

## Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1996, is located in Terrebonne Parish in southeast Louisiana. The 4,212 acre refuge is composed of freshwater marsh and cypress-tupelo swamp. The refuge provides excellent habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and neotropical songbirds. The refuge is open year round to the public from legal sunrise to legal sunset. No night time use of the Refuge is allowed. Most of the Refuge access is by boat only and foot travel is extremely difficult due to the soft marsh environment. The Mandalay Refuge Nature Trail provides a glimpse into three different habitat types within a 45-minute hike. Hunting is only permitted on the refuge in specific areas, under date and time restrictions. All open hunting seasons are listed in this brochure. Fishing is allowed on the refuge year round except in areas closed to public access.

### General Regulations

Hunting, fishing, and public use regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of The Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Louisiana regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

### Permits

Refuge permits are **not** required for activities described in this brochure except for lottery waterfowl hunting. All visitors, including hunters, fishermen, boaters, birdwatchers, etc., are required to abide by all terms and conditions in the refuge hunting, fishing and public use brochure (this document) as well as all other applicable State of Louisiana and Federal regulations.

Hunters and anglers 16 years of age and older are required to have a valid State of Louisiana hunting and/or fishing license.

Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the internet. To help save tax dollars, hunters and anglers are encouraged to retain and use the same brochure throughout the entire season.

### Archery Hunting

#### *Deer and Hog*

Deer and Hog (archery only) hunting will be conducted in accordance to the State of Louisiana season dates. Bowhunters may enter the hunting area no earlier than 4 am and may remain no later than one hour after sunset.

All archery hunters must sign in and out at designated

Activity	Season Dates	Hunting Hours	Bag Limits	Hunt Areas	Refuge Permit Requirements
Deer Archery Bucks Only	Oct. 1 - 15	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am and must exit 1 hour after sunset	1 per day	Entire Refuge	Daily Self-clearing Permit State Bow Hunter Education Certification
Deer Archery Either Sex	Oct.16 - Feb. 15	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am and must exit 1 hour after sunset	1 per day (either 1 buck or 1 doe per day)	Entire Refuge except Hanson Unit closed (north of GIWW) until noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays during State Waterfowl Season	Daily Self-clearing Permit State Bow Hunter Education Certification
Hog Archery	Oct.1 - Feb. 15	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am and must exit 1 hour after sunset	No limit	Entire Refuge except Hanson Unit closed (north of GIWW) until noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays during State Waterfowl Season	Daily Self-clearing Permit State Bow Hunter Education Certification
Waterfowl Youth 8 to 15 years old	State Youth Waterfowl Days	1/2 hour before sunrise to noon-all equipment, boats, decoys, etc. must be removed by 1 pm. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am	State of Louisiana Waterfowl Bag Limit applies	Hanson Unit Assigned waterfowl blind	Lottery Permit. Youth and Supervisor must possess State Hunter Education Certification
Waterfowl Youth and Adult (see Waterfowl Hunting section)	Wednesdays and Saturdays of State Waterfowl Season. Teal season closed	1/2 hour before sunrise to noon-all equipment, boats, decoys, etc. must be removed by 1 pm. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am	State of Louisiana Waterfowl Bag Limit applies	Hanson Unit Assigned waterfowl blind	Lottery Permit. All must possess State Hunter Education Certification

check stations daily. All game taken (including deer and hogs) on the refuge must be checked daily at one of the self-clearing check stations indicated on the map within the brochure. Feral hogs may be taken during the archery hunt. State of Louisiana bag limits apply.

Bowhunters must possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunters Education Program. Each adult of age 21 years or older can supervise no more than one youth age 15 years or younger for archery hunting.

Bows are permitted only during the State of Louisiana archery season. State of Louisiana regulations governing drug tipped arrows, pods, broadhead size, etc., are applicable. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations governing crossbow use will apply to refuge hunters. **No firearms are allowed on the archery hunt.**

We allow the use of portable deer stands according to State of Louisiana Wildlife Management Area (WMA) regulations. Only portable stands or blinds may be used. A stand or blind left on the refuge overnight may be used by any hunter on a first-come, first-serve basis. Stands or blinds left on the refuge must be placed in a non-hunting

position as per State WMA regulations. Hunting from old stands or blinds erected in the past, or using old structures or camps is strictly prohibited; old structures and stands are unsafe for any use. Live vegetation can not be cut or moved to create blinds.

