

Hunting on TNC Lands in Michigan

Program Guidelines and Permitting Process

Preserves

Lower Peninsula:

- Grand River Fen Preserve
- Grass Bay Preserve
- Ives Road Fen Preserve
- Nan Weston Preserve at Sharon Hollow
- Paw Paw Prairie Fen Preserve
- Ross Coastal Plain Marsh Preserve

Upper Peninsula:

- Carl A Gerstacker Preserve at Dudley Bay
- Haunted Forest
- Helmut and Candis Sterns Preserve at Mt Baldy
- Laughing Whitefish Lake
- Mary Macdonald Preserve at Horseshoe Harbor
- Maxton Plains Preserve
- Swamp Lakes

PRESERVE PERMIT GUIDELINES

To obtain a Permit to hunt on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) preserves you must agree to the following rules and statements:

- Deer hunting is not permitted on all preserves.
- All hunters must carry a TNC-issued Permit while hunting on a preserve.
- Only white-tailed deer may be hunted; no other species may be hunted or trapped; no collection of plants and animals other than deer. The hunter must report how many deer were taken (and gender of deer) upon expiration of the Permit.
- Permits are personal to the hunter and may not be used by or assigned to any other individual.
- All persons, including minors, accompanying the hunter must have a TNC-issued permit. Hunters may request a Permit to allow one minor child to accompany the hunter on the Property. The child must be at least 10 years of age and less than 17 years of age, have all license or permits required to hunt under Michigan law, and must have completed a course in hunting safety approved by the MDNR.
- All hunting must be done within designated areas.

- To prevent unintended harm to other preserve users, no long-range shooting is allowed across open fields, marshes, or roads. Unnecessary shooting or shooting at targets is prohibited.
- No hunting is allowed within a 200-yard radius of any inhabited dwelling.
- No trapping or snaring is allowed.
- Alcohol is not allowed on TNC preserves or in preserve parking lots.
- No fires, smoking, camping, littering (including the use of plastic flagging), or dumping of ashes, trash, garbage, chemical waste or other unsightly or offensive material on TNC property.
- No cutting, breaking or clearing of vegetation. Planting of food plots or other vegetation is not allowed.
- Only two (2) temporary, non-damaging deer stands are permitted. No tree spikes, steps, or any implement that will damage trees are allowed. All stands must be removed prior to expiration of this permit. The hunter shall place his/her name and contact information on the stand. Any stands not removed by this date shall become the property of TNC.
- One (1) temporary trail camera is permitted. All cameras must be removed prior to expiration of this permit. The hunter shall place his/her name and contact information on the camera. Any cameras not removed by his date shall become the property of TNC.
- Parking of vehicles is only allowed in designated parking areas. Access to the property must be from the designated parking areas or along the existing road. No off-road vehicle use.
- In addition to the above rules, hunters must comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances governing hunting activities, including obtaining all required government licenses or permits.
- TNC is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

The Nature Conservancy reserves the right to full use of the Property and surrounding preserve. Activities of TNC and its guests take precedence over the hunter's rights under this Permit.

OBTAINING A PRESERVE PERMIT

Please refer to [nature.org/MIHunting](https://www.nature.org/MIHunting) for a breakdown of which sites have permits available. The deadline for applying for a Hunting Permit is approximately June 15. If you are interested in hunting white-tailed deer on TNC preserves, please call 517-316-0300 ext. 8 or email michiganhunting@tnc.org.

Reserves

The following TNC reserves are enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program (CFP):

- Keweenaw Heartlands
- Lon Matthews Reserve at Mulligan Creek Highlands
- Raptor's Roost Reserve

- Two Hearted River Forest Reserve
- Wilderness Lakes Reserve
- Slate River Forest Reserve (only 10% of the property is currently enrolled in the CFP, please reference the DNR's Mi-HUNT map if planning to hunt at Slate River).

TNC RESERVE GUIDELINES

To hunt on TNC reserves, you must agree to the following rules and statements. Leaseholders should refer to their TNC documentation for guidelines.

- Hunters must adhere to all [MI Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations](#), and must comply with all relevant local, state, and federal laws and ordinances governing hunting activities such as seasons and harvest limits, and must obtain all required government licenses or permits.
- To prevent unintended harm to other preserve users, no long-range shooting is allowed across open fields, marshes, or roads. Unnecessary shooting or shooting at targets is prohibited.
- No hunting is allowed within a 200-yard radius of any inhabited dwelling.
- Alcohol is not allowed on TNC reserves.
- No fires, smoking, camping, littering (including the use of plastic flagging), or dumping of ashes, trash, garbage, chemical waste or other unsightly or offensive material on TNC property.
- No cutting, breaking or clearing of vegetation. Planting of food plots or other vegetation is not allowed.
- Permanent blinds and stands are not permitted. Any blinds or stands not removed by the hunter shall become the property of The Nature Conservancy.
- Off-road vehicles only permitted on [DNR-designated routes](#).
- TNC is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

LINKS AND RESOURCES

[State of Michigan Commercial Forestry Program](#)

[Interactive map of CF lands in Michigan](#)