



Presque Isle State Park

2020 WATERFOWL BLIND POLICIES

Does not apply to Early or Late Goose Seasons

Waterfowl blind permits for Presque Isle State Park will be issued according to the following policies and procedures:

1. ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must sign up in person during the established registration period (see Addendum). Every applicant must present a valid PA Hunting License and PA Migratory Game Bird License along with a Federal Duck Stamp before completing an application for the blind drawing. The applicant's signature must be on the licenses and stamp. **Applications must be completed in person. Hunters are not permitted to complete applications for others.**

Note: Those persons who did not remove their blinds by the prescribed deadline for any one of the past five years are not eligible to participate in this year's drawing.

2. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

The following restrictions govern all waterfowl hunting on parklands and waters:

- a. Waterfowl hunting is only permitted at approved blind locations. Hunting on inland waters, including Lagoons, or land areas is not permitted, including Gull Point.
- b. All shooting must be directed away from park shores.
- c. No layout or boat blinds are permitted to set up in Marina Lake or Misery Bay (Misery Bay includes all areas north of Perry Monument). All layout and boat blind hunting must be 500 ft. offshore of the special management area at Gull Point and all other areas surrounding Presque Isle State Park on Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay. Layout box tending from waterfowl blinds is permitted. (Special Note: the end of the North Pier to the shore on Beach 11 is exactly 500 ft from shore.) Both blind hunters and layout box hunters should remember to always be courteous of each other.
- d. All blind locations are subject to approval of park officials.
- e. The possession of a loaded gun outside the blind is not permitted except in pursuit of a crippled waterfowl.

3. WATERFOWL BLIND PERMITS

Waterfowl blind permits are assigned by drawing 100 names of those registered. All times listed shall be in accordance with Eastern Standard Time or Daylight Saving Time, as in effect on the date listed. The procedures shall be as follows:

- a. Registration: Each eligible person may register only once. **Do not separate postcard from stub.** Any person registering more than once will be disqualified.
- b. Drawing: **Due to coronavirus mitigation measures, a closed drawing will be held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Applicants may not attend the drawing; however, signups will be accepted from 8:00am to 10:00am the morning of the drawing at a table set up outside of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. At 10:00am, several Club representatives will enter the Center and set up a FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM with the supervision of park administrators to officiate. The drawing will be done live online and the names of those drawn will be read in order. The listing will then be published immediately afterwards on www.paduck.com** One hundred numbers

corresponding with the postcard numbers on the registration cards will be selected using a computerized random number generator. The random number generator found at <https://www.random.org/> will be used. The sequence drawn will determine the position the person drawn will have on the blind selection list. In the event that the random number generator is unavailable, the drawing will be conducted using numbered chips as in previous years.

- c. **Issuance of Waterfowl Blinds:** Due to coronavirus mitigation measures, several changes have been made to the blind pick procedures. The pick will take place starting at 10:00am on Sunday, September 27 at the Erie Runners Club Pavilion on Presque Isle State Park. The pavilion is located on the lake side of the park by the beach 1 parking lot. Blind owners will receive a postcard with their drawing order number to pick their blind. Every 10 blind picks will have a different half hour time slot (see the table below or www.paduck.com). Failure to arrive before the corresponding time slot will result in blind forfeiture. Each drawing winner may only bring one guest to help with the selection. When one group of 10 finishes, the next group will be called up from the parking area to the selection table. These measures will help limit crowd size and promote social distancing. **The Primary Owner or Co-owner must be in attendance to pick a blind and must have both person’s sets of required documents: hunting license, PA migratory bird privileges, and federal duck stamp. No exceptions.**

Blind Pick Time Slots	
10:00am-10:30am	Picks 1-10
10:30am-11:00am	Picks 11-20
11:00am-11:30am	Picks 21-30
11:30am-12:00pm	Picks 31-40
12:00pm-12:30pm	Picks 41-50
12:30pm-1:00pm	Picks 51-60
1:00pm-1:30pm	Remaining picks

- d. **Late Assignments:** After all available blinds have been assigned, all remaining names on the selection list shall be discarded. Should there be any blind cancellations, forfeitures, etc., blinds will be reassigned by the duck club blind committee chairman. Such reassignments can only be made after verification of the blind’s availability. If the chairman does not have a builder for the vacant blind spot, a hunter may request permission to build at that location. This request may be made by contacting Shawn Feiock at 814-882-3473. Upon approval they will have to make arrangements to pick up a new blind permit and show that they meet the eligibility requirements of the new owner and co-owner (Hunting license, Duck Stamp and PA Migratory Game License Required).
- e. **Listing of Permit Holders:** A list of permit holders and their telephone numbers is posted at the Ranger Station and the NW PA Duck Hunters website, [paduck.com](http://www.paduck.com), during the open waterfowl hunting seasons.
- f. **Notification by Postcard:** A postcard will be sent to everyone whose name is drawn so that you may prepare for the blind selection process. Please do not call the Presque Isle State Park office to find out if your name has been drawn.