### Waterfowl Hunting

Youth and Adult Lottery Waterfowl Hunts are conducted during State of Louisiana waterfowl season but only on specifically designated days. Teal season is closed on the refuge.

Youth hunters under age 16 must successfully complete a State-approved hunter education course. While hunting, each youth must possess and carry a card or certificate of completion. Each youth hunter 17 and under must remain within sight and normal voice contact of an adult age 21 or older. Each adult can supervise no more than two refuge-permitted youth hunters. We require all adult supervisors and all hunters of migratory waterfowl to possess and carry a State Hunter Safety Course Certificate.

Youth ages 8 to 15 only (with adult supervisors) are eligible to apply for the State Youth Waterfowl Days.

Youth ages 8 to 17 and their adult co-applicant supervisors are given preference in the Mandalay NWR waterfowl hunt lottery. Once selected for a Lottery Youth Waterfowl Hunt the youth co-applicant must be present on the day of the hunt for the permit to be valid. In the event that no youth applications are received for a given hunting date, blinds will be filled with adult applicants for that date.

We allow hunting of migratory game birds on Wednesdays and Saturdays until 12 noon. Permitted Hunters may only enter the refuge after 4 am.

Only **one** adult may occupy a blind with up to two youth (a youth-co-applicant and a youth guest) during a designated Lottery Youth Waterfowl Hunt. We allow no more than **three** hunters to hunt from a blind at one time during any waterfowl hunt.

Waterfowl hunters must submit applications for lottery permits by October 15th. Lottery Waterfowl Hunt applications are usually available at the refuge office, and on the refuge web site (<http://www.fws.gov/mandalay>) by August 15.

All waterfowl taken on the refuge must be checked daily at one of the self-clearing check stations indicated on the map within this brochure.

### Fishing

State of Louisiana creel limits apply. Fishing is permitted year round daily from legal sunrise to legal sunset. Lines must be attended at all times. Recreational crabbing is allowed. Commercial fishing is not allowed. The use of nets, traps, or unattended lines (trot, jog, bush, etc) is not allowed.

### Physically Challenged or Disabled Users

Physically challenged or disabled public users are encouraged to inquire at Mandalay refuge headquarters for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable.

### Public Use

Fishing is open all year. Recreational boating is open all year. Wildlife observation is open all year.

### Access to Refuge

Most access to Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge is by boat only. All boating access is limited to existing canals, ditches, and trenasses. No airboats or marsh buggies are allowed on the refuge.

Access to the Mandalay Nature Trail parking area is by vehicle. All visitors to the Nature Trail must remain in their vehicles until arriving at the designated parking area.

Beyond the parking area, the Nature Trail is foot access only. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the Nature Trail.

**All State of Louisiana boating regulations apply including, but not limited to running lights, registration, and personal floatation devices. Boating regulations are strictly enforced.**

**The following activities are prohibited on the refuge:**

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting

- The possession or distribution of bait or hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or other feed or any non-naturally occurring attractant on the refuge

- Taking, collecting or disturbing any plant or wildlife other than those specified by refuge rules

- Target shooting

- Feeding wildlife, including alligators

- Night time use of the refuge

- Frogging

- Taking of turtles

- Climbing trees by driving nails, spikes or other objects: using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or permanent steps; or using climbing spikes

- Using areas designated “Area Closed”

- Marking with flagging, paper, paint, trash, etc.

- Camping, building fires or overnight anchoring

- Cutting firewood or trimming vegetation

- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads and pottery shards

- Littering

- Unrestrained pets

- Spot-lighting wildlife or using man-drives for deer or hogs

- Unregulated trapping

- Fishing with unattended jug, bush lines or trot lines

Louisiana's black bears are protected! The Louisiana black bear is listed as a threatened species under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. It is unlawful for anyone to take, harass, disturb, etc. any Louisiana black bear. Criminal penalty of up to \$50,000 and one year imprisonment.

