

Public Hunting Areas



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. Consult page 12 for firearms restrictions. 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 after this guide is printed.**

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

Small Game	Waterfowl	Pheasants	Fall Archery Deer/Turkey	Spring and Fall Firearms Turkey	Muzzleloader Deer	Deer Lottery Area	No-Lottery Shotgun Deer	Western Connecticut - Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, & New Haven Counties			
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hunting Permitted ➤ Archery ONLY * Special Conditions Apply F Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting ONLY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Designated Fall Deer/Turkey Bowhunting Only Area ▲/● or ➤/● Some Sections Open to Archery ONLY (see map) ○ Daily/Season Permit Required (see page 36) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ and ➤ areas are open for archery hunting during the shotgun and muzzleloader deer seasons) 	
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, AND 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	1,185
			▲					Barber Pond WMA	203	Bloomfield, Windsor	70
	●		▲					Bennett's Pond State Park	309	Ridgefield	460
●	●		▲/●	●	●		●	Camp Columbia State Forest (Includes Deer Bowhunting Only areas - see map)	207	Morris	600
●	●		▲	●				Cedar Swamp WMA	208	New Hartford, Torrington	268
						56		Centennial Watershed State Forest	310	Easton, Weston	3,479
●	●		●	●	●		●	Centennial Watershed State Forest (Canaan Block)	209	Canaan	164
			▲					Centennial Watershed State Forest - Monroe Parcel (Hattertown Rd.)	310	Monroe	35
			▲					Centennial Watershed State Forest (formerly Bpt. Hydr.) - Shelton Parcel	311	Shelton	102
	●							Charles E. Wheeler WMA	312	Stratford, Milford, Orange	625
			▲					Collis P. Huntington State Park	313	Bethel, Newtown, Redding	1,031
●	●							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	965
	●							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 - ARCHERY ONLY	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) (Includes Deer Bowhunting Only areas)	321	Ansonia, Seymour	581
●	●		●	●	●		●	Nepaug State Forest	224	New Hartford	1,364
●	●		▲	●				Newgate WMA	225	East Granby	425
●	●							Nod Brook WMA Closed during field trials -Dog Training Area	226	Avon, Simsbury	125
●	●		●	●	●		●	Paugnut State Forest	229	Torrington	1,701
●	●		▲/●	●	●		●	Paugussett State Forest (Includes Deer Bowhunting Only areas - see map)	322	Newtown	2,102
●	●		●	●	●		●	Peoples State Forest	230	Barkhamsted	3,108
●	●		●	●	●		●	Pootatuck State Forest	324	New Fairfield	1,032
								Quinnipiac River Marsh WMA	325	North Haven	655
●	●		▲	●				Quinnipiac River State Park 3rd Sat. in Oct. - 1st Sat. in Dec.	326	North Haven	323
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Robbins Swamp WMA	231	Canaan	1,638
●	●		●	●	●		●	Roraback WMA	232	Harwinton	2,100
●	●		▲	➤				Scantic River State Park 3rd Sat. in Oct. - 1st Sat. in Dec. (E. Windsor/Enfield)	268	East Windsor, etc.	633
●	●	●	▲	●				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 (Fall firearms turkey hunting only)	328	Danbury	444
●	●		●	●	●		●	Wyantenock State Forest	243	Cornwall, etc.	4,118

