



PICKEREL CREEK CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT



Congratulations for being selected to participate in the Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area Waterfowl Hunt. This letter provides you with some background information on the wildlife area and some tips on helping you be successful on your hunt. Purchased in 1987 by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Pickerel Creek is one of the few remaining wetland complexes on the Sandusky Bay shoreline. This 3,200 acre wetland complex is a part of what was once called the Great Black Swamp, an area from Cleveland to Detroit, which totaled over 300,000 acres. During the early 1900's, the entire region was drained for agricultural purposes. Much of Pickerel Creek was once farmland at one time. Shortly after the acquisition, the Division of Wildlife began restoring the wetlands on the property that once existed hundreds of years ago. Today it has a variety of upland and wetland wildlife for sportsmen and women to enjoy.

Hunt zones vary in size, but average about 20 acres. All zones are accessible with chest waders. Hunters do not need a boat to hunt at Pickerel Creek. However, utilizing a boat in some zones can be very helpful. Puddle ducks (mallards, wood ducks and teal) are the primary target species. On occasion, some divers are harvested, however, a puddle duck decoy rig is a preferred method. Spinning wing decoys are very popular amongst most of the hunters. however, depending on the day, they can be detrimental to your hunt. "Skybusting" is heavily discouraged. Keeping your shots close makes for a more effective and enjoyable hunt.

Enjoy your hunt and be safe!



Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



**PICKEREL CREEK
CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT RULES AND CONDITIONS**

The migratory waterfowl hunting laws are in effect with the following additional restrictions:

1. Adult Hunt Participants:
 - a. **Hunting hours for the Adult Waterfowl Hunt is from legal shooting time until NOON.**
 - b. You may enter the marsh no earlier than one hour before legal shooting time in the morning. You must be out of the marsh by 12:30 pm
2. Youth Hunt Participants:
 - a. **Hunting hours for the Youth Waterfowl Hunt is from 12:30 pm until the end of legal shooting time.**
 - b. You may enter the marsh no earlier than 12:00 noon and must leave within one hour after sunset.
3. You must have your special hunting permit with you while hunting.
4. **You will receive your zone assignment, parking lot assignment, map and harvest card in the mail at a later date.**
5. By state law, all hunters are required to return their daily harvest card to the check station within 2 hours after the end of the day's hunt.
6. Hunters may take all legal waterfowl in accordance with bag limits set for the waterfowl hunting season as stated in the Ohio Hunting & Trapping Regulations. Refer to the Ohio Hunting & Trapping Regulations for more details.
7. The permittee can bring up to 2 hunting guests who must sign and include their Customer ID number on the permit prior to entering the marsh.
8. All boats must be operated at no wake speeds. Both electric and gas motors are permitted.
9. Shooting any animal other than legal waterfowl species is prohibited.
10. Each hunter may possess not more than 25 non-toxic shot shells.
11. Hunting from any dikes, roads, trails or within a safety zone is prohibited.
12. Designated parking areas must be used. Parking outside of designated parking areas is prohibited.
13. Don't forget you need all of the following:
 - Your hunting license
 - Customer ID number
 - Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp
 - State Wetlands Habitat Stamp endorsement
 - HIP Registration endorsement
 - Special Area Hunting Permit
14. Note: youth hunters under 18 do not need the Ohio wetlands habitat stamp and youth hunters under 16 do not need either stamp.
15. It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, trade, or barter any Division of Wildlife issued controlled hunting, fishing or trapping permit.
16. **Failure to follow these controlled hunt rules and conditions could result from dismissal from the hunt, in addition to criminal charges pursuant OAC 1501:31-9-01(u).**