

2023 Wild Turkey Draw Information Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

This page includes information and instructions for those interested in or selected to participate in a 2023 Indiana Wild Turkey Hunt Draw. It is important to note that areas participating in reserve hunts are managed by various agencies and may have unique restrictions that each hunter must follow. Please read each area's information packet carefully before pursuing a hunt.

Applying:

The application period for the 2023 Wild Turkey Draw Hunt is Feb. 19, 2023, to March 19, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted. You must obtain a valid hunting license and Game Bird Habitat stamp for spring turkey hunting prior to applying. Hunt dates will be assigned randomly. There are no age restrictions on applying. Youth hunters may apply if they are properly licensed to hunt spring turkey. All selected youth hunters can hunt both days of the youth season.

Restrictions:

- Non-toxic shot is required at Muscatatuck NWR for all turkey hunting.

Allowed Equipment:

- A 410 caliber and 10-, 12-, 16-, 20-, or 28-gauge shotgun loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7, or 7½. Shot sizes smaller than size 7½ must be made of Tungsten Super Shot or equivalent pellet density only, such as Tungsten Super Shot 9 and 10.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size 4, 5, 6, 7, 7½, and Tungsten Super Shot 9 and 10. Combination loads using shot sizes other than these are illegal.
- A bow and arrow or crossbow.

Bag Limit:

- The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season.

Hunting Hours:

- Hunters may access the Refuge 1 hour before sunrise. Hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

Tagging Requirements:

- Immediately upon killing a turkey, the hunter must complete a temporary transportation tag on paper stating the hunter's full name, address, sex of the turkey, license number (if applicable), and the date the turkey was taken before transporting the turkey from the field.

Reporting Requirements:

- Hunters are required to register their harvested turkey within 48 hours of the kill. This can be done one of three ways:
 - Self-reporting online through the DNR's CheckIN Game system (CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov).
 - Calling 800-419-1326 (a \$3 fee applies).
 - Finding a check station, license vendor, or retailer who will file the information for you through CheckIN Game.

Once the turkey is registered with the CheckIN Game system, a confirmation number will be generated. The number must be recorded on a temporary transportation tag and kept with the turkey until processing begins. For a printable version of a temporary transportation tag, visit hunting.IN.gov.

Hunt Information:

Turkey hunters may bring others with them on their hunt, but only the drawn hunter may hunt. Non-hunter partners who plan to assist in calling in turkeys must be properly licensed. No check-in is required at Muscatatuck. All hunters must obtain and carry a Muscatatuck hunting leaflet while on the refuge. The front of the leaflet must be signed, indicating that hunters have read and understand refuge hunting regulations. Leaflets are located at the Refuge Visitor Center or the Refuge Office. They can also be [downloaded online](#). Refuge hours are one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Turkey hunting ends at 1 p.m. Turkey hunting at Muscatatuck this year is by draw **the first six days of the turkey season only**. The remainder of the spring turkey season in the refuge hunting area is open to anyone with an unfilled turkey license.

The youth hunt is April 22 - 23. There is no check-in for the youth hunt. All rules above apply. If you have other questions, please call the refuge for additional information regarding your hunt.

Hunters must stop hunting by 1 p.m. and be out of the field by 2 p.m.

Area Information:

Muscatatuck NWR is located on U.S. Hwy. 50 approximately, three miles east of I-65. The only open vehicle entrance to the refuge is from U.S. Hwy. 50 - do not believe your GPS if it says otherwise. The Visitor Center is the first building on the right when you enter the refuge from U.S. Hwy. 50. The Refuge provides quality outdoor recreation opportunities for hunters, anglers, wildlife viewers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The 7,802-acre property consists of wetland, grassland and forest habitats. Each year, hunters successfully harvest a number of species, including deer, turkey, waterfowl, and squirrels.

The first six days of spring turkey season at Muscatatuck are by draw only. Hunts will be two-day hunts and assigned at random.

- Wednesday – Thursday: April 26, 2023 – April 27, 2023
- Friday – Saturday: April 28, 2023 – April 29, 2023
- Sunday – Monday: April 30, 2023 – May 1, 2023

There is no check-in for turkey hunters. Starting May 2, 2023, the Refuge will be open to all hunters for the remainder of the spring turkey season.

Contact:

For more information, contact Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge at 812-522-4352 or muscatatuck@fws.gov.