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STATE-LEASED, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
*	*		▲	*				Black Rock Lake (state and Army Corps of Engineers)* 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
●	●		▲	F				CT Light & Power (borders Newgate WMA)	210	East Granby	207
➤/●	●		▲	➤/●				Great Swamp Flood Control Area* (Incl. Bowhunting Only areas - see map)	318	Ridgefield	383
*	●		●	●			●	Hancock Brook Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)*	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	349	New Hartford, Barkhamsted	780
						66		MDC Nepaug Reservoir - Sweetheart Mt. Block - Archery Only	345	Canton	500
			▲					Northfield Brook Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)	227	Thomaston	201
	●							NU - Kings Island Coop WMA*	262	Enfield, Suffield	174
●	●		▲	●				Sucker Brook Flood Control Area	235	Winchester	152
*	*	●	▲	F				Thomaston Dam (Army Corps of Engineers)*	238	Thomaston, Harwinton, etc.	850
●	●		▲	●				Whiting River Flood Control Area	241	North Canaan	183
●	●		▲	●				Wood Creek Flood Control Area	242	Norfolk	107
PERMIT-REQUIRED AREAS (DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED TO HUNT ○ SEASONS)								CODE	TOWN(S)	ACRES	
○	○							Bloomfield Flood Control Area (Site 2)* 3rd Sat. in Oct.-End of Feb. - 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	310	Easton, Weston, etc.	4,333
○	○							Centennial Watershed State Forest - Monroe Parcel (Garder Rd.)	311	Monroe	93
○	○	○						Meriden Rod & Gun Club 3rd Sat. in Oct.-End of Feb.	14	Meriden, Cheshire	1,364
○	○	○	●	●	●		●	NU-Skiff Mtn. Coop WMA 3rd Sat. in Oct.-End of Feb.	228	Sharon	732
○	○							Pequonnock Valley - Only open M/W/F/Sat. from 3rd Sat. in Oct.-Sat. before Christmas	323	Trumbull	162
			○	○				Sessions Woods WMA - Blind closed for repairs ▲ ♿	233	Burlington	771
○	○	○						Seymour Fish & Game Club 3rd Sat. in Oct.-End of Feb.	19	Oxford	91
								South Central CT Regional Water Authority)* Archery deer hunting ONLY		See below	4,327
○	○							Stanley Works Coop WMA 3rd Sat. in Oct.-End of Feb.	27	Kent, Cornwall	1,464
				➤				Stewart B. McKinney NWR - Calf Island Unit* Archery Deer Hunting Only	350	Greenwich	26
				➤				Stewart B. McKinney NWR - Great Meadows Marsh* Archery Deer Hunting Only	350	Stratford	165
				➤				Stewart B. McKinney NWR - Chimon/Sheffield Islands* Archery Deer Hunting Only	350	Norwalk	119
				➤				Stewart B. McKinney NWR - Salt Meadow Unit*	350	Westbrook	150
○	○	○						Suffield Sportsmen's Assoc. 3rd Sat. in Oct.-End of Feb.	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.-3rd Sat. in Oct.-End of Feb.	24	Wallingford	823

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. 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.

Centennial Watershed State Forest: Easton, Weston, Monroe, Newtown, Trumbull. Portions open to deer bowhunting by special access permits only. Access permits available from the Aquarion Water Company's Aspetuck Environmental Center, 714 Black Rock Road (Rte. 58), Easton. Consult the DEEP's website (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting>) for updated information.

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

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/conservation-stewardship/deer-and-water-quality>.

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 on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/>

Hunting-and-Trapping-Information#NWR.

Stewart B. McKinney NWR (Salt Meadow Unit): Waterfowl and fall archery deer and turkey hunting only. Hunters must have a signed USFWS Hunt Brochure at all times. The brochure, a map, and more detailed information is on the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Hunting-and-Trapping-Information#NWR>.

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, AND STATE PARKS											
●			▲				●	Assekongk 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 (Spring turkey hunting only)	276	Windham	304
			▲					Bigelow Hollow State Park	277	Union, etc.	513
●	●		▲	●				Bishop Swamp WMA	245	Andover	709
	●		▲					Black Pond WMA	337	Middlefield	68
●			●	●	●		●	Candlewood Hill WMA	347	Groton	199
●	●	●	▲/●	●	●		●	Cockaponset State Forest (Incl. Deer Bowhunting Only areas - see map)	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
●	●	●						Flaherty Field Trial Area Closed during field trials -Dog Training Area	212	East Windsor	506
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Franklin Swamp WMA	278	North Franklin	728
●	●	●	▲	●				Higganum Meadows WMA	251	Haddam	256
			▲					Higganum Reservoir	252	Haddam	156
●	●		▲	●				Killingly Pond State Park	281	Killingly	174
●	●		●	●	●		●	Kollar WMA	253	Tolland	941
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Larson Lot WMA	254	Colchester	206
●	●		▲	●				Little River Fish and Wildlife Area	283	Hampton	49
	●							Lord's Cove WMA	284	Lyme	265
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Meadow Brook WMA	339	Colchester	269
➤			▲	➤				Menunketesuck WMA Archery Only (Formerly Chapman's Pond WMA)	338	Clinton, Westbrook	164
●	●		●	●	●		●	Meshomasic State Forest	257	Portland, etc.	9,384
●	●		▲	●				Messerschmidt Pond WMA	258	Deep River, Westbrook	439
●	●		●	●	●		●	Millers Pond	259	Durham, Haddam	265
●	●		●	●	●		●	Mohegan State Forest	285	Scotland, etc.	937
➤			➤					Mono Pond	260	Columbia	290
●	●		▲/●	●	●		●	Natchaug State Forest (Includes Deer Bowhunting Only areas - see map)	286	Eastford, etc.	12,596
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Nathan Hale State Forest Mgmt. Area	261	Andover, Coventry	1,560
●	●		▲/●	●	●		●	Nehantic State Forest (Includes Deer Bowhunting Only areas - see map)	287	East Lyme, etc.	4,348
●	●		●	●	●		●	Nipmuck State Forest	288	Union, etc.	9,546
	●		▲					Nott Island WMA	289	Lyme	80
●	●		▲/●	●	●		●	Nye Holman State Forest* (Includes Deer Bowhunting Only Area)	264	Tolland, etc.	786
●	●	●	▲/●	●	●		●	Pachaug State Forest (Includes Deer Bowhunting Only areas -see map)	290	Voluntown, etc.	26,490
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Pease Brook WMA - Dog Training Area	291	Lebanon	213
	●							Plum Bank WMA		Old Saybrook	168
			▲					Pomeroy State Park	292	Lebanon	203
●	●		●	●	●		●	Quaddick State Forest	293	Thompson	574
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Quinebaug River WMA	294	Canterbury, Plainfield	1,410
	●		▲					Quinebaug River WMA (Aspinook Pond)	295	Canterbury	20
	●							Ragged Rock Creek WMA	265	Old Saybrook	204
	●							Raymond Brook Marsh WMA	266	Hebron	198
●	●		●	●	●		●	Red Cedar Lake (Camp Mooween)	296	Lebanon	593
	●							Roger Tory Peterson Wildlife Area (formerly Great Island WMA)	279	Old Lyme	625
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	Rose Hill WMA	297	Preston, Ledyard	874