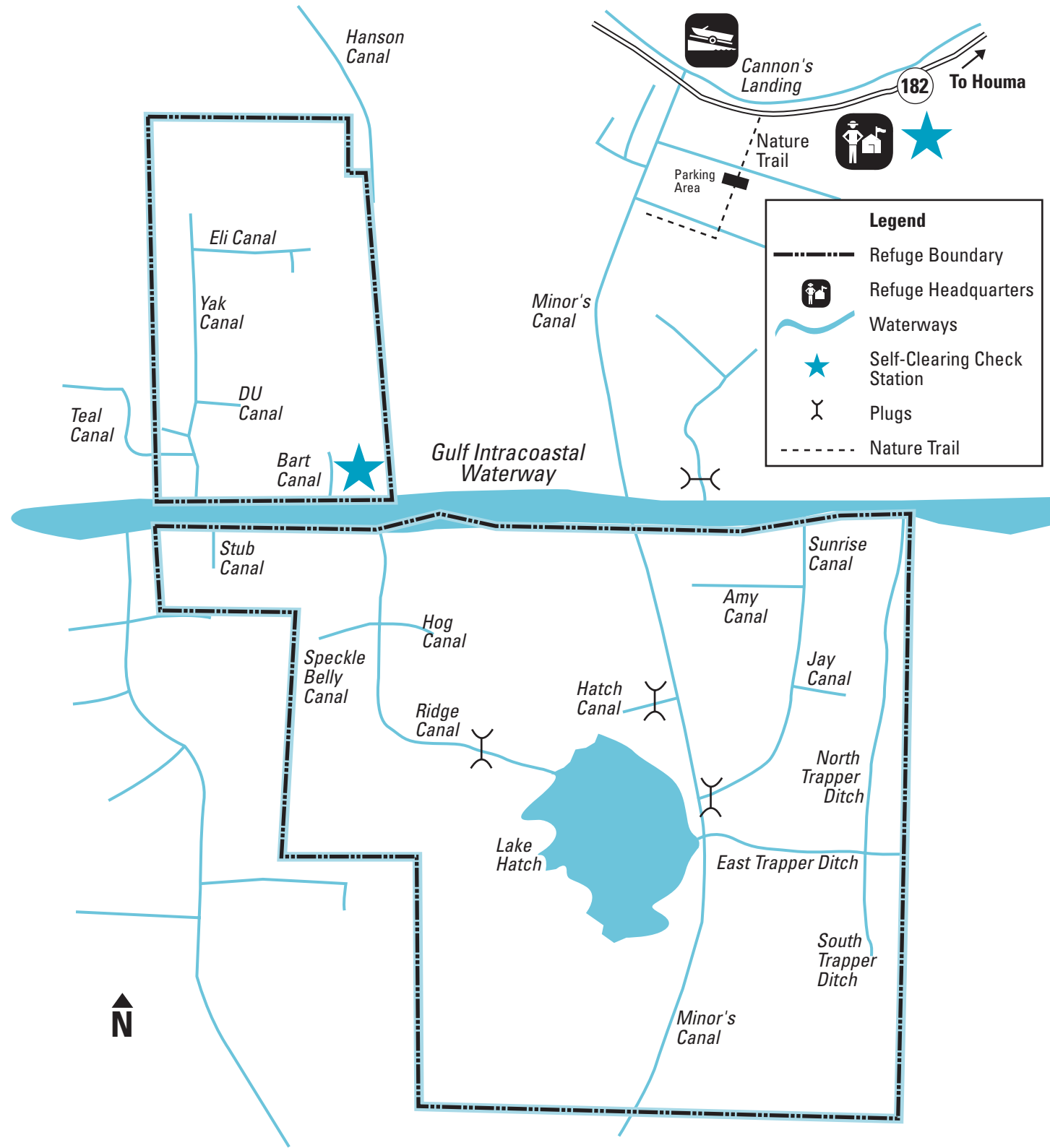
**Signs and Boundaries**



Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Area closed to all public entry. Exceptions are stated on sign.



# Mandalay

*National Wildlife Refuge*  
*Hunting and Fishing*  
*Regulations*



Mandalay  
National Wildlife Refuge  
3599 Bayou Black Drive  
Houma, LA 70360  
985/853 1078  
<http://www.fws.gov/mandalay>  
email: [mandalay@fws.gov](mailto:mandalay@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD

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