



Hunting at The Nature Conservancy’s Preserves in Wisconsin

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Hunting Opportunities at Specific TNC Preserves

Learn what kinds of hunting are available and whether or not a permit is required.

Baraboo Hills

The Baraboo Hills of Sauk and Columbia counties are all that remain of one of the most ancient rock outcrops in North America. A forested sanctuary underlain by durable rock called Baraboo quartzite, the Hills are an ecologically unique part of the Midwest. The oak, maple, and basswood forests of the Baraboo Hills constitute the largest block of upland forest still standing in southern Wisconsin. They provide habitat for more than 1,800 kinds of plants and animals.

Hunting Opportunities

- Most preserves open for trapping and deer, turkey, small game, and bear hunting, no TNC permits required.
- TNC permit required to hunt deer and turkey at some small isolated tracts.

Preserves with Hunting Opportunities

- Baxter's Hollow
- Freedom Woods
- Greenfield Moraines
- Hemlock Draw
- Honey Creek
- Pan Hollow
- Pine Hollow

Central Sands Region

The Nature Conservancy has two preserves in the Central Sands Region in Marquette county. Page Creek Marsh in Marquette County is a large wetland preserve that supports a rich diversity of plants, waterfowl and grassland birds. The creek winds through gently rolling farmland enhanced by remnants of native prairie and oak savanna. Summerton Bog in Marquette County is one of just a few remaining wetland areas of its kind in southern Wisconsin. It is unique because the bog contains plant varieties—sedges, in particular—that are typically northern in type. This small, protected area also contains a wide variety of wildflowers along a western section of calcareous fen. Rising above the willowy grasses is a five-acre oak island that stands in marked contrast to the low vegetation all around.

Hunting Opportunities

- Deer and turkey; no TNC permits required.

Preserves with Hunting Opportunities

- Page Creek Marsh
- Summerton Bog

Chiwaukee Prairie

Chiwaukee Prairie is part of the last unbroken stretch of prairie of its kind in the state and home to more than 400 plant species, including 26 rare plants. More than 75 species of grassland and wetland birds have been observed at Chiwaukee during the breeding season.

Hunting Opportunities

Open to all hunting and trapping allowed under DNR regulations.

- Deer - bow only
- Turkey - bow or shot
- Other birds/small game - shot

No use of rifles or other firearms discharging a single projectile, per [Village of Pleasant Prairie ordinance 250-3](#).

NOTE: Some villages have more restrictive ordinances related to the use of firearms than the State of Wisconsin does in order to promote health and safety. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with all applicable local firearms ordinances prior to hunting on Nature Conservancy property. See the [Village of Pleasant Prairie website](#) for more information.

Door Peninsula

A slender limestone peninsula that juts out into Lake Michigan, the Door Peninsula is well-known in Wisconsin and beyond for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Its rocky cliffs, sandy beaches, marshy bays, fertile wetlands, and conifer forests provide habitat for plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. The limestone that forms the rugged backbone of the peninsula is part of the Niagara Escarpment, an impressive work of geologic artistry that covers several states and two countries.

Hunting Opportunities

- Deer; no TNC permit required.
- Fall turkey after November 1st; no TNC permit required.
- Waterfowl hunting allowed pursuant to waterway use laws (2001 Wisconsin Act 16); no TNC permit required.
- Pheasant, grouse and small game at Mink River Preserve from November 1 to February 28; no TNC permit required.
- Small game and bear hunting, trapping and unrestricted turkey hunting (per full DNR seasons) on some additional Door Peninsula lands; registration optional for small game and bear hunting and trapping.
- Some lands are in open Managed Forest Law (MFL).
- Please call the Conservancy's Sturgeon Bay office at (920) 743-8695 for more information.

Preserves with Hunting Opportunities

- Kangaroo Lake
- Mink River Estuary
- North Bay

- Shivering Sands

Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area - TNC Addition

Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area - The Nature Conservancy Addition in Buffalo County is about 161 acres of Mississippi River bluffland in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. It provides important habitat for a wide array of native plants and animals including many neo-tropical migratory birds, rare bluff-prairie plants, and a plethora of native invertebrates and mammals. It contains dry prairie, cliffs, oak openings and southern forest communities.

Hunting Opportunities

- Deer and turkey; no TNC permits required.
- Trapping, small game and bear hunting; registration optional.

Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area

The Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area is a 90,000-acre grassland landscape in Dane and Iowa counties in southwest Wisconsin. The area provides habitat for 14 rare and declining grassland bird species and contains more than 60 prairie remnants, representing one of the highest concentrations of native grasslands in the Midwest. The agricultural history of the area has helped keep the landscape much as it was when the first settlers saw it and has made it possible for plants and animals like grassland birds, which have disappeared in more developed parts of the Midwest, to survive.