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, STATE FORESTS, AND STATE PARKS											
●	●		▲	●				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 (including Holbrook Pond)	300	Colchester, etc.	6,980
	●		●	●	●			Selden Neck State Park (Selden Island)	301	Lyme	563
●	●		●	●	●		●	Shenipsit State Forest	269	Stafford, etc.	7,170
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	James V. Spignesi 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 (off Rte. 17a)	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											
●	●		▲	●	●		●	Ellithorpe Flood Control Area	250	Stafford	438
●	●	●	▲	●				Mansfield Hollow Lake (excluding State Park)	255	Mansfield, Chaplin, etc.	2,017
●	●	●	▲	●				Mansfield State-Leased Field Trial Area Closed During Field Trials	256	Mansfield	236
●	●		●	●	●		●	NU – Maromas Coop WMA 3rd Sat in Oct–End of Feb.	263	Middletown	1,618
●	●	●	●	●	●		●	West Thompson Dam (federal land)	305	Thompson	1,272
PERMIT-REQUIRED AREAS (DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED TO HUNT ○ SEASONS)											
○	○	○						East Windsor – Enfield Area 3rd Sat in Oct.–End of Feb.	6	East Windsor, Enfield	209
			○					Harkness Memorial State Park* (Verkade Property) - Park permit required	280	Waterford	154
○	○							Hebron Area 3rd Sat in Oct–End of Feb.	11	Hebron	94
○	○		▲	●				Lebanon Coop Mgmt. Area*	282	Lebanon, Colchester	212
○	○	○						Norwich Fish & Game Assoc. (South) 3rd Sat in Oct–End of Feb.	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 Cover Division*	333	Lyme	103
○	○							Sprague Town Land PR Area Bird hunting and steel shot ONLY	20	Sprague	620
○	○	○						Woodstock 3rd Sat in Oct–End of Feb.	25	Woodstock	200
○	○			○		51A		Yale Forest (owned by Yale University)* Parking pass required	306	Eastford, Union, Ashford	8,404

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

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 field archery range in Tolland are closed to all firearms hunting and are designated Deer Bowhunting Only areas. Youth camping area is closed to all hunting.

Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge (4 parcels of federal land): Hunting information for the Conte NWR, including a map and hunt brochure for hunters to print and carry with them when hunting on Refuge lands, can be found at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Silvio_O_Conte/visit/hunting.html.

Yale Forest Permit-Required Area: Area open from September 1 through February 28 for small game, waterfowl, and turkey hunting by seasonal access permit. Parking passes are also required. To obtain a season wild turkey, small game, and waterfowl permit, contact Joe Orefice at joseph.orefice@yale.edu or 518-354-3170. Night hunting and harvest of coyotes and foxes prohibited.