4. DEADLINES FOR WATERFOWL BLINDS

Blinds must be erected by the date and time established for opening of the Lake Erie Zone Duck Season. If a permit holder fails to erect a blind by this time, the permit will be forfeited. The blind may be reissued following the late assignment policy above.

All blinds, blind materials, posts, and litter must be removed by the time and date listed in the addendum for each year. Failure to do so will disqualify the permit holder from being eligible for a blind for a period of five successive yearly drawings. In addition, a \$100.00 penalty will be assessed by the Northwestern PA

Duck Hunters' Association against those blind holders who fail to remove their blinds. Failure to pay the penalty will result in the five-year ineligibility being extended indefinitely until such time as payment is received. The permit holder may also face littering citations from the state for failure to remove materials from the blind site.

5. TRANSFER OF BLIND PERMIT

The transfer of blind permits is not permitted. If a person is not able to use the permit, the Ranger staff and the PADUCK Association representative, must be notified, so that the permit can be reassigned.

6. USE OF BLINDS

No more than five (5) persons may hunt together from a blind location at any one time. If the official permit holder is not occupying the assigned blind, other hunters may use the blind. If the official permit holder arrives later to use the blind other hunters must vacate the blind if requested to do so by the official permit holder. Hunters without an official permit must wait until 1 hour prior to shooting times daily to occupy blinds. All hunting, including regular season goose hunting, shall end on the last day of the established duck season for the Lake Erie Zone. This does not apply to any Late Goose Season approved for the park.

7. CONSTRUCTION OF BLINDS

Permanent blinds are to be constructed by the permit holder from materials suitable to withstand the weather conditions experienced throughout the waterfowl seasons. Permanent blinds must include walls and a roof. All blinds must have permanently installed seats. Permit holders may not use park materials in the construction of blinds. Drift materials found on shore may be used. It is unlawful to nail to trees, destroy vegetation, or build an open fire on the park. No vegetative matter is to be brought on the park.

Blinds must be constructed so that they do not exceed 6 ft by 12 ft in size. Only one blind may be placed at each blind marker stake. **Blinds must remain in an upright position and be usable by others when the blind holder is not present.**

Orange stakes and jugs mark the location of all blind locations. Blinds must be located within **10 feet of wooden stake**. Moving of blind stakes or jugs is expressly forbidden. Failure to obey these rules may result in the loss of your blind permit.

Permit holders must post the blind permit in the blind throughout the season. If the permit is lost or destroyed, a new permit must be obtained from the NW PA Duck Hunters Association prior to any future hunting.

8. GENERAL

The cooperation of all participants is important for the success of this program. The intent of this method of blind issuance is to give equal opportunity for the limited number of blinds available. Attempting to circumvent this process impacts all hunters and creates unfair situations.

Driving to remote blind locations to erect or remove a blind must be approved in advance by park officials. Failure to obtain the park's permission may result in the issuance of a citation to the offender and the forfeiture of the blind. **It is not permissible to drive or park on service roads to drop off decoys or hunt.** Never block gates since this may prevent access to emergency vehicles. If parking along side of the road, ensure all tires are completely off of the road and multiuse trail and that "no parking" signs are not present. Failure to do so will result in parking fines. The feather access road is closed to all vehicular traffic. No exceptions. Contact the park office with questions about access.

It is the hunter's responsibility to retrieve game. A boat or trained retriever is highly recommended due to deep water in front of many blinds.

The park office or ranger station staff must be notified if a blind is destroyed or removed for repairs by the owners. Absence of a blind for more than seven days may result in forfeiture of the blind permit. Park staff or NWPA Duck Club staff will attempt to contact a blind holder to inquire about a missing blind. Blinds can be removed by the owner prior to the close of duck season, but please notify the park office or ranger station staff if doing so.

Individuals selecting Blind #18 on the east shore of Misery Bay in the vicinity of the Coast Guard Station must use a boat to access their blind. Do not trespass on United States Coast Guard property. Additionally, blinds 1-10, 62, 63, 65, 67, 68, 72, and 73 are boat access only due to high water. Blinds 37-41 may require a boat to access. At locations 65, 72, and 73, blind construction is prohibited. Instead, stakes will be placed at those locations that allow for the mooring of hunting boats. Blind locations 64 and 66 are temporarily suspended due to high water levels.

Due to high water affecting blinds at locations 29, 31, and 32, duck club members will construct and maintain the blinds at those locations. These blinds will not be available to blind drawing winners. They will instead be open for first come first serve use throughout the season. This will add to the opportunities to hunt for those not selected in the drawing.

9. BLIND FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

A specially designed accessible blind is located on East Fisher Drive at blind location 30 for hunters with disabilities. This blind is not issued to a permanent holder so it can be used on a daily basis during the season with preference given to individuals with a disability regardless of the time of day. Individuals without disabilities may not occupy this blind prior to 7:00 AM.

If you or a member of your group is a person with a disability and requires an accommodation to participate in the activities, please contact the park, or the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how the Bureau of State Parks can accommodate your needs.

SEE MAP ON NEXT PAGE