Hunting Opportunities

- Deer, turkey, small game, bear and trapping; no TNC permits required; registration optional.
- Dogs are allowed off-leash for turkey and pheasant hunting during those seasons. Dogs must be on-leash the rest of the year, especially during the breeding bird season (April 15 to July 31).

Preserves with Hunting Opportunities

- Barneveld Prairie
- Thomson Memorial Prairie

Mukwonago River Watershed

A mosaic of forest, wetlands, savannas, rivers, and lakes, the Mukwonago River Watershed is a natural treasure located about 35 minutes from Milwaukee in Walworth and Waukesha counties. The Mukwonago River, also known as Crooked Creek, is one of the cleanest streams in southeastern Wisconsin and provides important habitat for rare fish and mussels. The surrounding landscape is home to a wide array of native plants and wildlife, including sandhill cranes, tree frogs, mink, red fox, butterflies and dragonflies.

Hunting Opportunities

- Deer - TNC permit required to hunt on one tract at Crooked Creek Preserve.
- Two properties, including most of Lulu Lake Preserve, are only open for deer hunting, no permit required.

- Trapping, deer, small game, turkey and bear hunting offered on most lands including all of Pickerel Lake Fen and the Newell & Ann Meyer Nature Preserve, and some tracts at Lulu Lake and Crooked Creek.
- Waterfowl hunting is allowed pursuant to waterway use laws (2001 Wisconsin Act 16). Hunters may only use temporary blinds and cannot cut vegetation on site or bring vegetation to the site to construct the blind. Blinds must be removed at the end of the season.

Preserves with Hunting Opportunities (Please download maps from our website for specific hunting opportunities at each preserve)

- Crooked Creek
- Lulu Lake Preserve
- Newell & Ann Meyer Nature Preserve
- Pickerel Lake Fen Preserve

NOTE: Some townships have more restrictive ordinances related to the use of firearms than the State of Wisconsin does in order to promote health and safety. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with all applicable local firearms ordinances prior to hunting on Nature Conservancy property. See the [Town of Eagle website](#) for more information.

Northern Wisconsin – Bass Lake, Border Lakes and Caroline Lake

Bass Lake

Bass Lake Preserve in Iron County contains a diversity of trees, including yellow and white birch, sugar and red maple, and aspen. In the swamp conifer forest rimming the lake and other water bodies, mature tamarack and black spruce trees grow along with large white pines. Wildlife such as great blue herons, osprey and common loons is found in abundance near these wetlands. Bald eagles and black bears have also been spotted in the area.

Hunting and Fishing Opportunities

- Hunting and trapping per WIDNR seasons; no TNC permits required.
- Catch-and-release fishing using artificial lures; carry-in canoe.

Border Lakes

The Border Lakes Area is a 24,000-acre expanse of forests, wetlands, lakes, and streams along Wisconsin's northern boundary with Michigan. It is part of a much larger ecosystem that contains two major river systems, several untouched glacial lakes, and some of the highest-quality old growth northern hardwood and hemlock forests remaining in the Midwest. Border Lakes contains the headwaters of the Presque Isle and Ontonagon rivers along with more than 100 lakes connected by a complex network of high quality wetlands and streams. These waters include numerous aquatic habitats and a diverse assemblage of native fish and other wildlife.

The unique lakes on the property serve as reference lakes for what lakes in the area historically were like, we manage them to sustain naturally regulated fish populations by providing catch and release fishing while the use of artificial lures prevents unintended introductions that might impact the natural balance.

Preserves with Hunting Opportunities

- Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area
 - Hunting and trapping per WIDNR seasons; no TNC permits required.
 - Catch-and-release fishing with artificial lures only is allowed on all waters.
- Guido Rahr, Sr. Tenderfoot Forest Reserve
 - Hunting and trapping per WIDNR seasons; no TNC permits required.
 - Catch-and-release fishing with artificial lures is encouraged to protect Mirror and Roach lakes from introduction of invasive species.

Caroline Lake

Caroline Lake Preserve in Ashland County forms the headwaters of the Bad River. Its clean, clear water contributes to the high-water quality of the river and of the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs—16,000 acres of wild rice, grasses, sedges, trees, streams, and open water located along the southern shore of Lake Superior. The Sloughs are the largest and healthiest full-functioning estuarine system remaining in the upper Great Lakes region.

Hunting Opportunities

- Hunting and trapping per WIDNR seasons; no TNC permits required.

Spring Green Preserve

Known as the "Wisconsin Desert," Spring Green Preserve is a place where forest meets bluff and where bluff levels off into plains and dunes. It is located in the unglaciated region of the state. The preserve harbors some of Wisconsin's rarest plant communities, including sand prairie, dry bluff prairie and black oak barrens. Due to changes in land use, all of these communities, which once covered thousands of acres across the state, have almost completely disappeared.

Hunting Opportunities

- Hunting and trapping per WIDNR seasons; no TNC permits required.