunting>.

Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-lottery Shotgun Deer	Eastern Connecticut - Middlesex, New London, Tolland and Windham Counties			
								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS											
•			•	•	•		•	Assekonk Swamp WMA	272	North Stonington	699
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Babcock Pond WMA – Waterfowl Hunting Blind ♿	244	East Haddam, Colchester	1,513
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Barn Island WMA	273	Stonington	1,039
•	•	•	▲/•	•	•		•	Bartlett Brook WMA (Incl. Deer Bowhunting Only areas - see map)	274	Lebanon	727
•	•	•	▲	•				Bear Hill WMA ♿	275	Bozrah	365
			▲	S				Beaver Brook State Park	276	Windham	372
			▲					Bigelow Hollow State Park	277	Union, etc.	513
•	•		•	•	•	68		Bishop Swamp WMA	245	Andover, Hebron	1,035
	•		▲					Black Pond WMA	337	Middlefield	36
•			•	•	•		•	Candlewood Hill WMA	347	Groton	199
•	•		▲/•	•	•		•	Cockaponset State Forest (Incl. Deer Bowhunting Only areas - see map online)	246	Haddam, etc.	16,456
•	•	•	▲	•				Cromwell Meadows WMA	247	Cromwell, Middletown	548
•	•	•	▲	•				Durham Meadows WMA	248	Durham	515
•	•		•	•	•		•	Eightmile River WMA	249	East Haddam, Lyme	311
•	•	•						Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area and WMA	212	East Windsor	506
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Franklin Swamp WMA	278	North Franklin	728
•	•	•	▲	•				Higganum Meadows WMA	251	Haddam	256
			▲					Higganum Reservoir State Park	252	Haddam	156
•	•		▲	•				Killingly Pond State Park	281	Killingly	174
•	•		•	•	•		•	Kollar WMA ♿	253	Tolland	941
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Larson Lot WMA	254	Colchester	206
•	•		▲	•				Little River WMA	283	Hampton	49
	•							Lords Cove WMA	284	Lyme	265
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Meadow Brook WMA	339	Colchester	269
❖			▲	❖				Menunketesuck WMA	338	Clinton, Westbrook	164
•	•		•	•	•		•	Meshomasic State Forest	257	Portland, etc.	9,665
•	•		▲	•				Messerschmidt Pond WMA	258	Deep River, Westbrook	439
•	•		•	•	•		•	Millers Pond State Park	259	Durham, Haddam	265
•	•		•	•	•		•	Mohegan State Forest	285	Scotland, etc.	937
❖			❖					Mono Pond State Park	260	Columbia	290
•	•		•	•	•		•	Mooween State Park (Red Cedar Lake)	296	Lebanon	593
•	•		▲/•	•	•		•	Natchaug State Forest (see map online)	286	Eastford, etc.	12,596
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Nathan Hale State Forest Mgmt. Area	261	Andover, Coventry	1,560
•	•		▲/•	•	•		•	Nehantic State Forest (see map online)	287	East Lyme, etc.	4,937
•	•		•	•	•		•	Nipmuck State Forest	288	Union, etc.	9,546
	•		▲	•				Nott Island WMA	289	Lyme	80
•	•		▲/•	•	•		•	Nye Holman State Forest*	264	Tolland, etc.	786
•	•	•	▲/•	•	•		•	Pachaug State Forest (see map online)	290	Voluntown, etc.	26,490
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Pease Brook WMA	291	Lebanon	213
	•							Plum Bank Marsh WMA		Old Saybrook	168
			▲					Pomeroy State Park	292	Lebanon	334

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 (▲ and ❖ areas are open for archery deer hunting from September 15 to December 30, unless noted otherwise.)

▲ Archery Deer/Turkey Hunting
 F Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting ONLY
 ○ Daily/Season Permit Required (see page 36 of guide)

Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-lottery Shotgun Deer	Eastern Connecticut - Middlesex, New London, Tolland and Windham Counties			
								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, & STATE PARKS								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
•	•		•	•	•		•	Quaddick State Forest	293	Thompson	574
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Quinebaug WMA	294	Canterbury, Plainfield	1,410
	•		▲					Quinebaug WMA (Aspinook Pond)	295	Canterbury	20
	•							Ragged Rock Creek Marsh WMA	265	Old Saybrook	204
	•							Raymond Brook WMA	266	Hebron	198
	•							Roger Tory Peterson WMA	279	Old Lyme	625
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Rose Hill WMA	297	Preston, Ledyard	874
•	•		▲	•				Ross Marsh WMA	298	Killingly, Sterling	285
			▲					Ross Pond State Park	299	Killingly	372
•	•		▲	•				Salmon River Cove and Haddam Neck WMA	267	East Haddam, Haddam	98
•	•		•	•	•		•	Salmon River State Forest	300	Colchester, etc.	7,017
•	•		▲					Scantic River State Park	268	East Windsor, etc.	633
	•		•		•			Selden Neck State Park	301	Lyme	563
•	•		•	•	•		•	Shenipsit State Forest	269	Stafford, etc.	7,170
	•							South Cove WMA		Old Saybrook	49
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	James V. Spignesi, Jr. WMA	302	Scotland	520
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Sugarbrook Field Trial Area (closed during field trials)	303	Plainfield	192
•	•		•	•	•		•	Talbot WMA	304	Scotland	504
•			•	•	•	60		Tankerhoosen WMA	334	Vernon	449
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Wangunk Meadows WMA	270	Portland	643
•	•		•	•	•		•	Wopowog WMA	271	East Hampton, Haddam	465
•	•		•	•	•		•	Zemko Pond WMA	307	Salem	457
STATE-LEASED, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
•	•		•	•	•		•	Ellithorpe Flood Control Area	250	Stafford	438
•	•		•	•	•		•	Eversource Maromas Cooperative WMA*	263	Middletown	1,618
•	•	•	▲	•				Mansfield Hollow State-leased WMA (excluding State Park & Field Trial Area)	255	Mansfield, Chaplin, etc.	2,017
•	•	•	▲	•				Mansfield Hollow State-Leased Field Trial Area (closed during field trials)	256	Mansfield	236
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	West Thompson Dam (Army Corps) ♿	305	Thompson	1,272
PERMIT-REQUIRED AREAS (DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED)								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
○	○	○						East Windsor - Enfield Area*	6	East Windsor, Enfield	209
			▲					Harkness Memorial SP* (Verkade - Park permit)	280	Waterford	154
○	○							Hebron PR Area*	11	Hebron	94
○	○		▲	•				Lebanon Coop Mgmt. Area*	282	Lebanon, Colchester	212
○	○	○						Norwich PR Area	17	Norwich	549
•	•		•	•	•		•	Silvio O. Conte NWR – Deadman's Swamp Unit*	333	Cromwell	31
•	•		•	•	•		•	Silvio O. Conte NWR – Roger Tory Peterson Unit*	333	Old Lyme	56
•	•		•	•	•		•	Silvio O. Conte NWR – Salmon River Division*	333	Haddam	595
•	•		•	•	•		•	Silvio O. Conte NWR – Whalebone Cove Division*	333	Lyme	103
○	○	○						Sprague Town Land PR Area* (Non-toxic shot only)	20	Sprague	620
○	○					51A		Yale-Myers Forest*	306	Eastford, Union, Ashford	8,404

Notes on next page

Notes for Eastern Connecticut Hunting Area Table

East Windsor-Enfield Area, Hebron and Norwich PR Areas, and Eversource Maromas Cooperative WMA: All open for hunting on the third Saturday in October.

Harkness Memorial State Park: A portion of the park north of Rte. 213 (former Verkade property) is designated as a Deer Bowhunting Only area. Inquire at Park Manager's Office for special access permits.

Lebanon Cooperative Management Area: Hunting only in area located south of Old Rte. 2 (Norwich Ave.). Area owned by the Dept. of Agriculture and leased for farming.

Nye Holman State Forest: Sections adjacent to archery range in Tolland are designated as Deer Bowhunting Only areas. Youth camping area is closed to all hunting.

Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge (4 parcels of federal land): Information for the Conte NWR, including a map and hunt brochure to be carried while hunting on Refuge lands, can be found at:
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/silvio-o-conte/visit-us/activities/hunting>.

Sprague Town Land Permit-Required Area: Game bird, rabbit, squirrel, and migratory bird hunting only. Non-toxic shot must be used for all species. See Town of Sprague hunting rules and regulations at:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/hunting_trapping/pdf_files/Sprague-hunting-rules-regulations-2022.pdf.

Yale-Myers Forest Permit-Required Area: Area open for small game/waterfowl and wild turkey hunting by seasonal access permits. Parking passes are also required. **Permits are available on the Online Outdoor Licensing System starting December 1, 2022. However, Yale-Meyers Forest season permits will ONLY be issued until March 31, 2023, for the season. No permits will be issued after this time period.** Small game and turkey permits will be available through the Online Outdoor Licensing System. Yale University will contact hunters through the address email listed in their license profile to provide parking and access information. Night hunting and harvest of coyotes and foxes prohibited. Spring wild turkey hunting hours will be: ½-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon. No deer driving during the shotgun deer lottery season.